State Department of Geology and Mineral Industries

702 Woodlark Building Portland, Oregon

March 1, 1943

Name

Mountain View Clay Property ("Fire Clay") Balu Dist., Balu Co

Old Name

Wahoo Claims

Owners

Al and Maud Schroeder, Dewey Ave., Baker, Oregon.

Location

Sec.1; T. 10 S; R 40 E, or about 1 mile northeast from Quartz, Baker County, Oregon.

History

The clay was first owner and worked by Messrs. Gossett and Wm. Caldwell, the latter a relative of the present owners. It is reported that these men had tests made in which the clay was molded into various pieces of pottery, and successfully fired, but there is no data on these tests. However, 9 tons was sold to the Sun Portland Cement Company, Portland Oregon, and a letter from them to Mr. Caldwell, July 16, 1923, gives the following information: "We are enclosing an analysis which was run by our chemist on your fire clay. Mr. Knappenburger wishes to advise you that this clay analysis shows a very high grade fire clay." The analysis is:

Si02	9.48
A1203	16.14
Fe203	.90
Ca0	1.70
Mg0	3.56
Loss on ignition	6.86

98.64

In a letter to a Mr. Ross, ceramist, Washington, Penn'a., Mr. Caldwell mentions having sold 100 tons for use in making fire brick, but further details on this transaction are lacking. It is known, however, that some was sold to the McKim and Company Machine and Foundry Works in Baker, and to the Oregon Lumber Company at Bates. In this latter connection, George Hammon, Plant Engineer for the Oregon Lumber Company, states that in lining a furnace they used a liquid paste of this clay for mortar, dipping their stock face bricks into it. In this capacity it held up well and compared satisfactorily with fire clay previously obtained from Idaho. However, their operating temperatures were low, seldom exceeding an orange heat.

Development

There is a small cut which has pretty well sloughed in and a short tunnel.

Transportation The deposit is within a mile of the Union Pacific station at Quartz and highway 30; across fields sloping gently from the deposit.

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Geology

The locale is a valley composed of lake bed sediments, and A Highway Department gravel pit a short distance from and below the fire clay shows alternate bands of small, well sorted pebbles and clay silt. Apparently this clay increases in quantity in proportion to the gravel higher in the section as considerable amount of yellowish clay is encountered between this horizon and that of the fire clay.

The fire clay appears much like a fine grained white tuff. It contains small angular rock fragments and pieces of wood and pebbles scattered through it. Locally it slacks down and was moderately plastic under foot where wet, but much of it was fairly hard.

The cut shows an estimated thickness of 30 to 40 feet of the material. Insufficient development work has been done to allow of a more precise description of the section. Columbia River basalt eventually caps the hill bordering the valley.

Informant

Mrs. Schroeder George Hammon

Report by N.S.V

N.S.W. N.S. Wagun

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MRS. MAUDE SCHROEDER Claus (clay) BAKER DISTRICT:

Has a group of 6 placer claims six miles southeast from Baker, the nearest town. Located 30 years ago and recorded in Baker ounty. Country rock is volcanic. Deposit of clay extends over an area of one mile in width and 2 miles in length. Tests on this cally show that it is valuable for furnace linings and is excellent for potter's use. There is a tunnel about 150 feet

long. (Owned by Mrs. Maude Schroeder, Baker, Ore. (Prescott -- 6/1/37).