

I have Called Hugh
april - 23 - 04 to ask him
if he had the previous
pages to this

He said he would
look & see if he could
find it

questioning. As far as I know, the committee was not asked to review any other claims to diamond making.

Dr. Hubbard Horn, a senior physicist in my research section, photographed the diamonds for the forthcoming publicity. He described the two diamonds that were supposedly made in the new large press as looking like "diamond chips," that is, fragmented pieces of natural diamonds. Such chips were being used for seeds in the experiments made with the new large press. It now appears that the seeds had been miscounted. It seems ironic that the laboratory management fell into the same errors they were so anxious about and apparently so eager to prevent.

As far as I know, laboratory made diamonds never look like "diamond chips." Diamonds were only reproducibly made in the new press when one of the research assistants made a scaled up version of Tracy's belt apparatus for that press. These diamonds had the same characteristics as the ones that Tracy first made. Likewise, the belt design was used when General Electric began production of diamonds that soon became measured in tons. All of these diamonds were of the type that Tracy first created in December of 1954.

Of course, for patent purposes, all of my diamond making was written up in detail in my laboratory notebook and duly witnessed. This use of laboratory notebooks was strongly stressed at the time. After the publicity release, I noted, in essence, in my notebook that H. Tracy Hall had (1) independently conceived the belt apparatus, built it, and used it to achieve the highest pressures and temperatures attainable at that time, and (2) that with this apparatus, he was the first person to carry out a diamond making experiment that was reproducible by another person. Forty-two years later, I have found no cause to change these statements.

This was an exciting time for the diamond team and for the Research Laboratory. It was also a time of stress because of the conflicting claims and personalities amidst the high publicity. I felt both. But the small part I played as a new member of the Research Laboratory was unique. I have never forgotten it.



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Hugh and Joyce

Oppenheimer
de Beers