

State Department of Geology and Mineral Industries

702 Woodlark Building
Portland, Oregon

Jackson County
Gold Hill Area
By: E. A. Youngberg
December 17, 1945

NAME:

Sprignett Mt. Prospect (Ni., Cu., Pt., Ag.)

OWNER:

O. & C. land

LOCATION:

The prospect is located in S.E. 1/4, Sec. 19, T. 34 S., R. 2 W. approximately 2 miles above the Angle Ranch. The prospect is about 500 feet above and north of the Evans Creek road on the south slope of Sprignett Mt.

AREA:

The ground is not open to location.

HISTORY:

Previous work on the property was in the late 1920's when the prospect, according to old residents of the area, was being developed as a gold mine.

DEVELOPMENT:

The prospect is developed by a Winze 40 feet deep on the vein, which is intersected by a drift about 20 feet from the surface. Another adit, apparently a drift, is located about 40 feet below the upper drift. A crosscut 600 feet in length starts a short distance above the road having a northerly strike, but does not encounter the vein.

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GEOLOGY:

The vein occurs in an area mapped as May Creek schists of Devonian age (Wilkinson, Butte Falls Quad.) The rocks locally are highly siliceous and contain large amounts of biotite mica. The rocks appear to have been originally a granite.

The vein strikes N. 30° - 55°E and has a dip of 40° to the east. The vein as exposed in the shaft consists of a 4-foot shear zone. The first 20 feet of the vein in the shaft is largely a redish-brown gossion with nickel and copper stains. Below this, some base ore appears, although not fresh enough to be certain of sulphide minerals present. The sulphide minerals appear to be pyrrhotite, pyrite, chalcopyrite, and possibly some niccolite or millerite. Assays of oxidized material showed the ore to contain 2.15% nickel, 2.42% copper, and .05 platinum per ton and only a trace of gold and silver.

GENERAL INFORMATION:

The prospect lies on a steep mountain slope about 300 feet in elevation above Sprignett Creek and the East Evans Creek road. The prospect is about twenty miles from Gold Hill via Sams Valley over good roads and easy grades.

Informant: Elton A. Youngberg

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ECONOMICS:

The vein as exposed in the shaft shows continuity and persistence on the dip. If the ore body has any persistence on the strike, which appears quite possible, the prospect would be of economic importance.

This type of mineralization is unusual in this area. At least it apparently has not been brought to anyone's attention before.

The samples were brought to the office by Mr. Reid of Grants Pass for Mrs. Angle for identification. The staining on the oxidized ore suggested nickel for which I suggested an analysis be made along with copper, gold, and silver. It seems quite possible that the ore may contain some cobalt also. I have requested a spec analysis be made. The presence of platinum is also interesting. Apparently Mr. Hoagland discovered its presence when cupelling. If a good, fresh specimen of the sulphide ore can be obtained possibly a petrographic analysis would be valuable in determining the sulphide minerals present.

Mr. Reid or Mrs. Angle I don't believe have the finances or the know how to develop the prospect. They are also handicapped because of the ownership is O & C. They possibly can get a lease on some basis. If the deposit is of economic importance, at least they should have some protection. I have hesitated in doing any geological work on the prospect

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until the matter of leasing or ownership has been settled.

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