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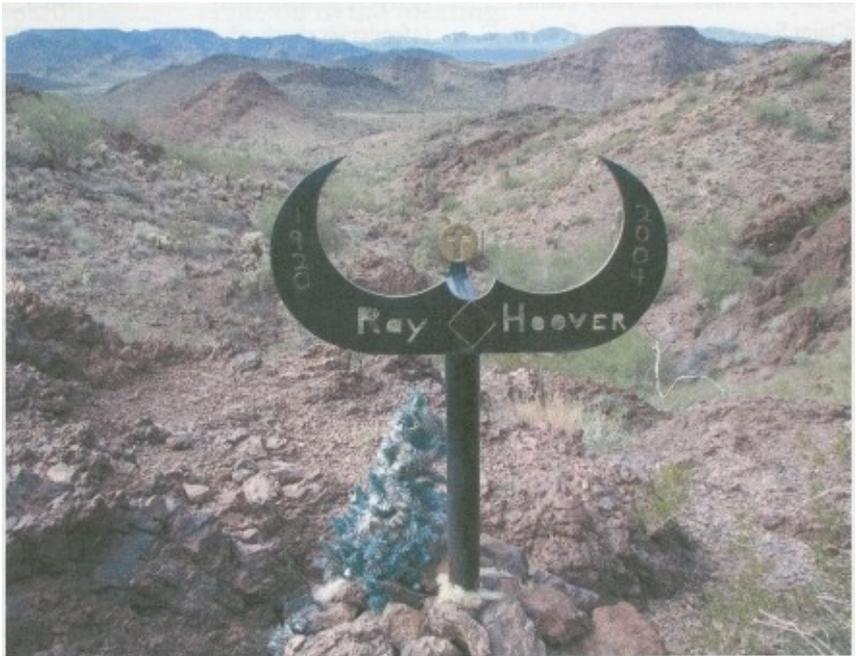
WHITTIER



ROCKHOUNDING

GEM & MINERAL
SOCIETY

Marcia Presents “Miniature Caverns”



You find some really unique things while rockhounding!
(see article on pages 6 & 7)

ROCKHOUNDER

THE PREZ SEZ:

The fieldtrip this month is to the Indio Date Festival where amongst other things besides date shakes, a rock and mineral show will be going on. But don't despair there are things to collect in the surrounding area, not far away is Wiley's Well and Jay Valle is going to show the way. It should be a good fieldtrip.

For those that are interested our board meeting is going to on February 12 at Jay and Kathy's house at 7:30 P.M. This will also be the kick off meeting for the next show in October. So if you have some ideas or you are just curious as to what happens at the board meeting, come on to the meeting.

The fieldtrips for the year have been chosen and dates picked, so all we have to do is go on them. If you never been, this is your year to find out just how fun they can be. Besides the cutting material you'll collect, you'll have memories that you didn't have before and you'd probably wonder why you didn't go on a fieldtrip before.

There will be a lot of things that need to get done. So when a time for, say, building cases is chosen and you get a call, hopefully you'll be able to make it. Of course even when doing a necessary task for the club, it not tedium, but when there is a good group lots gets done and when the day is done you have a good feeling as well.

I hope to see you at the next general meeting on February 26th.

Happy Valentine's Day
Joe Goetz

WGMS General Meeting

Thursday, January 22, 2008

at 7:30 PM

Marcia Goetz

Presents

“Miniature Caverns”

We missed out on the program last month so here we go again. Good luck to us!

Miniature Caverns, come and explore. Tiny caverns of small geodes, shown really, really close. It feels like you could explore each for days, maybe weeks at a time. Alien landscapes abound with glistening crystals and seemly snow covered points. All this can be experienced from the semi comfort of the seat you are in. There is no hiking or dangling from ropes required. Just sit back and enjoy the slide show. See you at the meeting.

Marcia Goetz

Dues Are Due!

It only seems a year ago that we were reminding you that your WGMS **DUES ARE DUE** and here it is that time again. As always, if you have already paid for 2009 or joined the Club at our October Show, you do not need to pay again.

The Dues Schedule is as follows:

Single Adults - \$15.00

Married Couple - 25.00

Juniors (under 18) - \$5.00 each

Students (18 or over, in college) - no charge

Thank you for your continued support for our club.

Rockgabbers

Rockgabbers did not meet during the month of December, and because of Quartzsite, they will not meet during January. The next meeting will be on February 7th 2009 at Jerry and Kathy's home.

The primary project will be foldforming. Using this method we will make leaves out of copper, brass or tin. The material needed is a sheet of fairly thin metal. Sandie and I have experimented with brass and tin with quite satisfactory results. The sheet needs to be about 3 X 6 inches and about 24 gauge or so. Much thicker than that and it becomes very hard to work as you fold it up, and much thinner than that and the finished product doesn't have the structural strength required. The tools required are a small vice, a couple of pairs of duck billed pliers, a small hammer or mallet, a raising hammer, an anvil and a pair of shears.

As always the meeting concludes with a potluck dinner.

Sandie and Tony Fender

WGMS Board Meeting

Date: February 12, 2009

Time: 7:30 PM

Place: Jay & Kathy Valle's house

We are kicking off the new year with our first WGMS Board/Show Kickoff Meeting at Jay & Kathy's. We need to take care of business and choose a theme, etc. for this year's gem show.

Everyone's invited so we'll see you there.

Amazingly Simple Home Remedies

1. Avoid cutting yourself when slicing vegetables by getting someone else to hold the vegetables while you chop.
2. You only need two tools in life—WD-40 and Duct Tape. If it doesn't move and should, use the WD-40. If it shouldn't move and does, use the Duct Tape.
3. If you can't fix it with a hammer, you've got an electrical problem.

From Delvings 12/08

Seeking Treasure at Quartzsite
By Jay Valle

One need only look to Quartzsite during Pow-Wow to realize that treasure comes in many forms. There are the usual collectible gems and minerals, various types and breeds of equipment, various types and breeds of animals, 4-wheeled treasure seeking vehicles (quads and jeeps) and little houses (RVs), small parts, big parts... well you get the idea. A person could spend their entire visit just shopping the many different shows and events (and many people do).

This year I spent most of the Pow-Wow weekend offroading and exploring, seeking rockhound treasure along remote desert roads and mountains. At the end of just such a road a unique and unexpected monument to a man was found.

My story starts a few weeks earlier during our yearly Christmas campout. A group of us had spent 10 days enjoying the area around Quartzsite, following old maps and new. Eventually, though, it was time to go home and everyone left except for me. I planned to extend my vacation by one more day and explore some roads we had been mapping on our GPS units. On this day I picked an untraveled (by me) road at random and tracked it to its end. The road was fairly rough in spots and a number of interesting locations were found and mapped, including a small mine with a 2-foot wide seam of blue turquoise and chrysocholla exposed (it was NOT very good quality—I don't want to spark a "gold rush").

The road wound around and made its way up into the middle reaches of a small mountain range, eventually reaching a saddle between two hills where it abruptly ended (good thing I was paying attention - beyond the road was a great view and a sudden drop). I parked the truck and grabbed the camera. As I said, the view was spectacular in a desert mountain sort of way but there was no obvious reason for a road to go to this location. I noticed a fairly well-used path leading off around an outcrop of rock to the north and on a whim decided to follow it. About 50 feet down this path I met the monument. It was a marker commemorating the life of a man named Ray Hoover.

The monument is made of steel pipe and sheet metal, painted black and gold. A 3' tall stand holds an 18" steel pipe section to which is welded a set of stylized wings or bull horns at one end and a curious disk with a cross cutout resembling a gun sight at the other. To me it resembles an old World War I machine gun. The "gun" is aimed at a location in a small valley far below (see picture on cover.) On the front the name Ray Hoover has been cut out of the steel plate and the dates 1920 and 2004 inscribed. The back of the steel plate has the welded signature of Richard Hoover, apparently the creator on this

amazing object. Between the "horns" is a curved place to sight down the "barrel" and through the "gun sight" at the other end. The entire piece is aligned to point your attention to a small valley far below. At the base someone had placed a tinsel and plastic Christmas tree. As always, time ran away from me and so that was all the exploring accomplished then.



Let's fast forward now to Quartzsite, QIA and Pow-Wow weekend. I had an opportunity during the show to assuage my curiosity regarding whatever this mysterious marker was pointing to. Using GPS-created maps from the previous visit, Pat Mogan of the North Orange County Club and I followed several roads into the area we believed the monument was "aiming" at.

I am here to tell you that there were (and still are) lots of roads and trails to choose from and many interesting things were seen along those beaten tracks—old mines, the remains of a stone house, a 3" water pipe climbing up into the mountains, things of interest and subjects for future explorations. However, the object of our interest finally was located on the Monday after Pow-Wow. The monument was pointing at a jasper claim. Now unless the material is truly spectacular and worth some money (Imperial jasper comes to mind), jasper is not considered a precious stone. Why a claim then and why does the marker point the way to it?

I have a theory which I'll pursue when time permits. The local club, the Quartzsite Roadrunners, have several agate and jasper claims which they maintain for the use of their club and also to keep collecting sites open to general rock collecting. (By the way, this is a service that many clubs provide to the rockhounding community in general.) The theory is that Ray Hoover was an active and apparently well-respected member of The Roadrunners. He discovered a jasper deposit and claimed it for the club. After he died, the memorial was created by a son or other relative (the back is signed by Richard Hoover) and placed in its current location overlooking his beloved mining claim. That's the theory and like any good theory it can change as more facts and information become known to us.

Anyway, the monument is unique and interesting. For my money it is a fine "treasure" stumbled upon in the outback of Quartzsite. It was discovered by accident and led to a small but enjoyable adventure. I think it is a pretty neat way to be remembered and says a lot about the man that such a marker was created for him.

Field Trip Schedule for 2009

The 2009 field trip meeting was held at the home of Joe & Marcia Goetz (WGMS/PLS/NOC) on Saturday, January 10. The three clubs - Whittier, Pasadena and North Orange County, and joined by a representative of the Palmdale Club, met to produce the official field trip schedule for the coming year. The following list is the result. As always, when other field trips opportunities arise during the year, such as various CFMS trips, I will try to keep you up to date and informed. The bulletin you are currently reading will (hopefully) have the latest field trip information and should be your first source to look at when you have field trip questions. Contacting your field trip leader can get you better info.

January 21-25 Quartzsite, Arizona - Huge tailgate, lots of field trips

February 14-16 Wiley's Well Area - President's Day Weekend

March 21-22 Lavic/S. Cadys

April 11-12 Castle Butte

May 23-25 Owens Valley

June TBA

July TBA

August TBA

September Big Bear (TBA)

October 10-11 Searles Lake Club Gem Show

Oct 31 - Nov 1 Whittier Club Claim

November 26-29 Afton Canyon

December Gem Hill (near Palmdale) - 1 day trip (TBA)

For more information on these or other field trips contact:

Joe Goetz at (626) 914-5030

Field Trip Wiley's Well Area February 14 to 16, 2009

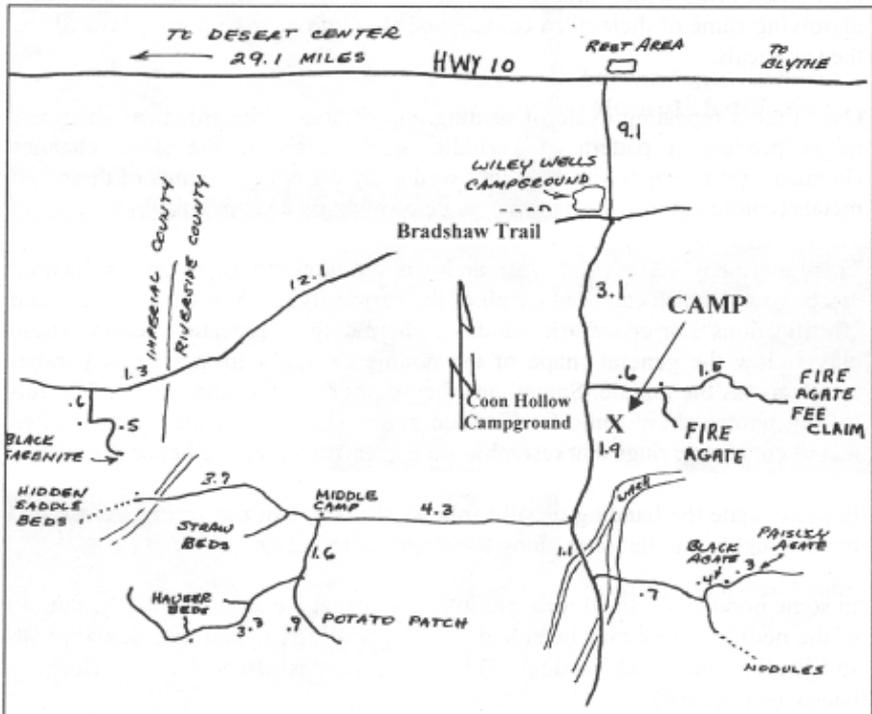
On February 14-16 our monthly field trip will be to the spectacular and historic Wiley's Well area of the southeast corner of our state. The camp area is approximately 12 south of I-10 and 87 miles east of Indio. (If you want a short break in your trek, the Date Festival in Indio is in progress, with a wonderful gem and mineral display sponsored by the local clubs). In the Wiley's Well area we will collect: geodes, chalcedony, agates, jaspers, fire opal etc.

This will be dry camping with all it's aspects so be prepared for all kinds of weather. For more information contact Jay Valle at (626) 934-9764.

Look for the club signs for directions south of the Bradshaw Trail.

See you in the desert,

Jay



Agates (Part 1) - some classifications

By Ron Gibbs

Cryptocrystalline means that the structure of agate comes from many small crystals cemented together with more silica. The process of making agate is most likely a solution or gaseous process and not a simple melt cooling. Molten magmas grow large crystal if cooled slowly, or random, small, crystals if cooled rapidly. The patterns found in most agates don't fit either scheme of mineral formation from a melt.

The bulk material that cements the agate together is silica and is called chalcedony. Sometimes pure chalcedonies are formed and collected for gemstone use. Green chalcedony containing nickel is also known as chrysoprase. A red variety has the name of carnelian, brown is called sard, and there are also purple and bluish colors. These materials are usually found in seams or narrow lens like openings.

Agates form in rounded nodules or in seams. This lends itself to the theory of liquid or gas crystallization. Flowing magmas (lava) often trap gases in bubbles as they cool, thus providing an ideal nursery for agate growth. Many high silica lavas with entrapped gas sphericals can be leached by rain water dissolving some of their silica content and flow through the porous lava filling the sphericals.

Over time a repeating cycle of wetting and drying of the spherical chambers might produce a pattern of periodic precipitation. If the silica changes chemistry from time to time it might well carry differing amounts of dissolved metals (colorants) into the growing agate providing bands of color.

There are many varieties of agate and it is not likely that one growth method can be found which can produce all of the various types. Many nodules contain "fortifications", or concentric bands of alternating or repeating colors. These may follow the general shape of the nodule or might form straight parallel bands across the nodule. Sometimes they do both in the same agate. The following photos show some fortification agates. In nodules the banding often makes concentric rings that resemble ancient fortification and hence the name.

In seam agate the banding usually follows the edges of the seam or crack and forms roughly parallel lines along the length of the agate.

In some nodules the lined form parallel stripes that are aligned with the bottom of the nodule. These may be called "water-level" agates and may contain both fortification and level banding. This phenomena is also known as Uruguay bands. (see photos)

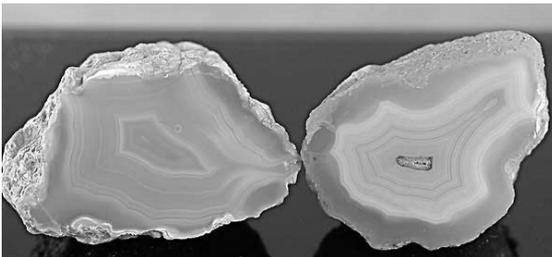
Another popular agate type is the “moss” agate. The moss agate gets its name from the mass of vegetable like strands trapped in the silica matrix. (see lower photos)

The moss can be of nearly any color and many moss agates have more than one type of moss. This type of structure does not lend itself well to periodic precipitation as its origin. More likely the cementing mass has already begun to form a gel, and color channels are created by precipitating metal hydroxides and oxides along grain boundaries or flow channels.

The color of the moss is related to the metal hydroxide/oxide that is present. Most yellow, orange, and red mosses come from iron and black moss from manganese minerals. They are mostly made up of mixed metal oxides much of it with amorphous structure.

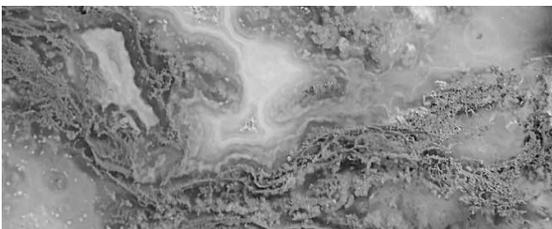
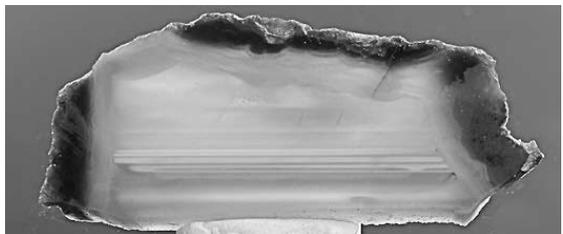
White mosses tend to form in the chalcedony as phase change in the silica. The white material tends to be one or more forms of common opal.

From The Goldrush Ledger, 11/07



Laguna Agate Nodules
(Mexico) - fortification
agates

Brazilian Agate
(Brazil) - water level



Needle Peak Moss Agate
(Texas) - Moss Agate

Earth Science Studies
Camp Paradise and Zzyzx
By Marion F. Roberts

I am writing this on Dec. 26, 2008, so already there could be changes. At this time we have over 40 paid for Camp Paradise, so I suggest those interested in attending act soon! The dates are May 17-23. Also in this newsletter, I am inserting the application for Zzyzx, which will be November 15-23.

Please check the applications carefully to be sure you have the correct one as they go to different people and different addresses. Camp Paradise applications go to Anna Christiansen, whereas Zzyzx applications go to Audrey Harvey. In an attempt to minimize confusion, we've made the applications distinctively different for each camp.

Editor's Note: The forms will be at the next meeting or go to the CFMS webpage: www.cfmsinc.org to download them.

One note on Zzyzx. It always proves to be extremely popular and over-booked. To give everyone an equal chance at getting in, applications are not accepted until March 2, and then on a first-come, first-served basis.

Calls about the camps are coming to me on a regular basis, and I welcome these inquiries and interest in the camps. Please keep them coming!

From CFMS Newsletter 2-09

Some Signs of the Times

Table with 3 columns of text. Column 1: Dinah doesn't, Treat him right, But if he'd, Shave, Dyna-mite!, Burma-Shave. Column 2: If variety, Is what, You crave, Then get, A tuba, Burma-Shave. Column 3: She put, A bullet, Thru his hat, But he's had, Closer shaves than that, Burma-Shave. Row 2: To steal, A kiss, He had the knack, But lacked the cheek, To get one back, Burma-Shave. Row 3: It gave, McDonald, That needed charm, Hello Hollywood, Good-by farm, Burma-Shave. Row 4: The bearded devil, Is forced, To dwell, In the only place, Where they don't sell, Burma-Shave.

ICE - 'In Case of Emergency'

Apparently this is a standard procedure all paramedics follow at the scene of an accident when they come across your cell phone.

We all carry our mobile phones with lots of names & numbers stored in its memory but no-one, other than ourselves, knows which of these numbers belong to our closest family or friends.

If we were to be involved in an accident or were taken ill, the people attending to us would have our mobile phone but wouldn't know who to call. Yes, there are hundreds of numbers stored but which one is the contact person in case of an emergency? Hence the 'ICE' (In Case of Emergency) Campaign.

The concept of 'ICE' is catching on quickly. It is a method of contact during emergency situations. As cell (mobile) phones are carried by the majority of the population, all you need to do is store the number of a contact person or persons who should be contacted during emergency under the name 'ICE' (In Case Of Emergency).

The idea was thought up by a paramedic who found that when he went to the scenes of accidents, there were always mobile phones with patients, but they didn't know which number to call. He therefore thought that it would be a good idea if there was a nationally recognized name for this purpose. In an emergency situation, Emergency Service personnel and hospital Staff would be able to quickly contact the right person by simply dialing the number you have stored as 'ICE.'

For more than one contact name simply enter ICE1, ICE2 and ICE3 etc.

A great idea that will make a difference!

Let's spread the concept of ICE by storing an ICE number in our Mobile phones today!

Please forward this. It won't take too many 'forwards' before everybody will know about this. It really could save your life, or put a loved one's mind at rest.

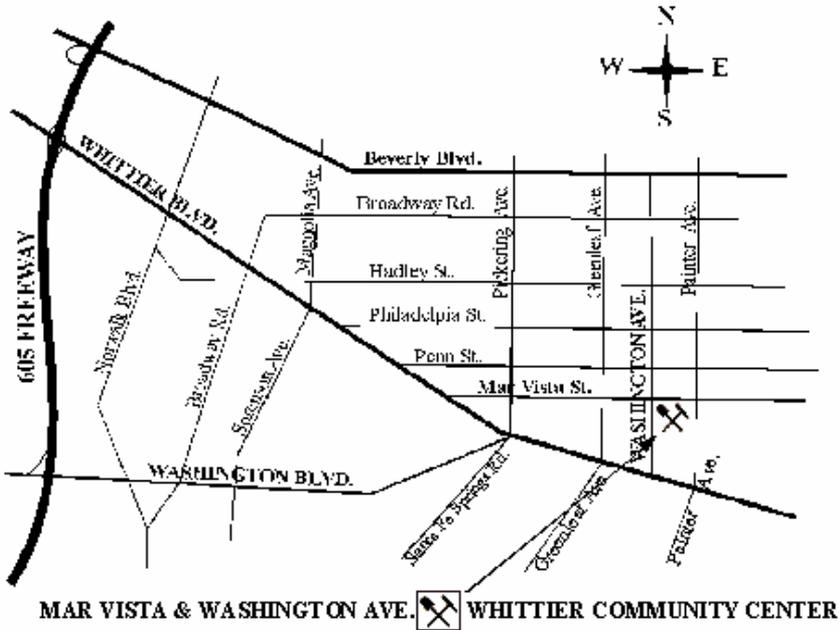
ICE will speak for you when you are not able to.

Submitted by Vern Cliffe via Betty Bliss

Upcoming CFMS Gem Shows

- Feb 13-22** **Indio, CA.** San Gorgonio Mineral & Gem Society Riverside County Fair & National Date Festival
Gem & Mineral Building Bldg #1
46-350 Arabia Street
Hours: 10 am - 10 pm
- Feb 27-28** **Northridge, CA.** Del Air Rockhounds Club
United Methodist Church
9650 Reseda Blvd. (at Superior Street)
Hours: Fri. 3p.m. - 9:30p.m.- Sat. 10-5
- Feb 27 - Mar 8** **Imperial, CA.** Imperial Valley Gem and Mineral Society, Inc.
Gem and Mineral Building on Fairgrounds
Hours: Fri, Sat & Sun, Noon - 10
Mon. thru Thur. 4pm - 10pm
- Mar 7-8** **Arcadia, CA.** Monrovia Rock Hounds, Inc.
LA Co. Arboretum & Botanical Garden
301 North Baldwin Ave.
(1 block South of I-210, Foothill Freeway)
Hours: 9 - 4:30 both days
- Mar 7-8** **Ventura, CA.** Ventura Gem and Mineral Society, Inc.
Seaside Park, Ventura County Fairgrounds
Hours: Sat. 10 - 5, Sun. 10-4
- Mar 13-15** **Stoddard Wells, CA.** Victor Valley Gem & Mineral Club
Held off Stoddard Wells Road in Apple Valley
Hours: 10-5 Daily
- Mar 14-15** **San Marino, CA.** Pasadena Lapidary Society
San Marino Masonic Center, 3130 Huntington Drive
Hours: Sat. 10-6, Sun 10-5
- Mar 21-22** **Escondido, CA.** Palomar Gem & Mineral Club
Army National Guard Armory, 304 Park Ave.
Hours: Sat. 9-5; Sun. 9-4
- Mar 28-29** **Torrance, CA.** South Bay Lapidary and Mineral Society
Torrance Recreational Center, 3341 Torrance Blvd.
Hours: Sat. 10 - 5, Sun. 10-4

WGMS MEETING LOCATION!
Whittier Community Center
7630 Washington Ave. Whittier



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Bulletin exchanges are welcome and should be sent to the editor.

Affiliations



California Federation of Mineralogical Societies
American Federation of Mineralogical Societies
Special Congress Representing Involved Bulletin Editors



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(See page 4 & 15 for info & map)