

Confidential
File



Red Hill

STATE DEPARTMENT OF GEOLOGY
AND MINERAL INDUSTRIES

BAKER FIELD OFFICE
2033 FIRST STREET
BAKER, OREGON

May 29, 1952

RECEIVED
MAY 31 1952

STATE DEPT. OF GEOLOGY
& MINERAL INDS.

CONFIDENTIAL

Mr. F. W. Libbey
Oregon State Department of Geology
1069 State Office Building
Portland 1, Oregon

Dear Fay:

The Red Hill manganese claims are situated in the middle of the Drinkwater family homestead as is indicated in John Allen's report. They are currently owned by Mr. Jack Drinkwater and his wife. Drinkwater was very frank in stating that he regards the prospect as being of negligible mineral value, and that he has taken the present claims to protect himself and his grazing interests by keeping others out. As is, the occurrence is popular with the public and subject to extra much visitation by rock-hounds, etc. all of which makes it a first class nuisance insofar as his grazing business is concerned.

For my part I feel that the prospect is entirely comparable to that at Hamilton as reported in the Ore.-Bin (Vol. 13, No. 11, 1951). Such digging as I did showed essentially no nodules within the body of the tuff despite the fact that the surface was in places black with them. Drinkwater agreed heartily with the Hamilton theory of origin as I explained it to him, and in this connection offered the observation that every year gunny sacks full of the nodules are carried off by souvenir hunters to the extent that pickings are slim by fall, yet every spring there is a new supply. In this connection also, he stated that years ago nodules 5, 6 and even 7 inches in diameter were to be found. This is confirmed by Johnny Allen, but now that the place is picked over annually by souvenir hunters, nodule size rarely exceeds 1½ inches. It would be interesting if a test area could be roped off and nodule growth measured over a period of years, but this of course would be impossible to do.

Whereas the present Mr. Drinkwater feels that the test-pitting done over the years by his father and others failed to disclose economically valuable amounts of manganese, and that the prospect is a more of a liability than an asset, he said he was desirous of seeing the thing proved one way or another.

To this end he has entered into a mining agreement with a Mr. Murray of John Day. Murray has been after the property for sometime. Under the agreement Murray is to have a dozer in their soon. Just when is uncertain, but Drinkwater promised to let me know as soon as exploration starts so that we can re-examine the prospect and get whatever pertinent data there may be for our records. Incidentally, part of the agreement is that they make a mile or two of new road at the time they take the dozer in, all of which goes to show that the present Mr. Drinkwater is nobody's fool as he wants a cabin site in that portion of his range. If the Mr. Murray is the one I think he is, then he doesn't know up from down.

This I can't be sure of, but I mention it for whatever it might be worth in terms of any future contacts you may have with Mr. Grimmett, namely, I gather that he has no real ownership interest in the claims. Drinkwater didn't mention Grimmett's name when he stated that the claims had been relocated recently. Only himself and his wife were mentioned.

Sincerely,

Wag.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Wag.', written in a cursive style.

NSW:mb