

State Department of Geology and Mineral Industries

1069 State Office Bldg.
Portland 1, Oregon

TRI-COUNTY MINING & CONCENTRATING COMPANY, INC.
Memorandum Report

Grant County

General: After a stormy and unsuccessful period of mining operation beginning May 1952 (N. S. Wagner, Pink paper report, June, 1952), this company underwent a major reorganization. They no longer have any mine-claim holdings, but the mill is operated as a custom mill and has handled all ore from the Dry Camp and Ward mines, as well as small lots from other properties.

Present company officials are:

Mr. J. A. Curzon, president and manager

Mrs. Ebra West, Salem, Vice-president

Mrs. J. A. Curzon, Secretary-Treasurer

Address: P. O. Box 188, John Day, Oregon

Phone: 458, John Day

Report by: N. S. Wagner, February 1, 1957.

State Department of Geology and Mineral Industries

702 Woodlark Building
Portland, Oregon ✓

Tri-County Mining and Concentrating Corporation

Grant County

This is an Oregon corporation, May 1952. E. R. Wells is president, W. A. Stinnett, Vice president and J. A. Curzon, General manager. Business address is P. O. Box 8, John Day, Oregon.

This corporation has purchased the concrete block plant situated on the highway just east of John Day. This they are converting into a mill for chrome ores. According to Wells there are no other principals connected with the enterprise, nor is there to be any stock. Also according to Wells, the corporation has leases on the following properties on which they intend to mine.

Potatoe Patch, owned by Eniar P. Olsen, c/o International Harvester Co. Spokane, Washington.

Celebration, owned by Sig Ferguson, John Day, Oregon.

Silvers Property, owned by John Silvers, John Day, Oregon

Wynadotte, owned by James Rhinehard, John Day, Oregon.

All of the foregoing properties are listed as to location in our file reports with the exception of the Wynadotte which is a new name for an old property the earlier name of which Wells couldn't remember.

In its initial form the mill is to consist of a 24 x 16 inch hammer crusher, a $4\frac{1}{2}$ x 24 inch Hardinge Ball mill and 2 tables. Two additional tables are scheduled for eventual installation, these to treat the middlings from off the primary tables. Also scheduled for eventual installation is a shaker screen between the crusher and the ball mill for the purpose of by-passing fines from the crusher direct to the primary tables instead of letting them load the ball mill feed. Four separate ore and concentrate bins are being set-up for the separate storage of ores from the individual properties as Wells claims to have secured authorization from the proper sources to ship 5000 tons from each of the leased claims. Capacity of this mill without shaker classification is estimated as 30 tons a day; with the classifier, at 100 tons. An average concentration of 3 to 1 is anticipated. Wells claims test work indicated an average concentration of 3 to 1 could be expected. This test work he stated was done in the Bunker Hill and Sullivan laboratories at Kellog. He further stated that their testing indicated a recovery several percent higher than that reported by the U.S.B.M. in R.I. 4079 in all instances they checked. The present stage of plant construction is such that it is hoped to have the initial version in limited operation on Potatoe Patch ore by July 1st or shortly thereafter.

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Foreword: The following is a summary of facts as reported to the writer on the occasion of a visit to the mill, June 19, 1952. It is submitted herewith as a matter of staff information rather than as a formal OPERATION'S REPORT for the reason that the soundness of the undertaking is open to question on many counts. Wells is an extremely visionary character, manifestly devoid of even the elements of geologic or mining comprehension. He is a glib talker, but his talk is characterized by vagueness and contradiction. He has the adroit support of former Judge Allen who now publishes a weekly paper. Earlier this spring Allen ran a feature editorial and also an article relating how Wells was planning immediate construction of three local custom mills - one for chrome at John Day, another for manganese, and the third for cobalt to be situated at Prairie City. In short, the present activity of this company bears close watching and a minimum of official publicity.

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Report by: N. S. Wagner
Date of report: June 28, 1952