

*D. Cooper*

33

COOS COUNTY

IRON-SALMON MOUNTAIN AREA

The area in the inland <sup>region</sup> ~~area~~ east of Curry county is confined to two townships, 32 and 33 south, in Range 12 west. It is bounded on the west by the Curry county line and on the east by the Eocene sediments.

The area is entirely in the drainage of the south fork of the Coquille River and on its western side. Its tributaries beginning at the south are Rock, Sucker, Granite, Johnson, and Salmon creeks. These branches are swift-flowing streams draining a rough area of mountains with few flat places; is well-timbered and brushy.

The Coos-Curry county line is the watershed west of which are the mining *Curry County* districts of Upper Elk and Sixes rivers. On this north-south watershed are the highest elevations in Coos county and beginning at the south the long ridge of Iron Mountain is 4000 above sea level, Barklow Mountain 3559 ft., Granite Peak 3300 ft., Salmon Mountain 3234 ft. North of Salmon Mountain the divide rapidly descends to less than 1000 ft. elevation.

General Geology: The rocks of this area are Cretaceous and later. The sediments are the Myrtle formation composed <sup>sed</sup> of sandstones, shales and conglomerates and small areas of chert and amphibole schist. The intrusives are serpentine gabbro and dacite porphyry. There are also small areas of basalt which came after the ore forming period.

Economic Geology: The parts of this area of economic interest are the exposures of serpentine gabbro and dacite porphyry and the neighboring intruded formations. The Myrtle formation is the principal neighboring rock to these intrusives and it is probable that the mineralization in quartz veins are due to one or more of these igneous intrusions. The dacite porphyry is more acidic than the gabbro or the serpentine, but in or within two or three miles of these intrusives should be prospected for gold quartz deposits. The dacite porphyry outcrops are mostly narrow dikes indicating they may be tongues

penetrating the Myrtle formation from larger bodies of dacite below from which *the dikes* have emanated into rocks above,—the Myrtle, serpentine or gabbro. The most successful placer mines have been close the the belt of dacite porphyry which crosses the divide toward the Salmon Mountain mine. Placer mining has been done on each of the streams' tributary to the south fork of the Coquille River. The serpentine is the place to find chromite and the placers derived from serpentine areas to find platinum.

283  
GOPFER KING NO. 1 (copper-gold)

Iron-Salmon Mtn. Area

See 33  
"One-fourth of a mile west of Mr. John R. Smith's placer ground on Rock creek in the south central part of T. 33 S., R. 12 W. is a thick lens of quartz included within serpentine, and which itself enclosed small quantities of the latter. It contains considerable chalcopyrite and the upper portion is seamed with veinlets of malachite and some azurite. A mass of this material measuring about 30 feet long and 20 feet thick is exposed by open cuts. Several prospectors who have examined this deposit consider it a boulder or a large chunk of float which has rolled down from some higher point. There is no doubt, however, that it is in place in the serpentine and represents a "boulder copper deposit" allied to those found farther south in Curry county, but differing notably therefrom in the large quantity of quartz present. This deposit lies about 100 feet east of a big outcrop of dacite-porphry and may be genetically connected therewith. A general sample taken from all the exposures proved to contain 2.23 per cent copper, .05 oz. gold, and .08 oz. silver. Concentration would doubtless produce a fairly high grade ore."

Ref.: Parks and Swartley, 16:72 (quoted)

DIVELBISS MINE (gold)

Iron-Salmon Mtn. Area

Located in sec. 33, T. 32 S., R. 12 W.

"A good 5-stamp mill was early erected in connection with the Divelbiss mine in Poverty Gulch. It is generally idle, so that its output is very small. The ore is obtained half a mile southeast and 500 feet above the quartz mill, with which it is connected by tramway and cabled slope. The mine is an open cut in a steep slope, exposing a very ferruginous seamy quartz mass, containing also much oxide of manganese, on the contact of a form of dacite-porphry and slates mingled with other igneous rocks which the dacite-porphry intersects. The black oxide of iron and manganese interferes mechanically to a considerable degree with the amalgamation of the gold. Mr. Ira Buzan and several associates operated the mill for a short time in the summer of 1900.

Ref.: Port Orford Folio, 15 (quoted)

= Parks Lake.  
J. R. Smith & associates

35

INDEPENDENCE NO. 1 (Fish) MINE

Iron-Salmon Mtn. Area

Located in SW.  $\frac{1}{4}$  of sec. 13, T. 33.S., R. W.

"High-grade gold ore is stated to have been opened by the Independence Mining Company in the Iron Mountain district of Coos County, Oregon. The company plans to install a mill and start production as soon as possible.

Frank J. Fish of Coquille, Oregon, is trustee for the company which is almost entirely owned by Coos County people. Besides Fish, the board of directors consists of J.D. Rankin, Clyde Gage, A.B. Peack, and Claude Giles." *att at Marshfield*  
*Dr. Cook - Marsh.*  
(The Mining Journal, March 30, 1938)

"Frank Fish of the Independence mine near Powers announced today the discovery of a rich vein of tellurium gold ore appraised from \$1500 to \$3500 a ton.

"He said large scale operations would be undertaken next summer. The mine has not brought high returns in the past.

"Because many southwestern Oregon streams rise near the new vein, Fish said it might be the source of fold placer mined recently."  
(Democrat Herald, Baker, March 3, 1938)

No additional information.

IRON MOUNTAIN MANGANESE

Coos County

Operators: Lou Royer, Coquille; E.W. Spencer, Grants Pass; and W.H. Peters, Portland.

Location: Secs. 13, 14, 23, and 24, T. 33 S., R. 12 W., 21 miles from Powers.

Area: Ten claims, approximately 150 acres.

History: Some work was done in 1918 prospecting for gold. It has been idle ever since. The operators have staked the claims, but to date have not been recorded in the County Recorder's Office.

Development: 1 tunnel 50 ft., caved about half way in.

Description: No equipment. Elevation 3500 ft. Steep mountain sides.

IRON MOUNTAIN MANGANESE (continued)

Can be worked all year. Requires 3 miles of road to connect with forest road at Rock Creek. Estimate cost \$3000. Adequate timber and water on property. Maximum 5 ft. snowfall.

Geology: Very near east boundary of the deposit, there is a contact between the manganese rocks and the serpentine. The exact location of this contact is not visible due to the debris covering it. To the west the manganese rocks gradually give way to diabasic rocks. There were no outcroppings seen. There are occasional pieces of float. The tunnel is near the edge of the manganese deposit. The manganese is so altered it is difficult to classify it. The manganese fills the joints and crevices leading to the belief it is a deposit formed by concentration in a superficial zone. This is also borne out by the fact that occasional pieces of float picked up from near the center of the deposit when broken do not show manganese ore on the freshly broken surface. The deposit as shown by the float occurs more or less in an oval shape being 1000 ft. wide and 2000 ft. long. The manganese ore minerals are all oxides. No rhodonite was seen.

Remarks: Not enough development to allow estimate of future operations. The manganese ores are oxides and may lend themselves to concentration.  
Informant: J.E. Morrison, 37.

ROBERTS GROUP

Iron-Salmon Mtn. Area

Owners: Stanley Fitzgerald, Coquille; Lou Royer and Charles Roberts, Powers.

*Indefinite*  
Location: On south side of Iron Mountain about 2 miles southwest of the Fish mine, section 26, T. about 33 S., R. 12 W.

Acreage: 5 full quartz lode claims held by location. Total of 100 acres.

Development: Discovery work only.

S<sup>2</sup> 33  
 SW<sup>4</sup> 34  
 S<sup>2</sup> NE<sup>4</sup> 33  
 S<sup>2</sup> NW<sup>4</sup> 34  
 NE<sup>4</sup> 4

Rock Creek Claims

38

ROBERTS GROUP (continued)

Geology: Serpentine, peridotite and gabbro rocks are found on this property. Veins have been found along the contacts. None of the present workings have shown any vein wider than a foot. <sup>new one 5 to 6 ft.</sup> General strike of formation is north 10° west with nearly a vertical dip.

General Information: Elevation is 2500 to 3000 ft. Plenty of timber. Water in Rock creek for milling and water power. 12 ft. maximum snow fall. Informant: J.E. Morrison, 38.

ROCK CREEK CLAIMS (quartz-placer)

Iron-Salmon Mtn. Area

Located in sec. 28, T. 33 S., R. 12 W.

Associates

"This property, which is owned by Mr. John R. Smith, is situated in Coos county on upper Rock creek, a tributary of Coquille river.

"Mr. Smith reached the property in October, 1914, and claims to own <sup>one sec.</sup> by right of re-location 4 placer and 8 lode claims. His title has been disputed by former owners. <sup>Copper King.</sup>

"He has made and installed 500 feet of sluice boxes, and has done a great deal of additional productive work. He states that 3 men, working with pick and shovel and often contending with 9 feet of snow, took out \$3500 worth of gold in 2½ months during the fall of 1914. He says that he left the property on January 13, 1915, and freely showed the gold he had recovered. This caused two men to go to the property during his absence and to work thereon without permission from him.

"Mr. Smith further claims that he recovered \$2000 worth of gold after his return to the property in the spring of 1915. At the time of this investigation, he was putting in ditches and laying plans to mine the ground on a large scale. He says that the gold is coarse and unworn, and is very pure, averaging about \$19.50 an ounce in value. He has found that it hugs the bed-rock closely.

"This property has been worked more or less since the spring of 1915,

ROCK CREEK CLAIMS (continued)

*produced small thing every season*

*road to top of hill - also grade 3 miles to below. CCC new road*

but as far as can be learned has not yielded according to expectations.  
Ref.: Parks and Swartley, 16:195 (quoted)

39

SALMON MOUNTAIN MINE

Iron-Salmon Area

Operators: U.S. Chrome Inc., formerly Oregon Chrome & Gold Synd., Powers, Oregon, or 5 S. Wabash, Room 1713, Chicago, Ill.

Location: Secs. 19, 20, 21, and 22, T. 32 S., R. 12 W., 10 miles SW. of Powers to nearest railroad.

Area: <sup>67</sup> 32 claims located. Their engineer is surveying others for location.

History: Beginning in 1885, the property was operated for 13 winters. The reason for closing was due to insufficient water to make it pay as a hydraulic mine. From 1893 to 1936 the property was worked intermittently but without any appreciable production. The present company acquired the property in 1936. Production is thought to be between \$75,000 and \$100,000.

Development: One hydraulic cut and 4 tunnels. The tunnels are caved in; 3 of the tunnels are short being less than 100 ft. each; the west tunnel bears N. 35° E., said to be 370 ft.

Equipment: 1 truck, 2 caterpillar tractors, 1 Gibson #7 crusher, 1 TelSmith #6 crusher, 1 36" Trommel screen, 1 Gibson rod mill, capacity 100 tons, 2 amalgamating plates, 3 No. 11 Wilfley tables, blacksmith shop equipment, track, cars, mill building, and bunk house. *100 HP Diesel 5 Motor 40 HP to Red Hill breccia*

Descriptions: Steep mountain sides; the country rocks are gabbros; elevation 2100 ft.; plenty of timber and said to be sufficient water all year to operate mill; maximum snowfall 4'.

Geology: Diller gave <sup>the following</sup> a geological description of the property in the Port Orford Folios

\*The Salmon Mountain mine, on the north slope of Salmon Mountain, at an

SALMON MOUNTAIN MINE (continued)

elevation of 2100 feet, is hydraulic, using water with nearly 200 feet head, brought across the divide from the upper part of Johnson Creek. The cut is about 50 feet deep, the same width, and 500 feet long, with a range of 200 feet in height. It is in rather fragmental material of igneous origin, except at the lower end, where Eocene shales and sandstones occur. Although closed at the present time, it has been worked during the rainy season at intervals for a number of years. When running under good head the mine paid \$75 to \$100 a day, and the gold is said to be rather uniformly distributed through the whole mass. This fragmental material of volcanic origin forms a bench with small depressions on the steep slope of Salmon Mountain, and appears to be due to a slide.

"The rock is dark, often purplish or greenish, sometimes brecciated, much fractured, and easily goes to pieces. - Although much altered, it retains traces of its ophitic structure which connects it with the basalts. Near the upper limit of its exposure, above the bulkhead, it is more solid and is associated with a rock rich in glaucophane, with sandstones and indurated shales bounding it on both sides.

"The gold of the mine appears to be derived from small quartz veins, such as have been prospected in the immediate vicinity. Its intimate association with this igneous rock is exceptional and unlike anything else seen in the region. The branch of Salmon Creek which heads near the mine contains much of the same sort of debris in its bed and yields a small amount of gold annually to several miners."

He was there at a time when the hydraulic cut and the tunnels were open for inspection. The only addition to the development work is that the west tunnel has been extended from about 100 ft. to 370 ft. This tunnel is said to have cut a number of quartz stringers. Some of them probably millable



37  
41

ore. About a quarter of a mile east of the open cut there is a bird's eye porphyry dyke having a north and south strike. Continuing east there are small bodies of serpentine in the gabbro. Some small kidneys of chromite have been found in the serpentine.

**Metallurgy:** The ore is softer than the average, and their flow sheet indicates that they intend to plate the free gold and develop a high enough sulphide concentrate to ship to the smelter. Pannings do show some free gold. They expect to plate about \$1 per ton. Their mill is to be 100 ton capacity.

**Remarks:** It seems to be an experiment in which they hope there will be sufficient values in Salmon Mountain to make it a worth while enterprise. The property is not a developed mine, but a prospect. W. G. Collins of the Denver Equipment Company has been secured to construct the mill and it has been so designed that changes in the flow sheet can be readily made. The whole plant is powered by old gasoline truck engines, which, if experiment proves profitable, will be replaced by a diesel electric plant. Second-hand equipment has been used wherever possible. At the present time there is no road to the property. Their engineer, <sup>Robert</sup> Bob Harrison, is surveying a right of way to China Flat on the Coquille River where they will connect with the Forestry road to Powers. After the road is completed, the ore should be mined and milled very economically. Mining is to be done with a gasoline shovel, which is yet to be purchased. The gold is fairly coarse.

**Informant:** J. E. Morrison, 37.

39  
43

COOS COUNTY

MOUNT BOLIVAR DISTRICT

This area is in the eastern part of Coos County near the Douglas County line in the upper drainage of the west fork of Cow Creek. Its southern boundary is the divide between Mule Creek, which drains into the Rogue River. This divide is the boundary between Coos and Douglas Counties on the north and Curry County on the south. It is located in the NE. 1/4 of T. 32 S., R. 10 W. This area until recently was accessible only by trail but a forest road extends westward through the district as far as Eden valley, which is about 35 miles from Glendale, Douglas County, on the Southern Pacific railroad.

"The mineralized belt of greenstone in the Mount Bolivar region is impregnated at many places by pyrite, chalcopyrite, and bornite, and contains many veins of quartz and calcite. It is best developed about Saddle Mountain and Mount Bolivar and extends from Rogue River northeast along John Mule Creek across the west fork of Cow Creek and disappears beneath the covering of Eocene rocks."

Ref.: Diller, 14:53 (quoted)

THOMPSON MINE

Mount Bolivar District

"The most important copper prospect noted in this region is on the west fork of Cow creek at the locality known as the Thompson mine. It has been exploited by several tunnels and inclines and yielded at least 50 tons of ore, chiefly chalcopyrite, and bornite. The works were closed at the time of my examination, but the occurrences of so much ore on the dumps apparently shows the existence of ore bodies of considerable size. Numerous prospects have been opened in this mineralized belt between Mount Bolivar and Rogue river, but none of greater promise than that already noted has yet been found."

Ref.: Parks and Swartley, 16:221 (quoted)

38 42

WHITE ROCK CHROME

"The White Rock chrome deposit, on Johnson Mountain, about 25 miles south of Myrtle Point, has been operated by the Krome Co., of Portland, Oregon. There are several bodies reported by S.H. Dolbear, and the ore is said to run as high as 50 per cent of chromic oxide and 5 to 6 per cent of silica. Several hundred tons was mined, and a part of it packed 9 miles to the end of the railroad at Powers. The Johnson Mountain deposits are near the north end of Iron Mountain, in Curry County, where the peridotite is rich in grains of chromite.

"The black sands of the Oregon coast, especially in Coos and Curry counties, have long attracted attention and years ago were worked for gold, the chromite being left in the dumps, both along the beach and inland on the shore terrace. These dumps have been recently investigated by the Suffern Co., of New York, with a view to concentration and found to promise a commercial yield of 40 per cent of chrome ore. The successful concentration of the black sands of the Oregon coast would mean much to the State, in providing an output not only of gold and chromite but of platinum, garnet, and other valuable minerals."

B 725-A - page 35 (quoted)