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What is a mineral? You may wonder why the question is raised at all. Unfortunately, ambiguous use of the term "mineral" has created grounds for litigation. The issue was further complicated in 1983 when the U.S. Supreme Court ruled in a

split decision that sand and gravel is a mineral reserved by the federal government where they own the subsurface and a private party owns the surface (acquired through the Stock-Raising Homestead Act of 1916).

The 1984 "Mineral Commodity Summary" report by the U.S. Bureau of Mines lists production statistics for the various metallic ores and industrial minerals, such as barite, feldspar, etc. They also list in the same mineral commodity report sand, gravel, steel, iron, steel scrap, as well as iron and steel slag. To members of FM it probably comes as a complete surprise that such substances are listed in a mineral report. Recently, for a pending court case, I had to give a deposition whereby I was asked as an expert witness to define a mineral. I had to make a distinction between sand (gravel) and quartz, feldspar, mica, etc.

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FIRST CLASS MAIL



From page 1

Many of our members work in the mineral industry or for public institutions and agencies. We should strive to keep the definition of a mineral pure by not allowing it to be used as a catch-all term. There is no comparison between the aesthetic beauty, chemical purity, and symmetry of a crystal, be it common quartz or rare phosphophyllite, and that of a chunk of gravel or steel slag.

--Raymond Lasmanis
FM Secretary 7/16/84

ERRATA, OMISSIONS AND OTHER GOOFS

The primary purpose of a newsletter, or for that matter any publication, is to convey information. Perfection is the goal but it is seldom achieved. The FM newsletter of March contains several goofs that require correction.

My apologies go to Cym Cooper - she gave the Colorado Chapter report in Tucson. Also, I wish to set the record straight on the updating of USGS Bulletin 1114 - the USGS has no official involvement in the project. Authors working on the book revision are doing so on their own time.

The FM Indexing project is a labor of love. Many individuals have donated their time. An early contributor to the indexing of Vol. 7 of the Mineralogical Record was Louise S. Stevenson of the Redpath Museum at McGill University. Others who assisted were Donald A. Zowader and Jim Ferraiolo.

The ultimate distinction or dishonor is to have one's goof listed by Robert L. Bates in his Geotimes column. I will strive to keep the FM Newsletter out of his clutches.

MEMBERSHIP DRIVE

Our effort to expand our membership is meeting with success. Ron Bentley notes that applications are coming in at the rate of 10 to 20 a week. This is a result of John H. Bergen's effort to contact subscribers of the Mineralogical Record and the application forms that were sent out with the last FM newsletter. A partial list of new members from April follows:

Joseph Amsz	Summitt, NJ
John Anderson	Castletown, VA
Edward Arnitz	Pittstown, NJ
William Bchannon	Hazelwood, MO
Russell Boggs	Cheney, WA
Domenic Bramante	Attleboro, MA
Val Collins	Johnstown, NY
Joel L. Cort	Price, UT
Douglas Daniels	Midland, TX
Raymond Denicourt	Sun City Center, FL
Richard Eddy	Columbus, IN
Susan Fisher	Burke, VA
William Garrett	Augusta, ME
James Grothuesman	Canoga Park, CA
Carlton Holt	Milan, NH
John Hurabiell	San Francisco, CA
Judith Lacroix	Fresno, CA
Frank Leighton	Phillipston, ME
Annis Macrae	Marietta, GA
Martin Malahy	Oklahoma City, OK
Thomas Moran	Tehachapi, CA
Russell Robards	Hixson, TN
Emerson Tucker	Lubbock, TX
Thomas Tucker	Billings, MT

NOTE: If you are a new member and have not received your membership badge, contact Ron Bentley, 309 Irvin Dr., Midland, TX 79705.

INDEXING OF THE MINERALOGICAL RECORD

This project, under the leadership of Mike Groben, is proceeding on schedule. The volunteers completed their reviews of the individual category indexes and now the material is being assembled and sorted. The original idea was to have the entire index entered into a com-

puter, placing us in a position to update it annually. It was suggested that we could even conduct customized search requests of the index for a fee. For this to be implemented, we needed access to a main-frame computer.

Budget restrictions made the cost of a main-frame prohibitive. As a result, the index had to be broken down into categories and processed by personal desk top computers. This work is now in progress both by volunteers and individuals receiving token compensation. The task at hand is overwhelming. The minerals index alone has 11,000 entries. Despite the obstacles, excellent progress has been made with only the minerals remaining to be processed. The following paragraphs describe the work that has been completed or is in progress.

One of the largest categories is minerals. Two individuals are sorting the data. Starting at the top of the alphabet is Dr. Dave Garske, mineral dealer from Bisbee, Arizona. He is using a SANYO-MBC 100 computer with a 64K memory, single disc drive, and a Comrex printer. Dave has completed sorting minerals A through F. Starting at the bottom of the alphabet is Frank V. LaSalata of Washington Irrigation and Development Co., Centralia, Washington. Frank is using an IBM-PC with 640K memory, double disc drive and an Epson FX-80 printer. The software applications program is Lotus 1-2-3. Frank has completed processing the photograph index consisting of subheadings: maps, localities, minerals, and personalities.

The author category has been entered into the computer by Bill Smith of Coos Bay, Oregon. Bill is the assistant service manager of Young's Olds-Cadillac Agency. He is using a Radio Shack Model 4 computer with a 128K memory, two disc drive, and a DMP printer. In conjunction with the above, he used a Model 4 Super-Scrip-Sit Processor Alphabetizing Program.

As for the feature articles, Arnie Nee is handling that one. He is a computer specialist with the Bureau of Land Management at Coos Bay, Oregon. With the assistance of his two daughters, they are alphabetizing articles using a 1978 TRS-80 Radio Shack with a 16K memory and a Qwik Printer II. This index was completed during May. The department subheading was completed manually by Mike Groben's daughter, Elizabeth, while on spring break from Oregon State University.

The general and locality categories are being alphabetized by Bob Medley, a computer instructor at Southwestern Oregon Community College in Coos Bay, Oregon. Bob uses a Tandy Radio Shack Model 3 dual disc drive computer, a TRS disc operating system, and a Gemni 10X printer. He completed the general category on May 8 and had completed alphabetizing all foreign and U.S. localities by July. Incidentally, the locality index contains approximately 6,000 entries.

The computer printouts are being proofed by reviewers at this time. After review, the printouts go back for computer revisions, a final peer review process and then to the printer for typesetting. There will be a final proofing by several editors before printing of the index. We hope to have a product for distribution by the time you get the next FM newsletter.

FINANCING OF THE INDEX

During the latter part of March the officers and directors of FM approved the publishing of the Mineralogical Record Index at an estimated cost of \$18,000. Typesetting and printing of 3000 copies will cost \$13,200 while the remaining expenditures are for postage, telephone, duplicating, and computerization. An organization such as ours, with modest dues, cannot support such a project without outside help. One avenue being investigated is to have funds advanced

in return for an exclusive right to distribute the publication. Negotiations have been taking place with the Mineralogical Record, Inc. Several dealers have also expressed interest.

Meanwhile, Mike Groben, President of Friends of Mineralogy, has mounted a fund raising drive. Donations of \$100 each have been received from the Pennsylvania, Pacific Northwest, Southeastern Michigan, and Colorado regional chapters of FM. Even the Northern California Mineralogical Association has given assistance with a \$100 donation to encourage the completion of the index. On March 28th Mike sent out letters to most of the mineral dealers seeking sponsors. A donation of \$50 was requested for which the dealer would get:

1. A copy of the index
2. A personal membership in FM for one year
3. Recognition as a sponsor in the introduction of the index
4. Listing in the form of a 1" x 1-3/8" block of each sponsor's own design to be included in the index
5. Tax benefits as a charitable gift to a non-profit organization

The response has been overwhelming. As of June 10 over 48 dealers have contributed more than \$2,400. Nine already were members of FM and thus were given credit for 1985 dues. Several mineral dealers contributed more than the suggested \$50. A list of mineral dealer donors is given on page 7. It might also be interesting for the various chapters to note that both this fund raising drive (39 new members) and John Bergen's new membership drive (24 new members) have been instrumental in increasing chapter funds by \$4.00 per each new member.

COLORADO CHAPTER

The Chapter's efforts to raise funds for the forthcoming "Minerals of Colorado" volume are meeting with success. The 1983 mineral auction netted \$1,564 and the Chapter held a second auction during the May 10th meeting at the Denver Museum of Natural History. The Denver Council of Gem and Mineral Societies has donated \$1,000 towards the "Minerals of Colorado" publication project. They are to be commended for their support. The money will be put toward the cost of typing and other manuscript preparation, and will be held in a special fund managed by the Geology Department, Denver Museum of Natural History.

A new project the Chapter has begun is to compile a brochure of information of interest to mineral collectors and related types, aimed nominally at those who are new to or visiting the area, or new to mineral collecting; however, the finished product will probably be of interest to us all. This will include names and addresses of Colorado dealers, of local mineral clubs, area mineral shows, museums with mineral displays, books and other publications about Colorado mineralogy, geology, and collecting areas; and notes about some easily accessible mineral collecting sites and points of geologic interest. The Chapter will try to have the booklet ready for distribution or sale at the time of the 1984 Denver Show.

The 18th Annual Denver Gem and Mineral Show will be held September 7, 8, 9, 1984 at the Merchandise Mart Exposition Hall. The Friends of Mineralogy Symposium will be held on Sunday, September 9 as part of the Denver Show. Contact Mark Jacobsen, 303-733-8170 for further information.

PACIFIC NORTHWEST CHAPTER

It is with pride that the members of the Pacific Northwest Chapter are working towards a milestone: the presentation of the Tenth Annual Symposium to be held at the Doric-Tacoma Motor Hotel in Tacoma, Washington September 28 through the 30th, 1984. The theme is "The Magic of Mineralogy." Accordingly, outstanding speakers have volunteered to appear such as the well-known author and lecturer, John Sinkankas. During his presentation he will reminisce about his experiences in "A Lifetime of Collecting." Vince Manson (Gemological Institute of America), who is well known to mineral collectors, will cover two topics--"Man's Mineral Heritage" and "The Miller Indices." The national vice-president of FM, Peter J. Modreski, will speak on a subject close to his heart, "The Zeolites of Colorado and New Mexico." There will be a mineral auction, displays, slide competition, and dealers such as Sharon Cisneros, Harvey Gordon, John Metteer and Bart Cannon.

Besides preparing for the symposium, Chris Check, the new president of the Pacific Northwest Chapter, informs me that a project is under way to expand, update and revise the excellent 1979 booklet "Resource-Reference Booklet." Items to be covered are: articles of incorporation, by-laws, public mineral exhibits, NW-type localities, bibliography of magazine articles, libraries, governmental information sources, and perhaps a list of dealers. It should be released some time in 1985. The reference covers Alaska, British Columbia, Idaho, Oregon, and Washington.

PENNSYLVANIA CHAPTER

The spring meeting of the chapter was a two day field trip through Adams County, Pennsylvania. The tour was guided by FM member Jay Lininger and was held June 16 and 17. The group visited select areas that are remote and are not well known to the average collector. There

was an opportunity to collect minerals at several quarries. Cash donations received during the spring meeting will be allocated to the Memorial Fund. The donated mineral specimens will be held for auction at the Fall Symposium to be held at West Chester College on November 9 - 11, 1984. Please contact the Pennsylvania chapter for additional information: George Buchanan, 80 Beltz Road R. D., Telford, PA 18969. A word of caution from Martin Anne of the Pennsylvania Chapter. It seems that during the last several years many minerals have come on the market with the label of a Pennsylvania university and are purported to be from Pennsylvania localities. Investigation has revealed that many of them are not from Pennsylvania and thus are mislabeled.

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA CHAPTER

The Southern California Chapter has close ties to the Los Angeles County Museum of Natural History. A number of their projects have a direct benefit to the museum. A recent note indicates that the chapter is assisting Dr. Tony Kampf, curator, to re-do the California Room in time for visitors who will be attending the Olympics. The chapter is preparing a Locality Index of the key sites in the state. The data will be incorporated into the national locality index being established by Pete Modreski. A very important effort by members of the chapter is to support the California Mineral Exhibit Association, P. O. Box 1192, Mariposa, CA 95338. The C.M.E.A. is seeking donations to establish a museum for the California Division of Mines and Geology's Mineral Collection that was formerly housed in the Ferry Building in San Francisco. Bob Reynolds, curator at San Bernardino County Museum, is coordinating the FM exhibits and symposium at the MSSC show in Pasadena, November 3 and 4, 1984, under the theme "Minerals and Localities in San Bernardino County, California."

SOUTHEASTERN MICHIGAN CHAPTER

This is a relatively small and closely knit chapter which meets several times a year at the Cranbrook Institute of Science in Bloomfield Hills, Michigan. The Chapter works closely with the Institute and has made substantial cash donations to help enhance its outstanding mineral collection. Chapter members have assisted in Cranbrook projects such as the recent sale of surplus mineral and lapidary material. The Chapter maintains a continuing project of updating "The Mineralogy of Michigan" by E. William Heinrich, published in 1976. This project, under the leadership of Thomas Morris, Jr., has resulted in a locality index of Michigan minerals which was published in the May-June 1983 issue of "Rocks and Minerals." It also provided information to Peter Modreski for the FM locality index. A list of mineral localities in Ohio is now being compiled.

This fall the Chapter will conduct a "What's New in Minerals" symposium at the Greater Detroit Gem and Mineral Show. Dealers and collectors will be contacted regarding important new or unusual minerals being brought to the show. Information on these minerals will be gathered and specimens will be photographed. The color slides will be developed immediately to form the basis for two programs to be moderated by Bill Pinch at the show. These programs have been well received in the past.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Prospective Chapters

Mike Groben has been corresponding with Howard Worden (author of "Minerals of Broken Hill") and assisting Howard with information that hopefully will result in a new FM Chapter in Australia. Mike has also sent information to Bill Christianson, Barrie, Ontario, Canada, who is contemplating the formation of a

new FM Chapter in Ontario. Last but not least, Mike has also been assisting Walt Lombardo, 4728 Elm Ave., Las Vegas, NV 89110, with information to help Walt formulate a "Great Basin" Chapter in Nevada. Walt looks like he has this project well in hand and hopefully FM will initiate the new "Great Basin Chapter" into its ranks before the Tucson show in February.

1985 Student Paper Award

FM will offer a certificate of merit plus up to \$150.00 travel expenses for the best paper submitted by a student (graduate or undergraduate) for presentation at the 1985 FM-MSA Symposium in Tucson. Besides the above, a \$100 contribution in total will be made in the name of the author(s) to the Mineralogical Record. Entries (a written text of the paper) should be submitted by November 15, 1984 to Peter J. Modreski, 8075 W. Fremont Dr., Littleton, CO 80123. Contact Pete for further information; we encourage you to publicize this award in your local area.

Rocks and Minerals

It has come to our attention that Rocks and Minerals magazine, which is published by a non-profit educational foundation, is barely attaining the minimum number of subscribers required to allow it to remain in existence. Rocks and Minerals fills a niche in publishing articles on mineralogy, geology, and paleontology that is not covered by the Mineralogical Record or by other hobby or professional publications. We suggest that if you are not a subscriber, you take a look at their recent issues and, if their articles match your interests, consider taking out a subscription. The staff of Rocks and Minerals has made a creditable effort in recent years to produce a magazine with high-quality mineralogical articles.

Topaz Mountain, Utah

Friends of Mineralogy has been informed by Lanny R. Ream that the U.S. Bureau of Land Management has closed the west side of the Topaz Mountain (Topaz Valley) location to the public. This is one of many closures of well known collecting localities by the federal government. All are urged to write disapproval letters to:

State Director
Bureau of Land Management
Utah State Office
University Club Building
136 E. South Temple
Salt Lake City, Utah 84111

Governor Scott Matheson
State Capitol
Salt Lake City, Utah 84101

COMING EVENTSFM-MSA Mineralogical Symposium

The 1985 FM-MSA Mineralogical Symposium will be held in Tucson on Sunday, February 10th. The theme will be "Classic Mineral Localities." Papers to be presented at the symposium are currently being solicited; please contact Eugene Foord, U.S. Geological Survey, Box 25046 Federal Center, M.S. 915, Denver, CO 80225 if you can offer to present a paper, or for further information. Plan now to attend!

The Tucson Gem and Mineral Show will run from February 7th through the 10th, 1985. The featured mineral will be diopside. Contact the Tucson Gem and Mineral Society, Inc. at P. O. Box 42543, Tucson, AZ 85733 for further information.

MINERAL DEALERS CONTRIBUTINGTO THE INDEX PROJECT ARELISTED ON THE RIGHT

Bancroft, Peter	Fallbrook, CA
Bitner's Inc.	Phoenix, AZ
C.C. Rich	Newtown Square, PA
Carousel Gems & Minerals	Belen, NM
Christianson, Bill	Barrie, Ontario
Collectors Stope	Littleton, CO
Colo. Gem & Minerals	Tempe, AZ
David Shannon Minerals	Mesa, AZ
Earth Resources	Appleton, WI
Eaton, Robert	Rochester, NY
Eldorado Enterprises	Boulder, CO
Excalibur	Dover, NJ
Fraziers	Berkeley, CA
Geoscience Books	Yucaipa, CA
Gneiss Industries	Morristown, NJ
Graeber, Cal	Fallbrook, CA
Grayson Lapidary	Hillside, IL
Gregory, Bottley & Lloyd	London, England
Hatfield Goudey	San Mateo, CA
Hauck, Richard & Elna	Bloomfield, NJ
Hawthorneden	Eldorado, Ontario
Hollowell Minerals	Fresno, CA
Howard Minerals	Brooklyn, NY
Kassionas Minerals	Alviso, CA
Kosnar, Richard	Golden, CO
Kristalle	Laguna Beach, CA
Machlis Minerals	Temple City, CA
Marshall, John	Dedham, MA
McGuinness, Al	San Mateo, CA
Miller, Gardner & Mary	Missoula, MT
Mineral & Fossil Gallery of Santa Fe	Santa Fe, NM
Mineralogical Research Co.	San Jose, CA
Montregian Minerals	Dorval, Quebec
Mountain Gems & Minerals	Portland, OR
Nagin, Thomas Gary	Royal, AR
Nature's Treasures	Torrance, CA
Oceanside Gem Imports, Inc.	Oceanside, NY
Outcrop	Springfield, IL
Peri Lithon Books	San Diego, CA
Precious Earth Co.	Germantown, WI
Roberts Minerals	Twain Harte, CA
Rock Currier	Arcadia, CA
Rocks & Minerals	Washington, DC
Rocksmiths	Tombstone, AZ
Sam Weller Minerals	Cornwall, Great Britian
Schneiders	Poway, CA
Sierra Nevada Minerals	Reno, NV
Silverhorn	Banff, Alberta
Sullivan, Bob & Maudine	Tucson, AZ
Tierra Minerals	Seattle, WA
Topaz Mineral Exploration	Grand Haven, MI
Treasure Tunnel	Durango, CO
Western Minerals	Tucson, AZ
Worldwide Resources	Golden, CO
Yount, Victor	Warrenton, VA
Zuni Mining & Minerals	Albuquerque, NM

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