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STATE OF ALABAMA)
)
JEFFERSON COUNTY)

19711203000051590 1/2 \$.00
Shelby Cnty Judge of Probate, AL
12/03/1971 12:00:00 AM FILED/CERT

Personally appeared before me, the undersigned authority, a Notary Public in and for said County in said State, J. Dudley West, who, being by me first duly sworn, deposes and says as follows:

My name is J. Dudley West and I am the Manager of the Southern District Land Department of Republic Steel Corporation, having been employed in the said Land Department, of said Corporation since November 1, 1947. In such capacity I am familiar with real estate owned by Republic Steel Corporation in the State of Alabama, and particularly the hereinafter described property. Records of Republic Steel Corporation show that said corporation acquired all mineral and mining rights in and to the hereinafter described property from Pioneer Mining and Manufacturing Company in 1904. Said records show that the Probate Court of Shelby County, Alabama rendered a decree on the 26th day of May, 1913 for the sale of the surface rights to the described property and by Tax Deed dated June 18, 1925 the State of Alabama conveyed said property to Republic Iron and Steel Company. To the best of my knowledge, since Republic Steel Corporation's acquisition no one other than Republic has filed any claim to any part of the following lands:

The Northwest One-Quarter of the Northwest One-Quarter (NW $\frac{1}{4}$ of NW $\frac{1}{4}$), Section 24, Township 21 South, Range 5 West, Shelby County, Alabama.

Possession has been maintained by Republic Steel Corporation by assessing and paying taxes from year to year and by maintaining continuous possession by the Land Department inspecting the property from time to time, and by marking and painting the various property lines.

By Instrument dated March 5, 1930 Republic Iron and Steel Company conveyed to A. B. Griffin all timber on said land and other lands except that which measured 12" at a point on the trunk on the tree 12" above the ground.

By Instrument dated August 21, 1936 Republic Steel Corporation conveyed to W. E. Belcher Lumber Company all standing timber on said land and other lands except that which measured 10" at a point on the trunk on the tree 12" above the ground. Republic allowed Belcher until August 31, 1942 to remove said timber, but by Letter Agreement dated March 13, 1943 the time was

extended until May 31, 1943.

On June 18, 1936 Republic Steel Corporation entered into Agreement with A. B. Griffin whereby Griffin furnished Republic timber requirements from Republic's lands and from time to time since the expiration of above said Belcher Lumber Company Agreement in 1943, Griffin has entered said lands and removed timber for Republic's use.

By Instrument dated April 26, 1963 recorded in Deed Book 225 at Page 468 in the Probate Office of Shelby County, Alabama, Republic Steel Corporation conveyed to Colonial Pipe Line Company an easement for a pipe line crossing said property and by Instrument dated May 18, 1971 recorded in Deed Book 268 at Page 27 in said Probate Office, Republic Steel Corporation granted an easement to Colonial Pipe Line Company for a pipe line crossing said property.

To the best of my knowledge, Republic Steel Corporation, during all the time since its acquisition of said land in 1925, has maintained actual, continuous possession of said land and that said possession was and is continuous, hostile, open, notorious, peaceable, and under claim of ownership, and no one during this period of time has ever questioned the title or claimed or asserted any right, title or interest in the property or disputed the ownership of Republic Steel Corporation to any part of said property.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, J. Dudley West has set his hand and seal on this 19 day of November, 1971.

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J. Dudley West
J. Dudley West, Manager
Southern District Land Dept.
Republic Steel Corporation

SWORN and subscribed to before me this 19th day of November, 1971.

Charles W. Hewitt
Notary Public

STATE OF ALA. SHELBY CO.
I CERTIFY THIS
INSTRUMENT WAS FILED
1971 DEC -3 AM 10:02
U.C.C. FILE NUMBER OR
REC'D K. & PAGE AS SHOWN ABOVE
Conveying to
JUDGE OF PROBATE

BOOK 271 PAGE 344