

Friends of Mineralogy

Colorado Chapter Newsletter

March, 1991

| | | | |
|-----------------|-------------------------------|-----------|--------------|
| President: | Dan Kile: home phone 341-0135 | Director: | Gene Foord |
| Vice President: | Pete Modreski | Director: | Ed Raines |
| Treasurer: | Jim Hurlbut | Director: | Glen Johnson |
| Secretary: | Carol Smith | | |

March Program: 7:30 p.m., March 14, 1991 - West Auditorium, Denver Museum of Natural History

Ed Raines will present the second part of his program titled "Mines and Minerals of the Clear Creek County Mining Districts". Judging from the reception given the first edition, I would highly recommend your attendance at this meeting.

Notes From the President:

1991 DUES ARE STILL DUE !!! This will be your LAST newsletter unless you fork over \$10.00 (payable in cash, check, money order, or anything else you can convince our intrepid treasurer to accept as a suitable form of payment) to:

Jim Hurlbut/FMCC
c/o Denver Museum of Natural History
Geology Department
City Park
Denver, Colorado 80205

Or bring yourself and your \$\$ to the March meeting and pay Jim in person. I have been informed that 24 members have been somewhat recalcitrant in remitting the appropriate remuneration...

Marty Zinn has received about 25 responses thus far on the membership survey. Again, this is important because it can facilitate better communication between all the members of our chapter. Please fill this form out and return it to Marty Zinn - before he sends a collection agency to your house! Also - my congratulations to Marty for a very well run show at the Executive Inn in Tucson this year!

A reminder: while I do as best I can in insuring that current news and other events are reported in a timely manner in this newsletter, I will not be accountable for all events that occur - I have a hard enough time just trying to remember to get this newsletter out. If you have ideas or requests for publication of upcoming events or other member news, please advise me in time to include it in the newsletter.

Bill Smith has elected not to complete a second term as Director of FMCC. Consequently, I have asked Glen Johnson to replace him, subject to board approval and a vote by the general membership at the March meeting. Glen was asked to accept a Director position because he

****FLASH: The meeting place has been changed to the Executive Dining Room, next to the cafeteria, in the NE Corner of the Museum. See you there!!!**

received the next highest number of votes at the November meeting. Glen is a member of the Denver Gem and Mineral Guild, and an active participant in the Greater Denver Area Gem and Mineral Council as well as the Denver Gem and Mineral Show Committee; he is a recent but active member of the Colorado Chapter of Friends of Mineralogy.

Reminder: the May program will, in all probability, consist of our annual auction...start saving money and setting aside specimens now!!

Special thanks are extended to Van King and Kory MacFarlane, who provided much appreciated material for this newsletter.

Progress Report - Update to the 100-Year Record:

It is difficult to assess progress since the last newsletter since my deadline for getting this newsletter to Carol Smith for photocopying is after the next author's meeting (scheduled for February 27th). Progress, based on the number of review drafts submitted at the last author's meeting (January 31), was not as good as I had hoped for...

Current Rumors and Events:

A Brief Report on the Tucson Show (contributed by Dianne Kile):

A major event this year was the gathering of mineral and fossil dealers at Marty Zinn's Executive Inn show. The facilities, including parking, were certainly an improvement. Rod Tyson had a new offering of vesuvianite (idocrase) from Asbestos, Quebec; many of these were green with pyramidal terminations, and exceeded 4 inches in length. Brian Lees had his usual choice specimens, including many fine Soviet pieces. Keith Williams displayed a unique, all-brass Dancer microscope and other tempting instruments along with minerals, books, and items to be auctioned from the second Mining Catalog. He also had specimens from the Hayseed Tunnel, near Central City, for sale (see Kory MacFarlane's note in this newsletter). One room (ESM - JMPEX) was full of dyscrasite from Czechoslovakia, in any size (and price) you might desire. Also of interest were the Fersman Museum's astrophyllite specimens from the Kola Peninsula, USSR, which were very similar to the St. Peter's Dome material from Colorado. Many more dealers in the E.I. had good to excellent quality specimens, and moving from room to room was necessarily a slow process; the hallways went on forever!

The Desert Inn and Travelodge still housed a few mineral dealers with nice specimens one wouldn't want to miss, but there were an ample number of new dealers selling beads, carvings, and "new age" items. Some very nice material was on the 3rd floor of the D.I.; fine Pakistan minerals and, in another room, some very remarkable k ammererite specimens. At least one dealer at the Travelodge, and also a LaQuinta dealer, had especially bright, crystallized gold from the De Maria Mine, Placer County, California. Throughout the various motel shows, aquamarine, topaz and related minerals from Pakistan were plentiful, but seemingly not of better quality (or with lower prices) than in previous years. Standard specimens, such as Spanish pyrite, Madagascar celestite, and Elmwood, Tennessee calcite and fluorite, are still abundant.

The main show opened with its usual long line (the infamous "cattle drive") and

rush to favorite dealers. Azurite was in great abundance in displays and in the dealers' booths. The Gemmary did an especially brisk business in fine old instruments and books. A display by the Königsburg Museum, with an enormous wire silver and many other fine pieces, was for me the highlight of the exhibits.

- - Dianne Kile

I received a letter (January 6th) from Marie Huizing expressing her thanks to FMCC, as part of the Greater Denver Area Gem and Mineral Council, for a \$1,035 donation that resulted from the auction at the September, 1990 Denver Gem and Mineral Show. These funds will be used for color photos in future issues of Rocks and Minerals.

The following note was received from the Geology Department, Denver Museum of Natural History:

The Colorado Chapter of the Friends of Mineralogy is busy working on their project to update 100 years of minerals in Colorado.

There are two published reports of the mineral alstonite, a barium, calcium, carbonate, occurring at the Bitter Root mine, north of Durango. XRD and SEM examination of two such labeled specimens showed them to be crystals of clear calcite covered by a 3-4 mm layer of white dolomite and a 1 mm golden brown coating of ankerite.

We would be pleased to test any other labeled specimens to verify this occurrence of alstonite.

Please contact Jack Murphy or Jim Hurlbut at the Denver Museum of Natural History if you have any information on this location: phone (303) 670-6445; 2001 Colorado Blvd., City Park, Denver, Colorado, 80205.

News of Members:

For those of you that did not hear firsthand at the last meeting - I regret to inform you that Ed Allabough has inoperable bone cancer. As many of you know, Ed has become somewhat of an institution at the Desert Inn during past Tucson shows - providing an all night meeting place and restroom (for a mere .25 cent fee). More importantly, Ed is an important asset on the judging staff at the Denver Gem and Mineral Show - much of the success of the competitive judging can be attributed not only to his ability but his willingness to freely lend his talents to the effort.

I also report, with sadness, the passing of Jeanette Rogers, who many of us knew well from mineral shows of earlier years. Our condolences are extended to Mark Rogers.

Dick and Monica Graeme have relocated in Tucson - which is our loss and their gain. Appreciation is extended to them both for their warm friendship and enthusiastic participation in the Colorado Chapter during their brief stay in Denver.

Ed Gray's new phone number (for those of you that found it difficult to contact him) is: 980-0581.

Sequel to the last chapter of amusing business cards presented in the last FMCC Newsletter - a card I nabbed at the 1991 Tucson show:

RAGING MOLE MINERALS



Bill Schaub
1908 Blairmore Rd.
Lexington, KY 40502

David Kerry Jones
215 N. Madison Ave.
Middletown, KY 40243

What's New in Colorado Minerals:

The following note was received from Kory MacFarlane, a Central City resident actively engaged in mining and specimen recovery:

We have recently broken into a watercourse in the Hayseed mine containing excellent, lustrous galena crystals. The vein is offset from the Hayseed vein structure, and heads southeasterly with a near-vertical dip. This vein (which has flowing water) is vuggy and varies from 1 to 12 inches in width.

Minerals in the vein include galena, in lustrous crystals to 1-1/4 inches in width, some of which show unusual hopper or other growth patterns; ankerite, occurring as a coating on many earlier-formed minerals; argentite and chalcocite, which are very rare; pyrite; chalcopyrite, occurring as minute crystals; and sphalerite, which is abundant. Specimens range in size from thumbnails to plates 10 inches across.



The following article, on George Kunz, was kindly provided by Vandall King, and is reprinted from the Spring 1991 issue of the Geo Literary Bulletin (you can get your own copy for \$12.00, sent to Nile Porter, 80 Eureka Square, Pacifica, California - - 94044. This nominal sum also entitles you to a one year subscription to the Geo Literary Bulletin and membership in the society):

George Frederick Kunz - a Personality Sketch and History.

by Vandall T. King, P.O. Box 90888, Rochester, New York 14609

George Kunz was an eternally memorable person, though his living memory still exists. Fred Pough remembers him from his early days, when he was in New York. Fred visited Kunz, and though the visit was short, his impressions include the serious demeanor he carried himself with and his approachable manner. Interestingly, Kunz had a pet canary in his office and was preoccupied with his pet. We might smile and suggest that Kunz in his golden years might have been different than his years as a lion. Obituaries, testimonials, etc. are not usually reliable indicators of personality. Shakespeare was incorrect when he had Brutus suggest that: "The evil that men do live after them, the good is oft interred with the bones." It would be more accurate to suggest that time and the demise of one's enemies are the best things that could happen to a reputation.

Kunz started mineral collecting as a child and Whitlock writes that young George was exchanging minerals with European collectors when he was 14 years old. This kind of activity in our times would be considered ambitious. In Kunz's time, it must have been courageous. We can begin to understand the spark of his life from learning that Kunz's confidence was the key to his success.

George F. Kunz apparently came from a working class family. Whitlock (1933) says that Kunz "was educated in the public schools of New York and Hoboken and in the Cooper Union of Arts and Sciences. ... he refers to 'the Cooper Union in whose laboratories, lecture rooms and library' he spent 'useful, profitable evening hours for several years at a time where there were no other opportunities of a similar nature in the City of New York.'" One might assume from this that that he did not get a degree at the college level, but did have some higher education and that he was essentially a self made man.

About 1882, Kunz became the gemologist for the, then, diminutive Tiffany's company in New York. Undoubtedly, gemologist was a term more akin to buyer and sales clerk than the tester of gems far removed from the general crowd it implies today. George had the wherewithal to do well in the job. He was a very knowledgeable mineral collector and it is generally agreed among mineral label collectors that Kunz sold minerals while he was working at Tiffany's, at least in the early years. It has been suggested that minerals were on sale in the Tiffany showrooms, though it is not known whose labels may have been used. Some Tiffany mineral labels are supposed to exist. From this early experience Kunz began to deal with the wealthy class of New York and establish himself in the field.

By 1883, Kunz's earliest writings appeared. He was particularly fortunate that the new U.S. Geological Survey had begun issuing annual reports on mineral resources and he managed to get control of the *Precious Stones* chapter and he wrote this annual to bi-annual column every issue until 1907. In this year, the *Precious Stones* chapter began to appear in **Mineral Industry**, a sort of commercial analog of the USGS **Mineral Resources**. The reason for the change is uncertain. Did the USGS want to be removed from commercial association and use only its staff as authors or did Kunz get paid for his participation with the commercial enterprise. Whatever occurred, the USGS connection was invaluable to Kunz and his reputation. In the 1880's Kunz was able to hobnob with the scientific literati with seeming governmental authority. This is not to suggest that Kunz was a parasite. Kunz carried on an amazing correspondence, part of which is preserved at the libraries of the American Museum of Natural History and the New York Historical Society. Perhaps as many as 2000+ items are preserved.

In his preserved letters, Kunz's personality is illuminated. He inquired of new finds being made at gem localities in Maine and North Carolina and used his information in his "What's New" column called *Precious Stones*. In addition, Kunz conducted business with his correspondents, buying and selling minerals. In addition, his scientific contacts were eager to get newly found minerals as this was the heyday of descriptive and systematic mineralogy. His connection with Yale was especially strong.

Kunz was an organizer and volunteer administrator. He was a founding member of the Geological Society of America and the Museum of Science and Industry, he was honorary curator of gems at the American Museum of Natural History, he founded the New York Mineralogical Club, he was member and officer of the American Institute of Mining and Metallurgical Engineers, and New York Academy of Sciences. He was on the American Pearl commission and the American Metric

Association committee. He was active organizing special exhibits at world's fairs, particularly at Paris and St. Louis. He was decorated by Japan, Norway, and France.

In some of his early *Precious Stones* chapters, Kunz used phrases such as "I found" which later in his correspondence the actual finders questioned Kunz's participation in the find which resulted in subsequent reports by Kunz playing down his own role in a find. One interesting letter to Frank Wiggelsworth Clarke, curator of minerals at the Smithsonian and USGS chemist suggests Kunz felt himself partly responsible for the table of atomic weights Clarke had just published. As Newton said, "If I saw further than others, it was because I stood on the shoulders of giants."

In 1890, *Gems and Precious Stones of North America* made its debut, quickly followed by a second edition in 1892. In reality, these books were in many cases *verbatim* or near-*verbatim* entries which had appeared in his *Precious Stones* chapters. Nonetheless, the convenient summary of these reports, coupled with some genuinely new information must have made a great deal of difference to Kunz's reputation. Subsequently, Kunz's interests extended toward internationally important topics and truly precious stones: sapphire, emerald, ruby, and diamond. Again timing was significant. The remote regions of the world had been explored and now were beginning to be settled. Important gem finds were consequently being made and Kunz began to turn away from the mundane reports of his youth toward bigger news. Meteorites were also the rage and for a while George's interests turned to them.

Bement and Ward were leaders in the race of meteorite acquisition, and while Ward was inclined to write of a few meteorites, Kunz wrote no less than 36 articles concerning meteorites and described over twenty meteorites different finds, between 1885 and 1904 though he only wrote two meteorite articles after 1892. One of the reasons Kunz had so many publications, not just on meteorites, was that he recycled information for different magazines and journals. He published three versions of the same article concerning the Giorretta meteorite and three on the Catorce meteorite. The repetition of articles in journals assured that he would get a maximum exposure.

In the 1890's, Kunz began to be interested in the technology that was developing. He experimented on the artificial color of gems. When x-rays were discovered he experimented with their effects on diamonds. Artificial gems themselves were of interest to him and he worked on the detection of synthetic gems. His contacts with the scientific community provided an education that he missed before. He was awarded an honorary master's degree from Columbia in 1898, probably at the behest of his friend, Thomas Egleston. Later, Kunz received honorary doctorate degrees from Marburg University (1906) and Knox University (1907).

Kunz corresponded widely. He wrote fluently in French and German. In an era when communication was restricted to writing, Kunz was in his element. He became friends with scientists and gemologists around the world. The seeking of a circle of influential scientific friends was not his only method of his self-promotion (not in a negative sense). George Kunz was essentially Mr. New York City. He belonged to innumerable social clubs. By the turn of the century, Tiffany's company had expanded greatly and was widely recognized as a jewelry firm of quality in addition to its being known for its ornate lamps, etc. As the gemologist for Tiffany's, his contacts with customers undoubtedly gravitated toward those more influential and there was a natural progression of Kunz's influence in the organization he was eventually to become a vice-president of. Many letters contain requests for Kunz to select a ring or piece of jewelry for some relative or business contact of the writer who was in New York and who would be coming in to Tiffany's later that day or the next. (Mail delivery was far more frequent and reliable then.) His preserved correspondence contains numerous invitations to the theater, opera, parties, opening events, etc. He was on numerous public service committees, including the World Peace, Joan d'Arc Statue, and Traffic Problems committees.

Kunz is perhaps best remembered for his books. His second book appeared in 1892 - *Natal Stones*, which was perhaps more of a Tiffany promotional book rather than a commercial one and it went through at least 29 printings and/or editions. Thirteen years later, the California Geological Survey published, in 1905: *Semi-Precious Stones, Gems, Jewelers' Materials, and Ornamental Stones in California*. Interestingly, the first printing of this work did not have Kunz's name on the title page and Kunz later had an edition printed which did. In 1906, one of gemology's great books was produced: *The Printed Catalogue of the Heber Bishop Collection of Jade*. It was a monumental oversize work which was distributed by gift only. The print run is rumored to be about 20 copies and as such, Kunz was probably paid a flat fee for its authorship and was probably one of the few

early books he made any money on as he was going through a period of government printings. In 1907, the North Carolina Geological Survey published *History of the Gems Found in North Carolina*. Eventually, Kunz probably discovered the money making potential of books and co-authored with Charles Stevenson, *The Book of the Pearl*. After a six year hiatus, Kunz rushed headlong into book writing and authored: *The Curious Lore of Precious Stones* (1913), *The Magic of Jewels and Charms* (1915); *Shakespeare and Precious Stones* (1916); *Ivory and the Elephant* (1916); and *Rings for the Finger* (1917). (Some of the books were released in several "editions" for the benefit of specific groups. There was a *Belgian Congo* edition of *Ivory... The Shakespeare ...* was released in a Hobby Club, Garden Club, and Shakespeare Club edition. Often the only real difference was a red overprint on the title page, sometimes there was a different binding, etc.) It is perhaps during this burst of book writing that Kunz employed the ghost writer he is supposed to have employed. It is unlikely that the ghost writer, if he in fact existed, was employed solely to write or rewrite articles as, after 1892, Kunz did not publish more than ten major titles in any one year, but there were numerous additional notices and short articles.

In later years, Kunz's literary output greatly diminished, though there is an unfinished manuscript on diamonds which still exists. Undoubtedly, his social and business contacts occupied a greater portion of his time. His association with the *Precious Stones* chapters as well as ones on *Platinum* (starting in 1917) for *The Mineral Industry* continued until 1932. Kunz's library was given to the U.S. Geological Survey, and though it now is in Reston, Virginia, it was poorly housed with little security for many years. Fred Pough remembers being offered the opportunity to "help himself" from the poorly sorted piles and stacks of books that had been shoved into a disused storage room and knows that the offer was frequently extended to visitors.

8

As a sidelight to my series of articles on out-of-print Government publications: The U.S. Geological Survey, shortly after its inception, provided the following correspondence that documents the closure of the so called "Great Surveys" (King, Hayden, Wheeler, and Powell) and the inception of the U.S.G.S., and further stipulated that correspondence and donations be sent to the new agency. The copy below was found in an old USGS Annual Report:

(9-364.)

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
UNITED STATES GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

WASHINGTON, 1885.

The geographic and geologic surveys of the public domain of the United States, heretofore conducted under the charge of Capt. G. M. Wheeler, Maj. J. W. Powell, Clarence King, and Dr. F. V. Hayden, have been discontinued by an act of Congress, which at the same time created the "United States Geological Survey," of which J. W. Powell is the present director.

In view of this fact it is respectfully requested that all exchanges, and gifts of books, charts, etc., intended for the survey conducted by the United States Government, should be sent to us through the agents of the Smithsonian Institution in London, Leipsic, or Paris, or through the governmental bureaus of international exchange in Italy and Holland.

In order to avoid mistakes or confusion, such parcels should be addressed to no individual, as heretofore has happened, but simply

TO THE DIRECTOR OF THE
UNITED STATES GEOLOGICAL SURVEY,
Washington, D. C.,
U. S. A.

Miscellaneous Ilk Department:

An interesting aspect of acquiring old books (besides trying to figure out where to put them) is the possibility of finding an "autographed" copy, i.e., a book containing the signature of the owner on the front cover. Noteworthy signatures I have found include that of Edson S. Bastin, who is noted to students of Colorado literature as the author of USGS Professional Paper No. 94, titled "Economic Geology of Gilpin County, Colorado", and S.F. Emmons, author of Monograph 12 and Professional Paper 148 (documenting the geology and mining industry of the Leadville district), and Monograph 27 titled "Geology of the Denver Basin in Colorado". Other autographs I have found include O.C. Marsh, author of Monograph 10, titled "Dinocerata - an Extinct Order of Gigantic Mammals", and W.H. Emmons, author of Bulletin 625, on "The Enrichment of Ore Deposits", and Bulletin 718, documenting the Creede mining district.

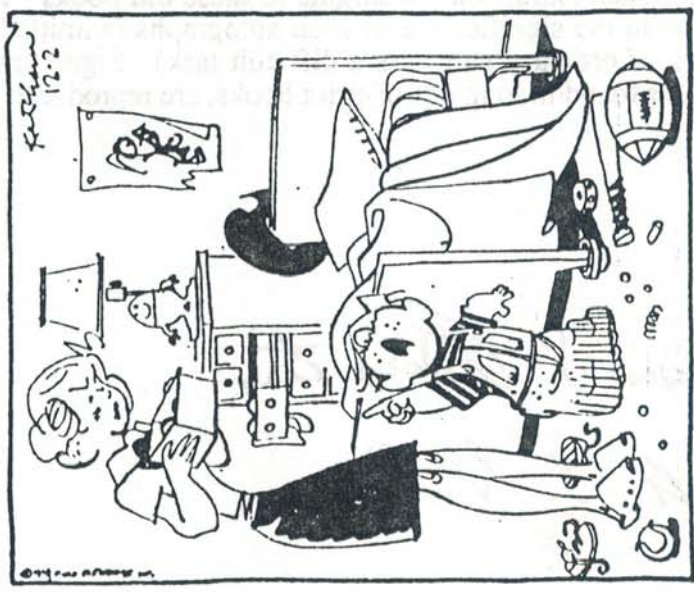
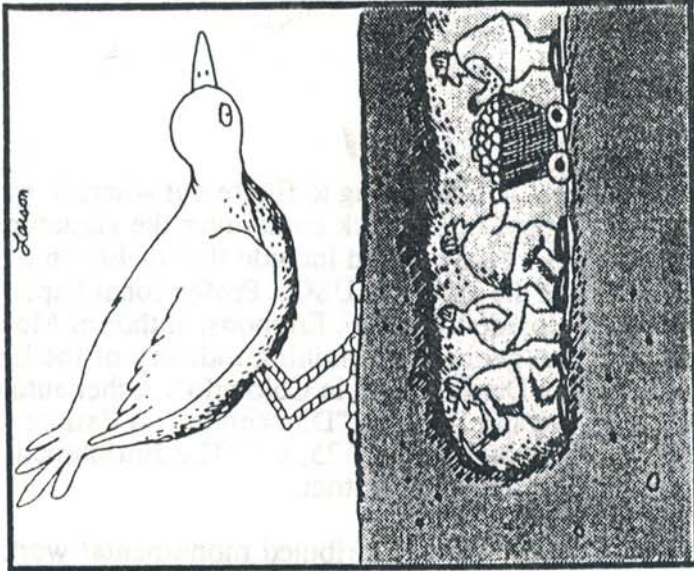
Signatures of eminent USGS authors as these, who contributed monumental works to the geological sciences, lend an historical aspect to what are already important books that are becoming increasingly hard to find. Those of you who ply the used book dealers are advised to be on the lookout for such extraneous sidelights to these old books - many used book dealers seem to be unaware as to the significance of such autographs (admittedly, separating important signatures from a sea of ordinary names is a difficult task). Signatures of several of these noted Survey scientists, as found in long out-of-print books, are reproduced below:

Edson S. Bastin
U. S. G. S.

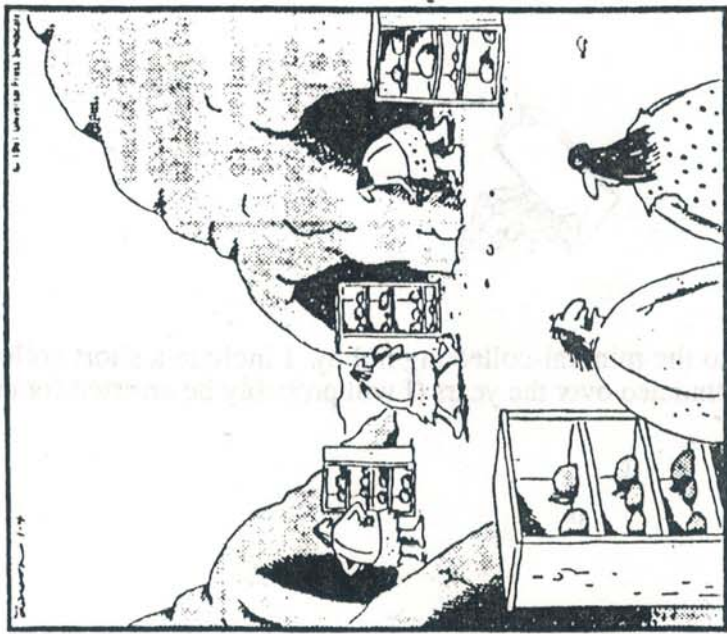
S. F. Emmons



As a parting humorous side to the mineral-collecting hobby, I include a short collection of assorted syndicated cartoons I accumulated over the years (I will probably be arrested for copyright infringement...):



"How would you like it if someone called YOU a DIRTY OL' ROCK? ROCKS GOT FEELIN'S, Y'KNOW!?"



"You know, I used to like this hobby ... But shoot! Seems like everybody's got a rock collection."