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ITEM 30

Butterfield Trail Chapter
Daughters of the American RevolutionREGENT
Mrs. Esther Ruth Smith
Box 655
Deming, New Mexico

October 5, 1961

Ms. David LeCompt Evans
1304 3715, Wichita, Kansas

Dear Ms. Evans,
When I was at French Hill, Gargant,
California last August, Mrs. Germaine
very kindly gave me your address
as an engineer who had been looking
into the nickel possibilities on
French Hill. Since I am trying to get a
patent on my property which has chrome
on it, I am interested in hearing
whatever you might have to say about
the nickel possibilities in that chrome
area which you undoubtedly saw
along the road in the mining operation
that had been made to remove the
chrome on French Hill as you were
enroute to the Germaines. I do hope that
you recall this area on French Hill
which is my mining property.

I thank you for whatever you can tell
me about French Hill minerals.

Sincerely,

(Mrs) Ernest Ruth Smith

October 12, 1962

Mrs. Esther Ruth Smith,
P.O. Box 655,
Deming, New Mexico.

Dear Mrs. Smith:

Your letter of September 16 and enclosed literature followed me to Wichita, and I write to thank you for your thoughtfulness. The material is a fine contribution to my files and will help in the future; and I urge that when you clean out your files in California that you keep me in mind, for I would very much like to have the material.

The Riddle paper is one that I have never had; despite the fact that I worked on Riddle during the Freeport tenure, and was interested in the nickel silicates when Climax had the claims way back in 1939. From Riddle it was my job to find more of the same, if possible, and I finally ended up some forty miles to the south where I ran onto the Eight Dollar Mtn., possibility, on the south bank of the Illinois River; hidden in the forest about 1500 feet above present drainage, no one had ever staked the lat-erite, and I spent the summer of 1942, locating some 21 claims, doing the location work, and having the usual dreams. Freeport finally dropped them; then in 1952 when Hanna went into the Riddle picture (today's 'Whipping Boy' for ~~Ham~~ the Missourian Symington in the case of Republica n Humphrey I returned to Eight Dollar Mtn., and restaked the entire block for Climax, and once again did location work. Climax dropped them finally without doing any work, and after that the usual promoters got into the picture, built roads, gilded much dirt, and I suppose made some money at the expense of others; I re-visited the area two summer's ago, saw what they had uncovered and am pleased that we did not proceed; at the surface it offered possibilities, but at depth it did not have the enrichment of Nickel Mountain at Riddle.

On Monday, next, I go to the hospital for some cataract surgery, will be there a week, and then return home to sit quietly, while nature takes over and gives me back some eye sight. It will be a relief to see the world once again, clearly, and not through the fog that has been with me since the spring of the year. Whether we proceed with the other eye after that depends on results and whether there is a lot of work to be done. Otherwise I will probably wait for awhile.

Your problems with our National Bureaucracy is typical and I sympathize with you. Because of my interest in Majuba Tin, I have lost bureaucratic friends and have had one frustrating experience after another. I don't like them and thank providence that, except for one eight month period of effort with the Board of Economic Warfare, I have not had to go for government work. I could not conform, I am sure, and would be miserable. Your attorneys Williams and Gilmore have all of the earmarks of excellent men, and you are fortunate to have their advice. True, to be able to do nothing after the timber damage to your property is hard to take, but to go into a fight with two strikes against you, would be senseless.

OUR recent Nevada efforts at Majuba Hill were about 50% correct; the 300 feet of crosscutting did establish the true structural nature of the deposit, we proved that the most obvious structure was a reverse fault with 400 feet of vertical movement, and about 120 feet of lateral displacement; ~~but we~~ and we traced the trend of the mineralized structure across the fault from the tin area, in an arc-like course to an area of copper with minor tin bi-values; we also found, that the good tin values stopped at the fault on the hanging wall side, and that from there mineralization was dominantly copper with only small amounts of tin; in short, with 400 feet of movement, the material on the hanging wall side represents the mineral picture at greater depth, a case apparently of mineral vertical zoning, which, can be explored at greater depth from a tunnel 500 feet below our recent work; but we finished our budget and the group is not inclined to go further.

Since returning to Wichita, I have been working on the future and hope to really push it after I get away from the doctor. Have feelers out on the west coast, to

(1) continue Nevada tin investigations; (2) to look for other dormant possibilities, especially in the field of low grade coppers, and to (3) keep prodding for gold and silver in Nevada.

and from the standpoint of California:

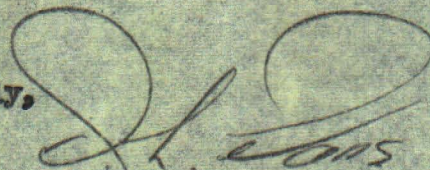
(4) to continue with re-evaluations of the Mother Lode Country and the possibilities still left in Drift placers; (5) to put a lot of time into placer studies on the Klamath drainage and to (6) proceed with the ideas I have had on the exploration and development of chromite districts, aided by geophysical tools.

What I have proposed is an eighteen month investigation period, followed by a similar or longer period of the more costly exploration phase. So far no reaction, but I do believe that it would pay off.

Once again, thank you so much for the material and may you have success in the final patenting of your claims.

My mother remains in the best of shape in California, and continues to amaze son and friends with her vitality as she approaches her 93rd birthday. Your visit to her of last Spring remains appreciated; it was so very good of you.

Sincerely,



David LeCount Evans.

October 20, 1961

Mrs. Esther Ruth Smith,
Box 855,
Denning,
New Mexico.

Dear Mrs. Smith:

I am happy that Mrs. Germain gave you my name and am delighted to have this opportunity to answer your letter of October 5th.

I do remember your property on French Hill, but regret that, as far as nickel is concerned, I can add little to its possibilities. I do remember a cut, above your chrome workings, on the old road, in which some green discoloration of the mineralization suggested nickel 'bloom'; the chances are that such, does exist, for the association of minor amounts of nickel with other mineralization in the Coast Ranges and northern Coast Ranges is not uncommon. I have even found some nickel silicates in areas of cinnabar mineralization.

The nickel possibilities of the Del Norte County area are limited to the so called 'laterite' deposits, thicknesses of ~~the~~ red soil, such as one finds on Rattlesnake and Little Rattlesnake, Pine Flat, and other mesas, extending south out of the Eight Dollar Mountain area of Josephine County, Oregon. Red soils, even those in your area, will carry nickel up to perhaps, 0.25% nickel, but such values are without commercial possibilities and should be forgotten. Even the better shows in the Del Norte area do not, apparently, exceed 0.5%. Your property, therefore, remains a chrome producer and I would not worry about the nickel potential.

I have not been in Denning for some time. A number of years ago I spent about ten days examining the Florida manganese deposit and its neighbors; as long as Manganese was receiving some support the properties were attractive. I understand that there was considerable disagreement between interested parties, after I saw the properties, which is too bad.

If there is any possibility of studying the details on your chrome mine, rest assured of my interest. I was impressed with the material found on the dump, as well as the immense amount of activity in years past, and am curious about what might be left. There is backing in the Mid-west for mining possibilities of this type, if one can be convinced of remaining reserves and match them against the cost of reopening and mining.

Yours very truly,


David LeCount Evans.



Butterfield Trail Chapter
Daughters of the American Revolution

REGENT
Mrs. Esther Ruth Smith
Box 655
Deming, New Mexico

October 28, 1961

Mr. David Le Count Evans
3645 Oneida Street
Wichita 8, Kansas

Dear Mr. Evans,

Thank you for your interesting letter in regard to my mining claims on French Hill. I have always wondered about the nickel possibilities there. I am enclosing a map of my claims in which you might be interested as it tells the exploration that has been done, and of which you probably only saw a part.

I would like very much to lease my place as my lease with Marvin Wood, a young electrician of Crescent City, expired last fall. I was greatly disappointed in Mr. Wood who had assured me that if he found chrome in any large amount he had unlimited backing to go ahead with it. He and his partner did find quite a large deposit near the road-near the tailings pile you mentioned in your letter- but instead of pushing the chrome development until 1958, he became side-tracked in pursuing the gold. As you probably know my claims are on a contact between the serpentine belt carrying the chrome and an iron pyrite dyke carrying the gold. Opinions vary as to the source of the rough placer gold found at the spring below the house.

Mr. Smith and I with our two daughters went to French Hill to live in April, 1961 and always enjoyed living there. For two years we had a lease on the Terwiliger Placer mine where the Germaines now live, before we took up the chrome claims, and purchased the adjoining Blue Gravel claims from Mrs. McBride. For a hobby I collected all the historical lore I could find, and have quite a collection of the lost mine tales of Del Norte County. We had our place leased at various times, and when I came down here to accept a position as ass't librarian in July, 1956, I was very hopeful that Mr. Wood would carry on the mining successfully. Instead all mining equipment, tools, unfinished building and plumbing (Mr. Smith had not finished the plumbing when he was killed in a highway accident) in fact everything that could be removed vanished into thin air, along with the promises of Mr. Wood and his partner to finish the plumbing and put a new roof on the house. When I was in Gasquet last summer I made arrangements to purchase cedar shingles from Mr. Germain and a friend of theirs was to put on the roof which should be finished by this time. As my daughter said when we visited our place last summer-if it would have done any good I would have cried. The neglect that occurred is what usually happens when any place is vacant, but it did seem to us that it was a bit worse than usual.

*Thank you again for your interest.
Sincerely,
Esther Ruth Smith*

January 7, 1962

Mrs. Esther Ruth Smith,
P.O. Box 855,
Denning, New Mexico.

Dear Mrs. Smith:

I feel very badly that I have not answered your letter of October 28 and ask for your understanding. Arriving in Port-au-Prince, Haiti on October 28, I stayed in that country until mid November and have been pretty much on the go or sick since my return. Your letter has been on my desk, therefore, for two months and now with the start of a new year it is, at long last, to be answered.

The opportunity to have a look at your property map is appreciated. Unfortunately, after the brief, few hours of reconnaissance, my impressions are not clear enough to be significant. All I came away with was the impression that the French Flat area had, in its day, produced good chromite, and that, locally, there had been good gold placer. Detailed impressions and an opinion would have required several days of 'looking'. Since, at the time, there appeared to be some business in progress in connection with the leasing of the remaining placers, I felt that then was not the time to be getting in the way.

I would like to assist in your plans but am not too sure what to suggest or propose. One result of our July-August western Safari was to arrange a lease and option on properties at Majuba Hill, Pershing County, Nevada, and within a month or two we will be diamond drilling an interesting tin-copper-silver possibility.

For these initial purposes of Nevada exploration Kansas City Exploration Inc. has been incorporated in the State of Nevada. It is a limited group consisting of a few Kansas City and Wichita investors. The secondary purpose will be the search for other properties in Nevada and California while we are active in the Lovelock-Winnemucca District.

Can you add information to your property map that can convince the writer that the chromite possibilities are not limited to the few, usual pockets or 'pods', costly to find and, assuring only the chance of breaking even, if found? And, do you have any specific figures on the amount of gold produced, from what area, and the position and amount of similar placers which may remain?

You mention your hobby, the collecting of all historical lore as well as 'lost mine' tales. This is an approach in which I firmly believe and am convinced that if matched with regional geological thinking and observations it could be used to advantage.

My approach to the Del Norte County area is no secret. I have not been thinking in terms of gold being associated with the weathering and disintegration of an iron pyrite dyke, but cannot dogmatically deny this possibility. For several years I have leaned towards the regional possibilities of auriferous placers being related to old terraces which can be traced through the county. These would represent the position and efforts of streams of an earlier period, before the elevation of the coastal block, and the subsequent entrenchment of streams to their present data and channels.

In short, detailed analyses of topographic maps indicate the continuity of these terraces and if gold placers exist at the French Hill elevation why not consider and look for gravel possibilities at the same approximate elevation where 'flats' or remnants of 'flats' are indicated in the same physiographic province.

Perhaps the above thinking will provide you with some food for thought when reviewing your list of lost producing possibilities.

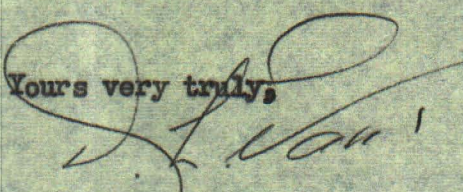
It is now that time of the year when field work is impractical. But we will be on the Majuba program for about five months, once we get started, and I would like to keep in touch with and arrange for a return to the Gasquet district in the spring, with the intent of mapping in detail this area of mutual interest.

To assure you, the writer is a Stanford graduate (this of course may not appeal to you) who has been a geologist for Anaconda Copper, Chief geologist for Climax Molybdenum, Field Geologist for Freeport Sulphur Company, Chief geologist for a tin company in Bolivia, geologist and geophysicist for the Ohio Oil Company, and a consulting geologist on mining and oil since 1951.

You had a very attractive home at French Flat in a beautiful area. Your unhappiness of August is, therefore, understood, as are your feelings over the outcome from the lease, given in good faith, when you left for Deming.

With best regards and, again, with apologies for being so slow with this letter, I am,

Yours very truly,


David LeCount Evans.



Butterfield Trail Chapter
Daughters of the American Revolution

REGENT
Mrs. Esther Ruth Smith
Box 555
Deming, New Mexico

January 11, 1962

Mr. David Le Count Evans
Wichita 8, Kansas

Dear Mr. Evans,

Thank you for your very interesting letter in regard to the geology on French Hill. I am sure that you are correct about an earlier period showing there before the elevation of the coastal ranges. I was never quite sure whether French Hill was in the Klamath mountains or the Siskiyou range. I believe that there are many signs apparent of that earlier period. However, I am no geologist but did do a great deal of reading along that line when I was writing my Del Norte County History. One of the most interesting books was one by Thomas Condon entitled "The Two Islands and What came of them." It was published by J. K. Gill Co. in Portland, Oregon in 1902. Dr. Condon was professor of Geology at the University of Oregon where he was always referred to as Oregon's grand old man of science. He spent his lifetime on the study of geology of the northwest. The two islands to which he referred were called Siskiyou and Shoshone which he claimed was the first land to emerge out of the ancient Pacific Ocean. A map was given of the areas which as I recall included Northern California and Southern Oregon as Siskiyou Island, and that part ^{where} Washington, Oregon and Idaho meet, as Shoshone Island. If you have not read the book you would enjoy it, for it would have more significance for you. As it was I was fascinated by it for it represented his lifetime of experiences in collecting and comparing specimens from those two different areas and proving his contentions etc.

In my estimation you could not have a better recommendation than a degree from Stanford for I have friends living at Palo Alto and often visit the University library whenever time permits. By any chance are you old enough to have had the late Volney Finch for an instructor in engineering at Stanford? His father was one of the pioneers to Del Norte County-hence my knowledge of the family. I also knew of Dr. Trueblood who used to be in charge of that beautiful chapel at Stanford. Did you know him? He is one of my favorite authors.

I do have a great amount of mining data about the old French Hill Placers as in 1940 we leased the property where the Germaines are now living. Mr. Smith and his associates worked the property for several years. I have all the figures and papers stored at my daughters home in Blue Lake, California where I always spend my vacation months. As I recall our investment was \$5,000 with about \$500 return in placer gold. It was not a volume production by any means which the two engineers that we had assured us was necessary for a profitable return.

I am sure that you are familiar with the civil war that has been going on for years between the mining department and the forestry. A recent letter from the forestry department in San Francisco reports that they will send an engineer to see me soon, but thus far no one has arrived. I feel that the timber on my claims is legally mine- sometimes I think they do also- but it remains to be seen just what they intend to do. The sale from the timber would be more than ample to develop the chrome which is what should be done. With my patent pending some decision should be reached soon. *Shall I keep you informed? Sincerely, Esther Smith*



Butterfield Trail Chapter
Daughters of the American Revolution

REGENT
Mrs. Esther Ruth Smith
Box 455
Deming, New Mexico

January 14, 1962

P. S.

In regard to the chrome on French Hill, Mr. Smith worked at the Tyson Chrome Mine during its greatest development in World War II. During that time over half a million dollars worth of chrome was sold-records probably show more. We watched that mine develop from its small deposits to the large body of ore which was a beautiful sight. Judging from those developments as well as Carlson's Chrome Mine on Patrick's Creek and Brown's Mine on High Divide in Del Norte County, those small deposits or pods as you call them are usually found first along with the chrome float before the larger body is located. In other words the float and small deposits are the best indicators in the world that a large body of ore exists nearby. As yet that main body of ore on my claims has not been found. It is probably quite deep as were the other chrome mines I have mentioned. However, so much testing has been done with tons of chrome float and the smaller deposits found that it seems to me it should not be too difficult for someone to locate the large body of ore. Of course this would not be at all profitable unless the price of chrome became stabilized again.

When Mr. Smith was living, he and one of his friends became interested in testing the swamp across from the house for its placer gold. They learned that placer gold was held in the grass roots and blue clay which carried gravel and black sand. That varied in thickness, but usually by digging down about a foot one was into water, and could do your panning right there. This water feeds the spring at the house where we panned out quite a bit of rough placer gold which had evidently not traveled far. These small rough pieces were entirely different from the gold that we mined at the Helm Placer two miles away. The black sands of French Hill carry small particles of platinum but no large pieces of platinum have ever been found although I have two tales of old prospectors who said they found two good-sized pieces of that metal on French Hill.

Could you tell me if titanium is ever found in chrome areas? When I came to Deming five years ago, I had an opportunity to visit the ore display at the Ferry Building in San Francisco. I saw a piece of titanium which looked to be identical with our chrome float-surely someone must have made an error, but ever since seeing that specimen I have wanted to do some more checking along that line. Since coming here to be with my daughter and her family, I have been so busy with my library and historical work-not to mention my grandchildren- that I have not had time to let my interest stray to geology which has always fascinated me.

I trust that you are keeping a journal of your experiences in geology and that when you retire will write a book about them. Your journeys to other countries sounds most interesting, but it seems to me that something should be done to develop our mines at home. Why don't you lease my property, help with the assessment work this summer, and assist me in securing my patent which would assure us of an immediate income from the timber. If your group would be interested, I would be most cooperative.

Esther Ruth Smith

February 21, 1962

Miss Beryl Jones,
3000 East 3rd Street,
Denver, Colorado.

Dear Beryl:

Your reference to the possible interest of Century and the application of geophysical practices to mining problems, has had me bothered for the last three weeks. At the time, I thought of our recent attempts to find another Tri-State through gravity in the southeast corner of Kansas, a succesful failure, if I ever saw one; nevertheless, it was a legitimate try and I would try it again; concurrently with that thought I also thought of the spectacular results from airborne magnetometer, the finding of the new Missouri iron districts at Pea Ridge and Bourbon and the disclosure of a new lead belt, just as big or bigger than the old Bonne Terre district, at Viburnum, Bess and Bixby and other places on the west side of the St. Francis Mountains, Missouri.

Such, I am sure is well known to you and the company so I am adding no fuel to the fire. However, occasional correspondence with parties in northern California interested in chromite, ~~are the~~ is the basis for the following thinking. Del Norte County, east of Crescent City has had some very spectacular occurrences of chromite, and more should be found with prodding. But uncontrolled prodding or drilling is expensive and is there any possibility of taking advantage of the great specific gravity of chromite, through closely spaced gravity stations, to make such a venture attractive.

Chromite has a specific gravity of ≈ 4.60 and occurs as large lenses or 'pods' in ultra basic rocks, namely pyroxentites and peridotites with specific gravity of about 3.24. Such a contrast suggests great possibilities. I am thinking in terms of very closely spaced stations, followed by drilling, with water well equipment, on anomalies. Only a few of the pods or lenses reach the surface. Those that don't are worth going after. There is one property on French Hill near Crescent City, close to some old, very excellent production, that needs some sort of approach such as this. Is it a perfectly assinine approach or do you think it has a chance? Have others tried it? As often as I get 'Geophysics' I read it about as much as other technical magazines.

Believe me it was good seeing you and nice to know that you have developed such a liking for Colorado. However, I prefer the deserts of Nevada.

Best regards,

Dave.

April 7, 1962

Mrs. Esther Ruth Smith,
Box 655,
Deming, New Mexico.

Dear Mrs. Smith:

Your interesting letter of January 11 has remained unanswered, due to the fact that I have had very little to contribute; nevertheless, please rest assured that I remain quite interested in Chromite, placer gold, and other possibilities in southwestern Oregon and Northwestern California.

The pursuit of chromite presents two choices, either the true and tried method of interpreting surface traces and seeking deeper sources through pitting and drilling throughout a property or trying out, possibly, some new approach.

Whether geophysics has anything to offer or the chemical analysis of soils is a question, but I hope in the next few weeks to discuss these approaches and others with contacts in Denver and see if they hold up. I am particularly interested in the possibility of using the gravimeter with very closely spaced stations. Any of the above must be taken as wishful thinking, but maybe there is some way to pin point those areas on a property where the work can be best concentrated.

In the meantime, I should be out in Nevada within the next two weeks, and if the work is started by that time, the Lovelock-Winnemucca area will see much of me, into June. There will be occasional trips into California, especially to Palo Alto to see my Mother, now 92. If you have in your files any reconnaissance maps, showing chrome observations on your claims, over the years, I would be very much interested. If not, then someday when in the area, I would like to go over it again from the Tyson mine up to your property. How have your attempts to patent the claims worked out?

Re: Titanium, ores occur as rutile (titanium oxide) Ilmenite (Titaniferous iron ore) and Titanite (calcium titanium silicate); uncommon with chromite, both occur only in regions of very dark colored (basic) igneous rocks, originally being a part of the molten mass and forming at the tail end of intrusion through segregation; however I have never seen the two together, and I can find no reference to such an association in those standard references I have at hand. However, on display and under glass, I can picture the two looking very much alike; as for any anticipation of having titanium, it would be nothing to look forward to; it is my understanding that Canada has tremendous reserves of titanium ores; metallurgical treatment is still only in its infancy.

I have said very little, which is very clear in rereading the above paragraphs; I do intend to keep after my geophysical friends, and it is planned to review the details of the entire west coast chrome picture when I get to Reno and can reread the many bulletins, now out of print, but, I am sure, on file at the Mackay School of Mines. As any ideas develop I will certainly keep in touch with you.

The name Volney Finch 'rings a bell', but I took no engineering before leaving Stanford with the Class of 1927; he was probably there at the time. I, too, have admired Dr. Elton Trueblood; it is good that I have, for my wife was Mary Catherine Trueblood, apparently a distant cousin, and she was doing graduate work in mineralogy at Stanford, about the time Dr. Trueblood was there. I did know Dr. Gardner very well; such is not to my credit, I am sure, since my father, too, was an Episcopalian rector, first at Grace Church in San Francisco at the time of the earthquake and then at All Saints in Palo Alto.

I do hope that we can keep in touch and perhaps, before the summer is out, see some more of Del Norte County. I have great hopes for our Nevada work and trust that it gets me out to the west again permanently.

Yours very truly,

David LeCount Evans.

Box 655
Deming, N. M.
April 18, 1962

Mr. David Le Count Evans
Consulting Geologist
P. O. Box 3715
Wichita 8, Kansas

Dear Mr. Evans,

Thanks for your letter which set me straight about titanium, for I had always wondered about the possibility of having some of it on my French Hill property.

The Forestry had written me sometime ago that they would send an engineer to see me, but thus far he has not arrived. Since my vacation is scheduled for May 29th to July 5th, I expect to stop at their office in San Francisco sometime during the first week in June. I have cousins in Berkeley and friends at Palo Alto and San Francisco with never enough time to see all of them as I am always in a hurry to reach my younger daughter, Mrs. John Tomini at Blue Lake, Humboldt County, California. I usually take the Greyhound as there is no train to that part of the country.

The California Bureau of Mines would probably have some publications on the chrome in Del Norte County. I had several of them at one time and always used to take their Mining Journal which I gave to the young man to whom I leased my place.

How fortunate you are to have a wife who is related to Dr. Trueblood. You must have some wonderful children.! Will you take your family with you to Nevada? I surely do hope that all goes well there and that you are able to locate there permanently if that is what you desire.

In the meanwhile if you should happen to be going through Deming, I would be interested in talking to you. If the library is not open, you can reach me on the phone-546-3244- My name is not listed in the phone book as I live with my daughter and her family, Mrs. Henry Lee King. We live several miles out of town. I am a grandmother of seven-3 here and 4 in Blue Lake- who keep me young in spite of my 63 years.

If you are interested in my patent proceedings, I will report after my vacation this summer when I should know a great deal more than I do now. If you should know of anyone who would like to lease my place do let me know.

My best wishes for your mining venture.

Sincerely,

(Mrs. Esther Ruth Smith)

Box 656
Denning, N.M.
May 18, 1962

Mr. David LeGuent Evans
Wichita 8, Kansas

Dear Mr. Evans,

If you happen to be visiting your mother any time during the first week of June, do call my friend, Mrs Evelyn Baker, 1450 Waverley, Palo Alto. She is a real estate woman and a very good one I may add. Her home phone is Davenport 2-4288 and her office number is Davenport 5-3221. I expect to be visiting her during the first week of June. I would really want to enjoy talking to you about French Hill. I really would like to lease my mining claims to your group - If you are at all interested I could show them to you during the time I am at my daughter's, Mrs John Tomini in Blue Lake, California. That is in Humboldt Co. I will probably be in Blue Lake until June 26th where mail may reach me in 40% of my daughter.

Hope all goes well in Nevada -

With best wishes,

Ernest Park Smith

P.O.Box 41, Inlay
Nevada.

July 12, 1962.

Mrs. Esther Ruth Smith,
Box 655,
Denning,
New Mexico.

Dear Mrs. Smith:

I owe you an apology for several reasons, first for not thanking you for your call, with Mrs. Baker, on my mother in Palo Alto, in early June, and, too, for not having acknowledged your letter of late May.

I am very sorry that I was not in the west at the time of your vacation, for I know of what concern your property is to you, and how you would like to discuss it. I do believe that I would qualify as a good 'discusser', but right now I would only be a failure as a producer. Chromite and your area do interest me, but until I get an answer on this Majuba Hill project, other opportunities cannot be followed up.

Groups of investors are in a class by themselves; success breeds success, and if this present exploration is productive, other ideas would be seriously considered; if it fails, these people will probably stay with their Kansas oil programs which they will consider something safer, although with that I cannot agree.

It is my hope and intention to stay in the west if it is at all possible; there are other outlets and I hope that it will work out; but I am not discounting this present work, seriously believe that it has better than a 50-50 chance for success, and expect results. The fact that there has never been any commercial tin mined, except for a few isolated tons, in our country, and the fact that this is a program to develop a Bolivian-type tin deposit, speaks for itself and explains why some of my friends think of this as Evans Folly.

I had hopes of getting into California frequently; our first week of active exploration, after a two week period of moving onto the property and cleaning up the mine, indicate that each day has its surprises and that daily crosscutting and drifting will require constant supervision; I will be here, therefore, constantly, and make California a port of call, after we know where we stand here. However, that is no hardship for I deeply love Nevada and its desert mountains.

I do hope to keep in touch with you, and hope that as matters develop we can give, in time, some serious thought to chromite.

Sincerely,

David LeCount Evans.

Box 655
Deming, New Mexico
July 12, 1962

Mr. David LeCount Evans
P. O. Box 41,
Imlay, Nevada

Dear Mr. Evans,

It was a great pleasure to meet your mother in Palo Alto. She is certainly a wonderful woman and simply amazing for her age. As one grandmother to another I was interested in hearing about your lovely family. My friend, Evelyn Baker has always enjoyed your mother and will call on her whenever she can do so.

I was delighted to hear that you are working for tin, and do hope you hit a vast deposit. Someway I am sure that you will make it, for the majority of our western mines have only been scratched. What you are doing is far more worthwhile than oil. Our western mines need you! To have the knowledge that you have of geology and to be a minister's son who must have taught you the power of prayer, is to have a combination that can't be beaten. I am all for following that Inner Guidance which even surpasses knowledge. In the peace and quietness of those mountains in Nevada it will be given to you.

I had a good vacation with my daughter and her family in Blue Lake, but had a shock when we visited French Hill for a logging operation was on in full progress on four of my oldest mining claims. It seems that the forestry had made a deal with a lumberman in Grants Pass, Oregon to purchase a number of sections on French Hill with the result that at least 200,000 feet of timber had already been removed before my arrival. When we returned to Blue Lake, I phoned the forestry in Eureka who admitted that it was a mistake and have now stopped operations on my claims as I had not signed a waiver to my surface rights. Mr. Lewie Williams, a lawyer and old friend of Seattle, Washington has been advising me about securing a patent. He asked me to see Mr. Charles L. Gilmore, another lawyer of Sacramento, California whom Mr. Williams felt knew far more about the patent business than he. I had an appointment for June 6th and for three hours listened to case histories of everything the forestry does to prevent mining people from securing patents. It would seem as if our government wants to get rid of the mining industry in this country! Both of these lawyers are planning to attend the Mining Conference to be held in San Francisco September 24-27th. If by any chance you also plan to attend, do introduce yourself to Mr. Williams as he was the lawyer for a group of Seattle men who had our place on French Hill leased during World War II. He would enjoy talking to you since you too have seen my claims on French Hill. I suppose that lawyers have to learn to think negatively so that they can be prepared for whatever might arise, but Mr. Gilmore certainly has the world beaten there. Of course his experiences in dealing with the forestry and the Department of the Interior have evidently been so vast that he speaks with authority. A recent letter from him advises me that the forestry does what has been done to me 'with great abandon'. He says that I'll have to have a great deal more to show than the fact that chrome was mined on my property in 1957 to prove that I have a mine. Since there is no market for chrome, he would like to know more about the gold possibilities which is something I cannot tell him.

One can always pan gold at the spring below the house which is small, but rough placer gold. It apparently comes from the blue clay swamp across the road where one may also get a few colors. This gold was quite different than the placer gold which may be obtained from the Helm property on French Hill which is heavier gold and quite smooth. You mentioned the possibility of an old blue channel crossing the Hill which seems quite likely, as I have heard that mentioned before. The geology of that area is often referred to as the complex geology of the Klamath mountains. From the maps that I have seen I have never been able to determine whether French Hill was located in the Klamath Mountains or in the Siskiyou. Perhaps there is an overlapping, but when we first went to California we were in the Siskiyou National Forest and the main office was at Grants Pass, Oregon. This has been changed in recent years to include French Hill and ^{Northern} California forests in the Six Rivers National Forest with head quarters at Eureka, California.

I have liked what you have said about the geology of that area- also your approach to geophysics which I beleive has a great deal to offer in the mining field. Mr. Williams is interested in that field, and at the time his group had our claims leased used his own geophysical instrument in locating chrome. The ninety foot shaft looked very promising, but had to be abandoned when the two men quarrelled who were working it for Mr. Williams. However, the deposit sold by Marvin Woods was exactly where Mr. Williams had located one of the chrome pods. As I recall there were supposed to be four bodies of chrome in that immediate area where the chrome was mined. Anyway you would enjoy meeting Mr. Williams and I hope that you can do so. If you don't mind I will send one of your letters to him as an introduction-- just in case you do go to the mining conference.

In the meanwhile I do hope that you will uncover a vast tin deposit at your mine .

Sincerely,

Edward Rust Smith

Box 655
Deming, N. M.
September 15, 1962

Mr. David ^Le Count Evans
P. O. Box 41
Imlay, Nevada

Dear Mr. Evans,

I am enclosing some pamphlets for you that I do not want any more. I have just finished cleaning out my file here, and when I do the same at my other daughter's in Blue Lake, I will send other maps and data for which you might have some use-if not simply destroy them.

Recent letters from Mr. Williams of Seattle and Mr. Gilmore of Sacramento, California give me no encouragement in regard to securing a patent to my property at this time. It seems that there must be "current production" at the time my case would go to court. The fact that I have receipts for the chrome that was sold and numerous witnesses who saw the chrome in place when it was uncovered seems to make no difference. This is what Mr. Gilmore wrote- "If you should attempt to sue the Forest Service for timber trespass, or the person or company that bought from the Forest Service the timber from your claims, that outfit would immediately institute a contest against you in the Land Office and by the time you could get to trial with your timber trespass case the Department of the Interior would have set aside your claims as being non-mineral in character. It is as simple as that... I have been through identical proceedings, so I know whereof I speak." I believe that I wrote you that the U. S. Forestry sold the timber on my claims to a lumber man from Grants Pass, Oregon who removed at least two hundred thousand feet of lumber before I reached French Hill last June. When I returned to Blue Lake, I called the Supervisor of the Six Rivers National Forestry in Eureka, and reported what was happening on French Hill-that I had not signed a waiver and that my claims with one exception had been taken up long before 1955. I had to return to Deming before hearing about six weeks later that at least the Eureka supervisor had stopped logging operations on my property. That was something at least! I have no intentions of suing either the Forestry Service or the poor lumberman who probably was making very little money on the deal anyway, but when I can go ahead and secure a patent, the forestry should certainly let me do so.

If you read the California Mining Journal you will have read about numerous cases similar to mine. Mr. Williams sent me a case history of his to read and for three hours Mr. Gilmore related his experiences with the Forestry and the Department of the Interior. Just what is the U. S. Bureau of Mines doing to controvert the Department of the Interior? Apparently nothing. The mining in this country certainly needs a helping hand!

I do hope that your mining is progressing as you wish it. My very best wishes toward that end.

Sincerely,

Ernest R. Smith