

The Rockhound Record

April 2005 - Volume 71 - Issue 4

Newsletter of the Mineralogical Society of Arizona, P.O. Box 39235, Phoenix, AZ 85069



Next MSA Meeting

Friday, April 8th at 7 pm
at the Arizona Mining & Mineral Museum

The State Mine and Mineral resources Director, Doug Sawyer, will offer a PowerPoint presentation about, "The Current State And Future Of Mining Endeavors In The State Of Arizona."

May's meeting will be held Friday, May 13th.



Next MSA Field Trip

April 16 - MSA Field Trip to Bagdad Mine for Copper Minerals

2 hours from the West valley and 2 to 2-1/2 hours from the East valley. Take US 60 through Wickenburg to Bagdad turnoff. Meet at the mine entrance at 9 am. Phelps Dodge is offering us the opportunity to tour the open pit, the ball mill and to collect. Bring pick, sledge and chisels just in case we get to really bust rocks. LIMITED TO THE FIRST 22 PEOPLE TO SIGN UP. If we have a large response, we will then get a bus, then all are welcome.

Contact Gilbert Flores to sign up at phone (800) 264-5101 or email him at Gilbert.Flores@encompassins.com



Note: Check page 2 for more field trips. Also, Gilbert Flores is arranging a field trip to the Morenci mine for May 14th. More info on this trip will be presented at the April 8th meeting.

Need to Contact the Board?

President - Shirley Fiske phone: (623) 551-0882
email: ShirleyAF@aol.com

Vice-Pres. - Gilbert Flores phone (800) 264-5101
email Gilbert.Flores@encompassins.com

Treasurer - Sally Fiske phone (623) 551-0882
email: xmasbelle@aol.com

Secretary - Lois Splendoria
email: chimes@extremezone.com

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Need to contact the newsletter editor?

Write to Deanna Smith
P.O. Box 14405
Phoenix, AZ 85063
or email azland61@cox.net
(Cutoff for submission to the newsletter is the 25th of each preceding month)

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COALITION FIELD TRIP APRIL 16, 2005, HOLBROOK, AZ

Sponsored by Sedona Gem & Mineral
Trip Leader: Pat McMahan (928) 300-8333

Sedona's club has arranged a trip to the Paulsell Ranch, a private 60,000 acre ranch next to the Petrified Forest National Park. This is an exceptional property which will be sold to the government at any time and our opportunity to collect there will be lost forever. Wonderful rainbow and picture wood litters the ground. This is the stuff rockhound dreams are made of. **Our cost is \$1.00 per pound.**

MEETING TIME / PLACE: 9 a.m. at the International Petrified Forest Museum. I-40 exit 292, 2 Miles south of I-40

MOTEL: There's a special rate for Friday night, April 15 of \$32.20 including tax per room for 2 people for coalition members, at the Best Inn, (maybe not the best) 2211 Navajo Blvd., 928-524-2654. Take exit 289 off I-40 and go north about 1 mile. Tell them you are with the Coalition of Rock Clubs when you call to make your reservations to get the special rate.

OPTIONAL: Come join us for dinner and breakfast:
Dinner: Friday 4/15 6:00 pm at the Mesa Restaurant across the street and a short distance east of the motel. The food is Italian and if you'd like to join us, we've arranged a dinner package that includes drinks, entree, & dessert for \$18.00 per person. We will be seated together in the private banquet room. Please bring bragging rocks to show club members at dinner.

Breakfast - Saturday 4/16 7:30 AM Denny's Restaurant. Order from menu. Denny's is across the street and east about a mile from the motel.

Please RSVP Pat McMahan for dinner or breakfast so he can let the restaurants know.

At 9:00AM Saturday we will meet at the International Petrified Forest Museum, exit 292, and will caravan about 1 hour to the ranch. We can stay as long as we wish. Bring lunch, snacks, water, tools, squirt bottles, and a small backpack. Also bring boxes for your rocks. 2WD vehicles OK. Carpooling on dirt roads will be arranged at the Museum. **Questions or RSVP, contact Pat McMahan, 928-300-8333.** Pat will have his cell phone on before and during the field trip.

DIRECTIONS: From Flagstaff intersection of I-17 and I-40, go east on I-40 about 92 miles to Holbrook. Exit 292 is about 7 miles east of Holbrook on I-40.



MSA Field Trip to Black Canyon Lake Saturday, April 30th & Sunday, May 1st

Trip Leader : Ed Nichols phone # 480-636-1251 or e-mail kena81@msn.com

Where? Black Canyon Lake off 260, East of Payson

When? 9:00am- Meet at Forest Lakes Exit
9:30am- Meet at Black Canyon Lake Exit

Material Found- Agates, Petrified Wood, Marine Fossils in Limestone nodules.

Tools Needed- Small shovel, prybars, rock pick, water spray bottles, gloves. An old flathead screwdriver with a plastic handle works well.

If planning on overnight campout, there are facilities available at Black Canyon Lake. A fishing license is needed for trout fishing at the lake.

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Activity Calendar -Shows and Trips

April 16 - Arizona Mineral Symposium -

See March's newsletter for details.

April 16 - MSA Field Trip to Bagdad Mine for Copper Minerals - See Page 1 for details

April 16 - Coalition Trip to Holbrook for Petrified Wood - See page 2 for details.

April 23rd - Beryl Symposium/Carlsbad, CA

See March's newsletter for details.

April 30th - MSA field trip to Black Canyon Lake see page 2 for more info.

May 14 - MSA field trip to the Morenci Mine more details in May bulletin

May 28, 29, 2005 Show Low

Pinetop-Lakeside 10th Annual Gem & Mineral Show at Blue Ridge Junior High School, 1200 White Mt. Blvd., Lakeside AZ. Sponsored by: White Mountain Gem & Mineral Club. Hours: 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. - Parking: Free. Admission: \$1:00, kids under 12 free

June 17-19, 2005 Colorado Springs, Colorado

Rocky Mountain Federation Annual Convention/ Show & Micromineral Symposium. For more info call (719) 632-9686 or email csmsshow@cs.com or visit website csms.us.



Geology of the Chiricahuas Sonoran Studies Public Programs

The Chiricahua Mountains of southeastern Arizona include the remains of an ancient volcanic caldera.

Learn about the geologic events that created today's landscape; shallow Paleozoic seas, formation of gold and copper lodes and the erosive power of water that created the hoodoos of Chiricahua Nat'l Monument.

Geologist Bob Scarborough will tell plenty a tale about the Apaches and the Cavalry who called this place home one hundred years ago. Trip includes meals, two nights at the Portal Peak Lodge and a stop at a Willcox apple orchard.

Instructor(s): **Bob Scarborough**

Dates: **Oct 14, 2005 - Oct 16, 2005**

Times: **8:00 a.m. departure**

Fees Non-Member \$358.00 / Members \$325.00

These programs are offered by the Arizona-Sonoran Desert Museum in Tucson, Arizona, to the public to create a better understanding of our Sonoran Desert. For more info, contact the Museum at phone: (520) 883-2702 or Email: "<mailto:info@desertmuseum.org>"



Mesa Southwest Museum - Summer Pre-School Camps

To register or for more info, call **480-644-5083** or e-mail "<mailto:msm-edu@cityofmesa.org>".

All preschool camps are \$10 per day for members and \$15 per day for non-members:

Fun Fridays for 4's and 5's

Each Friday between 9 and 11 a.m., enjoy a craft, stories and songs, a museum scavenger hunt and movement activities relating to the topics below:

June 3 - Dinosaurs, June 10 - Mammoths, June 17 - Bugs, June 24 - Rocks, July 8 - Whales, July 15- Old Fashioned Fun, July 22 - Deserts, July 29 - Dinosaurs (a repeat of the June 3rd session)

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The Mother Lode - Part 8: A Transient Society Moves Toward Permanency By Tom Horton

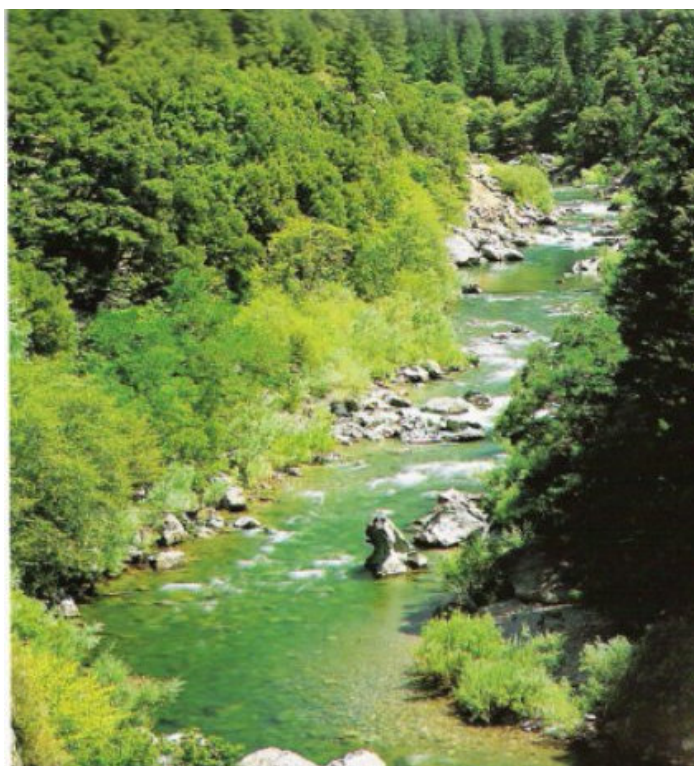
From about 1849 through the 1850s, most of the miners coming to California to seek their fortune could not wait to get there, could not wait to find their fortune and could not wait to return back home. However, some of these folks decided to bring their left-behind families to California and stay there as permanent residents.

Gambling of every kind prevailed. Prospecting was a gamble. Mining was a gamble. Importing goods was a gamble. With the wooden buildings, storage of goods was a gamble. Farming was a gamble. However, with rich river bottom lands and a ready market, farming was a pretty good gamble. Last but not least, all sorts of the more conventional gamblers could be found willing to conduct the various games of chance prevalent in the area at that time.

The gold being found spawned all sorts of by-product industries. Sawmills and forestry flourished with the demand for construction lumber and firewood. A transportation industry flourished with the necessity to transport people and supplies to and from the mines, to the various cities sprouting up and to the little mining towns all over the Mother Lode. Failed miners and others began to farm land not their own to supply the miners, the merchants, and the folks in the cities and towns.

Organized law and order was still very sparse, and those elected officials that existed were susceptible to bribes and other inducements. In the mines, the miners' organizations administered justice with alarming efficiency. In the cities and towns, the inefficiency and corruption of the municipal officials periodically spawned vigilantism. A California newspaper in the middle 1850s described the state legislature as "that delectable crowd of brandy-

drinking, pistol-shooting, swearing, swaggering gentry who turn up their noses at all honest work". It would seem that the more things change, the more they seem to stay the same.....



The Yuba River - A Golden River

The transportation of goods, people and foods into the area landed many of them at San Francisco via ocean going vessels such as clipper and cargo ships. From San Francisco, they usually traveled to Sacramento via riverboat. From Sacramento they went via riverboat, cargo wagon, stagecoach, mule train and horseback upriver to various river ports such as Marysville and Red Bluff on the Sacramento and Stockton on the San Joaquin Rivers. From these ports, goods went via cargo wagon and stagecoach to other intermediate and end locations on the informal distribution networks. Finally from these locations, they went via mule train and on the backs of the miners themselves to the remotest mining locations.

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A stage coach could go places that the large cargo wagons with their 7 foot diameter wheels could not. Both stage coaches and cargo wagons were imported from “back in the states” via ocean transportation. Local industry sprang up to build them in both San Francisco and Sacramento when demand outpaced importation leadtimes.

Riverboats were imported from “back in the states” via the ocean going trip around the tip of South America. Boats were both moved from existing river locations to California and “built to specifications” for California. On the rivers in California, these boats (shallow draft side and rear wheelers) were initially in competition with one another and participated in that competition with extreme vigor. River steamboats rammed and raced each other and sank along the rivers when they encountered underwater obstacles. Crews shot at each other, over-fired their boilers to the point of explosions and conducted price wars for passage. In the early 1850s, the owners got together, consolidated and formed a monopoly.

Virtually the same thing happened with the freight business. Wells Fargo got started in California when entrepreneurs bought up freight companies. Wells Fargo got into the banking business by purchasing gold from miners at \$16 to \$17 an ounce, transporting it to Philadelphia and selling it to the Philadelphia Mint for \$18 an ounce.

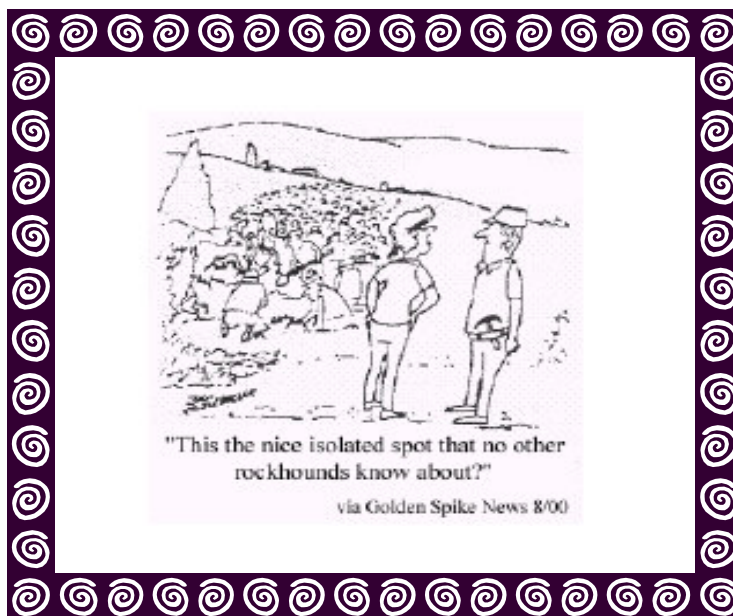
Sacramento emerged as a competitor to San Francisco, but still had the disadvantage of being “upriver”. However, it was the trans-shipment terminus of the goods and people going to and from the mines. Both cities were subject to being burned periodically to the ground and then being rebuilt again using the same combustible wooden materials.

Farming arose as a major California industry subsidiary only to mining. Fruits, vegetables and

other produce were raised by enterprising individuals on land of unknown ownership. With the titles to land in a state of obscurity, being a mix of Spanish Land Grants and other unknown land titles and the essentially non-existent presence of any state or federal government, a man did “whatever he was man-enough”. The farmers called for a trans-continental railroad to transport their overabundance of goods “back to the states”.

Gold from the mines paid for all of this ...

To be continued ..



via Rochester Lapidary Society's 4/05 newsletter

You might be a rockhound if

1. You own more pieces of quartz than underwear.
2. Your rock garden is located inside your house.
3. You have ever found yourself trying to explain to airport security that a rock hammer really isn't a weapon.
4. You have had to respond “Yes” when asked, “What have you got in there, rocks?”.