

704 Lewis Building  
Portland, Oregon  
March 9, 1938

Mr. Max Howland  
Merlin, Oregon

Dear Mr. Howland:

At the suggestion of Mr. Nixon I am requesting you to make a visit to a placer mining property on Boulder Creek in Curry County about ten miles west of Illahe on the Rogue River. As near as I can learn it is best approached from Powers, Oregon, and by means of a road within five miles of the property.

I am enclosing a topographic map upon which are two pencilled arrows showing the approximate location. I am also enclosing a pencilled sketch which shows a basin 3900' long and 500' wide at the lower end of which is a fall, which would make an excellent dump for hydraulic operation; beginning at the point upon this sketch also is found a ditch 400' long. Notes upon the back state that there is three feet of overburden and below which is pay gravel all the way down for 14', with bed rock not reached at that depth.

I saw some very coarse gold which J. W. Curtis, a step-son of Mr. Peter Parker, showed me. Mr. Peter Parker and wife are now living in Powers, Oregon. Mr. Parker reports to his step-son that the snow will be off by the first of April or before. Curtis is asking Parker to report here as soon as this placer ground is so that it can be inspected. You can doubtless get much additional information in regard to roads, etc., from Don Cameron, of the Forest Office at Grants Pass, who knows every road and trail since he is the man in charge of forest road building.

I need not go into detail as to what information you should secure because Mr. Nixon says that you have ideas in regard to placer ground, placer lay-outs, ditches, pipes, and everything of that nature. Please size it up as best you can as to gold content or gold possibilities and what equipment would be needed and the total amount of money which might be needed to put this property into production. It is my understanding that there is a price upon the property of about \$20,000. When you go over, please talk over various terms so that we may get a complete idea of the most favorable and lowest sum that might be required to make it a going concern, provided it is found to be a desirable property.

Above I overlooked asking specifically for your ideas of methods and cost of testing this. The idea we have in mind is that, if you find it to be a desirable property, we might find a way of financing the operation, in which you would participate--perhaps operate the property.

From what Mr. Curtis said you will note that there will be some delay before you can properly inspect the property with Mr. Parker. In the meantime, I would like to receive word from you as to what you think of

Mr. Max Howland  
3-9-38 #2.

this idea, and if it appeals to you we will inform you promptly of the information received from Mr. Parker as to the time when it is advisable and proper to go in.

With kindest regards, I am

Very sincerely yours,

AMS:vm  
Encl.

A. M. Swartley  
Consulting Mining Engineer

Merlin, Oregon.  
March 12, 1938.

A.M.Swartley  
Portland, Oregon.

Dear Sir:

I have your letter and maps pertaining to Mr. Parker ✓  
placer property on Boulder creek. The description sounds  
like it may make a hydraulic operation providing the  
values are there.

I feel sure I will be able to make the examination  
for you when the weather permits, and spend the time that  
is necessary to determine if it has the right combination.

Mr. Don Sameron thinks we will be able to get in  
there soon and advised me to write the Ranger at Gold Beach  
about local road and weather conditions. I am writing him  
today.

Thanks for letting me in on this deal. I will give  
you all the dope after spending some time on the property.

What amount of money do you have in mind to spend  
on this first trip?

Sincerely yours,

*May H. Howland*

Merlin, Oregon.  
March. 28, 1938.

A.M.Swartley  
Portland, Oregon.

Dear Sir:

I am going to work for Grant on Josephine creek  
I may be able to get time enough off to look at Parker's  
property when we are able to get in there.

Inclosing letter from A.L.Jess about road  
conditions.

I'll mail those maps back if you need them.

Yours truly,

*Max H. Howland*

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
FOREST SERVICE  
SISKIYOU NATIONAL FOREST



E  
ROADS & TRAILS  
State  
Siskiyou

Gold Beach, Oregon

March 15, 1938.

Mr. M. H. Howland,

Merlin, Oregon.

Friend Max:

Reference is made to your letter of March 12.

The best route to reach the Ophir Mountain area is to drive to Powers, then take the South Fork Coquille River road to a place known as the Fish Cabin, which is about 7 miles up river from the China Flat CCC Camp. This place is readily located as the Forest Service has a rock crusher located just above the cabin. The Rock Creek trail branches off West at this point and it is about  $8\frac{1}{2}$  miles to the Iron Mtn.--Ophir Mtn. saddle which is located on the extreme head of Boulder Creek. This is all open trail but is quite steep in a few places. This trail traverses some interesting country from a mining standpoint, as you pass by the Fish Bros. mine in which they have reported a recent strike of \$1500.00 tellurium-gold ore. You also hit the J. R. Smith placer mine at the head of Rock Creek, and which is on the Northwest slope of Ophir Mtn.

The Middle Elk Road is passable during the summer season to Salal Springs, but it is 14 miles by trail from that point to Ophir Mtn., and a brushy trail at that. This road is not passable at present and will probably not be maintained until about June 1.

The South Fk. Coquille River road is open and passable at all times, barring a bad slide. However, I would not recommend tackling the Ophir country until about May 15, due to snow. There was 4 ft. reported laying in the timber on the North and West sides of the Mountain about 2 weeks ago.

If you wish any added information, please feel free to drop me a line.

Very truly yours,

*A. D. Jers*  
Administrative Guard.

October 21, 1946

Mr. F. M. Parker  
Box 1221  
Powers, Oregon

Dear Mr. Parker:

Enclosed find the results on the two samples I took when I was with you at your property.

Sample number GG190 represents the pieces of blue quartz we picked up at mouth of the tunnel up near the top of the ridge. As you can see this rock has very little value and no commercial value. It is my opinion that it would be a waste of time to hunt for the vein represented by this sample.

Sample number GG191 is from the dump at the tunnel just above your placer workings. It is quite evident from the report it bears out what I predicted--that rock doesnot contain gold.

These two assays confirm what I told you when I was on your property with you; that the gold you pick up as nuggets represents the gold washed from very many quartz stringers running through the formations. This gold has been concentrated at bed rock and is now covered by a soil mantle. In my opinion the values at your property lie only in placer gold and it is highly unlikely that *you will* ~~get gold~~ ~~gold has come~~ from another source.

I hope the inspection and these assays have answered fully the questions you had in mind.

Sincerely yours,

H. M. Dole

HMD/ar  
Enc.



October 1, 1946

Mr. F. M. Parker  
Box 1221  
Powers, Oregon

Dear Mr. Parker:

I have received your request for inspection and I will be in Powers Monday October 7. I will leave Grants Pass around 8:00 a.m. and will drive direct. From that you should be able to figure out when I will arrive.

I would like to have all information (assays, maps, etc.) available to me when I arrive.

If this time is not convenient for you please let me know immediately. If I do not hear from you I will assume that you will meet me at Powers at your home and that we shall drive out to your property that day.

Sincerely,

H. M. Dole

HMD /ar