

New Group Plans To Study Minerals

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By RUTH BREWER
Journal Special Writer

BROOKINGS — The long dormant mining industry in southwest Oregon is again stirring, and several hundred interested persons meeting in large and small groups throughout the region are seeking the way toward the awakening of this industry.

Though mining has been done sporadically over the years since the Oregon country was settled, the mineral

resources are still relatively undeveloped. The ores are known to be here. Some are high grade and many are of low grade.

The most recently formed group of mining interests met at the Port of Gold Beach Office. Attending the meeting to assist and advise were Larry Dineen of the State Planning Department and Len Ramp, geologist, of Grants Pass.

Great interest was shown in the development of the mining of the black sands, which cover an extensive area along the coast from Crescent City to the Coos Bay vicinity. These sands contain gold and platinum, chromite, zircon, garnet ilmenite, and magnetite. It was noted that zircon spurge is being produced at Albany plants.

According to one report made in recent years, approximately 100 known metals and minerals exist in Southwest Oregon. These include gold, silver, magnetite, borax, asbestos, zinc, molybdenum, cobalt, nickel, copper, coal, iron, manganese, titanium, lime quartz and many others in addition to those found in the black sands.

Technical and financial assistance is needed in the development of these claims.

The gathering was sponsored by the Gold Beach Port Commission, which is interested in the development of the industry for the benefit of the entire southwest region.

"The Gold Beach Port Commission is only sponsoring this movement . . . we expect all the other ports from Brookings to Coos Bay to participate

in the organization," Robert Knox, commissioner stated.

The overwhelming obstacle in development of the mines in the past has definitely been the lack of low-cost transportation in the area. This is now being wiped away, as the ports along the coast are improving rapidly.

Port Orford has just received word that the jetty project at that harbor has been approved by the Army Corps of Engineers, the \$2,000,000 proposed Chetco River project, which will provide a deeper channel, barge turning basin and other improvements is under study.

With the area lacking rail transportation, products must go out by truck and development of the water transportation facilities is considered a necessity.

In the belief that the time has come when the mining industry must be developed, the group enthusiastically endorsed the idea that regular meetings must be held.

"Brownie" Coldiron was appointed to serve as temporary chairman of the Southwest Oregon Mining Committee, and a permanent chairman to be elected at the next meeting. He in turn appointed several persons to a committee, to encourage others to obtain all information possible on type, locations and value of claims in their specific areas.

Those appointed included Al Burch of Powers, Archie McVay of Harbor, Walter Myers of Hunter Creek, H. D. Crossen of Gold Beach, Dick Merrill of Grants Pass, Ed Car-

penter of Gold Beach and Harry Hedderly of Gold Beach.

By-laws for the new organization will be drawn up, with Lou Oester, Curry County extension agent asked to assist in their preparation.

The next meeting will be held on July 12, at 8:00 p.m. at the Curry County Fair Grounds in Gold Beach.

More information may be obtained by calling the Gold Beach Port office or by writing to the Gold Beach Port Commission.

McVay Named To Mining Group

A Harbor man has been appointed to a committee to study the development of the mining industry in Southwestern Oregon following a recent organizational meeting of the group in Gold Beach.

Archie McVay was named to the committee by H. J. Coldiron of Gold Beach who was appointed chairman of the study group.

The study session was spearheaded by Larry Dineen of the State Department of Planning and Development and Len Kemp, Grants Pass, a member of the state board of geology.

Other members appointed by Coldiron include Al Burch of Powers, Walter Myers of Hunter Creek, H. D. Crossen of Gold Beach, Dick Merrill of Grants Pass and Ed Carpenter and Harry Hedderly of Gold Beach.

The next meeting will be held on July 12 at 8 p.m. at the Curry County Fairgrounds in Gold Beach.

Topics discussed at the meeting included the possibility of adequate exploration or core drilling to determine mineral deposits, a survey of mineral deposits and the cost of transportation

Interest Shown In Black Sands

Mining Group Elects Directors; Many Ore Specimens Shown

Directors of the Southwestern Oregon Mining association were elected when the organization met at the fairgrounds at Gold Beach Friday night. According to the new by-laws, seven directors will make up the board, with two three year directors, two directors to serve for two years, two one-year directors, and one director at large.

Elected to the board were E. C. Reynolds of Powers and Brownie Coldiron of Gold Beach, three year terms; Al Birch of Powers and Robert Knox of Gold Beach, two year terms; Alan Blee and Art Fisk, one year terms; and director at large, George Dickerson.

By-laws were adopted, wherein the place of business is noted as being at Gold Beach, annual dues set at \$5 per year per person, and the first Saturday in April of each year designated as the date of the annual meeting of the association. Special meetings may be called by the president with the proper notification.

The by-laws also state that 10 members or 10 percent of the membership, and a majority of the members of the board of directors, will constitute a quorum.

Len Ramp, of the state department of geology and mineral industries, while declining a nomination to the board of directors, stated that he will continue to serve in an advisory and technical capacity.

A letter was read to the group by Robert Hannon from a Japanese mineral industries firm, stating that they are interested in underdeveloped areas, where they could obtain ores or concentrates. A letter is to be written by the association asking the firm to what length they will go to assist in the developing of the mining industry in the southwestern Oregon region.

Great interest is being shown in the black sands located in quantity along the coast from Crescent City to Coos Bay. Dick Merrill of Grants Pass was present, and told the organization that his prime concern at this time is to obtain a market for magnetite (iron) found in the sands. His interest is in purchasing gold and platinum obtained from the black sands, but a market must also be obtained for the iron ore derived from the separation of the minerals. When this market can be found, he is ready to set up operations, he indicated.

Assay reports, which were considered to be very good by Ramp, were displayed, showing a high percentage of mineralization of ores taken from northern Curry county.

that a mine in which he and several others attending have an interest, is ready to start full operation of a pilot plant in August, a few miles from Powers, and that a market for the concentrates has been obtained.

The organization has been sponsored by the Port Commission of Gold Beach, and it was noted by Brownie Coldiron that the port stands ready to assist in any way.

"If there is a need for shipping by barge, we are willing to put in the facilities", Coldiron said.

Following a question from the floor, Coldiron stated that any competitive shipping company or common carrier was entitled to use the public port facilities, as the port is open to anyone.

The first meeting of the board

of directors will be held on August 3 at 8 p.m. at the port office in Gold Beach. A president, vice president, and secretary-treasurer of the Association will be elected from those forming the board at that time.

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An interesting display was also set up with specimens of iron, manganese, zirconium, copper, chrome, gold, platinum, mercury and others brought in from their claims by those attending the meeting.

E.C. Reynolds, also reported