State Department of Geology and Mineral Industries

702 Woodlark Building
Portland, Oregon

Report by H. D. Wolfe
May 1, 1951

Galice Mining District
Josephine County

Memorandum Report

Hellgate Claims (asbestos,Au)

Owner: Mr. W. J. Hieber, Route 1 Box 890, Vancouver, Washington.

Area: 5 claims covered by both lode and placer.

Location: SE ¼, Section 10, T 35 S., R 7 W. The property is located on the North side of the Rogue River ¼ mile northwest from the Hellgate bridge. A good graveled logging road passes through the property.

General Information and Geology: The property was worked as a gold placer in the early days but has since been largely mined out. Asbestos was noted several years ago in the drainage a few hundred feet due north of the cabin. A north-south 20' cut was made along the east side of the drainage exposing several stringers and veins of asbestos. This cut has subsequently slumped badly so that present exposures are poor. The asbestos occurs in serpentine along the contact between the serpentine on the east and a fine-grained, gray metavolcanic rock (meta-dacite?) on the west. The stream drainage follows along the N 10° - 15° strike of the contact between the two.

Three main northeast trending veins of amphibole asbestos were noted along with numerous cross-stringers at nearly right angles to the main veins. The three main veins vary in width up to a maximum of possibly 6 inches, and dip to the southeast at less than 30°/. Some fairly good fibre asbestos is present, however a considerable percentage of brittle-fibre material is intermixed. The veins are exposed for possibly 30', apparently pinching out to the north. The asbestos reportedly is spottily developed at one point south along the strike between the cut and cabin. Float of a good fibre asbestos is reported to occur several hundred feet northeast along the metavolcanic-serpentine contact.

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Informant: W. J. Hieber

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Hellgate Claims

Economics and remarks: This occurrence of asbestos is too limited to be of any commercial interest, however the area appears to have some merit. A careful check of the serpentine-metavolcanic contacts here undoubtedly would disclose additional asbestos occurrences and conceivably might turn up something of commercial interest.

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HELLGATE CANYON

Hellgate Canyon is a narrow steep walled canyon about ½ mile long, where the waters of the Rogue River flow swift and deep. This scenic attraction can be enjoyed by those who drive along the Rogue River through the historic mining center of Galice in southern Oregon. Vantage points along the Merlin-Galice road, high on the north edge of the canyon provide spectacular views of the deep canyon. The feature is 14 miles by road northwest of Grants pass.

The Rogue has carved this canyon in hard, massive, gray-green rocks which, because of their color, are commonly called "greenstones." These rocks were originally products of volcanoes and consisted of layered dacitic tuffs,andesitic agglomerates, and lava flows. As the result of heat and pressure from deep burial and subsequent folding they have been altered (metamorphosed) almost beyond recognition. The greenstones are interbedded with sedimentary rocks of the Galice Formation of Late Jurassic age, and thus are about 150 million years old.

Prominent serpentine dikes have intruded the greenstones along two major northeast-trending faults named for Hellgate Canyon. East Hellgate fault crosses the river at the upper entrance to the canyon and is visible as a zone of highly sheared serpentine in the road cuts. West Hellgate

fault is less sharply defined. It crosses 1 ½ miles down the river and fans out in a broad zone of sheared serpentine near Hellgate Bridge. A smaller body of serpantine, also considerably faulted and sheared, lies midway between these two major fault zones. The serpentines withing the faults is an attractive greenish-black altered igneous rock with characteristic waxy luster on it's multiple sheared surfaces.

The main controlling factor in the shaping of the valley of the Rogue has been the hardness of the rock encountered by the river as it carved its way downward. Hellgate Canyon marks an abrupt change in the river gradient. Upstream from the canyon the Rogue flows with gentle gradient in a broad, alluviated valley which is underlain by easily eroded, in part decomposed, ~~xixx~~ diorite. Downstream the river flows in a steep canyon with numerous rapids in the more resistant rocks of the Galice, Rogue and Dothan Formations. (Photo by Oregon State highway Dept., Travel Division)

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HELL GATE MINING AND DEVELOPMENT COMPANY (placer) Galice area

Parks and Swartley (16:118) report as follows:

"The Hell Gate Mining and Development Company (dissolved January 3, 1912,) has done considerable work on a deposit of gravel on the southwest side of Rogue River near the mouth of Hog Creek at a level high above the present stream. The resultant excavations are in plain view from the County road across the river. No activity for several years."

HELL GATE PLACER Galice area

Owners: Lou Robertson and Virgil Hull.

Location: Sec. 10, T. 35 S., R. 7 W.

Equipment: One giant and pipe line from reservoir on the hill.

General: This property has a limited water supply and operates only during the rainy season. It has operated every winter since 1938.

Informant: Ray C. Treasher, 1940