

State Department of Geology and Mineral Industries

702 Woodlark Building
Portland, Oregon

Report by N.S. Wagner
Date March 24, 1944

VALLEY VIEW PROSPECT (Cinnabar)

OWNER

Don Robbins, Jordan Valley, Malheur County, Oregon

LOCATION

T. 23 S., R. 23 E., S. 11

AREA

640 acres of deeded land

HISTORY

Discovered 1941 by Aubrey Harkey and L. B. Tudor of Burns.

DEVELOPMENT

Two 20 to 30 feet cuts and several scattered prospect pits. The cuts are open but the pits are sloughed in and reveal nothing.

DISTANCE TO SHIPPING POINT

Fourteen miles to Crane by improved dirt road passable from April 1st to December 31.

WATER

Could be developed on flat 600' from property by a well 30 to 40 feet deep as the water table is high here.

TOPOGRAPHY

Deposit occurs on the top and west slope of a long, narrow hill bordering the east end of Harney Valley. The summit is about 250 feet above the valley level and is about 4200 feet above sea level.

GEOLOGY

The cuts reveal a mixture of clay and hydrothermally altered country rock in which some opalite and silica occurs in small poorly defined masses and in geodes. While comparable material is to be seen in two other less revealing pits several hundred feet distant to the south, they are all separated by large areas in which blocks of unaltered lava, tuff and heavy overburden occur. In the cuts, cinnabar is found in specimen quantities in some of the geodes and sometimes in their clay matrix, but nowhere was there any concentration in the form of stringers or leads showing. Very little cinnabar is to be seen in the pits to the

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south. Geodes have been dug extensively by collectors from several locations near the base of this same hill on the north and eastern sides. According to Mr. Robbins no cinnabar has been found in them. In fact, they are dull and colorless compared to those from the cuts -- a fact which doubtless is significant in connection with localization of mineralization which at the present time appears to be confined to the eastern slope in the vicinity of the cuts.

ECONOMICS

All samples assayed have been quite lowgrade with the exception of one sample which was taken from a local slip in the clay. While this is so, grade alone doesn't necessarily rule the property out at the present stage of development as a very considerable amount of work remains to be done to fully reveal the nature of the occurrence. Although prevailing market conditions do not justify any such work on a prospect at this time, Mr. Robbins is considering capitalizing on the geodes for the tourist trade after the duration and plans to conduct his geode exploitation so that it will be tantamount to prospecting. From this standpoint future prospecting is justified as the cut geodes are very colorful and are a type much sought after by collectors.