

State Department of Geology and Mineral Industries

702 Woodlark Building
Portland, Oregon

FRIDAY NODULE LOCALITY - Semi-Precious Stones

Jefferson County

Locality: The locality is reached from The Dalles-California Highway about 200 ft. south of mile post 79, turn east on the road to Ashwood and the Horse Heaven Mine to a point near the west side of T. 9 S., R. 15 E. The property is owned by Mr. _____ Friday and consists of 3 general locations:

1. Nodules in about Sec. 35 or 36, T. 9 S., R. 15 E., south of the road.
2. In about sec. 25 or 24, 9 S., 15 E., north of the road.
3. In about sec. 34 or 35, same township and range.

Geology: The rocks are classed as Clarno rhyolite lavas in which there are distinct zones containing a great number of cavities and vesicles from a half inch to several inches in diameter. The secondary colloidal silica has been deposited in these cavities forming the resultant nodules of opal and chalcedony. The nodules tend to take a peculiar form and are locally known as septarian nodules as the more perfect ones have 7 sides. The face of each has a centrally raised hemisphere from which there are radiating rays going to the edge of the face. The nodule may be enclosed in hard lava or it may be surrounded by a ground mass of hard clay-like material which would cause it to weather out with concretionary forms. When cut these nodules have various appearances and are of value because of the shape of the nodule or its color. The number 2 locality is the one from which the famous Plume agates have been recovered but when they are found they are worth in the order of \$100 apiece. The number 3 locality is noted for its moss agate. The "moss" agate is reddish, greenish

FRIDAY NODULE LOCALITY (Cont.)

or blackish depending upon the color of the material that forms the "moss". This locality also has rather fine blue opal of which small masses are a gem quality.

Development: The three areas have been developed mainly by force of circumstances, collectors opening up such pits as they feel are necessary to secure the nodules. The nodules either occur loose on the surface as they weather out of the rhyolite or have to be chiseled out of the solid lava.

History and Production: This area has been known for some time and has been extensively collected. The owner, Mr. Friday, now has a \$1.50 fee for a day's collecting. It is reported that he intends to start operations on his own. There is no way to estimate production except that there are a number of plume agates in existence and most of the nodules of the Madras area have come from this locality. It is one of the principal sources of this type of material in central Oregon.

Mr. Friday also owns the petrified forest which was reputedly discovered by H. C. Dake.

REPORT BY: R.C.T.
11/12/39

Friday Nodule Locality--Semi Precious Stones

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Geologic Relations: The rocks are classed as Clarno rhyolite lavas in which there are distinct zones containing a great number of cavities and vesicles from a half inch to several inches in diameter. The secondary colloidal silica has been deposited in these cavities forming the resultant nodules of opal and chalcedony. The nodules tend to take a peculiar form and are locally known as septarian nodules as the more perfect ones have 7 sides. The face of each has a centrally raised hemisphere from which there are radiating rays going to the edge of the face. The nodule may be enclosed in hard lava or it may be surrounded by a ground mass of hard clay-like material which would cause it to weather out with concretionary forms. When out these nodules have various appearances and are of value because of the shape of the nodule or its color. The number 2 locality is the one from which the famous Plume agates are obtained. ~~Not~~ a great number of these plume agates have been recovered but when they are found they are worth in the order of \$100 apiece. The number 3 locality is noted for its moss agate. The "moss" agate is reddish, greenish or blackish depending upon the color of the material that forms the "moss". This locality also has rather fine blue opal of which small masses are a gem quality.

Development: The three areas have been developed mainly by force of circumstances, collectors opening up such pits as they feel are necessary to secure the nodules. The nodules either occur loose on the surface as they weather out of the rhyolite or have to be chiseled out of the solid lava.

History and Production: This area has been known for some time and has been extensively collected. The owner, Mr. Friday, now has a \$1.50 fee for a day's collecting. It is reported that he intends to withdraw permission to collect from the locality and intends to start operations on his own. There is no way to estimate production except that there are a number of plume agates in existence and most of the nodules of the Madras area have come from this locality. It is probably one of the principal sources of this type of material in central Oregon.

Mr. Friday also owns the petrified forest which was reputedly discovered by H. C. Dake.

Ray C. Dake
Nov. 12, 1939

Production?