

State Department of Geology and Mineral Industries

1069 State Office Building
Portland 1, Oregon

CITY OF
NATIVE COPPER IN WATER WELL, ROGUE RIVER, OREGON

Location: Extreme SW corner of sec. 16, T. 36 S., R. 4 W., just behind the large community building on the west edge of the town of Rogue River, Oregon. The property is owned by the City of Rogue River.

History: A water well 96' deep was drilled by the Paquin and Story Well Drilling Co., for the City of Rogue River, the water being used for domestic purposes. The well bottomed in indurated river gravels. The lower portion of the casing was perforated and the friable gravels and sand filled the perforations and reduced the flow of the well.

Recent Work: The Coleman Well Drilling Co. was later (July 1961) hired to deepen the well and seal off the fine sand that filled the casing perforations. The indurated gravels were only 2' to 3' thick and then friable dark gray river gravels were found to the bottom of the present well 146'. During the drilling from about 100' to 130' the driller noted fragments of native copper in the cuttings. This was called to our attention and resulted in a brief 2-hour investigation on July 28.

Samples of the cuttings from various places 100' - 146' were panned and their abundance verified. Cuttings from the 0 - 96' levels were panned with negative results.

The copper is in small corroded flakes with an average diameter of 3/16". They are flat (about 1/32") and angular to sub-rounded.

A sample of the cuttings ^{was} ~~were~~ submitted to the Portland office for analysis for gold, silver, and copper.

Visited: July 28, 1961.

Informant: LeRoi Webb.

Report by: N. V. Peterson, Aug. 2, 1961.

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