

State Department of Geology and Mineral Industries

702 Woodlark Building
Portland, Oregon

See confidential file

Report by: Randall E. Brown
Date of visit: Jan. 23, 1942

Dead Horse Manganese

Gold Beach Area

Curry County

Heavily manganese stained cherts crop out on a ridge above a tributary of Houstenader Creek, Carpenterville, Oregon. Several fragments of float indicate traces at least of high grade manganese ore. The deposit is easily accessible.

Owner: W.O. (Shorty) Lawrence Carpenterville, Oregon

Area: Lode claim on deeded land, belonging to claim owner

Location: Within a mile of U.S. Highway 101, southwest on the road opposite the Carpenterville store. In the NW 1/4 of Sec. 10, T. 39 S., R. 14 W. on a tributary of Houstenader Creek. Deposit is 100 miles south of Coquille and 43 miles north of Crescent City, California.

History: Property claim filed in 1935. Has been leased to a Crescent City miner who gave up the lease a year ago after starting a tunnel into the hill. No ore exposed.

Development work: One tunnel started from an open cut on the hillside. Mr. Lawrence has dug a number of wells for water on the ridge crest and found a boulder of manganese oxide at 16 feet below the surface. Wells are at present all filled in.

Geology: The country rock of the area is serpentine. A zone of reddish chert strikes approximately east-west and is believed to dip north. The extent of the chert body is unknown because of the heavy growth of vegetation. Manganese stains are plentiful in the chert.

Richest piece of float is reputed to be 14% manganese by assay.

Although the chert body was in place, the relationship of manganese to the chert could not be determined because of the lack of sufficient exposure. The manganese oxide boulder found in the well indicates that the manganese may occur on the hanging wall side of the chert body.

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Shorty Lawrence has been trying to get someone to look at his property ever since 1935. Hodge examined it for the War Department, and since then F.W. Libby and Ray Treasher have looked at it. No work of consequence has been done on the property since 1935 beyond a small bit of open cut work and the wells which Shorty Lawrence dug for water.

Tunnel originally started by lessee was begun parallel to the chert zone and any possible ore body to "cut the ore at depth". No evidence of manganese other than stain was encountered. Float assaying 14% was reputed to have been picked up from above the tunnel.

Shorty Lawrence has dug a number of wells on the ridge crest to obtain water. No well was successful. In one well he encountered a large black boulder which he removed from a depth of 16 feet, but failed to recognize the nature of the boulder. Several small fragments proved to be pyrolusite and possibly wad. The remainder of the boulder has been carried away by visitors. Lawrence failed to recognize the manganese, which he was tunnelling for elsewhere, so buried a dead horse on top of the manganese in the well and filled the well with rock.

The position of the boulder with respect to the general trend and suspected north dip of the chert lens, indicates that the manganese may be related to the hanging wall of the red chert.

Recommendations: It is recommended that further careful prospecting be done on the property to ascertain the extent of the chert and the relative position of chert and manganese.

Informants: W.O. Lawrence, J.A. Stankavich, Ray C. Treasher

Randall E. Brown