

# State Department of Geology and Mineral Industries

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## ROCKY POINT "OIL SEEP"

A reported oil seep was visited June 27, 1944, by Baldwin, Lowry, and Mason, accompanied by Mr. T. H. Perry who reported the seep.

Black oil was found in the interstices of shattered basalt from highway level to 12 feet above and about 100 feet north of the old Rocky Point rock crusher (still standing) between Portland and Scappoose in Multnomah County (SE $\frac{1}{4}$  sec. 36, T. 3 N., R. 1 W.). The oil has been slowly dripping from the basalt which had been shattered by blasting when the road was constructed. This oil has been chemically determined to be a true petroleum or a petroleum product, but its natural emplacement seems difficult to establish. It is believed to be spilled from machinery installations or from a locomotive which ran on a siding above, or during the oiling of the highway. The oil is similar to that used in the above described operations. The oil was found by Mr. Perry coating the loose fill above bedrock which supports an unnatural emplacement.

Several outcrops of fossiliferous, weathered, sandstone were pointed out by Mr. Perry. These were supposed, by him, to have a direct bearing upon the "oil seep," but they are located about a mile up the Rocky Point road and across the creek from the spring.

A waxy plastic mud was collected from shale seams within the basalt about 100 yards south of the "seep." This appeared to contain oil but when distilled it yielded a large percentage of water and no trace of oil.

E.M.B.  
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