

Memorandum Report

Magnesite Occurrence

Greenhorn District  
Grant County

Foreword: This examination was made for the purpose of confirming and otherwise investigating a reported occurrence of magnesite called to the attention of this Department by Mr. Rudolph Erickson of Portland. The writer was conducted to the deposit by Mr. T. Gail DeWitt of Bates, Oregon.

Location: On Wray Creek forest road in T. 10 S., R. 33 E., S. 13.

General: Surface exposure of the rock in question was originally in the form of a small cut made during the construction of a now abandoned logging road. A locally abundant mantle of soil exists in the area and the original exposure is now obscured to the extent that it is necessary to dig into the bank in order to confirm the "in place" existence of the material which is otherwise exposed only in the form of fragments distributed over the road surface. Due to the lack of exposure nothing could be observed concerning the extent or nature of the occurrence, but the fragmental material on the road was sparse in amount and present in only a small sized area indicating that the road crossed a vein or lens not more than two or three feet in width. DeWitt reported that this material was also exposed in an old mine adit dug into the hillside a few hundred feet down the hill from the surface exposure and extending to a subsurface point in the general neighborhood of the surface exposure. This

adit was inaccessible, but from DeWitt's description of the manner of occurrence it seems as though the supposed magnesite occurred as a vein of definitely narrow proportions rather than in the form of a lens or body of any magnitude.

Laboratory analysis (KB-196) shows the material to be dolomite rather than magnesite. CaO content of the sample is 30.0 %; MgO, 21.30%.

Material ranging from a pale to vivid green and exhibiting excellent crystalline development is present. To the extent that this is so the occurrence might be considered as a specimen source for the amateur collector although such collectors will have to do some digging in order to secure specimens.

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Report by: N.S. Wagner, December 14, 1950  
Exam made on Portland directive.  
Date of exam: August 21, 1950.