

State Department of Geology and Mineral Industries

1069 State Office Building
Portland 1, Oregon

LAST CHANCE GROUP (cinnabar)

Illinois River Area

Owners: J. A. Hance, E. H. Messenger, Fred Linkhart.

Location: Sec. 15, T. 37 S., R. 9 W., on Soldier Creek. Date of location notice July 29, 1941.

Area: Three claims; Last Chance Nos. 1, 2, & 3 located end to end in a north-south direction.

History: The area was prospected many years ago in search of gold. The owner discovered the cinnabar and turned the information over to Hance. After the man's death, Hance located the claims for cinnabar and sold a 60 percent interest to Messenger and Linkhart in exchange for the promise of development work.

Development: Location cuts that penetrated the soil and into decomposed serpentine. Several test pits. These have slumped full of dirt and are full of water.

Geology: The overburden is quite heavy and rock outcrops are scarce. The trail to the property is on a granitic rock probably diorite, but this changes to a gneissic rock with the development of considerable hornblende and some biotite. This material may be a contact aureole. Serpentine covers the rest of the area.

The "cinnabar ledge" appears to be along the contact of the serpentine and the gneiss. The contact zone is several feet wide, is intensely sheared and thoroughly softened. The soil overlying the "ledge" contains cinnabar that can be seen by panning. The grade is low. It is reported that soft, decomposed serpentine contains up to 8 pounds per ton of cinnabar.

At the time of the visit, all workings were inaccessible and no information could be obtained.

Informant: RCT, 7/6/42.

State Department of Geology and Mineral Industries

702 Woodlark Building
Portland, Oregon

LAST CHANCE CINNABAR

Illinois River Area

The entire inspection was a mess. You will recall that I predicted the outcome in my letter of July 5. These things follow a rather definite pattern, and can be picked out by the small even as they approach. In the first place the owners, Hance, Messenger, & Linkhart, did not request the inspection. Sconce has a six months option. He is trying to peddle it to a batch of California Jews. He is going in the Army. So he gets all hot and bothered.

Sconce left word Thursday that I was to meet him, or "his representative" at 9 am Monday, at the Cave Junction postoffice. I was there. No guide. Finally, at 10:30 I located Mr. Hance, owner, who guided me to the property. Even before we started, he said that little could be seen. He had been left very indefinite instructions by Sconce, who incidently lives at Takilma instead of Cave Junction. I discovered this Monday morning.

Much to my surprise and amazement, I discovered that the property is cinnabar, that it is on Soldier Creek reached via Illinois River to Oak Flat, then to Briggs Creek by road, then 4 miles by trail, $\frac{1}{2}$ mile of which is through a jungle of live oak, manzanita, and poison oak brush. I was also amazed that no one has been to the property since early last fall; that there were never any excavations to bedrock; that all excavations were thoroughly and completely caved; that no samples had ever been submitted for assay. I was amazed that the Portland office had not advised me of these things as such information is a part of any legitimate RIP, I thought.

State Department of Geology and Mineral Industries

702 Woodlark Building
Portland, Oregon

LAST CHANCE CINNABAR (Continued) -2-

There were no data to obtain. Soil samples would tell nothing that panning will not show. No place could samples other than soil be obtained, as cuts and pits were slumped and full of water. Perhaps I should add a pump to my equipment.

Mr. Sconce has made a beautiful job of "pulling our leg". I feel that I have legitimate squawk as I gave up a holiday to stay at home and get official business in shape so that I could meet my State Department obligations and take care of the Portland office request. Further, the trip took 11 hours, 3 hours of which were my own private contributions. The car travelled 100 unnecessary miles, 40 of which were over tire punishing roads. The meeting place was Cave Junction rather than Selma, thus adding unnecessary mileage. Still further, I had to "sit on my thumb" for 1½ hours at Cave Junction awaiting my guide.

To get back to the "inspection", -- Hance states they have had 3 assays as follows:

Carpenter -- 0.35% Hg.

Unknown ---- 0.51% Hg.

Lull ----- 0.91% Hg.

He staked the ground and "sold" 60% to Messenger and Linkhart in return they were to develop the property. They have done no work to date. Hance states that he can pan cinnabar anywhere along his ledge, out of the soil. I recommended trenching, preferably with a dozer as the overburden is heavy, followed by a cleaning of bedrock by hand methods; that when the trenching was done, - upon receipt of favorable assays by a reliable assayer, I would re-visit the property.

State Department of Geology and Mineral Industries

702 Woodlark Building
Portland, Oregon

LAST CHANCE CINNABAR (Continued) -3-

Seonee, I am sure, wants a report from us upon which he can peddle his option. I feel that his needs should have been taken care of by a professional engineer. He'll get no report from me!
I am very unhappy!!

Ray G. Treasher
Field Geologist
7/6/42.

CONFIDENTIAL

RECORD IDENTIFICATION

RECORD NO..... M055892
RECORD TYPE..... XIN
COUNTRY/ORGANIZATION. USGS
DEPOSIT NO..... DDGMI 100-245
MAP CODE NO. OF REC..

REPORTER

NAME..... PETERSON, JOCELYN A.
DATE..... 75 08
UPDATED..... 81 02
BY..... FERNS, MARK L. (BROOKS, HOWARD C.)

NAME AND LOCATION

DEPOSIT NAME..... LAST CHANCE

MINING DISTRICT/AREA/SUBDIST. BRIGGS CREEK

COUNTRY CODE..... US
COUNTRY NAME: UNITED STATES

STATE CODE..... OR
STATE NAME: OREGON

COUNTY..... JOSEPHINE
DRAINAGE AREA..... 17100311 PACIFIC NORTHWEST
PHYSIOGRAPHIC PRDV..... 13 KLAMATH MOUNTAINS
LAND CLASSIFICATION..... 41

QUAD SCALE 1: 62500
QUAD NO OR NAME SELMA

LATITUDE 42-21-04N
LONGITUDE 123-44-24W

UTM NORTHING 4688800.
UTM EASTING 439050.
UTM ZONE NO +10

TWP..... 037S
RANGE..... 009W
SECTION.. 15
MERIDIAN. WILLAMETTE

LOCATION COMMENTS: ON SOLDIER CREEK

COMMODITY INFORMATION
COMMODITIES PRESENT..... HG

CINNABAR

COMMODITY COMMENTS:
GRADE IS LOW

EXPLORATION AND DEVELOPMENT
STATUS OF EXPLOR. OR DEV. 2
PROPERTY IS INACTIVE
YEAR OF DISCOVERY..... 1941
BY WHOM..... J. A. HANCE

DESCRIPTION OF DEPOSIT

DEPOSIT TYPES:

MINERALIZED SHEAR ZONE

FORM/SHAPE OF DEPOSIT:

SIZE/DIRECTIONAL DATA

SIZE OF DEPOSIT..... SMALL

COMMENTS(DESCRIPTION OF DEPOSIT):

SHEAR ZONE IS SEVERAL FEET WIDE; ROCKS ARE SOFTENED HYDROTHERMALLY

DESCRIPTION OF WORKINGS

SURFACE

COMMENTS(DESCRIP. OF WORKINGS):

SEVERAL PROSPECT PITS, ALL CAVED

PRODUCTION

NO PRODUCTION

GEOLOGY AND MINERALOGY

AGE OF HOST ROCKS..... JUR

HOST ROCK TYPES..... SERPENTINE AND DIORITE

IMPORTANT DRE CONTROL/LOCUS.. ALONG SHEARED CONTACT BETWEEN SERPENTINE AND DIORITE GNEISS

LOCAL GEOLOGY

SIGNIFICANT LOCAL STRUCTURES:

SERPENTINE - GNEISS CONTACT

SIGNIFICANT ALTERATION:

SERPENTINE DECOMPOSED

GEOLOGICAL PROCESSES OF CONCENTRATION OR ENRICHMENT:

HYDROTHERMAL SOLUTIONS