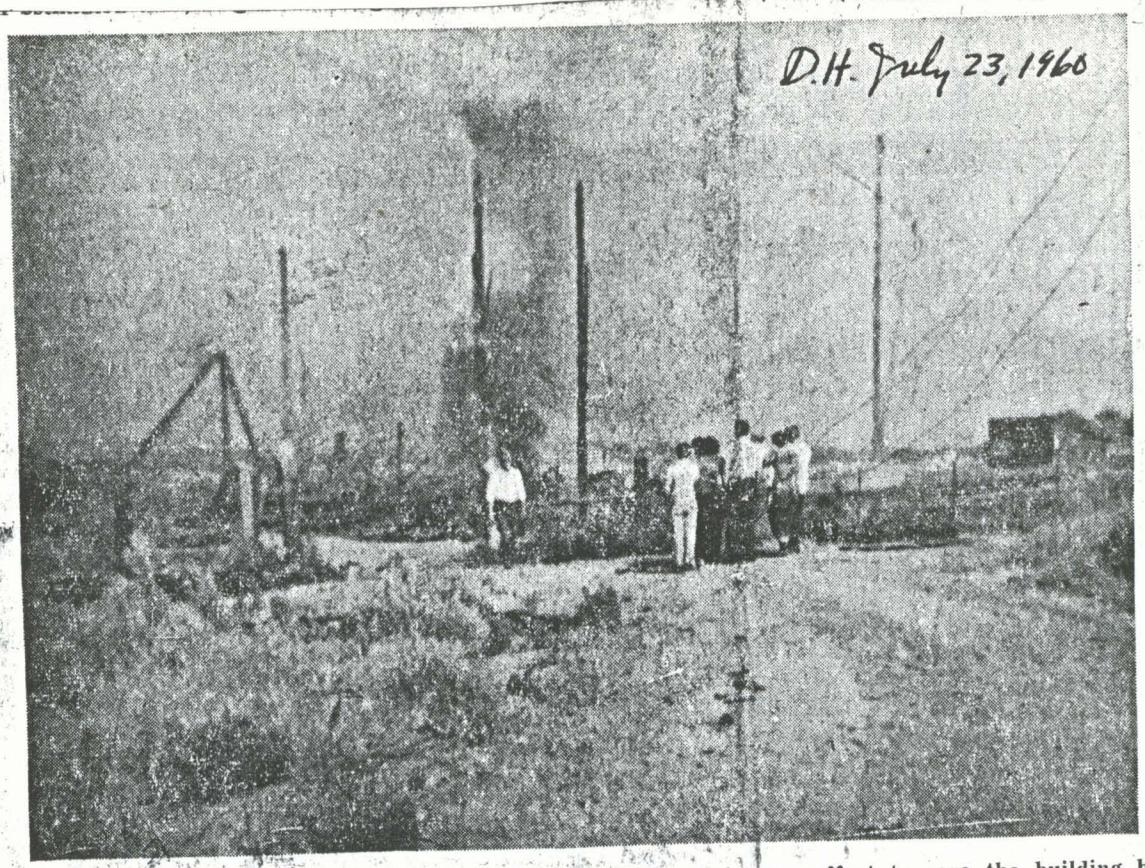
D.H. = Democrat Herald, Baker, Oregon



D.H. July 23, 1960

CONSUMED BY FIRE — The building which housed the machinery of the Northwestern Granite Company, located at the quarry two miles east of Haines was destroyed by fire of unknown origin at approximately 7:30 this morning. Haines volunteers made every effort to save the building but were unable to do so. S. E. Ingram and son Stan, are present owners of early day Baker County business.

NW Granite Bldg. Burns Near Haines

D-H- July 23, 1960

One of Baker County's oldest businesses, the Northwestern Granite Company, of Haines, located two miles east of Haines burned to the ground at approximately 7:30 this morning. The fire was noticed by a passer-by who at first thought it was a grass fire and stopped to investigate. The alarm was given in Haines and although many persons hurried to the quarry to help, the building was destroyed in a short time. Cause of the fire is still unknown. Mr. and Mrs. Stanley Ingram and Mr. Ingram's father, S. E. Ingram, are present owners of the business, which was established in 1890 by George Burr, William Pollman, Johnny Smith and Pete Basche.

The business was incorporated in 1903 and has been in steady production of fine monuments since its first days of operation. No estimate of the amount of loss was given but it is thought to be extensive as there was a large amount of electrically operated machinery. According to the owners no insurance was carried on the building or contents.

Record Courier 9-28-72

ale by Northwestern Granite Company ecalls Heyday, Stonecutting Craft Here

n order to retire from the monunt business, Northwestern Gra- Co. this week sold its stock l equipment at its Baker plant Wheaton Monument Co., Mana- Stanley F. Ingram, announced ay.

lthough they retain the corpation, brings to an end an era ich saw the firm one of the jor businesses of the valley for rly three-quarters of a century. The corporation was founded by group of prominent businessmen n. 16, 1903. Early names conted with the company included ron Vinson, N. C. Haskell, P. sche, Wm. Pollman, John Wa-man, George Burr, John mitz.

The firm was sold to S. E. Inam and the Stanley F. Ingrams, Haines in June of 1946, by rr, Wm. Duncan and Anna Burr right.

A fire July 23, 1960 destroyed e huge quarry shed which hous- the granite cutting and finish- plant east of Haines and the grams then had the new shop, fice and display space built by tham Bros. in May of 1962 at new location at 2116 Second St. Baker. They will retain the operty, both the land at Haines d the business structure in Ba- r.

story Recalled

The Haines quarries were open- by J. C. King, who immigrated Oregon from Vermont about 04. A substantial volume of the rly-day business was in build- g stone with the trim, steps and ecor of most of the major stone ildings of Haines and Baker be- g Haines granite. Steps of the d post office, St. Elizabeth Hos- tal, the courthouse and the old cademy were among these and e bank building at Main and roadway is a classic example, as the building at Haines now hou- ng the Curry store.

Haines Granite took early first nors at World's fairs, so as ec- nomics drove builders to other ilding materials the quarries be- an to be the wholesale source of fine monument stone. Years ago cutting operations were carried on both in Baker and Haines, then for years only at Haines.

Old-country trained stonecutters continued to design monuments and markers there until after WW II. During the 30's the pneumatic carving process was added and this craft was also passed on to the Ingrams when George Burr, Wm. Duncan, Mrs. Anna B. Wright, Mr. Burr's daughter, who had become sole owners in 1926, of the corporation, sold the business to them in 1946. Mrs. George Burr, now age 93, of Baker, is the daughter of one of the founders of the firm, J. C. King.

Stonecutting Was Craft

Haines quarries were first opened on outcroppings, one on the Coyote Peak slope and one further to the north, before the large quarry nearly on the valley floor was opened about 1920, for a more basic and unlimited source of stone. It was at this site that the huge 100-foot high stiff-leg derrick operated for years near the red shed which was a landmark east of Haines before it burned.

Quarrying was done during the summer season and stonecutting the year-round except in the coldest months. At the small quarries a horse-powered sweep hoisted the huge rocks to the surface, but the new quarry was electrified soon after its founding although it opened using a sweep for power.

Old craftsmen usually single-jacked a row of shallow holes along the cleavage strike of the granite in place in the quarry and only in late years did they use air drills. The row of holes received pin-like wedges and these tapped by skilled hands in proper sequence and tension quickly split the granite in a huge flat sheer zone. A similar procedure was added to shaped stones of sizes and tonnages that could be rigged and hoisted to the surface for stock.

From this raw stock the craftsmen then selected proper sizes for the monuments on order.

(Continued on Page 12)

SALE BY NW GRANITE CO. RECALLS HEYDAY HERE

(Continued From Page One)

The monument in Postoffice Square, in the city park and many others throughout this region are examples of the craft as are the great majority of the major stones in local cemeteries, and nearly every building cornerstone here.

In the shed, skilled hands using heavy mauls struck chisel-like picks to break off spalls, working away from squared corners until the rock was sized and shaped. Flat surfaces were then created by "hammering" with a fluted bit which reduced the appalled surface to a flat, grey granular surface. This then was left thus, or portions of it was brought to a high polish. This was accomplished by embedding a series of the flat surfaces face-up into huge bed. Plaster was then cast between the rough stones and boards installed around the "bed". Water and steel shot was flowed into the bed and a huge spiral-wheel, revolving horizontally and mounted on a pivoted arm with power from above performed the polishing operation. The shot was in turn replaced by grinding powders and later by rouge or other finishing material. Then the stones were reset in the bed for polishing on the other sides or moved on to be otherwise cut as an order called for.

Intricate floral and art designs were traced onto the stones and sharp steel tools struck by hammers in the old days and small air drills in later years carved the granite into deep relief and scribed the letters, dates and words.

Modern Stonecutting

In late years sandblasting partially replaced the ancient art. This uses a thick rubber mask adhered to the surface, the mask carved with a knife and the design to be etched exposed by removing the carved rubber. Thus the air could drive the blasting grit at the exposed stone and eroding it as the craftsman directed the nozzle in the proper manner.

The Baker plant just disposed of used both hand and sandblast carving methods. But it had not replaced the major stone-cutting and polishing equipment lost at Haines in 1946. It has since that time operated using stones quarried and shaped by mechanical cutting methods elsewhere.

The senior Mr. Ingram has been retired several years, living in Baker. Stan Ingram for several years has been manager of the Baker school swimming pool.

The Ingrams first came to Haines in the mid-20's when they developed the long-popular Pine Cone Barbecue.

Baker 2525 Court St.

OWNS ITS OWN QUARRIES — RETAIL DEALERS IN BAKER COUNTY GRANITE — FOREIGN AND DOMESTIC MARBLE AND GRANITE

NORTHWESTERN GRANITE COMPANY

Manufacturers of
MONUMENTS, BUILDING WORK, ETC.

Haines, Oregon

Jan. 30, 1947

N. S. Wagner
State Assay Laboratory
Baker, Oregon

Dear Mr. Wagner:

In reply to your attached letter and questionair. We produce no sand, gravel or crushed rock. Our product is limited to stones for monuments and markers.

We aquired the plant in July, 1946. Since this date we have taken approximately 120 cubic feet of stone from the quarry, if this information will help you.

The owners of the plant are S.E. Ingram, Adria F. Ingram and Elsie J. Ingram.

Yours very truly,
Northwestern Granite Co.
By A. F. Ingram

350 by Burnt

STATE DEPARTMENT OF GEOLOGY
AND MINERAL INDUSTRIES
BAKER FIELD OFFICE
2033 FIRST STREET
BAKER, OREGON

Jan 14, 1947

Mr. Ingram
Northwest Granite Quarry
Haines, Oregon

Dear Mr. Ingram;

The enclosed questionaire is self explanatory and if you will enter on it your production of building, rather dimension, blocks for the years in question and return it to me in the enclosed envelope your co-operation will be greatly appreciated.

I made an examination of the quarry and plant shortly before you acquired it so that we have an up-to-date report thereon, but I would appreciate your confirming or correcting my current information concerning ownership and management.

Ownership; S.E. and Stanley F. Ingram, Haines Oregon

Management; George Burr,

(above from a newspaper article)

Yours very truly,

H.S. Wagner

STATE DEPARTMENT OF GEOLOGY AND MINERAL INDUSTRIES

702 WOODLARK BUILDING
PORTLAND 5, OREGON

Northwest Granite Co
Haines, Oregon

This Department is assembling facts concerning production and value of non-metallic minerals in Oregon. This information when assembled will be of value to the industry as a whole, and we therefore ask your cooperation in filling out the blank below. We wish to emphasize that these figures will, as in the last survey which was made in 1940, be considered confidential, and will be used only in computing the County and State total production.

If any of your production has been sold to a Federal agency, the State Highway Department, or to the County, please indicate and state the amount sold to each one.

An addressed and stamped envelope is enclosed for your convenience.

Yours very truly,

F. W. Libbey

F. W. Libbey, Director

Location of quarry or pit:_____ County:_____

MATERIAL PRODUCED	1945		1946 (Estimated)		Remarks
	Amount	Value at plant $	Amount	Value at plant $	
SAND (yds.)					
GRAVEL (yds.)					
CRUSHED ROCK (yds.)					
	1000 cu ft	3.50 cu ft			

NON-METALLIC MINERAL PRODUCTION 1945-6

Northwest Granite Co.
Haines, Oregon

Informant: A. S. Ingram (present owner)
George Burr (past owner)

by H. S. Wagner--- February 3-4, 1947

TOTAL GRANITE PRODUCTION

Location of quarry:_____ County: Baker

MATERIALS PRODUCED	1945		1946		Remarks
	Amount	Value at plant $	Amount	Value at plant $	
SAND					
GRAVEL					
CRUSHED ROCK					
GRANITE (cu.ft.	1200	$3500.00	650	$2275.00	

This is granite for monumental use and the value above is for rough stone as quarried. Note the amount is given in cubic feet. The present owner's Ingram reported their production as 120 cu. ft. since taking over the company in July 1946. Mr. Burr, former owner, states this is erroneous and should be 350 cu. ft. As the present owners have had no previous experience in this sort of work, and as Mr. Burr worked with them during 1946 by way of breaking them in on the game, Burr's figures are used here as most accurate.

Building Stone
by
Wagner

The following is a report of my investigation into the building stone potentialities of the granites and marbles of eastern Oregon. It is a complete, summary of all observations to date, both personal field notes and conclusions reported by various informants, and it is written as a progress report for interoffice information only and is not intended to be a finished and formal presentation of the subject accordingly.

"Granites" are quite widespread in the northern part of eastern Oregon. Whether they are, or are not, suited for building stone purposes is of little consequence since, almost without exception, they are situated in rugged, inaccessible country where seasonal conditions combine with transportation difficulties to preclude working at anything like a reasonable cost. Because of this I was directed to confine my investigation to occurrences located within two miles of a railroad. The soundness of such a directive is evident, but it left me with only one known occurrence to examine and that occurrence, the Haines Granite Quarry, is notoriously ill suited for commercial use because of an abundance of unsightly inclusions.

Since "granite" is widespread in some parts of eastern Oregon, and since so little basic geologic mapping has been done there, it is not improbable but what one might find additional occurrences in some of the unmapped areas. Therefore, in order to carry out my assignment as constructively as possible, I made a map of all existing standard gauge railroads in the district. This includes up-to-the-minute data on the exact territory now served by all privately owned lumber company railroads. The Sumpter Valley Narrow Gauge was omitted because it not only serves the high country, but because a low value bulk commodity such as ordinary building stone cannot stand unnecessary and additional costs such as transloading. This railroad map, together with a list of the names of the companies operating the roads and a discription of the territory now served, or about to be opened, is attached. This is attached separately because it may be desirable to file it separately since the information is of general interest and signigicant in terms of all natural resources.

In investigating reported occurrences of possible building stone along these railroads I took the liberty of stretching the assigned limit to five miles in cases where said distance lent itself readily to accessibility. Details of my investigations follow.

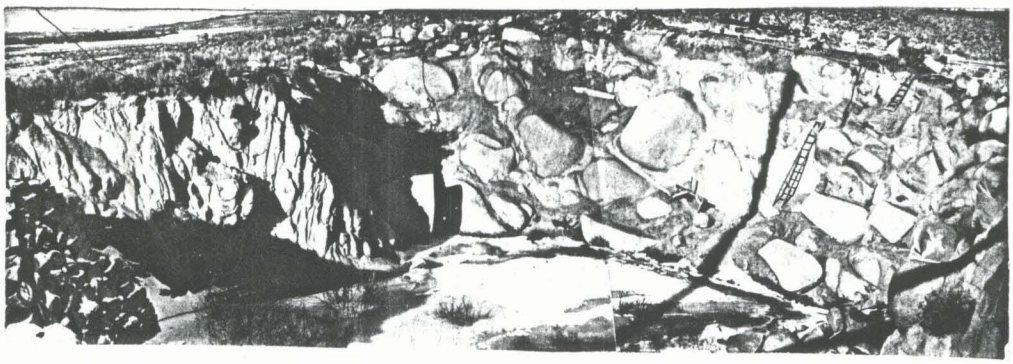
OCCURRENCES EXAMINED

The Haines Granite: The Haines "Granite" is exposed in two outcrops which total about five square miles in area. It is in T7S,R39E. Ot has been mapped by Gilluly and is discussed in USGS Bull. 879. It is also discussed by Grant and Cady in the Vol. 1 No.6 issue of the Mineral Resources of Oregon published by the first Oregon Bureau of Mines and Geology. It and other deposits in eastern Oregon was examined and sampled by the Commission investigating local building stone possibilities in connection with the construction of the Capital building at Salem. Their report is undoubtedly to be found in some State archives.

Briefly, the "granite" has been described as a hornblende biotite quartz diorite, very dark gray and full of almost black clots regarded as either segregations from within the magma or partially digested inclusions of surrounding rock. In discussing the rock Gilluly goes so far as to say "Although these clots characterize the biotite-quartz diorite masses of the entire region and hence can hardly be

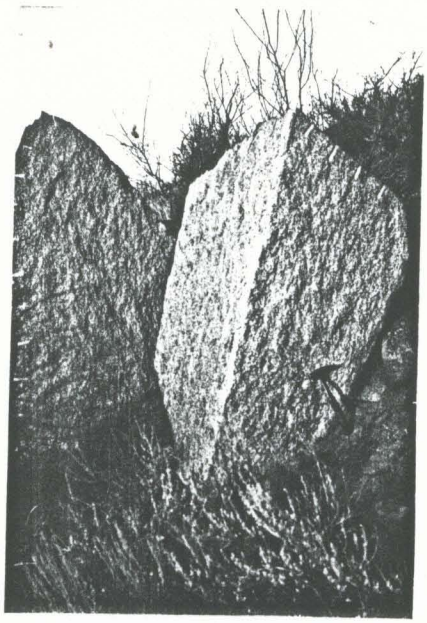
expected to be absent at greater depth, there is a chance that a local band in which they are less prevalent may be discovered and successfully exploited."

My independent re-examination confirms all negative observations heretofore reported. The following picture of the quarry shows the "boulder" nature of the granite. This, while suitable for the extraction of monumental stones because of their appreciably greater "value", obviously does not lend itself to low cost quarrying necessary for the mass production of building stone.



This "boulder" condition might be local and due to certain structural conditions which have favored weathering, but this point was not readily determined from the undeveloped natural outcrops seen.

Traverses across the width and breadth of the exposures revealed that the granite had been thoroughly prospect-sampled before the present quarry site was selected. Individual stones such as in the following picture (2) are to be found everywhere and in several places good sized pits from which considerable amounts of stone were cut are to be seen. All such cut stone observed showed the objectionable clots.

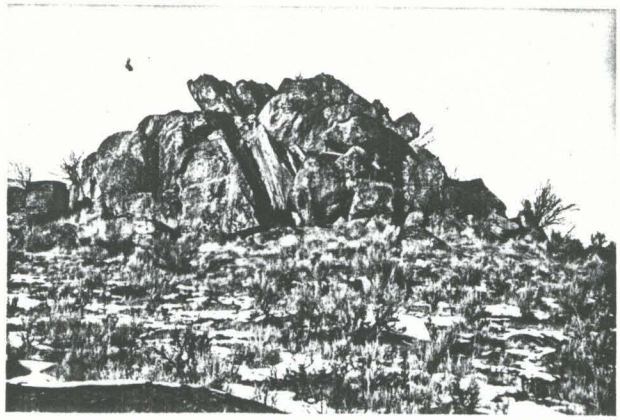


Whereas this quarry has operated successfully for over twenty years, it is only because of the high cost of imported monuments, because of a buying public which is not too critical and because of the indefatigable persistence of Mr. Burr, the owner-operator who patiently faces and refaces a given block to avoid the spots, or who cuts them out by carving daisies or something where they occur. Mr. Burr wishes he had suitable stone so that he could lease the rest of the hill to some building stone operator, but he very frankly says it would be utter folly to think of exploiting his granite on any other than the small handwork basis currently in effect. Furthermore, he actively prospected the whole eastern part of the state before settling here and is acquainted with other stone cutters who tried to make a go on other possible occurrences. His conclusion is a very final statement to the effect that "there ain't none."

Other views showing, 1, quarry and plant from the hill adjacent to it, said hill being granite; 2, extension of intrusive to the northwest and the second outcrop in the far distance (upper left of valley); 3, close up of typical outcrops.

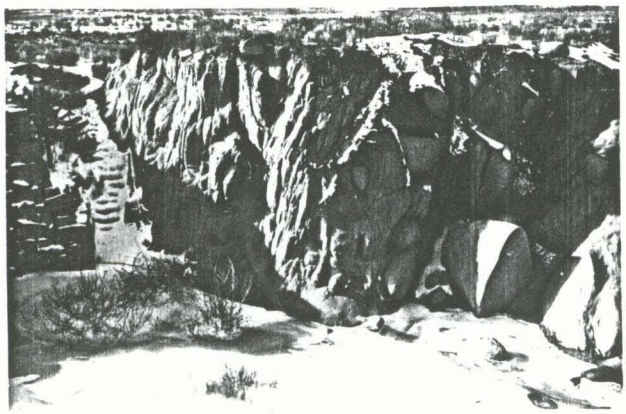
1.

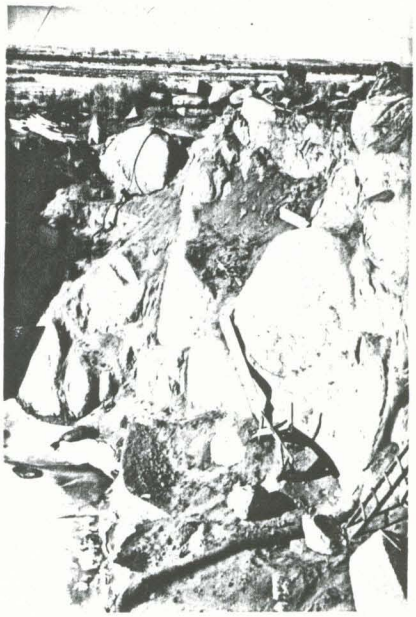
2.



3.

Other Views of the Pit and Plant





I spent a considerable amount of time just scouting for occurrences along the railroads and following up rumors. The only "granite" I found was south of Durkee, and is as follows.

Gold Hill Mine, T12 S. R43 E, S.1, two miles by Manning Creek road to the railroad. Here the dump is composed of much solid, fresh granite and the foundations of the buildings and some retaining walls are made of it. There are essentially no surface croppings however and what there are consists of fairly small blocks high up in the gully $\frac{1}{2}$ mile east of the mine. Everywhere else it is highly decomposed and intimately associated with a schistose country rock. It is evident that the decomposed zone of granite is only about fifteen feet thick, after which fresh granite prevails.

Texture of the stone on dumps, etc. ranges from coarse to fine, variable to uniform, indicating that areas of suitable stone may occur within the mass. Samples from close to the contacts are highly pyritized. Those from further away appear quite free of sulphides. Dark clots are not conspicuous in the small pieces on the dump, but then they are not conspicuous in the cuttings at Haines either and I never have been able to get a lab size sample showing one clearly. Said spots are to be seen however, in the larger, natural croppings in the gully.

A truly magnificent grade of stone may exist here, but it would be necessary to face up the mountain side to determine it. Such an undertaking clearly precludes further consideration.

Granite Mountain, T12S., R44E., about Sec.17, or a couple miles up Chicken Creek and adjacent thereto to the east is free of the decomposed mantle and is fresh to start with, but it is much more inaccessably located and the texture of the majority of blocks seen was more variable within the bounds of a given block. I made no attempt to map the extent of either this or the Gold Hill occurrence as such will eventually be shown on Fitz's geologic map of the Pine Quadrangle.

RESUME OF OTHER INVESTIGATION

In addition to the three occurrences examined, I studied the following areas with the following results.

The UP branch line to Robinette The intrusive mass of Lookout Mountain in northern Baker County is known to approach the Snake River and to have marbleized some of the limestones which also run through that country. I know from other examinations that the cost of building a road up either Fox or Conner Creek would be tremendous. These creeks are in long narrow canyons. Their flow varies widely and seasonally, assuming flood proportions in the spring. They change their courses repeatedly and the present roads ford them many times. The present roads extend just to the rugged foothills beyond which are the gigantic limestone mountains. Snow here would not seriously interfere with mass production quarrying of limestone for cement of flux, but it would hamper the more exacting techniques of dimension stone extraction.

A stone cutter stands at the head of Fox Creek now, itself a monument to a promotion-operation of some 10 to 15 years ago. From the looks of things I doubt if they ever cut any marble. I am told that the occurrence is very small in the

first place and that but small blocks can be obtained anyway. I never examined the deposits nor do I see any sense in doing so considering the location.

On the possibility that tongues of the Lookout intrusive approached closer to the river elsewhere, or that independent croppings existed, I made many inquiries of the native prospectors. Only one unreliable informant reported knowing of any, and he hasn't backed up his report by bringing in the samples he said he would.

Pedro Mountain, Mormon Basin Pedro Mountain is reported to be granite. It's location rules it out from the standpoint of distance from a railroad. Both access roads to Mormon Basin - the one leading from the UP mainline at Dixie and the other from the UP spur line at Brogan - were examined to see if extensions or outlying occurrences of the granite occurred within the allowable shipping distance. None was found, either within that distance or an appreciable distance beyond.

Medical Springs. Medical Springs is close to much of the granite mass mapped on the Wallowa Geologic map, the western border of which is a short distance east of Medical Springs. In view of this and of the Lumber Company railroad which serves the district, I made many inquiries about the district. J. Arthur, who worked with Lindgren in 1896 or thereabouts, reports that they found showings of granite in some of the valleys --- just enough to indicate that the prevailing basalt there is underlain, in part at least, by it. Otherwise he, or no one else I contacted knew of any.

Seneca District "Granite" of a sort has been worked in a small way at Prairie City. I have been told of limestone northwest of Burns 20 or 25 miles. Therefore, having no other geologic information on the district, I regarded it as a possible district until ruled otherwise as the Hines Lumber company operates a railroad which serves it. At Burns I obtained information concerning the exact area covered by the railroad and the plan, now underway, of extending it to Crane Flat as mentioned in the discussion of the Railroads. All told I interviewed such responsible people as the State Highway Engineers, various of the engineers of the Hines Company both at the Burns plant and the Seneca plant, and the road foreman of the Oregon and Northwestern. All of these men are interested in rock for construction and ballast. All are acquainted with the district. None knew of any rock like granite or limestone. All wished there was some. Just what will be available at Crane Flat when the extension gets there next year I don't know. This is part of the area Wally mapped or close to it, and he can undoubtedly contribute some observations on this point.

LaGrande The Mount Emily Lumber company operates a railroad which reaches from Hilgarde on the UP mainline to Camas Creek in T 4S., R 34E. Mr. Stange, owner and manager of the company assures me that no granite comes in around the right of way and he seemed to be tolerably well informed on the general geologic and mining picture locally. I didn't run down there to check.

Enterprise and Joseph

The noted black marbles of the Wallowas as well as some other varieties of marbles are situated near these towns. That these are generally regarded, locally at least, to possess such characteristics and properties as to class them

as decorative stones on a par with some of the best marbles on the market, is commonly known. Certainly they have been examined by the major operators. Why attempts to exploit them have not been made, I don't know.

The date of my directed trip to this region last fall was so late in the season that I was unable to examine any of the occurrences first hand because of snow. But I did talk with the major claim owners and go over maps etc. From this it is evident, first, that the black marble is nearest to the railroad and is the only readily accessible occurrence; that the other varieties, while theoretically accessible, can be made so actually only by a major and expensive program of construction. Secondly, any geologic investigation of these by the Department would have to be done on a scale as major and expensive as that of the aforementioned access construction if the resulting report is to be appreciably more comprehensive and pertinent than that already available in the Wallowa Bulletin.

In other words, it would be necessary for a crew to spend a whole season there making a detailed contour and geologic map. Such would be an attractive and worthwhile peacetime project, but it isn't my understanding that plans for such are in the offing. Thus on the basis of what I have seen I wouldn't care to assume the responsibility of making a more exhaustive report on the occurrences without a more clear cut understanding of the Department's aims and intents in this respect.

As far as possible granite occurrences in this district are concerned, I can report the following. A few monumental stones of attractive texture, color and appearance led me to the shop of a local stone cutter -- a Mr. Willgerodt. (spelling?) Mr. Willgerodt is now dead and neither his widow nor any of the local informants knew much about the source of his stone. A subsequent interview with a Mr. Davis of La Grande, a retired stone cutter who worked all his life in the Baker, La Grande, Enterprise district both for and in competition with Messrs. Burr and Willgerodt revealed that Willgerodt obtained his stone by gophering out isolated (and undoubtedly glacial) boulders from scattered points in the immediate countryside -- especially from around Joseph where he was first established. Davis himself shipped a car of granite from similar boulders occurring about one mile below Lostine.

The best prospect he knows of in this district is at what he calls Pole Bridge, six miles south of Lostine, but there are dark spots in this too and it is a seven mile haul to the railroad. He very definitely doesn't recommend it.

I might add that Mr. Davis talked about granite occurrences back of the Mt. Emily logging camp. Supposedly large amounts of good, spot free granite occur there, as undoubtedly is the case elsewhere in eastern Oregon, but he assured me that this was hopelessly isolated for quarry operations which bears out Mr. Stange's information. Also, while recognizing that the Black Marble polishes admirably, he believes it too small for extensive use in building as individual blocks rarely attain much size.

Miscellaneous Several rail lines lead south from the main line between Biggs and Bonneville. Inquiries by me indicate that several privately owned lines which serve the surrounding mountain areas are to be found branching from these north south lines. Neither the identity of these branch lines nor the territory opened

up by them is known to the writer as plans to investigate the district were cancelled.

The writer did go to Pendlton and interview Mr. Ward, owner of the Pendleton Monument Works. Mr. Ward is a business man whose interests extend beyond the fabrication of cemetery markers. His plant is situated in Walla Walla and serves a very considerable territory in Washington and Oregon. He has supplied granite trim for several of the larger buildings in Walla Walla and Pendleton, being agent for both the Vermont and Minnesota producers, and concerned with construction as well as with monumental use of stone. He told me that field men for both of these concerns had gone over this country with the hope of finding a suitable quarry site; that none worthy of consideration were found in eastern Oregon; that the Ashland stone was the only really good stone in Oregon and that it was excellent, comparing favorably with the Berri stone (if I don't have my name mixed up -- I lost my field memo book). He said furthermore that he had hoped to operate the Ashland quarry at one time and spoke glowingly of the building stone markets that were to be developed from San Francisco to Seattle and of the opportunities which existed in this field for an adequately financed, live-wire operator. I gather that he did operate there once, or else his participation consisted of a substantial loan to the existing operators.

CONCLUSIONS

I have executed this assignment as systematically as I know how and all told, I have interviewed many more people than those mentioned. The unvarying substantiation of the theme that "there ain't none" is borne out by such observations as I made and rings true to me for eastern Oregon granite ---- that is, within accessible limits. As mentioned before, there undoubtedly is some fine quality stone to be found within the bounds of some of the intrusive masses which are at present wholly inaccessible.

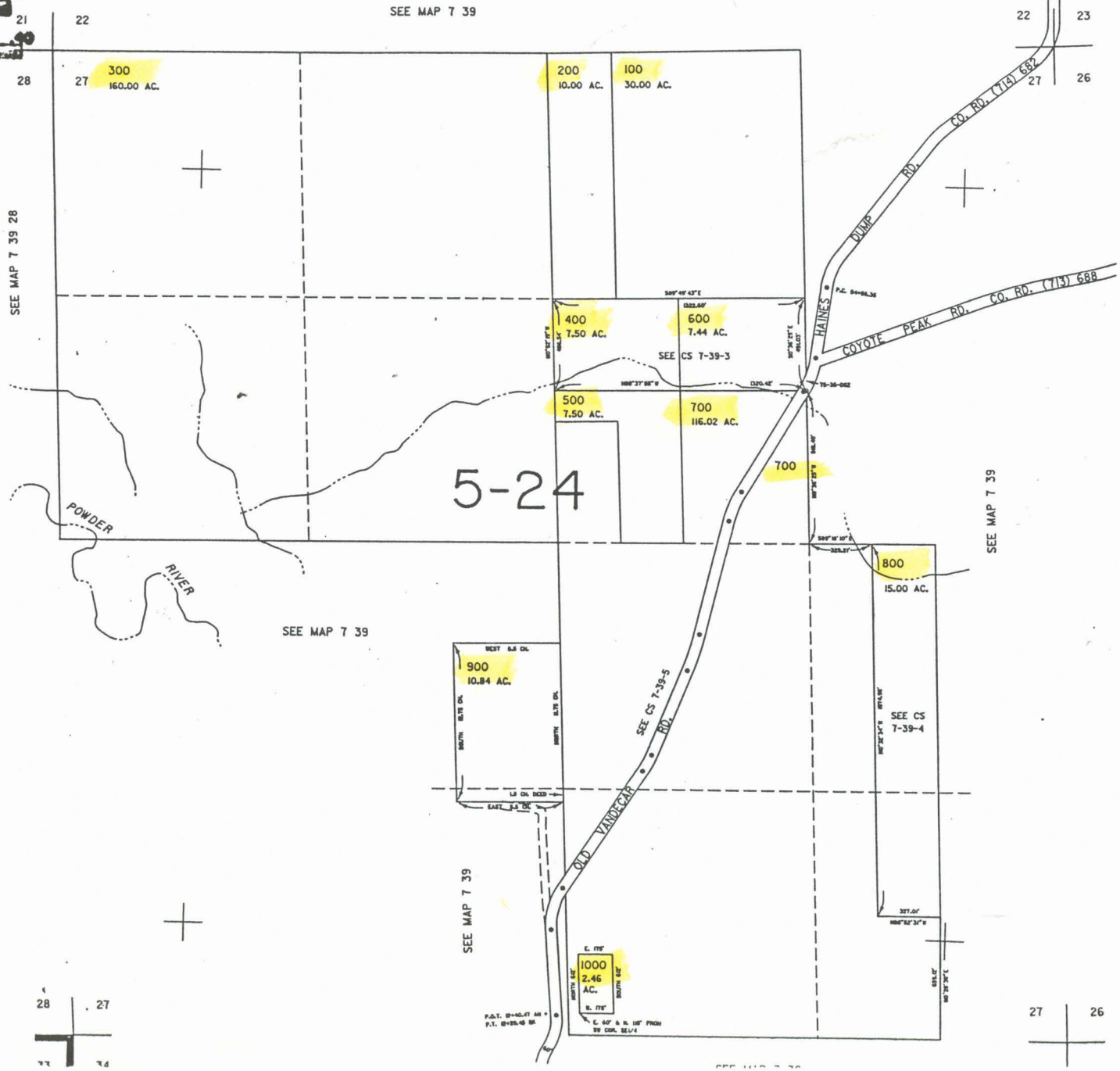
The Wallowa marbles rate as potential building stones but they will require extensive and detailed basic mapping before any significant and worthwhile study can be made of them. In view of these findings I have ceased all activity in connection with this assignment and am devoting my spare time exclusively to the geologic mapping of Telocaset Quadrangle --- which mapping I shall continue pending further directions to the contrary.

THIS MAP WAS PREPARED FOR ASSESSMENT PURPOSE ONLY

SECTION 27 T.7S. R.39E. W.M.
BAKER COUNTY
1" = 400'

7 39 27

SCALE 1:9600



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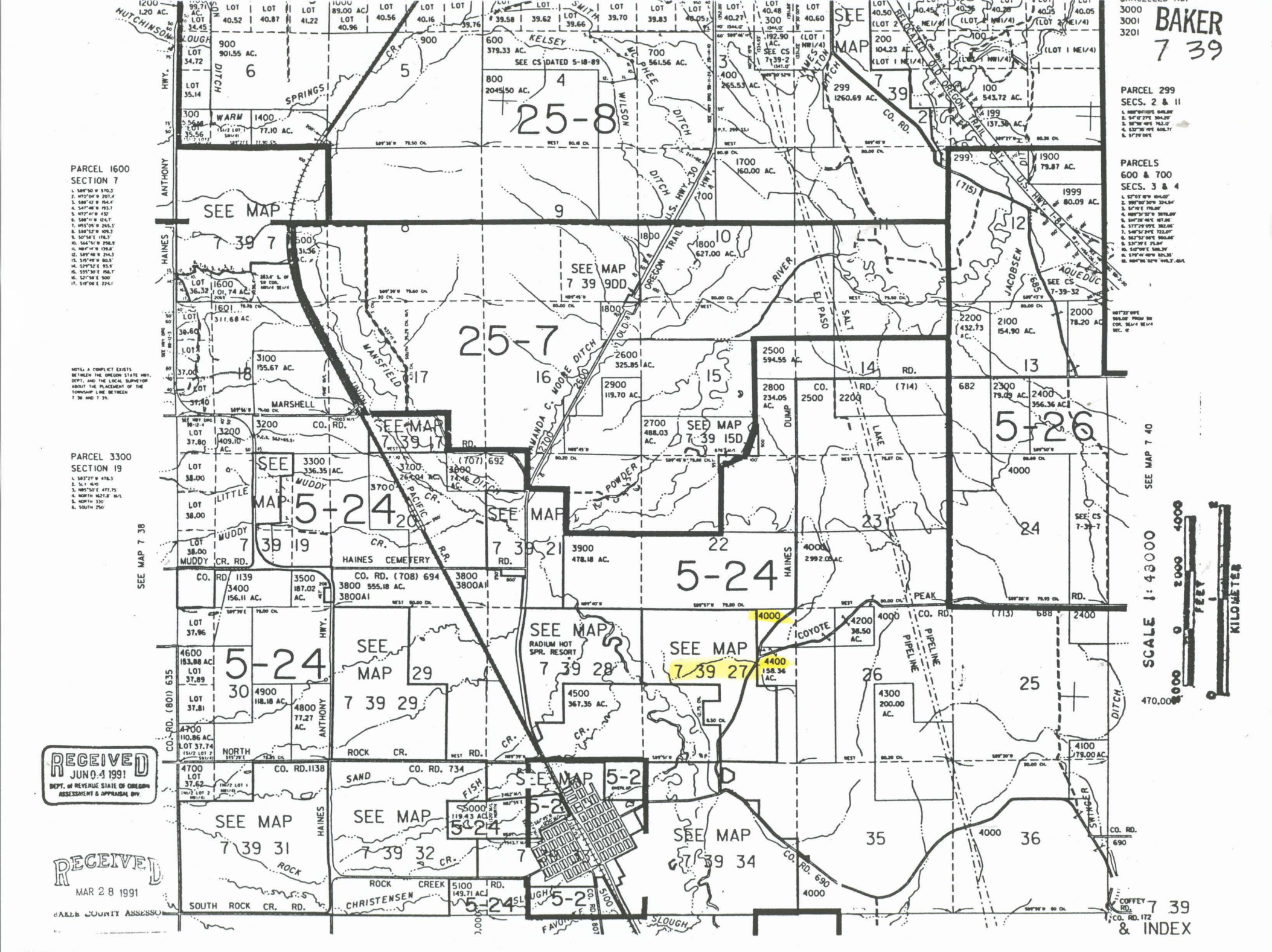
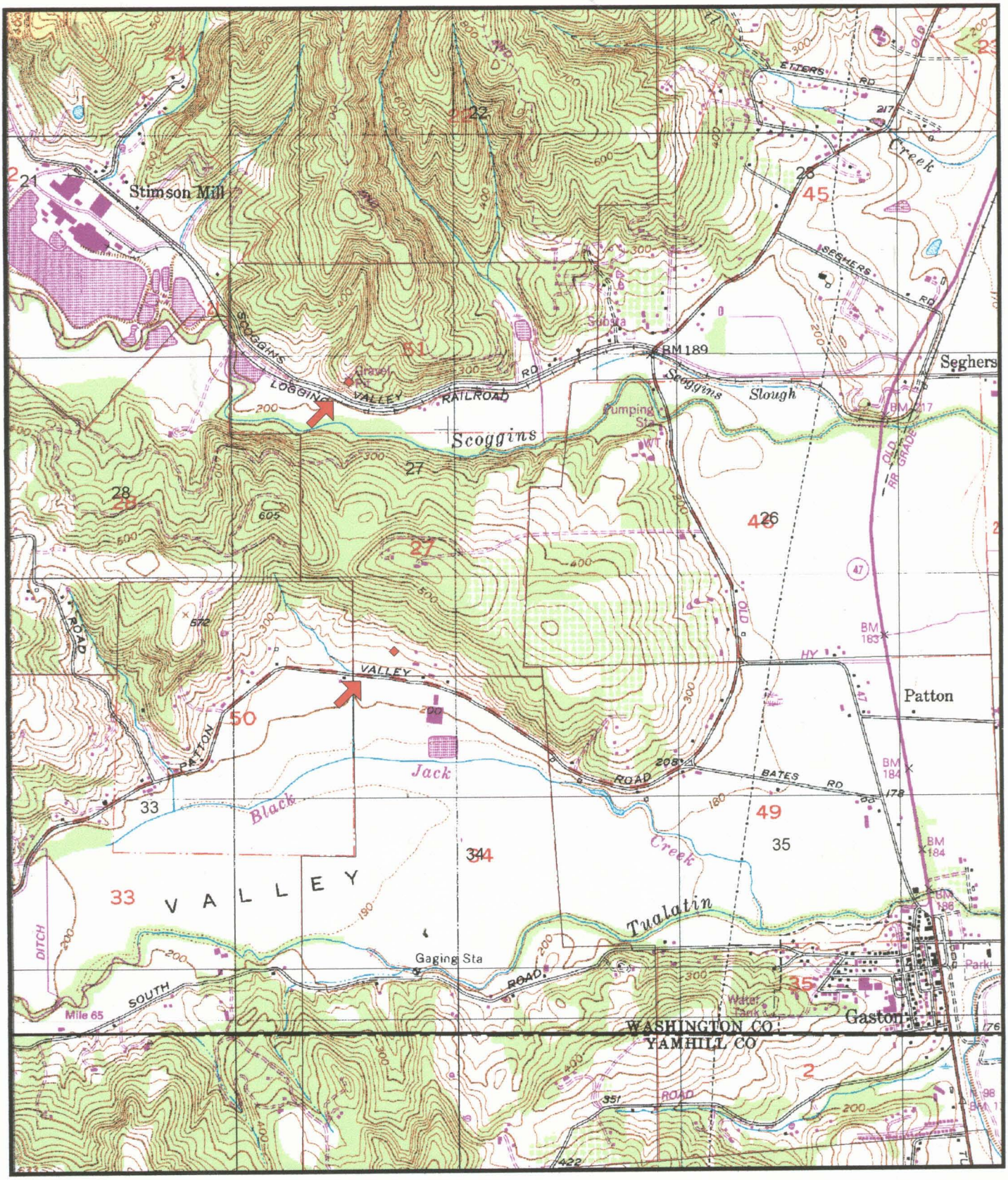

BAKER
7 39
PARCEL 1600
SECTION 7
PARCEL 3300
SECTION 19
PARCEL 299
SECS. 2 & 11
PARCELS
600 & 700
SECS. 3 & 4
SEE MAP 7 38
SEE MAP 7 40
SCALE 1: 43000
FEET
KILOMETER
470,000
RECEIVED
JUN 04 1991
DEPT. of REVENUE STATE OF OREGON
ASSESSMENT & APPRAISAL DIV.
RECEIVED
MAR 28 1991
BAKER COUNTY ASSESSOR
7 39
& INDEX



Gaston Quadrangle
1 inch = 2000 feet