STATE DEPARTMENT OF GEOLOGY AND MINERAL INDUSTRIES
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OREGON CHROMITE PRODUCERS

Fifty Oregon chromite producers shipped a total of 5,550 long tons, gross weight, of ore and concentrates to the General Services Administration chromite-buying depot at Grants Pass during 1953 according to U.S. Bureau of Mines Mineral Industry Statistical Division. Value of the Oregon chromite came to $484,453. Of the six counties in the State which produced chromite during 1953, Josephine County had the greatest production with a total of 3,422 tons. Curry County produced 649 tons, Coos 16, Douglas 172, Grant 1,076, and Jackson 21 tons. Chromite received from unknown sources amounted to 194 tons. Of the total Oregon production only 936 tons of ore assayed less than 45 percent Cr_2O_3 and was valued at $76,599. The 4,614 tons of ore assaying more than 45 percent brought $407,854 to the 44 operators supplying this grade. Lowest grade ore shipped to the stockpile assayed 42 percent Cr_2O_3 while the highest was 54 percent. The weighted average of Oregon ore delivered during the year was 47.35 percent Cr_2O_3 with a 2.48 to 1 chrome-iron ratio.

Fifteen Oregon producers have given permission to publish the results of their 1953 chromite production as listed below:

Name	County	Long Tons	Percent Cr_2O_3
O. K. Coster	Coos	10	44
		6	46
Ernest A. Foster	Curry	59	49
Fred Gardner & Sons	Curry	17	44
		91	48
O. W. Stuempges	Douglas	13	45
Arthur F. Neuman	Grant	242	48
Zanetti Bros.	Grant	490	49
Ashland Mining Co.	Josephine	10	44
		469	49
Austin B. Brownell	Josephine	6	47
Fred Langley	Josephine	20	43
		227	48
A. W. Johns	Josephine	10	51
E. K. McTimmonds	Josephine	25	44
		167	46
Jean Pressler & Roy Jackson	Josephine	46	43
		105	47
R. W. Radcliff	Josephine	49	51
Wm. S. Robertson	Josephine	74	44
		188	47
Arthur Strickland	Josephine	14	46

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MINING CONGRESS STRATEGIC MINERALS SESSIONS

Among the important sessions of the American Mining Congress meeting in San Francisco September 20-24 will be round-table meetings of strategic mineral producers, especially those operating under government purchase programs. Monday afternoon, September 20, has been set aside for these sessions, with a separate group for each metal. Fay Bristol has been chosen Chairman of the chrome group, and all people in attendance at the convention who are interested in chrome production are invited to be present and take part in the discussions. It is expected that federal government officials who have jurisdiction over the chrome program will attend and participate in the discussions. These group meetings will be held on the fourth floor of the Civic Auditorium.

On Wednesday noon September 22 the Strategic minerals luncheon will be held in the Crystal Room of the Whitcomb Hotel. S. H. Williston, Vice President of Cordero Mining Company and Chairman of the Strategic Minerals Committee of the American Mining Congress, will be Chairman of this luncheon meeting. Hon. J. Bracken Lee, Governor of Utah, will give the main address. This luncheon will be a sell-out judging by the advance sale of tickets.

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GOVERNMENT QUICKSILVER PURCHASE PROGRAM

The General Services Administration has announced that producers of mercury who will wish to supply the metal to the government under the recently announced program should notify the GSA no later than June 30, 1955, of their desire to participate in the program. The announced government price is $225 per 76-pound flask f.o.b. delivery point with duty ($19) paid by the seller of Mexican mercury. The metal will be examined by government inspectors at the purchase points to decide whether or not the metal meets specifications. Rejected shipments must be removed at the seller's expense. The announcement of the government program, according to the American Mining Congress News Letter, states that "Small producers are particularly invited to participate in the program."

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OREGON MINE REJUVENATED

The Pyx Mine, a gold prospect in the Greenhorn District of Grant County, Oregon, has been taken over by the Greenhorn Mountain Development Company, Box 908, Baker, Oregon. Underground development work has been under way since early in the year and a 25-ton test mill is under construction. The mill flow sheet was worked out by the Denver Equipment Company and consists primarily of jigging and flotation with tabling to be added as development progresses. Power for the mill and for underground lighting will be generated by a diesel-electric unit. Present plans call for a payroll of ten men at the outset on a one-shift, 40-hour-week basis. Ward L. Hill is general manager; Glen Ingles, mine superintendent; and Frank Kolkow, mill superintendent.

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BONANZA QUICKSILVER MINE REOPENS

As reported previously in The Ore.-Bin, the Bonanza quicksilver mine suspended operations on February 15, 1954. Because of the rapid increase in price during succeeding months, the mine reopened on June 1. Mining was started on the 370 and higher levels and work on the 5th, 6th, 7th, 8th, and 1050 levels will be undertaken when removal of water allows access, which is expected to be within 30 days. The Gould furnace has been put back in use. Plans are being formulated by the management to increase production. Fifteen men are now employed.

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NEW LAWS AFFECTING THE MINING INDUSTRY

Senator George W. Malone's amendment to the Mutual Security Act recently passed by Congress deletes a section of the act which would have allowed expenditures by the United States to stimulate production of critical minerals in foreign nations. Senator Malone stated in presenting his arguments that transportation of strategic minerals from foreign lands to the United States in a war emergency would certainly be interrupted and the interruption might last long enough to paralyze our war efforts. He stated his belief that more of the government's attention should be given to encouraging domestic production of minerals and less to production in foreign lands.

Another amendment by Senator Malone, approved by the Senate, had to do with raising the depletion rate for 32 critical metals from 15 to 23 percent. It had previously been approved by the House. This amendment was included in the new tax law recently passed and applies to the following domestic deposits: antimony, bismuth, cadmium, cobalt, columbium, lead, lithium, manganese, mercury, nickel, platinum and platinum group metals, tantalum, thorium, tin, titanium, tungsten, vanadium, zinc, and uranium, as well as asbestos, bauxite, beryl, celestite, chromite, corundum, fluorspar, graphite, ilmenite, kyanite, mica, olivine, quartz crystals (radio grade), rutile, block steatite talc, and zircon.

The new tax law also raises the amount of mine exploration expenditures which a taxpayer may choose to deduct in a year or on a deferred basis from $75,000 to $100,000 allowable in only four taxable years.

The mining industry through the American Mining Congress has been urging changes in the tax laws for a number of years in order to give a transfusion to a sick industry. The present Congress has recognized more than any other in recent history the need for a healthy mining industry for national defense as well as to combat the "have not" theory so prevalent in Washington since World War II.

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DEPARTMENT STAFF CHANGES

David White, who has been field geologist for the Department at Grants Pass, Oregon, since 1952, resigned on July 1 to accept a position with Alcoa at Bauxite, Arkansas. Mr. White was previously on the staff of Alcoa Mining Company when the company was mapping the geology of the bauxite areas of northwestern Oregon. He started work for the Department in 1948.

Mr. White's successor at Grants Pass is Max Schafer, a graduate of the University of Oregon, who worked for the U.S. Geological Survey in the Colorado Plateau area after his hitch in the Army.

Bob Bentley, a graduate student in geology at Oregon State College, has joined the staff on a temporary basis as a Geologist I to assist Department geologist Len Ramp in field mapping of chromite areas in southwestern Oregon.

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DR. HOWEL WILLIAMS MAPS PART OF THE CASCADES

Dr. Howel Williams, well known geologist and volcanologist of the University of California, has been mapping in the Cascade Range for the U.S. Geological Survey during the current field season. His work is connected with the cooperative project between the Survey and the State Department of Geology and Mineral Industries which will result in the construction of a State Geologic Map.

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U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY GEOLOGIST MAPS PORTLAND AREA

Mr. Don Trimble of the Engineering Geology Section of the U.S. Geological Survey, Denver, Colorado, is mapping the geology of the Portland area during the current field season.

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ZIRCONIUM AND HAFNIUM PRODUCTION

As reported by the Bureau of Mines, production of raw zirconium sponge at the Bureau's plant at Albany, Oregon, during May was 29,599 pounds. During the same period, raw hafnium sponge production was 734 pounds. The stated amounts of both metals produced were shipped to the Atomic Energy Commission.

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QUICKSILVER IN OREGON - 1953

Oregon's five quicksilver mines produced a total of 648 flasks of mercury during 1953. An estimated 13,061 tons of ore was mined which ranged from .125 percent up to 16.7 percent of contained mercury as reported by the Bureau of Mines. One percent contains 20 pounds of quicksilver per net ton. Ore was treated in four retorts and one furnace. Richest ore in the State was mined by Eickemeyer Brothers at the Maury Mountain mine in Crook County. The ore averaged over four 76-pound flasks per ton. Eickemeyer Brothers retorted an estimated 10 tons of ore which produced $8,410 worth of metal. Roba and Westfall on Murderers Creek in Grant County retorted 30 tons of ore which produced one flask. The Bonanza mine in Douglas County was the largest producer. During 1953 the annual average world price of a flask of quicksilver, as reported by E&MJ Metal and Mineral Markets, was $193.03. Prices during the year fluctuated between a high of $217 at the first of the year and a low of $183 in November. The price has skyrocketed during the first seven months of 1954. At present, August 12, 1954, the quotation is $290-$293 per flask.

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EASTERN OREGON MINING NEWS

Eastern Oregon chrome production has continued throughout the year with steady shipments of concentrates originating from the Dry Camp property which is operated by the John Day Mining Company and from the Haggard and New claims which are operated by Burt Hayes and associates. Both of these properties are in Grant County and both were active producers last year. Two new concentrating mills are under construction in Grant County. One is being built near the forks of Dixie Creek by Mr. Paul Remaley and the other is near the Burt Hayes mill on Dog Creek. The latter is being built by Earl Lyman and Glenn Findlay and associates who have leases on the Kingsley and several other neighboring chromite prospects.

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Ray Summers has resumed mining of shipping-grade copper ore from development tunnels at the Standard mine in Grant County. Surface exploration was carried on here during the early part of 1954. In addition to the copper the work has exposed a new lens of massive, high-grade cobalt ore, a lens of which was mined at the Standard in the early days. At present mining will be limited to copper ore; several shipments were made from this new showing last fall.

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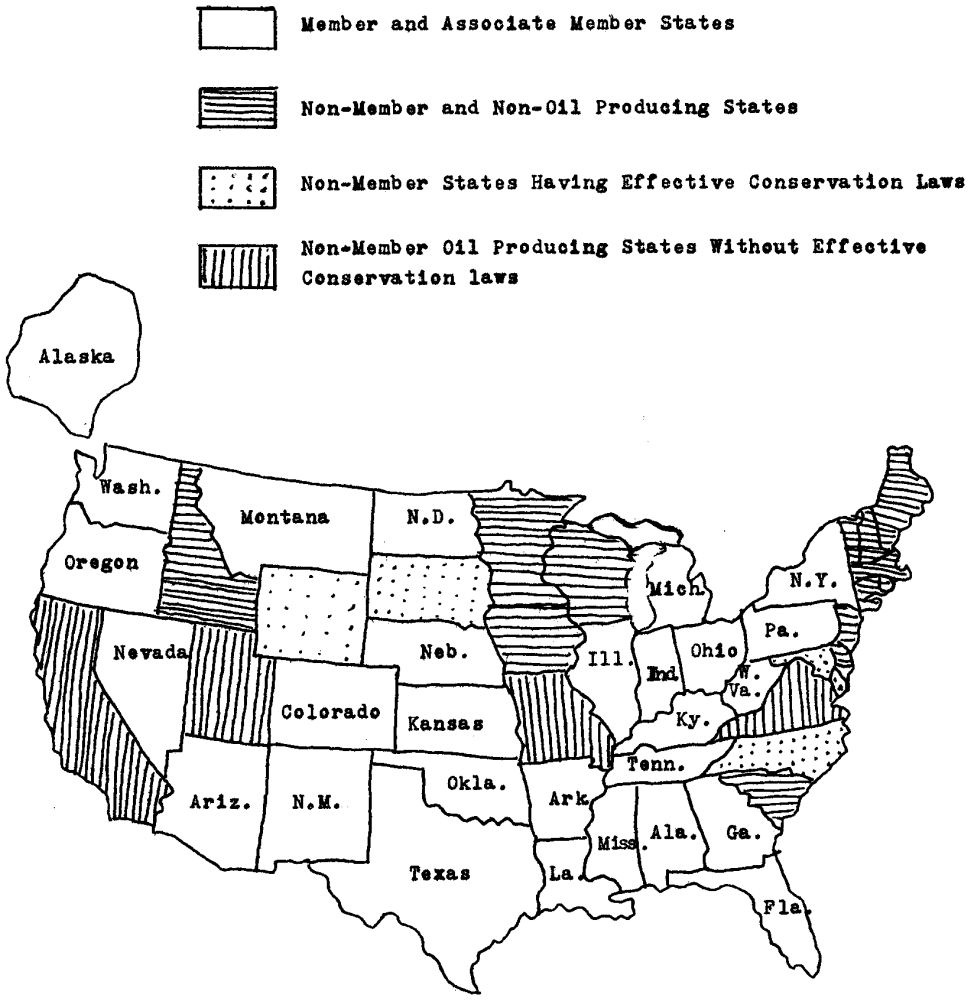
OIL COMPACT COMMISSION APPROVES OREGON'S MEMBERSHIP

Governor Paul Patterson on July 7, 1954, acknowledged receipt of the official approval by the Interstate Oil Compact Commission of Oregon's application for Associate Membership in the Commission. Vote by the Members of the Commission was unanimous in approving Oregon's membership.

The Commission is a voluntary association of twenty-two oil-producing states as Members and five (now six with Oregon) states having prospects for oil and gas production as Associate Members. To qualify both as Members and Associate Members, the states must have an acceptable oil and gas conservation law. Oregon's oil and gas conservation law passed by the last Legislature is administered by the Governing Board of the State Department of Geology and Mineral Industries, who made application for Associate Membership in the Commission with the approval of the Governor. The sole purpose of the Interstate Oil Compact Commission is to promote conservation of oil and gas and to prevent physical waste.



Adapted from Interstate Oil Compact Commission Map

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NEW CHROMITE PROSPECT

A new Oregon chrome prospect called the Dark Star is being developed by L. L. Hassler, Kerby, and Donald M. Hassler, Cave Junction. Float boulders of massive chromite as much as 2 feet in diameter have been found in a landslide area near the section line between secs. 25 and 36, T. 37 S., R. 10 W., in western Josephine County nearly half a mile north of the Chrome King mine. About 8 tons of massive chromite assaying about 50 percent Cr_2O_3 and 11 percent Fe has been mined. A road is being built to the deposit from the Chrome King mine road.

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GRANBY CONSOLIDATED EXPLORES SOUTHERN OREGON MINE

Granby Consolidated Company of Canada has leased the Turner-Albright mine in the Waldo mining district of Josephine County, Oregon, and is reparing the adits and opening new trenches on the surface in preparation for diamond drilling. Harvey Parliament, geologist and engineer in charge of the work, has been doing geologic mapping prior to the core drilling which was begun on August 20.

The property has changed hands several times since its discovery before 1900. Early efforts were made to produce gold from surface ore and 3000 feet of adits and crosscuts were driven showing copper sulphides in places. Several mineralized gossan zones show on the surface.

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TWO NEW OREGON BAUXITE OCCURRENCES

A new occurrence of ferruginous bauxite has recently been discovered at Park Place near the south bank of the Clackamas River by Mr. Murray Miller of Oregon City who found it in an old building excavation on Harley Street. The bauxite closely resembles that found along the north bank of the Clackamas at the Oregon City Sand and Gravel plant approximately one mile west of the Park Place locality. Legal description of the new location is SE¼ sec. 20, T. 2 S., R. 2 E. Thickness and extent of the ore are unknown and the occurrence is of questionable commercial value because the deposit is in a residential district.

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A section of pisolitic laterite eight feet thick has been found by Don Trimble of the U.S. Geological Survey near Estacada. The layer which is similar to that found previously in the Estacada area is exposed on the right bank of the Clackamas River about a quarter of a mile downstream from the River Mill Dam and about halfway up the 100-foot bank. The exposure is partly concealed by brush and talus. Legal description of the locality is NE¼ sec. 19, T. 3 S., R. 4 E., Clackamas County. Areal extent of the bauxite is unknown and drilling would be necessary to delimit and sample the layer. A rather extensive terrace extending northeastward along the Clackamas River could possibly be underlain by the deposit.

A specimen sample obtained by Mr. Trimble returned 40.3 percent $Al_2O_3+TiO_2$, 11.5 percent Fe, and 17.8 percent SiO_2. The occurrence was visited by a member of the Department staff and a sample obtained but assay results are not yet available.

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EXPLORATION OF OREGON PERLITE BY DIAMOND DRILL

The deposit of perlite owned by Northwest Perlite Company of Portland, located east of Sheaville in Malheur County, was explored by diamond drilling during June and July. Drilling was done by Nichols-Thompson Drilling Company of Boise. A total of 361 feet was drilled in twelve holes, the deepest of which was 48 feet. As far as is known this is the first time that a perlite deposit has been explored with a diamond drill. Despite the characteristic shell-like fracture of this volcanic glass, the owners report excellent core recovery.

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