State Department of Geology and Mineral Industries

702 Woodlark Building
Portland 5, Oregon

MIN-A-RAY PROPERTY **Ashland Area** **Jackson County**
(Oil shale & medical water)

Owner: Matthew P. Thommes, 1816 W. 8th Street, Los Angeles 5, California. Property known as Min-A-Ray Laboratories.

Location: N½ NW¼ and NW¼ NE¼ sec. 16, T. 38 S., R. 2 E., and E½ NE¼ and W½ SW¼ sec. 16, T. 38 S., R. 2 E. Of the latter block, Thommes owns only the north 15 acres.

Area: 120 acres in the first block, and 15 acres of the second block.

History: The property has had a varied history, as received from various reports. It was originally opened for the production of a medical water. Certain portions of the tuff were leached and the leachings were used for various medical preparations. Later an attempt was made to distill oil from the reported oil shale. A retort was built, but insecurely anchored so that it blew over during a heavy wind storm. Another retort was built. An extensive open cut, nearly an eighth of a mile long was opened, with small underground workings. This project ultimately failed because of the small oil content, and principally because of financial troubles. About 1938, full title to the property was vested in M. P. Thommes, who prepares a "medical water."

The property has had various names. At one time it was called Railways & Industries Corporation. About 1927 it was known as Pacific Lumber & Shaleries, Inc., with Chas. D. Crouch as president, Ashland, Oregon. Later, (1936-1938?) it was known as Medico Minerals Company with E. C. Hurd of Ashland, as president. There is a record of a lease for oil shale, known as Oil Shale Lease, Roseburg 014464. This lease finally was terminated at the request of the Company as they were unable to keep up the lease payments.

At one time there were 32 cabins at the property, the locality being known as Shale City. It is so marked on the Medford topographic quadrangle. Only four or five of the cabins remain. The retort building is in ruins. Rails have been stripped. Little or no equipment remains.

The property was investigated by the USGS during the Medford geologic mapping. Wells was most unenthusiastic about the oil shale, but his principal statement is -- "the white tuff member contains some organic matter."

Development: Discussed largely under "History."

Geology: The country rocks of the area are the "Tvf" Lava Series of Wells (30) consisting of dominantly dark-gray andesite flows with local layers of tuff and breccia. Within the "Tvf" series is a White Tuff member consisting of fine-grained white rhyolitic tuff. The tuff is indurated to

practically shale that weathers into 1/8 inch shale plates. Occasionally layers of coarser material occur within the "shale"; they contain small pebbles which may be pumice.

The "oil shale" is found at two horizons. The upper stratum occurs above a poorly consolidated coarse-grained tuff that is dark colored in spots. The upper stratum is very poorly exposed and no samples were obtained. The coarse-grained tuff gives off a distinct odor of sulphur, and a suggestion of arsenic. This material forms the basis of the "medical water." The lower stratum occurs below a ten- (?) foot interbed of the coarse tuff. It is well compacted, and appears brownish to almost black from included organic matter. Dry pieces of this shale will burn. Two samples were obtained of this material.

Outcrops are poor, and old workings are caved and slumped so that no thickness of "oil shale" could be determined without considerable excavation.

The age of this white tuff is reported by Chaney (30) as being middle Miocene on the basis of leaf fossils. No diagnostic fauna have been found.

Samples: A specimen reportedly from this locality showed a little oil qualitatively. Two samples of the shale submitted subsequently failed to show any oil content.

References:

Wells (39) Medford Geologic Map

Chaney (30) Chaney, R. W. Suggestions regarding the age of the Southern Cascade Range: abst., G.S.A. Bull., v. 41, pp. 147-148, 1930.

Informants: N. P. Thommes and R. C. Treasher, July 23, 1943.

* * * * * * * * *

Appendix

The property was visited on July 14, 1950 by Hollis M. Dole and David J. White, Department geologists. They reported that there had been no recent activity at the property and that the report prepared by Treasher in 1943 needed little or no revision. Dole, in a letter dated July 15, 1950 to the Portland office, stated that "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 and no more than a few tens of yards wide. Stream dissection would have cut through and eroded away any quantity of "oil shale" that might have been present in an E-W direction and the hills rise sharply on either side of the saddle so that the lavas and pyroclastics would 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."

Samples submitted by Dole and White returned the following:

No.	Description	Petroleum percent
P-10095	Picked sample of white and brown shale from open cut above logging road	2.78
P-10096	Brown to black shale, chip sample along channel in upper 3-ft. of face of open pit below logging road	0.81
P-10097	Tan and white poorly consolidated coarse-grained tuff with dark spots and shale layers	0.92
P-10098	Shale and tuff	2.30

MIN-A-RAY CLAIMS
(Oil shale)

(Shale Deposit)

ASHLAND DISTRICT

JACKSON COUNTY

(See Confidential File)

"In summary, the mineral waters of the Ashland district belong to two chief classes; the Colestin and Soda Springs waters are dominantly carbonate, while the Lithia and Sulphur spring waters are chloro-carbonate. As compared with similar waters found elsewhere many of the Oregon springs show an unusual quantity of potassium; the salinity of the sulphur springs is low, but that of the Lithia springs is high. The sulphur springs are quite rich in silica and the Soda springs in magnesium. Finally, the Ashland lithia waters are remarkably high in their tenor of lithium, and deserve recognition for that fact."

Reference: Winchell, 14:82, 98,99,100,104, 105. (quoted)

MUNDY MINE (coal) Ashland area

see Beeson Mine

Location: sec. 17, T. 38 S., R. 1 E.

"In sec. 17, T. 38 S., R. 1 E., at an elevation of about 2,400 feet, some thin seams of coal have been opened by J. F. Mundy, of Medford. The development work included several drill holes and the results indicate the presence of at least 2 coal seams about 500 feet apart.

"In sec. 16, T. 38 S., R. 1 E., a coal seam has been opened by Emmett Beeson of Talent by means of a slope or incline shaft following the coal nearly on its dip. This coal outcrops in a ravine at the foot of a sandstone cliff at an elevation of about 2,600 feet. Fossil impressions of leaves were collected from shaly sandstone at an elevation of about 3,050 feet near the top of the cliff a little south of east of the coal seam. The sandstone strikes about S. 45° E, and dips about 25° N. E. at the place where the fossils are found. The coal seam has a strike of N. 53° W. and a dip of about 16° N. E. The slope opening this coal discloses a fault at 70 feet from the portal which strikes N. 10° W. and dips about 62° E. The hanging wall of the fault is displaced vertically downward about 6 feet. At about 120 feet from the portal the coal seam is narrowed to about 3 inches by the doming up of the floor; at the breast, about 130 feet from the portal, the coal is again nearly 2 feet thick."

Reference: Parks & Swartley, 16:159 (quoted).

NO NAME (gold) Ashland area

Location: sec. 17, T. 40 S., R. 2 E.

Reference: Wells (39). No. 39 on Medford Map.

NO NAME (gold) Ashland area

Location: sec. 23, T. 39 S., R. 1 W.
This may be the Snapshot claim.

Reference: Wells (39). No. 33 on Medford Map.

NO NAME (placer) Ashland area

Location: sec. 36, T. 38 S., R. 1 W.

Reference: Wells (39). No. 23 on Medford Map.

State Department of Geology and Mineral Industries

702 Woodlark Building
Portland, Oregon

Report by: Ray C. Treasher
Date: July 23, 1943.

PRELIMINARY
(pending reports on samples)

MIN-A-RAY PROPERTY (Oil shale & medical water) Ashland area
Jackson County

"Medical water" was prepared by leaching minerals from a tuff. At one time, the tuff shale was retorted as an oil shale for the recovery of oil but the venture failed. Some $300,000 is reported to have been spent on the property. Workings are caved and slumped so that no estimate can be made of the thickness of the "oil shales". Analysis of the samples indicates

Owner: Matthew P. Thommes, P. O. Box 484, Ashland, Oregon. Property known as Min-A-Ray Laboratories.

Location: N½ NW¼ and NW¼ NE¼ sec. 16, T. 38 S., R. 2 E., and E½ NE¼ and W½ SE¼ sec. 16, T. 38 S., R. 2 E. Of the latter block, Thommes owns only the north 15 acres.

Area: 120 acres in the first block, and 15 acres of the second block.

History: The property has had a varied history, as received from various reports. It was originally opened for the production of a medical water. Certain portions of the tuff were leached and the leachings were used for various medical preparations. Later an attempt was made to distill oil from the reported oil shale. A retort was built, but insecurely anchored so that it blew over during a heavy wind storm. Another retort was built. An extensive open cut, nearly an eighth of a mile long was opened, with small

702 Woodlark Building
Portland, Oregon

underground workings. This project ultimately failed because of the small oil content, and principally because of financial troubles. About 1938, full title to the property was vested in M. P. Thommes, who prepares a "medical water."

A certain portion of the tuff bed is dug out, air dried, and then leached. The leached material is evaporated to dryness, and solutions of varying strength are prepared for the trade. The waterix is reported to cure various ailments, all under a doctor's prescription.

The property has had various names. At one time it was called Railways & Industries Corporation. About 1927 it was known as Pacific Lumber & Shaleries, Inc., with Chas. D. Crouch as president, Ashland, Oregon. Later, (1936-1938) it was known as Medico Minerals Company with E. C. Hurd of Ashland, as president. There is a record of a lease for oil shale, known as Oil Shale Lease, Roseburg 014464, This lease finally was terminated at the request of the Company as they were unable to keep up the lease payments.

At one time there were 32 cabins at the property, the locality being known as Shale City. It is so marked on the Medford topographic quadrangle. Only four or five of the cabins remain. The retort building is in ruins. Rails have been stripped. Little or no equipment remains.

The property was investigated by the USGS during the Medford geologic mapping. Wells was most unenthusiastic about the oil shale, but his principal statement is -- "the white tuff member contains some organic matter."

Development: Discussed largely under "History".

Min-A-Ray (3)

702 Woodlark Building
Portland, Oregon

Geology: The country rocks of the area are the "Tvf" Lava Series of Wells (39) consisting of dominately dark-gray andesite flows with local layers of tuff and breccia. Within the "Tvf" series is a White Tuff member consisting of fine-grained white rhyolitic tuff. The tuff is indurated to practically shale that weathers into 1/8 inch shale plates. Occasionaly layers of coarser material occur within the "shale"; they contain small pebbles which may be pumice.

The "oil shale" is found at two horizons. The upper stratum occurs above a poorly consolidated coarse grained tuff that is dark colored in spots. The upper stratum is very poorly exposed and no samples were obtained. The coarse-grained tuff gives off a distinct odor of sulphur, and a suggestion of arsenic. This material forms the basis of the "medical water". The lower stratum occurs below a ten (?) foot interbed of the coarse tuff. It is well compacted, and appears brownish to almost black from included organic matter. Dry pieces of this shale will burn. Two samples were obtained of this material.

Outcrops are poor, and old workings are caved and slumped so that no thickness of "oil shale" could be determined without considerable excavation.

The age of this white tuff is reported by Chaney (30) as being middle Miocene on the basis of leaf fossils. No diagnostic fauna have been found.

Samples

DG 165 is a sample of the coarse grained tuff that is being used for medical water. It was sent to Portland for spectrographic analysis

702 Woodlark Building
Portland, Oregon

DG 166 is a sample of the oil shale that occurs immediately below the coarse-grained tuff.

DG 167 is a sample of the oil shale that occurs about four feet below DG 166. Both these samples were forwarded to Portland for assay for oil.

Pictures: Two pictures were taken. One shows detail of the pit where samples were taken. The other shows the ruins of the old retort building.

Referecnes

Wells (39) Medford Geologic Map

Chaney (30) Chaney, R. W.; Suggestions regarding the age of the Southern Cascade Range: abst., G. S. A., Bull., v. 41, pp. 147-148, 1930.

Other material which should be checked are included in the Bibliography of Oregon Geology under the following abstract numbers:

232 - Chaney
923
924
1640
1854.

Informants: M. P. Thommes and RCT, July 23, 1943.