



STATE DEPARTMENT OF GEOLOGY
AND MINERAL INDUSTRIES

702 WOODLARK BUILDING
PORTLAND 3, OREGON

RECEIVED
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STATE DEPT. OF GEOLOGY
& MINERAL IND.

July 15, 1950

Dear Mr. Libbey:

Please excuse the pen - but the stenographer has left for the day & I am madly trying to get off for West Fork.

Yesterday, Dave & I visited Shale City. Also, I have just finished talking to F.G. Wells about the area. Also, I found the enclosed report in the files here in G.P. after talking to you. There are no other copies of this report in the G.P. office & so if this report does not exist in Portland, after copying, would you please return.

To begin with: I do not believe I can add anything to Treasher's report. Evidently (from the pictures) it was better exposed when Treasher visited the property than when we went up

were yesterday.

I do not believe there is any great tonnage involved no matter what grade of "oil shale" it is. My reason for believing it is this: The exposure is in a saddle, no more than a few hundred yards long & no more than a few tens of yards wide. Stream dissection would have cut through & eroded away any quantity of "oil shale" ^{that might have been} present in an E-W direction & the hills rise sharply on either side of the saddle so that the lavas & pyroclastics would ~~cover~~ form an extremely thick cover in a N-S direction. But - there is no reason for believing the areal extent is very great. And then it is quite unlikely that the "oil" bearing beds are very thick. The whole section may be 30-40' thick but the black shales are probably much less than that - probably no more than a few feet thick. Wesson

I do not believe a detailed geologic mapping program is warranted. Wells stated that his crew paid particular

ention to this series of rocks (the series in which this "oil shale" is found) because they thought it had some thing to do with the manganese deposition - the mineral which started the mapping in the Medford Quad. This was the only "oil shale" found & at this particular spot the area was so completely broken up they had to map it as a landslide, i.e. detail work was started but had to be abandoned. I do not believe a drilling program would add any more in formation than the open cut that is present. Certainly if the drills were set up away from the saddle they would have a lot of lava to penetrate before getting into the zone - if it were present. This would be very expensive drilling.

A black shale does exist, however, as you will note from the samples. Occasional bright spots in the shale appear to be a bright coal. Wells, however, states that the black shale bears no

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resemblance to the coal fields of the Rogue River. So it is likely that petrolification set in instead of coalification. Why? You tell me.

Abundant plant remains seem to indicate an organic origin & from woody tissue. Does oil form from woody tissue?

The material has a peculiar odor, but it is much different from any oil shale I have sniffed.

The samples taken cannot be considered as anything more than grab samples. In the first place - it is all so badly slumped that considerable excavation would have to be done to sample with any accuracy. In the second place - what the hell do you sample in something like this? But I tried to take what appeared to me as the best looking material. And so if I have been guilty of anything it has been of high-grading. I did this purposely for if anything was to show up I didn't want Hoagy

have to search for it.

That is about all I can report.

Oh yes - there are still 5 nice (apparently) houses on the property. On them were "keep out" signs. They are signed by

" Mathew P. Thommes

1814 W. 8th St.

Los Angeles 5, Calif

So apparently the above ^{Owner} ^{still} is the owner.

Also - a bulldozer has been in the pit not too long ago (a month, year?) but perhaps the logging company that is working in here used this for a borrow pit.

Well - now into West Fork. I feel as if I've wasted this week. First, I delayed departure to see Fay Bristol's carnotite & then this. I'm not sorry to have visited the property but have a sense of guilt for neglecting Dutchman Butte. If it isn't one thing it seems like it is two others. Such is life they tell me.

Best regards,
Gollie.