

THE ROCKHOUND RECORD

Vol. 72, Issue 2

Newsletter for the Mineralogical Society of Arizona, February 2006

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(602) 300-4368

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SPECIAL MEETING AT MUSEUM WEDNESDAY, FEB. 15, 2006 SPECIAL GUESTS FROM CHINA TO SPEAK By Ray Grant

On Wednesday, February 15, 2006, at 7:00 p.m. at the Mining and Mineral Museum there will be a meeting with some special guests from China.

Dr Shiqiu Xu, Curator of the YiFu Museum, and Professor Qinwen Zhu, Vice President of the China University of Geosciences, will each be giving a talk about minerals in China.

Everyone is invited to attend this meeting. The talks will start at 7:30 and will last about an hour and will be followed by refreshments.

The YiFu Museum is the second largest geological museum in China and we are in the process of establishing a connection between the Arizona Mineral and Mining Museum and the YiFu Museum. We would exchange specimens, information and visits. The trip planned for next Fall would be part of this program. The final dates and cost for the trip will be finalized in the Spring. If you are interested in more information send an e-mail to Ray Grant at raycyn@cox.net, and you will be put on a list to be notified when more information is available. This trip is part of an exchange program with the Yifu Museum in Hubei, Wuhan China.

**NEXT MSA MEETING - Friday, February 17, 2006
7:00 p.m. at the Museum**

From Lois Splendoria - The Editor is "Still Editing"!

Hello, everybody, this is a follow-up message to my resignation notice in the December 2005 newsletter. I have decided to continue as the editor of The Rockhound Record. The expression about getting printer's ink in one's blood is a true one.

If anyone would like to submit anything for the newsletter, the monthly submission deadline is two calendar weeks prior to the next scheduled meeting. The Fiskes, Shirley, Sally, and Don, have graciously agreed to assemble the printed version of the newsletter and send it out, in order to help me with this task. In order to make this task easier for them, I want to give them plenty of lead time.

I will continue to e-mail the newsletter to those who wish to receive it that way. I welcome and encourage you to submit news items to the newsletter. Please e-mail me at chimes@extremezone.com, or mail to me at the return address on the last page of the newsletter.

Thanks,
Lois Splendoria

The Mother Lode - Part 15
The Demise of Hydraulicking

By Tom Horton

It was not the highly romanticized "Preacher" character of the movie "Pale Rider" (played by Clint Eastwood) who appeared, but rather a considerably more effective real life character named Fred Cadwalader. Cadwalader was a practicing attorney in the Sacramento area, who was hired by the farmers and merchants to try to restrain the hydraulickers. In 1879, he brought a law suit in the Yuba City California District Court against the North Bloomfield Gravel and Mining Company (and 25 other mining companies in the Nevada City area) asking that these hydraulickers be enjoined from running their slickens tailings into the rivers and streams of the areas and thus downstream to the Marysville, Yuba City and Sacramento areas. Thus enjoined, the hydraulickers would be out of business.

The slickens byproduct of hydraulic mining had essentially ended navigation of many of the rivers in all directions from Sacramento, had significantly contributed to most of the rivers overflowing their banks and flooding adjacent areas, had actually buried farms, farm houses and crop lands and severely impacted the lives of the Californians involved. During one of the floods, it was possible to navigate a river boat some 10 blocks into the downtown Sacramento area. A brown, muddy slickens mass was observed passing out of the San Francisco Bay area into the Pacific Ocean.

On May 21, 1881, Judge Phil W. Kesser of the Yuba City District Court issued an injunction to stop hydraulic Mining on the Yuba River and its various branches, the first of such lawsuits. The Miners Association rallied in Nevada City to protest the decision.

While this was going on, the farmers and townsmen gathered in Marysville and other towns along the rivers to condemn The Drainage Act, which was an attempt at a compromise solution to the slickens problem. The act provided for construction of dams to restrain the downstream slickens flows and ditches to divert the slickens to then worthless swamp lands. The cost of all this would be born by the California tax payer, one of the first instances of this "grand idea".

In September, 1881, the California Supreme Court struck down The Drainage Act saying that "legislation had no right to tax the many for the benefit of the few" (all Californians were being taxed in order to build the dams and levees to contain the slickens runoffs).

Accompanied by the fire breathing rhetoric of the Editor of the Nevada City Transcript, the miners along the Yuba River and its three branches ignored the injunction and continued hydraulicking. Cadwalader filed a complaint in District Court asking for enforcement of the injunction. The Court responded, telling the Nevada County Sheriff to shut off the water used by the various hydraulickers along the Yuba River. The North Bloomfield Company then obtained an injunction in the Nevada City Superior Court against the Sheriff to restrain him from "trespassing upon" the mining properties. The Miners Association rallied in Nevada City to celebrate this event.

In the summer of 1881, the California Attorney General allowed attorneys from all of the farmer associations to join in one legal complaint to be filed against the Gold Run Ditch and Mining Company, a hydraulic mining operation immediately south of Nevada City. The result of this case was that the hydraulickers must shut down unless they can somehow restrain downstream debris ("slickens"). The miners consented to do this only if the farmers associations would cease their litigation. The farmers opposed this idea and demanded that the mines stop dumping their slickens into the rivers and streams of the area or face individual lawsuits. The Editor of the Nevada City Daily Transcript spewed forth the defiance of the miners ("fire in his eyes and fury in his heart"), and the Miners Association rallied repeatedly in Nevada City. As a result, Cadwalader brought suit against every hydraulic miner on the Bear River (immediately south of Nevada City).

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The Mother Lode - Part 15

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Tempers were beginning to rise. The farmers associations formed local armed militias. The Miners Association did likewise.

Not having that much success in the local California Courts (the best courts that money could buy), the farmers decided to use the Federal Courts. Cadwalader chose as claimant a Colonel Edwards Woodruff, owner of the flood devastated Woodruff Block in Marysville and other properties and a legal resident of New York State (and thus entitled to Federal jurisdiction). He filed suit in the Ninth US District Court in San Francisco against the Bloomfield Gravel and Mining Company and every other Yuba River hydraulic mining company. The miners felt that since they were there first, they had "prior rights" over the "come-lately" farmers. Besides, "there was plenty of farmland elsewhere in California ..."

The Federal Judge presiding over the Federal Court (Judge Sawyer) had come to California in 1849 and was a '49er. The Miners Association took this as "good news", and the judge received high praise from the Editor of the Nevada City Daily Transcript.

The case opened on September 19, 1881. The miners' attorneys presented the old arguments that it was impossible to determine which mine had contributed what to the downstream difficulties and that existing slickens concentrations would continue the problem into the future even if the mines were shut down. The Judge threw out these arguments declaring that the injury is a single one and that all of the defendants in the suit must share the blame equally. The Daily Transcript Editor took this badly.

Judge Sawyer appointed panels of attorneys to hear testimony from over 200 "expert" witnesses and to generate over 20,000 pages of testimony. Closing arguments were heard in October of 1882 in Federal Court. California Justice was moving with a speed and efficiency unheard of since the early days of the Mother Lode in 1848.

During this timeframe, in an effort to thwart the farmers, the Miners Association asserted "prescription rights" on one of the latter's property because of discharged tailings on that property for 10 years. This maneuver, and attempt to assert ownership of the land in question, was disallowed.

On January 7, 1882, Judge Sawyer presented his decision in a three and one half hour monologue and contained in 225 pages of evidence evaluation. He proclaimed that hydraulic mining constituted a public nuisance, that debris dams are worthless and that there was thereby a permanent injunction against any such mining operation unless said operation could contain its slickens byproduct within and upon its own property. Since the hydraulickers had been dumping their slickens into any available gulch, canyon, lake, stream, river and such, this was a severe restriction on them.

And thus the California of the time proceeded into the future. Essentially all of the hydraulic mines shut down (some few of them still operate) and the miners thus employed drifted elsewhere, probably most of them to continue mining of some kind.

In the early 1880's, the Virginia City mines of the Comstock Lode began to play out and these miners also drifted elsewhere.

Is it possible to do hydraulic mining in California currently? The answer is yes. However, you will be absolutely amazed at the state, federal and other "hoops" that you will have to jump through. In addition, you will have to return the area that you mined to the way it was before it was mined and to put "in escrow" sufficient funds to get this done before you lift a shovel full of dirt on your mining property. All this and the costs involved in so mining in essence prohibit this kind of mining (at least) in California. In the days of the Mother Lode, miners working for wages were lucky to make \$3 per day, no benefits, no insurance of any kind and considerable risk involved. These were seven days a week jobs at 10 hours per day. Miners in today's world work fewer hours, make considerable more and enjoy a full array of benefits . . .

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The Mother Lode - Part 15

(Continued from Page 3)

Still, a Canadian company is seriously investigating the idea of re-opening the Idaho-Maryland hard rock quartz/gold mine in the Grass Valley area. This mine is currently flooded and will have to be pumped dry and kept that way. Since essentially all of the many, many, many mining tunnels under Grass Valley are in essence connected with respect to water drainage, this company will likely have to pump them all dry. The cost of this pump out operation is estimated currently at 180 million dollars. Clearly they have some very good looking core samples.

Will this company ever be able to proceed with mining operation at the Idaho-Maryland (directly east of Grass Valley along the old railroad right of way). Probably not, although it is interesting to conjecture about it. Experts mostly agree that at least 75 percent of the gold that was present in this area in the early 1840's is still there. However, the gold that is left is not in the form of bonanza type deposits, and the separation of it from its current location under Grass Valley is going to be difficult and expensive.

The mining company involved is involved in mining operations all over the world. In the Nevada City/Grass Valley areas today, there is a lot more "gold" involved in merchandising and real estate investments. The area has been "discovered" by the folks in the San Francisco/Sacramento area, and real estate values are "skyrocketing". The climate in this area is that of mountain area foothills at about 2,500 feet in altitude. It is never too hot, and never too cold. There is usually a fine breeze blowing. There is hardly any snow, and there are lots and lots of trees. The views in the area are absolutely marvelous, the area produces its own wine and the restaurants are improving almost daily.



This cliff face is one the remnants of an "ancient river bed". There are several such views of this within the North Bloomfield mine. The current gold content of the cliff face is about 6 ounces of gold per cubic yard of material. It lies within a California Park about 8 miles north of Nevada City. Imagine 10 and 12 inch water cannons with associated hoses all over the valley floor in front of the cliff when the mine was in operation. Hiking is allowed and encouraged within the State Park. Gold Panning is also allowed with the "panner" getting to keep any gold found. Weekend miners find lots of gold. The trees at the top of the ancient river bed are all new growth pine, with the former oak trees all cut down to power and support the mining operation. Bright sunshine, moderate climate, many, many hiking trails, views like this all over the place and good wine, bread and cheese available. No wonder real estate values in the area are climbing vigorously.

Tucson Talk - Definitions

By George Campbell - Ososoft Mineral

Keystone: 1/2 the price marked. The real retail price. Wholesale is less in most cases, as long as you buy in flat quantities.

Double Keystone: 1/4 the price marked. This stuff has been in the dealer's stock for years and hasn't sold, despite being at Tucson for two decades. But . . . look closely at this stuff . . . the dealer hasn't looked at it for years and there may be a Sleeper (see below) in there.

Wholesale: The price everyone but you is paying for the same specimens.

Flat: How my wallet looks after returning from Tucson. Also a flat cardboard box, roughly 12"x18" in size, more or less full of specimens, generally boxed and labeled.

Mexican Flat: A flat with no boxes . . . each specimen wrapped in very interesting foreign-language newspapers you can read after you get home. **NOTE:** The newspaper also hides the dings, bruises, and cracks. (see below).

Killer Specimen: One you can't afford.

Sleeper: That elusive specimen in the flat, which the seller missed. As in a Powellite specimen in a flat of cheap Indian zeolites.

Keeper: A specimen so overpriced that the dealer will be taking it home.

Flat Price: How much you pay for the entire flat. Generally, there's one specimen in there that makes the whole flat look good.

NFS: Not for sale. But everything's for sale.

Kid Rocks: Cheap specimens kept on hand so everyone buys.

New Find: The dealer just found this flat of specimens in the back of the storage locker just before the show.

Type Locality: Where you wish the specimen you're looking at came from.

Gemmy: You can see some light through the crystal, as long as the light is a halogen lamp.

Cutting Rough: Oops...the hydraulic trimmer worked a little too well.

Museum Specimen: A specimen too large to fit in any cabinet affordable by a collector. Double Keystone on this.

Clearance Specimens: Buy these or they'll be in the motel dumpster when the show's over.

Rare Species: Anything not available in at least 50 percent of the rooms at the show.

Mexico: The default locality for any specimen which has an unknown locality (See also: Pakistan) (See also: Russia).

Bruise: A small ding.

Ding: A large bruise.

Crack: A feature of a specimen . . . caused in situ and never by human hands.

Wholesale Only: Sign outside of rooms containing mostly stuff you don't want anyhow. Ignore the sign, if you like.

From the Sedona Red Rocking News, February 2006, via CFMS Newsletter, February 2006



**WELCOME
NEW
MEMBERS!**

Christopher Davis,
Marie Buenidia, & Jon Davis

Joined January 2006

THE CALIFORNIA POPPY – AN INDICATOR OF COPPER

By Edgar B. Heylum, PhD. & Richard Pearl

Plants have been used by prospectors searching for minerals since the Middle Ages. Some plants favor soil that contain or have an abundance of a particular element. Many prospectors use the desert trumpet as a gold indicator, even though it has not been proven to be a true gold indicator.

Plants of the mustard family excel in absorbing uranium and may be of use to the geobotanical prospector, who is searching for uranium minerals. The California poppy is a known indicator of copper, as it requires copper to exist. Some copper compounds are soluble in water and can be carried for miles by groundwater, so the presence of poppies does not necessarily indicate that there are copper minerals in the immediate area.

Roadside occurrences of poppies should be ignored because of the roadside drainage and the presence of various contaminants from passing cars and trucks.

The presence of poppies in the open desert is much more meaningful. Near the San Manuel Mine, north of Tucson, poppies grow in profusion on the ground known to be mineralized ground. On non-mineralized ground, the poppies terminate abruptly, and the fault line can be traced by means of the poppies. Often, dumps at copper mines are completely covered by poppies.

Since gold, silver and other metals are frequently associated with copper, the presence of the California poppy can be a clue to the possible presence of valuable metal deposits. For the Rockhound, many of the primary and secondary copper minerals are of interest: including chalcopyrite, turquoise, malachite and many more.

*From Rocky Tales, February 2006,
via Fire and Ice, April 2003, via the
California Mining Journal, date unknown*

Thank-You

To all of the MSA members who worked at our annual show, the Arizona Rockfest, thank you for your help! It was greatly appreciated.

RECIPE FOR A GOOD ROCK CLUB

Author Unknown

Assemble a group of rockhounds in assorted sizes and personalities.

Measure accurately:

- 1 cup friendly words
- 1 cup understanding
- 1 cup courtesy and patience

Sift carefully and remove all malice and ego. Add a dash of wit and humor, warm welcome for all, and a heart full of cooperation. Praise when needed. Mix well until blended into a smooth running organization. Sprinkle with good time and fun. Garnish with new members. Serve with warm greetings. Plenty for all.

*From Rocky Tales, February 2006,
via Strata Gem, January 2001*

Need to Contact the Officers?

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gilbertflores@cox.net

Vice President - WR Russ
(602) 684-7381 or (602) 923-7802

Treasurer - Sally Fiske
xmasbelle@aol.com

Secretary - Lois Splendoria
chimes@extremezone.com

Upcoming Arizona Shows

February 9 - 12, 2006 - Tucson

Tucson Gem and Mineral Show™

Tucson Convention Center, 260 S. Church Ave., Tucson, AZ 85701

www.tgms.org - E-mail: tgms@tgms.org

Sponsored by: Tucson Gem and Mineral Society, Inc.

Hours: Thursday through Sat., 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Sun. 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Admission: \$7.00, under 14 free with paying adult

Parking: \$4.00 to \$5.00

Dealers Contact: Show Committee, P. O. Box 42588 Tucson, AZ 85733, 520-322-5773

For a listing of all the peripheral Tucson shows: www.tucsonshowguide.com

February 11 - 12, 2006 - Wickenburg

Gold Rush Days, 54th Annual Gem & Mineral Show Sale

Wickenburg Community Center, 160 N. Valentine, Wickenburg, AZ 85390

Hours: Fri., Sat. 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Sun. 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Admission: Free, Parking: fee

Dealers Contact: Lucille Burroughs, P. O. Box 26375, Wickenburg, AZ 85358, 928-684-0099

February 18, 2006 - Phoenix

Prospectors' Day

Arizona Mining and Mineral Museum, 1502 W. Washington, Phoenix, AZ 85007

Gold panning, demonstrations, panning equipment, and more, activities for children

Sponsored by: Arizona Mining & Mineral Museum and Arizona Prospectors Association

Hours: 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Show Chairperson: Warren Rosebraugh, 9614 Pineridge, Sun City, AZ 85351, 623-974-0539

February 24 - 26, 2006 - Mesa

56th Annual Phoenix Gem & Mineral Show

Mineral & Jewelry Expo, "Art on the Rocks"

Mesa Centennial Center, 201 N. Center St., Mesa, AZ

Sponsored by: Maricopa Lapidary Society

Show Co-Chairperson: Sandi McDonald, Pedro Chavez, or Joanne Hesterman

Admission: \$5.00, \$1.00 off coupon available at the Arizona Mining & Mineral Museum, 1502 W. Washington, Phoenix, AZ 85007

Parking: Free

Hours: Fri. & Sat. - 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Sun. - 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Show Chair Pedro Chavez, 623-825-1512

Dealers contact: Laurette Kennedy, home 602-944-5737, cell 602-738-2552

E-mail: LKennedy11@aol.com

February 25, 2006 - Arizona City

Arizona City Gem & Mineral Show

Arizona City Community Center, 13270 S. Sunland Gin Road, Arizona City, AZ 85223

Sponsored by: Arizona City Gem & Mineral Society

Hours: 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Show Chairpersons: Harvey Olender, 1920 N. Thornton Rd., Sp. 415, Arizona City, AZ 520-876-2415 & Rae Tenney, 1920 N. Thornton Rd. Casa Grande, AZ 85222

Dealer Contact: Julene Dixon, P.O. Box 1131, Arizona City, AZ 85223, 520-466-6653 and Maxine Haggard, P. O. Box 1508, Arizona City, AZ 85223, 520-466-5119

Admission and Parking: Free

For more show listings, visit <http://www.admmr.state.az.us/showlst.htm>

LOIS SPLENDORIA
 MINERALOGICAL SOCIETY OF ARIZONA
 1502 West Washington
 Phoenix, AZ 85007

Address Correction Requested

www.azminerals.com



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 MEETINGS IN 2006	
Friday	February 17
Friday	March 10
Friday	April 14
Friday	May 12
Friday	June 9

AFFILIATIONS

**Rocky Mountain Federation
 of Mineralogical Societies**



**American Federation
 of Mineralogical Societies**