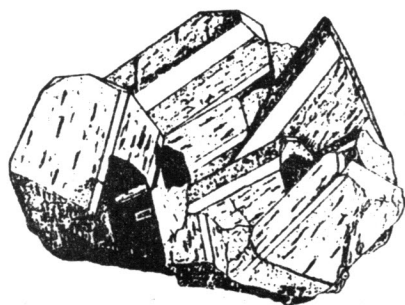


Colorado Chapter Friends of Mineralogy

NO 2081
Meeting
Chapter

NEWSLETTER - DEC. 1984 (No.6 for 1984)



President - Pete Modreski, 8075 W. Fremo
Dr., Littleton 80123 978-9926
Vice-president - Tom Michalski, 1651
Adams, Denver 80206 320-5386
Treasurer - Barbara Muntyan, 6978 Wapiti
Ct., Boulder 80301 530-4666
Secretary - Jack Murphy, Denver Mus. Nat.
Hist., City Park, Denver 80205 370-6355
Board members - Steve Brighton, Mark
Jacobson, Jim Hurlbut

JANUARY MEETING: Thursday, Jan. 17, 1985, 7:30 pm, West Auditorium,
Denver Museum of Natural History. Program:

"MINERALS OF GILPIN COUNTY--AN HISTORICAL APPROACH"

by John Shannon,
Curator, Geology Museum
Colorado School of Mines

"Gilpin County was the site of the first gold lode discovery in Colorado. That discovery was responsible for a continuing interest in gold and mining after the earlier placers had been exhausted. It was also the training ground for the miners and other prospectors who left the Central City area to try other locations in Colorado. The development of mining and specific mines in the Central City area was accompanied by the discovery of a number of fine mineral species, some of which are unique to Gilpin County. The history and development of Gilpin County, some of its mines, and the minerals they produced will be explored."

* * * * *

REFRESHMENTS!

MEMBERS OF ALL OTHER GEM AND MINERAL SOCIETIES ARE INVITED!

* * * * *

Please note--it has been necessary for us to change our meeting from its previously scheduled date. The January meeting will be on Jan. 17, not on Jan. 10 as announced in our last newsletter. We are making this change to avoid a conflict with the gem and mineral show held at the Villa Italia Mall, sponsored by the Denver Gem and Mineral Guild, Jan. 10-13.

John Shannon presented his program on Gilpin County in September at our mineralogical symposium at the Denver Gem & Mineral Show. We are offering this program again because of the limited number of people who were able to hear the program in September. This will also give John the opportunity to expand on the program he gave at the Denver Show, where he was limited to a 1/2-hour time slot. John's extensive knowledge of the history and geology of this district, illustrated by many fine historical and mineral photographs, will make this a lecture not to miss.

1985 OFFICERS: 46 ballots were received and counted at our November meeting. The proposed slate of officers was elected nearly unanimously. Chapter officers for 1985 will be:

Pres. - Pete Modreski (2nd term)
 Vice-pres. - Tom Michalski (2nd term)
 Secretary - Jack Murphy (2nd term)
 Treasurer - Dan Kile
 Additional members of the board of directors:
 John Muntyan (to serve 1985-1986 term)
 Jim Hurlbut (serving 1984-1985 term)
 Mark Jacobson (serving 1984-1985 term)

...and comments from the election: On the election ballots, we asked for comments and suggestions about programs, field trips, and general operation of the chapter. We received quite a few, and we herewith share most of these with you, in pretty much unexpurgated form.

Programs: "More slide shows on minerals or localities of Colorado"; "What distinguishes a prize-winning specimen from an also-ran?"; "the Denver Museum meteorite collection"; "film on Antarctica"; "petrology of a diabase sill"; "a program by Dick Tripp"; "by Ted Botinelly".

Field Trips (a good selection--now we need someone to pick up on this and plan one of these trips): "Shirley Basin Wyoming barite"; "Italian Mountain"; "Harris Park"; "Gloryhole mine"; "Central City", "Specimen Mountain"; "Point of Rocks, N.M."; "Southwest Colorado"; "a good San Juan location"; "Sedalia mine"; "Vulcan area"; "Stoneham"; "an epithermal gold mine"; "Red Feather Lakes"; "Boulder/Nederland area"; "Boulder tungsten"; "Jamestown fluorite-britholite"; "no field trip".

General suggestions: "Finish 1114"; "have special guest nights for individual clubs"; "1/2-day symposium at the Grand Junction Show, June 8-9"; "meet every month except June-July-Aug."; "more attendance at symposium"; "symposium at a different time"; "get the show committee to accept the concept of a satellite show"; "make programs available to other clubs"; "a chapter meeting/dinner at the Tucson Show"; "swapping with a foreign mineral club"; "touring sales of specimens (affordable specimens), donated to FM, to individual clubs once each year--to raise money for FM activities, scholarships, field trips, insurance, specimens for Denver Museum"; "open up closed localities for the amateur collector"; "more emphasis on preservation of localities".

*** * * * DUES! * * * *** Chapter dues for 1985 are payable now. Your dues of \$10 cover membership both in the Colorado FM Chapter and in national Friends of Mineralogy, Inc., and go to support both organizations. Please send your payment to our 1985 treasurer, Dan Kile, 333 Salem, Aurora, Colo. 80011. If we don't receive your dues by about March, you won't make it on to our 1985 membership list.

TREASURER'S REPORT As of our last Directors meeting, Nov. 13, the Colorado Chapter had \$3556.76 in the treasury. This includes over \$2000 raised at our last two auctions, and earmarked for the Minerals of Colorado-Update project. A complete treasurer's report for 1984 will be made at the end of this year and printed in the first (March) newsletter of 1985.

NOVEMBER MEETING RECAP We enjoyed Art Bookstrom's talk on the Porphyry Molybdenum Deposits of Colorado. His talk got into some specifics of plate tectonics and geochemistry that may have been a bit more detailed than the entire audience could fully appreciate, but he also discussed a wide-ranging number of localities in Colorado at which molybdenite and associated minerals have been found. There was time for a good informal discussion period after the meeting (over refreshments--we've been having cookies, pretzels, coffee, & soft drinks at the past few meetings, in case you haven't been to them). In addition to a small assortment of specimens from Colorado moly deposits, we also had on view a few interesting specimens collected by Marge Regel from the Mt. Antero/Mt. White area, including phenakite on microcline, and fluorite on aquamarine.

1985 SYMPOSIUM: At our November directors meeting, we agreed that the chapter will sponsor a 4th annual Mineralogical Symposium at the Denver Show. The 1985 Denver Show (Sep. 13-15) will be the Rocky Mountain Federation Show, which will mean a larger attendance, extra visitors from out-of-state, and most likely a considerably increased attendance at our symposium. The consensus of opinion is that the topic of this one-day (half-day?) symposium should relate particularly to Colorado minerals, but beyond that we are still open for volunteers for chairperson (or co-chairpersons) and their suggestions of a specific theme. **We can use your help--please consider volunteering to do this job, or to help with it.** Contact any of the FM officers; in the past three years, Tom Michalski, Dan Kile, and Mark Jacobson have served as symposium coordinator.

1986 SYMPOSIUM Yes, 1986! For a switch, we are considering a symposium to be held on a weekend in the Spring of 1986, not associated with the Denver Show or any other event. We feel that a symposium at the show suffers from the problem of too many people being involved in other show activities, and that we can assemble more people, and have them participate in the symposium to a greater degree, at a separate symposium. Our tentative topic is "Colorado Pegmatites", and Pete Modreski and Gene Foord have agreed to chair the symposium. The plan is to have lectures given during the day (Saturday) in the auditorium at the Museum of Natural History, followed by a banquet Saturday evening, and a field trip on Sunday. We are thinking in terms of a weekend in the beginning or middle of May--when good weather will permit a field trip, but before too many people are involved with summer traveling and field collecting. We hope to firm up the plans for this symposium well in advance--look for more news about it in our next newsletter.

Installation of Officers of the Colorado Federation of Gem and Mineral Societies On the afternoon of Nov. 11, a meeting was held, at the meeting room at Gates Rubber Co., to introduce the new officers of the CFGMS, of which the Colorado FM Chapter is a member. Dee Hosea, a member of our chapter, is the new president of the CFGMS, so by tradition FM co-hosted the installation meeting. Flo Lesser, also of our chapter, is the new secretary of the Colorado Federation. All members of affiliated clubs were invited to attend; we regret that this meeting was not announced in our November newsletter, but we were able to inform a number of our members about the meeting.

"GEM AND CRYSTAL TREASURES": The copies of this book, by Peter Bancroft, that we ordered for chapter members have been received. If you ordered one and have not already received it, you may pick it up at the January meeting, or we will make other arrangements for its delivery.

U.S.G.S. BULLETIN 1627 A new publication that may be interest to some members is "Microscopic Determination of the Nonopaque Minerals" by Michael Fleischer, Ray E. Wilcox, and John J. Matzko (1984, 453 p., \$12). This is a complete revision of a classic mineralogical reference book, U.S.G.S. Bulletin 834, of the same title, by E.S. Larsen and Harry Berman (1934). The new volume includes 27 pages on the techniques for determining optic properties, including the focal masking and spindle-stage techniques, and measurement of 2V. There are 276 pages of tables listing the optical properties (refractive index, birefringence, 2V) of known minerals, including their known range of variation. The tables include chemical formulas and selected notes about the crystal system, habit, cleavage, color, hardness, specific gravity, fusibility, and solubility in water and acids of the listed minerals. There are also 86 pages of tables describing the members of 31 mineral groups, comprising some 350 species. This book may be ordered by mail from the Eastern Distribution Branch, Text Products Section, U.S. Geological Survey, 604 South Pickett St., Alexandria, Virginia 22304, with check or money order made out to the Superintendent of Documents. Alternatively, they be available over-the-counter at the U.S.G.S. Public Inquiries Office at the Federal Office Building in downtown Denver--it would be best to call first to check (844-4169).

ATTACHED NEWSPAPER CLIPPINGS (page 6) I thought you would be interested in the enclosed newspaper stories, which appeared in the Manchester, N.H., Union Leader (this fall, exact date uncertain). They concern mineral collectors arrested--and later acquitted--for alleged illegal collecting in pegmatites at Moat Mountain, near North Conway, N.H. They were accused of failing to comply with Forest Service regulations governing collecting in that area of the National Forest. We may have further comments on this in our next newsletter.

YOGO GULCH, MONTANA SAPPHIRES The Denver Post (Empire Magazine section), Sep. 30, 1984, contained a feature article about the sapphire-mining operation at Yogo Gulch, Montana. Since 1980 this mine has been operated by Intergem, Inc., of Aurora, Colo. The deposit is in the Little Belt Mountains, southeast of Great Falls, Montana; it is said to have been discovered by prospectors in 1879, but the identity of the stones as sapphires was not recognized until 1895, and actual mining began around 1901. The "cornflower-blue" Yogo sapphires (now being marketed as "Royal American Sapphires") occur in place in a dike of igneous rock and are supposed to be some of the finest in the world. Over the years, the property has only occasionally produced a profit, but the current owners, with improved mining equipment and new marketing strategies, hope to do well. After being mined, the rock is allowed to break down by weathering for three years before separation of sapphires is attempted; a ton of ore is said to yield one carat of finished stones.

MEMBERSHIP CARDS AND SUCH If you belong to our chapter, you probably never received a chapter membership card this year. We normally send them to all members, but we seem to have exhausted our supply of the cards, and are taking steps to have new cards printed, for use in 1985. In addition to our chapter newsletters, you should also receive the national FM newsletter; the last one was sent out in September, and the next one (including a ballot for FM national elections) is expected shortly. If you are a new member, it may be taking a while for your name and address to be forwarded and listed in the national roster, so please be patient if you are not yet receiving anything. You should also receive a national FM membership card, and--when you first join--a plastic FM name tag from national FM. If you don't receive anything in a reasonable time, please let us know.

FM COLORADO CHAPTER INFORMATION SHEET Enclosed with this newsletter is a copy of the information sheet about our chapter, prepared with the help of Jim Hurlbut this fall. We encourage you to share this information about the chapter with others who may be interested in our goals of study and preservation of minerals.

NEW CHAPTER MEMBERS The following new members have joined the chapter since the publication of our last membership list, in May, 1984. A few of these names have already been reported in our newsletters this year, but several have joined just this fall, since the Denver Show. We're pleased to welcome all these people to the chapter, and hope they stay with us and help spark some new activities:

Howard Bachman, 411 Balsam St., Lakewood, CO 80226
 Dan Belsher, 9200 W. 100th Circle, Westminster, CO 80020
 Horace Hall, 1543 S. Salida Ct., Aurora, CO 80017
 Marcus Lieberman, 940 Fairfax St., Denver, CO 80220 (rejoined).
 Mike Madson, 3201 Snowberry Ct., Grand Junction, CO 81501
 Annabelle McGraw, 5327 S. Louthan, Littleton, CO 80120
 Arnold R. Mogel, RD 1, Box 151-M, Mohrsville, PA 19541
 Louellen Montgomery, 1184 Collins, Topeka, Kansas 66604
 Marie Risch, 97 Flower St., Lakewood, CO 80226 (rejoined).
 Tom Rosemeyer, P.O. Box 586, Ouray, CO 81427 (until Apr. 15, JAL
 Ranch, P.O. Box 305, Alvarado, Texas 76009)

COMING EVENTS

Jan. 10-13 Villa Italia Mineral Show, spons. by Denver Gem & Mineral Guild; Thurs., Fri. 10-9, Sat. 10-5, Sun. 12-5 (free).
 Jan. 17 FM Chapter Meeting, Denver Mus. Nat. History
 Feb. 7-10 Tucson Gem & Mineral Show
 Feb. 9 10:15 am--annual FM general meeting, Tucson
 Feb. 10 FM-MSA-TGMS 7th Mineralogical Symposium, Tucson--"Classic Mineral Localities".
 Mar. 14 FM-Colorado Chapter bimonthly meeting
 May 9 " " " " " "
 Sep. 13-15 Denver/Rocky Mountain Federation Gem & Mineral Show
 Sep. 19 FM-Colorado Chapter bimonthly meeting

FUTURE MEETINGS: FM meetings are normally held on the 2nd Thursday of every other month (no July meeting). Dues are \$10/year.

Two Rock Hounds Face \$500 Fine for Not Having Permit

Fine for Not Having Permit

By NANCY WEST

Union Leader Correspondent
CONWAY — Two New Hampshire rock hounds face up to a \$500 fine and a six-month jail term each for "conducting excavation work without the proper permit" on Moat Mountain in the White Mountain National Forest.

Frank Lavoie of Epping and Jon Herridon of Kingston are scheduled to go before a magistrate in U.S. District Court Wednesday on the charge.

According to Herridon, if a mineralogist is excavating with hand tools, without explosives, and leaves the land as he found it with resources for the next person, he is within the law. According to the U.S. Forest Service, definitions are admittedly fuzzy and Herridon and Lavoie are charged with "working" rather than "hobbying" in their rock collecting efforts, although Forest Service officials admitted the men were within their limit of 15 pounds of mineral per person.

The White Mountain National Forest is off limits to commercial mining, but the hobbyist is usually welcome. Herridon claimed he and Lavoie were stopped by a Carroll County sheriff's deputy and three U.S. Forest Service officials last July as they left the Moat Mountains with armthrust specimens. Herridon said they were frisked, their hand tools were confiscated, and their specimens were seized.

"We weren't even after the smokey quartz and were a quarter mile up the ridge from the permit area," said Herridon, referring to the 1970s regulation that restricted a five-acre area on top of Moat Mountain because of the rare and overmined smokey quartz found there.

On October 23, 1983 acting forest supervisor James Jordan sent a letter to Sen. Gordon

'It's like being in search of the Holy Grail. Finding unusual and rare specimens means more than money.'

Jon Herridon

Humphrey's office explaining no permit was required for recreational mining as long as "the rock hound uses only hand tools, disturbs all signs of resource disturbance, and always leaves some for the next person."

Dick Pierce, a staff expert with the Forest Service in Louisiana declined to comment on specifics of the pending case. He did say the permit restrictions were relaxed in the early 1970s to cut through bureaucratic red tape and included only the five-acre area atop Moat Mountain requiring a permit.

The Forest Service relies heavily on the land consciousness of rock hounds to leave the area as they found it and abide by the less formal rules, he said.

Differentiating between a collector and a commercial miner when it comes to the mineral resources in the WMNF is difficult, Pierce said. Most collectors agree the area is rich for the collector, but not for the commercial digger under current laws and regulations.

Herridon and Lavoie have spent all spare time in the last two years mapping the Moat Mountains. Herridon claims both their interests are in collecting, not commercial mining.

Herridon did say that if push came to shove he would sell his collection for a profit, adding to the Forest Service's dilemma.

"It's like being in search of the Holy Grail. Finding unusual and rare specimens means

more than money," he said.

But if he were destitute, he would sell for profit, Herridon admitted.

Controversy has mounted in the Moat Mountain area and relations strained with the district ranger after a Boston group excavated a large smoky quartz formation local geologists felt should have been kept in place.

Also at issue are the estimated \$10 million to \$50 million worth of recoverable gems on Moat Mountain alone. The question as to who controls mining efforts is going to continue to be controversial.

Most area rock hounds are pushing to have the mountain resource opened up to the public.

"There are amazing gems there, but I doubt a commercial miner could make it. I'd like to see a mineral park opened to the public. You charge \$2 or \$3 a head and let people find the minerals," Herridon said.

Other forests have done it and Herridon said he'd prefer the state utilize the mineral assets for tourism, rather than commercial mining.

By NANCY WEST
Union Leader Correspondent
A U.S. Magistrate acquitted one rock hound charged with working on national forest land without a permit and took under advisement the fate of a second mineral collector in U.S. District Court yesterday.

Jon Herridon, 35, of Brentwood, a physical science technician at the Portsmouth Naval Shipyard, was acquitted by Magistrate William H. Barry after the U.S. Attorney's office failed to prove the charge. His attorney, Donald Mitch-

'Even though we've won this battle, we've got to continue fighting the war.'

Jon Herridon

ell made the accepted acquittal motion before presenting his defense.

Herridon's digging partner Frank Lavoie, of Epping, presented his own defense and Magistrate Barry took his case under advisement. Lavoie, a 37-year-old disabled veteran, was given a verbal cease and desist order with

Herridon July 8 near an area they were digging on Moat Mountain in the White Mountain National Forest in Bartlett.

Conviction of the misdemeanor charge could result in a six-month jail term and \$500 fine.

They both claim to be hobbyists. However, charges against them alleged they violated federal regulations for "working" at collecting minerals in national forest land without a permit in an area where no permit is required for a hobbyist.

The charge alleges the partners were involved in commercial mining rather than hobby collecting.

Commercial mining in na-

Avows War on Rules

tional forest land is prohibited in the East.

Forest Service officials have stated that the permit system was relaxed in the early 1970s for amateur rock collectors except for a five acre area where smoky quartz atop Moat Mountain in Hale's Location is protected by the permit system.

The pair maintain they were near the area, but well outside the perimeter and when stopped by officials July 8 had collected armethyst.

"Even though we've won this battle, we've got to continue fighting the war," said Herridon. He said he is considering filing a civil lawsuit against the forest service to reclaim the \$1,500 he has paid in legal fees.

Herridon said he will also continue to involve mineralogists, geologists and amateur collectors in the fight.

With the 120-day public input period on federal legislation,

sponsored by Senator Gordon Humphrey, designed to clarify mineral-collection regulations on national forest land, Herridon said he hopes to educate the public about his hobby. Their cases have become controversial also because of their backing by other rock hounds and geologists who claim the Forest Service plan to manage the forest resources discriminates against mineral collectors.

COLORADO CHAPTER

FRIENDS OF MINERALOGY

WHAT IS FM AND WHAT IS ITS PURPOSE?

Friends of Mineralogy (FM) is an organization of persons devoted to the advancement of interest in minerals and related activities. Its members include professional mineralogists, geologists, curators, and private collectors. The bond uniting these people is a common love of minerals and a desire to see the appreciation and knowledge of minerals spread.

In 1976 several individuals were working together on the Colorado section of the FM National Locality Index. They discussed the need for additional projects, especially in the area of advancing mineralogical knowledge and activities in a manner not competitive with other amateur mineral organizations. A meeting was held in April 1977 in Boulder, Colorado and it was agreed to form the Colorado Chapter of the Friends of Mineralogy, Inc.

The Colorado Chapter has established the following goals:

1. Protect and preserve mineral specimens and localities.
2. Advance mineralogical education and research.
3. Support and disseminate mineralogical knowledge with seminars, publications, and educational projects.
4. Promote high ethical standards for collecting, exhibiting, and dealing with mineral specimens.
5. Build a spirit of cooperation and participation in the region for collecting, sharing, and using mineral specimens.

HOW DOES FM WORK?

FM is a nationwide and international organization with about 500 members. About half the members belong to one of the five present regional chapters, of which Colorado is one (plus Pacific Northwest, Pennsylvania, Southeast Michigan, and Southern California). It is continually open to new ideas and suggestions, and will distribute these to all regions via newsletters. FM is only as active as its members make it. The key to the success of FM is individual enthusiasm, channeled into productive areas, and the close association of people with common goals.

WHAT HAS FM ACCOMPLISHED?

Nationally, FM has sponsored field trips to recover fine mineral specimens from localities where the specimens would otherwise be destroyed. FM has supported awards for educational exhibits at mineral shows, for the best article published each year in the Mineralogical Record, and for the best paper submitted by a student for presentation at an annual or biennial FM-MSA Symposium. Projects have included revitalization of fine and historic mineral collections that have fallen into disrepair; the study of ways in which mineral localities can be preserved for the future; the preparation of a cumulative index to the Mineralogical Record; and preparation of a "locality index" to be a source of accurate information about the names, locations, and nature of important mineral localities.

The Colorado Chapter is primarily a service organization, and much of its work is to support and act as a resource for other mineral clubs and organizations. This work will mainly be directed toward several long range projects, including:

1. Revising and compiling information on minerals and localities for publication. A comprehensive volume on "Minerals of Colorado", updating U.S.G.S. Bulletin 1114, is presently being prepared for publication.
2. Presentation of programs, classes, and activities for schools and other mineral clubs.
3. Collecting mineral specimens to preserve them in museums and also to make them available to collectors at public sales and auctions.
4. Holding seminars and meetings to discuss and present mineralogical research and information. An annual Mineral Symposium has been held in September at the Denver Gem and Mineral Show, beginning in 1982.

WHAT ARE THE BENEFITS OF FM MEMBERSHIP?

FM members include in their ranks some of the most eminent mineralogists and museum curators in the world, and scores of collectors who claim nothing more than a love of minerals. Membership encourages a close fellowship and sharing with these other members. FM activities are published in a national newsletter, in the Mineralogical Record, and in chapter newsletters that bring current news and information about projects and trips to members. Membership gives the chance to participate in some of the most exciting activities in mineral collecting, curating, research, and education.

HOW DO I JOIN?

To join the Colorado Chapter a person must have a desire to participate in and support the Chapter, and must receive the sponsorship of a member of the Chapter. Dues for the Colorado Chapter are ten dollars per year. This includes membership in Friends of Mineralogy, Inc. Unless otherwise stated, chapter meetings will be held six times per year beginning in January, on the second Thursday of the month from 7:30 to 10:00 p.m. at the Denver Museum of Natural History.

For more information, please contact:

Jack Murphy, Curator
Department of Geology
Denver Museum of Natural History
City Park
Denver, Colorado 80205
303-370-6355

or

Pete Modreski
U. S. Geological Survey
Box 25046, Federal Center
M/S 922
Denver, Colorado 80225
303-236-5639 (office)