

State Department of Geology and Mineral Industries

702 Woodlark Building
Portland, Oregon

GAS SEEP NEAR ALLEGANY

*COQUILLE DIST
COOS COUNTY*

On November 7, 1945 Mr. Mason and I met Mr. C. T. Wilkinson in Coos Bay and, with him and his nephew, visited the gas seeps referred to in Mr. C. H. Coe's letter of October 8, 1945. Mr. C. T. Wilkinson is a brother of Mr. R. W. Wilkinson who originally reported the gas seeps to Mr. Coe.

The gas occurs near an old sawmill on C. T. Wilkinson's property in an accumulation of mud, sticks, leaves and other plant material in Glenn Creek, sec. 8, T. 24 S., R. 10 W.

Very little gas was in evidence until the mud was disturbed by our wading out upon it, when many scattered bubbles appeared and rose to the surface of the water. When a stick was pushed a foot or two into the mud and a lighted match held near the surface of the water over the hole the resulting flame rose to a height of a foot or eighteen inches and burned for about two seconds. The same results were obtained six or eight times from holes made not over eighteen inches apart.

Since the gas comes from a relatively small accumulation of mud and plant debris, it is my opinion that it is nothing but methane generated by the decay of the organic material in the mud.

A sample of the gas was taken for analysis.

We saw none of the "petroleum jelly" referred to in Mr. Coe's letter.

Mega-fossils and samples of shale which may contain microfossils were collected from Glenn Creek.

The fossil and gas localities are indicated on the accompanying map.

Report by: R. E. Stewart
November 28, 1945