

the NUGGET

DECEMBER 2016

Members' Annual Holiday Party

Monday, December 12
6:00 pm Mingling

6:30 pm Dinner, followed by installation of
officers and White Elephant Gift Exchange
Culver City Rotary Plaza
5100 Overland Avenue
Culver City



Please bring a side dish or dessert to share and whatever (non-alcoholic) beverage you want. Ham, turkey and utensils are provided.

Also, bring a wrapped gift to participate in the White Elephant gift exchange.



Park in the street, not in the Rotary Plaza parking area.

The evening will wrap up at 9 pm.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Greetings and holiday cheer fellow Club Members and rock hounds!

It is always with a wisp of nostalgia that I look back on the year past and recall the fun meetings, wonderful speakers, the terrific Fiesta of Gems and the camaraderie of our silent auctions, picnic in the park and of course the year-ending Holiday Party. The nostalgia comes from memories of time spent with all our members and the opportunities to meet talented speakers, guests with similar interests and the many shows, exhibits, and lectures we all have a chance to visit within such a short distance here in Southern California. My only sadness is that each year seems shorter and we have so much yet to see in the coming years!

To all our volunteers in the Club that keep our mission on course throughout the year... a standing round of applause! Without your tireless effort, none of our meetings or events would happen.

To all our elected officers and all the key committee chairs that continue making this such a fun club, THANK YOU! You all teach me so much about geology and the lapidary arts that anticipating upcoming meetings and time in the shop becomes a joy.

I hope everyone enjoyed the presentations of the past year and will give pause sometime at this holiday year-end and reflect on how we can make the club more fun for everyone. Please consider serving on any of the committees and help lift the burden from those that serve year after year. Everyone does their part out of love and fun; let's all help toward keeping it simple and stress free for all.

President's Message continued

I truly look forward to seeing each and every one at the Holiday Party December 12th at the Rotary Plaza at 6:00 pm.

For those who are unable to attend, here's wishing you a joyous holiday season and cheers to a very happy New Year!

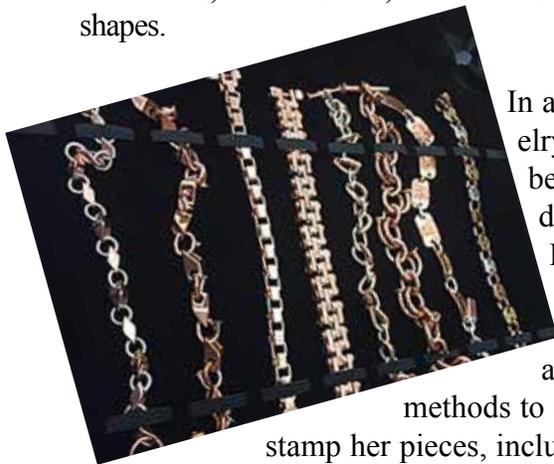
Darrell Robb
President

PROGRAM REPORT November 14

The November Program featured Deidre, The Copper Doctor. She is an artist who has been making copper jewelry for approximately twenty years and promoting copper's curative powers.

Deidre began her lecture by showing how she evolved as an artist, working with a variety of concepts and media from childhood through college. Her interest in copper started as a child, collecting copper pennies with her grandmother.

She walked the audience through the evolution of her creative process, inspired by her love of machinery and geometry, starting with wire wrapping and moving into making beads, the shapes and application of which varied over time: from square beads, to tubes, twisted tubes, pyramid tubes, diamond cuts, twisted nails and many other shapes.



In addition to jewelry, she has now been making dream-catchers. Deidre showed the audience the tools she uses and explained her methods to cut, shape and stamp her pieces, including occasionally taking them to a hot spring to obtain a blackish finish. Interesting videos, photos and beautiful samples accompanied Deidre's presentation.

Submitted by Ana Maria S. Guimaraes
Recording Secretary

MINERAL REPORT

Sphen-omenal!

Titanite is named after its high titanium content, but is also known as sphene, from the Greek word for wedge. Sphene fell out of scientific style after a 1982 International Mineralogical Association ruling, but it persists in informal settings.

Titanite is a nesosilicate, meaning that its silicate tetrahedra are connected only by the interstitial cations in the mineral's atomic framework. It crystallizes in the monoclinic system, in the prismatic crystal class, with H-M symbol 2/m. Crystals are typically flattened wedge-shapes, and twinning is common.



Image Attribution: Rob Lavinsky, Rocks.com - CC-BY-SA-3.0

Unusually, titanite crystals have resinous to adamantine luster. Titanite has distinct cleavage in one direction, and parting in one other direction. It exhibits sub-conchoidal fracture, with a Mohs hardness of 5. In thin section, titanite is biaxial positive, often with high relief, and has a birefringence between 0.105 and 0.135.

Titanite ranges from translucent to transparent. It can be reddish brown, gray, yellow, green or red. Gem-quality titanite is typically chartreuse, brown, or black. However, gem-quality titanite is rare, and it is too soft to be common in jewelry. Additionally, it can contain radioactive elements.

Titanite is commonly an accessory mineral in intermediate to felsic igneous rocks and their associated pegmatites. It is also common in metamorphic gneiss-

Continued on page 3

Mineral Report continued
es, schists, and skarns. Within the US, it can be found in Maine, New York, and California.

Commercially, titanite is a source of titanium dioxide, which is a white pigment. It is used in paint, sunscreen, and food coloring. Scientifically, titanite is useful as a Uranium-Lead geochronometer.

Minda Moe
Mineral Chair

DECEMBER WORKSHOPS

Beginning Lapidary

Make a cabochon! Learn the steps necessary to take a slab through the process of grinding and polishing to create your own beautiful oval cabochon using machines in the Shop. Slabs are provided.

Sunday, December 11

Time: 9 am to Noon

Location: CCRMC Shop

Instructor: Jette Sorensen

Tuition: \$20.00 per student
per session.

CCRMC Members only



Limited to 3 members per session.

You are welcome to stay beyond Noon, however, you will need to pay posted Shop fees.

To reserve a spot, send an email to
workshops@culvercityrocks.org

BENCH TIPS

LOOSE HEADS

Flying off the handle is never good, particularly if it's a hammer head. The traditional way to tighten a loose hammer head is a bit of work with wedges, but if the head is basically secure, there's a fast and easy way to tighten a loose head for about 50 cents - superglue.

Simply put a couple drops in from the handle side, let it set up, and then a few drops from the top side. Be sure to get the thin super glue, not gel. It penetrates

better. Packages of two superglues are usually available at the 99 cent store.

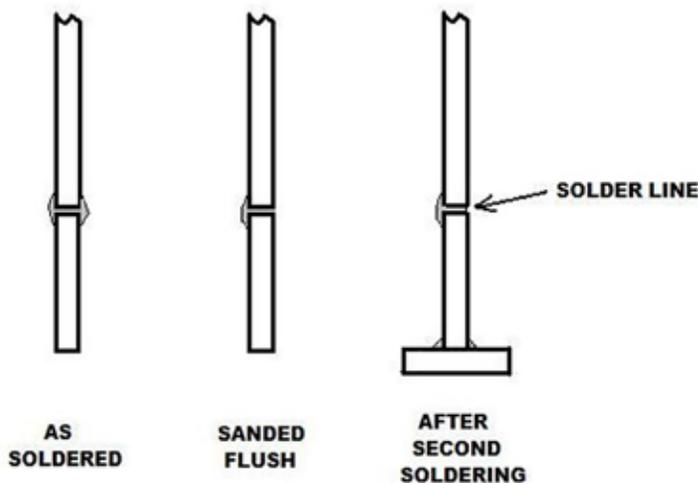
Note that this is only a safe practice if the hammer



head is just a little loose but is basically secured onto the handle. Gluing is not a fix for a hammer head that has come off the handle or is at risk of coming off.

AVOIDING SOLDER LINES

After finishing a soldered joint on say a bezel, have you ever seen it reappear after you've soldered the bezel to a base plate? What's happening is that every



time you heat a soldered piece to the temperature where solder flows, the liquid solder seeps a little

Continued Page 4

Bench Tips continued

more into the surrounding metal. This leaves a small furrow where the solder had been sanded off flush at the joint. To get rid of the furrow, you have to re-sand the joint area down to the bottom of the furrow.

To avoid this when I have another soldering operation to follow, I try to leave a little extra solder on my joints. For instance, when trimming off excess base plate from around a bezel, I leave a paper thickness of excess plate material whenever possible until I'm done with all soldering.

Of course, this isn't always possible as when a soldering operation will prevent you from gaining access to an area for final sanding and polishing. Coating the finished solder joint with ochre seems to help a bit but is not a complete solution.

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



Floyd C. Banks	1-Dec
Edmondo A. Coronel	1-Dec
Carrie Friedman	1-Dec
Sonam Dolma	3-Dec
Robert Willett	3-Dec
Max Hippensteel	5-Dec
Virginia Hollis	6-Dec
Damon Pressman	8-Dec
Marilyn M. Matthews	9-Dec
Yvette Marie Trinh	9-Dec
Ellen Moe	10-Dec
Laura Fiet	10-Dec
Rosemarie Ihde	14-Dec
James Samatas	20-Dec

SHOP NEWS

Shop schedule

Check our website, www.culvercityrocks.org, 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.

Peck drill repaired

The peck drill, that is stored on the shelf above the main workbench, far right-hand side, is repaired and ready for use. The problem was due to a set screw loosening which lead to heavy wear on the peck mechanism. Ultimately, the mechanism locked-up and only slippage of the belt saved the machine from locking-up completely or serious damage.

This malfunction was not reported to an instructor. As I have stated previously, report broken or malfunctioning equipment and tools. It is the only way to insure the safety and ability to work. You will get in far more trouble for not reporting than for breaking or wearing-out equipment and tools.

Before using any equipment or machine get instruction; many of our machines have been modified and work differently than factory stock machines. Don't assume, for example, that the big saws all work the same, they don't. All Shop users count on you, as you count on them, to use all shop equipment appropriately so that it is ready for the next user. That includes cleanup after use.

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.

On behalf of the Shop Committee,
Bruce Mensinger

LOOKING AHEAD

Walt Lombardo is scheduled to give a presentation on Birthstones at our January 9 meeting.

MINUTES of the EXECUTIVE MEETING November 14

Those present: Steve Dover, Franne Einberg, Jan Ferguson, Felice Ganz, Ana Maria S. Guimaraes, Hellena Jones-Elbling, Bruce Mensinger, Darrell Robb, Ken Rogers, Leda Rogers, Grace Sato, Mary Ellen Shaffer, Rick Shaffer, Woody Shaffer, Jette Sorensen, Joyce Watanabe.

Meeting called to order by President Darrell Robb at 6:45 pm.

- The October executive meeting minutes published in the November Nugget were approved as read.
- Nomination Committee Report: Rick Shaffer informed that Brad Smith and Grace Sato were nominated to serve on the Board of Directors beginning 2019. In addition, Alexa Hunter had been nominated for the Education Chair and Hans Baumann for the Field Trip Chair. Mr. Shaffer said the CFMS had their committee chairs explain their duties during the meetings, as a way to get members interested in serving. He proposed that the Club adopt the same practice and Darrell Robb volunteered to start in January.
- A discussion followed about potential means of making members who use the shop more engaged in meetings and other Club activities. A motion was approved to implement a welcome letter to new members beginning in January explaining the various Club activities and expectations for members.
- Treasurer Report: Franne Einberg informed the Club was solvent. She inquired about the contract for the multi-purpose room for 2017; Darrell Robb replied it should be provided by the end of November.
- Membership Report: co-chair Leda Rogers explained she could no longer commit to attending every meeting and a second person was needed to serve as membership co-chair in her absence.
- Photography Chair: Bruce Mensinger informed he had been working on the post card for the 2017

show and would circulate design options to the group for voting shortly.

- Programs Report: Ken Rogers informed the December program would be the Holiday Party and in January Walt Lombardo would lecture about the history of birth stones. It was determined that in February there would be a silent auction.
- Publications Report: Jette Sorensen reported she has not yet found a cheaper alternative to print and mail the Nugget.
- Shop Committee Report: Bruce Mensinger reported the water heater plumbing had been replaced and that he had been replacing hoses and tubes on the polishing machines to reduce water waste.
- Social Chair: Grace Sato indicated she would make an announcement at the general meeting about what was needed for the holiday party. Rick Shaffer suggested publishing in the Nugget not only the start time of the party but also the time when dinner would be served.
- A motion was approved to donate \$250 to the Culver City Senior Citizens Association for them to purchase holiday gifts and grocery gift cards for those in need.
- Library Report: There was a discussion about purchasing two DVDs on shows about gems and metals published by PBS and use them as one of the monthly programs. Rick Shaffer committed to verifying whether the CFMS had them before the Club purchased them.

The meeting adjourned at 7:32 pm.

Submitted by Ana Maria S. Guimaraes
Recording Secretary

MINUTES of the GENERAL MEETING November 14

The meeting was called to order at 7:50 pm by president Darrell Robb.

Continued on page 6

MEMBERSHIP MEETING MINUTES continued

- The Pledge of Allegiance was made and a quorum was established.
- The October general meeting minutes published in the November Nugget were approved, with the following correction: "Johnny Hjorth volunteered for the Parliamentarian position."
- A motion was approved to donate \$250 to the Culver City Senior Citizens Association for them to purchase holiday gifts and grocery gift cards for those in need.
- Jette Sorensen announced upcoming workshops on Saturday, November 19 (riveting) and Sunday, November 20 (beginning lapidary)
- Gary Mitchell announced there would be a trading post that evening with seven items raffled.
- Leda Rogers asked for a volunteer to serve as membership co-chair alongside her; Stephanie Dangott volunteered.
- (The meeting was interrupted at approximately 8 pm due to a fire alarm, and resumed at 8:15 pm.)
- Hellena Jones-Elbling announced the next Fiesta of Gems would take place on July 8-9, to avoid conflict with other events at the venue which take over parking. She asked members to donate one or two \$5-\$10 prizes for the hourly door prize raffles. Donations could be dropped off at the shop or brought to the meetings. Ms. Jones-Elbling also reported there would be a layout of the vendors available to attendees, and that although there would not be a food truck, there would be a new 7-11 store across the street.
- Grace Sato reminded that the Holiday Party would take place at the Rotary Plaza. She said the Club provided turkey, ham and water and Club members provide side dishes, dessert and non-alcoholic beverages. Ms. Sato informed volunteers were needed to help set up beginning 5 pm, the party would begin at 6 pm and dinner would be served at 6:30 pm. She mentioned the traditional white elephant gift exchange as well as the 2017

officers installation would take place at the party. Rick Shaffer conducted the elections of the 2017 Officers. He listed all the nominated candidates and solicited additional nominations; none were made.

The following 2017 officers were nominated and elected:

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

The following officers were elected for the 2019 Board of Directors:

Brad Smith and Grace Sato

The following 2017 Chairmen were elected:

Education: Alexa Hunter
Federation: Rick Shaffer.
Field Trips: Hans Baumann
Librarian: Bruce Mensinger
Membership: Brad Smith (Chair)
Leda Rogers and Stephanie Dangott (co-chairs)
Minerals: Minda Moe
Photography: Bruce Mensinger
Programs: Ken Rogers
Publications: (Co-chairs) Jette Sorensen
Barbara Fier, Jan Ferguson
Publicity: Janice Metz
Show: Hellena Jones-Elbling (elected in August)
Social: Grace Sato (Chair),
Joyce Watanabe (co-chair)
Sunshine: Felice Ganz
Trading Post: Gary Mitchell
Webmaster: Jette Sorensen
Workshop: Jette Sorensen

- Rick Shaffer informed that, following the CFMS example, beginning in January officers would describe their duties at the meetings, in order to inform members and gather interest. He also mentioned that during membership renewal, members would be solicited to indicate how they were

Continued on page 7

General Meeting Minutes continued
interested in serving the Club.

- Ken Rogers informed that in addition to the regular raffle, the guest speaker would raffle prizes as well.
- Seven guests were introduced.

The meeting adjourned at 8:53 pm.

Submitted by Ana Maria S. Guimaraes
Recording Secretary

ANATOMY OF A WHITE ELEPHANT GIFT

PICK A GIFT



STEAL? MAYBE, MAYBE NOT



STOLEN! OFF TO NEW ADVENTURES



DECEMBER SHOWS

December 3 - 4, LAKESIDE, CA
El Cajon Valley Gem & Mineral Society
Lakeside Rodeo Grounds
12584 Mapleview Street
Hours: 9 - 4 daily
Mary Ness, (619) 449-0759
Email: ecvgms@gmail.com
Website: www.ecvgms.org

December 3 - 4: BARSTOW, CA
Mojave Desert Gem & Mineral Society
Cora Harper Community Center
841 S. Barstow Road
Hours: 10 - 5 daily
Contact: Danny Watts, (760) 373-1309
Email: dvwatts@msn.com
Website: www.mdgms.net

December 9 - 10: RIALTO, CA
Orange Belt Mineralogical Society
City Hall Lot
105 South Palm Avenue
Hours: 9 - Dusk daily
Contact: Jessica Pierson, (909) 381-0089
Email: OBMSTailgateInfo@gmail.com
Website: <http://OBMSrocks.yolasite.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.....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 - Rick Shaffer

Wednesday 10 am – 2 pm - By appointment,

see www.culvercityrocks.org/lapshop.htm

Thursday 10 am – 2 pm - Jan Ferguson

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

VOLUME 57

CULVER CITY ROCK & MINERAL CLUB

ISSUE 12

DEC 2016



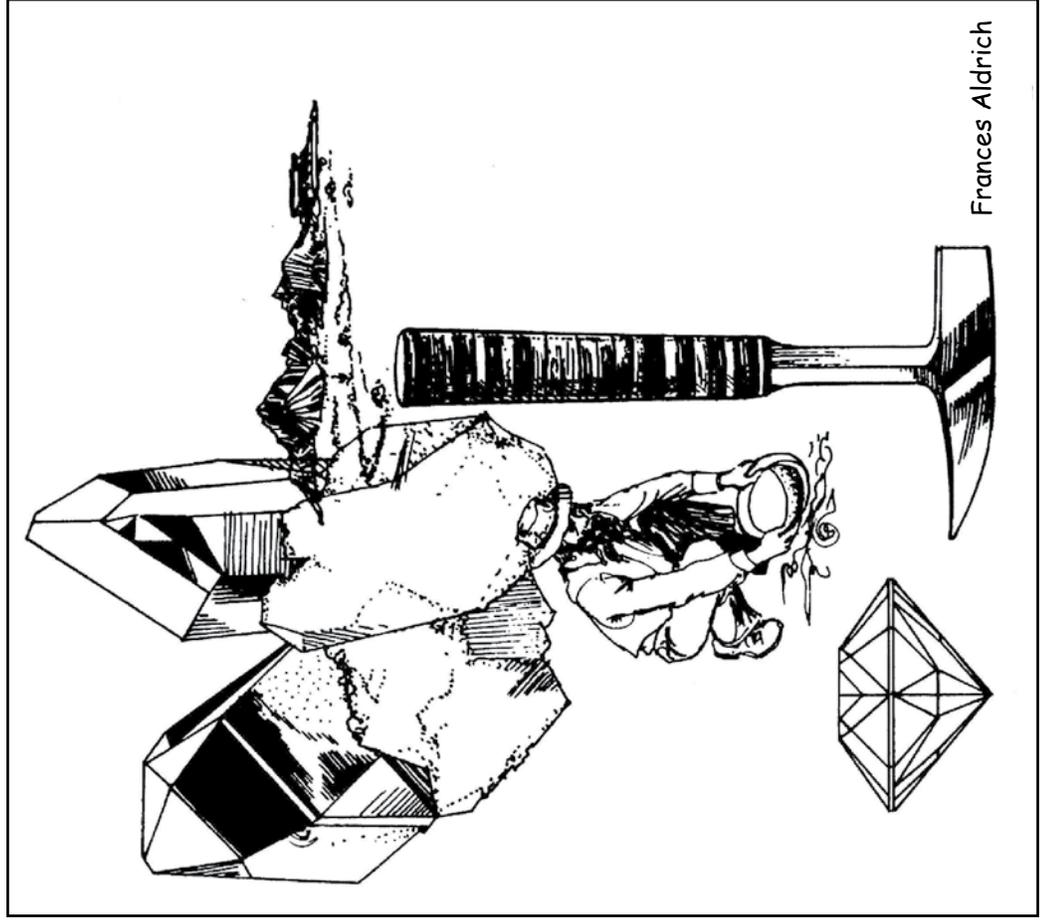
CULVER CITY, CALIFORNIA, USA

CULVER CITY ROCK & MINERAL CLUB, INC

Address Change Requested

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

FIRST CLASS



Frances Aldrich