

CULVER CITY ROCK AND MINERAL CLUB
P.O. BOX 3324 Culver City, CA 90231



APRIL 2015



Monday, April 13, 2015
6:30 pm Executive Meeting
7:30 pm General Meeting and Program:
Colored Diamonds

APRIL 13 PROGRAM

Colored Diamonds: Their Geology, Chemistry and Physics (But not too much) as well as the Market Forces Driving the Diamond Business

Join us at our April 13th meeting to hear Walt Lombardo of the Nevada Book and Mineral Company talk about Colored Diamonds.

Fancy colored diamonds have become quite popular in recent years. Some have always been greatly valued, but others, until recently, were considered to common or unattractive for jewelry. Changing economics and customer taste has had a great impact on the diamond industry.

Color in diamonds has spurred serious research into the nature of color, and not all the answers are known. Mode of formation and trace element chemistry are important factors in the formation of these unusual



Photo: Rob Lavinsky, iRocks.com – CC-BY-SA-3.0

gems. Certain colors are more common in particular types of diamond deposits. We will examine the various colors in diamonds, and summarize the most likely cause of each color. Rarity and valuation of each color will also be discussed, as well as artificial color enhancements which are sometime used to increase the price or desirability of a diamond.

Walt Lombardo is a geologist with over 30 years experience related to mining and mineral exploration.

Walt established the Nevada Mineral and Book Company in 1985, now located in Orange County and on the web at www.minbooks.net

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Hello CCRMC members, rock hounds and fellow gem enthusiasts. We all look forward to getting the spring cleaning and gardening behind us and the same is true for all the planning and early execution for the Fiesta of Gems show at the end of June. Looks like everything is on track with all the committee members collecting on vendor commitments, creating the marketing imagery for postcards, and sifting the lists of past attendees and everyone working hard on getting the message out for the 2015 show.

For those just joining the club or new to Culver City and the Westside communities, the Fiesta of Gems show is June 27th and 28th. Please consider volunteering your time to help the setting up process on Friday, June 26th and of course pitching in to help tear-down on Sunday late afternoon. Many hands make short work and certainly increase everyone's fun before, during, and after the event. Immense thanks to all the Club members that take on this huge task every year and a big welcome to those who can contribute time and energy to make it easier this year!

I personally am looking forward to many hikes to the Sierra and local ranges this spring and summer and hope many of you are able to venture out and experience the unique geology that the Southwest has to offer. Have a memorable spring everyone.

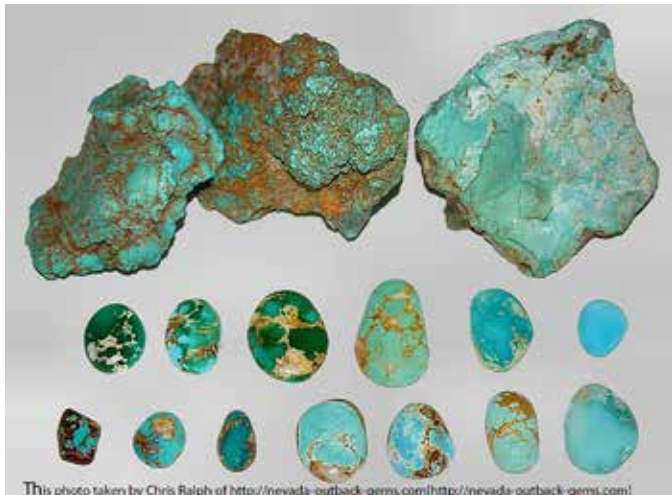
Darrell Robb
President

MINERAL REPORT

A “Gemstone of the Peoples”

Iranian palaces feature turquoise domes, supposedly because its color made it a symbol of heaven on earth. The rulers of many non-Western civilizations wore it as a sign of status, from the Aztecs to Shang Dynasty China. In Europe, it became more popular once the Catholic Church’s decline in influence allowed turquoise to be utilized in secular jewelry.

Turquoise has borne many different names throughout its centuries of use. The current name dates from the 16th century, when it was first brought to Europe from Turkey – following mankind’s typical originality, “turquoise” derives from the Old French word for



“Turkish.” Persians knew it as “pirouzeh” or “firouzeh” at various points, though the etymology of the change is somewhat unclear. Its Aztec name is “Teoxihuitl.”

Turquoise comes in at a 6 on the Mohs hardness scale, with a low specific gravity between 2.6 and 2.9. Its streak is pale blue, and it exhibits conchoidal fracture. All turquoise is prone to fracturing, though its properties are highly variable between specimens. It is usually opaque, but small sections may be semitranslucent. Its color ranges from white to sky blue, and between blue-green and yellow-green. Its blue color is attributed to color, while the green is most likely a result of impurities or dehydration.

The oldest known deposits are in Nishapur and the

Sinai Peninsula. Nishapur was the source for Persian tourmaline, while the Egyptians started mining the Sinai locality in 3000 BC (or possibly even earlier!). The Southwest United States is another prolific locality. Its deposits were mined by Native Americans, who utilized it for many purposes. Turquoise is typically found in arid regions, associated with highly altered volcanic rocks. In the Southwest USA, it is typically associated with copper sulfide deposits.

While New Mexico is thought to be one of the earliest-mined American localities, it is largely played out and the major American producers of turquoise are now Arizona and Nevada. California has one commercial turquoise mine, at Apache Canyon. Very small distinct crystals have been found in Virginia. Modern American turquoise is often enhanced through synthetic means, but some American mines produce high quality material that does not require alteration.

Minda Moe
Mineral Chair

SHOP NEWS

Shop schedule

The shop will be open as scheduled this month except on some Wednesdays and, due to several instructors planned absence for as yet unknown duration. There will be substitutions and possibly additional closures.

Continue to check our website for closures and time changes at [HTTP://www.culvercityrocks.org](http://www.culvercityrocks.org) or call the shop (310-836-4611) after the scheduled opening time to confirm that an instructor has arrived.

Equipment Availability

As of March 18 (when I was last at the shop before writing this report) all shop equipment, except the 24-inch saw, is in good working order and ready for you to use.

The 24-inch saw, previously reported as back in service, is again out of service. The sheet of plastic added to the underside of the sliding jaw of the vise,

Continued next page

SHOP REPORT continued from page 2

to alleviate binding, continues to work well. Nevertheless, this refurbishment is necessarily temporary and somewhat experimental. The current problems are mainly with the hydraulic system and a probably repairable bent blade.

In the past we used blades that had notches cut across the rim that were filled with diamond chips as the cutting agent. These blades were the standard; they were reliable, rugged and inexpensive when compared to continuous-rim blades. Continuous-rim blades, which cut considerably faster, were available but had the disadvantages of fragility and a higher price. In the hands of experienced, expert users they worked very well, cutting much faster and lasting well. We, having all levels of users from beginners to expert saw users, necessarily used the more rugged blades.

Recently an improvement in continuous-rim blades, along with a large drop in price, allowed us to use them in all our saws. The design change was to cut away each side of the rim leaving a continuous thin steel fin all around the perimeter of the blade. Where steel had been removed diamond was bonded on each face of the blade. This gave steel support for weak diamond-and-matrix not-reinforced in the older design. These blades are not as rugged as the filled-notch



blade. Nevertheless, the price/performance is superior. As an added bonus, bent blades can often be straightened and put back in service, unlike the old continuous-rim design. They require less feed pressure, yet cut better. A new problem arose: the main hydraulic feed-pressure limiter in the 24-inch saw can not be set to the now-required lower maximum. This should be remedied by the time you are reading this. Please keep the 24-inch saw feed pressure at 15psi or less.

Another experimental change was made more recently: we switched to a different cutting oil. The new oil has less odor, is less expensive and, based on tests, has less tendency of producing allergic reaction.

However it may have less, but adequate, lubricity and heat absorbing ability.

Limited parking in back of the shop is open for use. Park on the asphalt, off the alley concrete to avoid a parking citation. Please respect the space reserved for the shop instructor next to the paddle-tennis court.

On behalf of the Shop Committee,
Bruce Mensinger

UPCOMING WORKSHOPS

SATURDAY, APRIL 4, 2015 VERY BEGINNING SOLDER & FUSING

Who: Jette Sorensen <jetsorensen@gmail.com>
What: Solder skinny stack rings
When: Saturday, April 4, 2015, 12N- 4PM
Where: Boy Scout building

Price: CCRMC Members: \$60 - Non-Members \$70

Class description: Use a Butane torch to learn to solder and fuse skinny stack rings made from Argentium silver, a relatively new kind of sterling silver that fuses very easily. Once you have tackled that, you will be well on your way to create more "Kitchen Table Metal Smithing"

The price includes copper wire for training and enough Argentium silver wire to make several rings. You bring the Butane torch a/k/a Creme Brulee torch (available at your local hardware or kitchenware store for about \$25)

Contact the instructor directly at <jetsorensen@gmail.com> to register



SATURDAY, APRIL 11, 2015 BROOM CASTING JEWELRY

Who: Brad Smith <brad@greenheart.com>
What: Broom Cast Jewelry
When: Saturday, April 11, 2015, 10am - 4pm
Where: Boy Scout building
Price: CCRMC Members: \$76 - Non-Members \$86
Class Description: Discover the rush of pouring

UPCOMING WORKSHOPS continued from page 3
molten silver into a straw broom to get marvelous icicle-like shapes that make elegant pendants and earrings. Learn the proper use of the equipment and how to work with the irregular shapes for your designs.

Workshop attendees will receive a 40 page handout detailing all tools & procedures, tips for cleaning & polishing, how to make some of your own tools, sug-



gestions for safety, and a gallery of finished jewelry that features the broom cast shapes.

Some jewelry making skills require considerable time and practice to master, but broom casting is quite the opposite. Those with basic jewelry experience can learn the technique quickly, produce beautiful results, and have a lot of fun doing it. Within a couple hours, you can be pouring intriguing pieces that spark the imagination and challenge your creative mind.

All tools and materials will be provided except for precious metals. You will need about three ounces of Sterling silver for the class. Scrap or previously used material is fine. Silver is available at jewelers supply stores, on the Internet, or at local coin shops. Be sure to ask for Sterling, not pure silver.

Contact the instructor directly at <brad@greenheart.com> to register.

PROGRAM REPORT

The March program was Show & Tell. Charlene Aspray introduced Cameron Lowder from Cam's Crystal Gallery and members Gary Mitchell and Ken Rogers, who have extensive knowledge of rocks and minerals. Members and guests presented numerous interesting specimens that Cam, Gary and Ken generously helped identify, while Bruce Mensinger operated a camera

and projector that ensured everyone in the room could see the items being discussed. Several members also showed beautiful jewels and works of art that they had crafted. Everyone was very engaged in admiring the items brought and had a fantastic time!

Ana Maria Guimaraes
Recording Secretary

MINUTES of the EXECUTIVE MEETING MARCH 9, 2015

- Those present: Charlene Aspray, Steve Dover, Fran Einburg, Ana Maria Guimaraes, Jan Ferguson, Bruce Mensinger, Ellen Moe, Darrell Robb, Leda Rogers, Grace Sato, Mary Ellen Shaffer, Rick Shaffer, Jette Sorensen and Joyce Watanabe.
- The meeting was called to order at 6:56pm by President Darrell Robb.
- The February Executive Meeting minutes published in the March Nugget were approved as read.
- Jette Sorensen informed that arrangements had been made for the Club to hold its summer picnic on Saturday, August 15th at the Lindberg Park in Culver City.
- Darrell Robb informed that the audits of the 2013 and 2014 Club financial statements had been completed.
- Fran Einburg asked for the detailed 2014 Fiesta of Gems report to determine the exact proceeds amount coming from raffles; Darrell Robb committed to providing it. She also asked that reimbursements, especially to board members, as well as donations, be documented with receipts. Ms. Einburg informed that the Club had lost its California tax-exempt status for failing to file a certain form. A motion as approved to hire a CPA for up to \$500, to prepare and file the form.
- Darrell Robb asked for suggestions on how the Club should spend the raffle proceeds from 2014. In the past, funds have been donated to the Culver City Unified School to purchase geology books, to the El Rincon school's science lab and to the Culver City Boy Scouts. It was determined that a decision would be made once the exact proceeds amount was known.

Continued next page

MINUTES OF EXEC MEETING continued from page 4

- On behalf of Felice Ganz, Jette Sorensen reported that 60 members were yet to renew their membership. Charlene Aspray suggested a reminder postcard be mailed next year, given that fewer members receive the Nugget in the mail.
- Charlene Aspray thanked all who helped on the February silent auction, with especial mention of Ellen Moe. She informed that Walter Lombardo would be the April speaker, followed by Justin Zzyzx in May and Cameron Lowder in July, while June would be the Fiesta of Gems work meeting.
- Member Gary Mitchell informed that Scott Belkin's mother had donated \$100 to the Club, to be applied to workshops.
- Bruce Mensinger brought five mock versions of the 2015 Fiesta of Gems postcard, which he created, and the one to be used was selected by vote.
- A motion was made by Rick Shaffer, and approved, for the Club to purchase 20 tickets for the Culver City Boy Scout Spaghetti Dinner and donate them to the Culver City Senior Citizens Center.
- The meeting adjourned at 7:33pm

Submitted by Ana Maria Guimaraes
Recording Secretary

MINUTES of the GENERAL MEETING MARCH 9, 2015

- The meeting was called to order at 7:46pm, the Pledge of Allegiance was made and a quorum was established.
- Two guests were introduced.
- The February General Meeting minutes were approved as read in the March Nugget.
- Fran Einburg informed that the Club was solvent.
- Darrell Robb reminded that membership renewal dues needed to be paid by the end of the meeting in order to prevent membership to lapse.
- Charlene Aspray thanked all who helped on the February silent auction, with especial mention of Ellen Moe. She informed that the program of the night would be Show & Tell and announced that Walter Lombardo would be the April speaker, followed by Justin Zzyzx in May and Cameron Lowder in July, while June would be the Fiesta of Gems work meeting.

- A break was held for refreshments and a raffle, followed by the March Program.

Submitted by Ana Maria Guimaraes
Recording Secretary

PROGRAM REPORT

The February program was a silent auction. The auction included several items donated by Club members and supporters, including mineral and fossil specimens, jewelry and tools. In addition, former member Scott Belkin's wonderful collection of mineral specimens was auctioned by his mother and the proceeds donated to the National Alliance for the Mentally Ill. Everyone had fun engaging in active bidding and admiring the auction items. The event was a great success.

Submitted by Ana Maria Guimaraes
Recording Secretary

NEW MEMBERS

WELCOME

Shana McGrath
Eileen Stewart

APRIL BIRTHDAYS
(COME GET YOUR CAKE AT THE 4/9 MEETING)

| | | |
|--------------|-----------------|---------|
| Janice | Metz | 4/04/15 |
| Susan A. | Beveridge | 4/8/15 |
| Richard | Shaffer | 4/08/15 |
| Frederick C. | Reinhorn | 4/12/15 |
| Angel | Amulis-Hodel | 4/14/15 |
| James | Powers | 4/14/15 |
| Jillian | Daniels | 4/15/15 |
| Jette | Sorensen | 4/18/15 |
| Ilene | Siegel | 4/20/15 |
| Jennifer C. | Williams-Rouise | 4/23/15 |

UPCOMING SHOWS

April 4 - 5: CHICO, CA

Paradise Gem & Mineral Society

Silver Dollar Fairgrounds

2337 Fair Street

Hours: 10 - 4 daily

Contact: Manuel Garcia, (530) 877-7324

Website: www.paradisegem.org

April 11 - 12: MARIPOSA, CA

Mariposa Gem & Mineral Society

Mariposa County Fairgrounds

5005 Fairgrounds Road

Hours: Sat 10 - 5; Sun 10 - 4

Contact: Randy Bolt, (209) 742-7625

Email: rockmuseum@sti.net

Website: www.camineralmuseum.com

April 18 - 19: SAN JOSE, CA

Santa Clara Valley Gem & Mineral Society

Santa Clara County Fairgrounds

334 Tully Road

Hours: 10 - 5 daily

Contact: Frank Mullaney, (408) 265-1422

Email: info@scvgms.org

Website: www.scvgms.org

April 18 - 19: THOUSAND OAKS, CA

Conejo Gem & Mineral Club

Borchard Park Community Center

190 Reino Road at Borchard Road

Hours: 10 - 5 daily

Contact: Robert Sankovich, (805) 494-7734

Email: rmsorca@roadrunner.com

Website: www.cgamc.org

April 25 - 26: SANTA CRUZ, CA

Santa Cruz Mineral & Gem Society

Santa Cruz Civic Auditorium

Church Street & Center Street

Hours: 10 - 5 daily

Contact: Dean Welder (408) 353-2675

Website: www.scmgs.org

April 10 - 12: VISTA, CA

Vista Gem & Mineral Society

Antique Gas & Steam Engine Museum

2040 North Santa Fe Avenue

Hours: 9 - 5 daily

Contact: Ray Pearce (760) 535-5524

& Simon King (619) 991-2226

Email: vistarocksgms@gmail.com

Website: www.vistarocks.org

April 25 - 26: LANCASTER, CA

Antelope Valley Gem & Mineral Society

Lancaster High School

44701 - 32nd Street West

Hours: 10 - 5 daily

Contact: CJ Quitoriano, (661) 209-9092

Website: www.avgem.weebly.com



**CALIFORNIA'S
GOLDEN BEAR**

CALIFORNIA FEDERATION OF MINERALOGICAL SOCIETIES
2015
JEWELRY, MINERAL & GEM FESTIVAL

June 12, 13 & 14, 2015
10am - 5pm Friday & Saturday
10am - 4pm Sunday
Lodi Grape Festival & Harvest Fair
413 East Lockeford Street, Lodi, Ca
www.cfmsinc.org
\$6 Adults, Children under 12 Free

The CALIFORNIA FEDERATION of MINERALOGICAL SOCIETIES show is always absolutely fabulous .
Try to make it.

BENCH TIPS

DIVIDERS

A set of dividers is a tool I find very useful in laying out the geometry of a piece I'm making. It has two needle-like tips with an adjustment to set the spacing between them.

They can be used to transfer a measurement. Let's say you need a 7mm wide strip of sheet metal. Set the spacing between the divider tips to 7 mm on the ruler. Then lay the sheet on the bench, put one tip against the edge, and run the dividers down the edge scribing a line parallel to the edge.

Dividers can be used to mark equal segments of a line or arc. For instance assume a line between A and B that might be straight or curved, and you want to divide it into 5 equal lengths. Set the dividers to an estimate of the distance. Starting at Point A, use the



dividers to mark off five lengths along the line. If you end up short of Point B, lengthen the distance on the dividers. If you end up overshooting Point B, shorten the length of your dividers. After a few tries, the length on the dividers will be the exact distance you need to mark the 5 segments.

Dividers can let you quickly find the center of a circular disk. With one tip of the dividers at the edge

of the disk, set the other tip to an estimate of where the center might be. Fix one tip of the dividers at the 3 o'clock position and scribe an arc with the other tip near the center. Do this again from the 6 o'clock, 9 o'clock, and 12 o'clock positions. The arcs at the center will form a small four-sided box. The center of the box is at the center of the disk.

PIECE OF LEATHER

Leather has a multitude of uses in the shop. I often use a scrap of it to avoid scratching the back of a piece of jewelry while setting stones. It's also great for times when you need to clamp one of your tools in a vise, for instance a drawplate.



SMOOTHING EARWIRES

Any time you make your own earwires, the hardest part for me is to sand and polish the end that's inserted into the ear. Any sharp edge there is no fun. I've tried using sanding sticks, cup burs, and silicone polishing wheels. I've tried buffing on a Zam wheel, and I've tried spinning the wire in the Foredom to polish the tip. While all of these techniques do the job, none are very easy, and none are as fast as I'd like.

Then it occurred to me - I could melt the wire smooth. One quick touch in the flame of the propane/oxygen Little Torch does the trick - not enough to form a bead on the wire but just enough to round off the tip. I find it's worth practicing the maneuver a couple times on some scrap wire before trying it on completed earrings.

Brad Smith

Author of Bench Tips for Jewelry Making

Available at Amazon.com

The purpose of the CULVER CITY ROCK & MINERAL CLUB is to bring together persons interested in the earth sciences, to engage in research and study in this realm, and to assist members in the collection and preservation of rocks and minerals and in the study of lapidary and related arts.....<http://www.culvercityrocks.org>

Elected Officers for 2015

President - Darrell Robb
Vice President - Jette Sorensen
Treasurer - Franne Einberg
Recording Secretary - Ana Maria Guimaraes
Corresponding Secretary - Jan Ferguson
Education - OPEN
Historian - Bruce Mensinger
Parliamentarian - Ellen Moe

Committee Chairs:

Federation Director - Rick Shaffer
Field Trips - Open
Librarian - Bruce Mensinger
Membership - Felice Ganz
Minerals - Minda Moe
Photography - Bruce Mensinger
Programs - Charlene Aspray
Publications - Co-Chairs Barbara Fier,
Jan Ferguson, Jette Sorensen
Publicity: Janice Metz
Show - Brad Smith
Shop Committee (President, Vice President,
Instructors)
Social - Grace Sato
Co-Chair - Joyce Watanabe
Sunshine - Leda Rogers
Trading Post - Steve Dover
Web Master - Jette Sorensen

Board of Directors:

(2015) Rick Shaffer - Jette Sorensen
(2016) Steve Dover - Leda Rogers
(2017) Bruce Mensinger - Ana Maria Guimaraes

Contact Us:

Phone: (310) 836-4611
Address: P.O. Box 3324, Culver City, CA 90231
FaceBook: www.facebook.com/CCRMC
Twitter: www.twitter.com/culvercityrocks
Yahoo: <http://groups.yahoo.com/neo/groups/ccrmc/info>

MEETING SCHEDULE

General Meetings are held the second Monday of every month* at 7:30 p.m. in the Multi-Purpose Room in the Veterans Bldg., 4117 Overland Ave. Enter from the rear door. Guests are always welcome.

Executive Committee Meetings are held the second Monday of every month* at 6:30 p.m. in the Multi-Purpose Room in the Veterans Bldg. Auditorium. All club members are welcome.

*Meeting days occasionally change due to federal holidays or in July, to accommodate the Fiesta Of Gems Show.

DUES & FEES

One time Initiation Fees:

| | |
|------------------------|-----------|
| Individuals | \$20.00 |
| 2 Persons/Same Address | \$35.00 * |
| Juniors | \$15.00 |

Yearly Membership Dues:

| | |
|------------------------|---------|
| Individuals | \$25.00 |
| 2 Persons/Same Address | \$35.00 |
| Juniors | \$10.00 |

(After July 1, dues are \$15.00, \$25.00 and \$5.00 respectively.)

SHOP INFORMATION

The shop is open to all members in good standing over the age of 18 who sign an indemnification form. Junior members (13 - 18) must be accompanied by an adult. Instruction is available at all sessions. Practice slabs are available.

Location: 10866 Culver Blvd. in Culver City (behind the Boy Scout clubhouse and next to the paddle tennis courts)

Shop Phone: (310) 836-4611

Hours:

| | |
|-----------|---|
| Tuesday | 7 - 9:30 pm - Bruce Mensinger |
| Wednesday | 10 am - 2 pm - By appointment, see http://culvercityrocks.org/lapshop.htm |
| Thursday | 10 am - 2 pm - Woody Shaffer |
| Saturday | Noon - 4 pm - Lynne Lukert |
| Sunday | Noon - 4 pm - Rick Shaffer |

If no one shows, the shop may close early. If you plan to arrive more than a half hour after the opening time, phone the instructor. at (310) 836-4611

The Nugget

The deadline for submissions is the 15th of every month. All articles or notes without a byline are written by the Editor. Permission to copy is freely given as long as proper credit is noted.

The Nugget accepts paid advertisements. The cost for an eighth of a page (approx. 2" high x 3.5" wide) is \$7 per insertion, payable in advance. Ad location is at the discretion of the Editor. Ad layouts, copy, or business cards must be received by the 10th of the month. Send materials to Culver City Rock and Mineral Club, P.O. Box 3324, Culver City, CA 90231, Attention: Editor.



the NUGGET

VOLUME 56

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APRIL 2015

CULVER CITY ROCK & MINERAL

CLUB, INC.

CULVER CITY, CALIFORNIA, USA

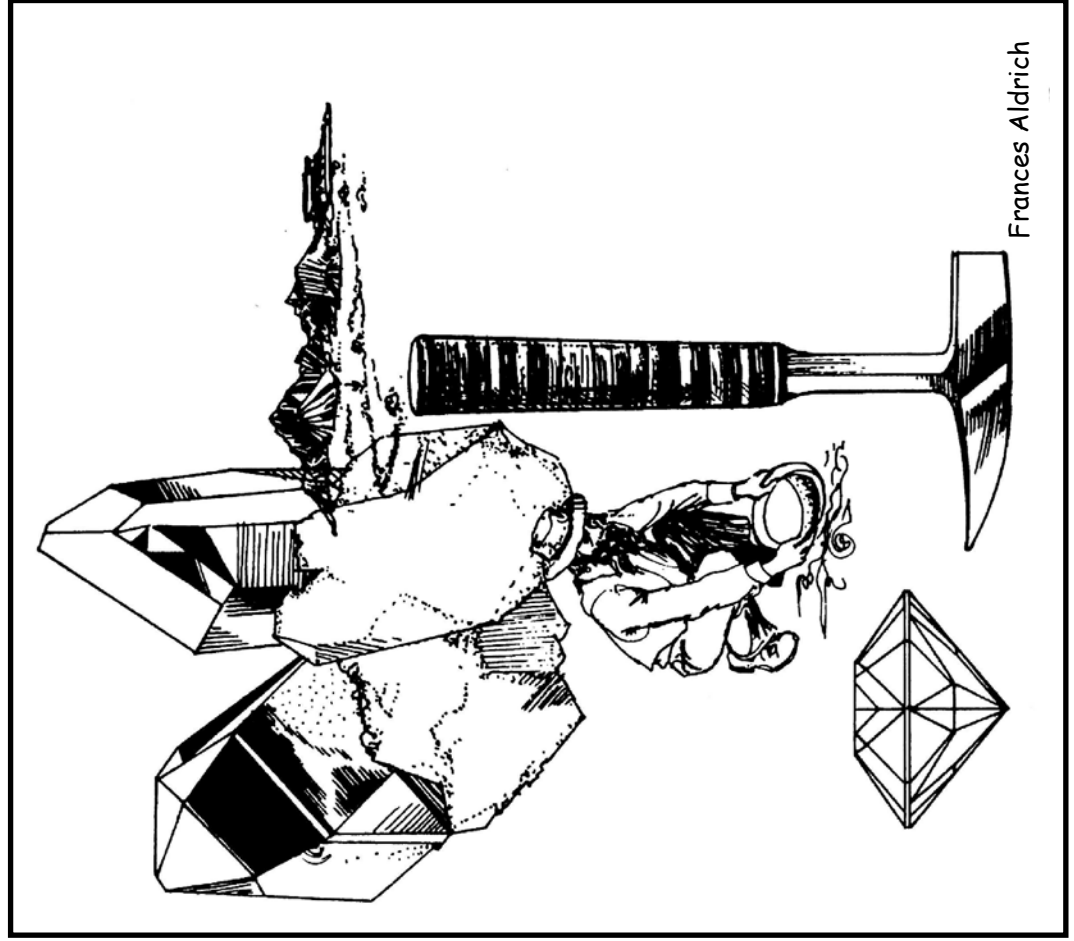


FIRST CLASS

CULVER CITY ROCK & MINERAL CLUB

**The Nugget
P.O. Box 3324
Culver City, CA 90231**

Address Change Requested



Frances Aldrich