Charles William “Bill” Hayward and Christopher Fleming Hayward: Prospectors, collectors and dealers

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The father and son team of Bill and Christopher Hayward were known for their self-collected amazonites, smoky quartz, and topaz from the Pikes Peak Batholith of Colorado. They sold minerals, operating under the name Fine Minerals: Minerals of the Rocky Mountains, at the annual Denver Gem and Mineral Show®, and numerous other local mineral shows and venues. As one of the 1940s old-timers, Bill would spin many a fascinating collecting story, always hinting at great secrets but never revealing the “meat.” The abrupt passing in 2012-2014 of both Bill and Christopher has left the Colorado mineral community with a void, from the friendships, collecting trips and minerals. The story that follows attempts to tell their story.
Charles William “Bill” Hayward, the second child in the family, was born on August 12, 1921 to Charles Scott Hayward and Bessie Mae Young at Muscle Shoals, Colbert County, Alabama while Charles was working to build the Willson Dam. Bill’s siblings were Margaret Eleanor, his older sister in 1919, and his younger brothers Horace Hayden in 1924 and Richard ‘Dick’ Lee in 1933.

Probably in 1924-5 after completion of the Willson Dam, the family moved to Terre Haute, Vigo County, Indiana where Charles was employed by the Public Service Company of Indiana at the newly opened Dresser Power Plant in Terre Haute.

Charles W. started college at Purdue University, West Lafayette, Indiana in September 1939. But with the start of WWII in the Pacific, Charles was drafted into the Navy in 1943 during his Senior year. After he completed his basic training in Indiana, he was sent to San Francisco in preparation for deployment to Hawaii. While in Indiana he met Margaret Jayne Bolenbaugh, a volunteer at the USO. The two became romantically involved.

Just prior to Bill’s deployment from San Francisco to Hawaii, Jayne traveled to California to marry Bill. They were married July 22, 1944 at the chapel that was in very high demand on Treasure Island, San Francisco Bay, California. By January 1945, C. W. Hayward was stationed with the Navy in Hawaii where his younger brother, Horace who had enlisted was with the Signal Radar Maintenance at Camp Stewart, Georgia. Jayne returned to live with Charles and Bessie Hayward until Bill returned. She continued to volunteer at the USO. During the war years, Bill’s father, Charles continued to work for the Public Service Co of Indiana in Terre Haute rising to become an Electrical Foreman at the plant.

After his Naval discharge, Bill returned to finish his degree at Purdue University, West Lafayette, Indiana in the Electrical Engineering Department, known today as the Electrical and Computer Engineering Department, in June 1946 (Purdue Alumnus magazine, Jan-Feb 2013, v. 102, p. 56). Bill and his bride, Jayne lived in a trailer in the colloquially named Vetsville area in Lafayette for Bill to finish school. His older sister, Margaret and her husband, Bill Staley had previously moved to Denver, Colorado. After Bill graduated he made a trip out to visit his sister and search for a job. He interviewed with Public Service of Colorado and received a job offer as an electric power salesman to businesses. In October 1946, Margaret Jayne and Bill moved to Denver where he started work while living at 960 Garfield Street, Denver.

Bill and Jayne started their local mineral collecting, when they joined the Colorado Mineral Society (CMS) in December 1946. At the club meetings, he met Richard Pearl, Chester Howard, Ed Over, Robert D. “Bob” Roots, and E. Mitchell “Mike” Gunnell, among many others. The society held monthly meetings at the Colorado Museum of Natural History (with later name changes to the Denver Museum of Natural History and lastly the Denver Museum of Nature and Science) and published a 4 page newsletter named “Mineral Minutes.”

CMS formed in September 1936 with 14 charter members. Chester Howard became the first president, a position he still held when the Haywards joined. Bill’s father got him interested in minerals, an interest that Jayne quickly enjoyed, wholeheartedly (Richard and Beth Hayward 2015, personal communication). The society by 1947 had grown to about 100 with possibly 50 people attending each monthly meeting.

More than a year after their arrival in Denver, Bill and Jayne’s first baby, was born circa 1947, but survived only a week. After this tragedy, Jayne searched for work and was hired no later than 1948 by the Colorado State Bureau of Mines in downtown Denver. Both Bill and Jayne became more involved with the CMS.

Previously in 1946, meetings of the Rocky Mountain Federation of Mineral Societies (RMFMS) were restarted after a hiatus caused by World War II. The RMFMS had been formed during the Summer of 1941 with the sponsorship of the Colorado Mineralogical Society. At the annual RMFMS convention in June 1947, at Salt Lake City, Richard Pearl had invited representatives of the four regional U. S. societies to consider forming a national umbrella organization, an American Federation of Mineralogical Societies (AFMS). They agreed.

In 1947, Chester Howard, the president of the CMS, also became president of the Rocky Mountain Federation of Mineralogical Societies. Richard Pearl with Chester Howard proposed that the first National Convention of the new American Federation of Mineralogical Societies be held at the Shirley-Savoy Hotel, Denver on June 12-16, 1948. Richard Pearl became the general chairman of the committees to help organize this convention with the CMS becoming the chief sponsoring organization.
The June 1948 convention was to become a huge undertaking, requiring considerable effort by CMS. Bill and Jayne Hayward, as well as many CMS members became a significant part of the planning and execution for this convention. In January Bill became a member of the Favors Committee which was tasked with collecting give-away material to convention attendees such as minerals, pens, and bags. He also went and collected 520 specimens of blue barite from Hartsel, Colorado to use for give-aways. Bill was also appointed as Chairman of the Services Committee for the convention. This committee provided numerous services such as locating motels, transportation, printers, and supplies for those attending the convention.

Bill reminisced decades later that he was “appointed to get all [convention] signs made and [was also] dealer chairman. I decided to get an eight-foot table on which to put a handful of Colorado Minerals on display” (Claire W. Schaeffer tape transcription 2014). Bill also told that “Ed Over came up from Colorado Springs to visit the Colorado State Bureau of Mines about a month before the show, and mentioned he would like space [to sell specimens]. My wife Jayne, who worked at the Bureau, said it was sold out. Fred Jones, the Commissioner of Mines, said, “Well, Bill doesn’t have much to show so he might be able to share his table.” Jayne said, “I don’t see why not; I’ll have Bill get in touch” (Claire W. Schaeffer tape transcription 2014). This meeting at the First Annual AFMS convention began Bill’s friendship with Ed Over until his passing in 1963.

The convention was a great success with 1125 registered guests and 1080 paid attendance. Howard estimated that about 3,000 people visited and viewed the exhibits and vendors who were selling specimens and lapidary equipment.

Jayne meanwhile agreed in January 1948 to become a mineral judge for the monthly meetings (CMS Mineral Minutes, January 1948). Surprisingly, Bill won first place in the Class 2 category of Colorado Minerals at the March meeting in 1948. Judging of specimens must have been blind but how does a spouse not know her husband’s specimens if they collected together?

In March the club field trip committee appointed S. R. Sheldon (who specialized in fluorescents), Bill Hayward and W. J. Culbertson as field trip leaders. Their task was to plan and lead that year’s field trips. On April 11, Bill led a field trip to N. Table Mountain, a successful but wet trip due to rain.

As was traditional in April-May, the club nominated and voted for new society officers for the year. Although relatively a new member, Jayne Hayward became the CMS secretary-treasurer for October 1948 to September 1949.

At the start of Jayne being Secretary, Bill accepted the responsibility of chairman for coordinating the monthly mineral exhibits at meetings. He also exhibited minerals at the November monthly meeting.

During 1949, both Jayne and Bill continued to be active in the society. They participated in many of the society field trips, went collecting on their own and attended society meeting and functions. Jayne’s field activities declined during the later part of the year. She was pregnant again. In May 1949, the Reverend Durban O. Thorpe, who had joined the CMS in October 1947, opened a mineral shop in his home. Bill and Durban became good friends circa 1955 and started going on collecting trips together. This was a relationship that continued into the late 1970s and included his future son, Christopher.

The biggest event of 1949 was the group field trip to Mount Antero. “At a regular meeting of the Colorado Mineral Society held March 4, 1949 at the Denver Museum of Natural History, President Richard M. Pearl appointed a committee [of Chester Howard, Minor F. Wasson and Alice Gathercole] to investigate the desirability of giving public recognition to the renowned collecting area on Mt. Antero by mounting a permanent metal plaque just south of the summit.

On May 6, 1949 the committee reported back to the society suggesting that on the occasion of the regular Colorado Day, “August 1, 1949 field trip under the leadership of James Hurlbut that those present select a suitable place on the flat shoulder about one-half mile to the south of the peak and erect a cairn and establish a suitable marker close by and read a proclamation wherein the membership of the Society express a desire that the area be known hereafter as a Mineral Park” (Colorado Mineral Society 1949 archives).

James Hurlbut with fifteen other people, hiked to a Mount Antero base camp on Little Browns Creek near treeline on the east side for mounting the plaque. Bill Hayward was one of the fifteen. Nine people continued on the following day to the summit to mount the plaque (Pearl 1958). Those nine included James Hurlbut, Tommy Hofer, Don Brown, Paul Humphreys plus five more whose names have not been recorded (CMS Mineral Minutes, Oct. 1949). The total trip covered three days with two nights on the mountain.

Their second child, Marci Lynn was born October 21, 1949, after which Jayne left the State Bureau of Mines. The CMS Mineral Minutes in December 1949, happily announced the birth of a new “pebble pup.” With a newborn, the couple needed more space - so they purchased a house at 6645 West 32nd Avenue in Wheatridge. During 1950, both Bill and Jayne continued being active in CMS and collected together.

Bill noted in one of his few documented reminisces (Hayward 2010) that They “…began collecting smoky quartz and amazonite and microcline at Pine Creek and Devil’s Head, since they were relatively close to Denver. It was a slow learning process, even with fine teachers – I was such a knucklehead. It was the early 1950s before I went to Crystal Peak (approx. 120 miles from Denver). At that time there were no claims there in the Pike National Forest, although one homesteader owned 650 acres at the head of Crystal Creek. The only fence in the area was between his land and the forest.”

“Jayne and I climbed up Crystal Peak to prospect for amazonite and found none. It was years later that I found some old letters, written about 1870, which indicated that what we call Crystal Peak today was then called Cyclops Thumb or Sore Thumb because there were no crystals on it. The knobs running to the west and north of Crystal Peak [meaning northwest] were called the Crystal Peaks.”

“The next trip I went up Trail Creek Road which was not maintained and [formerly had been the] old wagon road from West Creek to Lake George. As we passed Crystal Peak and the ridge came close to the road [I could see that ] there was a dump on the south side of the road and we stopped to check it out. It was full of amazonite crystals up to 1.5” and almost every crystal had perfect terminations. There was no smoky quartz in the entire dump!”

Bill also reported on the annual trading post and club picnic at Sloan’s lake which was held every September. This outdoor event included club games and also trading and sale of mineral specimens, mostly self-collected material. Bill also added to his club responsibilities by becoming the Junior Committee chairman in December. This is the group that works to interest the children of the members in mineral collecting. Bill increasing involvement did not go unnoticed. Bob Roots nominated Bill Hayward for president for 1952 but Bill asked that his name be withdrawn for consideration.

During 1951, Bill continued to be charge of the Junior program. In May he gave each exhibitor a mineral specimen. (CMS Mineral Minutes, May 1951). Marci was of course carried to the meetings. “The name of the pebble pup Marci Hayward, still the youngest member of the society so far as we know, was drawn to contribute the [door] prize for March. Mr. G. D. Nedblake immediately volunteered to give a specimen in her name” (CMS Mineral Minutes, March 1951, page 3). At the annual September trading post and picnic at Sloans Lake, “Commercialists Bob Roots, Gordon Nedblake, Bill Hayward, and Andy Anderson had large displays and did a lot of trading.” At meeting of the CMS, Bill showed off many of his collected and purchased specimens. During 1951-52, Bill and his younger brother Dick had made a collecting trip to Mexico (Beth Hayward, personal communication 2015). Bill showed some of these specimens off at the April CMS meeting (CMS Mineral Minutes, May 1952). Later Bill advertised to sell some of the Mexican agates from the trip in Rocks and Minerals, December (1955, p. 437). At another meeting he exhibited rhodochrosite and opal.

The CMS Mineral Minutes (October 1952) joyfully announced the birth of the new “pebble pup” Scot Leland on July 17, 1952 to Bill and Jayne Hayward. Bill and Jayne’s summer of 1952 was probably full of activities catering to the newborn and three year old Marci. The September 13 annual trading post and picnic at Sloans Lake continued with Bob Roots and Bill Hayward having their usual dealer material of minerals out for trade or sale. “Bill Hayward, [the] picnic chairman, [though] outdid himself in providing mirth-provoking games. The gals kicked their slippers high and far in one game and Mary Ann Louthan was the best kicker. (She is tiny and can swing her weight better than some of us heftier gals). Then came the screwiest game, which could have been the messiest had not Bill taken pity on the contestants and had Jayne boil the eggs. The men and women lined up facing each other. Each pair received en egg. Said egg was tossed between them with the man stepping back one pace after each toss. Mr. Draper and Patty, the father and daughter team, proved to be the most accurate and careful tossers. Their egg did not disintegrate and they were farthest apart at the finish. Nice mineral specimens were received by the winners.”
In December, Bill continued his Junior children focused activities. “Santa Claus Hayward arrived, after circling Daniels and Fisher’s tower with a heavy load of specimens, assuring a nice present for everyone” (CMS Mineral Minutes, January 1953).

Possibly during the Fall of 1951 or 52, the Reverend Durban Thorpe had become a regular Saturday collecting partner with Bill. Durban O Thorpe (1914-1981), a pastor at the North Swansea Baptist Church in Denver, thus became a collecting mentor for Bill. Besides the mineral shop in his home (CMS Mineral Minutes May 1949), Thorpe was the leader for the Rockhounds Club at Rockmont College (Rockmont College Yearbook 1952), a religious training school located initially in Downtown Denver.

Depending on the weather report from the State Patrol, they would decide whether to collect in the Pikes Peak Granite or in Larimer County, possibly for amethyst, gypsum or aragonite.

“On one particular Saturday morning it was snowing in Fort Collins so we headed south. I told Thorpe about the dump where I found the amazonite crystals, so we went there. When we arrived it was spitting snow and there was nearly two inches on the ground. Thorpe was a big man, and he started digging straight down. About noon he was down a good four feet, when he broke into an opening which was a little over a foot long and about ten inches wide. Mud filled the bottom of the pocket, but you could see smoky quartz crystals hanging down from the pocket roof and disappearing into the mud. It took almost four hours to remove the crystals; they came out in eleven perfect groups and three loose crystals.

Reverend Thorpe, like many pastors, needed cash rather than rocks. He told me to dispose of the crystals as soon as possible. I contacted Minor Wasson, a lawyer, who bought a small group for $15.00.

The groups were bright crystals of smoky quartz with 2” medium blue amazonite crystals. The groups were pristine, without so much as a scratch. The smokies were about an inch thick and 4-5” long. The smallest group was 3” x 4”, while the largest was 5” x 12” with 2” amazonites and five 4-5” smokies.

I called Mike Gunnell and he offered me $155 for the remaining 10 groups. He sold the smallest group two months later to Harvard University for $275. The largest group he kept for about two years before he died, when it was sold to an eastern museum for $20,000. So, the best in-place pocket I ever helped dig was disposed of, with me keeping the three loose crystals to remember it by.

Since that time I have gone back a few times and found several small pockets with a few 2” x 3” groups. But there were no smokies on the original dump, yet all the pockets I dug out had about a third of the crystals being clear bright smokies; I assume that the dump was the result of the area being dug originally for smoky quartz sometime between 1868 and 1892” (Hayward 2010).

During the Larimer County trips, Bill and his collecting partner would visit private ranches requesting permission to prospect. On one trip, Bill stopped at a pegmatite outcrop along the road to the ranch homestead. From this road cut, he recovered a 1.5 inch gemmy, facetable red garnet within the Sherman Granite. Unfortunately after talking with the landowner, he was refused permission and thus could only just drive out (Bill Hutchinson, Sr. 2020 personal communication).

The May 1953 CMS meeting started with Bill displaying geodes and fluorite specimens that he had obtained from a trip back the East, probably to Indiana visiting family. “Mr. Hayward has been in the East and was fortunate enough to collect about 800 pounds of geodes in one day. He brought crystals for us to see. For the life of me, I can’t remember whether the fluorite crystals were found in the geodes or whether he got them somewhere else” (CMS Mineral Minutes, May 1953). The meeting ended with Bill being elected President of CMS starting in October 1953.

During the Summer of 1953, Bill was actively collecting at several localities in the Pikes Peak Granite for miarolitic pockets. In August, he filed alone for three claims at Crystal Peak - the Crystal No. 1, 2 and 3. A fourth claim, the Amazonite no. 8, he shared with collectors Lyle McNulty and Durban Thorpe.

The discovery of the Wigwam claim, which is sometimes known as the Cheeseman reservoir locality or the “Oliver claim.” started in 1953. Hayward (2010) provided some of the story.

A member of the Colorado Mineral Society was in the Lost Creek area of the Tarryall Mountains [Wigwam Creek- Cheeseman Reservoir area] when he stopped to talk to a local rancher. He showed him a broken little piece of
amazonite. The rancher said, “Oh, there is a big seam of that stuff up on the hill down the road.” The rancher agreed that if he would come back the following Saturday, he could show him where it was.

The next Saturday, [the CMS club member], Lawrence Oliver, and Betty Barwell went down to meet the rancher. [The rancher took them to the pegmatite.] The pegmatite outcropping on the side of the hill was 2.5 inches thick and was exposed for fifty feet, and went horizontally into the hillside. [The CMS club member] found a small pocket of amazonite and smoky quartz. As he dug down in the hole he stacked the crystals at the side of the small dump. When he was finished digging he looked at his crystals. There were only two crystals there. He asked Betty what had happened to his crystals. She said, “I thought you were throwing them away so I took them.”

The next Monday [the CMS club member] called and came over to my home with his two crystals. One was a deep blue amazonite and the other was a three inch long smoky quartz. When I asked if he had some to sell he told me that Betty had taken them and I should call her. I did so, and bought several crystals.

On Wednesday evening Lawrence Oliver called everyone [in the original group] and told them he had claimed the area [5 September 1953], and they had better keep the heck out. This pegmatite, named by Lawrence L. Oliver as the Wigwam claim, was reputedly discovered 31 August 1953 with the claim staked on 5 September and filed on 12 September 1953 in the Jefferson County records. Oliver and successive claimants located the claim in the northwest quarter section of section 26, T9S, R71W. The claim is actually in the northeast quarter of section 27, T9S, R71W, southwest of Sugarloaf Peak. Lawrence L. Oliver and his wife, Agnes, joined CMS in November 1949.

Bill took over as CMS president in October but his time was divided amongst his children and his wife’s illness. The report of his wife’s passing could not be ignored by the club. “It is our sad task to report the untimely death, after an extended illness, of [Margaret] Jayne Hayward, wife of our President Bill Hayward, on December 11, 1953. Janie was a most friendly person and an active supporter of the Society, having served as Secretary at one time. Everyone in the Society knew and liked Jane, and her sunny presence will be missed. Bill wishes to extend to all their many friends his personal appreciation for their individual and collective expressions of sympathy in his great loss” (CMS Mineral Minutes, January 1954).

Jayne Hayward died of Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis (ALS), also commonly known as Lou Gehrig’s Disease, a progressive neurodegenerative disease with no cure that causes muscle weakness, paralysis, and ultimately, respiratory failure. ALS typically affects people in their mid-50s and survival is approximately 2-5 years from the onset of symptoms. Bill and Jayne learned of her ALS diagnosis in 1952. Clearly she was still physically active in the beginning of 1953.

In April 1954, Hayward moved with his two young children from 7075 West 32nd Street, Denver, CO to a new house at 3286 Quitman Street, Denver. Their old house at 6645 (former street number)/7075 (new street number) West 32nd Street, Denver, CO was sold in May 1954 after the move. With new society elections, Bill became the first vice president, starting in October 1954.

Almost a year after the Wigwam pegmatite was discovered (Hayward 2010), Oliver… offered the Colorado Mineral Society a chance to have a field trip to his claim.

They [The Colorado Mineral Society members on July 31, 1954] appeared on a Saturday morning about 10 A.M. It was a hot sunny day in July; the hillside was in full sun except for a little shade under a couple of scrub-oak trees. A friend of mine who worked in the line department of Public Service Company of Colorado asked a couple of other linemen if they wanted to go in the mountains for a day. They were interested, so three of them went on the field trip [with the CMS club].

About 20 people [from CMS] were there; all started digging in the big outcrop. A little after noon it got pretty hot, so one of the linemen went about twenty feet above the outcrop to sit in the scrub-oak shade. While he sat there cooling off he happened to scratch the ground to give the appearance of digging. About six inches down he rolled out a rock, and as it turned over the underside showed a smoky quartz sticking out.

He called [one of the other linemen] to come take a look. He rubbed off some of the dirt, and amazonite crystals appeared around the smoky quartz. He called the other linemen, and they worked until dark getting group after group. This might be the large pocket that CMS member Norman Johannessen is credited with discovering during the society trip (CMS Mineral Minutes, October 1954, p. 6).
At this time my wife Jayne was deceased, and I had remarried [to Margaret Ann Franck Wikgren on July 16, 1954. They had met at a mineral event. Margaret was a divorced single parent raising Claire who was 3 years old at the time of the marriage.] Margaret and I arrived home from our honeymoon that Saturday morning [in July 1954]. After our trip I had only $4 left to last until [the next] payday. Sunday, around noon, I got a phone call from one of the PSC of Colorado linemen. He said he had a few boxes of amazonite and smokies and asked if I was interested. I went over in the afternoon to take a look.

In the basement he had four or five boxes. When I asked him what he wanted for them, he asked what I’d give him. When I suggested $250, he replied, “How about $300 – there were three of us.” I was willing, if he’d give me 30 days, and he agreed. When I got home with my loot I immediately washed them and put them in oxalic acid to clean them. They came out better than I expected; the amazonite was a good medium blue with bright glassy smokies.

On Wednesday I got to thinking that, like most specimens from pockets, the bottoms were covered with a heavy gunk. Maybe I could at least go through the dump that the linemen left, because with greenhorns working the dig, they surely missed some of the pieces. I didn’t think anyone else would dig through the dump.

Thursday morning I decided that after work I could drive down and at least take a look. It was about 7 P.M. when I arrived at the pit. I started digging through the dump and soon turned over a small group with a Manebach twin of amazonite sticking up a couple inches [This might be the Manebach twin owned by Bryan Lees, from Wigwam Creek and collected by Hayward]. It was well after dark and I finished digging by the light of a small flashlight. It was a little eerie since I was all alone and a mile off the road. As I was digging some movement would cause me to look up. There would be three or four pairs of eyes looking at me out of the dark; it was a group of coyotes about eight to ten feet from me. I would flash the light at them and they’d disappear in the bushes. After the third or fourth time I just gave up and let them watch.

I was finally through and stumbled down the hill with a box of crystals. Among them were four nice groups approx. 3” x 4”, with [one group possessing] the main crystal a nice Manebach twin. By Saturday morning I had quite a few of the groups fairly clean. We had an old pool table in our basement, and I arranged them in rows at various prices. About 9 a.m. Dr. [Heinz W. Eckert] called from Florence, Colorado” (Hayward 2010) to look at the material. As a mineral dealer, he probably bought many of crystals.

During the September 1954 annual trading post and picnic of CMS at Sloans Lake, Bill was still in charge of the games and sold and traded mineral specimens. In November, he took on being the Field trip committee chairman for planning next year’s collecting trips. This was in addition to being the First Vice-President.

Hayward continued as an active participate with CMS in 1955, although life must also have been quite busy for them both with raising three children- Marci, Scot, and Claire. Bill and Margaret, along with four other mineral collector held simultaneous open houses on June 5, from 1:30 to 5:00 PM for CMS members to view their collection. The CMS board of trustees met at the Hayward’s house. Hayward also continued as the chairman of the juniors committee.

The annual trading post and picnic in October 1955 was held in Washington Park, South Denver. More than a 100 people attended. The dealer displays included Bill Hayward, the Brittons of Boulder, Lawrence Oliver, Bill Reid of Golden and Art Ermisch. Earl Pomeroy prepared an article about CMS rockhounds for the Denver Post. At the December annual December Christmas party and mineral auction, held at the Washington Park Community Church, Bill Hayward acted as verbal auctioneer at the mineral auction.

During 1956, at the February CMS meeting, Bill Hayward ran a mineral identification contest with good minerals as the prizes. There were thirteen participants. In addition a contest for the best mineral specimen was also being run by Bill with more prizes and ribbons.

Sometime between 1955 and 1957, Bill Hayward is credited with purchasing five etched sherry-amber topaz crystals from Ed Over’s circa 1954 discovery (White 1985) that are believed to have been found near Camerons Cone-Crystal Park (Cowman and Persson 2015). Hayward sold at least one of these crystals to E. Mitchell Gunnell, a fellow mineral dealer, and also a member of CMS in 1957. This is the discovery that is credited by Richard Frettard and Jean Cowman’s to have motivated their search and discovery in 2012 of sherry topaz on their Agnus Dei claim (Carnein 2013). Frettard and Cowman’s discovery is not the same pegmatite where Ed Over recovered sherry topaz; this interpretation is based on the observation that there were no abandoned pits on their discovery and that a seasoned prospector like Over would never have abandoned a pegmatite pocket until it was depleted.
The AFMS convention and mineral show was held June 13-16, 1957 at the National Guard Armory, in central Denver. Ernest E. Parshall of CMS was the publicity chairman and helped organize the event. Bill Hayward advertised as a dealer specializing in the “Minerals of the Rocky Mountains,” at the show in *Rocks and Minerals* (1957, p. 189) magazine. Besides mineral from most Colorado localities, he highlighted his microcline and smoky quartz specimens from the “Pikes Peak region” which included specimens from his claims at Crystal Peak as well as those near the locality referred to as Wigwam Creek (Sugar loaf area, north of Cheeseman Reservoir). The convention and mineral show was a great success and the Denver club received much written praise (CMS Mineral Minutes, October 1957). During 1957, CMS’s Junior collectors group sometimes met at Hayward’s home. With three children, this was one way to involve them in mineral collecting.

Bill’s field collecting activity was about to become more time challenged, with the birth of Christopher Fleming on January 27, 1958. Bill attended the February meeting to spread the news of the fourth member of the family. Almost every weekend though, weather permitting, Bill and Margaret took the entire family of four children out mineral collecting. Margaret also made hundreds of mineral sample boxes, among other volunteer work, for the Denver Museum of Natural History. At this point in time, circa 1958, both of them became interested in buying, growing and enjoying orchids. Later Bill also sold orchids they had grown. He also started participating in the Denver Orchid Society, which had formed in 1951.

A greenhouse was built attached to the basement for growing orchids. Bill and Margaret with a subgroup of people from the Denver Orchid Society socialized together and shared experiences with growing orchids. Bill grew more serious with orchids and obtained training on how to judge orchids at orchid shows. He began training as a judge and became a student judge by 1975. He was accredited as a judge in March 1981 and became a Senior judge in April 1999. On April 24, 2009, he declared his retirement from orchid judging. During his most active orchid years, the family travelled around the county judging at orchid shows, and visited mineral dealers along the way.

Claire Wikgren Schaeffer (2015, personal communication) noted that Margaret became a fine floral designer, and helped support Bill’s orchid interests. “She made corsages which included orchids for proms and even did quite a few weddings. Yes, she did all the flowers for my wedding as well. Orchids were the center of the Hayward family vacations when Christopher was an infant (1958 - 60) and Bill Hayward was peaking [with his interest in orchids] around the time I graduated from high school (1967), beginning to taper off by 1980.”

In 1958, Bill still attended mineral shows including the September Pueblo show as well as participating in CMS’s First Annual Mineral Show at the Cheeseman Park Pavilion. There were 68 judged mineral exhibits, which were open to the public from 1:00 to 3.30 PM, on September 13, 1959. At the annual Picnic, held adjacent to the pavilion in Cheeseman Park, 175-200 people attended (CMS Mineral Minutes, October 1959).

Since 1958, Bill and his spouse were busy with raising children and growing orchids, prospecting on his amazonite claims was less a viable option. In October 1961, the CMS newsletter announced: “The Colorado Mineral society has had a very wonderful gift given to it by one of our past presidents. C. W. Bill Hayward, it is his Amazonite claims (Crystal no. 1, 2, and 3). These claims are located in the Crystal Peak area. Starting in October [1961] we will begin our annual assessment work on these claims -- amazonite, smoky quartz (possibly topaz, goethite and phenacite) may be gathered on these claims. The claims will be open to CMS members and their invited guests only (a CMS member has to be with their guests). No commercial collecting allowed. Thanks a million Bill Hayward for this wonderful addition to the club.”

The following month, the current president gave his “personal thanks to Bill Hayward for the excellent gift of his Amazonite claims in the Crystal Peak area to the CMS. A real asset to our society. As a past president and active member, Bill Hayward, has been instrumental in the growth and progress of the Colorado Mineral society. In appreciation the board has voted Bill a life membership” (CMS Mineral Minutes, 1961). As soon as the CMS field trip season started in June 1962, the society led their first field trip to the former Hayward claims at Crystal Peak.

Although his field collecting days were significantly fewer, Hayward was still was a mineral dealer. At the CMS 4th Annual Denver Gem & Mineral Fair, Jefferson County Fairgrounds, August 18-19, 1962. Bill Hayward offered “… choice crystallized mineral specimens, cutting material both rough and slabbed and his specialty -- Amazonstone and Smoky Quartz Xls” (CMS Mineral Minutes, Aug-Sept 1962).

As he grew, Christopher Fleming Hayward became interested in mineral collecting and that convinced Bill to restart field collecting in 1967 (Claire W. Schaeffer 2015, personal communication). With Christopher and usually with
Claire, Bill went collecting. In 1970, Christopher and Bill were again emptying pockets at Crystal Peak. In August 1972, Christopher, Claire and Bill were digging on the steep south face of White Mountain, Chaffee County for aquamarine. As Christopher grew bigger and stronger, he increasingly provided the muscle for the prospecting excavations with Bill taking photographs. In August 1973, Christopher and Bill prospected at Glen Cove on Pikes Peak for topaz, smoky quartz and amazonite.

Also in 1973, Bill Hayward was volunteering at the Denver Museum of Natural History, helping correct and confirm locality labels for some of the museum’s microcline specimens. This was for locality labels that were being prepared by Jody Anderson and Joyce Dicely for exhibition (Annual Report of the Denver Museum of Natural History. 1973, p. 30). Bill still continued his specimen (and orchid plant) sales from his house during the annual September Denver Gem and Mineral Shows®.

Bill Hayward and Margaret in July 1974 bought 40 acres, in the NE/4 of the NE/4 of Section 14, T12S, R71W (Teller County records, Book 14, page 296A and B). This tract directly abuts the national forest land to the north and is directly southwest of Hayward’s former amazonite claims that he had donated in 1961 to CMS. This property was also formerly part of Whitmore’s gem mines.

By December 1974, Bill and Christopher were actively selling amazonite from the Pikes Peak Granite as shown by a joint advertisement in Rocks and Minerals (v. 49, no. 12, p. 770). Their best specimen was a “bright blue terminated single” crystal at 2 x 3 x 1.5 inches for $75. This probably set in motion Christopher wanting to be a full-time prospector collector with his father selling the material.

In 1975, the Denver Council of Gem and Mineral Societies, the sponsor of the Denver Gem and Mineral Show®, hosted the American and Rocky Mountain Federation of Minerals Societies at the annual September mineral show. This caused what was traditionally a three day show to become a four day show with numerous society meetings, banquets,
speaker programs. At the planned awards banquet, Bill Hayward was given the task of being the Master of Ceremonies (CMS Mineral Minutes, April 1975) on June 21, 1975.

In October, after the Denver Gem and Mineral Show®, Christopher F. Hayward applied for junior membership to CMS. His father, Bill Hayward (CMS Mineral Minutes, October 1975) sponsored him. This also indicated that Bill was going to continue to be active in the society. In January 1977, Bill spoke on the "Presentation and Cleaning of Mineral Specimens for Show" at the regular meeting of CMS. “This is the same subject on which Bill is teaching a class. Bill is an excellent speaker and well versed on many facets of our hobby. He is a Life Time member of CMS” (CMS Mineral Minutes, December 1976).

Figure 3. Bill and Christopher Hayward business card. Mark Jacobson photograph.

Christopher graduated high school circa June 1975 and obtained a scholarship to attend the Colorado School of Mines. He attended college for one year and left to spend more time prospecting and helping sell mineral specimens with his father (Claire W. Schaeffer 2015, personal communication). Claire W. Schaeffer (2015 personal communication) commented that “during the past 35 years [since 1979] it was Christopher who found everything worth finding which was very upsetting to his Dad [Bill]. Christopher was thrilled at finding rocks and minerals but he had no interest in the business or selling part of the hobby.”


Circa 1979, Bill Hayward in partnership with Eldon Bright and Howard Bachman decided to do some informal mining underground at the California mine, just west of Mount Antero, Chaffee County. They proceeded underground through the adit entrance, drilled some ceiling holes within the quartz-beryl-molybdenite vein and loaded them with ¼ sticks of blasting dynamite. Large canvas tarps were spread out on the adit floor below the loaded dynamite. The fuses were lit and they quickly left.

After the blast, they waited one to several days for the fumes to escape. After returning, all the debris on the canvas tarps were loaded into several footlocker trunks, carried out and loaded onto their trucks for passage back to Denver. Sorting and recovery of pocket beryls – clear to light colored aquamarines – was done in Denver. Howard Bachman’s trunk, his share from the mining was auctioned off during his estate sale (Bill Hutchinson, Sr. 2020, personal communication) after he passed away in December 2001.

Bill and Christopher Hayward on November 9, 1980 decided to prospect for amazonite and smoky quartz on their private land at Crystal Peak and thus filed for the North Slope 1, 2, 3, and 4 claims in NE/4 of section 14, T12S, R71W. This filing seems strange because since 1974, Hayward actually owned the surface.

Figure 4. Christopher checking the pit at the Sky Blue Hole prospect, Crystal Peak area, September 1984. Bill Hayward photograph.
rights to the entire 40 acres of the 1/8th of the section. Normally on private or patented land, mineral rights are still tied to the surface owner but can be later severed from surface rights and the federal government retains no rights. The exception is for land patented after the Stock Raising Homestead Act (SRHA) of 1916 which “excepting and reserving; however, to the United States all the coal and other minerals in the lands so entered and patented, together with the right to prospect for, mine, and remove the same pursuant to the provisions and limitations of the act of December 29, 1916 (39 Statute 862).” Albert B. Whitmore’s 640 acres of land was patented in 1935 and contains the clause as shown above. Thus Hayward had to claim his own private land to mine amazonite.

Details on this split estate where the surface land is private but the mineral rights are Federal can be found on the Bureau of land management website: https://www.blm.gov/programs/energy-and-minerals/mining-and-minerals/split-estate (accessed May 29, 2020).

As Christopher grew older, his contribution to mineral discoveries and recovered specimens increased. By 1980, he was a full time contributor of specimens to the material that Bill sold. During the 1985 September Denver Gem and Mineral Show®, the first satellite show opened at the Holiday Inn North. In 1986, this became the Martin Zinn III owned ‘Colorado Mineral and Fossil Show.’

In 1986, the Friends of Mineralogy, Colorado Chapter sponsored a 4 day symposium on Colorado pegmatites at the Denver Museum of Natural History during the last weekend in May. Bill Hayward gave a presentation on the development of mineral collecting in the Pikes Peak batholith. That year was also the 50th anniversary of CMS; a celebration banquet was held at the Mt. Vernon Country Club, Golden. Both Bill and Margaret attended.

In 1989, a Mineralogical Record (1989) advertisement featured Bill and Christopher Hayward as ‘Bill Hayward Minerals.’ This was a Joint Colorado dealers ad, paid for by Marty Zinn’s show. In September 1995, Bill Hayward was still selling minerals in a motel room at the Colorado Mineral and Fossil show at the Holiday Inn – North. After Claire W. Schaeffer returned to Denver in 1991, She rejoined Christopher Hayward as a collecting partner. Now collecting trips could be combinations of Christopher, Claire, and Bill.

In 1997, Andy Oriel (1997) prepared an interview article about Bill Hayward for the Lapidary Journal. Although a good article about Bill, the specimens illustrated including the specimen held by Bill were not field collected by Bill or Christopher. Bill continued to sell specimens during the September Denver Gem and Mineral Show® from a room at the Colorado Mineral and Fossil Show until 1999. Starting in 2000, he shared a room at the Denver Gem and Mineral
Show®. His specimen pride that he showed off that year was a huge but unattractive smoky quartz and amazonite group found along Crystal Creek, north of Florissant. All the smoky quartz crystals on the group had opaque white quartz overgrowths, thus their lack of beauty. This specimen never sold and was eventually donated the New Mexico Bureau of Geology Mineral Museum in Socorro.

In March 2005, Hayward took advantage of the opportunity to reclaim King Koenig’s lapsed Rainbow claim for amethyst at Red Feather Lakes, Larimer County in section 27, T10N, R74W. He renamed the claim as Margaret's Lode after his second spouse. Besides Bill and Christopher working the deposit for specimens, he also allowed some club field trips to the locality. Bill also continued to participate as an exhibitor and mineral display competitor at the annual Denver Gem and Mineral Show®. In 2005, Bill and Christopher received a ‘individual competitive case trophy’ for the display of “Quartz and Associates from the Pikes Peak Batholith.” At the 2007 Denver Gem and Mineral Show®, Bill received the best of species trophy for his field collected rhodochrosite and galena from the Julia Fiske Mine.

Unfortunately in 2006, Bill’s spouse, Margaret, had a stroke and became relatively housebound in Denver. Bill, Christopher and Claire shared care-giving duties.

Bill also started an annual spring sale in 2007, usually in the middle of March, of specimens at his home, 3286 Quitman St., Denver. His attitude was “I sure have a lot of rocks and I can’t take them with me.” Plus he really enjoyed having people over to socialize with. His last spring sale was in March 2012.

In early April, 2012, Bill went into hospice. On Tuesday, April 24th, 2012, Bill passed away. Bill Hutchinson, Sr. from the Friends of Mineralogy, Colorado Chapter noted with sadness that “... a dear friend of the rock and mineral community passed away. [Charles William] Bill Hayward was a well known and highly respected mineral specimen collector and dealer. He was a true renaissance man with interests in all aspects of the natural sciences and a fascination for orchids. He also was a veteran of WWII and college football player. Those of us who have seen his home and have been privileged enough to "rummage" through his treasures know that he had a story for each adventure, each pocket discovered and each mineral specimen found. He was there for the brass plaque that was placed on Mt Antero and is part of Colorado's mineral collecting history. I haven't been friends with Bill as long as many of you but over the last twenty years we have shared the common bond of digging up Earth's treasures. We had our trips into the field, dreams of the next great find and whispers of secrets taken to the grave. He had immense dedication to the field, whether collecting and documenting the specimens themselves or just accumulating the knowledge and lore of mineral collecting, especially in Colorado. His knowledge would have filled volumes. Some of the stories were a bit repetitive over the years but then out of no where he would state in a matter of fact voice "I told you about that garnet, or amazonite, or topaz locality didn't I?".... You never knew what he might dig up out that vault of knowledge that he carried around in his head. We will miss him. The memorial service at the Wheat Ridge Lutheran Church was well represented by the mineral collecting community. (Bill Hutchinson 2012, FMCC April newsletter, p. 7).

Christopher F. Hayward continued on in the family home caring for his mother. In February of 2013 he was misdiagnosed with an ulcer. It became apparent that there was no ulcer and a Whipple procedure (a 7-hour surgery) confirmed that an aggressive cancer had spread and was now stage 4. A palliative chemo was given for three months until he was readmitted to Denver Health where he passed away on February 25, 2014 (Claire W. Schaeffer 2021, email communication).

With both mineral collectors gone, the basement of the house was full with mineral specimens collected over more than 40 years. This necessitated several mineral estate sales held at the house over a period of many months. Aaron Cross attended one of them and was overwhelmed at the material for sale. “Bill Hayward's personal collection was huge after the many decades he collected, he also cleaned them himself. I went to a couple of the estate sales his family had this year (there were at least four) and have about thirty flats myself. There was SO much Amazonite that flats of them went from $5 to $125 depending on quality and I got some amazing pieces in flats for $5. He was all over that area digging for longer than I’ve been alive, some [places that] I’ve never heard of!” (Aaron Cross, November 20, 2014).

A large number of specimens from Bill and Christopher Hayward’s collection was donated to the New Mexico Bureau of Mines Mineral Museum, Socorro and the Mines Museum of Geology, Golden by Claire W. Schaeffer. Many specimens purchased during the estate sales have reappeared for sale at later Denver and Tucson Gem and Mineral Shows®.
Figure 6. Left: A pile of specimen flats for sale, August 2015 estate sale at Quitman Street. All the rooms in the house were filled with flats like this, except for the living room where the material was sold. Right; Amethyst cluster from the Margaret lode (Rainbow Lode) claim, Red Feather Lakes, Larimer County. 4.5 x 5 inches. Collected by Christopher and Bill Hayward after 2005. Mark Jacobson photographs.

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References cited:


