

Friends of Mineralogy

Colorado Chapter Newsletter

September, 1991

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

***** NOTE CHANGE IN MEETING TIME AND PLACE*****
(change due to conflict with the Denver Show)

September Program: 7:00 p.m., September 19, 1991 - 3rd floor classroom, Denver Museum of Natural History.

Board Meeting September 16th, Denver Museum of Natural History, 6 p.m.

Gene Foord has volunteered to give a program titled "Pegmatites of the USSR: A Travelogue of Museum Collections, Localities, and Scenery". Gene's recent trip to this area will doubtlessly result in a contemporary and interesting documentation of seldom seen mineral localities. Presumably, everyone will be broke following the Denver Show and attendance should therefore be high, right?

Notes From the President:

Sequel to Mark Jacobson's request for funding for his manuscript on Mt. Antero: Recent conversation with Mark during his brief visit to civilization has indicated that he has given the manuscript to Van Nostrand Reinhold for consideration. If this publishing company accepts his manuscript, they will cover the entire publication cost and there will be no need for outside funding. If rejected by Van Nostrand, then Mark has decided to go ahead and have Lanny Ream publish it, in which case there will be a need for sponsorship. It appears that we will wait until I hear further on the status of this work.

Bill Smith recently sent me a list of mine closure sites proposed by the Colorado Mined Land Reclamation Division for 1992; these areas include upper Fall River in Clear Creek County, southern Ouray County, Sedalia, Cripple Creek, Central City, Unaweep Canyon, Breckenridge, and elsewhere. As before, your comments regarding mine closures, specifically as to those which merit less than permanent closure, are solicited by Bill - please give this the attention it deserves.

Marie Huizing has resigned as editor of Rocks and Minerals magazine. Marie's dedication to this publication over the past 13 years has seen it improve to an outstanding journal. Unfortunately, the publisher (Heldref) has decided, in addition to reorganizing the magazine to a format "more useful as a direct educational tool in the classroom" and significantly reducing the page quality, to cut the pages per issue (from an average of 85 pages per issue to 65) and increase the amount of advertising space in this shortened version to 40%; all of which comes with an increase in annual subscription price to \$32.00.

I have an uneasy feeling that the future of Rocks and Minerals is not very bright - and in my opinion the loss of this long-time "institution", whether by outright cancellation or by slow attrition, will leave a void not likely to be filled. There is definitely a need for more than one magazine dedicated to this hobby. For those who have not seen a recent issue of Rocks and Minerals magazine, the content and format, under Marie's direction, has improved to a level equal to that of the Mineralogical Record. Unfortunately, the new direction of this magazine is probably irreversible, but those so inclined to protest can write:

Walter E. Beach, Publisher
 Heldref Publications
 4000 Albemarle NW
 Washington, D.C. 20016

An item of protocol that needs to be restated: according to FMCC bylaws, new members are supposed to be approved at a board meeting by majority vote. With bimonthly meetings this will necessitate some delay in acceptance, especially over the summer.

Rebuttal to "Reply from the Editor" in the FM National Newsletter:

The last issue of the FM National newsletter started with a reprint of my commentary on the People for the West organization. My immediate reaction was one of satisfaction, because SOMEONE actually is reading the FMCC newsletter! Better yet, it even incurred a RESPONSE!!! If my antics as editor do nothing else than stimulate members to think about the issues that confront us, then I feel that the time spent in preparing the newsletter is (mostly) worthwhile, even if it incurs the wrath of a few people.

With that said, there were a few comments in the national newsletter by Art that need rebuttal:

(1) the commentary, contrary to the title, did not originate from the "Colorado Chapter" but was clearly stated to be my own (irresponsible) opinion.

(2) In no way did the commentary either state or imply that I advocate or prefer a "no use policy". Simply stated, the point is that the mining law as currently written is not doing the recreational collector any favors. For those of you who doubt this, check the BLM nonpatented claim records in the Crystal Peak area (and even Wigwam Creek or Devil's Head) - large tracts of property are held by individuals or rock clubs and are not open to collecting. And a large percentage (perhaps more than 60%) of Colorado land is public domain that is subject to nonpatented mining claims. Collecting conditions in Texas notwithstanding, I was appalled when writing a recent manuscript on Colorado quartz at how many times it was necessary to insert a disclaimer that an area on public property was under claim and not open to collecting. My understanding of the proposed new mining regulations, as applies to nonpatented claims, is that they will become prohibitively expensive unless they meet the intent of the original 19th century mining law, i.e., that they be workable as an economic deposit. Voiding the tens of thousands of nonpatented claims in the west would, in fact, open up large tracts of public property for hobbyists to explore.

It is important to realize that this is a separate issue from that presented which restricts recreational use of public land; it is that issue I think we should be focusing on.

(3) The other point (maybe not stated as clearly as it could have been) is that IN MY OPINION it does not serve FMCC's interest to align with an organization whose main thrust is directed toward logging and grazing interests (recent Denver newspaper articles have attested to serious overgrazing and concomitant environmental damage; while I don't consider myself an ardent "environmentalist" in most land-use situations, it is also important to keep in mind that writing off any environmental considerations is unrealistic and will only serve to undermine any effort to prevent restrictive land use legislation. I have seen the damage in Colorado done by

overgrazing and uncontrolled off road vehicle use). It seems to me that the emphasis of FM should be to establish a liaison with the other earth sciences organizations (AFMS, etc.) and draft a workable land use protocol specific to the interests of mineral collectors, together with corollary petitions dedicated to the interests of our own members, and not those of diffuse interests.

(4) Lastly, the Jan. - Mar., 1991 issue of the FM newsletter stated "the motion was made and passed to endorse this organization, to circulate its information and petitions, and encourage participation by our members". Art implied in the last national newsletter that this comment only "endorsed sending literature and petitions...", but if the earlier statement isn't an outright endorsement, then I don't know what is. Either way, this motion was presented as an accomplished fact at the last general meeting in Tucson, with no meaningful opportunity for comment from the membership.

(5) I wholeheartedly agree with Art's comment that further discussion is needed. I also sympathize with Art's statement concerning apathy - it is indeed difficult to get people's attention, especially at a level that results in action.

These issues are important to all of use, because even if you don't go into the field, a lot of what becomes available for sale or study results from the activities of "recreational" collectors. As I said earlier, it is gratifying that this newsletter finally stimulated a response - and I think this topic merits further discussion.

Bert Hanou has graciously consented to audit the financial records of the Denver Council on behalf of the Colorado Chapter. He is to be commended for his willingness to donate time to this project.

Speaking about donating time....again we are in need of volunteers to succeed outgoing board members. We will be in need of (thankfully) a President, and also a Vice President, Treasurer, and Secretary. We need to find new members who are willing to work for FMCC, so if you have an interest, PLEASE let someone know (we don't read minds...).

More on volunteers. etc. I am a little disappointed of the apparent stagnancy in the membership of FMCC. We do not appear to be attracting a great number of new members to our organization. I'm not sure if this means that we've saturated the market with respect to interested people, or that we've somehow been remiss in soliciting new membership. At one point, many years back, a board decision regarding open membership solicitation was negative, with the feeling that we wanted to be selective. However, consideration might be given to a more visible profile in the September show. The ID booth is nice, but perhaps also a FMCC exhibit or a mini-symposium in conjunction with the show would help? Needless to say, these activities require volunteers. In spite of a high degree of interest in large scale FMCC symposia (see below), it was decided that with a limited number of volunteers, it would be best to focus on completion of the Update to the 100-Year Record. But more modest programs at the Denver Show might be appropriate in the interim. As usual, I would like some input on this matter.

Give Jim Hurlbut a thrill . . . pay your 1992 dues slightly ahead of time at the September meeting. While on the subject, I understand that FM National is increasing their annual dues by three bucks - which means that we must do likewise (i.e., 13 bucks - a veritable bargain!).

More in the bad news department - - The Denver Museum of Natural History has informed us that we will no longer be able to use the DMNH address for FMCC. The choices are (1) find a willing person, preferably stationary for the foreseeable future, willing to receive all correspondence to FMCC, or (2) obtain a post office box for FMCC, which is also a pain...

Report of Progress on the Update to the 100-Year Record:

Pete Modreski's last projection of a completion date for the Update, based on overall progress, is around 1996. While this is considerably better than the original projected completion date of 2044, it falls somewhat short of the 1993 date earlier proposed by the authors. There is also uncertainty regarding time required for review and revision. Ed Raines has commenced mineral photography for the update, and has also prepared a draft of possible mineral species photos for inclusion in the text.

Results of the last FMCC Auction:

Results of the last FMCC auction were not encouraging. The net profit to our organization was only about \$435.50 - and this after last year which showed an upswing in member interest. I don't know if the FMCC auction is "dying on the vine" due to a general lack of motivation (i.e., lack of interest in FMCC goals), an overabundance of competing auctions (it seems like every rock club has one), or some other subtle factor we overlooked. The overall quality of material appeared to be much lower than in years past. In any case, a reassessment of this event is required, as it hardly seems worth the effort given the level of monetary gain. Expenses for the guard and catering services were nominal, being about \$136.00. The gross was \$1180.50, and the "pay out" amounted to \$608.87 (it had been agreed to refund 100% to the museum for specimens from the Addenbrooke collection). In spite of the discouraging returns from the auction, I would like to thank those who did contribute to FMCC (not in any particular order; our apologies to anyone overlooked):

Flo Lessor
 Ed Raines
 The "Old Wino Rockhound"
 Marcus Lieberman
 Ed Gray
 Jack Adams
 David Bunk
 Bill and Carol Smith
 Jack Thompson
 Dave Weller
 Larry and Carmen Piekenbrock
 Denver Museum of Natural History (museum tour)
 Chauncey Walden

Latest word on the Sawtooth Mountains, Idaho, is that the area is closed to collecting (Mineral News, June, 1991). According to Lanny Ream, the District Ranger has decided to close the area to all recreational collecting because of perceived damage being done to wilderness areas (note: this decision has nothing to do with proposed mining law changes, but is a POLICY statement based on interpretation of wilderness area regulations). Lanny perceptively stated that "mineral collectors do in part have themselves to blame...some collectors continued to remove large quantities of specimens...to sell. The Forest Service is aware of this and is making a decision to stop all collecting". As inferred before in this newsletter (commentary, March 1990), we in the mineral fraternity must police our own activities first, before we expect credibility in dealing with the Federal Government.

Pete Modreski has sent an urgent appeal for volunteer help at the FMCC mineral identification table at the Denver Show. This is an important and educational service we provide the show attendees, and helps maintain a visible profile for our organization. Please call Pete (home phone 978-9926) if you can help!

Current Rumors and Events:

I regret to announce that Paul Desautels, former curator at the Smithsonian Institution, passed away July 25, 1991. It is an immeasurable loss to the mineralogical community.

1991 Denver Gem and Mineral Show September 13, 14 and 15 (show theme is quartz)

FM members should consider placing an exhibit (competitive or noncompetitive) in this year's show. At this point, some cases are still available (about 14). Please call Dianne Kile (341-0135) to reserve a space. In addition to improving the show, your quick response will make her a lot easier to live with! Quartz-related exhibits are desirable, but we welcome any display of minerals, fossils, lapidary and jewelry materials, antiques, and anything else closely related to the theme of the show. **Also, to date there are only six entries for special competitions (best of species = quartz) and only one entry for the Prospectors' Trophy (best field collected in the last year).** Deadline for entry for special competitions (except the Prospector's Trophy) is 1 September - but I can accept a phone call followed by written confirmation.

1991 Denver Gem and Mineral Show Special Exhibits:

1. American Museum of Natural History - "Charles and Norman Sprang: All-American Mineral Collectors.
2. Arizona Sonora Desert Museum
3. California Academy of Sciences - "Hexagonal Crystals"
4. California State Mining and Mineral Museum
5. Canadian Museum of Nature - "Species Diversity"
6. Carnegie Museum of Natural History - "Quartz and Associated Minerals"
7. Cleveland Museum of Natural History - "Indian Minerals"
8. Colorado School of Mines
9. Denver Museum of Natural History - "Quartz"
10. Harvard Mineralogical Museum - "Quartz of New England"
11. Houston Museum of Natural Science - "Tsumeb Minerals"
12. Lizzadro Museum of Lapidary Art - "Crystalline Quartz Carvings"
13. Lyman House Memorial Museum
14. Montana Tech - "Minerals of Montana"
15. Munich - Gerhard Becker - "Quartz"
16. National Mining Hall of Fame and Museum
17. Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County
18. New Mexico Bureau of Mines and Mineral Resources - "New Mexico Minerals"
19. Nuss Fossils - "Cretaceous Fossils of Kansas"
20. Ouray County Historical Museum
21. Royal Ontario Museum - "Quartz Crystals: Their Forms and Habits"
22. Smithsonian Institution - "Quartz"
23. South Dakota School of Mines - "Oxides"
24. University of British Columbia - "The Rock Candy Mine"
25. University of Wyoming - "Wyoming's First Dinosaur"
26. Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University

Speaker List:

Saturday:

- 11:30 - 12:30 "Dinosaurs of Wyoming" - Dr. B.H. Breithaupt (Univ. of Wyoming)
 1:30 - 2:30 "Agate, That Beautiful Lapidary Material" - Doris Kemp
 (Lizzadro Museum)
 3:30 - 4:30 "Quartz, Left or Right-Handed?" Dr. R.I. Gait (Royal Ontario Museum)
 6:30 - 9:30 Saturday Night Special -- Awards, Speaker, Auction
 "One Curator's Trip to Pakistan: Another Day at the Office" - Joel Bartsch

Sunday:

- 11:30 - 12:30 "Mineralogy of the Black Hills" - Eric Fritzch (S.D. School
 of Mines)
 1:00 - 2:00 "Lore and History of Birthstones" - Russ Kemp (Lizzadro
 Museum)
 2:30 - 3:30 "California Minerals" - Dr. Jean F. DeMouthe (California
 Academy of Sciences)

Also, be sure to see the **Holiday Inn Show** (organized by Marty Zinn); dates 11-15 September. This gathering of fine mineral and fossil dealers is one of the events that helps make the Denver Show one of the best in the nation! In addition, a **benefit auction** for the Denver Museum of Natural History and the Colorado School of Mines will be held at poolside, Wednesday, 5 - 7:30 p.m.

The 12th Annual New Mexico Symposium will be November 9 & 10, 1991, at Macey Center, New Mexico Institute of Mining and Technology, Socorro, New Mexico. This symposium will consist of two days of papers pertaining to New Mexico (or adjacent states) and will include an auction and self-guided field trips.

Call for Papers: Thirteenth Mineralogical Symposium sponsored by Friends of Mineralogy, the Tucson Gem & Mineral Society, and the Mineralogical Society of America; held in conjunction with the 38th Tucson Gem and Mineral Show, Saturday, February 15, 1992. Pyromorphite is the show's theme mineral. Papers on the descriptive mineralogy, paragenesis, classic and new occurrences of pyromorphite or secondary lead minerals are invited. Papers on other subjects - new species or occurrences, etc. - are also welcome. Call or write Dr. Carl A. Francis, Chairman (Harvard Mineralogical Museum, 24 Oxford Street, Cambridge, MA 02138) with your topic, a few sentences describing the paper, and your address and telephone number. Following acceptance, authors are required to submit a 200-300 word abstract by September 15, 1991, which will be published in the *Mineralogical Record*.

News of Members:

Membership Survey Results: Member response to the FMCC questionnaire has been very encouraging - we received 61 replies, which is more than 70% of the membership. My thanks to those who took the time to respond.

A majority of the members chose programs as one of the most important aspects of the chapter, with a strong showing for symposiums; auctions and symposium field trips nearly tied for third place. The one item left out of the poll was the newsletter - so there is no way to gauge its relative importance.

Overall, the ranking given the categories included in the survey is:

Programs ~ Symposia > Field Trips ~ Auctions > Mineral ID Booth

These results suggest that we need to consider some form of symposium in the future, but as stated above, there is a need for more volunteer effort to accomplish this task if we are to maintain progress on the Update to the 100-Year Record. Ideas are needed. I've always felt that FMCC should not go into competition with area rock clubs for sponsoring field trips, but member response indicates that maybe the Board of Directors should consider some sort of annual event? The purpose of this questionnaire was not only to get a poll of interests, but to decide what direction(s) we need to take to keep FMCC a relevant organization. Member comments at the next (or subsequent) meetings are welcomed.

The following table (more or less unscientifically) summarizes the results:

	<u>Program</u>	<u>Field Trip</u>	<u>Symposia</u>	<u>Exhibit</u>	<u>Auction</u>	<u>ID Booth</u>
1 st choice only:	17	5	13	0	0	2
1 st or 2 nd choice:	29	8	22	2	7	4
Total, any choice:	46	28	41	7	29	11

Comments by members included (number of respondents in parentheses), not in any particular order:

- (5) - need more field trips
- (1) - better communication with the Colorado Springs members needed
- (2) - FMCC activities are okay as is
- (3) - positive comments on newsletter
- (1) - outreach to professional organizations needed
- (1) - workshops needed on mineral cleaning, micromounting, photography, etc.
- (2) - more symposia needed
- (4) - FMCC needs to finish Update to 100-Year Record
- (2) - continue good programs
- (1) - parties, including lots of beer, minerals, women, and wine
- (1) - continue to share expertise with area rock clubs
- (2) - more emphasis needed on locality preservation and education on government regulations
- (2) - more sponsorship of special publications needed
- (1) - yearly publication listing pegmatite finds needed

Well, that's about it. I think these suggestions and tallies should serve as guidelines for the next FMCC Board of Directors to chart future activities and progress for the Chapter - but in order to do so, they will need member input, and above all, volunteer time.

Forthcoming issues of the newsletter will (presumably) contain an abstract of member interests, etc., as submitted on the first half of the questionnaire. Marty Zinn will compile this part of the survey, and his effort is to be commended.

What's New in Colorado Minerals:

Bryan Lees has negotiated a lease with the owner of the Sweet Home mine to operate it for specimen recovery. I understand that this will be a relatively long-term and steady operation. Rumor has it that a few nice rhodochrosites have been recovered, together with some superb, large, superb tetrahedrite crystals.

The following brief was abstracted from a pamphlet written by Karen Jones and distributed by the Jefferson County Public Library, which I thought might be of interest to some members. Out-of-print books are becoming increasingly rare, and proper handling will help preserve them:

BOOK AND DOCUMENT PRESERVATION

The ideal temperature for books is 60-70 °F, with minimal fluctuation. Excessive humidity or heat will accelerate deterioration. The ideal humidity is 50-60%; too low a humidity (ed. - the usual situation in Colorado) will cause paper and leather to become dry and brittle (ed. - a local antiquarian book dealer suggested I regularly treat the leather in older leatherbound books with lanolin, obtainable in many hardware or shoe repair stores, in order to keep the leather soft; this must be carefully done, because if the excess lanolin is rubbed off before it is dry, the leather can be peeled off the cover). Visible light, natural or artificial, will fade dyes, inks and pigments. Ultraviolet light accelerates deterioration. Items should be stored in subdued light, and in any event, out of direct sunlight. Fluorescent light emits a degree of light in the UV spectra, and filters are recommended (ed. - a glass bookcase effectively blocks UV light).

Books stored in a bookcase should not be packed too tightly; wood cases should be sealed to prevent acids from the wood from leaching into the books. Generally it is better to place an item flat to prevent stress on bindings and paper.

Handling should be kept to a minimum. Dusty books should be cleaned before opening to prevent dirt from falling into the text block.

Avoid pressure sensitive tapes - these stain and oxidize and are very difficult to remove later (ed. - this comment also applies to use of tape on lacquered brass instruments). Avoid wrapping in paper of high acid content (ed. - this applies to framing maps in high acid paper mat and backing, and storing books in cardboard boxes) or storing with materials that will rust or discolor, i.e., paper clips, newspaper, etc.



Miscellaneous Ilk Department:

As part of a continuing (?) series of funny mineral cartoons, this one recently appeared in a local newspaper:

BALLARD STREET by Jerry Van Amerongen



Illustration of Monument Park, Colorado, from F.V. Hayden, *Annual Report of the United States Geological and Geographical Survey of the Territories Embracing Colorado and Parts of Adjacent Territories; Being a Report of Progress for the Year 1874*; published 1876.

