

# State Department of Geology and Mineral Industries

702 Woodlark Building  
Portland, Oregon

CARRY CO.

Report by: Randall E. Brown

## The Missing 100,000 Tons of Chromite

Harry Emmons, of Gold Beach, stated in the Oregon Journal during the month of January 1942 that "100,000 tons of chromite were immediately available" in the southwestern part of the state. Where is such a deposit?

According to Francis W. Hilton, editor of the Port Orford Post, Mayor Gilbert Gable of Port Orford held several leases on some chromite properties in the Wilson Range country of the Upper Sixes River, presumably near the deposits of the famed Mrs. Garner. However, on the morning on which Mr. Gable was to have met Mr. Emmons, a representative of the Pacific Syndicate Corporation (?), Mr. Gable died and the business transaction remained uncompleted. Mr. Hilton stated that Mr. Emmons had, and still has, \$50,000 in a San Francisco bank, awaiting completion of the transaction by which the Pacific Syndicate Corporation was to take over the operation of the property.

However, when Mr. Gable died, all trace of the leases was lost. Mrs. Gable has no information on them, Mr. Hilton has no information on them, and Mr. Emmons apparently has no information on them. Mr. Hilton has all the correspondence between Mr. Gable and Mr. Emmons, yet not once is the location of the property, the owner of the property, or the actual possession of the leases made known. It seems very unlikely that Mr. Gable if he did possess such leases, would not place them in a very safe place. As a matter of fact, several people in Port Orford seriously doubt that Mr. Gable ever had any such leases. Mr. Dewart, attorney for Mr. Gable and the Oregon Engineering Company, believes if the leases actually existed, that they were on property in Josephine County, not in Curry County, stating as his reasons that "there are no deposits of that size in western Curry County".

According to Mr. Hilton, Weber, of U.S. Vanadium Corporation, is supposed to have been "impressed" by the deposit. However, it seems that any estimate of 100,000 tons of chromite must have come through Les Childs, known to have been associated with Gable. The engineer for the Oregon Engineering Company was Mr. Vandergrift, but what connection, if any, he had with the "100,000" tons is unknown.

It therefore appears that Mr. Emmons issued his statement on the basis of a statement by Mr. Gable and associated "engineers" and that the deposit as such, existed only in the mind of the publicity hungry Mr. Gable.