

# State Department of Geology and Mineral Industries

1069 State Office Building  
Portland 1, Oregon

## REPORT CONCERNING STATE-OWNED MINERAL RIGHTS ON THE MEL KELLEY RANCH T. 12 S., R. 34 E., sec. 32, Grant County, Oregon

### Foreword

This examination was requested by the Land Board October 18, 1965, as per Land Board communication File No. C19763-8 in which the legal description of the property is given more particularly as sec. 32, S $\frac{1}{2}$ N $\frac{1}{2}$ E $\frac{1}{2}$ , N $\frac{1}{2}$ S $\frac{1}{2}$ E $\frac{1}{2}$ , NW $\frac{1}{4}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$ .

### General

Examination of the property was made November 1, 1965. Mr. Glenn Eddy, of Ramsay's Real Estate, John Day, Oregon, accompanied the writer in the field. He had a large-scale plat of the property and was otherwise personally familiar with the property corners and lines. The examination was further facilitated by the fact that the John Day - Vale Highway diagonals across the property over a distance of nearly three-fourths of a mile.

Our traverse over the property consisted of a meandering course that included visitation to all major topographic high points, crosscuts through the lowland fields to drainage gullies and random lateral drives to significant-appearing rock-soil exposure situations. This resulted in visitation to five of the eight property corners to distances within zero to fifty feet, to two others to within three to four hundred feet and to one to a point within approximately six hundred feet.

The land surface consisted for the most part of cultivated fields. However, in-place rock exposures did exist on some ridge tops and rock rubble from broken down, near in-place exposures was abundantly present on most hillsides occurring both naturally and as stacked piles of rock cleared from the fields. Otherwise, bedrock was indicated amply by rock fragments in the soil.

### Geology

Except for clusters of rounded cobbles which probably represent terrace gravels, the bedrock underlying an estimated 90 percent of the property consists of acidic-type volcanics such as are widespread in the surrounding area and well exposed in the highway cuts on the ridge north and north-east of the property. Lithologically, these volcanics may be described as including porphyries and tuffs of andesitic to rhyolitic composition, related breccias, mud flows and, to a minor extent, some obsidian and perlitic glass.

Bedrock in the remaining 10 percent of the property consists of a dense, blocky, black basalt. This occurs along the full length of the western margin of the property and in the south half of the southwesternmost forty. It is also well exposed and widespread in the terrain adjacent to the property on the west.

The water-rounded cobbles mentioned previously are comprised almost exclusively of rock of Tertiary volcanic derivation. Only in one small erosional gully in the eastern portion of the property were any cobbles of rock of pre-Tertiary age observed. These were argillite and chert and they do not amount in volume to more than an estimated one percent of the total cobble occurrence which in itself appears to be of such restricted extent as to rate for all practical intents and purposes as inconsequential from the standpoint of acreage covered.

### Economics

To the extent that rhyolitic volcanic rocks can constitute attractive decorative-type building material, there is always an outside chance that some such rock pit could conceivably be opened on the property at some future date. There is today, however, no evidence that any good quality rock exists on the property in minable amounts. Neither is there any reason to anticipate that better quality rock might be found there than is otherwise abundantly available elsewhere in the surrounding neighborhood, nor that any such discovery would command any competitive position or any great monetary value even if found.

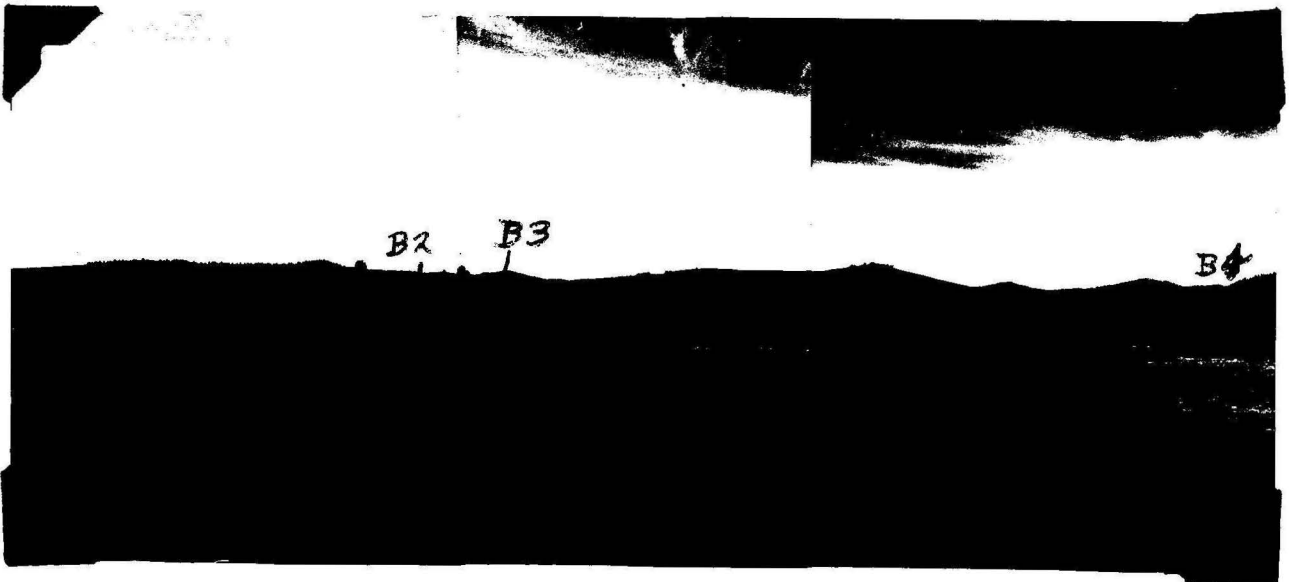
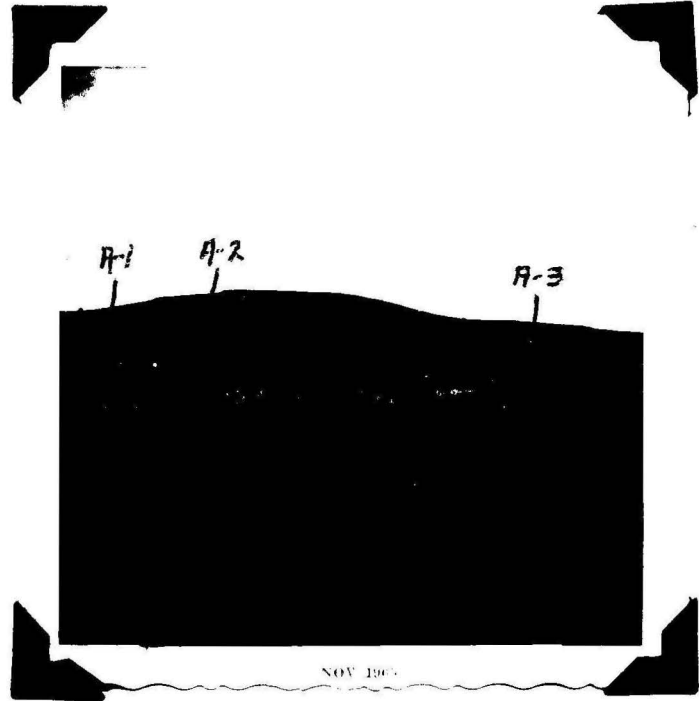
As regards quicksilver or gold or other kindred types of mineral value, no evidence was observed to indicate the presence of any prospect on the property. Neither are there any prospects of such minerals known to occur elsewhere in the region immediately surrounding the property in the same bedrocks that appear to underlie the property.

For these reasons there is no apparent cause to feel that the Land Board would be compromising themselves by relinquishing the mineral rights on this acreage and every reason to feel that they would be justified in doing so in accordance with their normal procedural practices if they so desire.

Report by Norman S. Wagner  
Written in John Day, Oregon  
November 3, 1965

Picture to the right is a view of the southwesterrmost forty taken from the location indicated by "x" on the plat of the property, for which, see next page.

Three corners are included in this picture. The location is indicated by the symbols A-1, A-2 and A-3 on both the map and the photo.



The above picture is a view of most of the property as seen from point "x" and looking generally eastward. The symbols P-1, P-2, etc indicate the approximate location of the corners marked by the same symbols on the map.