

World's Outstanding Corundum Deposit Reported Near Bozeman

What promises to be the world's outstanding deposit of corundum, the hardest known mineral next to diamond and the only important deposit in this nation, is now being developed 17 miles southwest of Bozeman, in Gallatin county, according to J. Reed Lane, deputy director for metals and minerals, war production board.

Construction work on access roads to the deposit, known as the Fuller corundum mine, installation of power line and erection of a mill is expected to be completed within 60 days. Actual production and shipment of the critical ore containing high quality corundum is scheduled for late October.

Development of the long known but neglected Montana deposit will contribute greatly to this nation's corundum needs, now supplied entirely by importations from South Africa and other sources, Lane said. The U. S. bureau of mines is now diamond drilling the deposit. Distribution of the output will be directed for the duration by the war production board.

Corundum is a vital war mineral with abrasive qualities necessary in the manufacture of precision instruments, the grinding of lenses and other essential war production.

The unusually abundant Montana deposit was first discovered about 1900 and first worked in 1903 by a group which included Leverett S. Ropes, now of Helena, Mont., at the time an aspiring young mining engineer, a graduate of the Michigan School of Mines. The mine was worked for six months and then closed because of inadequate financing. Its original developers became discouraged and eventually the mine was abandoned.

After the outbreak of war, Ropes, now 76 and still vigorous, learned the nation needed many vital and critically short minerals, including corundum, for war production. He remembered the deserted corundum deposit in which he had worked 40 years earlier and got a lease on the property. At first he failed in persistent efforts to interest various companies in the deposit, but finally his reports came to the attention of the mining division of the war production board.

Lane assigned W. E. Greenough of Salt Lake City, prominent western mining engineer now on the war production board staff, to investigate. As a result of Greenough's investigation report the war production board asked members of the corundum industry to take immediate steps to develop the property and give this country its only important domestic supply of the vital mineral.

During the last two months the property has been purchased by Louis M. Fuller of Westfield, Mass., president of the American Abrasive Co., who described the Montana deposit as being of exceptionally good quality. The property will be operated by the Industrial Minerals Corp., now being chartered in the state of Montana.

Oil Men Praised For Travel Curtailment

WASHINGTON—Col. J. M. Johnson, director of the Office of Defense Transportation, this week acclaimed the widespread consideration of the petroleum industry to cancel or postpone industry conventions and major meetings in deference to troop-laden railroad trains and delivery of war products as "a tangible contribution to the war effort."

The ODT director assured William R. Boyd, Jr., PIWC chairman, that the plan of the petroleum industry's national war agency "will serve as an example to all other convention-planning groups."

Chairman Boyd announced that 108 oil industry trade associations of national and statewide scope have been asked to accord serious and sympathetic consideration to the appeal of the Office of Defense Transportation that all conventions planned during the remaining months of 1944 be cancelled in the interest of wartime transportation.

Two little boys, the sons of a Mormon, on going to school for the first time, were asked for the dates of their birth and both gave exactly the same date.

"Then you must be twins," said the teacher.

"Only on father's side," said one.

Gage Dome

CARTER-NORTHERN ORDANCE MORRIS NO. 1—(DISCOVERY WELL)

C SW ¼ SW ¼ 15-9N-26E
Pumped 25 bbls. on initial test; at 6071 swabbed 15 gals. oil 4 gals. water hourly. T. D., 6100. P. B. to 6020. Acidized 3,000 gals. Swabbed 200 bbls. oil, 40 bbls. water after acid. Flowed by heads. P. B. 5988. Running cutter on stuck tubing.

NORTHERN ORDANCE-DARR NO. 1—
C SE NE 14-9N-26E
Spudded 11-20-43; flowed 358 bbls. first 24 hours from Amsden, topped 6087. Flowed 165 bbls. daily through ¼-inch choke.

NORTHERN-ORD.-L. T. MORRIS B-1
C SW NW 13-9N-26E
Spudded 2-19-44; Amsden topped, 6091. T. D., 6200. P. B. 6150. Testing. Acidized, 3,000 gals. Swabbed oil and water. Standing.

NOR. ORD.-L. T. MORRIS B-2
C NW SE 13-9N-26E
Spudded 4-13-44; cementing, 6141. Top Amsden, 6133. D. S. T. recovered 1100 feet of oil in 1½ hours. Acidizing and testing. Swabbing mostly water. Standing.

NOR. ORD-OVEREND & QUINNELL NO. 1—
C NW NW 22-9N-26E
Top Amsden, 6008. T. D., 6025. Filled 3,000 feet of oil in 12 hours. Flowed 2 heads. Has 5300 feet of fluid in hole, mostly water. Attempting shut off water. Standing.

NORTHERN-ORD.-L. T. MORRIS A-2
C SW NE 15-9N-26E
Spudded 4-1-44; top Amsden, 5893. T. D., 5950. Acidized 1000 gals. Flowed 248 bbls. first 2 hours through ¼-inch choke. Flowed 183 bbls. next 3 hours through 3/16-inch choke. Shut-in pressure, 750 pounds. Flowing 23 bbls. hr.

NOR. ORD.-I. B. STALEY 1-30-G
C SW NW 30-9N-27E
Location.

NOR. ORD.-DARR NO. 2—
C SE SE 14-9N-26E
Pipe set, 6077. Top Amsden, 6072. Swabbed water only. P. B. to 5850. Testing. Making 9 bbls. water and oil colors. Rotary moved off.

NOR. ORD.-DARR NO. 3
C SW NE 14-9N-26E
Spudded 5-22-44. T. D., 6031. Top Amsden, 6028. Flowed 471 bbls. oil, 24 hrs. Well went dead. Installing pump.

NOR. ORD.-L. T. MORRIS NO. 2
C NE SE 15-9N-26E
Location.

NOR. ORD.-L. T. MORRIS A. NO. 1
C SE NE 15-9N-26E
Spudded 5-27-44; drilling, 5798.

NOR. ORD.-CARL HOLD NO. 1—
C SW NW 14-9-26E
Location.

NOR. ORD.-CARL HOLD NO. 2—
C SE NW 14-9N-26E
Location.

Michigan Gas Drilling Regulation Modified

Natural gas production operations in Michigan may be conducted on 100-acre units without filing for prior approval, Deputy Petroleum Administrator Ralph K. Davies has announced.

Previously, Michigan operators were required to file application for exception to PAO-11 before inaugurating any natural gas production operation on a drilling unit of less than 640 acres.

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Four New Instructors Are Named On State School of Mines Staff

Dr. Stephen W. Nile, former assistant professor of physics at Reed College, Portland, Oregon, has accepted an appointment as assistant professor of physics and acting head of the department of Montana School of Mines, replacing Dr. Daniel Q. Posin, who resigned recently.

Dr. Nile was born in England and received his education in the United States. He received his B. A. degree in physics and mathematics in 1927 from Reed College in Portland, and his Ph. D. in 1931 from New York university.

From 1927 to 1932 he was an in-

structor in physics and mathematics at New York university. He was an instructor in physics and assistant professor in physics at Hamilton college, Clinton, New York, for 10 years. In 1941 he spent a year as instructor in physics at Princeton university, Princeton, New Jersey. During the next two years he served as assistant professor of physics at the South Dakota School of Mines, Rapid City, South Dakota, and as assistant professor of physics at Reed college.

Three other additions to the Montana School of Mines faculty are George G. Harmon of Rapid City, South Dakota, Clarence L. Church of Myrtle Point, Oregon, and Cal R. Engelbart of Pullman, Washington.

Harmon has been appointed instructor in electrical and mechanical engineering. He was born in Kirtland, Ohio, attended Morning-side college at Sioux City, Iowa, and received his B. S. degree in electrical engineering from Iowa State college, Ames, Iowa. For the past three years he has been an instructor in electrical engineering at the South Dakota School of Mines and Technology, Rapid City, South Dakota.

Church has been appointed instructor in physics. He was born at South Whitley, Indiana, attended University of Washington, and received his A. B. degree from Willamette university, Salem, Oregon, and his A. M. degree from University of Southern California. For 15 years he was instructor in physics, mathematics and chemistry at the Myrtle Point, Oregon, high school, and during 1943-44 was instructor in physics at Oregon State college, Corvallis, Oregon.

Engelbart was born in Reardan, Washington, and received his B. A. degree in mathematics from Washington State college, Pullman, Washington. He also attended the University of California as Los Angeles. During the past few years, Engelbart has been a physics laboratory instructor at Washington State college and also taught physics in the Army Air Corps program there.

Bonanza Ore Found in Old Colorado Mine

CRIPPLE CREEK, Colo.—The most important news in this famous gold mining district, released since discovery of the golden vug in the Cresson mine that produced \$1,800,000, is the latest news that bonanza ore has been struck at great depth in the Ajax mine of the Golden Cycle Corp. in ground just recently drained by the newly completed Carlton tunnel to a depth of 3300 feet.

The Golden Cycle Corp. of Colorado Springs, largest gold mining and milling company in Colorado, has just shipped a car of ore from its Ajax mine on Battle mountain that ran 7.7 ounces of gold to the ton—best values from Cripple Creek in several years. Merrill E. Shoup, president of Golden Cycle, said the gold content settled at the rate of \$269.

The gold came from an extension of the discovery made two years ago, where the Bobtail vein, one of the most famous ore bearing veins cutting through Battle mountain, was found in the Ajax mine. The new strike was made in territory where no ore was expected. The vein has been productive in the Portland mine, the UGM property that has produced \$100,000,000 and which adjoins the Ajax.

Kerlyn Will Maintain Roundup Headquarters

ROUNDUP—Although Gage dome operations have dwindled to one drilling well, the Kerlyn Oil Co., concern which contracted to drill most of the wells in the field, will continue to maintain headquarters here. The company is now drilling wells near Gustave, S. D., in the Wind River district in Wyoming, and in Yellowstone county.

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