

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



OCTOBER 2016

Monday, October 10, 2016
6:30 pm Executive Meeting
7:30 pm JADE - The Toughest Gems
Culver City Veterans Memorial Complex,
4117 Overland Avenue, Multi-Purpose Room



Visitors Welcome

OCTOBER 10 PROGRAM JADE

Join us for a talk by Dave Bunch, jade collector, SCUBA diver, and jade carver. Learn about the jades, plus, diving for, collecting, & carving it.

In his presentation, Dave Bunch, will discuss and describe the minerals known as jade, explore their long history and many uses. He will show jade pieces he has carved and discuss some of the carving tech-



Courtesy of Mindat.com

niques that are used. We will learn that, because true jades can be very difficult to identify, there are many other green stones that have been, and are currently, called, "jade", but aren't. In his talk, we'll learn how to identify the true jades.

In the mid 1960's Dave Bunch was introduced to

diving for jade at Jade Cove, near Monterey. He became interested in collecting and working jade after reading Don Wobber's story "Jade Beneath the Sea - A Diving Adventure" which is the tale of one diver's experience in recovering a 9,000 pound piece of jade essentially by hand.

The cove became part of the Monterey National Marine Sanctuary area and was closed to the taking of jade from 1992 until 1997 when it was excluded from the preserve area upon certain conditions.



map courtesy of californiasbestbeaches.com

Dave became a member of the [now disbanded] Rockatomics Gem and Mineral club where he first started to work jade while employed as a turbomachinery engineer.



Courtesy of johnbetts-fineminerals.com

A few years back, Dave retired from the aerospace industry, but he still teaches skin & SCUBA diving. He is currently setting up his own lapidary work station to make his jade carving easier. Occasionally, when weather conditions permit, Dave returns to Jade Cove to dive and scavage for jade. «

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Hello fellow Club Members and rock hounds.

Autumn has arrived in Southern California and along with the changing season comes opportunity for all members to get more involved with the Club and help make our organization more fun, interesting, and of greater value to our community. Please share your ideas at our next meeting!

We are also at that time of year when nominations for the elected positions are now open and should be forwarded to the nominating committee chairman, Rick Shaffer. The slate of nominated officers and committee chairpersons will be presented and discussed at the upcoming October 10 meeting, with formal voting of officers at the following November meeting.

Personally, I haven't belonged to a group that has been more fun than the Culver City Rock and Mineral Club and I hope, if nothing else that everyone shares my simple precepts: Come to meetings, have fun, learn things and give back to the community that has nurtured us.

If we can all pitch in and help serve the Club in an officer or committee-member capacity (even if only for a one year) we can all enjoy the meetings more and continue a diversity of opinions and knowledge that keeps us strong and together in our common interest.

Please get involved and help our Club stay vibrant. Looking forward to seeing everyone this month on Monday evening, October 10.

Darrell Robb
President



OCTOBER WORKSHOPS

MINIMALISTIC PRONG SETTING

October 9 - 9 am - Noon

Instructor: Jette Sorensen

At CCRMC Shop

Limited to 5 participants - CCRMC members only

Fee: \$30 including materials



Bring: Your cabochon(s), a "Creme Brule" butane torch, willingness to learn and have fun.

Learn to fuse and "ball up" Argentium Silver to make a minimalistic prong setting for your cabochon(s). The image shows Stalactites, but any cabochon can be used.

BEGINNING LAPIDARY - Make a Cabochon

October 23 - 9 am - Noon

Instructors: PJ Leitner and Susan Beveridge

At CCRMC Shop

Limited to 3 participants - CCRMC members only

Fee: \$20 including instructor provided slab

"Beginning Lapidary" gives you hands-on experience with all the steps necessary to take a slab through the process of sawing, grinding, and polishing to create your own beautiful oval cabochon using machines in the Shop. Limited to 3 participants to insure each participant's access to equipment and individual attention.

To make a reservation you must be a member of CCRMC. Email workshops@culvercityrocks.org and you will receive a reply with instructions on how to prepay to confirm your reservation.

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OCTOBER WORKSHOPS continued

You are welcome to stay beyond Noon for regular open hours, however you will need to pay the posted Shop fees.



Malachite Cab

Check the Club's website periodically for possible added October workshops - we are trying to set up some interesting ones.

SHOP NEWS

Shop schedule

Starting October 1, the shop schedule for Tuesday night and Thursday may change. All changes will be posted on our website www.culvercityrocks.org,

Make it a habit to check the website for scheduled open time and last minute information, or call the shop (310-836-4611) after the scheduled opening time to confirm that an instructor has arrived.

After last month's breakdowns, a successful recovery of the small flat lap

The small flat lap is back in service. The repair was accomplished by combining the best of two unusable machines into one working unit, adding protective seals for the motor and electronics area, and modifying the provision for draining the water and rock debris produced as the machine is normally used.

We have used a variety of small flat laps over the years. The current machine is a good performer but is subject to water damage in a shop such as ours where lots of beginners and occasional users mishandle the water feed and/or fail to use good practice when changing disks or clearing debris from the drain.

What I did to put the machine back in service was multi-fold. I used parts from two machines, neither of which was usable in our shop. In addition, I modified the water sealing to prevent entry into the motor and electronics area. This water-sealing, unfortunately, can not be complete. Nevertheless, it should prevent

nearly all the water damage that we have had with these machines. None of these measures are particularly noticeable on casual inspection.

What is very noticeable is the modified drain, now consisting of two drain passages, one of which is of much larger diameter than the original drain. This was implemented to reduce ('eliminate' is too optimistic) the frequent clogging these machines are infamous for. The reconstruction took much longer than anticipated largely due to testing sealing agents, five of which failed before the successful sixth.



Small flat lap is back in service

Plumbing issues

Once again, we have had to call the plumber for a drainage problem. This time it was the sink. The problem was a bunch of small pebble size pieces of cut material. Always have the basket in the drain. Never - ever - empty the basket into the sink. Empty it into the drum waste receptacle right outside the soldering room.



Parking

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. Additional parking is available in front of the Scout House.

On behalf of the Shop Committee,
Bruce Mensinger

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

WELCOME

Simone DeSantis
Raquel Valles

PROGRAM REPORT September 12

Ken Rogers introduced Gabriel “Gaby” Mosesson of Ethiopia Imports. Gaby returned to give us another great presentation on Ethiopian opals. During his presentation, he also talked about Ethiopian green amber.

There are several different kinds of opals in Ethiopia, but only Welo opals are considered to be very stable. Welo opal was formed about 30 million years ago and stayed hidden in the Nile Gorge until a shepherd boy discovered it in 2008. So far, it has not been discovered anywhere else. It is speculated that Welo opals were formed in a buried ancient forest. Because the veins of Welo material run high up on mountain sides, mining is very difficult and is done by co-ops of local people. The big mining companies depend on native miners to do the work. The miners do not wear helmets, and over 90 have died already from inexperience, suffocation, or falls, especially during the 2 ½ - 3 months of rain every year.

Since Welo opals are hydrophane, they will absorb liquids. When this happens, they turn milky and the color flashes disappear or are greatly diminished until the material has dried out again. Gaby suggested that when you cut or polish Welo opals, do a bit of work, let the piece dry for several days, then go back to do more work, let it dry, etc. Do not subject Welo opals to high heat, ultrasonic cleaners, harsh cleaning agents, hand soap or sudden temperature changes. Simply wipe with a clean cloth.

Another kind of Ethiopian opal is Shewa opal from the province of the same name. Sometimes called Chocolate opal, the Shewa opals are not very stable and Gaby said they should be stabilized before cutting. He suggested Opticon Epoxy, Epoxy 330, or Hot Stuff.

When shining a light from the bottom of some stones, a “honeycomb” pattern may appear. These are very sought after.

Gaby introduced us to Ethiopian green amber which was formed about 95 million years ago, during the Cretaceous Period. He assured us that it smells

wonderful when you work on it. The specimens he brought were amazing. Very clear, and some with plant material or insect(s) trapped inside.

Submitted by Jette Sorensen

MINERAL REPORT

Arsenic Ruby

Realgar is in the arsenic sulfide family. It crystallizes in the monoclinic system, in the prismatic class, with Hermann-Mauguin symbol 2/m. It is orange-red, with a sub metallic luster, and burns bluish. It is very soft, with a Mohs hardness of 2 (roughly the hardness of gypsum). Its streak is orange, and its fracture is sectile.

Realgar is often associated with orpiment, an orange-yellow arsenic sulfide mineral. When its constituents are arranged into a different crystal structure, it is alacranite or pararealgar. Alacranite forms subhedral or euhedral tabular crystals, while pararealgar forms when realgar is exposed to light.



Courtesy of Rob Lavinsky, iRocks.com – CC-BY-SA-3.0

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Realgar is most often a low-temperature hydrothermal mineral, but also occurs in volcanic sublimations and in hot springs.

In Hungary, Bohemia, and Saxony it is associated with ores of gold, lead, and silver. Within the United States, notable deposits are found in Utah, Nevada, and Yellowstone National Park.

Its deep red color has led to its nicknames, “ruby sulphur” and “ruby of arsenic.” It is one of the major sources of arsenic.

It was used to create white fireworks before the widespread availability of powdered forms of aluminum, magnesium, and titanium. It was also a rat poison in medieval Spain and 16th century England.

Mixed with rice liquor, it forms realgar wine, which is traditionally consumed in China during the Dragon Boat Festival, though the practice is growing rare in modern times. It was also used as a common red pigment and medicine world-wide before its carcinogenic properties were discovered.

Minda Moe
Mineral Chair

BENCH TIPS

REMOVING SOLDER FROM A BEZEL

Sometimes when you solder a bezel to a base plate, you end up with excess solder that needs to be removed before setting the stone. My choice of tool for this is called an "Inverse Cone" bur used in a rotary tool or flexshaft. It cuts on both the bottom and the side and is shaped so that there's less chance of cutting into the bezel wall than if you used the more common cylinder bur shape. I find the 2 mm size useful for almost any bezel.



“Inverse Cone” bur

TESTING FOR SILVER

Often you need to identify some of those unknown "silvery" pieces in the bottom of the toolbox or some piece of old jewelry. Is it silver or something else?

Of course, if you need to know exactly what you have, it's best to send your metals off for refining. But inexpensive silver testing solutions can be used to help distinguish higher silver content alloys from alloys that have the same appearance but with little to no silver content, like German Silver or Nickel.

I purchased a half-ounce bottle of JSP Silver Testing Solution #GT41. It's not a rigorous analytic test, but it lets you know if you're on the right track. And it's inexpensive. Mine was only \$3.

With a fresh solution you have an instant reaction after applying it to the metal being tested. The procedure is simple - as you apply a small drop, look for a color change. Note that the acid will leave a slight mark, so choose a spot that is out of the way or will be easy to polish.

If you suspect the object is silver plated, you should file a little notch somewhere inconspicuous to expose what metal is below the surface. Otherwise, all you test will be the surface plating.

Here's the reaction I got when testing various materials:

| | |
|-----------------|---------------------------|
| Fine silver | Red/Orange |
| Sterling silver | Brick Red |
| 80% silver | |
| /20% copper | Dark red changing to gray |
| Brass | Yellow changing to blue |
| Nickel | Gray-green |
| Copper | Yellow changing to blue |
| Steel | Black |
| Stainless Steel | No color change |

Caution - If you do any of this testing, know that you are handling a reasonably strong acid. The GT41 label says it includes nitric acid and potassium dichromate.

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BENCH TIPS continued

Wear safety glasses.
Do not get any testing solution on your skin.
Use a solution of baking soda and water to neutralize acid.
Wash and clean up well when you're done.

Excerpted from "Bench Tips for Jewelry Making: 101 Useful Tips" by Brad Smith

OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS

Happy Birthday!



- Gary Strickland Oct 1
- Mike Watts Oct 15
- Holly Westhoff Oct 20
- Richard Parra Oct 22
- Charlie B Warner Oct 22
- Nickie Jessup Oct 25
- Gary M. Willens Oct 25
- Steven K. Dover Oct 27

OCTOBER/NOVEMBER SHOWS



October 1 - 2: BORON, CA
Mojave Mineralogical Society
Boron Recreation Park, 26998 John Street
Hours: Sat 9 - 5; Sun 9 - 4
Contact: Bruce Davies, (760) 338-8829
Email: daviesb@yahoo.com

October 1 - 2: VISTA, CA
Vista Gem & Mineral Society
Antique Gas & Steam Engine Museum
2040 North Santa Fe Avenue
Hours: Sat 10 - 5; Sun 10 - 4
Contact: Ray Pearce, (760) 726-7570
Email: raysrocks@cox.net

October 8 - 9: ANDERSON, CA
Shasta Gem & Mineral Society
Shasta District Fairgrounds, 1890 Briggs Street
Hours: Sat. 9 - 5; Sun. 10 - 4
Steve Puderbaugh, 530-604-2951
Email: kelly13@shasta.com
Show Website: www.shastagemandmineral.com

October 8 - 9: GRASS VALLEY, CA
Nevada County Gem & Mineral Society
Nevada County Fairgrounds (Main Building)
11228 McCourtney Road
Hours: 10 - 5 daily
Contact: Todd Lawson, (530) 305-9212
Email: webmaster@ncgms.org
Website: www.ncgms.org

October 8 - 9: TRONA, CA
Searles Lake Gem & Mineral Society
SLGM Show Building, 13337 Main Street
Hours: Sat 7 - 5; Sun 7 - 4
Jim and Bonnie Fairchild, (760) 372-5356
Email: slgms@iwvisp.com
Website: www1.iwvisp.com/tronagemclub

October 9: FALLBROOK, CA
Fallbrook Gem & Mineral Society
Fallbrook Gem & Mineral Building
123 West Alvarado Street
Hours: 9 - 4
Contact: Janice Bricker, (760) 728-1130
Email: fgms@sbcglobal.net
Website: www.fgms.org

October 15: WEST HILLS, CA
Woodland Hills Rock Chippers
First United Methodist Church, 22700 Sherman Way
Hours: 10 - 5
Contact: Mary Beth Pio, (818) 349-9164
Email: info@rockchippers.org
Website: www.rockchippers.org

October 15 - 16: WHITTIER, CA
Whittier Gem & Mineral Society
Whittier Community Center, 7630 Washington Ave
Hours: 10 - 5 daily
Contact: Frank Winn, (626) 239-5457
Email: rkhnfdw@gmail.com

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OCTOBER/NOVEMBER SHOWS continued

October 22 - 23: LOS ALTOS, CA
Peninsula Gem & Geology Society
Los Altos Youth Center
One No. San Antonio Road
Hours: 10 - 5 daily
Contact: Steve Jobe, (408) 834-5384
Email: steve_jobe@sbcglobal.net
Website: www.pggs.org

November 5 - 6: ANAHEIM, CA
American Opal Society
Business Expo Center, 1960 S. Anaheim Way
Hours: Sat 10 - 6; Sun 10 - 5
Contact: Veronica Purpura, (714) 509-9959
Email: info@opalsociety.org
Website: www.opalsociety.org/

November 5 - 6: RIDGECREST, CA
Indian Wells Gem & Mineral Society
Desert Empire Fairgrounds
520 South Richmond Road
Hours: 9 - 5 daily
Contact: John DeRosa, (760) 375-7905
Email: jfrocks@dslextreme.com

**MINUTES of the EXECUTIVE MEETING
September 12**

Those present: Steve Dover, Franne Einberg, Felice Ganz, Bruce Mensinger, Minda Moe, Ken Rogers, Leda Rogers, Grace Sato, Rick Shaffer, Jette Sorensen, Joyce Watanabe.

The Meeting was called to order at 6:40 pm by Vice President Steve Dover.

- The August executive meeting minutes published in the September Nugget were approved as read.
- Treasurer Report: Franne Einberg presented the silent auction results, as well as the show records. Ms. Einberg also informed the IRS had confirmed the Club's 501 C-4 status.
- Federation Report: Rick Shaffer indicated he would be attending the CFMS meeting and asked for suggestions about what subjects he should bring up. It was suggested he ask for more infor-

mation on getting access to the Mojave and other public lands for rockhounding. Mr. Shaffer said there was a possibility the CFMS would ask the Club to host their show; a discussion followed regarding the Club's capability to do it in terms of membership and space.

- Shop Report: Bruce Mensinger informed the small flat lap was working after extensive modifications.
- Program Report: Ken Rogers provided the schedule of programs through January: jade carving and collecting in October, copper in November, Holiday Party in December, and Walt Lombardo in January.
- The Nominating Committee for the 2017 Officers election was formed (Grace Sato, Jette Sorensen, Rick Shaffer, and Felice Ganz). A discussion followed about the need to consult the bylaws for the terming out of elected officers.

The Meeting adjourned at 7:23 pm.

Submitted by Ana Maria S. Guimaraes
Recording Secretary

**MINUTES of the GENERAL MEETING
September 12**

The meeting was called to order at 7:35 pm by vice-president Steve Dover.

- The Pledge of Allegiance was made and a quorum was established.
- The August general meeting minutes published in the September Nugget were approved as read.
- Guests were introduced.
- Franne Einberg presented the silent auction results.
- Information was provided about the workshops. The intarsia workshop was full; a second workshop might become available if there is enough interest. The Beginning Lapidary workshop in September was also full but there were available spots in the October session.

The meeting was adjourned 7:42 pm.

Submitted by Ana Maria S. Guimaraes
Recording Secretary

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.....www.culvercityrocks.org

Elected Officers for 2016

President - Darrell Robb
Vice President - Steve Dover
Treasurer - Franne Einberg
Recording Secretary - Ana Maria Guimaraes
Corresponding Secretary - Jan Ferguson
Historian - Bruce Mensinger
Parliamentarian - Woody Shaffer

Committee Chairs:

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

Board of Directors:

(2016) Steve Dover - Leda Rogers
(2017) Bruce Mensinger - Ana Maria Guimaraes
(2018) Rick Shaffer - Jette Sorensen

Contact Us: (310) 836-4611
P.O. Box 3324, Culver City, CA 90231

<http://www.culvercityrocks.org>
www.facebook.com/CCRM
www.twitter.com/culvercityrocks
<https://groups.yahoo.com/neo/groups/CCRM/info>

MEETING SCHEDULE

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

*Consult the Nugget or the website for occasional location changes

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 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.)

| | |
|-------------------|---------|
| Replacement badge | \$15.00 |
|-------------------|---------|

SHOP INFORMATION

The shop is open to 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 FOCCSH building (Boy Scout clubhouse) and next to the paddle tennis courts)

Shop Phone: (310) 836-4611

Hours:

Tuesday 7 pm – 9:30 pm - TBD check the website

Wednesday 10 am – 2 pm - By appointment,

see www.culvercityrocks.org/lapshop.htm

Thursday 10 am – 2 pm - TBD check the website

Saturday Noon – 4 pm - Lynne Lukert

Sunday Noon – 4 pm - Jette Sorensen

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

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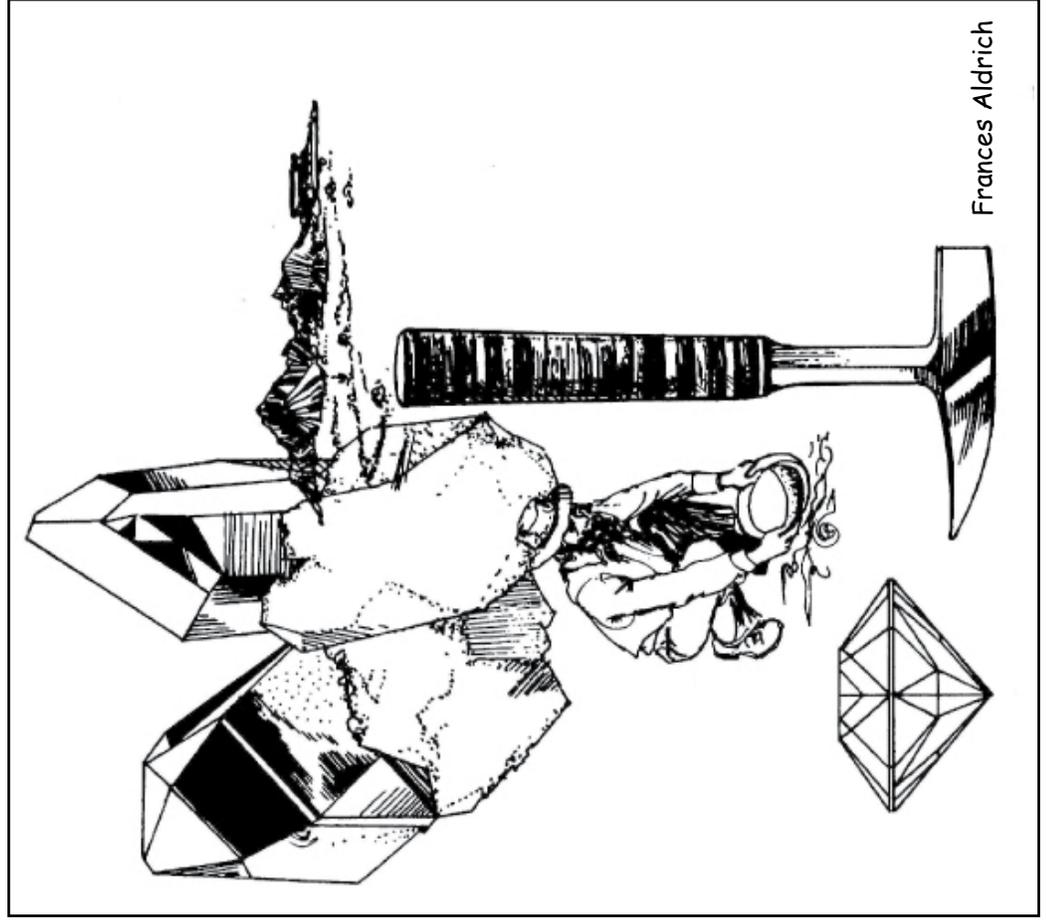
CULVER CITY, CALIFORNIA, USA

CULVER CITY ROCK & MINERAL CLUB, INC

Address Change Requested

The Nugget
P.O. Box 3324
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FIRST CLASS



Frances Aldrich