

Turner Hill
gerlitz

August 4, 1949

Judge Chas. H. Combs
Lakeview, Oregon

Dear Judge Combs:

After your departure for Lakeview I spent a good half-day hiking over the hills by way of familiarizing myself with the general geologic situation. It soon became apparent that a base map showing the contours of the entire range of Turner Hills was desirable to the point of being almost essential for the making of any comprehensive report. I therefore returned to Lakeview and called on all existing Federal Agencies (Soil Conservation Service, Forest Service, A.A.A. and County Agent as well) hoping to secure an aerophotograph of the area.

The coverage of photos in the possession of the above agencies is considerable and they had some unusually fine quality pictures too, but as co-incidence had it their maps surrounded sections 24 and 25 on three sides but failed to cover the sections themselves. In Lakeview I was advised that there was a possibility that a special set of photos at the Paisley Ranger Station might cover the sections in question so I made a quick return trip to Paisley. Their maps didn't cover the area either, but they advised me that the ZX Ranch had a complete print of the old Bureau of Reclamation drainage project of the exact sort desired. Again, however, the map surrounded the Turner Hills on three sides but failed to cover them. The contours ended exactly on the east line of your claims.

Even though this map didn't cover the hills themselves except in part on the extreme north end, it did serve to delineate them in-so-much as it did show the course of the Brattain-ZX ditch which occurs directly at the base of the hills on the southern half thereof.

I made a tracing of this map - or rather of the pertinent portion of it. My idea was that with the control offered by this map I could establish a series of points along the rim of the hill by triangulation and thereby make a sketch accuracy contour map of the unmapped area. A lack of conspicuous and reliable evidence of the location of section corners of a sort that could be used for reference in triangulation existed, however, as I learned after scouting the surrounding country below the ditch. But few of what few fences there are, are line fences, according to Mr. Vaughn of the ZX ranch. Therefore, I made what notes I could readily make regarding the geologic situation and shall refer the problem of basic mapping to my head office for advisement.

My purpose in writing you this is that from what scouting I did it seems apparent that a case of mistaken identity may possibly exist in connection with the location of the fence post you showed me. On the basis of speedometer readings to both the north and south ends of the hills, and on the basis of compass bearings on the ditch, and especially because of the location of the ditch with reference to that fence post, it appears as if the post is actually situated one quarter to the south of where you indicated it on the map you gave me. If this is so, then your claims may not cover the occurrence in quite the manner you believe they do. I may very well be in error on this point myself, and it may be that the present ditch doesn't actually conform to the location as laid out by this early survey. Circumstantial evidence, however, points so strongly to a possibility of mistaken identity as to the location of this post that I deem it advisable to call the situation to your attention for whatever it may be worth. Enclosed for your reference is a tracing of the map. I have marked the location of the post as indicated on the claim diagrams that you gave me, and also the location which I suspect it might represent.

Trusting that these observations on my part will represent a truly helpful suggestion rather than a well meant, but unfounded alarm, I am,

Very truly yours,

N. S. Wagner
Geologist

NSW:mb
cc F. W. Libbey