

State Department of Geology and Mineral Industries

1069 State Office Building
Portland 1, Oregon

"OIL SEEP" AT HERMISTON, OREGON

Umatilla County

Owner: Mrs. A. Link, North First Street, Hermiston, Oregon.

Location: North First Street, Hermiston, secs. 14 and 15, T. 4 N.,
R. 28 E., Umatilla County.

On March 15, 1957, Mrs. Link brought a jar of surface sand (P-20967) taken from her property. She claims that oil is continually seeping on the ground and she has tried to cover it up with dirt but that the oil keeps rising to the surface. The sand had a definite oil smell, somewhat like kerosene, and in making a carbon tet cut, which was allowed to clear by standing over night, the addition of a drop of distilled water formed the characteristic white cloud denoting oil. This test did not fluoresce. Later I made another carbon tet cut of higher concentration which was centrifuged and then filtered with a micropore vacuum filter. The carbon tet cut has a distinct golden oil color and fluoresces a pale yellowish-green. It is not possible to determine whether this is a refinished petroleum product or oil from a natural seep.

Date of report: March 21, 1957.

Report by: H. G. Schlicker