

State Department of Geology and Mineral Industries FW

702 Woodlark Building
Portland, Oregon

Schmitt Mineral Rights

Wheeler County

Owner: H. H. Schmitt, Prineville, Oregon

Area and Location: These mineral rights cover a tract of 24,000 acres much of which is situated in the southern half of T 11 S; Range 21 E.

General: The mineral resource for which these rights were reserved is limestone. According to Schmitt and Judge Bowman, both of whom traced the occurrence, this limestone constitutes the backbone of a ridge continuously exposed for a distance of over $3\frac{1}{2}$ miles. Southern exposure of the limestone is on about the southwest corner of section 31. From this point it extends north, northeast, to and across the Mitchell-Prineville highway at a point just west of the Mitchell-Fossil road. The limestone parallels the Mitchell-Fossil road (on the west side thereof) and extends on north-northeast to Meyers Canyon. The occurrence with was unestablished because of its obvious magnitude. The foregoing tracing was made on the basis of testing the outcrop at close intervals with hydrochloric acid.

According to the writer, bona-fide limestone is to be seen beginning at Meyers Canyon and extending for a distance of about a quarter of a mile to the south or southwest. This limestone is obviously highly impure. It occurs in widely separated small pods. The largest seen probably did not exceed 15 tons. Most involved but a few hundred pounds. Evidence as to the size of these pods, and to the fact that they were embedded in a sandy and schistose host formation, was common as soil and detrital covering was everywhere thin and often lacking entirely.

At least some of the material identified as limestone by Schmitt and Bowman was sandstone and conglomerate covered with a limey encrustation. Specimens shown the writer fizzed nicely on their weathered surface, but reacted nil on fresh breaks as was duly demonstrated to Schmitt. Furthermore, a highly concentrated acid was used by Schmitt and Bowman as nearly as can be ascertained and the technique employed consisted of pouring a half ounce or so on outcrops tested. While the whole Schmitt-Bowman outcrop was not traversed by the writer, Schmitt readily grasp the true picture of the state of affairs; is satisfied that the occurrence traced by himself and Bowman is not limestone; and is very appreciative of this examination by the department.

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It might be added that Schmitt had several samples analysed. One spectographic analysis by the John Herman Laboratory, Los Angeles, October 1, 1948, showed silicon and aluminum to be main constituents with calcium and sodium each 10 percent and iron next at 1 percent to 10 percent. Another Herman spectographic analysis showed silicon and calcium as the main constituents with aluminum 10 percent and sodium next at 1 percent to 10 percent. All other assays were for gold and silver and were nil.

Examination and report by: N.S.Wagner, Nov. 4, 1948
This examination was made on the basis of a request submitted to the Portland office by Judge Bowman and H. H. Schmitt.
Informant: Mr. Schmitt who accompanied the writer in the field.
Reference: Geology of North Central Oregon, E. T. Hodge.

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