State Department of Geology and Mineral Industries

702 Woodlark Building
Portland, Oregon

Reconnaissance of the Sherritt farm
and northern part of the Sheridan quadrangle.
February 6, 7, 1947

Location:

The Sherritt farm occupies parts of sections 19, 30, 31, and 32, T. 5 S., R. 6 W. The residence is approximately 1 mile east and 1 mile north of Willamina. The road leaves the highway where the main highway crosses the railroad track a short distance east of the plywood mill. That part of the Sheridan quadrangle that lies north of the Yamhill flood plain was covered in reconnaissance as shown on the accompanying map.

Topography:

The maximum relief is approximately 2000 feet. Stony Mountain is the highest part of the quadrangle. The low hills north of the Yamhill valley rise rather abruptly to 600 feet although lower terraces may be seen. From the hilltops at 600 feet the ridges gain altitude gradually as on traverses northward and a little westward to an altitude of more than 2000 feet.

Geology:

The predominant rock is basalt. It is generally weathered and often mixed with brick-red soil. However, in the stream valleys, where uncovered by relatively recent erosion, it is exposed as flows and basaltic breccia. In many outcrops, it resembles the breccia along the Siletz River. Some of the steeper slopes are in basalt, notably the hillside south of East Mill on Willamina Creek.

Shale and sand beds, in some places quite well bedded, are exposed along the creeks. Most of the wide spots in the stream valleys are carved in sediments. One gets the impression that the basalt dips gently south

and eastward corresponding somewhat with the surface of the ground. This impression is gained at the Willamina clay quarry. However, some of the observed dips and strikes are much too steep to fit this concept. Mr. Sherritt stated that a well at his house penetrated 80 feet of sediments and then went 40 feet in basalt.

This reconnaissance is admittedly rapid and very incomplete. All the streams were very high (it being in February) but many outcrops are present in the numerous creeks which would show lithology and perhaps some more structural data.

Conclusion:

The conclusion that is warranted at this time is that the area is underlain by a series of interbedded flows and sediments much as P. D. Snavely found in the Nestucca Bay area. This series may be a northern continuation of the volcanic mass in the Nestucca Bay area. This series may be a northern continuation of the volcanic mass in the Valsetz quadrangle. The impression is gained that it is higher in the geologic section because the dips are northward along the south side of the Yamhill valley. The age of the basalt-sedimentary series awaits fossil determinations.

Report by: Ewart M. Baldwin

February 13, 1947