

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



**OCTOBER 2014**



**Monday, October 13, 2014**  
**6:30 pm Executive Meeting**  
**7:30 pm General Meeting and Program:**  
**"Improving Your Specimen and Jewelry Photography"**

**OCTOBER 13 PROGRAM**

*Stan Sholik presents*  
**Improving Your Specimen and  
Jewelry Photography**

*A visual "how to" from a working professional  
photographer*

Over the past four decades, Stan Sholik has been a well-respected commercial, advertising and illustrative photographer, working in and out of his Orange County studio.

Early in his career, Stan began specializing in close-up/macro photography, plus motion-simulation and in-camera photocomposition. Over the years Stan's professional photography has tended to concentrate on close-up and macro photography, including jewelry, precious stones and mineral specimens, plus food, computer chips and medical devices, such as intraocular lenses.

Stan has also gained a reputation as a writer on both conventional and digital imaging topics. His first book, *Close-up and Macro Photography Handbook*, was published by Amherst Media, Inc. in 2000. Stan's 7th book, also published by Amherst, was just released this summer. It is titled, *Shoot Macro: Techniques for Photography Up Close*. Stan is a self-taught photographer and was an early expert in (pre-Photoshop) computer image manipulation. Stan holds a BS degree in Physics and an MA in English from Carnegie Institute of Technology in Pittsburgh, PA.

In his visual presentation, Stan will show how he approaches the photography of jewelry and specimens in his work, and how you can adapt his techniques with low-cost equipment to improve your photography.

**PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE**

One of my favorite rock shows is coming up soon and features a couple of field trips for crystals that are found nowhere else. The show is Trona, CA on October 11 & 12 and the dig is on Searles Dry Lake for the world famous pink salt crystals. See some examples at [www1.iwvisp.com/tronagemclub](http://www1.iwvisp.com/tronagemclub)

This is a trip that's fun for the whole family, so bring the kids (>10 yrs or so). All the details can be found at <http://www1.iwvisp.com/tronagemclub/GEM-O-RAMA.htm> including what tools and clothing to bring. Street cars are fine for driving out to the lake.

Trona is about 170 miles northeast of LA, quite a drive but definitely worth the trip. I have camped for free near town and out near Pinacles or have overnighted at a motel in nearby Ridgecrest. Pack up the family or grab a friend and enjoy a quirky weekend in Trona. You will not soon forget the experience!

**Brad Smith**  
**President**

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Stan will demonstrate how to build up lighting for specific subjects, how to choose backgrounds, what cameras and lenses are suited for this type of photography, and discuss how simple photos can be transformed into dramatic images with post-production



computer techniques. Stan will have copies of his new book available for purchase and will autograph them.

Image from his website:  
[www.stansholik.com](http://www.stansholik.com)

**Charlene Aspray**  
**Program Chair**

## MINERAL REPORT

### Naica's Crystal Treasure: Selenite

Selenite is a variety of the mineral gypsum, though other crystalline varieties of the mineral can be grouped under the term "selenite."

Selenite's name is derived from the Ancient Greek word for the moon, selene. While it shares this root with the mineral selenium, selenite does not contain any significant amounts of selenium.

Selenite can be brownish green, brownish yellow, green, gray, or white. It ranks as a 2 on the Mohs scale of hardness, as it is a form of gypsum, the defining mineral. It can be easily scratched with a fingernail.

As it is a variety of gypsum, selenite is frequently found in alkaline lake muds, claybeds, salt flats, and various other former bodies of water. It is frequently found in association with copper, sulfur, calcite, limestone, and opal.

Selenite is most often transparent and colorless. Very thin, mica-like sheets of selenite have been used as glass panes. Any opacity or color is caused by the presence of other minerals, or inclusions. Some selenite crystals have inclusions such as interior druse, dendrites, or fossils. In very rare instances, water may have been trapped during the crystal's formation, and will stay in the stone as a fluid inclusion. Fibrous satin spar selenite exhibits chatoyancy, or cat's eye effect.

A working lead, zinc, and silver mine in Chihuahua, Mexico is known for its fantastic selenite crystals. The Naica Mine contains caverns which contain selenite crystals, the largest of which are 4 feet in diameter. Some of these extraordinary crystals have grown to a length of 50 feet! The caves are extraordinarily hot, and remain closed to the public.

**Minda Moe  
Mineral Chair**



Selenite crystals in the Naica Mine. Image source: Wikipedia.

## SHOP NEWS

### Shop Schedule

The shop will be open as scheduled, except some Wednesdays when it might be closed. Continue to check our website for closures and time changes at [www.culvercityrocks.org](http://www.culvercityrocks.org), our Facebook page or Yahoo group or call the shop (310-836-4611) after the scheduled opening time to confirm that an instructor has arrived.

### Equipment Availability

The blade in the 24-inch saw was seriously damaged when a rock being cut was dislodged from the vise. I can often repair bent blades but the usual methods failed. After removing the blade it became clear the problem was far more serious than first suspected and was not entirely due to the accident. Previous damage, dishing which makes the flat blade

start to resemble a musician's cymbal, had occurred and may be the cause of the final blade-bending accident. The prognosis for the damaged blade: repair doubtful. The blade was new eight months ago and has estimated 85% of its diamond edge remaining.

Dishing is caused when the cut is started with the entry of the blade offset from the flat plane of the blade. This typically occurs when the blade enters the rock after sliding 'down hill' on a sloped rock face due to not starting the kerf or starting the kerf in an offset from inline with the neutral or 'rest' position of the blade. Once started, the cut proceeds offset; due to the way lapidary blades are made no significant realignment occurs. At first, the blade can flex like a spring, but as the cut gets deeper and closer to the center of the blade the offset must be absorbed over a shorter distance; which translates into a steeper bend angle and, ultimately, exceeding the blade's elastic limit. Flex becomes bending, friction force increases causing excessive heat and something has to yield or break. In this instance I suspect that the blade, deep in the cut, became starved for cooling oil, overheated and warped causing severe binding which pulled the rock from the vise.

continued next page

SHOP NEWS continued from page 2

We had a new blade in stock ready for this kind of event and it is installed and ready for your use. When using the slab saws, please start the kerf correctly for every cut.

As of September 16 (when I was last at the shop before writing this report) all shop equipment is in good working order and ready for you to use.

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**

**ANNUAL CLUB PICNIC**



**Photos from the Annual Club Picnic and Silent Auction on Sept. 20.** Photos by Bruce Mensinger

**OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS**



Carole Sumler	10/02
Ivan Rozo	10/12
Leobardo Cortes	10/15
Marilyn White	10/17
Holly Westhoff	10/20
Amanda L. Jones	10/24
Nickie Jessup	10/25
Gary M. Willens	10/25
Steven K. Dover	10/27

**MEMBERSHIP REPORT**

Welcome to our newest member:  
Christi Billups



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## MINUTES of the EXECUTIVE MEETING September 8, 2014

- Those present: Steve Dover, Felice Ganz, Ana Maria Guimaraes, Bruce Mensinger, Ellen Moe, Minda Moe, Darrell Robb, Leda Rogers, Mary Ellen Shaffer, and Jette Sorensen.
- The meeting was called to order at 6:44 pm by Steve Dover.
- The August executive meeting minutes published in the September Nugget were approved as read.
- Social Report: Steve Dover reminded that the summer picnic would take place on 9/20. A discussion followed on whether the quantity of hamburgers and beverages the Club had was sufficient. Darrell Robb committed to bring a case of water.
- 2015 Officers Slate: Steve Dover informed that volunteers were needed for the Nomination Committee and that Jette Sorensen was the appointed temporary chairman of the committee. Darrell Robb volunteered to be President of the Club in 2015. Jette Sorensen indicated that one of the members had volunteered to be Treasurer. Mary Ellen Shaffer said she could not continue as Social Chairman in 2015. An Education Chairman was also needed.
- Field Trips: Ellen Moe indicated that the members' interest in field trips had been low; also other clubs had not been advertising trips. She recommended asking members to commit to leading one field trip, and informed she would be collecting sign-ups for a trip to Sierra Pelona's rose quartz mine on 9/20.
- Membership Report: Felice Ganz reported she, along with Jette Sorensen and Charlene Aspray, were researching alternatives to the current badge supplier, in response to the impending price raise. Mary Ellen Shaffer said she had also been researching. Ms. Ganz indicated the current supplier had not been responsive to her requests for a proposal on badge designs less costly to produce. Darrell Robb committed to contacting the supplier in person.
- New Business: Mary Ellen Shaffer suggested the Club should purchase a microphone. Bruce Mensinger said he believed the Club already had two microphones.
- Other: Ellen Moe thanked Bruce Mensinger for his suggestion to request donations during the Club show to pay for the geodes for the kids, as the idea had been very successful. The meeting adjourned at 7:23 pm.

Submitted by **Ana Maria Guimaraes**  
**Recording Secretary**

## MINUTES of the GENERAL MEETING September 8, 2014

- The meeting was called to order at 7:32pm, the pledge of allegiance was held and a quorum was established.
- One guest was introduced.
- The August general meeting minutes published in the September Nugget were approved as read.
- Ellen Moe announced a trip to Sierra Pelona's rose quartz mine, which she would coordinate for 9/20. She would send information to those who signed up.
- Jette Sorensen informed she would be sending email messages to the Club members to request them to sign up for the various committee chairs in 2015, such as field trips, education, parliamentarian, show, and co-chairs for the social and trading post committees. The Vice-President position was also open for the 2015 officers election. Ms. Sorensen asked that new people volunteer for the chairs, which have been occupied by the same group of people for quite some time.
- Steve Dover announced that the Club's summer picnic would take place on 9/20 from 10 am to 4 pm at the Lindberg Park in Culver City and informed that the Club would provide hamburgers, hot dogs and buns, while members should bring a side dish, salad or dessert. He added that a silent auction would also take place at the picnic.
- Steve Dover thanked guest speakers Richard and Mary Pat Webber for donating two amethysts for that evening's raffle.
- Felice Ganz asked those who were expecting to receive a badge to see her during the break.
- Gary Mitchell announced he would donate mineral specimens he collected on a trip to Owens Lake and offered to lead a field trip to that location.
- Gary Mitchell announced that member Scott Belkin had passed away and his mother wished to sell his mineral collection and donate the proceeds to a mental health foundation. Leda Rogers indicated she would send a condolence card to her.
- Ken Rogers informed that the October speaker would be Stan Sholik, author of the book "Shoot Macro: Professional Macro Photography Techniques for Exceptional Studio Images", who would discuss

continued next page

techniques for photographing gem and mineral specimens.

• A break was taken at 7:50 pm and a raffle was held before the meeting resumed for the September Program.

Submitted by **Ana Maria Guimaraes**  
**Recording Secretary**

## PROGRAM REPORT

Ken Rogers introduced the September guest speakers, Richard and Mary Pat Webber, who are retired geologists from Minnesota. They discussed the uniqueness of the amethysts found in Thunder Bay, Ontario. In those amethysts, iron ions replace silicon ions in the amethyst crystals. The iron then receives a low amount of natural radiation, producing the rouge color in the iron cap within the crystal structure. The iron forms small dots or circular patterns inside the crystal of the amethyst. Thunder Bay amethysts can only be mined during three months out of the year, as the land is frozen otherwise. They are difficult to find in the US, as they are mostly exported to Europe. The presentation was very engaging and illustrated by beautiful, close-up photographs of amethyst specimens and the mine area, as well as a stunning collection of amethyst specimens.

Submitted by **Ana Maria Guimaraes**  
**Recording Secretary**

**Help Wanted!**  
**Culver City Rock & Mineral Club**  
**Volunteers Needed**

**Get involved**  
**Have fun**  
**Meet new people**

**For information, please email:**  
**webmaster@culvercityrocks.org**

## UPCOMING SHOWS

### October 1 – 5: Joshua Tree, CA

Hi-Desert Rockhounds of Moronga Valley  
Sportsman's Club of Joshua Tree  
6225 Sunburst Street  
9 - 6 daily  
Email: HiDesertRockhounds@gmail.com  
www.jtsportsmansclub.com/gemshow.htm

### October 10 - 12: Reno, NV

Reno Gem & Mineral Society Craft Show  
Reno Town Hall, Peckham & So. Virginia St  
Fri 10 - 6; Sat 10 - 5; Sun 10 - 3  
Email: theresalanghans@yahoo.com  
www.renorockhounds.com

### October 11 - 12: Trona, CA

Searles Lake Gem & Mineral Society  
Gem & Mineral Building, 13337 Main Street  
Sat 7:30 - 5; Sun 7:30 - 4  
Email: slgms@iwvisp.com  
Website: www1.iwvisp.com/tronagemclub

### October 18: West Hills, CA

Woodland Hills Rock Chippers  
First United Methodist Church  
22700 Sherman Way, 10 am - 5 pm  
Email: info@rockchippers.org  
Website: www.rockchippers.org

### October 18 -19: Whittier, CA

Whittier Gem & Mineral Society  
Whittier Community Center  
7630 Washington Avenue  
10 - 5 daily  
Contact: Marcia Goetz (626) 914-5030

### October 25 - 26: Cayucos, CA

San Luis Obispo Gem & Mineral Club  
Cayucos Vets Hall, 10 Cayucos Drive  
9 - 5 daily  
Email: kimnoyes@gmail.com  
Website: www.slogem.org

### November 1 - 2: Oxnard, CA

Oxnard Gem & Mineral Society  
Oxnard Performing Arts Center, 800 Hobson Way  
Hours: Sat. 9 - 5; Sun. 10 - 4  
Email: ml\_tetrealult@hotmail.com  
Website: www.oxnardgem.com

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## BENCH TIPS

### Silver Discoloration

Working with jewelry involves an ever increasing number of skills. Chemistry is one of them that comes into play when dealing with a discoloration on the metal caused by a chemical reaction between it and the environment.

In the case of Sterling silver there are three discolorations we typically encounter: a tarnish, a firescale, and a firestain. Each is different in its cause, in its cure and in its prevention. All three have to do with the metals in the Sterling alloy (92.5% silver and 7.5% copper) and how they react with oxygen and the heat of soldering or with pollutants in the air over the long term.

Tarnish is a grayish coating that builds up slowly on the surface as a result of a reaction of the silver with sulfur-based compounds in the air. Typically these are pollutants from the burning of petroleum fuels, but they can come from other sources as well. I once tarnished all the silver in my display case by putting a pretty specimen of iron pyrite in with the jewelry. Turns out pyrite has sulfur in it! Sulfur combines with the silver to form a grayish silver sulfide film on the surface.

Preventing tarnish involves keeping sulfur away from the metal. Plastic bags will help, and anti-tarnish strips are available from jewelry supply companies to pack near your items. Tarnish is easily removed by hand polishing with a jeweler's cloth or with one of the products sold for cleaning the good silverware for holiday dinner.

Another way is to remove it chemically. Put a piece of aluminum in the bottom of a dish large enough to contain your piece. Heat enough water to cover the silver. Mix in 2 tablespoons of sodium carbonate per cup of water and pour into the dish. Be sure the silver touches the aluminum. Sodium carbonate is the main ingredient in washing soda. Read the labels in grocery and hardware stores.

The second type of tarnish is called firescale. It is the dark gray to charcoal colored film that forms on Sterling or other copper alloy like copper or bronze when we heat it with a torch. The copper in the alloy reacts with oxygen in the air to form a dark cupric oxide coating on the surface. Luckily, the oxide

is easily removed by dissolving it in a mild acid - generally called a pickle. It's important that we not let firescale form on a solder joint because it will block the flow solder over the joint.

Prevention can be done two ways. Most common is to use a flux, a borax-based solution applied to the metal before soldering. When melted, borax forms a thin glassy layer that keeps oxygen away from the metal. A second way is to do your soldering on a charcoal block. Together with the flame, charcoal greatly reduces the amount of oxygen in the area being soldered. In either case oxygen is prevented from reaching the metal, so no cupric oxide firescale is formed.

A second oxide can also be formed when soldering copper or a high copper content alloy like bronze or brass. It's called cuprous oxide and is reddish in color. That's why a black looking piece you put in the pickle sometimes comes out red. Problem is that while the black cupric oxide is dissolved by a pickle, the red cuprous oxide is not. The discoloration can be sanded or polished off, but an easier way is to use a "super pickle". This is a mixture of fresh pickle with a healthy shot of hydrogen peroxide from the local store.

I've saved the worst form of discoloration, firestain, for last. Think of firescale (above) as like getting dirt on your shirt that you have to wash off. Firestain is like getting ink on it. The discoloration is not just on the surface, it seeps down and stains the material. Firestain happens when we heat a piece of silver too hot, too long, and/or too many times.

Firestain occurs when the oxides start to build up below the surface of the metal. You generally don't notice it until after polishing. It appears as a darker area of the surface and is easy to spot when viewed under light bounced off a piece of white paper. Because firestain is below the surface, there's no easy bench tip solution. Depletion gilding may work for some pieces. Otherwise, removing it calls for sandpaper and aggressive polishing.

A much better approach for a piece that will require a large number of solderings is to protect the metal from developing firestain by applying liberal coats of a firecoat. Regular soldering flux will provide some protection but will not be as effective as preparations made specifically for the task.

*Get all 101 of Brad's bench tips in "Bench Tips for Jewelry Making" on Amazon.com or at <http://amazon.com/dp/0988285800/>*

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>

## Officers for 2014

President - Brad Smith  
Vice President - Steve Dover  
Treasurer - Darrell Robb  
Recording Secretary - Ana Maria Guimaraes  
Corresponding Secretary - Rick Shaffer  
Education - Joe Porrazzo  
Federation Director - Ellen Moe  
Field trips - Co-Chairs Rocky and Cole Rhodes  
Historian - Bruce Mensinger  
Librarian - Bruce Mensinger  
Membership - Felice Ganz  
Minerals - Minda Moe  
Parliamentarian - Jette Sorensen  
Photography - Bruce Mensinger  
Programs - Charlene Aspray  
Publications - Lynne Lukert  
Co-Chairs Barbara Fier and Jan Ferguson  
Publicity: Janice Metz  
Show - Brad Smith (Acting Show Chair)  
Shop Committee (President, Vice President,  
Committee members)  
Social - Mary Ellen Shaffer  
Co-Chair Grace Sato  
Sunshine - Leda Rogers  
Trading Post - Steve Dover, Co-Chair Minda Moe  
Web Master - Jette Sorensen

## Board of Directors:

Ellen Moe (2014)  
Bruce Mensinger (2014)  
Rick Shaffer (2015)  
Jette Sorensen (2015)

## Where to contact us:

Phone: (310) 836-4611

Snail Mail address: P.O. Box 3324

Culver City, CA 90231

FaceBook: [www.facebook.com/CCRMC](http://www.facebook.com/CCRMC)

Twitter: [www.twitter.com/culvercityrocks](http://www.twitter.com/culvercityrocks)

Yahoo Group: <http://groups.yahoo.com/neo/groups/ccrmc/>

## The Nugget

The deadline for all submissions is generally 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.

## 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, because of the Fiesta Of Gems show.

## DUES & FEES

### One time Initiation Fees:

Individuals	\$20.00
2 Persons/Same Address	\$25.00
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, check website for availability
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



# the NUGGET

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CULVER CITY ROCK & MINERAL  
CLUB, INC.



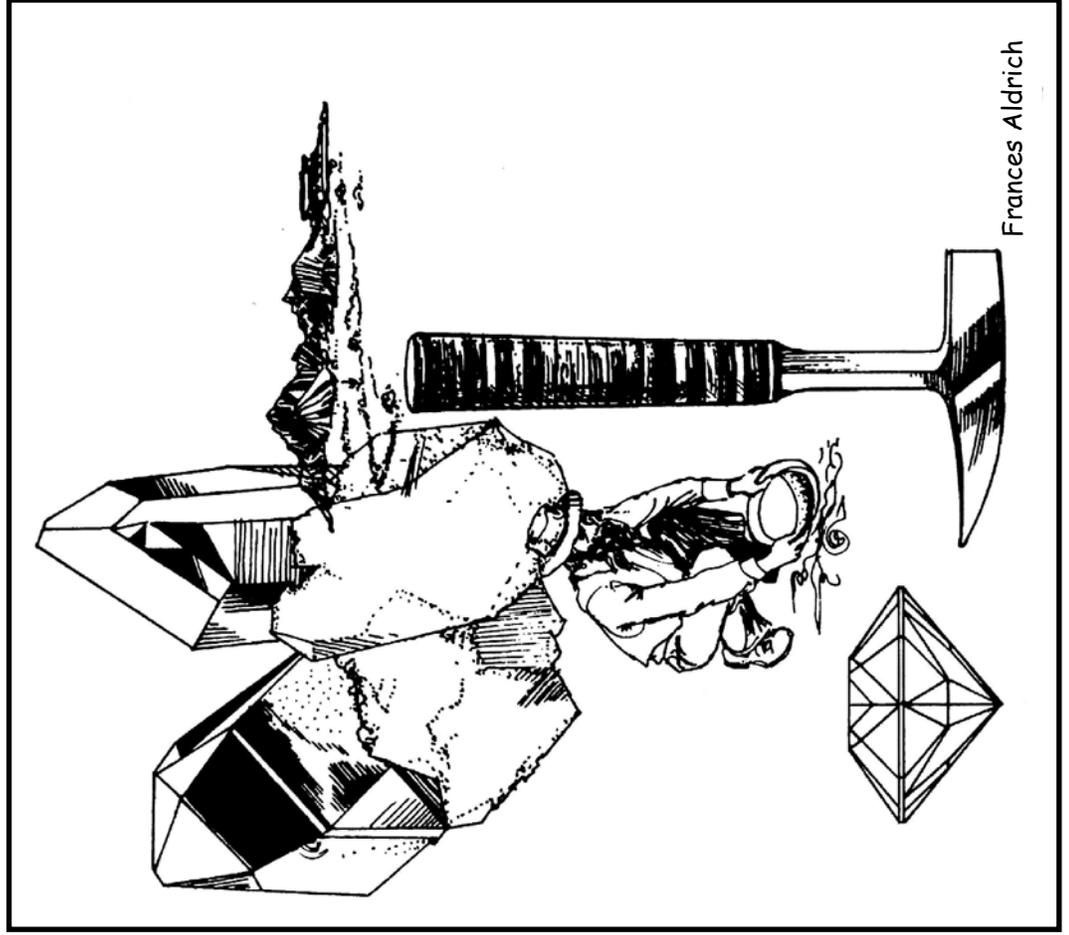
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FIRST CLASS

CULVER CITY ROCK & MINERAL CLUB

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Culver City, CA 90231



Frances Aldrich