

COPY

Rogue River, Oregon
April 1, 1943

The Honorable Earl Snell:
Governor of the State of Oregon

Dear Sir:

A little more than a week ago a man drove up to my home and announced that he was a State Geologist and that he had been appointed or commissioned to test the tin property that I had proposed to give the U. S. all the tin that was needed for war emergencies if would bring the mine into production and asked if I could tell him of someone that could go with him that knew the place. I did not but was pleased to offer my services and he set the time to go the next morning.

I am considerably crippled but had to difficulty in showing him a very great abundance of tin ore, but the tunnel that shows wonderful improvement was sealed by cave-in at entrance caused by excessive rains. I have secured some help and the tunnel is open now and I am writing this to ask you to so inform him as he did not leave his P. O. address, also deliver section number that he asked for.

Also enclosed please find clipping very interesting. I believe we could do business with his committee. Hope you can get in touch with him.

If they are depending on tin from China, I am afraid our boys that are fighting for us will go hungry as the Japs have possession of the Burma Road, and if possession is gained, the fifty-cents a day for Chinese miners would not be wholesome for Oregon industry.

I am going to make a statement to you that is very unusual for me and that is I will be in my 87 year in May next; much in the public service elected assessor very early in my public life, complimented by County officials for efficiency; County fairs, and National Centennials, two years as manager cooperative and was offered double salary to continue; selected by U.S. Dept. of Agriculture to make investigations in clearing the logged-off land. Selected by Washington State College to have charge of all demonstration farms, Farmers Institute Lecture and after four years without losing a day, the Board of Regents, together with the President and other officials gave me a certificate for Eminent to the State.

My ambition in life has been service and now in comparative old age, we, wife and I, hope to be able financially able to endow a progressive, Industrial Christian Association, with Head of Salvation Army, President of Mothers Congress and Henry Ford in charge of the training of Girl Scouts and Boy Scouts. It is my belief our greatest social and civic need is better mothers and less of the mistakes many of our girls and boys make and to that end I have worked for last twenty years and I have made considerable progress.

I own 120 tract good deed. Taxes paid, no debt. Tin and Gold, and 90 acre tract -

Tungsten and Gold and they are all big for them kind and they have all been turned down by the experts because the Books of their Profession give no remedies and ignore the existence.

Now I have written all this to try and show that my interest in a tin deal is not all self. I will be pleased if any plan can be worked out to get action before it is too late to can this years crops for the Army. I will be pleased to give the tin on some contract that permits action now.

Will suggest that the State advance the service and costs for some more development and testing and if found tin is available so report to Government and I will sign a contract that if tin is not all used to refund all excess costs or such terms as I can reasonably meet or any other plan that is for Victory.

I have written this letter in the belief that the tin I own is the most practical there is in our World and stand in the way of better.

Very truly yours,

H. W. Sparks.

April 16, 1943

Mr. Earl K. Nixon, Director
State Dept. of Geology & Mineral Industries
702 Woodlark Building
Portland, Oregon

Dear Mr. Nixon

Referring to the letter from Mr. H. W. Sparks of Rogue River which was forwarded to you by Governor Snell, I visited the property some time ago. As Mr. Sparks stated, I met him one day and made arrangements to visit the property the next day. He is 87 years old, crippled, and it was with a great deal of difficulty that he got around.

He took me first to his tungsten property on the west side of Evans Creek, about three miles north of the town of Rogue River. The country rock is silicified greenstone and the sample, as assayed by Mr. Bassett, showed no tungsten. Mr. Sparks also has a tin ledge adjacent to the tungsten ledge but was unable to find it.

The second property is on Evans Creek, about a mile northeast at the community of Wymer. The country rock of the area is gabbro which has been cut and intruded by coarsely crystalline pegmatite. According to Mr. Sparks, any of the gabbro is tin-bearing. The tunnel he speaks of was caved and we were unable to enter, but he supplied me with samples from the "richest part" of the tin vein. This sample, plus a sample of the gabbro was submitted to Dr. Harrison for spectrochemical analysis. His samples, numbered P1285, 1286, and 1287, were reported as blank. Much against Mr. Sparks' better judgement, I took a grab sample of the pegmatite which Mr. Sparks insisted contains no tin, and Dr. Harrison reported (P1288) "tin in the order of .001%" which Dr. Harrison states is usual for that type of rock.

I informed Mr. Sparks that should he succeed in getting the tunnel re-opened, that I would again visit the property if he felt it were desirable.

Mr. Sparks is very sincere about this project and received his first information about the tin from a sample he submitted to a friend of his in the east who looked at the button and said that it would go 75% tin, but did not assay it. Since then, other people have aided him and abetted him in his idea of tin, and I fear he will be very unhappy about our results.

Respectfully submitted,

Ray C. Treasher
Field Geologist

RCT:jf

STATE DEPARTMENT OF GEOLOGY AND
MINERAL INDUSTRIES

~~320 S. W. OAK STREET~~
PORTLAND, OREGON
702 WOODLARK BUILDING

February 9, 1943

Mr. H. W. Sparks
Rogue River
Oregon

Dear Mr. Sparks:

Governor Snell has kindly referred to me your letter of January 16. We are pleased to learn of the mining property you have in mind and shall give you every bit of assistance we can.

We are writing our division geologist, Mr. Ray C. Treasher, at Grants Pass asking him to see you and get some information on your property. We have laboratory and spectrographic facilities for determining definitely and accurately the mineral contained in samples taken so we can be perfectly certain that the information you receive is reliable. Mr. Treasher will call on you as soon as reasonably possible.

Respectfully yours,

E.K.R.
Original signed by
Earl K. Nixon
Director

EKN: jr
cc Governor Snell
cc Ray Treasher

Copy

The Honorable Earl Snell
Governor of Oregon

Dear Sir:

I am coming to you today for assistance in the development of a mining enterprise of our State that is also of great interest to all the states because of its great value in feeding our soldier boys on the fighting front of the World War and that you may have confidence in what say of myself. Born of Christian parents that were pioneers in Iowa on May 23, 1850, and will be 87 years old in May of this year. Raised on farm, started farming for self in early days of western Iowa. Lost my place to grasshoppers, two years on Homestead in Kansas, burned out by hot winds two years in succession, moved to Montana, took up mining, acquired some good silver prospects, silver dominating. Broke again, moved to Columbia valley to build a home, acquired 16 acres raw land, took up intensive study of agriculture and in nine years was voted outstanding rural home in Spokane County. Was selected by Washington State College to cooperate with U.S. Department of Agriculture in methods of cleaning the logged off lands. My report was published in bulletin form and was out of usual stock in 8 months. Was made supervisor of demonstration farms by Washington State College, was very successful traveling all the time. I resigned after about six years service and received a certificate signed by President and Board of Regents for Eminent Service to State, and it is hanging on the wall before me now. I am sending you a copy of one of my annual reports. This is for you only. Excuse pencil, fingers too stiff, can't use pen.

H. W. Sparks

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Y

Rogue River, Oregon
January 16, 1943

The Honorable Earl Snell
Governor, State of Oregon

Dear Sir:

In the action I am going to propose to the State of Oregon, the first and most essential is to make an investigation of my mining property by a competent and reliable mining engineer of your selection and give that engineer possession of the State Assay and analyzing equipment at Grants Pass, Oregon.

My tin property is almost 9 miles from R. Road at Rogue River and bout 18 miles from Grants Pass, all good county road. There is a large body of soft ore (steam shovel) saturated with chlorine and carrying enough gold to pay for all operating expenses and it is impossible to make any tests even by any of the standard authorities. After considerable experimenting ~~and~~ I worked out a method that I believe will be successful. Briefly consisted of the slow and gradual application of heat from the top until the chlorine is driven off, then slowly raise heat to a fusion of the charge and on taken out furnace my crucibles found a fine button of all metal in each of my three crucibles on the top of the slag and the gold in the bottom of the crucible.

I hammered the tin button very thin, boiled them first in distilled water to remove any chance of chlorine or other soluble minerals, then in dilute acids as long as there was any action. Washed and fused with a little borax, I had very fine buttons (3 tests). I sent one of those buttons to Governor Sprague, one to Bonneville, one to an analytical chemist as recommended by a friend. Never heard from Sprague or Bonneville eastern friend reported didn't analyze but believed at least 75% of good tin. And have reduced the ore to metallic tin by other methods not in the book or practical. I hope you will be interested in this as one of the resources of our State. I made two deals for the property in 1941, my time has been $\frac{1}{2}$ interest to party to bring property into production, after some prospecting and testing they wrote to the only available refinery in the world (Brazil) and was notified all the ore they could handle.

Now, briefly the gold ore. We, wife and I, have an eighty acre tract deed land, county road through property and high power electric line crosses. A decomposed porphyry dike that seems to begin at southeast corner when Evens Creek crosses with water for power and winding out as it climbs the mountain to 300 feet in places between highly siliceous formation on each side on what appears to be the footwall side cropping out strong is what appears to be in contact between the porphyry and siliceous formation, tungsten, that gives a fine yellow precipitate when boiled in acid solution and the porphyry ore in contact when heated slowly in furnace with asbestos under to prevent heat from button, is fairly plastered with gold, and as far as I have tested that porphyry ledge, it is good milling values and why not ship that gold to China or Russia where it is needed so much ant take their bonds, and so equip their armies that so much needed especially in China to fight the common enemy.

The question will be asked why am I working so hard to develop this property, my answer will be to finance the training of the Boys & Girl Scouts with the head of the Salvation, the president of Mothers Congress and Henry Ford in full charge. We particularly need better Mothers, and I will be pleased to have your cooperation. Sincerely submitted for Good.

H. W. Sparks

Excuse pencil and mistakes.
Not able to do better.

Ray