



Colorado Mineral Society

Mineral Minutes



Volume 79, Issue 9

December 2015



CMS Christmas Holiday Party December 4, 2015
starting at 6:30pm (note earlier time)!!!!



Happy 95th Birthday Jim Hurlbut!!!

Nomination: James Hurlbut, National Rockhound Hall of Fame

From: Beth Simmons, RMFMS Colorado State Director,
1420 S. Reed St., Lakewood, CO 80232

In honor Jim Hurlbut's 95th birthday, December 31, 2015, I nominate him for the National Rockhound Hall of Fame. Jim has been a major contributor to many Denver area rock clubs as a member, field trip leader, officer, exhibit judge. He started his rock club membership in the Colorado Mineral Society in the 1940s, where he taught a mineralogy class in 1951, served as Vice-President from 1950-51, President from 1952-1953 and 1955-1956, field trip chairman in 1956-57, nominations chair in 1957-1958, served as Trustee. Jim joined the Littleton Gem and Mineral Club, closer to his home, when they organized. He has always been an active player in the Greater Denver Gem and Mineral Council which oversees the Greater Denver Gem and Mineral show, serving as officer in many positions, and overseeing the competitive exhibits for many years. After serving as the President host for the RMFMS convention in Denver in 1957 after he attended his first AFMS convention in Minneapolis in 1956, he was elected President of the RMFMS Federation

Continued on Page 3

President's Message

By Bruce G. Sales

Greetings to everyone, tis the season for snow and cold.

It is with heavy heart that I write my last President's message; I don't know where the last three years have gone. My time as President comes to an end on December 31st and I will take over the duties of Trustee to the Greater Denver Area Gem and Mineral Council. I wish to acknowledge the degree of progressiveness displayed by the Colorado Mineral Society (CMS), I know of no other organization that would have a homeless man as its vice-president much less as its president.

CMS will hold its annual Christmas Potluck Party on Friday the 4th of December 2015, at 6:30pm at St. Paul's Episcopal Church, 10th & Garrison in Lakewood. We will be starting at 6:30pm instead of 7:30pm and we need help setting up the church and help cleaning up after the party. The party will have something for everyone, there will be a pot luck dinner, bring a dish to share. There will be a gift exchange, bring a wrapped gift and get a wrapped gift. There will be a cake steal, always fun and entertaining. We will have our traditional display theme of "Red and Green" minerals, bring your best or most unique red and green minerals. There will be a visit from the man from the far great white north. And of course, the best part is the chance to socialize with your fellow mineral collectors. See Page 3 for additional details on the party. In addition to all of the fun we will have an election for the open positions on the Board of Directors.

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- 1 President's Message
- 3 Christmas Holiday Potluck Details
- 4 New Members
- 5 Raffle News
- 6 Denver Gem and Mineral Show Mini Report
- 7 Happy Birthday to Jim Hurlbut!

COLORADO MINERAL SOCIETY OFFICERS
2015

President: Bruce G. Sales
First VP-Programs: Gary Rowe
Second VP-Education: Debbie Kalschur
Secretary: Sandra Gonzales
Treasurer: Eva Siemonsma

Appointed Board Members - Committee Chairpersons

Annual Auction: Howie Houk
Door Prizes-Guests: Paul and Cindy Hatfield
Library: Kevin Atwater
Exhibits: Harold Taylor, Lesley Sebol, Dan Wray
Membership: Cara Reynolds
Field Trip Leader: Gary Rowe
Field Trip Leader Co-Chair: **OPEN**
Nominations: Daryl Lamb
Grab Bags: Dale Block
Editor: Amber Brenzikofer
Historian: Amber Brenzikofer
Scrapbook: Jennifer Knies
Youth Activities: Lewis Reynolds
Hospitality: Star Edwards
Donations: Debbie Kalschur
Web Master: Julio Edwards
coloradomineralsociety@comcast.net



Representatives (Board Members)

Denver Council Rep: Daryl Lamb 303-993-6685
Denver Show Rep: Dale Gann 720-981-5526

COLORADO MINERAL SOCIETY (CMS) was founded in 1936 by a group of distinguished individuals within the mineralogical field. The organization was incorporated as a non-profit, educational organization in 1948. The Society is affiliated with the Colorado Federation of Gem and Mineral Societies, Rocky Mountain Federation of Mineralogical Societies, and the American Federation of Mineralogical Societies, a founding member of each group.

PURPOSE: To promote the study of minerals and other geologic materials, to encourage mineral collecting as a hobby and to conduct public meetings, lectures, and field trips, and to engage in all activities which relate to said purposes of the organization.

MEETINGS: General membership meetings start at 7:30 PM on the first Friday of each month, October through May, at St. Paul's Episcopal Church, at 10th and Garrison in Lakewood, CO. Displays are set up by members about one-half hour before meetings. Specimens may be available for sale and trade.

VISITORS and GUESTS are welcome.

BOARD MEETINGS: The board members meet once a month to complete the executive business and affairs of the Society. Meetings will start at 7:00 PM usually the third Tuesday of each month. Additional meeting times, if necessary, may be called by the President or any three members of the board and will be announced at the general or board meetings.

MEMBERSHIP: Open to all persons who agree to abide by Society rules and rules of the Federations. Annual fees: \$16.00 for a Family or Newsletter Membership, \$14.00 for a Single Membership, \$12.00 for a Senior Membership (single or family over 65), and \$12.00 for junior members under the age of 18 who are not included in a family. Name badges are available for a one-time fee of \$7.50.

ANNUAL EVENTS: Yearly activities include a silent auction of minerals, fossils, gems, jewelry, equipment and other items related to our interests; participation in the Colorado Contin-tail, the largest mineral swap show in Colorado; participation as a member of the Greater Denver Area Gem and Mineral Council in sponsoring the largest gem and mineral show in Colorado; and the Founder's Day celebration.

FIELD TRIPS: The Society sponsors several field trips from Spring through Fall for the purpose of collecting minerals, crystals, and fossils. These trips are one-day, two-day, and occasionally several-day adventures. A field trip guide is published each year in May.

NEWSLETTER GUIDELINES: CMS has a proud history of promoting the education and pure enjoyment of the mineralogical world. At the very heart of its existence are the many volunteers and contributors who spend their time and efforts in direct support of the club's mission. The CMS official newsletter **MINERAL MINUTES** is published monthly during the active meeting season (October through May) and a summer edition, and is the primary way the club's activities and mission are communicated to its members and prospective members. On that basis, the Board of Directors would like to offer the following content guidelines for CMS newsletter contributions:

- Formal announcements concerning club business and/or membership
- Information around mineral-related education opportunities or fundraising activities
- Stories or history that concentrate on the edifying aspects of mineral collection and education
- Sharing of personal mineral-related experience from field trips or other related adventures serving an educational purpose
- Announcements of volunteer/leadership opportunities for the club or club representation
- Worthy news events or discoveries related to mineralogy or geology that align to club's core interests
- Appropriate announcements regarding mineral shows, one-time mineral related events, mineral auctions, sale of private collections and/or equipment, etc.
- Information around relevant donations and/or gifts made available to the club or club members

Please note that the editor may correct spelling, syntax, or content to conserve space and is also entitled to bring contributions in compliance with newsletter guidelines

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Deadline for publication is the 24th of the month prior to publication. All correspondence to Mineral Minutes should be sent to Editor, P.O. Box 280755, Lakewood, Colorado 80228-0755 or by email to:

editor.coloradomineralsociety@gmail.com.

Jim Hurlbut (Continued)

in 1957, and served as CMS General Chairman of the Denver AFMS show. He served as Rules Chairman for the RMFMS and AFMS for many years and regularly attends mineralogical and rockhounding events across the country. Jim Hurlbut is one of few who can boast of over 65 years of active membership and service to the regional and national rockhound community.

Editors Note: See Page 6 for more info.

CMS Membership Dues Reminder

CMS memberships run from January 1st to December 31st. You can pay your dues in three ways:

1. Pay with cash or check at the general meetings the first Friday of each month from October through May, **except for the December Holiday party**. Look for the Membership Chairperson to obtain a receipt and membership card.
2. Send a check made out to "Colorado Mineral Society" or "CMS" to P.O. Box 280755, Lakewood, Colorado 80228-0755. Please do not send cash through the mail. Pick up your membership card at the next general meeting. Cards not picked up will be mailed to you.
3. Fill out a membership form and bring cash or check to a field trip to receive a temporary membership card.

CMS Membership Fees:

Family: \$16 per year

Single: \$14 per year

Senior 65+ (single or family): \$12 per year

Junior (<12 years old): \$12 per year

Also, due to RMFMS insurance and liability purposes, we need to know the month and year of your children's birthdays, so please provide this information when you renew your membership. The children's information will not be published. A new membership form is located on the CMS website at www.coloradomineralsociety.com.

If you ordered a name badge, they will be available at the general meetings to pick up. Alternative methods of delivery for name badges may be available if you cannot attend a general meeting. Contact Cara Reynolds or Amber Brenzikofer to coordinate.



Christmas Holiday Potluck Party

Friday, December 4th at 6:30pm

St. Paul Episcopal Church
9200 W. 10th Ave, Lakewood, CO 80215
(10th Avenue and Garrison Street)

Come celebrate the season with good company, fun things to do, entertainment, good food, and contests. Note that we are starting the celebration an hour earlier. Here are some of the activities we are planning and need all to pitch in and volunteer to help:

- ❖ **Gift Exchange** - bring a rock related gift (approximately \$10), then you will receive a gift. We have our own "rock tree" to place your packages under.
- ❖ **Cake Steal** - we need cakes for our cake table. Tickets will be \$1.00 for a chance to win one. Please donate a cake.
- ❖ **Mineral Challenges** - one challenge for the professional rockhounds, one for the amateurs, and one for the kids with prizes for the first, second, and third place finishers.
- ❖ **Raffle** - a raffle of six very nice mineral specimens.
- ❖ **Display cases** - bring your red and green rocks, minerals or gems for the cases.
- ❖ **Music** - David and Jennifer Knies will entertain us with holiday music.
- ❖ **Pot Luck Food** - bring your favorite party pot luck food! We will have plates, flatware, napkins, cups, drinks, and condiments.
- ❖ **Mitten Tree** - Please bring kids mittens, hats, and scarfs to donate to St. Paul's mitten tree. We like to say thank you to the Church for hosting our meetings throughout the year by donating to the mitten tree.
- ❖ **Visitor from the North** - we will have a visitor from the North, farther than Point Barrow.

With all of this activity going on, we need everyone who can, come to the church on December 4th at **5:00 pm** to set up and decorate the tables, bring your cakes in, help with the food, and decorate the tree. The party will start at 6:30 pm. Then after the party, we need to get everything back together even better than we found it when we came in.

January 2016 CMS General Meeting Notice

Because the January meeting falls on January 1st, the CMS Board is looking at alternative dates and possibly a different venue. The January meeting date, time, and location will be put on the CMS website, as well as sent out in an email and published in the next newsletter. Stay tuned.

CMS Officer and Appointed Board Positions Available

CMS is seeking expressions of interest for new Officers and appointed Board members. Please contact Bruce Sales or one of the other Board members if you have an interest. Voting/appointments will occur at the December meeting. Available positions include:

- **President (3-year term)**
- **Secretary**
- **Assistant Membership Chairperson**
- **Assistant Field Trip Leader**
- **Assistant Junior Rockhound Chairperson**



The **President's** duties include acting with executive power in conducting the routine affairs, activities, and functions of CMS; presiding at all meetings of CMS and the Board; and appointing committee chairpersons or entire committees as needed (appointment of committee chairpersons must be approved by a majority of the elected officers).

The **Secretary's** duties include participating in the monthly Board meeting as a voting member, taking meeting notes at the CMS general meetings and Board meetings, and preparing meeting minutes for the CMS newsletter.

The **Assistant Membership Chairperson's** duties would be to provide support to the current Membership Chairperson at CMS general meetings to collect and process dues; attend CMS and Board meetings in the absence of the Membership Chairperson, as needed, to give updates; provide support for the membership database (Microsoft Access experience is helpful); and help prepare the annual membership directory.

The **Assistant Field Trip Leader's** duties including working with the Field Trip Coordinator to research and organize field trips; help prepare the field trip guide each spring; and attend CMS and Board meetings in the absence of the Field Trip Coordinator, as needed, to give updates.

The **Assistant Junior Rockhound Chairperson's** duties include helping the Junior Rockhound Chairperson to prepare for and conduct the junior program at the CMS general meetings.

New CMS Members

First Listing

- Carly Smyt
- Kathryn Nichols
- Ron and Ann Wankner
- DJ Vittum & family
- Derrick and Jennifer Moss & family
- Csaba Galambos & family
- Tessa Bopp and Zac Dieter Bopp & family

Second Listing

- Lori Guziak and Steve Jensen
- Terri Harris
- Ron Lucero & family
- Pete Medina
- Kirsten LeRay Porch
- Sean Ross
- Glenn Schoales
- Justin and Julia Trostel & family

Per CMS Bylaws, comments concerning new, first listing members should be formally submitted to the President.

Free Lapidary Journals Available

Free to good home: About 25 years worth of back issues of the *Lapidary Journal*. The dates look to be from 1965-1989ish. They are in large binders and are in very good condition.

Please contact **Denise Pickard** if interested.

CMS Junior Rockhounds - No December Program

The CMS Junior Rockhounds Program will not be meeting in December -- instead, enjoy the Christmas Party! At the party, the Junior Rockhounds will have an opportunity to practice their mineral identification skills on a collection of specimens from the Ditty Trust Estate. Correct identification of at least six different minerals satisfies Requirement 1.2 of the Rocks & Mineral badge in the AFMS Future Rockhounds of America program.

I would again like to thank the very generous donors of minerals and other materials for the CMS Junior Rockhounds Program this past year! A young lady especially appreciated a gift of minerals for her collection. She wrote in a card, "Thank you very much for my rocks it means a lot to me. Also, I promise to take care of them. ...Thank you lot and hope I would be able to see your rocks." Thank you, all, for specimens that encourage our young persons' interests in the earth sciences (and math and science in general)!

With gratitude from the CMS Junior Rockhounds Program,

Lewis Reynolds, Coordinator

November 6th Raffle News

Thank you to those who donated these great specimens, it is fun to see the happy smiles when their number is called to be a winner!!! November's tickets sold were \$133, with the retail value of \$115. These funds are spent on CMS education, the purchase of library materials, and the state science fair awards. The most popular specimen was the arsenopyrite from Mexico (\$63) from the **Judith Holmes Collection** and won by *John Smith*. *Laura Johnston's* ticket was drawn for the wulfenite specimen from Mexico (\$16) and was donated by **Rocky Mountain Gems and Minerals**. The descloizite specimen from New Mexico (\$16) was donated by **GEOdyssey** and won by the lucky *Bob Heckman*, who also won the wulfenite specimen from Mexico (\$15) donated by **Self-A-Ware Minerals**. *Mark Danuser* won the microcline feldspar specimen (\$11) donated from the **Charles Spletz Collection**. *Chris Keilman* claimed the dolomite specimen (\$12) donated by **Marcus Lieberman**.

Thanks to Jennifer Knies and Rygel Reynolds for helping with the raffle.

Congratulations to all our lucky winners!

Self - A - Ware Minerals
Jeff Self 303.898.7539
Donna Ware 303.898.4019

www.SelfAWareMinerals.com

Submitted by Amber Brenzikofer, CMS Deputy Raffle Manager

Judith Holmes Collection

Charles Spletz Collection

Marcus Lieberman

Sandra Gonzales
rockygems@comcast.net
720-425-3908

Rocky Mountain Gems & Minerals
www.rockygems.com

GEOdyssey LLC
Minerals, Fossils, Jewelry



Zelda Bailey
Pat Tucci

P.O. Box 16339
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AFMS All American Club Award

CMS submitted a club scrapbook in the 2015 All American Club competition, which was sponsored by the American Federation of Mineralogical Societies (AFMS). There were six entries from large and small clubs from all regions. CMS is part of the Rocky Mountain Federation of Mineralogical Societies (RMFMS) and the only entry from RMFMS. **CMS won the Bronze Award for Large Clubs.** Here is an excerpt from the AFMS December 2015 newsletter written by Regina Kapta, the All American Club Chairperson, about CMS's entry:

"The club was very active with field trips – their field trip guide was incredible – and they've adopted the Jr Rockhound program for their junior members. Along with an exceptional newsletter, they also have a very informative website at www.coloradomineralsociety.org."

Descriptions of the other club entries and awards can be found at www.amfed.org/news/n2015_12.pdf.

AFMS Website Award

The CMS website won the RMFMS website competition earlier this year (see the November 2015 CMS newsletter). That allowed our website to be submitted to the AFMS website competition. **CMS came in 7th place.** Congratulations to our webmaster, Julio Edwards, for his hard work and dedication. A list of winners can be found at www.amfed.org/news/n2015_12.pdf.

Denver Gem & Mineral Show Mini Report November 2015

Thank you to all of the volunteers who helped to put on the 2015 Denver Gem & Mineral Show. There were a total of 518 volunteers, comprised of 344 club members, 47 Show Committee members, and 127 people from the non-profit and public sector organizations. The show certainly depends on all the club member volunteers and they always show up to do all the jobs that need to be done. So we sincerely thank you all. Now it's time to start planning the 2016 show. Planning for the next show starts promptly after the prior show. The dates for the 2016 show are September 16 - 18, 2016. The theme for the show is Minerals of Africa. The Show Chair is Lesley Sebol. Lesley is an active member of several clubs - the Littleton Gem & Mineral Club, the Colorado Mineral Society, the North Jeffco Gem & Mineral Club, Inc. and the Friends of the CSM Geology Museum. If you have any ideas or suggestions for the show, Lesley would like to hear from you and can be reached at lsebol@yahoo.com.

The Show Committee is the group that does all the planning for the show and is composed of about 55 members from the local clubs. That may seem like a large group, but the committee is always in need of new faces with new ideas for the show. Technologies change and the Denver show scene changes so the show has to stay current with all these changes. A strong Show Committee is needed to carry the show into the future. If you enjoy the show, perhaps you would like to be more involved with the planning. You could join the Show Committee as an At Large member until you decide where your talents fit in. There are many jobs for the show - Admissions, Dealers, Exhibits, Publicity, Security, Buildings & Grounds, Judging, Schools, Hospitality, Website, Fluorescent Room, Signs, Trophies, Posters, Show Program, International Room, and Club Liaison. Do you see one that might interest you?

Each club has a representative to the Show Committee. These folks are: Dale Gann for the Colorado Mineral Society, Gerry Naugle for the Flatirons Mineral Club, Jim Hurlbut for Friends of Mineralogy, Joe Payne for the Denver Gem & Mineral Guild, Ian Duncanson for the Littleton Gem & Mineral Club, Ron Knoshaug for the North Jeffco Gem & Mineral Club, Judy Knoshaug for the Mile Hi Rock and Mineral Society, and Jordan Sawdo for the Western Interior Paleontological Society. Contact the representative for your club and tag along to a meeting. The Show Committee meetings are held on the first Tuesday of each month (except December, February and July) at the Denver Museum of Nature & Science. The meetings start at 7:30 p.m. We would be happy to welcome you.

Respectfully submitted, Judy Knoshaug, Secretary

Happy Birthday to Jim Hurlbut, who will be 95 on December 31! To commemorate Jim's more than 70 years of service to the rockhound community, through the Colorado Mineral Society, Littleton Gem and Mineral Society, the Rocky Mountain and American Federation of Mineralogical Societies, plus the Denver Show Committee and Council, we are running this article from the September 1950 issue of *The Mineralogist*. The young author told of hitchhiking throughout Colorado during the summer of 1949 and meeting Jim and being taken to the top of Mt. Antero to place the plaque designating Mt. Antero as a rockhound park! Jim served as one of the judges who awarded the DGMG Minerals and Rocks of Greenland case 100 points at the 2015 Denver show!



**Happy 95th! Jim Hurlbut, 2015,
photo by Marjie Payne**

Mineral Collecting in Colorado

**By Paul Humphreys, 1727 Cleveland Avenue, Whiting, Indiana
from *The Mineralogist*, September 1950, p. 399-403**

The summer of 1949 found me with time on my hands and a great desire to be out collecting minerals. Early in the spring I had written to a number of western states for information on collecting localities, and out of the wealth of material I received in answer one article in particular impressed me. That was a four-page report entitled Colorado Mineral Localities written by Richard M. Pearl, Assistant Professor of Geology at Colorado College in Colorado Springs. The report vividly described aquamarine, bertrandite, phenacite, purple fluorite, and brilliant quartz to be found on Mt. Antero, a deposit of huge garnets near Salida, turquoise at Manassa, amethyst at Creede, and a great many other things.

Furthermore, a visit to the John Crerar Library in Chicago unearthed *Bulletin 624* of the United State Geological Survey, vintage 1917, which list for Colorado every mineral from acanthite to zircon. Before I was half way through it, I was convinced that Colorado was the place for me to do my summer collecting.

Checking over available resources, I found that there was just enough for necessary transportation which would leave me nothing with which to purchase specimens, or food, once I got there. Obviously this would not do, as it was necessary to become a ways and means committee of one to consider alternative plans. What I finally decided was this. I would take a bus only as far as Colorado Springs and from there hitchhike where I wanted to go. I would carry a sleeping bag in order to camp out, and my luggage would be limited to what I could pack on my back. The minerals could be sent home via express when they accumulated to sufficient quantities.

At the time I did not know that there were laws about such things as hitchhiking in Colorado. Or did I know that Mr. Pearl's report was, in some respects, rather misleading while *Bulletin 624* was completely useless. Perhaps it is just as well, for if I had known all this I might not have gone and so missed many fine minerals. At any rate, the morning of July 25 found me wandering the streets of Colorado Springs trying to locate the chamber of commerce and so begin collecting in earnest.

At first blush it may be difficult to tie up a chamber of commerce with collecting, but those sages usually know more about a region than anyone else, and at that time I sadly needed someone to direct me. The places I wanted to get to were Crystal Peak, Cheyenne Mountain, St. Peter's Dome, Devil's Head, and Crystal Park.

All of these spots I had read of in connection with some mineral, usually smoky quartz and microcline, and I had some vague notion that collecting there would be something like in the limestone quarries of Indiana. You simply walked up to one, got out your hammer, and went over every square inch until the desirable minerals had all been removed. At the most the whole procedure took no longer than a day, usually less.

At the chamber of commerce I soon learned differently. Here a charming young lady pointed out Crystal Peak on a map of the area, and to my great surprise it took up almost as much room as Colorado Springs. When I told her that I wanted to collect minerals there, she produced a pamphlet from under her desk and recited from it a number of facts about the mountain. Most of these I have forgotten, but the impression I received was that, using the same techniques it would take me roughly the rest of my life to go over Crystal Peak looking for specimens. By this time I began to get the idea, and a request for dealers in the vicinity brought forth the name of E. M. McComb whom I then made haste to see.

McComb has a fine rock shop, and from him I was able to purchase a number of beautiful specimens. He, too, had a good deal to say about the foolishness of climbing any mountains single handed.

Colorado Springs is the home of Colorado College, and I next directed my steps there to see Mr. Pearl. I was able to catch him before a class, and he was kind enough to diagram several spots in and about Colorado Springs that one could reach without climbing any mountains. I decided, however, to spend the night in Manitou Springs, and so was unable to visit these.

Continued Page 8

Collecting Minerals in Colorado, 1950s style (con't)

The morning of July 26 was spent in hiking about the Garden of the Gods, and from there I set out to Cripple Creek and Florissant, stopping en route at the Hobby Shop in Woodland Park where I was able to add to my growing collection.

Cripple Creek, to a collector, looks as fabulous today as it must at one time have looked to a miner. The entire area is covered with shafts and pits, and six mines are still in operation for the golden metal. Just what might be found here I do not know, for without a car most of these spots are hard to reach, and I contented myself with buying some cubed pyrite and a piece of calaverite, Cripple Creek's famous gold ore, at the City Curio Shop in town.

In Miocene times a fresh-water lake covered much of the Florissant area, and into this lake rained volcanic ash burying many insects and other organisms. Today this locality is world famous for the wealth of fossil material found there. The Colorado Petrified Forest has uncovered a number of trees which they maintain as a commercial display complete with guides and a small museum. The admission is reasonable, and a trip through this forest is a fascinating experience. At one place the management has thoughtfully dug into the beds of tuff, and those interested can crack fossils and fingers here to their hearts content. Needless to say, I did a little of both.

One could camp and collect in the Colorado Springs area for years without exhausting one part of its possibilities. Each of the great peaks nearby has its own peculiar minerals, yielding only to the most experienced and persevering of collectors. The magnificent microcline and smoky quartz crystals which are always associated with the region can still be found, but it takes equipment and guided collecting to remove them, neither of which I had. So early the next morning I started north in search of more accessible localities.

Arriving in Denver late in the afternoon, I checked my pack in a nearby bus station and started immediately for the Bureau of Mines, located in the Museum Building across from the state capitol. I wanted to see Fred Jones, Commissioner of Mines and have him verify my list of collecting localities before I went any farther.

Mr. Jones, I believe, was somewhat shocked; first at my mode of travel and second at most of the places I planned to visit. Mt. Antero, it now turned out, was a 14,245 foot peak covering innumerable acres of ground and quite impossible to climb alone.

Creede was a million miles from nowhere and the garnets near Salida could only be reached by jeep. Furthermore, most of the localities listed in Bulletin 624 were now extinct, and it would be best to strike them all off the list. Finally after almost everything had been disposed of in this fashion, Mr. Jones saw something that pleased him. It was the Golden zeolite area, west of Denver in Douglas

County [Ed. Note—remember this fellow knew LITTLE about Colorado!]. That, he informed me, could be reached by interurban, and with only a little effort on my part a number of good specimens could be collected.

"As for Mt. Antero," he went on, "perhaps something can be done about that, too."

He then consulted his memo pad and I heard for the first time of the Colorado Mineral Society. That splendid group center in Denver, and the president, to my surprise, was none other than Richard M. Pearl. They were planning a field trip to Mt. Antero, Chaffee County, in a day or so, and if I were lucky I might be taken along. I thanked Mr. Jones for his help and took my leave.

The second floor of the Museum Building houses a beautiful mineral exhibit, primarily of Colorado material. It totals over 11,000 specimens and presents a dazzling spectacle that should be visited by everyone interested in Colorado mineralogy. An outstanding feature of the collection are the county cases in which representative ores are displayed from various counties in Colorado.

My first move, on emergence from the Museum Building, was to call **James Hurlbut** of Denver who was in charge of the Mt. Antero trip. He told me I would be welcome to go along and even invited me to spend the following night at his home to assure an early start. This invitation was readily accepted, for the great city of Denver does not offer accommodations for camping out.

The evening of July 27, I spent, with their kind permission, camping in the front yard of Mr. and Mrs. Patty of Golden so as to be at the zeolites as soon as possible in the morning.

Just outside Golden are two basalt mesas known as North and South Table Mountains, and of these two the former is said to be the best collecting. I was directed to a quarry in the southern end of North Table Mountain by a student at the Colorado School of Mines, also at Golden. This quarry, no abandoned, proved to be a good collecting ground and during the course of a day spent there it yielded many nice specimens, crystallized in cavities in the dark basalt. Late in the afternoon when I was ready to leave, I ran across a large cavity near the floor of the quarry which was filled with beautiful matted needles of natrolite. It was difficult to remove this mineral as it is extremely fragile, but I was able to collect several pieces of it which made the time spent on North Table Mountain seem rewarding indeed.

Before leaving Golden I visited the Mineral collection at the Colorado School of Mines. This is a splendid exhibit containing, among other things, many beautiful specimens of local zeolites.

Early the next morning, as scheduled, we set out for Antero, taking 285 from Denver through the spectacular Front Range and South Park to Nathrop where we met the rest of the party.

Continued Page 9

Collecting Minerals in Colorado, 1950s style (con't)

An account of this trip appeared in the December, 1949 issue of *The Mineralogist* but let me mention a few of the participants that I met personally. There was Mrs. Lewis Newell and Muriel Colburn, who proved themselves as good at climbing as they are at collecting. Fred Lidinsky, the Browns, Mary E. Burwell, Leroy Brown, and Bill Hayward; all old Denver and prominent collectors. The purpose of the expedition, in addition to the minerals that might be picked up along the way, was to carry a bronze plaque weighing many pounds all 14,245 feet to the top of the mountain, there to nail it into a boulder for all to see and enjoy. The words inscribed on the plaque read as follows: "World famous locality for superb crystals of aquamarine, phenacite, Bertrandite. Colorado Mineral Society, 1949."

By fording a drainage ditch the party was able to drive to the very foot of the mountain. There lunch was eaten, and those of us who were to do the climbing packed the things we needed and set off.

We camped the first night at timber line and started up to the peak and the aquamarine locality early the next day. For me this climb was a wonderful experience in its own right, but I shall not dwell on it here for the truth of the matter is that aside from the installation of the plaque very little was accomplished by making it. Fred, Leroy, and I found some blue stained granite with just a trace of aquamarine here and there, but I think that was as close as any of use came to the real thing. Several of the group collected some nice quartz crystals, though, and when the *Colorado Mineral Society* takes a trip together everyone has a glorious time regardless of the number of specimens collected.

But more can be said about collecting on Antero. Where were all the superb crystals of aquamarine, phenacite, and Bertrandite? The fact remains that, at various times in the past, thousands of dollars worth of gems have been taken from its barren slopes. And Mr. Pearl was not wrong in his glowing account of the minerals to be found there. It is simply that he and a number of others established a camp near the peak complete with dynamite and mining equipment and so did their collecting thoroughly. Furthermore, there are certain individuals near Antero that can climb the mountain s empty handed and return with two or three nice crystals of aquamarine. Perhaps they know where the gems are to be found, but they aren't telling.

Back down from the mountain experiences were hastily related, and **Mr. Hurlbut** and I along with some others set out for the Ruby Mountain locality nearby.

At Nathrop looking east, the first thing that catches the eye is a flat-topped hill of grey rhyolite. This is Ruby Mountain, Chaffee County, on whose western slope tiny, sparkling crystals of red spessartite garnet are found. From the road one can see a white streak in the upper left

section of the hill, and in this freshly

blasted rock

we did our collecting.

Let me say now that the Arkansas River runs between 285 and Ruby Mountain, and in order to cross it, it is necessary to back track some distance to a bridge. More specific directions on the route can be secured in the Nathrop store; a store that is not only the center, but the only visible evidence of a town at all.

After Mt. Antero this climb hardly registered with us, but the specimens we secured certainly did. Here there is plenty of material for all, and we made the best of our opportunity to collect it. The crystals are for the most part quite small, but a number of them on a piece of rhyolite makes an attractive addition to any collection. The one exception in size is a single crystal I found on the way down which measures 5/8 of an inch across.

Back on 285 again the *Colorado Mineral Society* and I parted ways. **Jim Hurlbut** and the others had to return to Denver, while I was going on to Salida, Chaffee County, for more garnet. Once more I thanked them for all they had done for me, and soon was on my way to the Sedalia Copper Mine and some of the giant garnet crystals I had read so much about.

In Salida, however, no one had heard of the locality so I was again indebted to my friends in Denver for a reference to Mr. Lee Head of that town who was able to direct me to the mine. Mr. Head is a dealer who handles some fine Colorado material. I purchased a garnet from him, along with several other items, just in case I didn't find anything.

The Sedalia Copper Mine is about four mile north of Salida on Colorado 291. From this road it can be seen in some hills to the east, rising in three tiered dumps near the third of which the garnets are found. These are beautiful, twelve-sided crystals of almandite, altered on the surface to chlorite. They occur in a chlorite schist but are rather difficult to remove. I was able to collect several good specimens, but all small, and so was thankful for the large one I had bought from Mr. Head.

Continued Page 10



Jim Hurlbut driving the last spike in the Mt. Antero plaque, Colorado Day, August 1, 1949. Photo by Donald Brown, *The Mineralogist*, December 1949, p. 570

Collecting Minerals in Colorado, 1950s style (con't.)

For an abandoned mine, the Sedalia was doing well. It had somewhat the appearance of State Street during the Christmas rush. At least eight people were digging for garnets with others picking through the dump and newcomers toiling up the slope to the third level. Considering this it is not hard to realize why the deposit is well picked over and really good material hard to locate.

By now time was running short, so I took a bus from Salida to Alamosa, where I spent the night.

The object of this dip south was primarily to visit the King Mine located west of Manassa, Conejos County, and a leading producer of turquoise. In Manassa, however, I met Mr. King, and he was kind enough to give me several rough and polished pieces of the gem mineral. The mine was not in operation at the time and the road to it is little travelled. In addition the whole place is infested with rattlesnakes, so I did not elect to make the trip but left, with my turquoise for Creede.

Creede, in Mineral County, is in some respects a million miles from nowhere, but it is reached by a well-traveled road so I had no trouble in getting there. And once in Creede nothing could be simpler than to locate a collecting area. There are only two roads connected with the place; one of these you come in on and the other goes to the mines.

This region was once tremendously rich in silver, but at present deposits are recued to the point that only one or two mines are still in operation. The mineral collector will be chiefly interested in the amethyst found in association with the ores which is abundant on most of the old dumps. The majority of this is massive, but occasionally one runs across some nicely crystallized material.

At the Creede Hotel, a remnant of a more prosperous period, I met Lillian Hargraves, the manager and a collector herself. She told me of the abandoned Humphrey's Mine, the first dump on the left on the road leading north to the mines from town, and it was here that I found most of my amethyst.

Mr. Bidsey, also of Creede is a miner and dealer in minerals who handles some good local material.

Members of the *Colorado Mineral Society* had been more than enthusiastic in recommending the Canon City area to me, so I was looking forward to Fremont County and collecting there.

While passing, for the second time, through Salida I visited the Ocean to Ocean Curio Store managed by the Clarks. Mr. Clark is an Antero collector of considerable experience; one of those who not only climbs the mountain but knows where to look once he gets there. I had an interesting talk with him, and before leaving, purchased an aquamarine crystal collected on formidable Antero.

In Canon City it's F. C. Kessler. A student of geology for years, Mr. Kessler is now associated with the Canon City Museum. He knows the local mineral localities, and my own plans for collecting were improved considerably after he had checked over them.

This area is known for its agate, alabaster, travertine, dinosaur bone, and geodes, although the latter are but cavities in the country rock. Most of these I had obtained elsewhere, and as I had only a few days left I did not take time to collect any new specimens. Instead I visited the quarries of the Royal Gorge area where I obtained much good material.

These quarries are operated by the Consolidated Feldspar Corporation near Parkdale. They are in a coarse granite where excellent pieces of muscovite, feldspar, and occasional biotite can be found. I visited two of them during the course of a day, and in addition to these minerals I also collected some rather imperfect garnet and a small amount of black tourmaline embedded in milky quartz.

The most interesting discovery was a huge crystals of beryl in a wall of one of the quarries. **Mr. Hurlbut** and others had obtained specimens of beryl here, and I was looking for it, but it still surprised me to see this splendid crystal. It was rather high on the wall and could only be reached by standing on a narrow ledge which considerably impaired attempts at removal. I chipped around it for over an hour with my mineral pick and then continued with a sledge borrowed from a quarry worked, but still to no avail. It was like trying to collect the Rock of Gibraltar with a tack hammer, and at the end of two hours of hard labor a compelling thirst forced me to give it up. That beryl crystals may still be there today, but if it is I hope that some well-equipped collector discovers it this summer and removes it once and for all. It would give me great pleasure to see it displayed on someone's shelf complete with a neat label giving name and locality.

Back in Canon City I found a telegram awaiting me at the post office. It was from my family; they were leaving on a vacation on August 8, and if I was running low on money I could come home and travel with them for a while. And this I did, returning by way of Boulder to Cheyenne, Wyoming, where I caught a ride as far as Peoria, Ill.

My last stop in Colorado was a visit to Dr. Nelson Eddy, a collector in Boulder. Dr. Eddy and I had traded on one occasion, and I was anxious to see his collection. It was a magnificent one requiring years to build and containing minerals from world-wide sources. I spent several hours with Dr. Eddy, viewing his specimens and hearing the many interesting stories behind them.

CMS General Meeting on November 6, 2015

Attendance: 89 total

Bruce Sales opened the meeting with a welcome to all new members and visitors.

Christmas party December 4, 2015 - pot luck, cake walk, gift exchange, mitten tree, and a mineral challenge.

Amber Brenzikofer:

- Introduced all the people who donated to the raffle, and described all the minerals that were set up for tonight's raffle. All the funds that are made from the raffle are for education.
- Everyone is encouraged to sign up and have the newsletters electronically sent to them, if possible.

Cara Reynolds:

- Read the names of all the new members
- Currently there are 242 member units and 17 children, which gives us a total of 370 member

Debbie Kalscheur:

- Asked if anyone has any ideas for the educational program for 2016, please get with her to express your ideas

Cheryl Harrison made an announcement that they were having an open house and everyone is invited to attend on November 23, 2015 from 5-9pm.

Lesley Sebol made an announcement that the Littleton Club will have their auction on Saturday, November 21, 2015 invited to an open house please sign up.

Littleton Gem and Mineral Club auction announcement.

Guest Speaker: Gary Rowe had an open discussion on the past field trips and asked for feedback from the club members to better serve everyone for future field trips.

Winners for the Raffle:

Laura Johnston, Viola Padilla, Marge Regel, Leslie Osgood, DJ Vittum, Dennis Boyer, Kate Chavez, Mark Danuser, Brenda Wray, Katherine Brannan, Dan Wray, Barbara Eahehart, Marcus Lieberman, Amber Brenzikofer, Nels Grevstad, Star Edwards, Chris Keilman, Carly Smyt, Dennis Beale, Bob Chavez, James Pool, David Knies, Donna Roberts, Cindy Breithaupt, Kathy Nichols, Don Bray, Bill Harrison, Adriana Cozzi, Pegg Sziklas, Ann Wankner, Denny Vittum, Andy Sprenger, Cheryl Harrison, Jack Gray, Jack Sprenger, Merlin Schreffler, Don Moore

CMS Board Meeting on November 17, 2015

Attendance: Bruce Sales, Gary Rowe, Debbie Kalscheur, Sandra Gonzales, Howie Houk, Leslie Osgood, Daryl Lamb, Amber Brenzikofer, and Eva Siemonsma (by phone)

Bruce Sales call the meeting to order at 7:30 pm.

Old News

Re-define Family for Membership - put on hold.

CMS Life Members: Cara Reynolds is looking at all the names of past members to see if anyone met the requirements for Life Time Members. Currently Jack Sliemers and Leslie Osgood will be honored in January for being Life Time Members for 25 years.

Education: Debbie Kalscheur, Payments need to be reconciled with educational instructors and will work with the treasurer to make sure everyone is paid Working on educational programs for 2016. If you have any suggestions get with Debbie.

Christmas Party: December 4, 2015 - Starts at 6:30pm - Need Volunteers to set up at 5pm. Santa Clause will be at the party with gifts for the Junior Rockhounds. Bring your Red and Green minerals, \$10 gift exchange, cake walk, and pot luck - bring your favorite dish to share with everyone, mineral identification challenge (Professional, Amateur, Kids). Glove and mitten tree will be available if you want to donate.

Sandra Gonzales will be the interim secretary until a person is found to replace her.

Please note January 8th will be the next date for the CMS club meeting - Gary will follow up with the church to make sure this date is available.

Denver Show Update: Bruce will forward the preliminary financial reports to the board members.

An official vote from the Board was called to order to vote for the president of the Council. The official vote was for Martin Hanou for the President of the Council. Daryl Lamb will represent the vote of the board to the next Council Meeting on November 18, 2015.

New Business:

Upcoming Speakers:

January - Dave and Jennifer Knies - Spanish Pyrite
February - Video? TBD

March - Bob Christy - Arkansas Quartz
April - TBD

Newsletter deadline: November 20th.

Meeting adjourned.

Submitted by Sandra Gonzales, Secretary



Colorado Mineral Society
PO Box 280755
Lakewood, CO 80228

FIRST CLASS MAIL



If the Metro Denver area declares the roads on accident alert during a snowfall on meeting night, consider the CMS general meeting canceled.

UPCOMING MEETINGS

CMS Holiday Party – December

Date: December 4th, 2015 Time: 6:30pm
(an hour earlier)

Place: St. Paul's Episcopal Church,
Lakewood

Regular CMS Meeting - January

Date: TBD Time: 7:30pm
Place: TBD

Rocky Mountain Federation News

The Rocky Mountain Federation of Mineralogical Societies (RMFMS) is made up of 78 clubs representing 13 Western states. The Rocky Mountain Federation News is published monthly and is located at www.rmfmts.org.



A.F.M.S Newsletter

The American Federation of Mineralogical Societies (A.F.M.S) serves seven regional federations, including RMFMS. The A.F.M.S Newsletter is published monthly and is located at <http://www.amfed.org/news/default.htm>



<http://www.coloradomineralsociety.org>