Calcite Miner — NAME

OLD NAMES

Optical Calcite — PRINCIPAL ORE

MINOR MINERALS

T	R	S
23 S	44 E	SW¼ 22 & NW¼ 27

Malheur ..... COUNTY

..... AREA

3150 to 3600 ..... ELEVATION

..... ROAD OR HIGHWAY

..... DISTANCE TO SHIPPING POINT

PUBLISHED REFERENCES

Organic Report by Lowry 1943

MISCELLANEOUS RECORDS

PRESENT LEGAL OWNER (S) ..... Harry Butler ..... Address Box 22 Ontario Oregon

..... Mrs Fred C Lockey ..... — " "

..... Mrs. O.M. Castleman ..... — Merrill "

..... Jos. W. Jarvis ..... 1416 Dodge St Omaha Neb.

OPERATOR .....

Name of claims	Area	Pat.	Unpat.
Calcite Miner			✓
[redacted]			✓

Name of claims	Area	Pat.	Unpat.

EQUIPMENT ON PROPERTY

MI-21

State Department of Geology and Mineral Industries

702 Woodlark Building
Portland, Oregon

Report by - N. S. Wagner
Examination date - August 15, 1943

Calcite (Crystals)

Crystals of a semi-clear variety from a ledge in Idaho at a point about opposite from, and upstream along the Snake River from, Birch Creek, Malheur County, were brought in this office by Joe Hoskins.

Calcite crystals of a smaller size (sugar to $\frac{1}{8}$ inch) were reported to occur on the Oregon side of the river, supposedly representing a continuation of the vein. On the strength of this I examined the occurence.

A quick run over the deposit in Idaho showed it to be a vein of variable width and features. Sometimes it was a solid vein two or three feet thick and sometimes a thirty or better foot series of narrow stringers. Veinlets of opal were intermixed with the calcite in places.

The crystals, while locally clear, were small, fractured, and in general presented an unencouraging look as far as prospecting for individuals or lenses of optical grade is concerned, although Hoskins' partner claims to have found about a six inch vein of uncommonly clear crystals about fifty years ago when he was herding sheep through there and he found a good looking specimen at his old camp site to back up the story.

There may well be isolated lenses of such crystals, but hunting for them would be like looking for pocket gold with even fewer leads than one has in that business, so that the inducement to prospect appears to be nil compared to that in the Owyhee district.

This vein outcrops for several hundred yards striking about N 50 - 60 W and quite possibly could be found in the Oregon side of the river. Efforts to establish this, however, disclosed that the land in the most likely area was very conspicuously and newly posted with signs requesting people to stay out, and since the deposit in Idaho didn't look any more promising than it did, I made no attempt to hunt up the owners of this land and obtain permission to get on it.

The calcite on the Oregon side that was supposedly a continuation of the Idaho vein was in reality a very local hot spring deposit made up of tufa and blocks of small crystals as represented, but it was in no way related to the occurence in Idaho. It is situated about half way up the north wall of the Burnt River Canyon at the point where the railway crosses the river below Huntington.

State Department of Geology and Mineral Industries

702 Woodlark Building
Portland, Oregon

Examination by N.S.W.
June 15, 1944

CALCITE OCCURRENCE NEAR HUNTINGTON

A possible optical calcite prospect is situated in about Section 27, T. 15, S. R. 45 E., in Malheur County near the Snake River and the Baker County line. It occurs on both sides of the road to Jacobson Reservoir at a point 1.6 miles from Highway 30. The road to Jacobsen Reservoir is a dirt road which turns off of highway 30 eight miles southeast of Huntington opposite the up river end of Huffman Island.

This calcite was examined at the request of Mr. A. W. Hancock, Portland, Oregon who first observed it some 20 years ago. Although rumors of the occurrence of potential optical calcite in this general district have been frequently reported to this Department this is the first occurrence which has been definitely established. Essentially no prospecting other than verifying the existence and trend of the veins has been done, but Mr. Hancock plans to stake out some claims and do more extensive investigating.

The veins occur on each side of the road, a few hundred feet distant and at a moderate elevation. They are reportedly parallel and are striking in about a northwest southeast direction as determined by float. At the site examined a small trench was dug and the vein there appeared to be vertical. In contrast to the completely solid, massive veins found around the Owyhee district, the vein here as seen in this one small pit appears to consist of individual aggregates of crystals, said aggregates being either loosely joined together or actually separated by gouge-like vein matter. These individual aggregates range from four to ten inches in length, bredth and thickness, and may be composed of many small and twinned crystals or of but one or two large (5"-6") crystals. It is possible that this lack of continuity of the calcite vein matter is only apparent, being due to the vein's being rather broken up along

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it's grass roots horizon, but other factors suggest that it is due to weak and incomplete development from the standpoint of genesis. Whatever the case, a small amount of test pitting should show the true condition, and as mentioned in the writer's report on the Iceland Spar claim,(1) it is conceivable that discontinuous development of the calcite filling might favor the growth of larger and less fractured individual crystals due to the lack of strain inflicted on any one crystal by the stresses imposed on it by the growth of others in the same vein cavity.

The quality of the crystals here is comparable to those in the Owyhee district in that they tend to be clear and in local instances are completely so, with, however, an overall fracturing which to date is found to limit the size of completely clear rhombs to below specification minimums. On the other hand, and in the writer's judgment, the overall clarity prevailing here exceeds that prevailing in the Owyhee occurrences which he has seen to the extent that if areas of clearer material are not actually larger here, they are, at least, more frequent. This improvement in apparent clarity, however, does not warrant any great degree of optomism with respect to the discovery of commercial grade crystals, nor does it in any way change Mason's (2) economic conclusions with respect to occurrences of this type. If commercial crystals be found here, they will in all likelihood be found in small, scattered bunches, so that from all standpoints the prospecting and exploitation thereof will be comparable to the hunting for and extracting of pocket gold, with the type and scale of mining and the costs and profits therefrom roughly proportional.

This improvement in clarity, however, is encouraging and a reasonable amount of further prospecting appears to be warranted.

(1) Iceland Spar claims, Malheur Co., N. S. Wagner, April 9, 1943
(2) Bombsight Claim by R. S. Mason, May 9, 1944.