

April 24, 1942

Mr. J. W. Watt  
Bank of America  
Sacramento, California

Dear Mr. Watt:

I wish to acknowledge receipt of your letter dated April 20 and concerned with your property on Crystal Creek in Curry County, Oregon.

My opinion is that you are entirely right in feeling that unless your property could be operated primarily for the recovery of chromite and zircon, it would be difficult to obtain priorities for equipment and operating supplies. The present conditions governing priorities are going to become increasingly critical so that probably practically all essential materials will be required for war production which will mean that nearly all new machinery and supplies will be denied precious metal producers.

From the reports I have seen on your property, it is difficult to tell whether or not the chromite content is sufficient to warrant an operation for the recovery of this mineral. Judging by present exposures of the sand, there are no extensive areas of black sand concentrations. However, the sand is not exposed for its entire thickness. Therefore, we do not know the condition below that exposed, at present. There has been very little in the way of investigation of the high benches such as yours, that is, on the old marine terraces at 800 foot elevation and higher.

If arrangements we have in mind can be made, it is probable that investigations including some exploration work will be made of these high terraces. We cannot, however, speak definitely on the matter at present.

We shall be glad to let you know of any developments along these lines just as soon as we know of them ourselves.

Yours sincerely,

FWL:EKN:jr

Director

13044

# Bank of America

NATIONAL TRUST AND SAVINGS ASSOCIATION

Sacramento Main Office

April 20, 1942

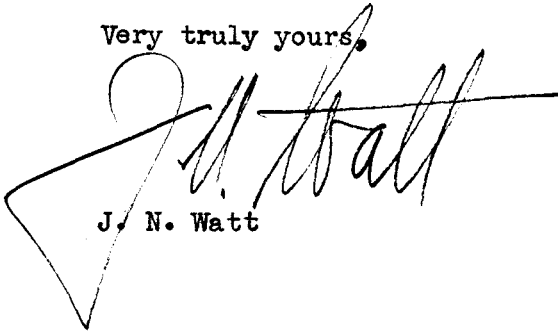
Earl K. Nixon, E. M.  
Director State Department of Geology and Mineral Industries  
Portland, Oregon

Dear Mr. Nixon:

Will you please let me know whether or not in your opinion there is any likelihood of parties wishing to operate properties such as mine on Crystal Creek getting priorities during the war to secure equipment.

It seems to me that unless priorities can be secured on account of the chrome and zircon content that the properties will have to lie idle for the time being. I will be very appreciative of your opinion in this matter.

Very truly yours,



J. N. Watt

JNW:jf

*1000*

*100*

*Essential*

APR 22 1942  
STANDARD & MERRILL

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# Bank of America

NATIONAL TRUST AND SAVINGS ASSOCIATION

Sacramento Main Office #148

February 25, 1942

Earl K. Nixon, E. M.  
Director State Department of Geology and Mineral Industries  
Portland, Oregon

Dear Mr. Nixon:

Let me thank you for your interesting and informative letter of January 28, 1942.

I did not hear from Mr. J. J. Strutzel of Freeport Sulphur Company of whom you wrote and I will be glad to have you mention the property to any other parties inquiring, who have in mind sound methods of procedure.

I will let you know of any lease or contemplated lease or sale, and not hearing you will know the property is still available.

Thanking you, I am

Very truly yours,

  
J. N. Watt

JNW:jf

cc: Collier H. Buffington, Esq.  
Attorney at Law  
Gold Beach, Oregon

RECEIVED  
FEB 27 1942  
STATE DEPARTMENT OF GEOLOGY AND MINERAL INDUSTRIES  
PORTLAND, OREGON

*JNW*

*Analyses & reports in  
"Mining Reports" file*

January 28, 1942

Mr. J. N. Watt  
Bank of America  
Sacramento, Calif.

Dear Mr. Watt:

I am sending a copy of this letter to Mr. Buffington inasmuch as he called it to my attention in the beginning, and I gather you and he are both interested.

I promised in my note of December 24th to advise you further as to our findings after our examination. Mr. Brown, one of our field men, has just made an inspection of the property and a brief report to this office. It was impossible for him under the circumstances to do any kind of a sampling job, but we wanted a report of inspection so that we could form an opinion of the property for purposes of classification. I should say it rates as one of the old high-bar or back-beach deposits which should be sampled rather carefully but with adequate testing equipment. This we do not have as yet. It appears to me, however, that in the light of the importance the coastal deposits have taken on, because of chromite developments particularly, that a rather elaborate program of sampling and geological and geophysical investigations must be worked out for the coastal alluvial deposits including all possible bench deposits up to an elevation of more than a thousand feet above sea level.

The evidence gained from your property and the report you kindly furnished us leads me to feel that large-scale methods may be applied <sup>more</sup> economically to the treatment of most of these back-beach deposits than I had originally suspected. Large-scale methods obviously require substantial programs of preliminary sampling. Naturally the Department is unable to undertake anything other than very modest sampling jobs on individual properties.

We are having quite a number of inquiries from parties who are becoming interested in these coastal deposits, and it may be that we can refer to you some of these parties who seem prone to adopt sound and adequate methods of developing properties such as yours. A few thousand dollars spent in preliminary work would then determine whether or not the property can be worked at a profit under present conditions.

We have taken the liberty of showing copies of your maps and report to Mr. J. J. Strutsel, engineer of the Freeport Sulphur Co., whose address is Box 1289, Reno, Nevada. He indicated possible interest of his corporation in deposits of this kind. You may communicate directly with him if you wish.

Yours very truly,

Director

EKN:ac  
cc Collier Buffington

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**Bank of America**  
NATIONAL TRUST AND SAVINGS ASSOCIATION

SACRAMENTO MAIN OFFICE

SACRAMENTO, CALIFORNIA

December 30, 1941.

**RECEIVED**  
JAN 2 1941  
STATE DEPARTMENT OF GEOLOGY  
& MINERAL INDUSTRY

Mr. Earl K. Dixon, Director  
State Department of Geology  
and Mineral Industries  
702 Woodlark Building  
Portland, Oregon.

Dear Mr. Dixon:

As suggested in your letter to me under date of December 24, 1941, I am happy to send you herewith maps showing the location of my property in Curry County consisting of 824 acres, of which approximately 200 acres are mineral bearing sand. I am also attaching a brief statement covering the property and I have a more detailed report on file.

I have only had one test made for chrome and one for zircon. We have bored over a hundred holes for gold tests. In making these holes we used a 2½ inch soil tester such as is used by the appraisers for the Federal Land Bank. We obtained depth by using four foot extensions. In making a hole 25 feet deep we found that the diameter would be approximately 4 inches at top and 3½ inches most of the way down. There are two pits on the property from which samples might be taken without boring, but the tops have caved off covering up the bottom ten feet.

Appreciating your interest, I am

Very truly yours,

  
J. N. Watt

December 24, 1941

Mr. J. N. Watt  
Bank of America  
Sacramento Main Office  
Sacramento, California

Dear Mr. Watt:

Your letter of December 18th addressed to our Mining Engineer, Mr. F. W. Libbey, has been referred to me. The content of zirconium you mention is not high but some of it would be recovered doubtless as a byproduct if your deposit were placed in commercial production. The platinum and gold content are much more interesting than the zircon in the case cited.

There has been much recent activity in the black sand areas in Coos and Curry Counties, and I suspect that there will be some commercial developments one of these days. While in Gold Beach last week, Mr. Buffington mentioned your name in connection with a chromite property in Curry County as I recall, but I have lost the notes in which I jotted down certain details. This Department is giving considerable attention to chromite and manganese in Curry County, in fact we are placing a geologist down there beginning the first of January. He will probably remain for several weeks and make, in addition to a geological survey of one small area, visits to various chrome and manganese deposits west of the coast range.

If you care to we would appreciate having you advise us of the location and accessibility of your property so we can look it over and visit it within the next few weeks. We will advise you at the proper time as to our findings and as to the result of sampling if any samples are taken.

Cordially yours,

cc Collier Buffington  
EKN:ac

Director

13044

**Bank of America**  
NATIONAL TRUST AND SAVINGS ASSOCIATION

SACRAMENTO MAIN OFFICE

SACRAMENTO, CALIFORNIA  
December 18, 1941

F. W. Libbey, Mining Engineer  
State Department of Geology and Mineral Industries,  
702 Woodlark Building,  
Portland, Oregon.

Dear Mr. Libbey:

I have today received an assay report from the Morse Laboratories indicating the Zirconium content of the sand on my property as .56 per cent, and I thought you might be interested. I will enclose a copy of the report.

This was made from a 150 lb. sample bank run, and was part of the same lot which was assayed for chrome by the United States Department of Interior Bureau of Mines, Boulder City, Nevada. The latter assay indicating 12.38 per cent Cr 2O3 from a 2% concentrate.

Very truly yours,

  
J. N. Watt

JNW: jf  
Enclosure

RECEIVED  
DEC 20 1941  
STATE DEPT OF GEOLOGY  
& MINERAL INDS.

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November 6, 1941

Mr. J. N. Watt  
Bank of America  
Sacramento Main Office  
Sacramento, California

Dear Mr. Watt:

I am glad to have the additional information concerning your placer property contained in your letter dated November 3.

From the information you have submitted and because of the increased interest at the present time in zircon, iridium, platinum, and chromite, I should think the chances would be favorable for you to make a satisfactory deal on your property.

I have already notified one person who may be interested, but I have not yet received a reply from him.

Yours very truly,

F. W. Libbey  
Mining Engineer

FWL: jr



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# Bank of America

NATIONAL TRUST AND SAVINGS ASSOCIATION

SACRAMENTO MAIN OFFICE

SACRAMENTO, CALIFORNIA

November 3, 1941

F. W. Libbey, Mining Engineer  
 State Department of Geology and Mineral Industries  
 702 Woodlark Building  
 Portland, Oregon

Dear Mr. Libbey:

Let me thank you for your letter of October 31.

I may say that we have never encountered any distinct black sand lenses on my property of any consequence. There are a few seams met with occasionally that are four and five inches thick. One general sample of the property, panned down to 1%, was sent to the Boulder City Nevada Department of the Bureau of Mines for analysis and this concentrate showed 12.38 per cent *Cr 2O3* which is not very much.

A Mr. C. McBride, who is a rather prominent metallurgist of Los Angeles, made some tests on the property a few years ago and told me the Zirconium content was definitely worth while. I have never had any determination made on my own account.

This property seems to be chiefly gold, platinum, and iridium. It was once tested by W. J. Rattle, M. E., who at one time was engineer for the Carnegie interests, and he made a favorable report to his clients in Akron, Ohio, and they made a proposal to me which I was foolish to decline.

Thanking you for your interest, I am

Very truly yours,

  
 J. N. Watt

JNW:jf

RECEIVED  
 NOV 5 1941

STATE DEPT OF GEOLOGY  
 & MINERAL IND.

October 31, 1941

Mr. J. N. Watt  
c/o Bank of America  
Sacramento, California

Dear Mr. Watt:

Thank you for your letter dated October 28, enclosing reports on your placer property located seven miles east of the coast opposite Cape Blanco, Curry County.

The information contained is of considerable interest, and it may very well be that we can be of assistance to you in obtaining a lessee. It is not clear to me from the reports enclosed whether or not there is a distinct black sand lens separated from the gray sands. We are especially interested in the areas containing such black sand lenses since some of them are known to have the chromite concentrated sufficiently to make them particularly interesting at this time.

We shall be glad to give the matter our attention, and you probably will hear further from us concerning the matter.

Very truly yours

F. W. Libbey  
Mining Engineer

FWL:hj

*Libbey*

13044

**Bank of America**  
NATIONAL TRUST AND SAVINGS ASSOCIATION

**RECEIVED**  
OCT 30 1941  
STATE DEPT OF GEOLOGY  
& MINERAL INDS.

**SACRAMENTO MAIN OFFICE**

SACRAMENTO, CALIFORNIA

October 28, 1941

Mr. F. W. Libbey, M. E.,  
State Department of Geology  
and Mineral Industries,  
702 Woodlak Building,  
Portland, Oregon.

Dear Sir:

I am enclosing for your files data regarding 800 acres of old beach land I own in Curry County. I would be glad to lease at customary royalty basis to a strong company.

I have Engineer's report and a lot of data supporting the statements in the memos I am sending you.

Very truly yours,

  
J. N. Watt

Feed, Soil,  
Milk, Fertilizer  
and Sanitary Water  
Analysis

MORSE LABORATORIES  
Industrial Analytical Chemists

Amalgamation and  
Cyanide Tests  
Ore Analysis  
Assaying

Agriculture : Bacteriology : Mining

316 Sixteenth Street

Sacramento, California  
December 18, 1941

Phone 3-6348

Mr. J. N. Watt  
Bank of America  
Sacramento, Calif.

Ore Analysis - submitted 11/29/41

Sample sand

Gold - - - - -	\$ .52 per Ton
figured at \$35 per oz.	
Platinum - - - - -	\$ .97 per Ton
figured at \$36 per oz.	
Zirconium ( $ZrO_2$ ) - - - - -	.56 %

Signed

by \_\_\_\_\_  
G.H.Morse

April 8, 1947

Mr. J. N. Watt  
56 Broadway  
Los Gatos, California

Dear Mr. Watt:

I wish to acknowledge receipt of your letter dated April 1 enclosing report on your placer property in the Sixes River district.

You mention a report prepared by this Department and that Mr. Nixon promised to send you a copy. Our file on your property contains rather complete notes and reports, mainly supplied by you. A brief memorandum report was prepared by R. C. Treasher, formerly field geologist with this Department, and I am sending you a copy.

The most complete report on the old Eagle mine north of Bandon in Coos County is contained in U.S. Geological Survey Bulletin 945-E entitled, "Chromite-Bearing Sands of the Southern Part of the Coast of Oregon" by Allan B. Griggs. This bulletin may be obtained from the Superintendent of Documents, Washington, D.C. The price is 55¢.

In 1942 the Eagle and Pioneer claims were taken over by Porter Bros. Corporation, Portland, Oregon, and considerable exploration work was done as well as some metallurgical testing of the black sands. No attempt, however, was made by this company to put the property into production as before their testing work was completed, the need for domestic chromite had ceased to be critical.

If this Department can supply any further information, please feel free to call upon us.

Very truly yours,

Director

FWL:jr  
Encl.

J. N. WATT  
56 BROADWAY  
LOS GATOS, CALIF.

RECEIVED  
APR 3 1947

STATE DEPT OF GEOLOGY  
& MINERAL INDS.

Apr 1/47

State Dept. of Geology  
Portland Ore.

attention E. K. Nixon Director

Gentlemen During 1942 &  
later we had some corres-  
pondence regarding my  
8 24 acre piece property  
3 m. E. of Sixes P.O. Curry  
County and you promised  
to send me a copy of report  
on that section you were  
having made about  
that time.

I did not  
receive the report and  
would be glad to have  
a copy of it if in order  
also and information  
you may have on  
file regarding the old  
Bagle mine in Good  
County, I believe.

Very truly yours

J. N. Watt

close files on my copy. for your file.

EF