

August 30, 1951

Mr. F. W. Libbey
702 Woodlark Bldg.
Portland 5, Oregon

Dear Mr. Libbey:

This is a report to you on my impressions of the Collier Creek trip. Harold has stated that he will organize our notes and turn out a formal report when he is able.

First, our time was spent in this manner:

August 20 - To Gold Beach via Smith River. Pick up Joe Myers; drive to Snow Camp and pack in to Huntley Springs.

August 21 - Pack into Hurt Cabin.

August 22 - Investigate the diggings in the Hurt Cabin area.

August 23 - Investigate the diggings between Hurt Cabin and North Collier Creek and the diggings on North Collier.

August 24 - Break camp and pack out to Sourdough.

August 25 - Pack out to the car and search for (but not finding) the Bunker Hill diggings reported to be "one mile west of Collier Butte". Drive to Brookings for the night.

August 26 - Return to Grants Pass via the Wimer Road.

2. A word about the geology. From Snow Camp to Hurt Cabin the following was noted:

Snow Camp to Huntley Springs - volcanics, peridotite, and serpentine, in that order. Serpentine has many acid dikes. Peridotite shows some laterization. Volcanics were mainly phyllite.

Huntley Springs area - "Ball-bearing" conglomerate. Almost identical to the conglomerate of Iron Mtn. in the D.B. Quad., and which I consider to be Knoxville.

Short distance beyond Huntley Springs to saddle below Saddle Mtn. - serpentine. Minor peridotite and abundant slickentite. One small area of volcanics.

Saddle Mtn, to above Hurt Cabin - dominantly greywacke, shale, and chert. A considerable body of serpentine and peridotite on ridge north of Sourdough.

Hurt Cabin area- dominantly serpentine, slickentite and peridotite. Peridotite shows an unknown amount of laterization. Soil deep red but boulders of peridotite all thru it.

Both Collier Creeks show gneiss, seds. (altered) and volcanics (also altered).

3. The prospects: We didn't see a decent exposure the whole time we were there. What work had been done, and it was very minor, was all caved. Outcrops were so badly dug into and caved that they offered very little information. Recent work was limited to ~~mined~~ ^{mined} cuts (a few feet wide and a few feet long) and to caving of ~~old~~ ^{old} workings "so people wouldn't get hurt".

"Ore" on dumps had been picked over for years and only little remained.

But some chalcocite was found and erythrite was not uncommon on the dumps near the Hurt Cabin. No ~~erythrite~~ ^{erythrite} was found on the dumps east of Hurt Cabin or on the few cuts we examined on North Collier.

What appeared to be annabergite was noted on some of the dumps near the Hurt Cabin.

Most of the "ore" was magnetite with malachite, azurite, erythrite, pyrite, and chalcopyrite. Magnetite was dominant. Chalcocite was found occasionally and some small nice hand specimens were taken. A gossan a few feet (5'-20') was noted on some of the claims in all the areas visited. In one chunk of gossan Harold found some white sulphides that may be one of the nickel minerals. Massive sulphides similar to the Silver Peak ore were found at one place. The claims visited on North Collier Creek appeared to be mainly magnetite. Serpentine heavily stained with malachite was not uncommon.

My impression of the area was that mineralization was confined to shear zones (slickentite zones) in the serpentine. The continuity of these zones was not determined. Width of these zones was questionable. Perhaps they were several tens of feet or more wide and then again cross faulting they may have given a false estimate. A general pattern did seem to present itself, however.

As to their value, quien sabe! I do not believe an engineer in the country would pass favorably on it but I do believe a geologic study should be made to see if a structural pattern could be worked out- I do not believe it would be too difficult. Perhaps 2 or 3 square miles of decent geology in the area would add a lot to the picture.

4. The samples- As you can probably imagine, sampling was a problem. If anything- we higraded. Certainly we didn't take large enough samples and certainly we couldn't take fair samples. We missed the boat in at least one instance by not sampling the serpentine.

No soil samples of laterite were taken in the area and there are several spots that might be worthy of further study. The soil was red enough to be interesting and it covered fairly extensive areas but peridotite stuck thru everywhere.

5. The trip: This trip was the toughest I have ever taken. We took in everything but the kitchen sink and at times I thought I was carrying that. We all (except Myers) had packs that weighed over 90 lbs. and the trail was a tough one. I had always believed that there was no place in S.W. Oregon I couldn't pack into. I do not believe that now. We all were so damn tired by the time we reached the Hurt Cabin we weren't worth much all the time we were there. I do not think we did a good job on this investigation. I believe the only way a job could be done is to hire a burro (and they are available, we found out too late) and a packer (although the latter may not be necessary) and walk in carrying a pack of no more than 40-50 lbs. The trip out is bad also (from the Hurt Cabin to the ridge is $1\frac{1}{2}$ miles - all on a steep grade, not one level spot) therefore if any number or size of samples are to be taken, a burro would be required to take them out.

6. Miscellaneous - I am struck by the occurrence of arsenic minerals in many of the ore bodies in the serpentine in S.W. Oregon. Can Tom pick up arsenic on the Spec? Is there a simple chem. test for percentage of arsenic in trace quantities? Perhaps the U.S.G.S. Geochemical division could offer something. It wouldn't surprise me if this is the element that would pick the sheep from the goats, in some instances, in the search for mineralization in the serpentine areas.

I do not think this area should be crossed off the "to be investigated" list of the Department, regardless of what the samples show. But further investigations should be made by people who are comparatively fresh. Also an attempt should be made to obtain better base maps - even if the investigators have to make them themselves. In my opinion, this area is one of the most promising I have seen in S.W. Oregon. I think the occurrence of prospects in shear zones over the distance we covered, is what makes it intriguing to me.

Add Joe Myers to the list of S.W. Oregon characters. I can't say I didn't enjoy him but I can't say that I did, either. He is strictly in a class by himself. I alternated between admiring him and cussing him. One thing, though, he certainly is easy going and cooperative. But talk, WOW!! However, I wouldn't hesitate to go in with him again.

I have probably left a lot out but I know Harold will fill in the blank spots so that the picture you receive will not be too muddy. Anyway, I'm glad I made the trip and someday, I hope, I can go back and do the job as it should be done. I hope my back is healed by then, though.

Best regards,

H. M. Dole

P.S.

The chrome miners and prospectors are sure turning the Wimer Road into a well traveled but bumpy arterial. Bulldozer roads branching off from it are numerous.

The Hanna Mining Company

Riddle, Oregon 97469

August 2, 1967

Mr. Len Ramp
Resident Geologist
521 Northeast E St.
Grants Pass, Oregon

Dear Mr. Ramp:

Thank you very much for the use of the Collier Creek report. The report is well written and informative.

As you probably know a passable road now extends to within five miles of the property. It is still, however, a stiff hike, particularly the trip out. Thank you again.

Sincerely

THE HANNA MINING COMPANY



Allen D. Wood
Geologist

ADW:ej