

Discovery of Columbium Ore May Bring New Spurt for Metal

By ELMER WALZER
UPI Financial Editor

New York—UPI—During the Korean crisis, the metal columbium (or niobium) was being used to stabilize stainless steel but the process had to be discontinued because of shortages of columbium.



Elmer Walzer, metal expert, says the metal may get a new lease of life now that quantities of ore have been discovered in Canada.

Gourd is president of St. Lawrence River Mines, Ltd., which combines several mining companies with columbium, iron and gold operations.

St. Lawrence River Mines, Oka Uranium and Metals, Ltd., and the Gourd-Riverin group have discovered a concentration process for columbium. According to Gourd, this process will enable the production of a concentrate of columbium oxide.

Versatile Element
Columbium is described as a steel-gray metallic element. It is malleable and ductile and extremely resistant to corrosion and heat. It was first identified in 1801 but was not used in industry until 1920.

Until recently columbium came almost exclusively from placer deposits located mainly in Africa and Brazil.

The U.S. stockpiling program in 1954 gave impetus to search for the metal elsewhere and several deposits were found. A year before

a very large deposit was found about 35 miles from Montreal. The mineral is found in another mineral—pyrochlore—which is associated with intrusive alkaline rocks. Along with columbium are found appreciable amounts of rare earths and the element thorium.

The three principal groups which have cut across sizeable deposits of columbium in the Montreal area are Quebec Columbium Ltd., jointly owned by Kennecott Copper and Molybdenum Corp.; Columbium Mining Products, and the Gourd-Riverin interests.

According to Gourd, costs of extraction are relatively low, the transportation problems have been surmounted, and quantities are large.

This situation, he notes, shows the great potential value of the deposits which would be in a position to guarantee a continuous supply of the metal especially in wartime.

Gourd points out that pure columbium is one of the most workable of all refractory metals.

Good Alloy
It is used mostly in connection with other metals. As ferrocolumbium (iron and columbium), it is used as an additive to stainless steel to prevent chromium depletion. It prevents corrosion resistance near welds.

Since it can withstand high temperatures—it melts at 2,500 centigrade—columbium is said to be particularly useful in atomic energy operations. It has what is described as a moderately low nuclear cross section and this, plus its heat resistance, makes it seem attractive for use close to nuclear fuels in atomic reactors.

It has many uses including applications in jet engines. Now that quantities are assured in nearby territory, Gourd believes this strong metal with its varied uses will come back into use in stainless steel, nuclear energy applications, and in non-ferrous superalloys. It is compatible as an alloying element with uranium.



MEETING IN CASTEL GANDOLFO, Pope Pius XII and Francis Cardinal Spellman, New York, discuss state of church in United States. Cardinal Spellman led pilgrimage of 607 Americans to mass audience with Pope, October 3, at summer residence outside Rome. He is among prominent churchmen mentioned as possible successors to Pope.

Three Survive Crash in Alaska

Anchorage, Alaska—UPI—Three Western Electric Co. radio technicians lost for 12 days after their airplane had crashed in the Alaskan wilderness about 40 miles northeast of Unalakleet were reported in satisfactory condition today in a local hospital.

The men were identified as Jefferson Parham, 36, El Paso, Tex., George Brummett, 36, Knoxville, Tenn., and Joe Tomaczak, 25, Detroit.

They were rescued late Monday by a 71st Air Rescue Squadron helicopter from Elmendorf Air Force Base here. The men were found wandering in wild, mountainous country attempting to find their way back to civilization.

The wreckage of the plane was first sighted last Sunday by a private pilot.

A note had been found in the wreckage of the plane saying: "To whom it may concern. Two men and I left this morning looking for civilization and Unalakleet, headed west." The note was signed by Parham, pilot of the plane and was dated last Sunday.

Stripper Sues Surgeon for Scar

Paris—UPI—Stripper Sophia Silver, 31, is suing a plastic surgeon for \$23,800 on the ground that he left such a big scar when he removed a roll of fat off her waist that she must now wear an abdominal veil.

The veil, her lawyer Rene Filrot told the court, has reduced her appeal considerably to the hardhearted night club owners of Pigalle—the scar can be seen by customers in the back row.

Miss Silver, whose real name is Mrs. Mia Garbaccio, said she was operated on by Dr. J. Boivin in June, 1956 and was left with a scar running six inches downward from the navel.

Boivin's lawyer said Miss Silver had been fully employed since the operation and that it could not have spoiled her looks.

The First Civil Chamber of the Seine was expected to grind out a judgment in two weeks.

Oswego, N.Y., is the eastern-most American port on the Great Lakes.

Folsom Favors Truman Candidacy

New Orleans—UPI—Alabama's Gov. James E. Folsom said Tuesday night that former President Truman has a "mighty good chance" of becoming president again.

Folsom, who brought his five year old daughter Thelma here for an eye operation, said he was personally in favor of Truman as 1960 Democratic presidential candidate, and he added "lots of folks in Alabama besides me are for old Harry."

Truman has said on several occasions, however, he will not be a candidate for his party's presidential nomination.

Folsom, who says Alabama has no integration problems and no closed schools, predicted Republicans are going to be "taken to the cleaners" in the November general elections.

Russia Orders CBS to Cease

Moscow—UPI—The Soviet government has ordered the Columbia Broadcasting System to close its Moscow bureau immediately in retaliation for a number of alleged anti-Soviet plays and broadcasts the network has carried.

The press department of the Foreign ministry today summoned Paul Niven, CBS correspondent here, and read to him this statement:

"Of late, CBS has presented a number of anti-Soviet broadcasts and TV programs, notably a play 'Plot To Kill Stalin.' In view of this, the Soviet government considers it unnecessary for the presence in Moscow of CBS."

Alexander Popov, acting chief of the press department told Niven that the Soviet

authorities have nothing against him personally. He was given two weeks time to prepare for his departure, but will not be allowed to broadcast in the meantime.

Popov said the Soviet Union would not permit a replacement for Niven nor have anybody represent CBS on a part-time stringer basis.

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Cigarette Company Ads Ruled False

Washington—UPI—Liggett & Myers Tobacco Co. was under a Federal Trade Commission order today to stop making certain claims for Chesterfield cigarettes.

The FTC ordered the tobacco company Tuesday to stop advertising that Chesterfields soothe or relax the nerves and are less irritating than other cigarettes.

The FTC adopted an opinion by Commissioner Robert T. Secrest in issuing the or-

der. He found that the company's claim that there would be "no adverse effect" to the throat, nose or other organs from Chesterfields was false.

TAKES NO CHANCES
Antioch, Ill.—UPI—The Rev. Raymond E. Hood, rector of St. Ignatius church, hates "being out of touch."

He installed a two-way radio in his car for quick relay of telephone calls from parishoners.

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