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WHITTIER



ROCKHOUNDER
GEM & MINERAL
SOCIETY

December 13 at 5:30 PM
WGMS Christmas Party!!!

A couple of rockhounds taking the fast way back to the clubhouse for holiday dinner.

Merry Christmas from the Editor and staff of the WGMS Rockhoulder.



ROCKHOUNDER

THE PREZ SEZ:

Hello gentle members, Christmas is just around the corner! Soon you'll be putting up your stockings hoping St. Nick will fill them with stones of all types, all beautiful and sparkly. And soon the New Year will start, a chance at new beginnings. One such new beginning will be a new treasurer as Nancy Kowalski will be returning to Florida to retire. A big Thank You to Nancy for all you have done for the club and we all wish you well and many adventures as you travel around the country. Our new treasurer is Jay Valle and I know he'll do a great job. Thank you Jay for stepping up in a time of need. Our Federation Director, Tony Fender, was sworn in as the new CFMS Treasurer at the Visalia meeting. Congratulations Tony.!

We'll have to see what the new year brings us. Hopefully we are going find many new rocks and have a great time.

See you in the wilds of the Mojave
Joe Goetz



Saturday, December 13, 2014

WGMS Christmas Party!!!

Jerry & Kathy Turner's House

Social Hour: 5:30 PM

Dinner: 6:30 PM

If it is December then the WGMS General meeting must be a **POTLUCK DINNER** and **CHRISTMAS PARTY**.

Members and friends of the WGMS will be coming together at Jerry & Kathy Turner's house starting at 5:30 PM for a "Happy Hour" social time, with dinner being served at about 6:30 PM.

Their home will be festively ornamented and prepared for their holiday guests. We will dine with our friends and fellow members, celebrating the holiday season and the end of yet another year in the life of the Whittier Gem & Mineral Society.

If you want to participate in the annual holiday gift exchange, the rule is bring one gift for each person in your group. The value should be under \$10 and ideally be rock related (not a requirement). Please mark each wrapped gift as suitable for a guy, gal or both. Participation is, as always, optional. However, if you don't bring a gift you will not receive a gift.

This event is RSVP so please contact Kathy Turner at:

(562) 696-3222

to let her know how many to plan for and to discuss what to bring.

Marcia

Federation Report

All went well at the CFMS Business Meeting in Visalia. Congratulations to Tony Fender as the new Federation Treasurer.

Also what was found out was the plans for the desert. The government wants to put in as many alternate energy power plants as it can. If that's not bad enough, they want to mediate the damage from building the power plants by setting aside an equal amount of land as a wilderness. So it's a double whammy for desert users.

Then the worst news is our favorite Senator wants the President to use his executive powers to turn the Mojave Desert into a National Monument. The BLM said we need to send the routes numbers and locations of our collecting locations, so they can hopefully keep them open. The BLM and the FOREST Service believe rockhounds and the rockhounding hobby are extinct. Let us be heard by those in power so they may know we are not extinct, write letters to our representatives in Congress and if a meeting is in a local area, let us attend in mass.

Via Joe Goetz

CHRISTMAS BLESSINGS

Among our Christmas blessings,
Those we hold most dear
Are memories of happy times
We've had throughout the year.
And so, it's not surprising
That as the old year ends
Our hearts are filled with gratitude
And loving thoughts for friends!

From The Calgary Lapidary Journal 12/02 via
the SCRIBE Newsletter Oct-Dec 2014

**A NIGHT BEFORE
CHRISTMAS**

T'was the eve a'fore Christmas
And there in the night,
The desert was quiet
Not a rockhound in sight.

Our socks were all hung
By the fire's ruby glow --
In the hope that Mama
Would sew up the toe.

The kids were all stacked
In their warm little bunks
With visions of agate --
Slabs, boulders, and chunks.

Me in my long johns
And Ma in her sack,
Had jumped into bed
It was cold as a tack.

From out in the sage brush
Came a hullabaloo;
I sprang to the window
To throw out a shoe.

I strained my eyes
'Til my brow was a furrow
Along came a geezer
A-leading his burro.

By the size of his belly
And his face full of hair,
I knew it was Santa...
Or a grizzly bear.

"Go Rudolph, go Rudolph

You stubborn old mule,
Get moving there Rudolph
You lop-eared old fool."

Then quick as a polecat
I heard him on top
That durn red-nosed burro
Goin' clippity clop.

Santa's trip down the chimney
Was something uncanny,
The fire was burnin'
And scorched his poor fanny.

He was dressed all in denim
From his head to his shoes
And his nose was all red
Like he'd drunk too much booze.

He has a middle age spread
That just wouldn't quit,
And a rock bag so big
It was already split.

He spied my old trim saw,
The one that was broke.
"By golly you're rockhounds,
You're my kind of folk."

He sat down at the table
And we both had some java
And threw bull about agate,
And opal and lava.

He told me of old times --
Of Horse Canyon agate,
Of the good times at Boron,
Of jasper from Daggett.

He told of deliveries to
What are now ghost cities --
Of Bullfrog and Bodie
They're dead, what a pity.

Then from out of his pack
For me and for Ma,
What did he pull
But a big slabbing saw.

There was a hammer for Dougie,
And a black light for Ginny,
And a bag of rock candy
So we wouldn't get skinny.

Then lookin' at the fire
And feelin' his sore
He decided it was best
To leave through the door.

But I heard him exclaim
As he fell in the mine,
"Merry Christmas, you rockhounds
And Auld Lang Syne."

From *The Gem News* 1972
Via *The Rockrollers*

**THE TEN GIFTS OF CHRISTMAS
SOME GIFTS OF LASTING VALUE**

A SENSE OF PURPOSE: The ability to set a goal and to work towards it.

A SENSE OF VALUES: The ability to pick and choose values that will enhance life. The art of living lies in the knowing what you can do without.

A SENSE OF INVOLVEMENT: The ability to communicate with those around you and to really get to know them.

A SENSE OF RESPONSIBILITY: The ability to enjoy the things that happen to you and to enjoy even more the things that you make happen.

A SENSE OF CELEBRATION: The ability to celebrate. This ability enriches the moment and the future and leaves a treasure chest of memories.

A SENSE OF WONDER: The ability to marvel at the wonders of the world. As we grow older we are inclined to lose this gift.

A SENSE OF BEAUTY: The ability to open oneself fully to the beauty of the world around, both the natural world and the man-made world of the arts.

A SENSE OF TIMING: The ability to use time wisely. Time is the most precious possession we have.

A SENSE OF SELF: The ability to assess one's own abilities accurately and to find the best outlet for them.

A SENSE OF FUN: The ability to see the funny side of things. Without this gift, the others are diminished. With it they are reinforced.

From Agri-News Alberta Agriculture Communications 11/82, via The Calgary Lapidary Journal 12/03

*I love Gem Chrysocolla, AKA Gem Silica. It reminds me of Peruvian Opal.
The Editor*

Gem Chrysocolla

Chalcedony infused with neon colored copper minerals

The date was May 1, 1893. As darkness fell on the World Exposition, President Grover Cleveland pushed a button providing electricity to one hundred thousand incandescent lamps, illuminating the entire fairgrounds for the first time. This “City of Light” was the brainchild of Nikola Tesla working for Westinghouse, and it marked a turning point in the battle between Thomas Edison’s direct current and Tesla’s alternating current. From that time on, more than 80 percent of all electrical devices ordered in the United States were for alternating current.

As consumers demanded more and more electrical devices made with copper wire, the demand for copper ore skyrocketed and the mining industry responded.



Gem Silica Rough, Arizona; Despite the names chrysocolla chalcedony and gem silica chrysocolla, gem silica is not really a form of chrysocolla. Its only connection with chrysocolla is that both minerals are colored by the same copper salts. So the names can be confusing. In fact gem silica is a form of chalcedony, the microcrystalline variety of quartz.



Gem Silica Cabochon

Prices for gem silica can easily reach \$50 to \$100 a carat, with high grade material selling for over \$200 a carat. A top grade specimen would be distinguished by good translucency, consistent and strong color saturation, and the absence of inclusions

Mines across the country that had previously ignored copper in the pursuit of gold and silver, suddenly discovered a new source of revenue. For gem and mineral collectors, the result was an increased supply of the green and blue minerals associated with copper ore. Two of the more recognizable minerals are malachite and turquoise, but there are well over 100 minerals containing copper.

The mineral we are interested in here is chrysocolla, a hydrated copper silicate with formula $(\text{Cu},\text{Al})_2\text{H}_2\text{Si}_2\text{O}_5(\text{OH})_4 \cdot n\text{H}_2\text{O}$. (Try to botryoidal or rounded masses and crusts, or vein fillings in

copper ore, and it is usually found mixed with malachite, cuprite and azurite.

Its neon colors make it an extremely attractive mineral specimen. Unfortunately its hardness of 2.5 to 3.5 makes it too soft for use in jewelry. Fortunately, there have been some instances where the chrysocolla combines with chalcedony quartz resulting in a durable and beautiful gemstone known as gem silica, or gem chrysocolla. The most prolific source for gem chrysocolla was Arizona, and the two top producers were the Ray Mine and the Inspiration Mine. Unfortunately neither mine has produced for over twenty years so the majority of gem silica in the market today is coming from collections. As modern methods of mining become more automated, it is increasingly difficult to stop operations and extract gem chrysocolla if it is encountered. There are still some pick and shovel mining operations that produce small quantities of gem chrysocolla, most notably in Peru.



Gem Chrysocolla with flecks of green malachite in chalcedony. Mined back in the 1950's in Arizona's Miami/Globe region. From <http://www.gerardscottdesigns.com>

The name chrysocolla comes from the Greek words chrysos meaning gold and kolla meaning glue. The name was first used by Theophrastus in 315BC as the name of material used to solder gold. Ironically, as scientists continue to study ancient gold artifacts the latest data indicates that the material was probably a cadmium sulfide known as greenockite instead of chrysocolla!

Since chrysocolla is almost always found with other copper minerals, desirable local mixes are often given specific trade names. Perhaps the two most well-known are Parrot Wing jasper, and Eilat stone. Eilat stone is a variegated blue and green mixture of chrysocolla, malachite, turquoise and other copper minerals found on the Gulf of Aqaba, near the northwestern end of the Red Sea. Parrot Wing jasper is a copper mineral mix that featured a neon green color with red, brown, darker green, and blue mixed in. The original deposit was mined in the 1980s near Sinaloa, Mexico, but is no longer available.

Since both of these materials are mixes, copper minerals from all over the globe frequently get substituted and it is virtually impossible to prove or disprove origin.

From <http://www.vgems.net> via AOS Newsletter 12/13

FLAKED OUT

An introduction to flint-knapping

By Bob Miller a.k.a. White Arrow

Member of the Deming (New Mexico) Gem & Mineral Society

Somewhere, lost in the sands of antiquity, the first flint tool lies buried and forgotten. My guess is that it sleeps somewhere east of Eden in Mesopotamia, likely fashioned by the hands of Adam. Of course, I don't really know and neither does any other living human. The bond between mankind



and flint are very old and deep indeed. Likely, it is some vestige of this friendship that reappears today as the urge to rock-hound.

Flint-knapping (from the German ("Knappen" meaning "to nibble") is doubtless one of the most basic and ancient of industries. Without the very sharp and durable edges produced by fracturing flint even the working of wood becomes next to impossible. If you doubt this, go into the woods without knife, ax, or saw and try to fell a useable sapling. Catching a cooperative beaver is about your only option here. Along with fire, flint was survival for millennia, and many of those fires were kindled using a flint spark.

In everyone's genealogy there were flint-knappers. It may be many generations ago for some or only a few as in this writer's own Cherokee and Choctaw ancestors. Their skills were undoubtedly adequate or we would not be here today.

Until the recent development of fused diamond plating on a tungsten matrix blade, obsidian (as in "Apache Tears") produced the sharpest known edges, far superior even to the best surgical steel scalpels. Obsidian fractures at the molecular level producing edges that may be only a molecule or two thick. The Maya Indians of southern Mexico were in fact successfully performing brain surgery

(trepanning) centuries before Columbus landed, using obsidian tools.

The knap-ability of flint owes to its krypto-crystalline structure (it's crystals are microscopic or non-existent). It is much like glass, being about 95% quartz (silicon). When struck a sharp blow with a hard object it will fracture into a "Hertzian cone" (conchoidally). Perhaps the easiest illustration of this phenomenon is to shoot a piece of thick glass with a B-B-gun. The characteristic product of this collision is a smoothly-rippled Hertzian cone. This is the basis of flint working by percussion.

Flint-knapping is the art of vectoring blows from a "billet" to remove flakes from the core in a manner predictable enough to eventually shape a blade. This process is called "core reduction." Once a blow is struck it cannot be recalled. For better or worse, the record of that blow is "written in stone."

Knapping is a lot like playing billiards. Due to inconsistency or defects (inclusions) in the flint it can more resemble playing pool on a wavy table with a tree limb and glass eggs. There are times I feel that I am actually matching wits with a piece of flint, as in three-dimensional chess! Many Indians believed that everything, even inanimate objects like rocks had a spirit and were somehow "alive." Perhaps they were right.

There is, of course, a lot more to knapping, like pressure flaking, heat-treating flint to improve its "lithic" qualities, "hands on" experiencing of just how sharp flint really is, weeping over the halves of an exceptional, almost complete blade, and of course losing one's mind.

One thing is certain, if you pursue knapping with any degree of persistence, you will recognize that its ancient practitioners were not a bunch of dumb savages banging rocks together. Instead, that is what we modern hobbyists are! They did it to survive -- we do it . . . For fun????! ! !

From Rock Chips, 3/04 via The Rollin Rock 4/04

Proofreading is a Dying Art, Wouldn't You Say?

Man Kills Self before Shooting Wife and Daughter

This was in the SGV Tribune one day and someone called the Editorial Room and asked who wrote this. It took two or three readings before the editor realized that what he was reading was impossible!!!

They put in a correction the next day.

Something Went Wrong in Jet Crash, Expert Says.

No, really? Ya think?

Police Begin Campaign to Run Down Jaywalkers.

Now that's taking things a bit far!

Panda Mating Fails; Veterinarian Takes Over.

What a guy!

Miners Refuse to Work after Death.

Good-for-nothin' lazy so-and-so's!

Juvenile Court to Try Shooting Defendant

See if that works any better than a fair trial!

(It'll certainly cut down on his criminal behavior.)

War Dims Hope for Peace

I can see where it might have that effect!

If Strike Isn't Settled Quickly, It May Last Awhile

Ya think?!

Cold Wave Linked to Temperatures

Who would have thought!

Enfield (London) Couple Slain; Police Suspect Homicide

They may be on to something!

Red Tape Holds Up New Bridges

You mean there's something stronger than duct tape?

New Study of Obesity Looks for Larger Test Group

Weren't they fat enough?!

Astronaut Takes Blame for Gas in Spacecraft

That's what he gets for eating those beans!

(Chris Hadfield would never do that.)

Kids Make Nutritious Snacks

Do they taste like chicken?

Local High School Dropouts Cut in Half

Chainsaw Massacre all over again!

Hospitals are Sued by 7 Foot Doctors

Boy, are they tall!

And the winner is...

Typhoon Rips Through Cemetery; Hundreds Dead

Did I read that right?

Via SCRIBE Newsletter, Oct-Dec 2014

Upcoming CFMS Gem Shows

Dec 6-7 Barstow, CA. Mojave Desert Gem and Min. Soc.
Cora Harper Community Center
841 S. Barstow Rd.
Hours: Sat. 10-5, Sun. 10-5

Dec 12-14 RIALTO, CA. Orange Belt Mineralogical Society
Across Street from Rialto City Hall
105 South Palm Avenue
Hours: Sat 10 - 5; Sun 10 - 3
Website: OBMSrocks.yolasite.com

Jan 17-18 EXETER, CA. Tule Gem & Mineral Society
Exeter Veterans Memorial Building
324 N Kaweah Avenue, Hwy 65
Hours: Sat 10 - 5; Sun 10 - 4
Website: www.tulegem.com

For more gem show information go to:

California Federation of Mineralogical Societies, Inc.:

<http://www.cfmsinc.org/>

Rock and Gem Magazine:

<http://www.rockngem.com/>

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



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