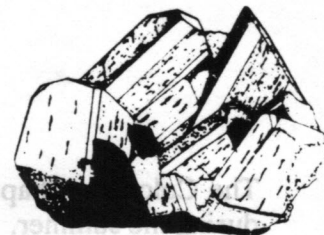


F friends of **m** mineralogy **colorado** chapter



Newsletter - January, 1992

President:	Pete Modreski	Director:	Gene Foord
Vice-president:	Roger Bennett	Director:	Glen Johnson
Treasurer:	Eunice York	Director:	Ed Raines
Secretary:	Carol Smith		

January Meeting: 7:30 p.m., Thursday, Jan. 9, 1992

VIP Conference Room (at rear of T-Rex Cafe),

Denver Museum of Natural History

(enter the museum through the staff door, to the left of the main entrance, on the north side of the museum, facing the parking lot)

PROGRAM:

"Lechuguilla - A Photographic Tour Through a World-Class Cave"

by Ed LaRock and K.I. Cunningham,

U.S. Geological Survey, Denver, CO

Abstract:

Lechuguilla Cave is located in the Permian Capitan Reef approximately 4 miles northwest of Carlsbad Cavern in Carlsbad Caverns National Park, New Mexico. Since being dug open by a small group from Colorado in May 1986, cavers have mapped over 60 miles of passage, attained the deepest point underground in the United States, and found gypsum and calcite cave formations unrivaled in the world. Originally considered a small, unimportant cave in the Park's backcountry-wilderness area, Lechuguilla has emerged as one of the world's outstanding examples of cavern development via a sulfuric acid solution mechanism (as opposed to the normally observed carbonic acid process for most caves) and as a uniquely preserved repository of massive and speleothemic gypsum, elemental sulfur, and previously undescribed biokarst.

This exploration and scientific achievement has been photo-documented by some of the best national and international cave photographers and provides a unique and safe look at what many are calling the finest cave in the world. We present a photo tour through the 6 main areas of the cave: the Entrance passages and Rift, the Eastern MegaMaze, the Far East, the Western Borehole, the F-Survey, and High Hopes. No vertical gear, survey or data collection equipment, food, water, multiple light sources, helmet, sleeping gear, or rope hauling is required.

NOTES ABOUT CURRENT ACTIVITIES

The Colorado Chapter, Friends of Mineralogy, meets bimonthly in odd-numbered months except during the summer. Meetings are at 7:30 p.m. at the Denver Museum of Natural History, normally on the 2nd Thursday of the month. 1992 meetings will be on Jan. 9, Mar. 12, May 14, Sep. 10, and Nov. 12. Meetings are open to the public and all interested persons are always welcome to attend. Dues to belong to FM are \$13.00 per year; this automatically includes membership in the parent national organization, Friends of Mineralogy, Inc.

Notes from the November meeting: Balloting at the November general membership meeting confirmed the slate of officers proposed by the nominating committee:

President: Pete Modreski

Vice-president: Roger Bennett

Treasurer: Eunice York

Secretary: Carol Smith

Board of Directors: Glen Johnson (to a new two-year term)
(Gene Foord and Ed Raines are completing two-year terms
to which they were elected last year)

FMCC has decided to undertake the role of providing a speakers bureau for area gem and mineral clubs. Ed Raines (in addition to his many other duties) is assembling information about speakers and their areas of expertise. If you know of someone (including yourself) who has given or can give an interesting and informative talk on some aspect of minerals, field collecting, mineralogical history, curation of collections (public or private), etc., please let Ed know.

Paul Hlava of Sandia National Laboratories in Albuquerque made the long trip from New Mexico to be the speaker at our November meeting. His well illustrated and informative talk on color and chemical zoning in minerals was further enhanced by a second most enlightening feature devoted to belly dancing and hot air ballooning. It was very well received, and we extend sincere thanks to Paul.

January meeting: Lechuguilla Cave has, through the efforts of cave explorers in the past few years, emerged as one of the truly magnificent natural wonders of our planet. Our January program will be a first-hand description and visual account of the remarkable geological and mineralogical features of this immense and unique cave system. Ed LaRock and Kim Cunningham (Ed will present the program) have both been instrumental in the exploration and scientific study of Lechuguilla Cave.

March meeting (Mar. 12): We are pleased to have on our calendar Allen V. Heyl, who will speak on "Mineral Occurrences of the Black Range and Rio Grande Trench Region, New Mexico". Allen is a geologist, retired from the U.S. Geological Survey (and a longtime FM member) who has had wide experience with field work on ore deposits in New Mexico, Colorado, and many other parts of the U.S. and the world. More about his talk in the next newsletter. Also at this meeting, we expect to have a short slide show and a "show and tell" of new specimens from the Tucson Gem and Mineral Show.

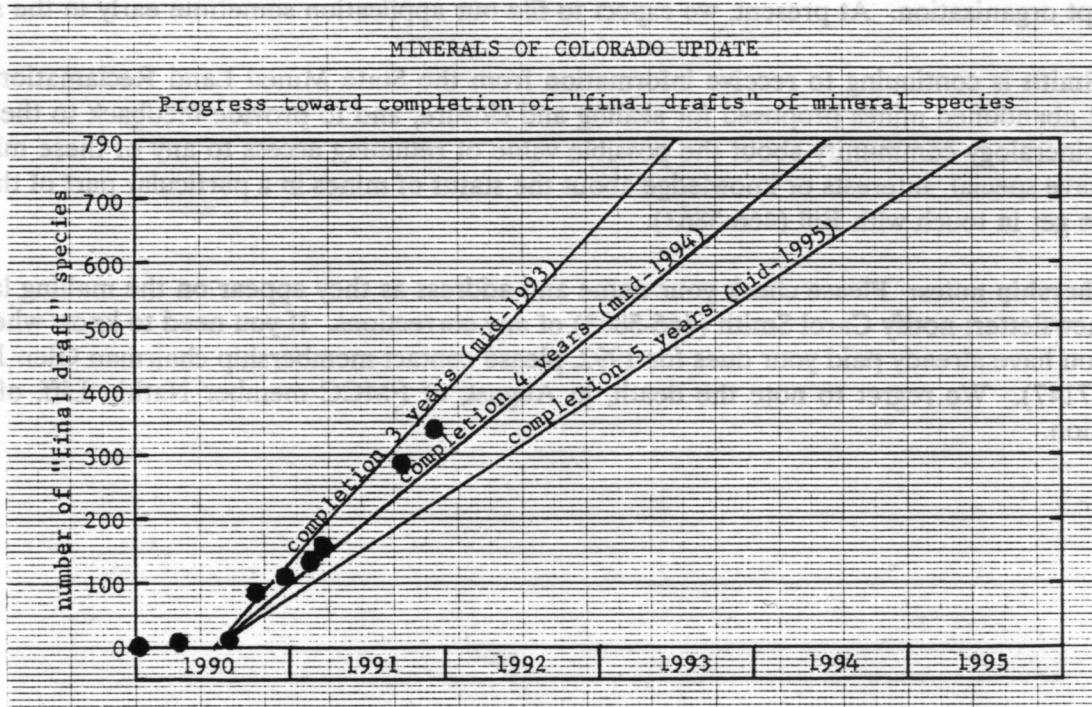
Minerals of Colorado Project: The last (December) meeting of the authors and committee working to update "Minerals of Colorado" by Edwin B. Eckel shows 339 out of approximately 800 mineral species written, up from 285 as of our last (October) report. The updated graph shown on this page projects a completion date for all species sometime in 1993 or 1994. In other work on the book, FMCC (at our November meeting) authorized an initial expenditure of up to \$500 for black-and-white photography of minerals; Ed Raines is chairman of a Photographic Committee for the volume (we plan to have both color and black-and-white photographs in the book). A Map Committee met on Dec. 17 to pick up work on earlier planning for a set of single page-size maps to be included in the book, showing the general location of prominent mines and mineral localities throughout different regions of Colorado. Jim Hurlbut, Tom Kohnen, Pete Modreski, and Ed Raines are on the committee; the next meeting is scheduled for noon on Jan. 15th, and other interested persons are welcome to attend (call Pete, at 236-5639 or 978-9926).

***** 1992 DUES ***** You may pay your dues for 1992 either in person at the January meeting (to Glen Johnson, membership chairman) or by mail to:

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

*Paid in person
check # 8383
1/9/92*

Dues are \$13.00 per individual, payable to Friends of Mineralogy, Colorado Chapter (or just Friends of Mineralogy). For each member, \$6.00 is given to the national Friends of Mineralogy organization; this amount was raised to \$6.00 from \$3.00 effective this January, accounting for our chapter's increase in dues to \$13.00 from the previous \$10.00. Please note: if you send mail to FM's Post Office box, please do not omit Friends of Mineralogy from the mailing address--you may mark it to attention of a particular officer, but it may be returned to you if FM is not included in the address.



OTHER NEWS NOTES

Photography Symposium Abstracts: At our November meeting, FMCC voted to reduce the price of the remaining copies of the abstracts volume from our 1989 Symposium on "Photography of Mineralogical, Paleontological, and Archaeological Specimens". The price of the 95-page booklet is reduced from \$15.00 to \$10.00 (postpaid). Dealers may also obtain multiple quantities of this publication at a wholesale price of \$6.00. The Photo Symposium volume contains much useful advice about mineral photography. If you or your friends don't have a copy--now is the time to get one.

The Denver Museum of Natural History is advertising to fill a vacant position of Collections Manager for the Department of Earth Sciences. The job includes curating fossil and geological specimens, maintaining collection inventories on a computer database, etc. Qualifications include a Masters Degree in the earth sciences or natural history museum studies, or equivalent experience. The deadline for applications is Feb. 15, 1992. For information please contact Jack Murphy at 370-6355.

The Greater Denver Area Council of Gem and Mineral Societies reports that profits from the 1991 Denver Gem and Mineral Show were \$22,118. This includes \$2,671 from sales of grab bags, which has been sent to the Colorado School of Mines to provide a geology scholarship. Other grants to non-profit institutions will also be made during 1992 as proposals are received. Council officers for 1992 are Sandra Walden, president; Keith Sheel, vice-president; Kathy Lewis, secretary; and Gloria Charette, treasurer. Council meetings are held quarterly; each member club (such as FM) is officially represented by its president or other designated representative, but all other club members are welcome to attend as non-voting observers.

The FM-Colorado Chapter is proceeding with plans to file for official IRS recognition as a tax-exempt organization. At present, we expect to file our application sometime early in the spring.

Bill Smith is continuing to receive information from the State Mined Land Reclamation Board about abandoned mines proposed for sealing and closure, and to provide feedback to them from the mineralogy community about the possible value of retaining access to any of these mines. If you have special interests or knowledge about the status of mines in a particular part of the state, please get in touch with Bill (466-5863).

Membership notes: Please check your name and address as they appear on the mailing label for this newsletter; notify Carol Smith (466-5863) of any corrections. If you need to know whether or not you have already paid your dues for 1992, please contact membership chairman Glen Johnson (232-7147). We regret to note the death, in August, of FMCC member Nathin Liff, of Grand Junction.

EVENTS FOR YOUR CALENDAR - 1992

- JAN 9 January FM meeting.
- JAN
16-19 Denver Gem and Mineral Guild Show, Lakeside Mall, I-70 and Harlan.
- FEBRUARY Tucson Gem and Mineral Show (need we say more?)
12-16
- MARCH Albuquerque Gem and Mineral Show: UNM Continuing Education Center,
7-8 1634 University Blvd. Co-Chairpersons: Judy DeMark and Barbara Matz,
(505) 884-9457. [note - the show is on these dates, not Mar. 21-22
as has been given in the RMFMS Newsletter]
- MARCH 12 March FM meeting.
- APRIL Fort Collins Rockhound Club Show: Lincoln Center, 419 W. Magnolia, St.,
3-5 Fort Collins, CO.
- APRIL Rochester Mineralogical Symposium, Rochester, NY
9-12
- APRIL Rocky Mountain Federation of Mineralogical Societies Show, Wichita,
24-26 Kansas (Wichita Gem and Mineral Society): Cessna Activities Center,
2744 George Washington Blvd. Chairman: Bob Crouch, (316) 686-9007.
- APRIL Flatirons Mineral Club Show: Fisher Chevrolet, 6025 Arapahoe Rd.,
25-26 Boulder, CO. Chairman: Jim Spotts, (303) 258-7979.
- MAY 14 May FM meeting (annual auction?).
- MAY Grand Junction Gem and Mineral Show: Two Rivers Convention Center,
16-17 159 Main St., Grand Junction, CO. Chairman: Howard Schubarth,
(303) 243-0779.
- JUNE RAMS (Mile-Hi Rock and Mineral Society) Show: Westminster Mall, 88th
25-28 and Sheridan. Chairperson: Sue Kurtz, 466-4950.
- SEP 10 September FM meeting.
- SEP Denver Gem and Mineral Show: Denver Merchandise Mart, I-25 & 58th
18-20 Ave. Chairman: Carl Charette, 674-5545.
- NOV 12 November FM meeting.

FRIENDS OF MINERALOGY, COLORADO CHAPTER

SCHEDULE OF MEETINGS FOR 1992

7:30 p.m., Thursday evenings

DENVER MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY

January 9

March 12

May 14

September 10

November 12

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



Ginny Mast
1171 Highpoint Circle
Golden, CO 80403