

Josephine County

MAIL TRIBUNE **Extra**

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Glide man reopens Williams limestone

By MELISSA MARTIN

of the Mail Tribune

WILLIAMS — What may be the purest limestone deposit in Oregon is being extracted from an 84-year-old claim on a hillside four miles west of Williams.

The Jones Marble Deposit, originally claimed in 1904, is being mined again by Brice Campman, a 35-year-old former logger who lives in Glide.

Founders Al and Lum Jones mined the Williams marble, which is metamorphosed limestone, for monumental stone. But Campman is selling the limestone to farmers as fertilizer.

Since September, he has sold the fine grind agricultural lime to Jackson County orchardists and Bandon cranberry farmers.

"There are 200,000 tons of agricultural limestone used in Oregon and it's imported from Vancouver, British Columbia," Campman said.

Campman believes he can supply Oregon farmers with Josephine County limestone for half the price they're used to paying for Canadian limestone.

"There is an estimated 3 million tons here, maybe enough to mine 60 years," Campman said.

Limestone is a sedimentary rock made mostly of calcium carbonate. The last purity test done at the Williams quarry was in 1945 and showed the deposit to be 98.5 percent calcium carbonate, according to Len Ramp, state resident geologist in Grants Pass. But Campman said he has tested the extracted lime each week and found it to be 94 to 99 percent pure calcium carbonate.

Campman also has a stockpile of 3,500 tons of one-inch marble rock that he will soon sell to a Willamette Valley pulp plant to be used as lump lime in making pulp and paper.

And if he can perfect his extracting and crushing process, Campman hopes to sell the white limestone to paint companies as an opaque filler in paint.

"This is still an experimental venture," said Campman.

Campman has hired a Myrtle Point crew that drilled, blasted and crushed the marble at the quarry for about a month in September, he said. The limestone is hauled to a storage site about 9 miles away on Water Can Road where 6,000 tons or 360

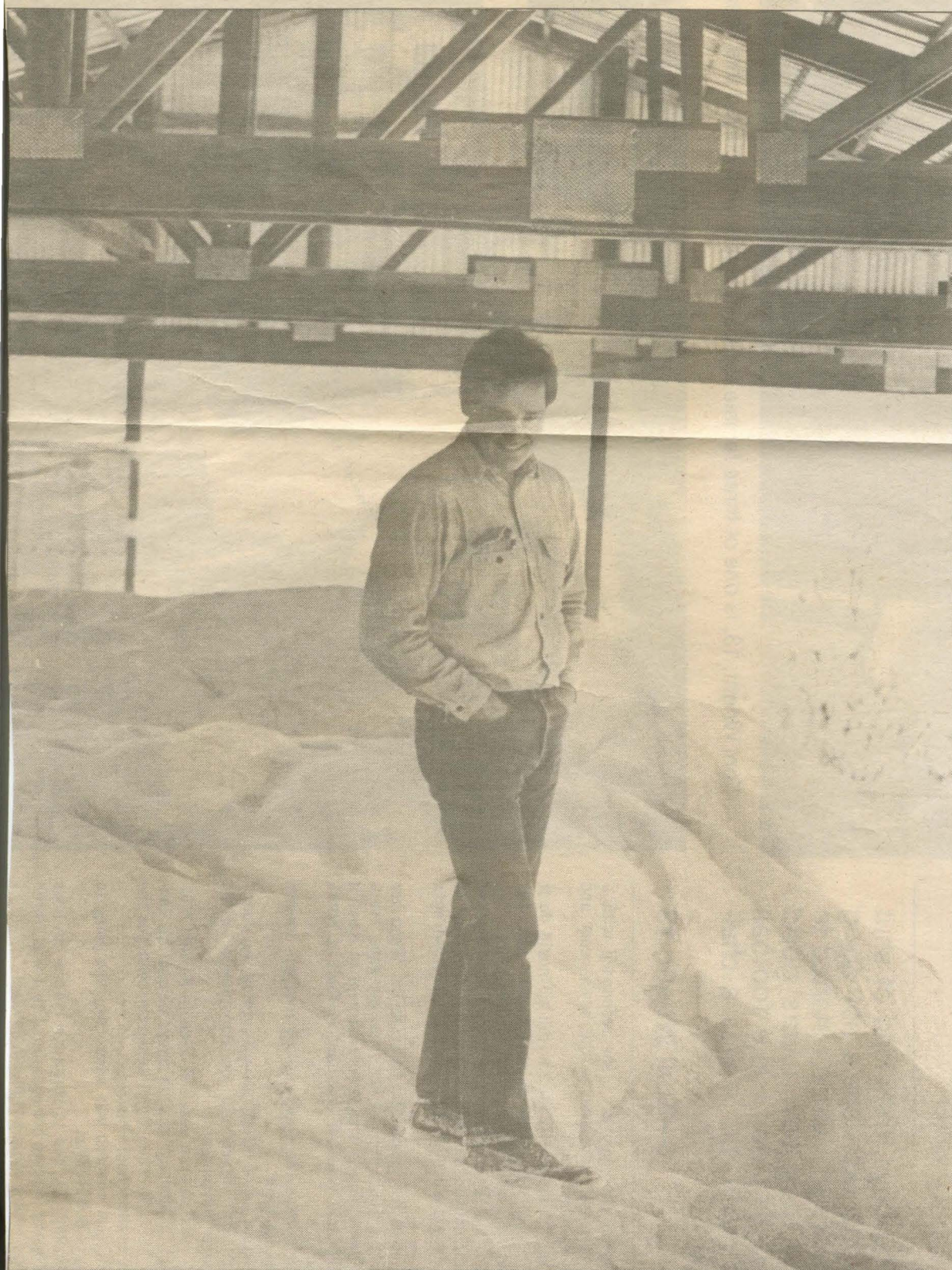


Photo by Melissa Martin

Extra

Jackson, Josephine and Siskiyou counties

Campman opens limestone mine

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distribution.

Campman isn't the first person to develop a market for lime mined from the Jones Marble quarry. About 5,000 tons were ground and shipped for agricultural lime in 1939 and 1940, Ramp said.

"It's not quite as big as you'd like. There's not a high unit value of product," Ramp said.

"It limits the number of years you could operate if you're producing a certain amount of tonnage," he said.

The mine is located on Bureau of Land Management property on Marble Gulch Road that is lined with fallen trees from BLM summer timber sales. Campman said he will apply for a patent, which, if granted, would give him ownership of the acreage.

Jerry Capps of the BLM says Campman has a good chance of getting a patent.

"They are very good, in my opinion, if he's able to sell the deposit and demonstrate that a market would create a demand," Capps said.

Campman has posted a \$2,100 bond with the state geology and mineral department for reclamation of the site, said Allen Throop, state reclamationist in Albany.

The bond amount is based on how much of the site the miner works and is reassessed every year, Throop said. If Campman moves more of the mountain, it will cost more to restore it and the bond will increase.

"Reclamation is not required on an area that was opened before 1972. I suspect the first years, he (Campman) may be cleaning up the site. The mess left by his predecessors will be gone," Throop said.

Restoring a limestone mine is more difficult than restoring a gold claim, Throop said, because more material is extracted mining a limestone mountain than dredging a creek bed.

"It isn't possible to re-shape it so it will look like nothing was ever there," Throop said.

Campman's venture in Williams is dwarfed by the state's largest limestone operation located on Interstate 84 in Durkee, Throop said.

Ashgrove Cement of Portland operates the Baker County plant that processes limestone for cement and for a filler for sugar made from cast-

Citizens challenge limes

By MELISSA MARTIN

For the Mail Tribune

Nov 17-23

WILLIAMS — A community group that was formed 10 years ago to address local land-use questions apparently won't be able to stop a Glide man from mining limestone on a federal claim in their valley.

The Williams Town Council met Nov. 7 with geologists from the Bureau of Land Management, the federal agency that controls the mining claim, a Josephine County planner and the miner who has re-opened the 84-year-old limestone quarry.

Although the council regularly submits community votes to county, state and federal agencies, the group may not have an impact on a plan to extract 20,000 tons limestone each year from an old quarry about 4 miles west of Williams.

Since September, 35-year-old Brice Campman has extracted 8,000 tons of limestone from the hillside, crushed and hauled it and is selling it as agricultural lime to

Oregon farmers. The operation is now closed for the winter.

"I wonder if the majority of the people in this community don't want this operation, can we stop it?" asked Williams resident Isabel Kunz.

"It's not discretionary," said Gerry Capps, district geologist for the Bureau of Land Management office in Medford.

"It's not something we can say, 'No, we won't issue you a permit.' The BLM can't, the forest service can't, the county can't.

"The county is not in the position to deny the permit as long as he (Campman) can meet air quality standards and water quality and noise and other possible social impacts," Capps said.

Campman has applied to the Josephine County Planning Department for a conditional use permit to allow storage of the mined limestone. A public hearing on the request is scheduled Nov. 30.

"I watch this from my yard," said resident Willar

tone mining operation

Marshall. "If it's five acres now, what's it going to look like when it's 20 or 40 acres and a white hillside surrounded by trees covered with dust? All the sudden we've got this big scar."

Campman said the mining operation has less impact than a land-use issue the Williams community has been fighting for years — federal timber sales.

"Most of those clear-cuts you see around here are 40 acres," Campman said. "We're making one scar over 20 to 30 years, not every two months."

Williams resident Lloyd Reeder was one of the handful of people who supported Campman. He said the trucks hauling limestone obeyed area speed limits and that drivers covered the loads with tarps to reduce dust.

"I don't think we're being fair," Reeder said.

Williams resident Paul Gunter said he hopes Campman's quarry will produce local jobs.

"What it's going to come down to is a little cooperation on both sides," he said.

Road and lime dust, drilling noises and truck traffic

on narrow, residential roads were the greatest concerns of the crowd that met in the Williams School gymnasium Monday.

"What was once a mining and logging valley is not a residential valley," said resident Jim Price. "I didn't come here to put up with trucks running up and down the road."

BLM geologist Mike Mottice said some of the summer truck traffic through Williams was from BLM and forest service crews hauling gravel for road repair.

JoAnne Larsen, who has lived in Williams for three years, asked Campman why he waited until now to let the seven-member, elected Williams Town Council board know of his plans.

"Why didn't you come two months ago when our beautiful little valley was disturbed by clouds and dust and dynamite and the sound of the drill from morning until night?" Larsen asked.

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County schedules hearing on mining in Williams area *11/29/88*

GRANTS PASS — A Josephine County land use official will conduct a Nov. 30 public hearing on a limestone mining operation at a quarry near Williams.

The 1 p.m. hearing will be in Room 156 of the Josephine County Courthouse. A land use hearing officer will conduct the meeting.

A miner from Glide is seeking a permit to extract and crush limestone at the 84-year-old quarry, which is located on federal land 16 miles south of Grants Pass.

The purpose of the hearing is to discuss conditions the miner must meet before the county Planning Office grants the permit, said county planner Rick Riker. Conditions include maintaining roads, restricting hours of operation and noise levels, and controlling erosion and parking.

In a recent meeting, the Williams Town Council and an audience of 50 voted to oppose the limestone mining operation. The town council submitted the non-binding opinion to the planning office.

Williams residents complained of dust, noise and truck traffic when the mine was in operation.

Brice Campman, who bought the claim last June, stores mined limestone about 9 miles from the quarry on Water Gap Road in Williams. He sells the fine grind agricultural lime to farmers and sells the one-inch limestone rock to pulp plants for pulp and paper manufacturing.

Campman's conditional use request is complicated by the fact that the quarry is a mining claim on Bureau of Land Management property. Federal mining laws allow Campman to operate at the quarry if he meets federal air quality and noise standards and other requirements.

County planner Bob Hart said Campman is used to working with federal agencies, which manage three-fourths of the land in Josephine County.

"There's no law I know of that mandates the federal government comply with local planning and zoning laws," Hart said.

Limestone miner appeals conditions of permit

GRANTS PASS — A Glide man who is mining a limestone quarry near Williams has appealed a decision by a hearings officer to limit the number of daily trucks at the operation.

A hearings officer recently approved a conditional use permit allowing Brice Campman to mine the quarry, which is one of the purest limestone deposits in Oregon. It is situated 16 miles south of Grants Pass.

The hearings officer listed several conditions, including requiring Campman to go through the review process with Josephine County planners again next year, said Rick Riker, county planner.

When Campman mined and crushed the marble to make agricultural lime last summer, Williams neighbors complained of dust, noise

and truck traffic on Kincaid Road.

Hearings officer Richard Stevens accepted public comment in a hearing Nov. 30 and last week approved the permit on the condition that Campman:

- Provide drainage, grading and erosion control for the BLM access road to the quarry.
- Obtain a noise discharge permit from the Department of Environmental Quality.
- Submit a reclamation plan to county planners before operating in 1989 and post a \$2,100 bond with the county.
- Expose no more than 10 acres of land at a time in the mining operation.
- Limit truck traffic to 10 loads per day.
- Apply for a conditional use permit again next year.

Campman appealed the last four conditions and wants to discuss county laws that restrict rock crushing activities between 6 a.m. and 10 p.m. only.

He said one of the hearings officer's conditions duplicates a state requirement that he fulfilled last August when he posted \$2,100 with the geology and mineral department for reclamation of the site.

"We only want to do what other quarries in the state are allowed to do," said Campman, who will begin DEQ noise tests when mining resumes in the spring.

"The quarry eventually has to be developed as a whole project. There are three or four different products that could come out of a quarry at different locations so we need enough

room to operate."

The other products include pulp mill lime used in paper production and monumental stone used for marble structures or sculptures.

Campman said his trucks share the Bureau of Land Management access road called Marble Gulch Road with log and gravel trucks from logging activity in Williams. The 360-acre quarry is on BLM land.

The hearings officer's conditions address concerns that the early-morning drilling and blasting at the quarry disturbs the peaceful Williams valley. Residents say they are also concerned because Kincaid Road, a favorite pedestrian route, was not built for heavy truck traffic.