



STATE DEPARTMENT OF GEOLOGY
AND MINERAL INDUSTRIES

1069 STATE OFFICE BUILDING
PORTLAND 1, OREGON

July 17, 1953

Mr. Len Ramp
P.O. Box 417
Grants Pass, Oregon

Dear Len:


The mining program carried out by Rustless at Sourdough during World War II was largely done prior to the establishment of a federal stockpile and at a time when we were buying ore from Gene Brown which assayed better than 50 percent Cr_2O_3 with a $3\frac{1}{2}$ to 1 chrome-iron ratio for \$9.60, delivered Grants Pass. You can readily see that under this condition we were able to mine only the highest grade lump ore. In every tunnel which we drove we found that although the ore seemed to be in place near the portal, it became progressively sinuous and disturbed as we advanced. It was not until we had driven a good many feet of tunnel that we discovered that the entire area was a landslide. In one of the tunnels, I believe it was the 1920 level, we even found an open fissure over a foot wide into which we were able to dump the muck from over 50 feet of tunnel before it filled. When the Bureau of Mines drilled the area one, and possibly two, of their holes had to be abandoned because of moving ground.

With the foregoing in mind I believe you will understand why the tunnels twisted and curved in a seemingly senseless pattern. We did not consider any ore of milling grade and concentrated entirely on high-grade lump. The U.S.G.S. feels, and I am inclined to agree with them, that there is a fair amount of milling ore on the property. I also believe that any attempt to mine underground on the hillside in the area of the older workings will be disappointing at depth.

The dozer cuts on the flat produced some ore but the tonnage was not encouraging and we gave up shortly after we found that we could not stay in ore more than a few feet. There is also a 60-foot tunnel about 100 feet vertically above Baldface Creek on the northwest end of the Black Cub No. 1 claim. This tunnel encountered no ore and was driven entirely for exploratory purposes. The portal has since been covered by waste from the dozer cut about 50 feet above.

There is, I believe, a fairly good chance to develop ore on the Old Diggins claim at an elevation of about 2250 or 2300 feet. Some rather solid looking ore was uncovered there just before we shut down and we never did go down on it to see what happened at depth. If this outcrop lies above the slumped area there is an excellent chance for a considerable chunk of ore which would not be all butched up. I haven't been out to Sourdough for nearly 10 years so don't know how things look now but rather imagine that the lower tunnels are in pretty sad shape.

Sincerely,


Ralph

RSM:lk

October 2, 1979

Arthur W. Ward
6535 - 18th Avenue N.E.
Seattle, Washington 98115

Dear Mr. Ward:

Mrs. Ramp brought in your letter addressed to Len Ramp yesterday and Len is still working in the Wilderness Area so will be unable to answer your letter prior to your departure for the Sourdough Area.

One other reference regarding the area, besides Bulletin 52, is U.S.G.S. Bull 922-P - Chromite deposits in the Sourdough area, Curry County and the Briggs Creek area Josephine County, Oregon, by Wells, F.G., Page, L.R., and James, H.L., 1940.

I am returning your Check 268, dated 9-25-79, in the amount of \$10.00.

When you are in the area, you might be able to contact Len on either Monday mornings, or on Fridays.

I am enclosing a copy of page 31 of Len's Bulletin 93, Geology and Mineral Resources of Curry County for your information. (Just the part discussing the Sourdough (Baldface) mine.)

Sincerely,

Ruth E. Pavlat, Secretary

REP

Encl: Typed copy of Page 31 (portion)

Ward check in amount of \$10.00