

The Sun. Nov. 16/89

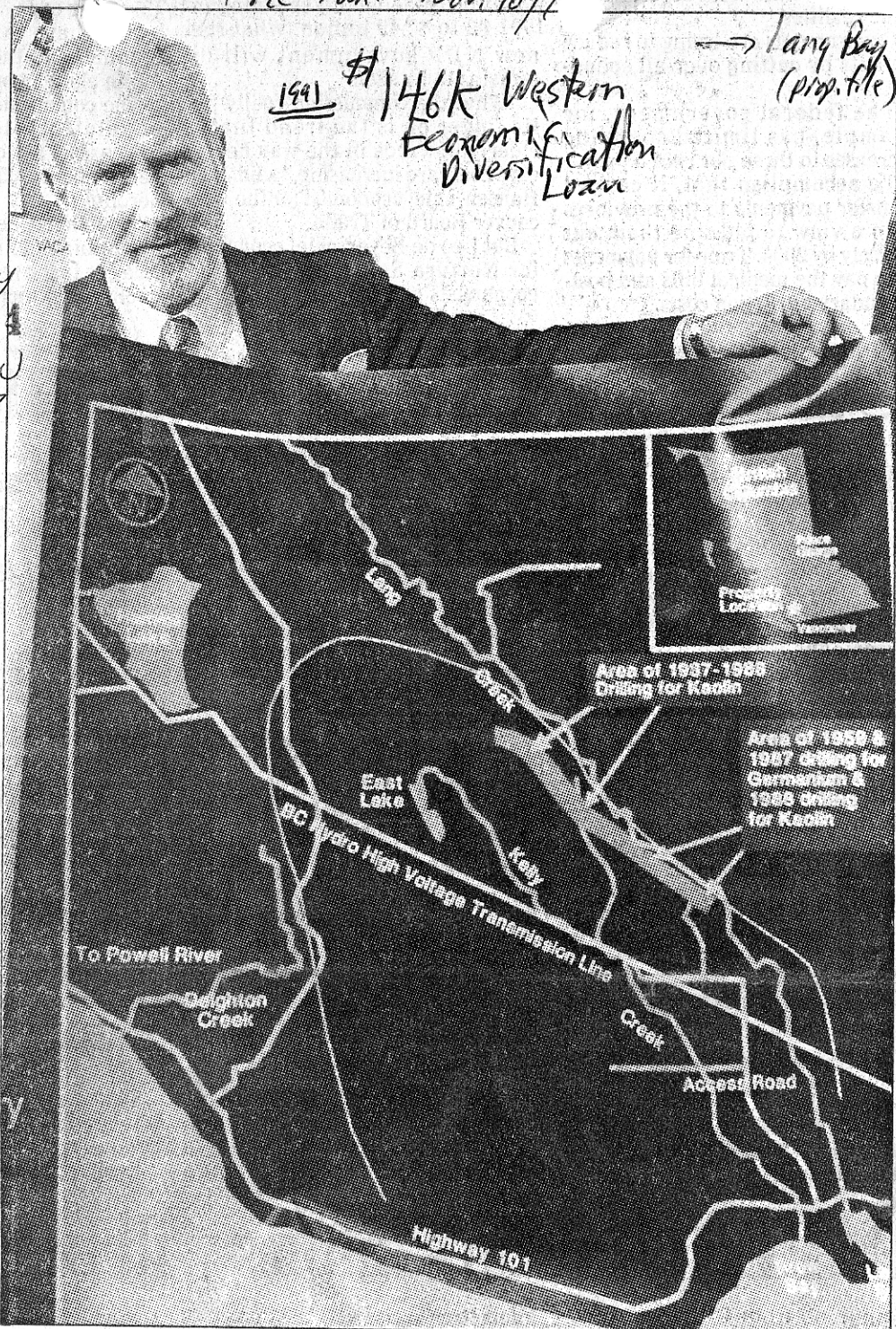
*1991 \$146K Western
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*Lang Bay
(prop. file)*

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DEPOSIT:
Lauch Farris with a map of the Lang Bay area on the Sunshine Coast where kaolin, a wood pulp substitute that brightens paper, will be mined.

IAN LINDSAY



COUNTING on KAOLIN

DAVID SMITH
Sun Business Reporter

Despite a setback or two and spending \$2 million in the last several years, a public Vancouver company still hopes to bring a kaolin mine at Lang Bay near Powell River into production.

Lang Bay Resources, formerly Fargo Resources, has started an evaluation with Fletcher Challenge to see if it is commercially viable to use the industrial mineral as a wood fibre substitute, creating a brighter newsprint.

"Nobody's using kaolin in the Pacific Northwest right now and we're hoping to change that. It's been too expensive to import," says LBR president Lauch Farris.

"The largest known deposit of kaolin on the west coast of North America is right at Lang Bay."

Tests begin for brighter newsprint

The only major white kaolin mine in North America is in Georgia, where some of the kaolin is used to give editions of USA Today a brighter, more opaque finish, said Farris.

Three years ago, Brenda Mines Ltd. spent \$1.4 million on the kaolin project on drilling, paper-making trials, laboratory work and a pre-feasibility study by Kilborn Engineering.

The study judged the project to be uneconomic, based on a 15-per-cent recovery rate of kaolin from the ore and a thick overbur-

den requiring 7.6 tonnes of material to be removed for every tonne of kaolin.

At that point, Brenda Mines, which reported a loss of \$1.7 million for the first quarter of 1989, pulled out of the project.

Another research firm, Hazen Research of Denver, Colo., was engaged by LBR to study the situation.

That study concluded that wet grinding could result in a 35-per-cent recovery rate from the ore and roadheader mining — a type of underground mining similar to potash mining in Saskatchewan — could remove the kaolin from underground, instead of stripping the overburden.

"This meant we had a viable project," Farris said.

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