

State Department of Geology and Mineral Industries

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702 Woodlark Building
Portland, Oregon

STATE DEPT OF GEOLOGY
& MINERAL INDS.

Examined by N. S. Wagner
Date: April 27, 1945

NAME: Thomas Claim (copper, supposedly)

FOREWARD: The owner of this claim believed the mineralization at hand to be copper and that it reflected presence of a larger body in the immediate vicinity. His specific request was to know if his surmises were correct and if the prospect warranted further prospecting.

OWNERS: Asburry Thomas and Cecil Fine, Algin, Oregon

AREA: Deeded land corresponding in area and shape to one full quartz claim. Deed dated 20th of March 1919 and recorded in Union County.

LOCATION: T. 2 N., R. 39 E., Sec. 1. on Cabin Creek.

DEVELOPMENT: The only development work done was on the face of a cliff where a couple of shots had been put in to determine the continuity and mineralization of a fracture zone.

GEOLOGY: Basalt appears to be the only country rock in the district for many miles around. At the claim site an abundant soil mantle obscures the details, but evidently there is considerable local fracturing as several springs occur within a small area. At least one of these is a warm spring. Others may be likewise but sufficiently diluted with cold ground water to escape recognition.

Mineralization consists of pyrite on fracture faces in the basalt. No seams in excess of a 1/16 of an inch were seen although such seams were to be found developed on fractures over a rather wide area. No evidence of any other metallic mineralization was seen.

ECONOMICS: Mr. Thomas was advised that the mineralization in evidence offered little or no encouragement for further prospect development.

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1069 State Office Building
Portland 1, Oregon

Union County
Cabin Creek
T. 2 N, R 39 E, S 1.

Thomas C. ... (Supplemental Report #1)

Re-examination of this property was made May 11th in the company of Messers Jake Thomas and Ernie Wells of Elgin in response to a request of the heirs of the estate of Asburry Thomas, said request initiated by Mrs. Billie Cripps, Route 4, Box 145, Roseburg, Oregon, November 24, 1969 and re-affirmed by Jake Thomas of Elgin through Ernie Wells, April 20, 1970 (SIR's ASB 40-41).

As it is understood now, the property consists of mineral rights covering a 20 acre tract of deeded ranch land, of which mineral rights the Thomas estate owns a half interest, said record duly recorded according to Mrs. Cripps, April 16, 1919, in Volume E, Mining Deeds, page 232, La Grande, Oregon. The owner of the other half interest was originally Cecil Fine.

With Mr. Jake Thomas as guide on the present examination we visited what is reportedly the site of Asburry Thomas's original discovery and the only place on the property where prospecting work was ever done. This consisted of a cut about five feet wide by three feet deep into the base of a natural cliff of basalt located at creek level on the south bank of Cabin Creek. A pit, now filled with silt and gravel from past floods, was dug also to a depth of four or five feet at a location several tens of yards distant on the opposite side of the creek. Access was by hiking a half to three quarters of a mile down a logging road built in the mid 1950's but now washed out in various places. All this work dates from 1919.

Mr. Jake Thomas insists that the workings described above were never in any respect accessible by vehicular travel prior to the time the logging road was constructed in the 1950's; however, my recollection of the original (1945) examination is that the exposures shown me at that time were alongside a drivable road, adjacent, in part, to a cultivated field such as those which exist on the plateau surface above the Cabin Creek canyon. Moreover, there were at least three separate but low bedrock exposures bordering this field, each of which exhibited pyrite seams in fractures. I met Asburry Thomas somewhere on the plateau and we drove together in separate cars to the prospect, he and an associate staying on after I drove away.

Concerning the possible location of such an alternative site as that just described, Mr. Jake Thomas is at a total loss to explain its whereabouts. At any rate, the mineralization present in the Cabin Creek cut

consisted of nicely formed millimeter-sized pyrite crystals in tight seams which varied irregularly from 1/16 to locally 1/4 inches thick in Columbia River type basalt and as the cementing substance in a vertical fracture from four to eight inches wide otherwise filled with angular fragments of broken rock. And excepting for the cemented breccia this is the same type of mineralization as that observed on the occasion of the '45 examination and described in the report relating thereto, with no quartz or other sulphide minerals in evidence.

Like his father before him, Jake Thomas nevertheless states that chalcopyrite had been encountered on the property and that the family once had (now lost) assay certificates confirming this point. Moreover, he insists that the assay samples originated from the now filled pit located on the north side of Cabin Creek opposite the cut in the cliff. Under the circumstances he was advised that the most logical move the family could make to confirm the facts one way or the other would be to re-open the pit for re-examination and re-sampling purposes. This is in fact an unavoidably essential move since the presently observable evidence of mineralization in the cut is in itself devoid of interest from a prospecting standpoint and an extremely unlikely setting for the occurrence of copper mineralization from a geological point of view. Disclosure of evidence that bedrock of pre-Tertiary age had been encountered in the pit would constitute the only reason to account for any copper or other base-metal mineralization at this location; hence even though the chances of finding any appear very remote, clearing the pit for direct confirmation constitutes the most obviously logical way of resolving the family's current uncertainties and dilemma concerning mineralogic value.

N. S. WAGNER
May 19, 1970