

THE ROCKHOUND RECORD

Vol. 71, Issue 10

Newsletter for the Mineralogical Society of Arizona, December 2005

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EDUCATION AND OUTREACH

Membership
In Progress

CHRISTMAS PARTY

Friday, Dec. 9, 2005
7:00 p.m.
(replaces regular meeting)

Tutti Santi Restaurant
7575 N. 16th Street
Phoenix, AZ

**Choose Entree from Menu
Choice of Soup or Salad,
and Bread**

**Estimated Minimum Cost:
Approximately \$15
(menu is not set)**

**Please contact
Betty Deming as soon as
possible at 602-242-1553
or by e-mail at
bd_mac2003@yahoo.com
to confirm your attendance
(Need to give the restaurant
a final count before Dec. 9)**

DUES ARE DUE!

Just a reminder that club dues for 2006 are due now. Please mail your dues to Sally Fiske, 42011 N. Astoria Way, Anthem, AZ, 85086, or pay at the Christmas party or January meeting. The rates are as follows:

Families & Couples - \$20.00

Single Adults - \$12.00

Juniors (18 yrs. and under) - \$2.50

Your prompt attention to this will be appreciated.

President's Message

HAPPY HOLIDAYS?

I should feel privileged that you're taking the time to read this note, let alone the entire newsletter. Around this time of the year, for many of us at any rate, we are rushing around trying to find that exact gift for a special person or that marvelous outfit that will make us look 50 pounds lighter and 20 years younger. We get so caught up in trying to capture that certain "something" that will make this Christmas or Hanukkah or Kwanzaa wonderful, that we end up exhausted and disappointed by the time the holiday finally arrives. Even with all our efforts, we just can't make everything perfect.

This year, how about trying something different? If you want to give a gift, give it to the homeless, or the forgotten in nursing homes, or the young men and women serving in the military overseas. The Salvation Army has many children who would be thrilled to find gifts under their tree. Instead of splurging on a dress you might wear once and then put away, consider donating to one of the many organizations in the Valley, who would appreciate your generosity.

Take a deep breath and stop long enough to remember what this season really celebrates. And part of that celebration includes the gathering together of friends and family. We in the MSA have been blessed by the friendships we have developed with both longtime and new members. Help us to celebrate the season by joining us Dec. 9th for our annual Christmas party. We would love to see you there.

Seasons' Greetings to you all!
Shirley Fiske

The Night Before Christmas

(Rockhound Style with Apologies)

by Edna F. Pauli

Golden Spike Gem & Mineral Society

'Twas the night before Christmas and all through the house,
Note a creature was stirring, there wasn't room for a mouse
With geodes and nodules under table and chair,
A wee little mouse couldn't squeeze in anywhere.
The children were nestled all snug in their beds,
As visions of fossil fish swam through their heads.
And Mother, dreaming of Opal and me of a lap.
Had just settled down for a long winter's nap.
When out in the street there arose such a clatter,
I jumped out of bed, mad as a hatter!
Just as our clock tolled its 3:00 a.m. chime,
I opened the door and took a long look.
The sight that I saw there would make quite a book.
For parking in front with a roar and a squeak,
Was dear old St. Nick in a well-loaded jeep.
He paused just a moment to check his long list,
And make double certain no one would be missed.
There's agate, onyx, turquoise, and rhodonite,
Carnelian, crystal, sapphire, and malachite.
He named every stone I ever had heard,
And my heart was so happy it sang like a bird.
For rocks to a rockhound are really a must,
Right next to that stuff labeled, "In God We Trust."
It took quite a while to do this little chore,
But as soon as he'd finished, he came straight for our door!
And I can't understand, though I've honestly tried,
But before I could turn, he was right there inside.
He spoke not a word but went straight to his work.
And I stood there and watched though I felt like a "jerk."
For he knew what I wanted more than I did myself.
And was wise beyond reason, this right jolly old elf.
The gifts he had brought were trips for next year,
And the making of new friends from far and near.
The singing of old songs around campfires bright,
And being with the gang every rock meeting night.
He picked up his pack and prepared to depart,
And I gave him my thanks from the bottom of my heart.
For friendship we know is a wonderful gem,
And the principal key to "Peace Among Men."
He sprang to his jeep, and stepped on the gas,
And left 'mid the snowflakes which sparkled like glass.
But I heard him exclaim as he drove out of sight,
"Happy Christmas, Rockhounds, and to all a Good Night!"

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!

Roberta & John Hayes
Joined November 2005

Susan Dalton
Joined October 2005

Lynn & Allen Stein
Joined October 2005

David Cargo
Joined October 2005

Wendy & Andrew Greess
& Rachel and Samuel
Joined 2005

Donna & Michael Madsen
& Joshua
Joined 2005

KJ Werner
Joined 2005

Kathleen & Andrew Shelfer
& Gary Lewis
Joined January 2005

Elizabeth Anderson
Honorary Member
2005

*Reprinted from the December 1995
ROCKHOUND RECORD*

2006 Officers

President	Gilbert Flores
Vice President	WR Russ
Treasurer	Sally Fiske
Secretary	Lois Splendoria

Board of Governors

Lynne Dyer	Terry Dyer
Bob Holm	KJ Werner

SOMEBODY ELSE

There's a clever young fellow named **SOMEBODY ELSE**. There's nothing this fellow can't do! He's busy from morning 'til night. Just substituting for you. You're asked to do this, or asked to that, and what is your ready reply? "Get **SOMEBODY ELSE**, Mr. Chairman, he'll do it much better than I." There's so much to do in our club. So much and the workers are few, and **SOMEBODY ELSE** is getting weary and worn, just substituting for you. So, next time you're asked to do something worthwhile, just give them an honest reply, "If **SOMEBODY ELSE** can give time and support, **YOU CAN BET YOUR LAST DIME, SO CAN I.**"

*Reprinted from the April 1995
ROCKHOUND RECORD*

WANTED!

LARGE Coffee Cans WITH LIDS
for Arizona Rockfest

Please bring to our monthly meetings
between now and January 2006.

The Empty Chair

by Robert (Bob) Ross

The strength of a Rock Club lies first of all
In occupied chairs at the meeting hall.
The empty chair breeds an air of unrest,
Discouraging the officers from doing their best.

What better way to learn first-hand
The pros and cons and make a stand?
You agree or reject, that's your solemn right.
The important thing is, you came tonight.

The rabble-rouse and rumor clown
Will desert the fight when the chips are down.
Those sound-off guys pretend to care,
But are largely responsible for the empty chair.

Monthly meetings are the practical way
To voice your opinion and have your say.
Decisions are reached; and in your heart,
You find the truth of doing your part.

*From Snoopy Gems 4/97,
via The Backbender's Gazette, 2/99,
via The ROCKCOLLECTOR, 3/99*

WHY SHOULD I VOLUNTEER?

It's not for money, not for fame;
It's not for any personal gain.
It's just for love of fellow man
It's just to lend a helping hand.
It's just to give a tithe of self,
That's something you can't buy with
wealth.

It's not for medals won for pride;
It's not for feelings deep inside.
It's that reward down in your heart;
It's feeling you have been a part
Of helping others, far and near,
That makes you "BE A VOLUNTEER!!!"

(Author Unknown)

*Reprinted from the December 1995
ROCKHOUND RECORD
Via the November 1995
Wickenburg Gem & Mineral Society, Inc.,
Newsletter*

NEW, HIGHER BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT USER FEES

Allegedly "to meet higher recreation program costs," the Yuma BLM Field Office proposes the following user fees:

Type of Permit	SHORT-TERM Recreation Permits		LONG-TERM Visitor Area Permits	
	Nightly Permit	Annual Permit	7-Month Permit	14-Day Permit
Current Fee	\$5 per vehicle	\$50 per vehicle	\$140	\$30
Proposed Fee	\$10 per vehicle	\$75 per vehicle	\$180	\$40

If you're planning on visiting Yuma or Quartzsite this winter and had thought about camping out on BLM-administered land, you might think again . . . either about living in luxury in a motel instead of paying an Unimproved Campground "Host" or just driving over and back for the day and not laying over for whatever your business or pleasure may dictate!

Source: Anonymous

So You Think You Have Troubles!

Submitted by Chuck Weber (FGMS member)

Here is the sad tale of a man who wanted to sell a rock saw. It was reported that he advertised it in the classified section of a Canadian newspaper. To put it mildly, he had problems when his ad appeared:

Monday: For sale. Sam Jones has one rock saw for sale. Phone after 7 p.m. 968. Ask for Mrs. Kelly who lives with him cheap.

Tuesday: We regret having made an error in Mr. Jones' ad which appeared yesterday. It should have read, "For sale. Sam Jones has one rock saw for sale cheap. Phone 968 and ask for Mrs. Kelly who lives with him after 7 p.m."

Wednesday: Mr. Jones informs us that he has received several annoying phone calls because of an error which appeared in his classified ad. His ad is corrected: "For sale. Sam Jones has one rock saw for sale, cheap. Phone 968 after 7 p.m. and ask for Mrs. Kelly who loves him."

Thursday: NOTICE! I, Sam Jones, have no rock saw for sale. I smashed it. Don't call 968. The phone has been taken out. I have not been carrying on with Mrs. Kelly. Until yesterday, she was my housekeeper.

*Reprinted from the
December 1995 ROCKHOUND RECORD
Via the November 1995 Lithosphere*

**ANNUAL SHOW
ARIZONA ROCKFEST**

January 13-15, 2006
Tempe Diablo Stadium
2200 West Alameda Dr.
Tempe, Arizona
FREE PARKING

Dealer Contact:
WR Russ
4515 E. Joan De Arc
Phoenix, AZ, 85032
602-923-7802
cell 602-684-7381
Hours: 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Admission:
\$5.00 - Adults
\$3.00 - Children ages 6 to 12

The Mother Lode - Part 13
The Wheeler-Dealers

By Tom Horton

Once upon a time in a land far, far away (California), there existed a 49er named Theodore Judah. Judah was a highly moral man who had a dream of a transcontinental railroad with which he would make his fortune transporting goods and services back and forth from "the states" to California. He built California's first railroad running from Sacramento to Folsom. He planned links to Placerville, Marysville and Nevada City.

However, Judah and his backers (in Sacramento) lost control of their railroad operations through financial manipulations to super financier William Ralston and his backers (in San Francisco). There was developing a financial rivalry between Sacramento and San Francisco, and Judah was one of its victims. San Francisco had San Francisco Bay and its financial powerhouse of trade. Sacramento had the Mother Lode, the State Capitol and enormous trade in goods and services to the mines. The San Francisco folks "sat" on their acquired railroad to protect their San Francisco trade and transportation financial empire.

Judah still had his dream of a transcontinental railroad and laid out the first anticipated route of the California portion in 1858 from Sacramento to Dutch Flat to Truckee to Reno. He made his first trip to Washington to try to get congressional support in the way of financial help in 1859 and was rebuffed. California law of the time required that Judah and company show "on hand" capital of \$1,000 per mile in order to sell stock in a company Judah formed to build the western part of the railroad. Judah tried to get this capital from financiers in San Francisco and was turned down. The San Francisco folks regarded such a transcontinental railroad as a threat to their ocean supported trade and transportation empire and did not believe that a railroad could be built over the Sierra Nevada, much less operated there.

Meanwhile, entrepreneurs in Sacramento formed an organization which came to be called the "Big Four". They were Collis Huntington and Mark Hopkins, who both operated hardware businesses in Sacramento; Charles Crocker, a retailer of goods in Sacramento; and Leland Stanford, who was a lawyer turned tradesman in Sacramento. They were all world class risk takers and took up Judah's idea of a transcontinental railroad. Huntington went to Washington to lobby congress with a briefcase full of railroad stock certificates, which he passed out liberally to influential members of Congress. He came back with a briefcase full of congressional subsidies.

Meanwhile, in 1862 Stanford got himself elected Governor of California and President of the newly formed Central Pacific Railroad Company, a company whose business plan was to proceed to build a railroad over the Sierra Nevada to Reno for the dual purpose of connecting to another railroad to be built west from Omaha and to supply the lucrative goods and services market at the Comstock Lode in then western Nevada. He ramrodded the Articles of Incorporation of the new railroad through the required California legal hoops in ten days. These latter were formidable even then.

Judah returned to Washington with another briefcase of railroad stock certificates, which he distributed liberally among key congressmen, got himself appointed as clerk to both the House and the Senate committees responsible for Pacific area railroad legislation and helped draft final bills to provide subsidies to the Central Pacific Railroad (Judah's railroad) to be built east from Sacramento and for the Union Pacific Railroad to be built west to form the dreamed of transcontinental railroad. On July 1, 1862, President Lincoln (Republican) signed the Pacific Railroad Act authorizing the railroad. In addition to everything else going on in Lincoln's life at that time, he was intensely interested in a transcontinental railroad.

Forty miles of Track had to be laid before the Congress would release the subsidy money. The subsidies were \$16,000 per mile from Sacramento to the "Sierra foothills" (note: defined by California Government - hold on to your hat), \$48,000 per mile through the Sierra Nevada and \$32,000 per mile across Nevada.

The Central Pacific Railroad had to raise the initial capital to pay for the beginning construction. To the San Francisco financiers, hydraulicking and the Comstock Lode were thought to be better investments than a railroad; especially this railroad. They spread the rumor that the Central Pacific Railroad was likely to fail financially, thus discouraging other investors.

Huntington went east to the states via Panama. He lobbied the various companies who manufactured and supplied the various retail outlets in Sacramento owned by the Big Four for capital to start the railroad construction. He obtained a \$200,000 loan from the Ames Brothers, who made the shovels that the miners used in California using railroad bonds as collateral and himself signing off as the guarantor of the interest on the loans. He bought the materials necessary to begin construction on the railroad and shipped it to Sacramento.

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Meanwhile Governor Stanford of the Big Four obtained a state legislature grant of \$500,000 and authorization of three counties to purchase an additional \$550,000 of Central Pacific Railroad stock. The San Francisco financiers countered with lawsuits to prevent these machinations. Stanford countered in turn by appointing the railroad's legal counsel as Chief Justice of the California Supreme Court thus stopping the San Francisco legal challenge. He then caused the state geologist to "move a mountain" westward by redefining the western edge of the Sierra Nevada to 7 miles east of Sacramento from where it had been located at 22 miles east of Sacramento, thus gaining the greater subsidy to be provided by Congress for construction through the Sierra Nevada. Smooth move . . .

Judah, with his very serious moral convictions objected to all of this point/counterpoint maneuvering, had a fight with the Big Four, sailed for New York City to gain financing to buy them out and managed to contract and die of yellow fever in Panama on his return trip to California. Divine intervention???

The railroad encountered financial difficulties almost immediately and sent Huntington back to Washington with a new briefcase full of railroad stock certificates. He obtained more subsidies; what works, works. He apparently was working with the finest Congress that money could buy.

Meanwhile, back in San Francisco, Sam Brennan, a very successful early California financier businessman with a gift for recognizing an opportunity that is otherwise escaping those around him, bought into the railroad idea by purchasing a large quantity of its stock. The local courts approved county purchase of Central Pacific Railroad Stock (originally Judah's railroad but now the property of the Big Four) and the California Supreme Court approved the legality of this lower court decision. Other San Francisco financiers followed Brennan's lead and bought into the venture. Again, the race was on.

The railroad began building eastward. The construction up the Sierra Nevada is a marvelous story.

The Big Four again ran into financial difficulty and Huntington went back to Washington with his briefcase full of goodies. Congress approved more subsidies. The more things change, the more they seem to stay the same.

Huntington relocated to New York City, where he wheeled and dealt to get the required goods and materials acquired, assembled and shipped to California. Crocker ramrodded the construction project. The railroad's credo was: "Whatever the job needed, just take it. Whatever blocked the way, knock it down, blast it away or build across it." These were also the principals of the entire Mother Lode and the Comstock Lode and all of American California to that point.

As construction commenced and proceeded, the railroad immediately ran into difficulties obtaining the required construction workers. Itinerant miners would work a couple of weeks to obtain a "grub stake" and then disappear into the hills to prospect for gold. Crocker hired Chinese laborers both from the Sacramento/San Francisco area and from the area around Canton China. He also hired many Irish immigrants, thus providing the story material for the Mel Brooks' movie "Blazing Saddles".

The route of the railroad followed the ridge west of Dutch Flat, along a man-blasted ledge around Cape Horn Rock (a formidable obstacle), through various blasted out tunnels through Sierra Nevada obstructions, over the Sierra Nevada, through a newly established railroad town called Reno and on eastward to a junction with the Union Pacific Railroad building westward from Omaha.

The rate of railroad construction was about two miles of track laid per day. Quality was sacrificed for the sake of quantity, and it was considered highly risky to actually operate railroad equipment on this railroad right-of-way in the beginning. But that is another story . . .



**Rockhounding in an Iraqi Combat Zone
(Rockhounding at its Extreme)
PART 4 of ???**

By Sergeant Yonis Lone Eagle

Reprinted from the Internet

<http://www.rockroost.com/news-rockroost-report-Iraq4.html>

Howdy, fellow Hunters of Natures Wonders. I hope everyone is doing Okie-Dokie and finding lots of good stuff on y'all's local fieldtrips. I'm still here in Mosul, Iraq staying hydrated and trying to survive the extreme heat over here. Lately, it's been up around 135 degrees during the days, and with cool nights around 110 degrees. Ahh what coolness.

As for as the latest war news... I doubt very seriously that you will never see this information on any of the major news networks. But it's time for some good news for a change. All the following "Good News" can be verified on DoD (Depart of Defense) web sites.

Did you know when Saddam was in power, less than 10 countries had embassies in Iraq? Now that he is gone, over 47 more countries have re-established their embassies in Iraq!

Did you know when Saddam was in power, all government employees were only Sunni Arabs (the minority) totaling 500 thousands? Now that he gone, the Iraqi government employs over 1.2 million Iraqi people from all ethnic groups in Iraq!

Did you know when Saddam was in power, there were less than 1000 schools open throughout Iraq? Now that he is gone, over 3100 schools have been renovated, 364 schools are under rehabilitation, 263 new schools are now under construction and over 38 new schools have been completed in Iraq!

And did you know that over 4.3 million Iraqi children were enrolled in primary school by mid October 2004? When Saddam was in power, less than 500,000 were enrolled. And did you know that Iraq's higher educational structure consists of 20 Universities, 46 Institutes or colleges and 4 research centers. And did you know that 25 Iraq students departed for the United States in January 2004 for the re-established Fulbright program!

Did you know that the Iraqi Navy is operational? They have five 100-foot patrol craft, 34 smaller vessels and a naval infantry regiment.



Sergeant Yonis Lone Eagle

Did you know that Iraq's Air Force consists of three operational squadrons, nine reconnaissance and three U.S. C-130 transport aircraft which operate day and night, and will soon add 16 UH-1 helicopters and four bell jet rangers? Did you know that Iraq has a counter-terrorist unit and a Commando Battalion?

Did you know that the Iraqi Police Service now has well over 55,000 fully trained and equipped police officers? And did you know that there are five Police Academies in Iraq that produce over 3,500 new officers every eight weeks?

Did you know there are more than 1,100 building projects going on in Iraq? They include more than 364 schools, 67 public clinics, 15 hospitals, 83 railroad stations, 22 oil facilities, 93 water facilities and 69 electrical facilities.

Did you know that 96 percent of Iraqi children under the age of five have received the first two series of polio vaccinations ever?

Did you know that there are 1,192,000 cell phone subscribers in Iraq and phone use has gone up 158 percent?

Did you know that Iraq now has free and open independent media that consist of 75 radio stations, 180 newspapers and 10 television stations? More than ever in the history of Iraq.

Did you know that the Baghdad Stock Exchange opened in June of 2004?

Did you know that two candidates in the Iraqi presidential election had a recent televised debate, first time ever in the history of the nation?

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And did you know that during the first national election in the history of Iraq this year that over 75 percent of the population voted for the first time? This included women voters for the first time. And it is estimated that 85 to 90 percent of the population will be voting in the next one. The U.S. only averages about 35 percent of the population on Election Day.

And all this is just the beginning. This does not account for all the ongoing humanitarian missions the U.S. military and coalition forces are doing on a daily basis like delivering needed food, clean drinking water and medical supplies to isolated villages, and supplying them with electricity for the first time ever! It's interesting you never hear or see this kind of informative information on any of the news networks!

Now for the "Rockhound News"

I did finally find some more information about the green rocks that I strongly suspect are from the Jade family. I found that the closest Nephrite in the region came from the Turkistan area, central Asia between Iran and Siberia. It was the earliest known source of Nephrite that was used by early Chinese for carving. If what I found were Jadeite or Nephrite, it would be a new find and a new source in the area.

My rock tumbler has been tumbling some very unique and wonderful creations of "Mother Earth". Well folks, you know the old saying, "A Picture is Worth a Thousand Words." I'll let these pictures speak for themselves.

(NOTE FROM THE EDITOR: To view the pictures, please visit <http://www.rockroost.com/news-rockroost-report-iraq4.html>.)

And I do have a question for my readers... It looks like I might have some problems getting all my rocks back to the states. Does anyone have any information that would help me get my rocks through U.S. Customs to be mailed back home??? If anyone has any information, please contact me through Rockroost at <http://www.rockroost.com/news-rockroost-report-iraq4.html>.

The Holidays are coming up and I'll be back home soon. I wish everyone a very happy and safe holiday season and good hunting on yalls local trips. Until my next report . . .

Yonis "Rock Pockets" Lone Eagle

HIGH-GRADER FROM HADES

by Anita W. Collins

My husband likes to holler
He likes to scream and moan
That the ugly rocks he finds afield
I won't let him take home.

I'm the High-Grader from Hades
You might say I am choosey
I ransack my husbands' buckets
And toss out all his doosies.

I throw out rocks both big and small
Size isn't the real issue
And when his cheeks are streaked with tears
I hand him a dry tissue.

I'm the High-Grader from Hades
How could he really choose
A rock that has no sparkle
No splash of greens or blues?

I asked him why he even stooped
To pick up this grey blob
But I couldn't hear his answer
Through the sniveling and the sobs.

I'm the High-Grader from Hades
To him it's all too real
I throw his rocks both far and wide
And do it with such zeal.

What made him want to take this home?
It has no crystal faces
There is no iridescence
And it's broken in three places.

I'm the High-Grader from Hades
I won't let him bring home
A "yard rock" that's so very big
It takes up two time zones.

I know that there's a reason
Why he had to have this shale
If he splits it open enough times
Inside he'll find a whale.

I'm the High-Grader from Hades
Of this we both are certain
But he thanks me in the morning
When his back and legs aren't hurtin'.

It's not that I am vicious
It's not that I'm a louse
It's just that we've run out of room
In our three story house.

*Reprinted from the December 1995
ROCKHOUND RECORD*

LOIS SPLENDORIA
MINERALOGICAL SOCIETY OF ARIZONA
3225 E. BASELINE RD., APT. 1077
GILBERT, AZ 85234-2680

Address Correction Requested

www.azminerals.com



1502 West Washington
Phoenix, AZ 85007

Mineralogical Society of Arizona
Founded 1935
A Non Profit Organization

Purpose: To promote popular interest in the various Earth Sciences, and particularly the fields of Geology, Lapidary, Mineralogy, and related subjects. ID badges are available from the Treasurer.

Meetings: 7:00 p.m. at the Arizona Mining and Mineral Museum, 1502 W. Washington, Phoenix, AZ, on the second Friday of the month, September through June (except February, which is the third Friday).

Dues: Families & Couples - \$20.00, Single Adults - \$12.00, Juniors (18 yrs. and under) - \$2.50. Please mail your dues to Sally Fiske, 42011 N. Astoria Way, Anthem, AZ, 85086.

Newsletter: Reprinting permission granted with proper credit given. **EXCHANGE EDITORS:** Please send all newsletters to the return address listed above.

First Class Mail



UPCOMING MEETING

UPCOMING MEETING	
Friday	Dec. 9, 2005 - Christmas Party

AFFILIATIONS

**Rocky Mountain Federation
of Mineralogical Societies**



**American Federation
of Mineralogical Societies**