

LULL - JACKSON

Salt Lake City, Utah
May 17, 1943

H. G. W.

Mr. H. A. Guess, Vice-President
New York Office

MAY 19 1943

LULL BERYLLIUM PROPERTY
JACKSON CO., OREGON

Dear Mr. Guess:

I received, at Baker, Oregon, the photostat of item from the Newark, New Jersey, Evening News of April 24th with your pencilled note thereon. Similar items seem to have appeared at about the same time in all papers served by United Press and some of my friends were approached on their making a good story of it for publication in Time Magazine. The publicity was perfect.

At Grants Pass, Oregon I found that Mr. Lull is not a prospector, as we understand that term, but an 82 year old gentleman, very young and active for that age, who has operated a pseudo assay office and testing laboratory at Grants Pass for some twenty years. Locally his gold assaying is considered reliable but he was investigated and stepped on by the Government when he persistently found platinum values, presumably by some secret process, where other assayers were unable to get them.

By other secret processes he also got the notorious Grants Pass white metal that the Oregon State Assay Office at Grants Pass, states is variously melted tooth paste tubes, ferro-silicon, and what have you. Round Grants Pass they still think there is something to that white metal business. Lull was also involved in the so-called tin deposits near Burns, Oregon that the State and Federal Agencies spent upwards of \$20,000.00 exploding.

With this background for Mr. Lull, I visited him at his laboratories and wasn't surprised when I found he had no samples of his beryllium ore there and when he wouldn't even tell me the location of the property.

I then telephoned Mr. F. W. Libbey of the State Department of Geology and Mineral Industries at Portland, Oregon and then visited their assay office at Grants Pass. The enclosed letters and confidential report on the property, from those sources, sufficiently condemn the property without examination on our part.

Various information I got on Lull's method of selling claims instead of stock and his involvement with a Los Angeles chemist named Gerlach whose shady reputation and activities I wrote you about last summer are not pertinent but simply verify the facts above. One curious aftermath however was my chancing to find out that Mr. Vernon Farnam, the Strategic Minerals Co., Ltd., 238 Market St. San Francisco, whom I know very well, recently had an option on the property, extending to 1962 and that he operated thereunder for seven months. Farnam claimed to be the fourth sucker that fell for Lull's game and he was so taken in at one stage of the game that he was negotiating a contract to deliver 1,000 tons per day of 10% beryllium ore to the Aluminum Co. of America. He also stated Lull lets his victims take their own samples which he takes to his laboratory and from which, by chemical treatment and with both sleeves rolled up, he produces what represents 10%- 17% of genuine BeO in the original sample. Lull and Gerlach at one time asked \$1,000,000.00 for their

process for recovery of beryllium from some parties who flew to Grants Pass by aeroplane from New York. They promptly flew back. After finally working down to the chemicals themselves Farnam snooped some of these and says he found Lull got his BeO by dissolving it in sulphuric acid that he used, in the amounts desired, during his chemical process and that was that. Farnam found inconsequential amounts of beryllium by outside assaying and is holding his option as a club to possibly some time get his money back.

This experience has educated Farnam somewhat in beryllium and he has submitted one property in Colorado and another in Arizona, not far from Las Vegas, Nevada that contain real beryllium and that I shall investigate at earliest opportunity.

Yours very truly

JFJ:ES

cc:LKLacey

KCBrownell

HGWashburn

WHLoerpabel

J. FRED JOHNSON

the Governing Board

W.H. Strayer, Chairman, Baker
Albert Burch.....Medford
E.B. MacNaughton.....Portland

Earl K. Nixon
Director

F. W. Libbey
Mining Engineer

John Eliot Allen
Geologist

H. C. Harrison
Spectroscopist

C O P Y

STATE DEPARTMENT OF GEOLOGY
AND MINERAL INDUSTRIES

702 Woodlark Bldg.
Portland, Oregon
May 12, 1943

State Assay Laboratories

400 E. 1st St., Grants Pass

Ray C. Treasher
Field Geologist

Robert G. Bassett
Assayer

2102 Court St., Baker

Hugh K. Lancaster
Field Engineer

Leslie C. Richards
Assayer

Mr. J. Fred Johnson
c/o American Smelting and Refining Co.
McCormick Building
Salt Lake City, Utah

Dear Mr. Johnson:

Please refer to our telephone conversation of about a week ago in which you reported that you had attempted unsuccessfully to find out about the reported beryllium deposit in southern Oregon. We have just completed analyses of samples in our spectrographic laboratory and find that the material contains only a trace, specifically, from 0.001 to 0.002 per cent beryllium oxide. We are very sorry that we can't find beryllium in this deposit, but as it turned out, the location is the same as that which this Department has examined before.

Very truly yours

/s/ F. W. LIBBEY
Acting Director

C O P Y

STATE DEPARTMENT OF GEOLOGY
AND MINERAL INDUSTRIES

702 Woodlark Building
Portland, Oregon
May 5, 1943

Mr. J. Fred Johnson
Resident Manager
American Smelting and Refining Co.
McCornick Building
Salt Lake City, Utah

Dear Mr. Johnson:

Mr. Bassett explained to me about your visit inquiring about the so-called beryllium deposit. I believe that Mr. Bassett gave you about all the information there is, but I am taking the liberty of enclosing a copy of a report which will appear in our forthcoming Jackson County Mines Catalog. Ordinarily we do not release such information prior to publication, but as publication is in the near future, I thought you might find use for it. Until the bulletin is released, however, I wish you would consider this confidential information.

Mr. Bassett also mentioned that you had some information on the helvite deposits in New Mexico, about which you could give us some information. We would greatly appreciate whatever you can let us have on this subject.

If we can be of further assistance to you at any time, please feel free to call upon us.

Sincerely

/s/ Ray C. Treasher
Field Geologist