

**Friends of Mineralogy - Colorado Chapter
Newsletter No. 3, April-May 1992**

April Meeting: 7:30 p.m., Thursday, April 12, 1992
Denver Museum of Natural History
VIP Conference Room (at rear of T-Rex Cafe)
*enter the museum through the staff door, to the left of
the main entrance on the north side facing the parking lot*

PROGRAM

A Four-Part Mineralogical Potpourri

I - A Photo Tour of the 1992 Tucson Show
(deferred from our March meeting)

II - The Colorado School of Mines Museum
by Virginia Mast

**Progress on the Clear Creek Cave Reconstruction,
and other new activities/exhibits at CSM**

**III - The "Minerals of Colorado Update" -
Progress, Revelations, and Tribulations**
by Eugene Foord

IV - "What's New at the Denver Museum of Natural History"
by Jack Murphy

Tonight's program of selected short subjects will bring us up to date on a number of projects currently in progress. Ginny Mast, curator of the CSM Geology Museum will talk and show slides illustrating progress in new exhibit construction at the museum, particularly the reconstruction of "C.J.'s Crystal Cave" (a.k.a. Clear Creek Cave) using material recovered from the cave when it was first discovered in 1988 and when partially re-excavated in 1989, plus a remarkable assortment of man-made cast and replicated speleothems. She'll also talk about some new educational programs underway through the CSM Museum. Gene Foord will report on progress on the *Minerals of Colorado* book, with an emphasis on unusual or puzzling facts and stories learned in the process--new minerals to the State, discredited minerals, tall tales and improbable stories. Jack Murphy (scheduled last on our program, to rush in to the meeting after teaching a Museum geology class earlier in the evening) will talk about some of the new display plans and materials soon to be in the museum, including a rumored new mineral specimen acquisition (it *may* be something that starts with an "r").

**FM AUCTION NEXT MONTH, MAY 7 -
DENVER MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY**



Colorado Chapter, Friends of Mineralogy

Chapter Officers:

President:	Pete Modreski (home phone 978-9926)	Director:	Gene Foord
Vice-President:	Roger Bennett	Director:	Glen Johnson
Secretary:	Carol Smith	Director:	Ed Raines
Treasurer:	Eunice York		

AUCTION - MAY 7

Our annual fund-raising auction will be held in the ground floor Atrium area of the Denver Museum of Natural History. Doors will open at 6:30 p.m.; the auction starts at 7 p.m. There will be both a silent auction, and a vocal auction of selected items. This year, the auction will be for the benefit of three separate institutions:

Friends of Mineralogy

(to be used for the Minerals of Colorado book project)

Denver Museum of Natural History

(selected specimens belonging to the Museum to be sold in the auction, all proceeds to go to the Geology Department fund)

Colorado School of Mines Geology Museum

(selected specimens donated by the CSM Museum, to be sold for their benefit)

As in past years, all members and guests are invited to bring in specimens to donate to the auction. A sheet of bid forms for the auction is attached to this newsletter (photocopy as needed); please fill them out with the item name, minimum bid price if any, your name as seller on the bottom of the form, and whether this item is sold as a 100% or 50% donation. FM members only are entitled to donate items to the auction and to retain 50% of the selling price. As we did last year, we are using this auction to benefit not only FM but also the Museum of Natural History, providing an opportunity for them to sell a group of their surplus specimens to raise money for the Geology Department. Specimens to be auctioned by the Museum will include some from the Addenbrook Collection, a part of which is on display in the Coors Mineral Hall and some specimens of which were part of our auction last year too. This year we are also extending this opportunity to the Colorado School of Mines Geology Museum. The CSM Museum has in past years been very supportive of FM, in donating specimens for our auction without requesting any share of the proceeds. Each individual is invited to bring as many specimens to the auction as they wish; we would like to encourage each person to bring, if possible, one high quality or special interest specimen, to make the auction an event truly worth attending.

The auction is an enjoyable evening, and we consider it the highlight of our year. There will be a cash bar set up by the Museum; light refreshments will be provided by our members, so we invite each person attending to bring something (crackers, chips, dip, vegetables, cheese, cookies, cake, fruit, etc.--anything cold is fine, but no dishes which require heat are permitted). We will look forward to seeing you all at the auction!

PLEASE REMEMBER TO:

Pay your dues! (Actually, if you haven't already done so, you presumably aren't even getting this newsletter, unless someone is being especially considerate of you.) For meeting visitors or other interested not-yet-members who read this; you are all welcome and invited to apply to join FM. Please see membership chairman Glen Johnson for an application form; annual dues are \$13.00.

Fill out and return the "Speakers' Bureau" survey form prepared by Ed Raines, if there are one or more talks you have given or can give to this or other mineral-oriented organizations. We will have extra copies on hand at the meeting if you need one.

Come to our auction on May 7! Bring some friends, and one or more specimens to donate to the auction; and, if you can, some refreshments to share for the evening.

FM BUSINESS MATTERS

Last Newsletter before Auction - Since our April meeting is an "extra" one we are trying as an experiment this year, we do *not* plan to send a separate May newsletter--this will be your sole reminder of the auction. Please help us call other collectors' attention to the Auction Leaflet attached to this newsletter--show it to people from other clubs, or post a copy of it in any appropriate place.

March meeting - At a well-attended meeting March 12 at the Museum of Natural History, Dr. Allen V. Heyl spoke and showed slides on mines and mineral localities of New Mexico; we all enjoyed Allen's presentation, and thank him for his lecture. Due to the time spent on discussion of business matters, the planned Tucson '92 slide show was deferred until the April meeting. The business discussion principally centered on the proposed financing of publication of Mark Jacobson's manuscript on Mount Antero (see following item, below). Eunice York, our treasurer, reported that our chapter has total assets of \$13,688, of which \$12,000 has recently been put into a money market account, with the balance now in an interest-bearing checking account. Karen Wenrich brought refreshments to the March meeting; no one was willing to volunteer to be "refreshments coordinator" for the year, but volunteers are being solicited to bring refreshments to each meeting; snacks at the May auction will be a community effort.

A Summer FM Activity? - At our last meeting, there was some discussion about the possibility of an informal summer activity of some sort--a field trip, picnic, group museum tour, "fun" auction, or all combined. No formal plans have been set for such an event--should we do it? Drop a word to one of the officers at the April or May meeting if you feel one way or the other about this; we will notify you during the summer if we decide to schedule something.

Mark Jacobson - Mount Antero Manuscript - A proposal was received, which needed to be acted on by FM and passed on to the Greater Denver Area Gem and Mineral Council, for Mark's book to be published by Lanny Ream, of Coeur d'Alene, Idaho, with proposed funding to come from FM in combination with the Denver Council, and profits to be split by the two groups. The Colorado FM Chapter, in a vote at the March, 1991 meeting, had agreed in principle to support publishing the Mount Antero manuscript.

The proposal (submitted by Lanny Ream, at Mark's request) called for printing of 2000 copies of the book, which is expected to consist of 152 pages, 7 x 10" softcover, including 8 pages of color photographs and about 90 black-and-white photographs, at a cost of \$10,000. The suggested retail price would be \$19.95; copies would be sold to retail dealers and wholesale distributors at discounts ranging from 40% to 60% off list price (standard amounts of discounts are established by retail and wholesale dealers in the publishing trade). Profits would be split, 30% to Lanny Ream and 70% to the organizations which advance the money for the printing. Lanny Ream would handle all printing layout and arrangements, and storage, advertising, and sales of the books. Mark Jacobson would supply the black-and-white half-tone prints and the color separations; this expense (est. to be \$400) would be returned to him out of book sales, and Mark would receive no other share of the profits. Projected profits, if all 2000 copies were sold, at an average discount of 50%, would be a return of \$13,281 to the investors, for the \$10,000 advanced to publish the book.

Lanny Ream is an experienced publisher of mineralogical materials, including *Idaho Minerals* (1989), *The gold, gem and mineral collector's guide to mineral laws and regulations* (1981), the newsletter *Mineral News* (1985-present), and two additional books about Idaho scheduled to be published in 1992-93. Several additional options suggested by Lanny on the Mount Antero book are to publish a limited number (about 100) of copies in hardbound version, to be sold at a higher price (\$34.95); to print an additional 1000 copies, at a cost of about \$2 per copy but significantly reducing the overall average cost per copy; or to have all the books made with a better quality (sewn-in, instead of "perfect bound") softcover binding, at an extra cost of about \$0.62 per copy.

At our FM board meeting preceding the regular meeting on March 12, the board approved the proposal to publish *Antero Aquamarines* basically according to Lanny's suggestions, with FM to provide 50% of the printing cost up to a maximum of \$7000 (assuming we would opt for one or two of the possible options which would increase the cost), with the proposal to be submitted to the Denver Council to put up the remainder of the cost. However, when the proposal and the Board recommendation was presented to the FM general membership at the March meeting, after lengthy discussion, the members expressed approval of the publication idea in principle, but declined to appropriate money for the project at this time. A motion was passed, proposed by Karen Wenrich and seconded by Ray Berry, that FM "Recommend to the Denver Council that they [the Council] financially support the project, and if they have a problem with it, that FM reconsider the project".

Reasons the members endorsed the proposal in principle but declined to commit funds to it appear to have been: (1) Most funds in the FM treasury are earmarked for use in preparation and publication of the *Minerals of Colorado* update, and money which may be needed for this project should not be used or risked in other ventures; (2) Concern about how long it would take to sell all the copies, and that a long time might elapse before the investment was recovered; (3) Members of the Denver Council who were present expressed strong conviction that the Council would readily approve the project, and that the Council had sufficient funds available to pay for the entire publication cost, with no other obligations which would require return of those funds at any particular time; and (4) The members were being presented with a complex and costly financial proposal without prior notice or opportunity to review the details of the proposal.

The proposal will therefore be presented to the Denver Council at its Second Quarter meeting, planned for some time in May, with review first by the Council's Long Range Planning Committee. We will recommend that the Council fund

the proposal; if it is unwilling or unable to provide the entire funding, then FM will reconsider funding a share of the venture. At the same time, Mark Jacobson is being informed of the progress in this matter; since it is Mark's book, we need to be sure that Mark is willing to have the Council fund its publication; his original proposal was for FM to finance (and benefit from) publication of the book.

FMCC Finances, 1985-1991

In view of our discussions about possible funds available for FM to take a role in publishing a book other than *Minerals of Colorado*, I would like to present a summary report on our finances, updating one I prepared in 1987 and again in 1989. Our chapter's main sources of income have been dues, auction proceeds (earmarked for the *Update*), and sales of books from our three mineralogical symposia. Expenses have been typing and manuscript preparation work on the *Update*, printing and reprinting of symposium volumes, and general operating expenses. A breakdown of expenses for 1981 through 1991 follows:

year	1981	1982	1983	1984	1985	1986	1987	1988	1989	1990	1991	Total
initial balance	\$ 1184	140	158	1579	3174	3490	5855	5951	7058	10286	12551	1184
income												
dues	453	555	638	610	817	900	1037	607	1040	855	1030	8542
net auction proceeds	-	-	1564	1590	1938	1284	780	1330	1351	1323	659	11819
donations for update	-	100	-	150	50	-	-	-	-	-	-	300
book sales	-	-	-	-	-	553	1076	1005	1690	1216	429	5969
symposium net profit	-	-	-	-	-	636	-	-	-	-	-	636
expenses												
symposium net expenses	-	-	-	-	190	-	229	129	157	-	-	705
book reprints	-	-	-	-	-	-	880	357	-	403	-	1640
Min's of Colo. Update	1400	300	480	-	1566	470	1340	830	-	29	15	6430
operating expenses	97	337	301	755	733	538	348	519	696	697	1207	6228
total income	453	655	2202	2350	2995	3373	3122	3071	4238	3394	2118	27266
total expenses	1497	637	781	755	2489	1008	2797	1835	853	1129	1222	15003
final balance	140	158	1579	3174	3490	5855	5951	7058	10286	12551	13447	13447

Note: Most expenditures for the Update so far have been for word processing and were made before 1989, at which time the authors began typing all their new material themselves on personal computers. Our auction income in 1991 was unusually low because about half the specimens sold were for the sole benefit of the Denver Museum of Natural History, reducing our own proceeds accordingly. Operating expenses for 1991 appear unusually high because dues (totalling \$511) to National FM and to the RMFMS for part of 1990, 1991, and 1992 were all paid during calendar year 1991. Total sources of income for 1981 through 1991 were: dues, \$8542; auction proceeds + donations, \$12,119; and sale of books, \$5969. Total expenses were: net loss on symposia, \$69; cost of book reprints, \$1640; spent on Update project, \$6430; general operating expenses, \$6228.

What we can conclude from these figures are the following: (1) Our dues plus income from book sales have been more than sufficient to pay for our general operating expenses; (2) During these 11 years, we raised a total of \$12,119 for the Update project. We have spent a total of \$6430 on the Update; thus, about \$5689 of the funds in our treasury should be considered as specifically earmarked for the Update; (4) of our 1/1/92 treasury balance of \$13,447, about \$5689 should be regarded as earmarked for the Update, and an additional \$7758 is available for this or whatever other projects we choose to undertake.

Editor's (PJM) note: My own feeling about the meaning of the above figures is that FM can, if it wishes to, in good conscience commit at least up to \$7000 to any other worthy projects without feeling that we are jeopardizing the completion and publication of Minerals of Colorado or that we are violating the spirit in which donations were made to the auction and to the Minerals of Colorado project. My personal feeling is that it would be highly appropriate for the Friends of Mineralogy, Colorado Chapter, to be a co-sponsor of the publication of Mark Jacobson's Mount Antero book, and that sponsorship of this book would not in any significant way detract from our ability to complete Minerals of Colorado.

Rocky Mountain Federation and American Federation of Mineralogical Societies - A question which arises each year is whether the FM Colorado Chapter should continue to be a member of the RMFMS/AFMS. At present, to be affiliated with these organizations, we make a dues payment of \$0.75 per member to the Rocky Mountain Federation (they in turn forward 25 cents of this to the American Federation). Our organization thus helps support the activities of the AFMS and RMFMS, and each member of our group becomes a certified member of the RMFMS/AFMS, with all benefits derived from that. This spring, the RMFMS will be debating raising their dues to \$1.25 per member.

What benefits come from Federation membership and from support of the Federations? Members are entitled to enter exhibits in competition for trophies at regional or national Federation mineral shows. A bimonthly newsletter from the RMFMS ("The Rocky Mountain News") and a monthly one from the AFMS are sent to each member club (several copies are mailed, to two or three of the club's officers, hopefully for them to share with interested members); in alternate months, a one-page "Digest Sheet" is sent to each club; sufficient copies are sent so that these sheets can be included with the group's newsletter to all members, if desired. An annual directory of clubs within each region is prepared and mailed to each club. A stock of slide programs, available for loan to member clubs, is maintained. Regional and National Federation shows are organized. Judging rules for competitive exhibits at Federation shows are prepared and distributed. The AFMS sponsors a number of scholarships each year to geology graduate students around the country, through its scholarship fund; in 1991, a total of 12 scholarships were awarded nationwide (2 in each of the 6 regional federations), each scholarship being a \$2000 award for each of two years. And, the Federation provides a unified forum and a "voice" for rockhounds in matters which affect everyone (the AFMS is currently planning to establish a separate, tax-exempt foundation to serve as a lobbying organization on matters of public land use and access).

What are the arguments for *not* staying a member of the RMFMS/AFMS? The newsletters often contain little news of interest to our members (as often happens, there was not room this month (we already have 6 sheets of paper) to include a "Digest Sheet" with this month's FM newsletter; but they will be available at the April meeting, so please take one and have a look at it). The interests of our members do not have that much in common with most "rockhound" clubs in the Federation. Relatively few FM members are involved in competitive exhibiting, and most of those who are, or who participate in other Federation-related activities, belong to other mineral clubs besides FM and thus already are Federation members. We seldom use their slide programs or other services. The scholarship programs are valuable, but they are funded separately, through donations of money earned by member clubs specifically as contributions for the scholarship fund; regular AFMS/RMFMS dues go only toward AFMS/RMFMS operating expenses, *not* into the scholarship fund. The "voice" of the AFMS on matters such as public access to collecting sites has not been particularly effectual in the past. Could our dues money be better spent on our own projects? (we already give \$3/member to National FM).

What do *you* think--should we continue our membership in the RMFMS/AFMS, or not? Your comments to any of our officers, or letters to be printed in this newsletter, are welcome.

SHORT NOTES

Lapidary Journal - We have received a packet of subscription forms for *Lapidary Journal* which offer a rebate on the subscription price *to the club* as a fund-raising means, if members subscribe to the magazine through the group. The cost of a subscription is \$24 per year, or \$41 for two years; the sponsoring club will keep \$6 for each one-year subscription, slightly less per year for a two-year. LJ specifically wants this to be kept as a fund-raising opportunity for clubs, not as a discount to be passed on to the individual subscriber. If you would like to subscribe to *Lapidary Journal* (which has become quite a high-quality magazine in recent years for those interested in lapidary, jewelry, and gemstones), please ask for one of these forms at the next FM meeting.

The Short Collection, Cañon City - *Tracks in Time*, the newsletter of the Garden Park Paleontology Society, notes (Jan.-Mar. 1992, vol. 2, no. 1) that "Local residents Paul and Bob Short have honored the Garden Park Paleontology Society by donating a collection of over 2000 geological specimens of precious metals, gems, minerals, ores, and historic artifacts". The article notes that "Several gold tellurides from Cripple Creek and other localities are part of the collection.", and contains several anecdotes of local interest and local color: "Many of the items in the collection have interesting histories. One piece of silver originates from the single largest native silver nugget ever mined, from the Smuggler mine in Aspen. It was discovered on the night shift, required three days to hoist to the surface through the Mollie Gibson shaft by J.M. McBride, who later became Roy's father-in-law. The original weight was 2600 lbs, although by the time it was trimmed to fit the shaft, the weight was 1853 lbs, and it was 98% pure silver." Roy Short, Bob and Paul's father, was born in Central City in 1889 and began the collection.

Roy worked in the lumber business and "In the course of his work, Roy met a large number of miners in "The District", as Victor and Cripple Creek were known in those days." "In the early 1950's, Roy hired a man for a year for the sole mission of collecting specimens... The first major acquisition was from a widowed lady named Rankine, from Florence,

whose husband had amassed a garage-full of specimens, stored in barrels, sacks, and nail kegs. The specimens were carefully cleaned, washed, sorted and catalogued. Soon after this, another collection was bought, also from a widow, this time from Aspen, and included wire silver, gold and silver from Aspen mines. Roy Short purchased two gold nuggets from the Empire Zinc Plant, which together, weigh one pound, and one gold pocket piece from Alaska."

"One of Ray's stories is a little-known saga about a tungsten mine here. Many years ago, a portion of a tungsten strike was mined near Cañon City and stored in a vault in Denver. There it lay for almost 30 years, until finally an expert recognized its purity. By this time, however, nobody was around who knew the location of the mine whence it had originated, but it must still be out there somewhere". And, "...included in the Short Collection are a number of specimens recovered from the Arkansas River. One of these is a finger-tip sized chunk of gold, which was purchased many years ago by Roy from a local character known as Rattlesnake Dick."

The newsletter concludes by noting that the collection "will ultimately form a prominent exhibit in the Garden Park National Visitor Center, which is projected to open in 1995". Garden Park, north of Cañon City, is a site famous for excavation of Jurassic dinosaur fossils (including the Stegosaurus in the Denver Museum of Natural History); a paleontological visitor center is being planned for the area.

Denver Museum Gold Specimen - Bear Pause (newsletter of the Denver Museum of Natural History; Dec. 1991) announced that a new, 9.7-ounce California gold specimen has been acquired by the Museum and will be on display in the Coors Mineral Hall. The 4-by-5-inch crystallized leaf gold specimen is said to be the largest piece of non-Colorado gold the Museum has ever owned. The specimen is from a 1900 discovery in Placer County, California, at a site where mining dates back to 1849. It was purchased with funds from Museum Trustee A. Reynolds Morse, donated in honor of A.E. Reynolds, who was one of the founders of the Museum.

Correction - My note which appeared in the last (March) FM Newsletter, describing Bill Smith's guest editorial in the Nov.-Dec. *Mineralogical Record*, in attempting to report a correction in regard to a quotation properly attributed to Arthur Montgomery rather than (as M.R. attributed it) to Bill himself, apparently still managed to make or imply some mis-statements as to who said what. The quotations which I referred to in Bill's editorial about minerals being seen "more and more primarily as pretty objects" and "the real meaning of minerals is: what they are in themselves..." were *not* Bill's statements as I perhaps implied them to be; they were, again, quotations from Arthur Montgomery. I apologize for any inaccuracy which thereby appeared in my note in this newsletter.----PJM

MacMillan Gallery, Ottawa - The *Northern Miner* (Dec. 9, 1991) reports that "The Pinch mineral collection will settle into its permanent home here at the Viola MacMillan Gallery at the Canadian Museum of Nature in March. The opening corresponds with the 150th anniversary of the Geological Survey of Canada (GSC) and with the 50th anniversary of MacMillan's discussions with the GSC that led to the founding of the Prospectors and Developers Association of Canada." It notes the "Visitors will be able to stroll along a re-creation of the Bay of Fundy, walk through stopes duplicating those in the Sigma gold mine in northwestern Quebec, and experience the environment of the seafloor. A 'time machine' will whisk the curious back 4.5 billion years to the beginnings of the Earth and forward 150 million years." The Pinch collection is noted for superb examples of many rare mineral species.

New Books - Two new books premiered at the time of the Tucson Show, and might be of interest to our members. *The Lapidary Journal Index, 1947-1991* (1992, Lapidary Journal Press, San Diego, hardbound, 433 p., 9.2 x 6.2", \$24.95) is a very useful cumulative index to the 44 years of *Lapidary Journal* since it began publication. A vast amount of material about gems, lapidary, jewelry, minerals, and field trip locations has been published in LJ, and this volume makes it findable and accessible. *Zeolites of the World* by Rudy W. Tschernich (1992, Geoscience Press, Phoenix, hardbound, 563 p., 10.25 x 7.1", \$84.95) is a collection of information about all the known zeolite minerals. For each zeolite mineral it includes discovery and naming, crystal structure, physical and optical properties, morphology (with labeled crystal drawings), chemistry, identifying characteristics, specimen cleaning advice, conditions of origin, and worldwide occurrence; considerable space is devoted to a detailed description of the known localities throughout the world. Some drawbacks to the book: the format lends itself to laborious repetition of locality information--for example, for the Table Mountain, Colorado, locality, a descriptive paragraph about the locality, associated minerals, and references is repeated in much the same form for each of the 12+ zeolites known from this location. For technical data, the book is not as comprehensive or authoritative as, for example, the older *Natural Zeolites* (1985) by Gottardi and Galli. And, the author has chosen to follow his own judgement in defining what is or is not a *bona fide* zeolite mineral species; for example, he has excluded barrerite, clinoptilolite, stellerite, tetranatrolite, wellsite, and willhendersonite as zeolite species, treating them all just as varieties (of, respectively, stilbite, heulandite, stilbite again, gonnardite, phillipsite, and chabazite, even though all are officially accepted by the I.M.A.).

Speaking of magazine indexes - A report on two other cumulative magazine indices "in the works" would be appropriate. *Mineralogical Record*, which had a 14-year index (1970-1983) published by Friends of Mineralogy in 1985, had anticipated putting out a complete, 20-year index soon after completion of its 20th year of publication, 1989 (volunteers from FM were still doing the indexing, but donating the entire index manuscript to M.R.). However, delays in accumulating all the entries in computer format allowed the time to slip from 1990 to 1991; now, in 1992, because a full two additional years of the magazine have already been published, M.R. has decided to wait with the index until 25 years are completed, and then very promptly publish a 25-year index--e.g., early in 1995. The existing 14-year index is very useful when you are trying to locate information on a particular mineral topic, and it's too bad we'll have to wait another 3 years to get it. Wendell Wilson has admitted that he *might* reconsider the decision to wait until 25 years for another index, if he gets enough requests/complaints about it.

The other index volume still in the works is a cumulative index to *Rocks & Minerals*. First worked on as a one-man effort by Ron Bentley (and originally anticipated to be completed a few years ago), the R&M index has been taken over by the Rochester Mineralogical Symposium, and will be published by that group. The compilation and computerization of the index (to at least 65 years of *Rocks & Minerals*, beginning with vol. 1 in 1926, is said to be nearly complete, but an exact publication date or year is not yet promised; it should be within 1-2 years from now.

Great Lakes Region Diamond Mining - The *Mining Journal* (London, Jan. 31, 1992) notes the formation of a partnership between Ashton Mining Ltd., Crystal Exploration Inc. of Australia, and Dow Chemical Co., to conduct diamond exploration in Wisconsin and the Upper Peninsula of Michigan, in the area south of Lake Superior and west of Lake Michigan. Company spokesmen state that a cluster of kimberlite pipes containing microdiamonds has already been discovered in this region, and the pipes will be tested for commercial potential. Over the years, about 60 gem-quality diamonds, up to 21 carats in weight, have been found on the surface in glacial deposits covering this area. Some 25 kimberlite pipes are said to have been located, 12 within the lease area of this project, and at least 7 of which are said to contain diamonds. Ashton Mining is a 40% owner of the world's largest diamond mine, the Argyle deposit at Kimberley, Western Australia; Argyle produced a record of 35 million carats of diamond in 1991.

Public land access - The AFMS newsletter (March, 1992) reports on what seems to be a new degree of limitation on mineral collecting on State land, in Wisconsin. They state that "A field trip by the Badger Lapidary and Geological Society, of Monroe, Wisconsin, to northern Wisconsin for pink tourmaline was led by Janet Blabaum, Environmental Geologist, in late August. While the collecting site is well known, the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) attempted to issue a citation for collecting on this state forest land. After some consultation the citation is in question because the site is not posted. However we are assured that it is now." The article goes on to state that mining plans have recently been filed by Rio Tinto Zinc Co. and Kennecott Copper to construct an open pit copper/gold mine in this part of Wisconsin, and many other tracts of land are currently under lease for possible mining development. The harassment of mineral collectors is attributed to a desire on the part of the Wisconsin DNR to "discourage reconnaissance of Wisconsin areas for mining purposes", since mining is perceived to be a source of environmental problems which they would prefer to avoid by discouraging mining. [AFMS report by John Boland, Chairman, AFMS Conservation and Legislation Committee]

Here in Colorado, we have had few instances of federally or state-owned land being closed to mineral collectors, so that most collectors here probably tend to be somewhat indifferent to concerns of land closure and prohibition of collecting.

Meetings of other organizations - Some geological groups whose meetings may be of interest to FM members: The *Colorado Scientific Society* meets 7:30 p.m., 2nd Tuesday evening of each month, Sheraton Hotel, 360 Union Blvd., Lakewood; Apr. 14 - "Environmentalism vs. Science" + "Late Cenozoic Environmental History of Alaska and Yukon Territory"; May 12 - "Tectonic controls on landscape in New Zealand" + "Late Quaternary paleoflood records of the Colorado Front Range". The *Denver Mining Club* has luncheon meetings every Thursday, 11:30-1:00, Building 41 Cafeteria, Federal Center, Lakewood; Apr. 9 - "Mineral Exploration in Argentina"; Apr. 16 - "Economic impact of mining law reform"; Apr. 23 - "The Searles Lake, California evaporite deposit". *DREGS (Denver Region Exploration Geologists Society)* meets the 1st Monday of the month, 7 p.m., Sheraton Hotel, Lakewood; Apr. 6 - "Breccia bodies in the Carlin trend, Elko and Eureka Counties, Nevada". All of these meetings are open to any interested persons--no fee, and no reservations needed.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR (4/1/92)

Dear Editor - "Why don't ye print somethin' to explain what all them fancy geo-paleo-chronological names mean what we always reads about in yer Mineralogical Retort, Rock and Pebble, & etc., even in some of the stuff you and Mr. Kile & his ilk writes for the FM newsletter?"--Yrs. Truly, Partly Confused."

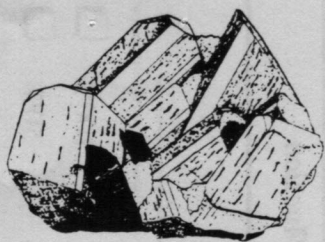
Dear Partly Confused - Thank you for your suggestion. We have thought that a review of the names for geologic time units might be of benefit to many of our members. The accompanying chart (*see next page*) nicely summarizes the geologic time scale and we commend it to your careful study.

EVENTS FOR YOUR CALENDAR - 1992

- APRIL 3-5 Fort Collins Rockhound Club Show: Lincoln Center, 419 W. Magnolia, St., Fort Collins, CO.
- APRIL 9-12 Rochester Mineralogical Symposium, Rochester, NY.
- APRIL 9 April FM meeting.
- APRIL 17 Littleton Gem and Mineral Club meeting, featuring Leonard Beach, "The Sweet Home mine"; all interested persons are welcome to attend (7:30 p.m., Bradley House, 5844 S. Datura St., Littleton)
- APRIL 24-26 Rocky Mountain Federation of Mineralogical Societies Show, Wichita, Kansas (Wichita Gem and Mineral Society): Cessna Activities Center, 2744 George Washington Blvd. Chairman: Bob Crouch, (316) 686-9007.
- APRIL 25-26 Flatirons Mineral Club Show: Fisher Chevrolet, 6025 Arapahoe Rd., Boulder, CO. Chairman: Jim Spotts, (303) 258-7979.
- MAY 7 May FM meeting **ANNUAL AUCTION.**
- MAY 16-17 Grand Junction Gem and Mineral Show: Two Rivers Convention Center, 159 Main St., Grand Junction, CO. Chairman: Howard Schubarth, (303) 243-0779.
- JUNE 25-28 RAMS (Mile-Hi Rock and Mineral Society) Show: Westminster Mall, 88th and Sheridan. Chairperson: Sue Kurtz, 466-4950.
- JULY 18-19 Colorado Springs Mineral Society Show, City Auditorium, 221 E. Kiowa (info: Ray Berry, 719 598-7877)
- JULY 23-26 AFMS Show, Brunswick, Ohio (Cleveland area).
- SEP 10 September FM meeting.
- SEP 18-20 Denver Gem and Mineral Show: Denver Merchandise Mart, I-25 & 58th Ave. Chairman: Carl Charette, 674-5545. Exhibits Chairperson: Dianne Kile, 341-0135.
- OCT 8 October FM meeting.
- NOV 12 November FM meeting.
- NOV 14-15 13th Annual New Mexico Mineral Symposium, New Mexico Bureau of Mines and Mineral Resources, Socorro, NM. Registration information: Judy Vaiza, NMBMMR, Socorro, NM 87801, (505) 835-5302.

Geologic Ages and Events

Time BP	ERA/Epech	Life Forms	Geologic Developments	
5000	ATONAL	Rocks	Mountain ranges upthrust; continents form	
3000	CATATONIC PROPHYLACTIC	PRECOCIOUS	Ugly green slime	Earthquakes and volcanoes
			Ugly green slime with orange spots	Volcanoes and earthquakes
	ORTHOPEDIC			
505	Accordion	Seashells	Torrential rains	
425	Pedestrian	More seashells	Thunder and lightning	
360	Freudian	Slimy things	More rain	
325	Artesian	Slimy things with tentacles	More thunder and lightning	
280	Pestiferous	Nasty crawly things	Rain, 40 days and 40 nights; oceans form	
230	Obstreperous	Lots of nasty crawly things	Rain, with intermittent volcanoes	
	METATARSAL			
205	Cryptic	Big warty things	Swamps form	
165	Styptic	Really big warty things	Hot, with frequent rains; drifting continents	
135	Creosote	Warty things too big; start over	Even hotter, with lots of mosquitoes	
	CRETINOUS			
75	Obscene Uglyscene	Little hairy animals	Cooler, with a 20% chance of comets	
		Big hairy animals	Windy; small continent warning	
39	Vaseline	Animals with silly-looking horns, ridiculous teeth	Cold, with night and morning glaciers	
28	Listerine	Animals who don't understand about tar pits	Fair inland, patchy fog near the coast	
12	Ovalline	Shree-trowe-true-ehese-ehoo-treee tree shrews	Warm and sunny; great weekend for a barbecue	
1	Plasticine	First homonyms	Smog alert	
25000 y	Recent	Modern person; first Republicans	Freeways upthrust; suburbs form	
15 min	Very recent	First computer nerds	Fast-food chains form	



**COLORADO CHAPTER
FRIENDS OF MINERALOGY**



**10th ANNUAL
AUCTION**

Thursday, May 7, 1992

Denver Museum of Natural History

doors open 6 p.m. - auction begins 7 p.m.

Mineral Specimens, Books, Related Materials

Silent Auction + Vocal Auction of Selected Items

Cash Bar

Complimentary Refreshments Courtesy of FM Members

auction to benefit:

**Colorado Chapter, Friends of Mineralogy
Denver Museum of Natural History, Geology Department
Colorado School of Mines Geology Museum**

ALL INTERESTED PERSONS ARE INVITED TO COME!

donations of specimens for the auction are gratefully accepted

FRIENDS OF MINERALOGY, COLORADO CHAPTER

SCHEDULE OF MEETINGS FOR 1992

7:30 p.m., Thursday evenings

DENVER MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY

April 9

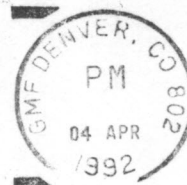
May 7 - AUCTION!

September 10

October 8

November 12

**Friends of Mineralogy, Colorado Chapter
P.O. Box 150401
Lakewood, Colorado 80215-0401**



Ginny Mast
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