

Lester Hedgecoke
85326 McBeth Road
Eugene, Oregon 97405
May 26, 1978

Dear John & Steve,

I got your name and address from Ralph of Allegany, who carves soapstone fish, and buys soapstone from you. He says that your soapstone when fired in a kiln, turns into a much harder, and brighter colored stone.

I have been playing with the idea of stoneware dishes carved from soapstone, naturally in very limited quantities. A unique product in limited quantity should command a good price. Also, my dream for many years has been to file a mining claim on soapstone.

Now, it's not my intention to step on anyones toes, neither geographically or in business. So, I'd like to ask your help in staking a soapstone mining claim, rather than to stumble unannounced into your territory, ignorant of even your boundaries. Could you recommend any good sites; a place with a large yard around

creek and pool would be best, as I would eventually want to build a store house and live there as much time out of a year as I could.

Where can I get claim forms? and area maps? Can soapstone be claimed as a placer (rather than lode) claim? Does the claim have to be surveyed? or is a written description of the land by accurate geographical sub-section enough for filing?; for patenting?

Is your claim patented? How long does it take to patent a claim?

Could I visit your mine sometime, and witness or perhaps even photograph the mining operation?

Sincerely

Lester Hedgecock

June 11, 1978

Mr. Lester Hedgecoke
85326 McBeth Road
Eugene, Oregon 97405

Dear Mr. Hedgecoke:

By your letter I would guess that you are very enthused about Soapstone. I'll give you all the encouragement and assistance I can to get your carvings and stoneware to market but when it comes to prospecting, locating, developing, and fighting the Bureaucrats to mine Soapstone I'd advise you that it is a dam tough business.

When I started marketing in 1967 the Geology Department at the University of Oregon advised the Sculpturing Department that there was no sculpturing grade Soapstone in Oregon. I had located one small deposit at that time and proved them wrong. Since then I have spent every spare minute prospecting and developing the deposits I have found. This involved thousands and thousands of hours and miles and hundreds of miles of walking the mountains of Southern Oregon. Believe me, once you have found the stone the work really begins. Laying out roads to get permits from the government agencies is complicated. Getting the permit is a real problem, and building access roads is expensive. I fought for nearly three years with the Forest Service just to hold my mining claims. They tried their damdest to invalidate them on several grounds. Some booklets and/or individuals might lead you to believe that all you have to do is find a locatable mineral and file your mining claim on that deposit, but believe me nothing could be farther from the truth.

Any Soapstone deposit that I have found that is of satisfactory quality and quantity I have under a valid mining claim. I hold 12 twenty acre mining claims in southern Oregon and have another 2,400 acres on a minerals permit. There are undoubtedly other deposits yet to be found but the only way to find them is to go out and prospect. You will have to know exactly what you are looking for, study the Geology of the area to avoid wasting your time on non productive formations, and work like the devil if you're going to be successful in locating the mineral.

If you come across any of my holdings you'll know it as they are well marked and actively being worked.

I have only seen one area that had a year around creek near the Soapstone deposit. It was a very small glacial deposit located on a hillside at approximately the 4,000 foot elevation. The area is under deep snow all winter.

Building of living quarters on mining claims is not permitted by the mining laws of the U.S., except in very special cases, and on patented mining claims. Patenting in this day and age is almost impossible. My attorney check out the possibility of patenting our claims and advised me that the time, money, and effort it would take would be unbelievable and that it was highly unlikely we could accomplish it even at that. I believe I'll try anyway but the odds are heavily against me.

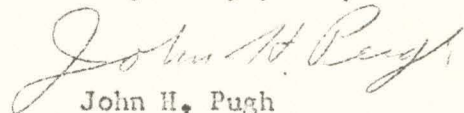
Claim forms can be purchased at any stationary store. Maps can also be purchased at stationary stores and geological maps can be purchased from the Oregon Minerals Industries or the Bureau of Mines. Either of the aforementioned or the Bureau of Land Management or the U.S. Forest Service have booklets that will answer all of your other questions regarding types of mining claims.

We discourage visits to the mining areas as insurance premiums to cover other than employees in the work areas is prohibitive.

I know I have thrown a lot of cold water on your dream of having a Soapstone mining claim but I've told you the way it is.

We have nearly a million pound in stockpile and you can purchase it from us for far less money and much less headache than trying to get in the mining business yourself.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "John H. Pugh".

John H. Pugh

COPY

STATE DEPARTMENT OF GEOLOGY AND
MINERAL INDUSTRIES

~~1023 STATE OFFICE BUILDING~~
~~PORTLAND 1, OREGON~~

January 29, 1960

Mr. Henry L. Jacobson, Sr.
4111 42nd S.W.
Seattle 16, Washington

Dear Mr. Jacobson:

The enclosed report on the chemical analysis made of a sample of your talc came today. As I suggested in the letter of December 29th, the iron is the only objectionable element present. It shows a total iron (Fe) content of 3.9%. In order to calculate this as ferric iron oxide it must be multiplied by a factor of 1.43 which gives 5.58% Fe₂O₃. The allowable Fe₂O₃ in steatite-grade talc is 1.5 percent. This means that in order to meet steatite-grade requirements about 4 percent of the iron should be removed. It is possible that a simple electromagnetic or electrostatic method may be used with some success to up-grade the pulverized product. The people in the talc-grinding business should be able to answer this problem.

Sincerely,

LR:amj
encl.

Len Ramp
Geologist

State Department of Geology and Mineral Industries

702 Woodlark Building
Portland, Oregon

December 29, 1959

Henry L. Jacobson, Sr.
4111 42nd SW
Seattle 16, Washington

Dear Mr. Jacobson:

I have spent some time going over literature on talc, mainly interested in mining and marketing. From all indications your talc prospects look good, providing enough of the material will measure up to "steatite" grade. This means that it should be a high purity talc containing no more than 1.5% calcium oxide, 1.5% ferric iron oxide, and 4% aluminum oxide. Your main concern, judging from the appearance of the talc, will be the iron content. It may be that the pyrite can be removed somehow in the milling process. If not it could easily detract from both the whiteness when ground and fired and the smoothness of the final product. These are important properties in determining its usefulness. I am having a sample of the talc analysed for iron, calcium, and aluminum oxides and will send a copy of the results as soon as it is received.

Nearly all of the talc mining operations use underground methods and a few California mines have worked ledges of steatite down to 10 feet and less in width.

I hope that your group is able to go ahead and develop the deposits and to interest a mining company in them. If I can be of any help feel free to contact me. I would be happy to revisit and further examine the area. It is possible that a continuation, or other lenses of talc may be found on the south side of the ridge so further prospecting would be advisable.

Sincerely yours,

Len Ramp
Geologist

LR:amj