

FRIENDS OF MINERALOGY - COLORADO CHAPTER

Newsletter, April, 1978
Editor: Dub Crook

Vol. 1, No. 1

This is the first edition of the Colorado FM Chapter newsletter. This note will be published and distributed bimonthly, in the months which no chapter meeting is scheduled. The purpose of the newsletter is to provide a medium by which all members of the chapter, rockhound-amateur-professional, may express their views and interests in the field of mineralogy. Planned regular features include: chapter news and announcements, upcoming field trips and projects, a brief abstract of the previous month's program, new mineral localities and information, and interesting input from members of the chapter. It is important that you realize that this is your newsletter, so please contribute information. After all, no information is useful scientific knowledge until it is published so that others may benefit. All contributions should come to:

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Chapter News

During the March meeting, chapter by-laws were drawn up, read, and unanimously approved making Colorado FM an official organization. Copies of the approved by-laws will be distributed at the May meeting.

The next meeting will be Thursday, May 11, 7:30 PM at the Denver Museum of Natural History. The featured program will be John Hoover on "Gemology and Current Problems".

The 1978 Rocky Mountain Federation Show will be held at the Chase Stone Center in Colorado Springs during June 9-11. The chapter plans to sponsor exhibits, talks, and possibly a luncheon. Your input is needed at the May meeting to finalize details.

Notes from the President:

As you probably know, I was elected as President of Friends of Mineralogy, Inc. in Tucson this year. In my introductory remarks at the general meeting, I mentioned an important topic. I would like to reiterate this in this, the first newsletter of Friends of Mineralogy, Colorado Chapter. I mentioned that one of the main reasons I accepted the Presidency was because of the support and cooperation of the people from Colorado who had joined together to organize the Colorado Chapter. I feel that on a national level there is similar interest and support and regions where new chapters can be formed. It is a challenge for me to help FM mature into this regional

chapter structure. I could not have considered this challenge if it were not for the prior experience in developing F.M.C.C. with you. So, my many thanks to the Colorado members and I look forward to continued involvement throughout the year.

I would like to mention a couple of news items.

Friends of Mineralogy, Inc. Board of Directors have changed the dues structures so that individuals belonging to chapters pay only \$2.00 to FM, Inc.. The remaining \$3.00 is rebated back to the chapters to sponsor projects. Individuals who do not belong to chapters pay \$5.00 to FM, Inc. for operating expenses, costs to the Mineralogical Record and national projects.

Did you know that about one half of the total FM, Inc. membership belongs to four chapters? (Pennsylvania - 120 members; Colorado - 51 members; Southeast Michigan - 25 members; Pacific Northwest - 40 members)

-Jack Murphy, President

Two notable Colorado mineral collectors passed away in the last few months. Both contributed to the mineral heritage of Colorado, not only by discovering and preserving fine specimens, but by setting high standards in mineral collecting and related educational activities. Both men belonged to the Colorado Springs Mineral Society and Friends of Mineralogy.

CLARENCE COIL

Clarence Coil was born in Springfield, Missouri in 1905. His family moved to Colorado Springs in 1914. As a youngster, he had an avid interest in hiking and collecting rocks, minerals and artifacts. He attended school in Colorado Springs and in about 1922 became affiliated with Stewart's Commercial Photographers. Clarence was well known as a professional photographer but his real love was minerals and collecting them. His serious collecting adventures began in the 1940's when he became associated with several other Colorado Springs collectors. His most notable early find, with his long time partner, O. A. Reese, was the discovery of a fine topaz crystal in a pegmatite above Glen Cove on Pikes Peak. Collecting after this involved work at the Calumet mine near Salida, at the Elk Creek barite locality in South Dakota, and at the Stoneham barite locality in Weld County, Colorado. Clarence's main area of collecting, however, was in the Pikes Peak and Crystal Peak regions where he, assisted by his family, discovered some of the finest specimens of amazonite, smoky quartz, goethite and other species ever found. These specimens are in museums and private collections throughout the world. Clarence passed away January 13, 1978 at the age of 72. He is survived by his wife Dorothy, son Dave, and his daughter, Barbara Slagle.

JOHN ALEXANDER

John Alexander was born in Colorado Springs in 1929. His family owned the Alexander Film and Aircraft Company. Much of John's early interest in minerals originated with Bob Wilfley, a geologist with the Alexite Division of the Alexander Film Company. As a youngster, John went on field trips with Bob and collected minerals. John attended elementary and secondary school in Colorado Springs and four years at Colorado College where he majored in geology. In 1948, John became acquainted with the well known mineral collector Ed Over. John not only was a mineral collector, but he was also very proficient at mountain climbing. He and Ed Over teamed up to explore the steep granite cliffs above Glen Cove. They discovered excellent pegmatite pockets of fine topaz, amazonite, and smoky quartz. Through the years, John developed an excellent collection of minerals. Although he specialized in topaz and Colorado species, he traveled to Spain, Brazil, and South Africa to acquire specimens. John died July 24th, 1977, and is survived by his wife Laura, a son, J. Don, and a daughter, Laura Frances (Bader).

March Program: The Rare-earth Pegmatites of the South Platte Region, Jefferson County, Colorado by Dub Crook

The rare-earth pegmatites of the South Platte district, Jefferson County, Colorado, constitute a well-defined, mineralogically and geochemically distinctive pegmatite province. The district is composed of 75 complexly zoned pegmatites located in a 12 square mile area around Raleigh Peak. The district is characterized by abundances in fluorine, ferric iron (all the mica is biotite- no muscovite is present), and rare-earth elements. Typical rare-earth pegmatites throughout the world are characterized by their relative abundances of boron, beryllium, and phosphate-bearing species. This district is atypical in having no tourmaline, topaz, beryl, or apatite.

Rare-earth minerals occur throughout the district in both abundance and variety of species. The primary rare-earth species include allanite, gadolinite, fergusonite, samarskite, uraninite, thorite, cyrtolite (zircon), monazite, xenotime, yttrifluorite, fluocerite, and doverite. Subjection to erosion, mining, and fracturing has let supergene waters attack the rare-earth minerals to form characteristic suites of secondary minerals. These include bastnaesite, rowlandite, behoite, tengerite, arrhenite, thorogummite, and the new species texasite. The latter was hitherto only known from Texas and its discovery in Colorado marks the second world occurrence of the mineral.

New Minerals Previously Unrecorded From Colorado:

1. Texasite $\text{Pr}_2\text{O}_2(\text{SO}_4)$, apple-green micro (0.1 mm) crystals associated with jarosite as an alteration rind near cyrtolite and thorite, Luster Pegmatite, Jefferson Co.
2. Tengerite $\text{Ca}(\text{Y,RE})_3(\text{CO}_3)_4(\text{OH})_3 \cdot 3 \text{H}_2\text{O}$, white platy crystals (0.5-3 mm) as an alteration surface coating on gadolinite, White Cloud Pegmatite, Jefferson Co.
3. Behoite $\beta\text{-Be}(\text{OH})_2$, clear pseudo-octahedral micro (1 mm) crystals as an alteration coating on gadolinite, White Cloud Pegmatite, Jefferson Co.
4. Rowlandite $(\text{Y,RE,Fe})_3(\text{SiO}_4)_2(\text{F,OH})$, amorphous, brick-red alteration in fractures on gadolinite, White Cloud Pegmatite, Jefferson Co.
5. Amethyst "tipped" smoky quartz. The amethyst color zonation is apparently confined to one of the hexagonal pyramids and the upper few millimeters of the hexagonal prism, whereas the remainder of the crystal is a smoky black color. Location of the crystal is from a granite pegmatite near Lake George, Teller County.

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