

# State Department of Geology and Mineral Industries

702 Woodlark Building  
Portland 5, Oregon

8602  
COW CREEK SANDSTONE

Riddle District

Douglas County

An outcrop of flat-lying, thinly bedded sandstone was inspected on the T. A. Verrey Ranch on Cow Creek about  $3\frac{1}{2}$  miles southwest of Riddle. The deposit lies on the south side of the creek in about the  $N\frac{1}{2}$  of sec. 32, T. 30 S., R. 6 W. The deposit forms a steep bank about 50 feet high which extends for several hundred feet along the south bank of the creek. Areal extent of the deposit was not determined beyond that which could be readily observed from the creek bank, but it is likely that the deposit extends southward for some little distance, although it is obscured by overburden since the ground rises in that direction.

The sandstone occurs as a series of flat-lying beds ranging in thickness from an inch or so to as much as 8 or 10 inches. Some beds are apparently more resistant to weathering than others, and in addition, the more resistant beds tend to have better developed bedding plains along which the rock may be split into smooth-surfaced flagstones. The stone is fine grained and has a grayish color in cross section with a purplish-greenish color appearing on the bedding plains. A small amount of this stone was quarried prior to World War II and was used for flagging at several homes in the Portland area. Preliminary tests run in the Department laboratory indicate that the stone has an absorption of approximately 2.6 percent and a specific gravity of about 1.98 when dry. The extremely low absorption of this stone should give it good weathering characteristics. The stone should serve well as a flagstone since it will apparently wear well and also because it can be obtained in almost perfectly smooth surfaced slabs whose faces are parallel. The stone could also be used for veneer, although its somewhat drab color might limit its use for this purpose.

The cost of quarrying and preparing stone from this deposit should be quite low and the cost of transportation to market would involve a truck haul of about 225 miles over good roads to Portland, or the material could be trucked to a rail siding less than 3 miles away near Riddle.

Report by: R. S. M. <sup>M 2</sup>  
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