

Malheur Butte

February 24, 1972

Mr. Horace Arment
P.O. Box 405
Ontario, Oregon 97914

Dear Mr. Arment:

Norm Wagner of our Baker field office sent me your letter of inquiry concerning Malheur Butte north of Vale.

The Butte is indeed of volcanic origin and represents the solidified "neck" or conduit for the basaltic magma that spread over much of the country approximately 10 million years ago. Erosion during the last 10 million years has removed most of the lava flow that issued from this vent.

Volcanic vents such as Malheur Butte are relatively rare in the Snake River area. I do consider it to be an unusual feature and it is my hope that it can be preserved if possible. I am sure it has great historic as well as geologic interest to the people who live in your part of the valley.

Sincerely yours,

Raymond E. Corcoran
State Geologist

REC:jr

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RECEIVED
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STATE DEPT. OF GEOLOGY
MONTEZUMA INDIAN

Andy

Feb. 22, 1972

Mr. Horace Arment
P. O. Box 405
Ontario, Oregon 97914

Dear Horace:

Sorry, indeed, to learn that you have been on the ailing list of late and do hope that with the advent of spring (if it ever comes) that you will improve. For my part, the wife and I are heading for Mexico in a couple weeks. All the way to Yucatan where maybe we should be able to warm up.

What I am doing by way of reply to your question about Malheur Butte is to send your letter to our Director in Portland. The title is really "State Geologist" as per an official change a few years ago but I am so accustomed to the old "Director" bit which is what the title was originally that I find myself still using it. At any rate, Andy, (R.E. Corcoran) has the most firsthand knowledge of anyone in our department concerning the geologic details in the Mitchell quadrangle. You can therefore take whatever he says concerning the Butte as being tops in authoritativeness.

Take care of yourself and my regards to your better half.

Sincerely,

Norman S. Wagner
NORMAN S. WAGNER

NSW/aw

cc - R. E. Corcoran