

State Department of Geology and Mineral Industries

702 Woodlark Building
Portland, Oregon.
Agness areaBONANZA KING PROSPECT (copper, cobalt?)

Samples and assays of high grade copper attracted attention to this prospect. Examination indicates that the copper is exceedingly spotty and "bunchy" and no confirmation of the indicated cobalt was found.

Owner: Unknown. Staked, or leased by William M. Briner, Coquille, Oregon.

Location: sec. 1, T. 37 S., R. 12 W., north of Collier Creek, about 3 miles air line west of Collier Bar on the Illinois River. Reached via Pistol River road to Snow Camp and thence 11 miles by trail.

History: Butler (16:99-100) reported as follows:

"Lode 21. Bonanza King copper group. This consists of three claims which are owned by E. G. Hurt, of Agness. He purchased one, the Bonanza King, of W. W. Whitten, in 1898, and another, the Bonanza King extension, from R. J. Canfield, in 1912. He located the third, the Spotted Faun, in 1912. Two tunnels, one 60 and the other 48 feet long, were driven on the property, which was also opened up by means of 8 open cuts and shafts. Although work was done as late as 1914, all of the openings have so badly caved as to make it impossible to secure accurate data concerning the deposits. From what observations it was possible to make, they appeared to be largely of the boulder type, although one or more mineralized shear-zones may also be present. In several cases a little moderately deep development has gone under the ore into seemingly barren serpentine, bearing out the conclusion that most of the deposits are of the boulder type. Hurt claims that it was ore on the various dumps of this group which was taken by Dr. T. R. Hines, heretofore mentioned.

"The principal ore mineral is undoubtedly chalcocite or copper glance, altho considerable cuprite and native copper are also present. Magnetite seems to have been invariably associated with the copper ores, and it is claimed that this mineral itself carries copper in every case. This is borne out by the fact that a specimen of seemingly pure magnetite from the Copper King tunnel on the Collier Creek group proved to contain 50.05 percent iron, 2.43 percent copper, and no sulphur, phosphorous, titanium, or arsenic.

"Where the copper ores outcrop on the surface, they have been oxidized to malachite, and azurite. Occasionally a little erythrite is also present. These substances are said to give place to chalcocite, cuprite, and native copper a few feet from the surface in every case. Some of the ore still on the dumps is apparently very rich, and a general sample of such material from a number of points on the Bonanza King group yielded 20.137 percent copper, 0.06 oz. gold, and 0.12 oz. silver per ton.

"Mr. John Rae, of Harbor, Oregon, presented the writer with a chunk of native copper supposed to have come from this group, which, although only a fragment of the original piece, weighs $\frac{3}{8}$ pounds. It is coated with malachite and other oxidation products."

Butler also reported (16:53-54)

"Mr. E. G. Hurt, of Agness, was interviewed upon the arrival of the party at that point. He claimed that Dr. T. R. Hines took 45 tons of copper ore from Hurt's

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copper properties near Collier Creek and shipped it to San Francisco in 1908. This must be the Bonanza King prospect. The ore is said to have been brought to Agness on pack-horses, carried to Gold Beach in small boats, and then shipped by water to San Francisco. No information concerning the outcome of this venture was obtainable as Dr. Hines was never heard from after taking out the ore. It is claimed, however, that 2,700 pounds of the ore, which happened to be left in Agness, was shipped by Mr. Ed Miller in order to secure reimbursement for packing ~~for~~ expenses, incurred; and that it paid the cost of shipment and treatment, and yielded a net profit of \$45. It is said that this ore consisted chiefly of bornite, but contained some native copper."

W. M. Briner visited the property in 1941 and submitted samples to the State Assay Laboratory which assayed 37.2 percent copper (B.G. 1001). Specimens sent to the laboratory are high grade copper sulfides, with chalcocite prominent. In September 1942, the property was inspected by the U. S. Bureau of Mines.

Development: There has been little work since the 1914 development, except for some minor trenching done by Briner and his associates.

Geology: The property seems to be near the contact of serpentine and older metamorphic rocks. It is not uncommon to find copper associated with serpentine in southwestern Oregon. Usually such copper consists of chalcocite, bornite, cuprite, and native copper, and nickel and cobalt are not uncommon as associated minerals in amounts considerably less than 1 percent. The occurrences are small, usually a few pounds to a few hundred pounds at any one place. No continuity has been observed. It is probable that copperbearing solutions, with small percentages of nickel and cobalt, circulated through the serpentine, were reduced, and deposited. The Cleopatra Mine in California, just south of Sourdough, is an example.

Recently, the following was found in Butler 16:55, and further points to the above conclusion:

"The second point worthy of consideration is the unusual mode of occurrence of the ore, as it is found in more or less boulder-like or lenticular masses which are usually unsystematically distributed throughout the serpentine. These individual masses vary from a few ounces to several tons in weight, and commonly appear to be absolutely unconnected by stringers or anything else. ----- A little investigation in the field sufficed, however, to prove conclusively that each mass of ore is in place in the serpentine. ---- the ore minerals are usually confined to the nodular masses of ore themselves. In some places these little bodies of ore are comparatively close together, while in others they are widely separated, and often there seems little or no system in their distribution or magnitude.

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"The third unusual feature shown by these deposits related to the nature of the minerals found in them. These consist mainly of magnetite-----. Associated with magnetite, are copper minerals -- of which the commonest is chalcocite.-----Other minerals usually present in greater or less abundance are cuprite, bornite, and native copper-----. Less frequently are malachite, azurite, chrysocolla, tenorite f, and erythrite. Occasionally thin crusts or films of a ~~high~~ bright green chromium mineral of uncertain nature are also present."

The observations of the Department's geologist, and those of previous investigators bears out the conclusion that these "high-grade" copper deposits associated with serpentine are exceedingly small in extent and uncertain in quantity. It is not unusual to find nickel and cobalt associated with the serpentine and ultrabasic rocks themselves, so their presence in these copper ores is to be expected. However, it is doubtful if any serious mining could be contemplated on such small deposits of such uncertain extent.

Laboratory tests by R. G. Bassett on specimens of these ores indicates that no ~~showing~~ cobalt is present. A trace of nickel was found. A good showing (percent not determined) of chromium was indicated. These minerals are in addition to the copper sulfides.

References: Butler 16:53-54, 55, 99-100
Parks & Swartley 16:39

Report by: Ray C. Treasher 10/24/42 (NOT VISITED)

RECEIVED
JUL 1 1938

Curry County

STATE GEOLOGY
& MINERAL INDS.

5/26/38

Curry County

Bonanza King (copper) *Collies Creek District*

Mr. E. G. Hurt has been dead for years. His mining claims have been relocated a number of times, but no amount of work done. I did not find any notices on the property on May 25, 1938. The workings are all caved.

Informant: J. E. Morrison

Located near Collies Creek Sec 1 T37S R12W
Apparently abandoned. Development, 8 open cuts and shafts and
tunnels 48 ft and 60 ft - all caved; country rock serpentine;
Vein minerals, chalcocite, cuprite, native copper, ~~magnetite~~
malachite, azurite, arsenate of cobalt, ^{magnetite} general dump sample
20% copper, .06% gold, 9/12 silver. One mineral apparently
superficial (Handbook page 39 for details)

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DEC 1 1938

STATE DEPT OF GEOLOGY
& MINERAL INDS.

Curry County

Name: Bonanza Placer Mine (gold)

Old Name: Curry Mine.

Owner: Mrs. Tom Wallace, Agness, Oregon.

Location: On Boulder Creek, 8 miles northwest of Illahe via trail, in Secs. 4 and 5, T. 34 S., R. 12 W.

Area: Four placer claims with a total of 80 acres.

History: Discovered and worked by George Curry and Bill Coy 1874 to 1876. 1876 to 1927 worked intermittently and changed ownerships several times. Dan Rowlan owned it in 1927 and sold it to Mr. and Mrs. Wallace. With the exception of two years, it has been worked since 1927. According to Mr. Coy it produced \$150,000. Two acres have been mined.

Geology: The gold occurs in pockets along serpentine and porphyry contact. Fairly coarse gold. Lots of 25 to 50¢ pieces. 7 ounce largest nugget found.

Misc. Information: No water right. Plenty of water. One mile is estimated length of ditch to be built to deliver the water to property from Boulder Creek and tributaries. No equipment. November to June being the mining season. No snow.

Development: Ten cuts. The largest is 75 x 600 x 6 ft. deep. Most of the work has been done along Boulder Creek.

Informant: J. E. Morrison. 10/11/38.

C O N F I D E N T I A L

BONANZA KING PROSPECT

Agness area.

The foregoing report is occasioned by an interest in the cobalt occurrence at this property. It will be noted that Butler indicates erythrite as the cobalt mineral and says nothing about any quantity. W. M. Briner has submitted samples of the ore to the Assay Laboratory which showed the presence of no cobalt. There are at least six pieces, all blanks for cobalt.

The property was visited by George Coughlin, engineer for the U. S. Bureau of Mines in Sept. 1942. He found a few pounds, - "about a bushel basket" of high grade in one pile. He carefully searched the area for showings of copper and cut some 14 samples. These were forwarded to Salt Lake for assay. He says that the return indicates that the samples run less than 2 percent copper (exact amounts not given) The sample of "high grade" he sent assayed about 11 percent. No assays were run for cobalt.

It is suggested that Iverson, of the Bureau of Mines, be contacted and see if arrangements can be made for the Department to secure portions of the pulp, and have the pulp spectrographed by Dr. Harrison. If these samples of Coughlin's then show the presence of an interesting amount of cobalt, a trip to the property might be justified.

As pointed out in the report, the presence of nickel and cobalt in the ~~Alaska~~ copper ores found in serpentine is not unusual. Occasionally, the amount of nickel and cobalt is interesting, and might prove worthy of exploration, IF a sufficient amount of copper can be found. But as pointed out, these deposits are exceedingly limited in extent, and there seems to be no connection between them. This fact is borne out by field examination by the writer.

Specimens of high grade sulfides and native copper are fairly common; they have been taken from the serpentine areas. Those I have seen are associated with jointing or some fracture system in the serpentine and their occurrence is much like the "gold pockets" of southwestern Oregon.

The route in to the deposit, is ~~via~~ via the Pistol River road to Snow Camp, and then hike some 11 miles in from Snow Camp. It would not be feasible to make the round trip in one day, so this means packing in food and bedding, and also getting pack stock to Snow Camp. Coughlin said it took him two days to get in, and one day to get out. That is his story! Not mine.

As we have samples of the copper, (and they show no cobalt), and as the Bureau of Mines has inspected the property and cut 14 samples, and as we could probably secure additional samples of the "high grade" from Briner; and in consideration of the inaccessibility of the deposit, I would recommend caution before the time and expense of a trip to the property is authorized.

Ray C. Treasher,
Field Geologist,
October 25th, 1942.