

State Department of Geology and Mineral Industries

702 Woodlark Building
Portland 5, Oregon

Curry County
Chetco District

Preliminary Report on Wonder Group Chrome

Owners: Walt Freeman and LaVern Twombly.

Location: South center of sec. 11, T. 38 S., R. 10 W. and North center of sec. 14, T. 38 S., R. 10 W.

The Wonder Group consists of three claims (Wonder No. 1, 2, and 3). A sketch map was made of Wonder No. 2 claim, which had the best exposures of chromite. It is located about 200 yards north of the quarter corner between secs. 11 and 14, at about 3300 feet elevation.

There were three cut benches, about 20 by 80 feet in dimension, on the south-east sloping hillside.

The ore is a granular-disseminated variety in a matrix of altered olivine and talc. A sample of picked highgrade from an ore pile on the lower bench ran 42.03 percent Cr_2O_3 and 11.64 percent Fe (MG-438, P-13497).

Twombly was constructing a small mill on the flat area about 200 yards south-east of the Wonder No. 2 workings. The equipment consisted of a hammermill, Gibson rod mill and one table. Foundations were being poured at the time of this visit.

Wonder No. 3 claim is located partly in secs. 14 and 11, about 100 yards south of the millsite where a flat area had been excavated with a bulldozer. A pit about 10 feet deep showed several small stringers. A picked sample from this pit assayed 42.74 percent Cr_2O_3 and 13.63 percent Fe (Mg-439, P-13498).

Wonder No. 1 was not visited as little work had been done on it.

Informant: LaVern Twombly
Visited: 10/3/52
Report by: L.R.

RECORD IDENTIFICATION

RECORD NO..... M061572
RECORD TYPE..... X1M
COUNTRY/ORGANIZATION. USGS

NAME AND LOCATION

DEPOSIT NAME..... WONDER GROUP

COUNTRY CODE..... US

COUNTRY NAME: UNITED STATES

STATE CODE..... OR

STATE NAME: OREGON

COUNTY..... CURRY

QUAD SCALE QUAD NO OR NAME
1: 62500 PEARSOLL PEAK

LATITUDE LONGITUDE
42-16-23N 123-50-43W

UTM NORTHING UTM EASTING UTM ZONE NO
4680220. 430300. +10

TWP..... 038S
RANGE..... 010W
SECTION.. 11 14
MERIDIAN. W.M.

ALTITUDE.. 3300

COMMODITY INFORMATION

COMMODITIES PRESENT..... CR

PRODUCER(PAST OR PRESENT):
MAJOR PRODUCTS.. CR

ORE MATERIALS (MINERALS, ROCKS, ETC.):
DISSEMINATED

ANALYTICAL DATA(GENERAL)

HIGH GRADE FROM WONDER #2 CUTS ASSAYED 42.03% CR2O3, 11.64% FE; FROM WONDER #1 ASSAYED 42.74% CR2O3, 13.63% FE

EXPLORATION AND DEVELOPMENT

STATUS OF EXPLOR. OR DEV. 2

FORM/SHAPE OF DEPOSIT: LENS, STRINGERS

SIZE/DIRECTIONAL DATA

MAX WIDTH..... 5 FT

PRODUCTION

YES

SMALL PRODUCTION

ANNUAL PRODUCTION (ORE, COMMOD., CONC., OVERBURD.)

ITEM	ACC	AMOUNT	THOUS. UNITS	YEAR	GRADE, REMARKS
1 ORE EST		0000.007	TONS	1953	50. % CR2O3
2 ORE EST		0000.220	TONS	1954	48. % CR2O3 (CONC)
3 ORE EST		0000.021	TONS	1955	53. % CR2O3 (CONC)
4 ORE EST		0000.028	TONS	1955	50. % CR2O3 (CONC.)
21 TOTAL		.276	TONS		48.62 % CR2O3 (WEIGHTED AVERAGE GRADE)

PRODUCTION COMMENTS..... AFTER EXPLORATION & SOME MINING OPERATION WAS SHUT DOWN FOR LACK OF MILLING ORE

GEOLOGY AND MINERALOGY

HOST ROCK TYPES..... SERPENTINE

PERTINENT MINERALOGY..... TALC

LOCAL GEOLOGY

SIGNIFICANT LOCAL STRUCTURES:

LANDSLIDE

GENERAL REFERENCES

- 1) RAMP, LEN, 1961, CHROMITE IN SOUTHWESTERN OREGON: OREGON DEPT. GEOLOGY AND MINERAL IND. BULL. 52, 169 P.
- 2) THAYER, T. P., 1974, UNPUBL. DATA

RECORD IDENTIFICATION

RECORD NO..... M013617
RECORD TYPE..... X1M
COUNTRY/ORGANIZATION. USGS
FILE LINK ID..... CONSV
MAP CODE NO. OF REC..

REPORTER

NAME..... LEE, W
DATE..... 74 01

NAME AND LOCATION

DEPOSIT NAME..... WONDER GROUP

MINING DISTRICT/AREA/SUBDIST. PEARSOLL PEAK

COUNTRY CODE..... US

COUNTRY NAME: UNITED STATES

STATE CODE..... OR

STATE NAME: OREGON

COUNTY..... CURRY

QUAD SCALE QUAD NO OR NAME
1: PEARSOLL PEAK

LATITUDE LONGITUDE
42-16-22N 123-50-43W

UTM NORTHING UTM EASTING UTM ZONE NO
4680200. 430300. +10

TWP..... 38S
RANGE..... 10W
SECTION.. 11
MERIDIAN. W.M.

POSITION FROM NEAREST PROMINENT LOCALITY: SE1/4 SW1/4

COMMODITY INFORMATION

COMMODITIES PRESENT..... CR

DRE MATERIALS (MINERALS, ROCKS, ETC.):
CHROMITE

Chater Dist

Dec. 1954

NEWS ITEM

The following is copied from a letter sent to this office by J. R. Holman in answer to a request for information on his milling operation in Curry County, for publication in the Ore-Bin.

"One year ago, in December, we visited the operation of Walter B. Freeman and LaVern Twombly located in Southern Curry County on the Chetco Divide. Having built for them an ore grinding unit of modified Ellis design identical with the Holman mill in Coalinga, we were anxious to see it in operation.

"Our impression of the district as being an excellent chrome producing area, and the subsequent discussions of ore development, led to a partnership between Holman, Freeman and Twombly under the trade style of the J. R. Holman Wonder Mine. The \$100,000 investment in the 80 ton milling plant, camp facilities, roads, and mine development we feel has been an excellent contribution to the chrome program instigated by D. M. P. A. in 1951.

"Unfortunately, our D7 tractor and 3/4 yard shovel exploration, while proving the area completely surrounded by chrome deposits, failed to expose any leads of sufficient width and depth to accommodate an open pit operation. Since we did not feel qualified, due to lack of experience, to undertake the hard rock mining phase which appeared to be the ultimate answer, we decided to dissolve the partnership and await further developments.

"Almost coincident with this move, an opportunity appeared to lease the 30 claims surrounding the mill, the concentrating plant, camp facilities and all equipment to the Tulare Bros. Mining Co. of Gold Hill,

Oregon.

The claims involve properties of the Wonder Group, Young Bros. Daily Dozen, Roy Jackson Group, the Bowser properties, and the White claims. The lease was actively prosecuted and mining started by December 1st. Although weather has been inclement, considerable ore has already been produced and the lessee reports enthusiastically on the prospects for a happy venture.

"The Mistake Mine at Coalinga still remains the prize operation of J. R. Holman. This open pit mine in Fresno County produced over 3000 tons of concentrates during 1954, averaging plus 48% Cr_2O_3 with 3-1 ratio. At 100-foot depth below original ground surface, the ore deposit is solid in the floor for a distance of over 200 feet, with a minimum width of 20 feet and a maximum width of over 40 feet. The ore is apparently becoming heavier and freer from gangue since the past three weeks have produced over 40 ton of high grade lump. Present production of $2\frac{1}{2}$ to 1 mill feed approximating 600 tons per week with a single $\frac{1}{2}$ yard shovel handling the excavation and loading.

"The newest operation in the immediate district is also under J. R. Holman management. This is the James Mining Co. mill, with $3\frac{1}{2}$ sections of New Idria leases in San Benito County to support their mining. The ore body developed gives every indication of becoming an excellent open pit mine of surprising quality. Only two 20-ton loads have been shipped since October 1st, but with the first concentrate bringing 53.97 Cr_2O_3 with 3.169-1 chrome-iron ratio and the second 55.80 Cr_2O_3 with 3.354-1 ratio, one could almost imagine that they were handling a premium product."

Freeman and Twombly Mill

October '52 Ore-Bin

Walt Freeman and LaVern Twombly of Cave Junction are setting up a small chrome concentrating mill in sec. 11, T. 38 S., R. 10 W., below Sourdough Flat. The mill will consist of a hammermill, a Gibson rodmill, and one table. They plan to concentrate ore from the Wonder group located partly in sec. 11 and sec. 14. Shallow workings show considerable chromite, some of which is high-grade shipping quality. Sourdough Flat is located about $1\frac{1}{2}$ miles south of Pearsoll Peak which is on the county line between Curry and Josephine counties.