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STATE DEPT. OF GEOLOGY  
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BEAVER CREEK  
STIBNITE  
"THE STIBNITE MINE"  
UNION COUNTY

March 2, 1966

Mr. Gifford Parker  
North Powder  
Oregon 97867

Dear Mr. Parker:

This is in reply to your letter of February 22nd in which you ask "how and when" our information concerning the Beaver Creek Stibnite prospect was collected. The answer we can provide is as follows:

Because antimony was in critically short supply during World War II there was an intensive nation-wide survey of all known sources. Engaged in this survey were agencies such as the United States Geological Survey, the United States Bureau of Mines, various of the Emergency War Materials Procurement Boards and the Mining and Geology departments of most of the states in which possible sources of supply were known to occur. For our part, this department maintained a close check on all antimony occurrences in the state on which prospecting and exploratory development work was being done. Your Beaver Creek Stibnite property was one of these properties and our information concerning it was secured by a series of examinations made during the course of time that exploratory prospecting was underway.

By way of reviewing the record in greater detail I can advise that our first report concerning this prospect is dated September 22, 1941. At that time the property was owned by Mr. H. H. Parker and under lease to G. P. Lilley, Jack Isgrig and associates. These men had spent most of the previous summer investigating the prospect by clearing a sizeable area around the site of the old World War pits to expose bedrock-vein relationships for appraisal. Mr. Hugh Lancaster, a mining engineer with our department at that time, made this examination.

Our next report concerning this prospect is dated September 9, 1942. This time the examination was made by Mr. Leslie Richards in the company of Mr. H. H. Parker and Mr. Isgrig. Like Mr. Lancaster, Richards is also a Registered Mining Engineer. By this time the Lilley-Isgrig group had extended their dozer exploration work over a larger area and also dug cuts in certain select places where the showings appeared to warrant further scrutiny. Lancaster's report includes a reconnaissance map showing the relative location of the old workings and the various exploration cuts made by the Isgrig-Lilley group. Incidentally, during 1942, stibnite and antimony oxides were being mined and shipped from two Oregon sources -- the Gray Eagle mine near Baker and the Blue Jay mine on the Applegate River, Jackson County. Receiving exploratory development was your

property, the Coyote prospect in Cow Valley, near Ironside, and the Lowry prospect in Kanaka Gulch, Jackson County.

My first visit to the property was made early in 1943 and I went with Mr. H. H. Parker and Mr. Fred Dakin, ore buyer for the antimony smelter (Texas Smelting and Refining Company) located at Laredo, Texas. Mr. Dakin was a frequent visitor in eastern Oregon during this period (1941 through 1944) and his principle objective was to secure ore for his company's smelter. So great was the need for ore at this time that the company actually advanced funds to help needy prospectors get started in instances where the prospects had sufficient showings of ore to justify such an advance with reasonable expectations that the amount produced would be sufficient to cover the advance. To my knowledge several such advances were made to Pat O'Brien who was at the Gray Eagle before Brandenthaler took over and also to certain of the prospectors in southwest Oregon.

In the instance of your Beaver Creek occurrence Mr. Dakin could not see his way clear to make an advance to Mr. H. H. Parker because the amount of ore in site was not sufficient to justify his doing so and because geologic conditions as revealed by the Lilley-Isgrig work offered little or no encouragement for thinking that significantly greater amounts of ore might be disclosed as the result of mining that which was showing. In this connection it is to be remembered that the prospect was in top shape for examination purposes due to the Lilley-Isgrig work of the previous two summers being still in fresh, clean condition.

Late that same summer (1943) I visited the property again. This time I was with Mr. H. H. Parker and some Portland people of whom a Mr. Troeh was one. Mr. Troeh was then considering taking a lease on the gamble that continuation of the work done by Lilley and Isgrig might reveal other and better bodies of ore either laterally or at greater depth. He did in fact take a lease and spend a sizeable sum doing a lot more dozing later that summer.

I made a third and final visit to the property later that fall before Mr. Troeh pulled out for the season. No new disclosures of ore had been made despite the fact that the critical cuts had been deepened appreciably and the veins exposed along their strikes over a larger area laterally. I might add that this new work not only failed to disclose new ore, it served also to remove and scatter that which had been showing at the beginning. At any rate, the lack of disclosure of continuation of the original showings ore shows that they were indeed only small kidneys as Dakin had surmized when he examined them that spring before the Troeh work was done.

There is yet another aspect of the background picture concerning our acquisition of geologic data regarding the prospect. This is that in addition to my personal visits to the property there were at this time other examinations being made by a succession of other independent examiners such as War Procurement Board Engineers, etc. Since most such outside engineers normally contacted our office, we thus had the opportunity to compare notes and gain the benefit of their observations and interpretations of geologic conditions.

Data compiled from the examinations just described and from the professional contacts just cited constitutes the basis of what is summarized in the Short

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Paper #13 report concerning your property. Short Paper #13 was prepared during the winter of 1943-1944 and published October 1944. Copies are no longer available or I would send you one at this time. I am, however, enclosing photocopies of the pages dealing with the "Stibnite Mine" as was the name the property went by at that time.

Treesh pulled out the following season without having made any production and to the best of my knowledge there has been no other work done on the property since this time.

Nobody regrets more than we do that the exploration work just described didn't serve to reveal a strong rich occurrence as a few top-notch antimony mines rate as something we could well afford to have in this country. Practically all of our industrial requirements are imported which is one of the reasons why it was so critical to try and find domestic sources of supply during the last war and also during the Korean war. At any rate I trust that this summary of our records adequately answers your question as to "how and when" our information concerning the Beaver Creek prospect was obtained.

Sincerely,

N. S. Wagner  
Geologist

NSW:tm  
Enc.