

State Department of Geology and Mineral Industries

702 Woodlark Building
Portland, Oregon

BAXTER LIMESTONE

Gold Hill area

McCroskey started work on the Beeman quarry which was "inspected" in August, 1941. At that time I suggested that the lens was too siliceous, a point which was concurred upon by Miles Belden, who was then doing the actual engineering. However, McCroskey indicated that he knew what he was doing so that was that.

Subsequent development proved the conclusion was correct and the quarry was abandoned as the rock was too siliceous. Arrangements were made to secure the Baxter property and to develop those lenses.

Some 5200 feet of road was built to the "upper quarry". This road was almost completely ruined by the winter rains and will have to be largely rebuilt. The outfit built roads all over the hillside and in some cases failed to arrive at any limestone deposit. So they began another road.

The upper quarry exposes a "horse" of siliceous material at the east side which rather discouraged that particular operation. Bulldozer was resorted to, to clean off more limestone to the northwest, and trenching was done at Rosenberg's suggestion to prove limestone over a length of 500 feet. I examined only 200 feet of this length.

The limestone is cut by numerous inclusions of schist, including this one large body mentioned in the third paragraph above. It is my impression that the rock is going to offer difficulties for a low cost operation to produce paper rock.

The ore bin is built of timbers and 2 x 10 planks. Rock is dropped over 10 feet onto the sloping floor of the bin. Loading "man-sized rocks" is rather tough on this floor and after two carloads were loaded out the floor looks "very bad". The bin is not tied to anything except the breeze and it will be interesting to see the bin completely filled some time. It may come to rest far down the hillside.

McCroskey hinted at re-organization of the Company. Isgrig has been approached to operate the quarry. He tells Bristol that McCroskey is trying to get some Medford capital to take over the operation. I haven't a great deal of confidence in McCroskey's ability to operate the quarry, and I would be rather afraid of his general management. There are a number of peculiar stories floating around about him.

I'll keep in touch with the outfit and see what develops. This report is hurriedly prepared so that it might make the Jackson County catalog. Sketches, etc., will follow, later.

Ray C. Treasher,
Field Geologist,
Feb. 25, 1943.

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Report by: Ray C. Treasher
Date: Feb. 25, 1943.

BAXTER LIMESTONE

Gold Hill area
Jackson County.

double space → Two limestone lenses have been opened for production of "paper rock". The larger lens has a maximum horizontal extent of 500 feet by 100 feet and a proven depth in excess of 16 ft. Portions of the rock analyze over 97 percent CaCO_3 .

Owner: John A. Baxter.

Operator: Oregon Limestone Co., 411 Postal Bldg., Portland, Oregon. Chas. Wagner, president; Edwin Amme, secr'y; Fred Rosenberg, engineer; T. E. McCroskey, operator.

Location: $\text{SE}\frac{1}{4}$ sec. 2 and $\text{SW}\frac{1}{4}$ sec. 1, T. 37 S., R. 3 W., south-east of Gold Hill.

Area: 160 acres, of which 140 acres is in sec. 2, and 20 acres are in sec. 1.

History: Limestone was found at this locality by Mr. Baxter, many years ago. He opened two lenses. The lower one had a quarry face 30 ft. wide and 20 ft. high. The upper quarry is 260 ft. higher. The face was 30 ft. wide and 15 ft. high with a 25 ft. assessment adit. The limestone is reported to analyze 97 % CaCO_3 . In late 1942, the Oregon Limestone Co. moved its operations from the Beeman quarry to the Baxter quarries and began development work. Two carloads of "paper rock" were shipped before winter.

Development: Both of the old quarries were opened further. The lower quarry was cleaned out and some rock piled in a small pole bunker. The upper quarry was opened by a bulldozer and two carloads of "paper Rock" were removed. Trenching has exposed the limestone for a maximum length of 500 feet (reported) and a

BAXTER LIMESTONE (cont.)

maximum width of 140 feet. Drilling with 16 ft. steel proved limestone for that depth. Slightly over 5200 ft. of 5% road has been built to the upper quarry. A 100 ton ore bin is built.

Geology: The country rock is metasediment as shown on the Grants Pass geologic map (Wells 40). However, the age of these rocks has been revised as Triassic (Wells & Hotz 41). Included in the metarocks are small limestone lenses that generally trend N. 20° E. and dip at high angles.

The limestone lens at the upper quarry is best exposed. The limestone has a general bluish color, but consists of alternating bands of dark and light limestone. The rock is crystalline and should be classified as marble. The contorted bands show the result of considerable stress. Within the limestone lens are stringers and elongated knots of silicious material that are severly sheared. The lens trends N. 30° E. and dips 80° to the N.W.

The quarry is at the southwest end of the lens. An inclusion of schistose metasediment about 15 feet wide, splits the east part of the body, and it extends at least 60 feet up the hill to the northeast. Trenching exposes rock over a length of 200 feet and the operator reports further work proved 500 feet of length and a maximum width of 140 feet. The lens was 100 feet wide, where observed.

The limestone weathers with fairly sharp edge on blocks and weathered surfaces are rough.

Informant: RCT. Feb. 24, 1943