



## Coleraine Re-visited The Coleraine Lab

Another interesting and a successful venture of the Coleraine lab had a number of the researchers shuttling between Paris and French Equatorial Africa inland some 350 miles from the ocean. A manganese deposit was the attraction and once again ore samples from a remote and exotic

far away place were sent to Coleraine for analysis. The ore was easily mined and easily concentrated and use looked feasible. USS entered into a partnership with the French company, Comilog headquartered in Paris. In the early 1950's, the ore body was studied intensively and a pilot

plant was built on site and then an experimental mine began operation with Coleraine participation. A many years' supply of high grade manganese concentrate was expected.

Studies then began on how to proceed with large-scale mining and processing and how to transport the results to ocean shipping points. Political change often entered into the picture of various Coleraine involvements

and that happened again. French Equatorial Africa disintegrated into independent countries in 1960, and all agreements as to transportation and shipping arrangements ended. Even as the Coleraine people participated in designing concentrator layout and equipment selection new port facilities and rail arrangements were made with the new countries of Gabon and the People's Republic of Congo.

The Comilog partnership worked well and provided "a very good source of revenue through the years." The participation of the Coleraine Lab in the project was noted by their personnel as "very rewarding."

Closer to home, manganese deposits on the Cuyuna Range were tested in Coleraine and for the mining of the ore, research provided a quite complex flow sheet, more so than most any the Oliver had made use of in mining efforts. Judgment was reached that the Africa ore was cheap and extensive and the Cuyuna prospects were dropped as non-competitive.

