

2-18-64

"FIRSTS" 1957-1964
DIVISION OF MINES AND GEOLOGY

During the period from 1957 to 1964 the Division of Mines and Geology of the Department of Conservation has improved and expanded its public service activities in many ways and has initiated several new services, as follows:

(1) Aeromagnetic geophysical survey of a 1,000-square-mile area in Ferry and Okanogan Counties in 1959. This modern mineral exploration technique, which has been used extensively in other countries and to a limited extent in other states of the United States, was used in a search for iron, copper, and other ores in Washington for the first time. The survey showed that the method could be used successfully in northeastern Washington and indicated that a much larger area there should be covered by an airborne magnetic survey.

(2) An expert micropaleontologist was added to our staff in 1960, and this has made it possible for us to give greatly improved service to the individuals and companies that are actively searching for oil and gas in the State. Examination of the microscopic-size fossils in the rocks penetrated in wells drilled for oil makes possible the rock correlations that are required as guidance for selecting new oil test drilling locations. Outside of the staffs of some of the oil companies there are probably fewer than half a dozen experts (including the one on our staff) who are specialists on Northwest micropaleontology.

(3) Cooperative geologic mapping with the U.S. Geological Survey was initiated in 1959. By making use of expert geologists from the Federal Geological Survey staff and 50 percent Federal matching funds, we have been able to complete much more excellent work than we could have accomplished without this help. Under this cooperative geologic mapping program, we have completed and published the results of a compilation of the coal reserves of Washington, geologic mapping of two areas in King County, and reconnaissance mapping of a large area in the southern Cascade Mountains. The latter mapping was used in compiling the State Geologic Map, which was published in 1961. An increased appropriation for the purpose has allowed us to start three new cooperative geologic mapping projects at the beginning of this biennium—one each in Okanogan, Pacific, and Stevens Counties.

(4) Library service. The Division is required by law to maintain a library on mining, metallurgy, mineral resources, and geology, but it was not until 1958 that we were first able to hire a professional librarian, who also is a trained geologist. The Division exchanges its publications for those of all other state geological surveys, all Federal agencies dealing with geology and mineral resources, and with other private, state, and foreign agencies and professional associations. The volume of incoming library material has increased greatly in recent years. Our librarian has systematized this collection and has made our library much more usable for our own staff, other State agencies, and the public.

(5) Offshore oil and gas exploration was initiated on a large scale off the coast of Washington in 1961, and this has required that new rules and regulations be adopted by the Oil and Gas Conservation Committee. In 1963 for the first time the Division furnished personnel to serve as State Marine Drilling Observer aboard oil company ships that were used in taking bottom samples and shallow cores in the search for oil off the coast of Washington.

(6) Sets of Washington rocks and minerals for schools were prepared and distributed for the first time in 1963. In addition to the increasing numbers of requests from school children throughout the United States for specimens of Washington rocks and minerals, we have recently had more and more such requests from school teachers in this State who require teaching aids for the rapidly expanding earth science courses in the State's gradeschools and highschools. Upon request from any interested Washington school teacher we will send (at a price of \$1.00) a set of 24 carefully selected specimens of Washington minerals, rocks, and fossils, with an accompanying pamphlet describing the specimens and the Washington industries based on the mineral resources represented by these specimens.

LIBRARY
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
GEOLOGY AND EARTH RESOURCES DIVISION
OLYMPIA, WASHINGTON 98504