

State Department of Geology and Mineral Industries

702 Woodlark Building
Portland, Oregon

Report by: Ray C. Treasher
Date: August 29, 1943.

Dr. A. C. Miller, Eugene, Oregon

OIL SEEP
request for examination

As requested, I called on Dr. Mrs. Alma C. Miller, Eugene, Oregon, prepared to visit the so-called oil property. (see letters in Portland office). I found that I had called on Dr. Miller in 1940 relative to refractory clay in the Eugene area. She had no memory of this visit, but thought that it was Mr. Libbey who had called on her. Dr. Miller apparently is a natureopath or whatever it is called. She is over 70, and one really has to meet her to appreciate the following report:

She was most excited and incensed at the run around which has been, and still is, being given her. She wants attention, - chemical analyses, development work, - etc., because she has things which need attention. She doesn't want someone who "just happened to be going through" to take care of her stuff. She took Dr. W. D. Smith to her oil property 20 years ago. She has a marvelous memory of the exact words of this inspection. She has (exact quotation) "three topical spots that were high lights for oil." The following is the result of a dictated statement which she insisted I take verbatim and read back to her:

"I asked Dr. Smith his opinion. Dr. Smith's answer was "Doctor, the topography of the land is good, the surface indications are good, and if we had a flowing oil well in the near vicinity, I would say that you for sure had oil on your land". And I smiled. Dr. Smith showed very evident signs of irritation and I said, seeing this, "Pardon me, Doctor, but you know we have no oil well in the State of Oregon, as yet, why not have the first one here?" Dr. Smith laughed, and said, "To be sure Doctor, there is only one thing left for you to do and that is to get a wildcatter to go down and see what you have got." And I said, "Alright, we will see what we can do," and I proceeded and got the wildcatter Olsen and there was drilling done for about 7 years but not on my place. I was ignored and the drill was put on what I knew was an impossible position and Dr. Smith sat in on a public mass meeting at the Armory and heard all the shyster foolery that went on for a call for money which that dishonest gang proceeded to get from the public. And Dr. Smith sat there and laughed and let them go on. I could get no legal help to stop them and since then I have had it from many sources that Dr. Smith declared there was no oil in Oregon."

I tried to explain that she was misquoting Dr. Smith about "no oil in Oregon" but she would have none of that. She became quite abusive toward all professors, our Department, the State, and apparently, everybody. I asked Dr. Miller if she would give me the name and address of the property owner on whose place the oil is. She refused! But definitely! She said she would take me there but she knew that we were all bought off by Standard Oil and she would take no chances on sending us to the oil, alone. So I did not go.

I called at the Eugene Chamber of Commerce to indicate what I had done and to ask for suggestions from them. They explained that

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Dr. Miller is quite a pest. She comes in there at frequent intervals all upset about something, and demanding that action be taken immediately. Just as fast as they get one thing settled, two things take its place. They said there is nothing that can be done that will keep her quiet.

~~Her~~ Her mental attitude is quite peculiar. She is convinced that we are all in league with Standard Oil and other big corporations, and that we are all sitting up nights figuring out ways to ~~gap~~ the poor public. She doesn't trust any of us. Yet in the next breath she is most concerned because we (the very people she so thoroly distrusts) will not rush out there and do all kinds of detailed and expensive work on her various findings.

I finally had to get up and leave as the conversation could, and gave indications of, going on forever. The oil locality was not visited. I'm a bad boy!

Irrespectively submitted,

Ray C. Treasher

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Can You Top This?
Ray