

Gypsum Property near Lime



Baker County
CONNOR CR.

RECEIVED
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STATE DEPARTMENT OF GEOLOGY
AND MINERAL INDUSTRIES

BAKER FIELD OFFICE
2033 FIRST STREET
BAKER, OREGON

April 26, 1946

STATE DEPT OF GEOLOGY
& MINERAL INDS.

Mr. Libbey
State Dept. of Geology
& Mineral Industries
702 Woodlark Bldg.
Portland 5, Oregon

CONNOR CR BAKER

Dear Mr. Libbey:

I visited the Gyp Mine yesterday, merely riding in for an hours preliminary examination by way of familiarizing myself with the trail, and appraising the situation existing, and regarding camp facilities and etc.

As is, the most practical route to the mine is from the Earnest Langley ranch in the hills above Lime. A steep, but good road leads to this ranch from Lime and except after rain, it will be possible to truck or drive all supplies to that point. From there on it will be necessary to pack everything a mile or mile and a half to the mine. Mr. Langley has a specially built, two wheel trailer, capable of handling approximately a ton. This cart is designed for a team of horses and Langley regularly uses it on the side hills in repairing his fence lines. He will pack supplies for us at the rate of \$4.00 a trip, that is, for himself, the cart, and the team.

The workings are much more extensive than I had anticipated they would be. They are situated on the level of the trail, which is somewhat below the rim of the hills. There are two large quarries side by side and a series of smaller ones at a somewhat greater distance to the south. The faces, and consequently the geographical workings on each of the larger quarries are obscured by very large talous banks. Underground workings penetrate the hill from at least one of these quarries and probably both. However, these workings are accessible in only one quarrie and their accessibility is somewhat limited at that.

It is hard to explain, but the slacking and caving, at least in the portals, has been so great that the level in which one instance is ten to fifteen feet above the original level of the workings, is so that the walls available for inspection are in actuality those of the barren roof. How far into the workings this condition exists I do not know, but the slacking and caving has been on such a great scale that nowhere on the sides or roof of the workings as now exposed, are there any drilled hole markers to be seen. In other words, the general level of the workings

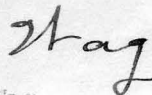
appears to be migrating upwards with a natural slope. As I said before, this condition may not prevail further back in the workings, but where it does prevail it completely obscures the horizon on which mines also originally carried out. A considerable amount of work has been done several hundred feet below these tunnels and some small scattered pits are to be seen above them. Any samples taken at the lower workings, which may represent an independent lower gypsum horizon, or which probably may represent a slide block from the horizon of the mine workings, will have to be packed up to the trail level on horses, as the hill side is extremely steep.

In closing the plant, the company dismantled everything to the extent of even disposing of the buildings, and from the thoroughness of the manner in which they dismantled and removed all equipment, and from the amount and nature of what appears to have been their last work, it is my impression that they conducted a fairly extensive prospecting campaign of their own. Furthermore, and please bear in mind this is on the basis of a very superficial and snap observation, it is my impression that the formation in general is faulted off a very short distance south of the mine. In general, however, it would seem that the gypsum formations deepened slightly into the hill which if were true would put them progressively into the floor as the tunnels progress into the hill. Too it may be that bodies of gypsum ore equivalent to those originally mined might exist back in the hill at a lower level than the present workings. Too also, and this will need studying for confirmation, it is very possible that these gypsum horizons would be picked up on the other side of the hill, in which case access to mining operations would necessarily have to be from Lime.

Please remember that this last idea (that the gypsum might be found on the other side of the hill) is supposition on my part and it is a point which I will look into when examining the property. In this connection the airplane maps will be almost essential, and in this connection also, any topographical survey here by the department will prove to be a very major undertaking.

I shall await word from you regarding the availability of aerial photographs before I continue with this examination.

Sincerely,



Wag
By P.C.

Copy to Treasurer

Jan. 13, 1943.

Mr. Earl K. Nixon, Director
 State Dept. Geology & Mineral Inds.
 702 Woodlark Bldg.
 Portland, Oregon

Dear Mr. Nixon:

Tax Assessor's records show that the following claims are owned by the Certain-Feed Products Company of 120 S. La Salle St., Chicago, Ill., or 100 E. 42nd St., N.Y. The taxes are paid to date.

Gypsum Lode Mining Claim -- Portion lot No. 308, Pat. #29067
 in S 20, T 13, R 45 --- 20.66 acres.

The Big Slide Gypsum Lode Mining Claim -- Lot No. 302. Pat. #29068
 in S 20, T 13, R 45 --- 20.66 acres

River Bank Placer Mining Claim -- Pat. #335096
 SE $\frac{1}{4}$ - SE $\frac{1}{4}$ of S 20; Lot No. 4 of S 21;
 Lot No. 1 of S 28; and Lots No. 1-2-3 of
 S 29, T 13, R 45 --- 148.42 acres.

These holdings apparently cover most of the gypsum in the immediate vicinity of the old mine known as Gyp.

From the records it appears that they were originally owned, or controlled, by Charles F. Beeber. Following that, the Oregon Lime and Plaster Company was here. Then the Pacific Lime and Gypsum Company, and finally, the Acme Cement Plaster Company.

According to Clint Garrison of Huntington, who was electrician there at the time they closed down in late 25, the property was operated about 50 years by the various companies listed above. While he was there Certain-feed had a plant at Lime which produced about 100 tons of plaster per day. This burned down and the plant built at Gyp was designed for 300 tons per day. Actually, they averaged from 100 to 120 tons production. The gypsum was hand sorted for wall plaster. In addition they put out quite a bit of fertilizer and supplied some to the cement plants. The impurities consisted of a "blue rock" and also pyrite. The gypsum occurred in beds 8 to 10'

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thick separated by 10 to 20 to 30' layers of clay. It was mined as a quarry up till near the end at which time they drifted. Little timber was used and much of this has caved. They closed down because the property was largely worked out and because freight costs were excessive. The manager, Henry Olthoff, went to another property in New Mexico, and the machinery was moved to the White Mill, Acme, Texas.

According to George Ettinger, Huntington, who was highly recommended to me both for his knowledge of the mines of the district and for his reliability, Olthoff told him the property was worked out; that they had prospected two or three years before giving it up. Also, he, Ettinger had sampled a deposit 13 miles back in the hills from Durkee. Olthoff had this assayed and reported that it was a much better grade than what they were working, but that the excessive freight rates were against them to the extent that even a better grade property wouldn't offset them satisfactorily.

According to Mr. Hendryx, local newspaper man who is very interested in the mining game, and who has very complete files on the subject, the property has been examined several times in the last decade, but never taken up. However, Certain-tyed sees fit to keep paying the taxes. It may be they feel that it isn't worked out, or then again, it might be a convenient liability for adjusting income taxes. At any rate, they are the owners and have been the last operators, and are the people to write to for the details.

This freight situation was, of course, all in terms of 1920-1925 economics and the condition may be different today, especially so if the product is to be delivered to one specific destination such as the Nickel Smelter you mention. Therefore, I call your attention to the fact that Ettinger says there is a very sizable deposit on top of the mountain up Connor Creek. It is under snow now, so didn't get to see it, but did drive up the Creek and sized up the picture in a general sort of way. A lime bed crosses the ridge there, and the deposit would be about $4\frac{1}{2}$ miles from the railroad. Much of this $4\frac{1}{2}$ miles consists of a passable, half washed-out road up the canyon, but it could be easily put in good shape, and I believe that a chute could probably be installed to deliver the ore from the mountain to the road head. If not, the road would have to be extended. There are several wagon and lumber trails that could probably be utilized in this connection.

If you want, I will file a memo to the effect that I arrange to examine this as soon as the district becomes accessible. I didn't try to see the Gyp workings. Would have needed a horse to get there.

Sincerely,

Wag

N. S. Wagner,
Field Geologist