

State Department of Geology and Mineral Industries

702 Woodlark Building
Portland, Oregon

H. W. Sparks, Rogue River.

Letter to Gov. Snell, to EKN, to RCT relative to inspection of enormous tin and tungsten property on Evans Creek.

Arrangements were made to inspect this property in 1942, but at the critical moment, Mr. Sparks advised that he did not want it looked at by us.

Then, later, he writes Gov. Snell about his property and we are urged to go look at it.

The property will be reported in the Jackson County catalog as the Sparks property.

Mr. Sparks is over 87; he is almost crippled, and very hard of hearing. Background is given well in his letter to Gov. Snell, dated Jan. 16, 1943. I called on him and was taken to his assay laboratory where he showed me concentrates of tungsten, both hubernite and scheelit as well as tin. Later, the ultra-violet light showed no sheelite in his high grade scheelite concentrates.

Tuesday, March 23rd, 1943, was set for the visit. Sparks went along. We went up the West side road, Evans Creek, to about sec. 22, where we went into a barnyard. Outcrops of metavolcanic rock represent an enormous tungsten ledge that runs from Evans Creek, west over the ridge. Tin ore occurs on the south side of the tungsten ledge. The tungsten is scheelite, according to Sparks. Also, numerous outcrops of scheelite occur in the bed of Evans Creek. There is no reason why an enormous development cannot be made here. I took samples in order to please the old man. He couldn't find his "tin rock".

By the way, all these rocks are saturated with chlorides. It is necessary to make the fusions with "top heat". Crucibles are set on asbestos; the charge is mixed as usual except that niter is added. After half an hour of slow heating, the heat is really applied for the chlorides have all been driven off. When complete, the lead or tin button rides on top of the slag. A man once told him that the button was 75% tin.

We went to his property in sec. 2, T. 35 S., R. 4 W. above Wimer. Gabbro is cut by a pegmatite dike. Any of the gabbro is "tin rock". We covered the hillside, inch by inch, for the old man has difficulty in walking. I saw acres and acres of tin rock. I finally had to sample the gabbro in order to satisfy Sparks. Eventually, we got to his tunnel, which of course was caved and inaccessible. But he courteously gave me a sample of his high-grade tin ore for a spectorgraphic analysis.

It was a pleasant spring day; delightfully warm and balmy, if you get what I mean. The wild flowers were in profusion, and the birds were singing. The view was magnificent.

Ray C. Treasher,
Field Geologist,
March 24, 1943.

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SPARKS MINE

This is the first "real" pegmatite dike seen in this country.

The feldspar possibilities should be investigated further. To do this, some small amount of surface trenching should be done to limit the dike. Carefully taken samples are necessary. In addition to spectrographic analysis, mechanical testing to suggest possibilities of recovery could be made. A topographic map should be made of a small area so that tonnage could be computed.

These suggestions are being made for consideration by the Portland Office.

Ray C. Treasher,
Field Geologist,
March 24, 1943.

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