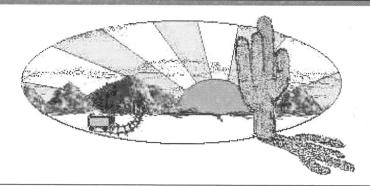
Arizona Mineral and Mining Museum Foundation News



Volume 18 Number 4

In Memory of A. L. Flagg

Summer's End, 2008

The Arizona Mineral and Mining Museum Foundation was formed to support the Arizona Mining and Mineral Museum.

Come to the Museum Family Day October 18, 2008

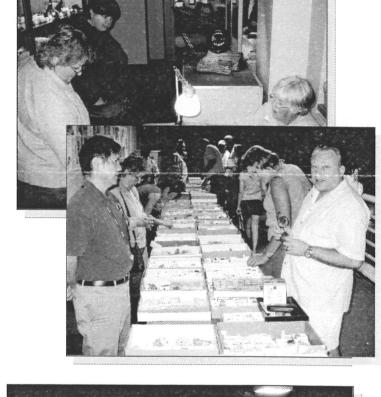
The annual family day will be held at the Arizona Mining and Mineral Museum on Saturday, October 18, 2008. The festivities will be from 10 AM to 4 PM.

There will be demonstrations of faceting, sphere making, and other crafts. Also, many kid's activities such as make a pet rock, make jewelry, and mineral identification. Family Day is sponsored by the Foundation and there will be a few dealers set up on the balcony.

Call Darrel Dodd at (480)575-5214 if you are interested in being a dealer (dealers must supply their own tables and the cost is \$25 for each table set up). The Foundation should also have a few things for sale.



Pictures from Family Day 2006 by Steve Decker





Join the Foundation

The Arizona Mineral and Mining Museum Foundation was formed to support the Arizona Mining and Mineral Museum. Over the years, many Benefactors have donated cherished collections, and though all are greatly appreciated, they can not all be displayed. We preserve what we can, and hold sales to allow others to add these treasures to their personal collections. The proceeds are used to acquire specimens and fund Museum projects.

Foundation Activities

The Foundation holds the Flagg Show each January at Mesa Community College, and hosts a Symposium each March on Arizona Minerals and Localities. A sale is held at the Museum in October in conjunction with The Museum Family Day. We go on field trips to working mines such as The Red Cloud, that might not be available to individual collectors.

Membership Application

Arizona Mineral & Mining Museum Foundation (A Memorial to A. L. Flagg)

For \$25 you can be a member and will be entitled to:

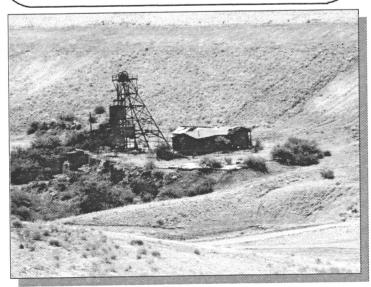
- ⇒ A one year subscription to the Foundation newsletter.
- ⇒ Free Admission to the Museum
- \Rightarrow A 10% discount at the Museum store for the year.
- ⇒ Invitation and a discount for special Foundation events, including the Annual Symposium.
- ⇒ Admission to Members-Only Pre-Sale Showings.
- \Rightarrow Invitation to Field Trips.
- ⇒ A Foundation membership card.

Name	
Address:	
City:	State:
Zip	
E-mail	
Phone: ()	
Interests	

Send This Form and \$25 To:
Arizona Mineral and Mining Museum Foundation
(A Memorial to A.L. Flagg)
P.O. Box 41834
Mesa, AZ 85274

Upcoming Events

Regular Foundation Meeting Thurs., Sept. 18, 2008 6:00 p.m.	Arizona Mining and Mineral Museum 1502 W. Washington St.
Collection Committee Meets on the Fourth Tuesday of Each Month	Arizona Mining and Mineral Museum 1502 W. Washington St. 7:00 p.m.
Museum Family Day - Saturday, Oct. 18, 2008 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.	Arizona Mining and Mineral Museum 1502 W. Washington St.
Mineral Donation Day Saturday Dec. 6, 2008 (see The Chairman's Letter on Page 3) 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.	Arizona Mining and Mineral Museum 1502 W. Washington St.
Flagg Gem and Mineral Show Friday, Saturday, Sunday, January 9, 10, and 11, 2009.	Mesa Community College
Seventeenth Annual Minerals of Arizona Symposium – Sat., March 21, 2009	Arizona Mining and Mineral Museum 1502 W. Washington St.



The Mohawk Mine head frame at Tiger

Chairman's Letter

Some of the most important activities of the Foundation are our annual sales. We sell donated minerals at the Flagg Show, the Symposium and at Family day in October. These are our major fund raising events for the year.

Producing The Flagg Show makes us a small profit, but not enough to cover our expenses for the year. The show is in part a public service, as we let all the clubs set up and find new members, raise funds, etc. There are many educational activities for children, and it is a promotion for the Museum.

We try to keep the cost of the annual Minerals of Arizona Symposium as low as possible so every one can attend. Some years we make a little and some years we are behind, but this part of our educational program, and our mineral sales make up the difference. You can see the sales are very important.

The point of all this is that we desperately need donations of specimens for our sales. To make things easier we will have a special **Donation Day at the Museum on Saturday December 6 from 11 AM to 4 PM**. You can bring your boxes of minerals to donate, we will have them appraised and write you a donation letter for tax purposes.

If you start now to sort through your minerals and put some aside for a donation, you may have a big tax deduction by the time you go to the Tucson Gem Show!

If you can't make it December 6, let us know and we will make arrangements to pick up your donation. Thank you all in advance for being generous and helping out.

AMMMF and John McCain by

by Ray Grant

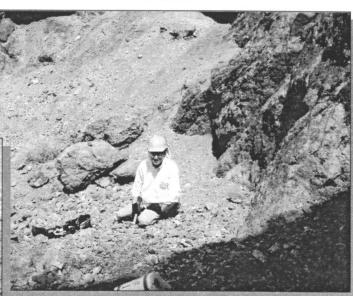
In 1988, Harvey Smith joined forces with the Flagg Foundation and the Arizona Mineral and Mining Museum Foundation was formed using the articles of incorporation of the Flagg Foundation.

Ed Flagg was the first chairman of the newly named group and Harvey Smith was vice-chairman and executive director. Harvey had plans to make the Mineral Museum a great place. He formed an Honorary Board for the Foundation and the chairman of this Honorary Board was John McCain, U.S. Senator – AZ.

John McCain's name and title appear on the stationary that Harvey designed for the new Foundation. I was not involved with the Foundation at this time and I have never seen correspondence with John McCain about the Foundation, but he must have agreed to take the honorary position for his name to be on our stationary. So it is possible that our Foundation might have had the President of the United States as an Honorary Board member in the past.

We will know in November.

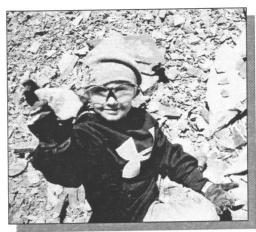
More Pictures from Tiger- By Chuck Kominski



Paul Jaeger working in the east wall

Jim Ricker, Evan Jones, and Marcus Oligeleri tackle the southwest wall of the Collins Cut.

American Mineral Treasures - A Summer's Collecting Adventure By Chuck Kominski



Harris shows off a good Trilobite find

I had an inspiration this year at the Tucson Gem and Mineral Show. With the 2008 theme of American Mineral Treasures and because my two sons, Charlie and Harris are interested in field collecting, I had an epiphany.

I would try to take the boys to some of the great localities that we were learning about and see what we could collect. Now we could not collect at all the localities featured for obvious reasons of time, accessibility, and cost. So we narrowed it down to 3 trips spread out over the summer.

First up....Utah. We would dig for Topaz and Trilobites (Harris' favorite fossil). We left early in May and even though it technically it wasn't summer yet, we had a perfect opportunity to go so we took it. We stayed in Delta, Utah which is central to both the trilobite beds and the topaz rock hound area and would collect for two days. The first day we went to the U-Dig Fossils trilobite beds about 50 miles SW of Delta. This is a fee quarry. We met Beavon, the proprietor there at 9:00 am when they opened. The weather was perfect, cold and sunny. Beavon gave us instructions on how to find the trilobites in the shale. We had brought our own tools, but Beavon gave us some additional hammers and some 5 gallon buckets and we were off digging in the giant piles of shale.

It was a blast. I would find the thick pieces of black shale and start tapping on edge with my hammer to split it and see if any buried trilobites lurked inside. We weren't disappointed, Charlie and Harris both found a particularly fruitful spot on the pile where we loaded up on various trilobites species. Some were big, some were small, but all were beautiful. We spent 6 hours collecting and had loaded up four 5 gallon buckets. I was worried because we had flown to Salt Lake City from Phoenix and I did not know how we'd get them all home! We did our best at culling and trimming and took only the best ones and then bought another suitcase for the plane ride home.



Charlie and Harris in the Shale

The next day we were tired, but excited about To-paz Mountain. We drove the hour to the main site, and through some research and some friend's helpful directions found a very nice and quiet spot to hunt for the beautiful state gemstone of Utah. We followed the advice of looking for vertical seams laced with hematite and would start cracking the Rhyolite. Here again, patience paid off. Not only did we find beautiful topaz, we came away with garnets and bixbyites as well. The boys did a fine job of digging their own treasures and have them displayed in perky boxes in a safe and dark spot to be taken out on special occasions.



Charlie and Harris looking for Topaz in Utah





The excavator at the Smoky Hawk

Next up....Colorado. I had made an acquaintance at the show with a Colorado miner/dealer who had some beautiful smoky quartz and amazonite. Charlie and Harris were helping me pick one out for my collection while I discussed field collecting with the dealer. He mentioned that he mines with his sons who are now grown, much like I collect with mine. He offered that if I found myself in Colorado in the summer I should look him up and he could show me where to dig for smokies and amazonites.

I took him up on that offer, and at the end of June we escaped the Arizona heat for the cool of the Rocky Mountains. We arrived in Denver on Sunday afternoon. Before heading south to Pikes Peak area we stopped off at the Denver Natural History Museum. There we saw a stunning collection of minerals from Colorado as well as from around the world. Arizona was well represented with beautiful wulfenites, azurites, and malachites. But the most incredible displays were from Colorado. One was a smoky quartz and aquamarine on matrix plate that was found on Mount Antero that was about 30 inches long by 18 inches wide. It was indescribable. But my favorite was the Alma King Rhodochrosite. It took my breath away, I spent about 10 minutes looking at this amazing specimen. After the museum tour, we loaded up and headed an hour and a half south on I-25 to Manitou Springs.

The next morning we met Joe, who owns the claim at a convenience store in Manitou Springs. We would follow him up to his claim about an hour away. After arriving at the claim, Joe showed us around the open pit that he works with his son, Tim and friends Chuck and George. We were going to scour the hills around the pit for old hand dug areas and work on the tailings. Before long we were dig-

ging up smoky quartz points and amazonite crystals. That afternoon after Joe had finished drilling and blasting in the main pit, he invited us in so we could see them expose and work a pocket. It was incredible! A giant smoky quartz and dozens of some of the darkest blue-green amazonite crystals were visible in the exposed pocket as Chuck started working the specimens out. He explained to Harris and Charlie how the crystals grew in the pocket and how hard it is to extract them without damaging them.

The next morning we went to Joe's topaz claim a few miles away from the amazonite claim. Digging topaz here was different from Utah, the topaz at the claim were in an alluvial fan at the base of a weathered granite mountain that loomed above us. We dug and sifted through the sand and gravel looking for the topaz. It was hit and miss collecting, but after a few hours we had found 4 good sized topaz and a number of smaller topaz fragments. We decided to finish the topaz digging that morning and spend the afternoon back at the smoky quartz amazonite claim.

Charlie, Harris, and I starting digging in the tailings of an old hand dug area and were rewarded with some cool smoky quartz and amazonite on granite matrix. They were exactly what we had hoped to collect here in Colorado. We loaded our buckets and flats with material that afternoon, then thanked Joe for his hospitality and went back to the hotel for a good night's rest before our trip home.

Next stop....California. I am originally from San Diego. Growing up there I had no idea that San

(Continued on page 9)



The payoff of the pocket

May 2008 Regular Meeting Minutes (Draft) Arizona Mineral and Mining Museum Foundation May 8, 2008

Attendees: Lavone Archer, Shirley Coté, Paul Cragan, Steve Decker, Darrel Dodd, Doug Duffy, Robin Evans, Ray Grant, Glenn Hoffman, Genie & Jack Howell, Harvey Jong, Jan Rasmussen, Dana Slaughter, Bill Yedowitz

The meeting was called to order by Ray Grant.

A. Minutes of the March Meeeting

Ray asked for changes to the draft Minutes published in the Newsletter, but no modifications were suggested. Doug Duffy moved to the accept the Minutes. Bill Yedowitz seconded the motion. The motion passed.

B. Treasurer's Report (Darrel Dodd)

Darrel reported on the status of the checking account and indicated that the bill for the food for the recent Volunteer Recognition Banquet has been paid. He asked for other new bills.

C. Committee Reports

1. Collection Committee (Bill Yedowitz)

Bill pointed out the need for new rocks and minerals and made an appeal for donations. He reminded members that committee meetings are held on the fourth Tuesday of the month. The next activity will involve labeling/packaging micro-mount specimens for the hand lens kits.

Harvey Jong mentioned that there are 158 hand lenses remaining from the last Flagg Show and asked if more units should be ordered. After some discussion, Genie Howell moved to purchase 300 hand lenses. Steve Decker seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Bill indicated that there should be a sufficient number of micromount boxes for this year. However, more boxes will have to be purchased in the future, and this may result in a price increase for the kit. There was some discussion on box sources and prices.

a. Next meeting Tuesday, May 24 at the Museum, 6:45pm

2. Website: www.azminfun.com also www.flaggshow.info (Harvey Jong)

Harvey reported that no updates were made to the website and that the registration for the domain name, AzMinFun.com, will need to be renewed in September.

3. Newsletter (Steve Decker)

Steve mentioned that his work schedule has changed, so he will be able to attend the regular meetings again. He thanked members for submitting photos from the recent field trip and other activities for the last Newsletter. He indicated that he has sufficient funds for the next edition which will be published in September. He encouraged members to send in articles about their summer rockhounding adventures.

4. Symposium - 2009 - Saturday, March 21

Ray announced the date for the next Minerals of Arizona Symposium and suggested members make a note in their calendars.

5. Field Trips (Chuck Kominski)

Chuck was not present; however, Bill commented that to ensure that no one gets lost members need to communicate their plans for any side excursions during field trips and to check that everyone is accounted for. There was also some discussion on a field trip mailing list/hot line.

Steve expressed concerns about potential liabilities associated with Foundation-sponsored trips and asked about the status of acquiring board insurance. Ray mentioned that he has a 20 page insurance form that he is reviewing.

6. Flagg Show - 2009 (January 9, 10, 11)

Ray thanked members for their help with stuffing envelopes for the dealer mailing. He encouraged everyone to help with publicity by handing out flyers and posters. Harvey announced that the tentative theme for the next show poster will be *Arizona Vanadinite*. He asked for any photos or access to specimens that can be photographed for the poster.

D. Old Business

1. Any old business

None.

E. New Business

1. Family Day, October 18, 2008

Ray asked if space for dealers will be available given plans for new exhibits, and Jan Rasmussen indicated that there shouldn't be any problems. Darrel mentioned that the fee will be \$25 per table and that dealers will need to bring their own tables. Shirley Coté pointed out that Family Day flyers have been printed.

2. Other new business

Museum security

Jan commented that the Museum is still evaluating security vendors.

Mineral "Banana Box" Grab Bags

Dana Slaughter pointed out that Top Gem sells "banana box" grab bags of minerals which may be a relatively inexpensive way of building some inventory for future sales. There was some discussion on the price and variety of these discounted minerals. Bill moved to invest \$1000 and have Dana oversee the purchase of an assortment of "banana box" minerals. Doug seconded the motion. The motion passed.

3. Next meeting - September TBA - Will be chaired by Phil Richardson since Ray will be in Australia

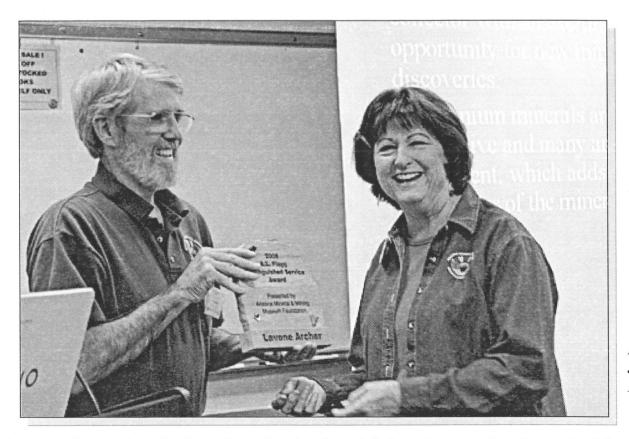
Adjournment

With no further business to discuss, Genie moved to adjourn the meeting, and Dana seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Respectfully submitted, Harvey Jong, Secretary



Scouts and leaders from Troop 674 of the Arizona Cactus Pine Council pose for us at the 2006 Family Day at the Arizona Mining and Mineral Museum.



Harvey Jong Photo

I think Lavone Archer shows by the smile on her face how delighted she was when she received the A.L. Flagg Distinguished Service Award at the Symposium last March! Ray looks like he is enjoying the presentation almost as much as she is. I wonder who will be the Honoree next March? It could be you....

The Internet as a Research Tool

By Phil Richardson

In previous articles I have denigrated the use of the internet in it's regard to our mineral hobby; specifically as it has replaced the social interaction of collectors and removed the physical inspection of specimens. One important counter to this position is the vast resource pool that the internet can unlock. As in any type of research, one must be wary of the source and always check for substantiating documentation, reference, bibliography, and purpose.

Within this almost unlimited resource pool, through either a Google or other search engine function, I have been able to verify provenance, association, existence, and historical data. One could spend hours chasing one link after another. The internet search engines have become an invaluable tool to validate mineral specimens, mines or mining districts, and offer somewhat of a comparative data base.

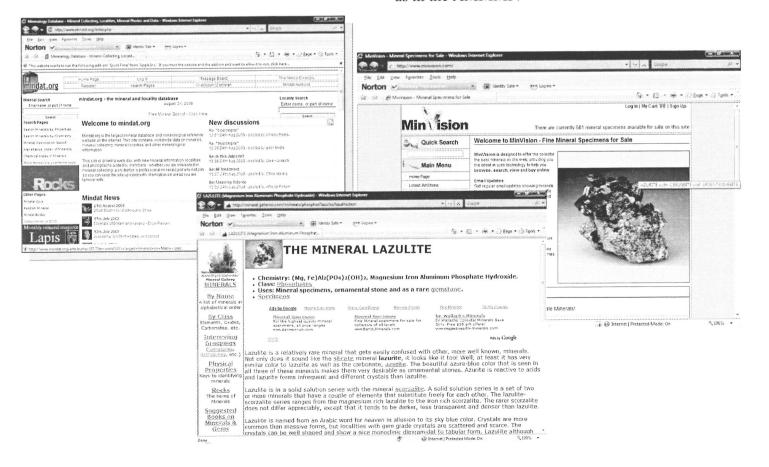
Mindat.org and several other sites have posted a relatively large photographic data base of mineral species. I have learned to be wary of these postings because some are self-serving, with their source being a dealer offering the specimen for sale or a col-

lector purporting collection or specimen 'value'. Hours can be spent literally viewing hundreds of obscure locality specimens, like pyrite. I should know, having done it not just once but several times!

The data bases are a good place to start specifically for species collectors. This is one specialty area particularly at the mercy of the supplying dealer for information. This information one can now easily validate, and possibly compare with a photographic image. *Mindat.org* is one resource where new mineral species quickly appear.

Another area where internet research has helped to shed light is through auction sites. Before I place an ebay bid, I research who I am going up against. Many times this peek inside my co-bidders has revealed a frightening picture. People, who I don't know if I can call collectors, willing to pay over-inflated prices for specimens which should only be considered 'reference specimens'. I have learned not to get caught in an egotistical bidding pursuit for what should be fun ancillary specimens.

Use the internet to gain insight into your mineralogical pursuits. And above all, get out and socialize with your fellow collectors. Share collecting or purchasing stories, exhibit your precious finds, and join us in the AMMMF.



American Mineral Treasures-By Chuck Kominski

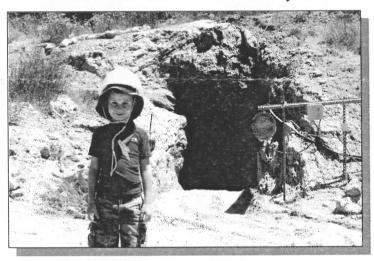
(Continued from page 5)

Diego County was world famous for its tourmalines, spodumenes, and beryls that come from the pegmatites that stretch from the upper portion of Southern California to Northern Baja

After much reading on the subject I found out that some of the mines have sidelight ventures to help supply needed operating capital by allowing weekend diggers such as myself the chance to dig on their spoil piles for a fee.

I picked the Oceanview Mine and through their website, requested a digging date in August. About 20 minutes later I had a confirmation e-mail and me and the boys along with my wife Dawn were set for the final leg of our American Mineral Treasures Summer collecting trip.

Our collecting day was August 10th at the Oceanview. We arrived at 10:30 and were met by Jeff



Harris at the entrance to the Oceanview mine

Swanger, owner of the mine. We were going to be digging with both some real mineral celebrities as well as novices on the spoils of the mine from the day before's blasting.

We were given screens and buckets and would scoop material into the buckets and then load the screens, then wash the screen contents to look for tourmaline, lepidolite, aquamarine, morganite, quartz, kunzite, graphic granite, muscovite mica, and garnets that the mine is known for.

It was dusty work, but with all four of us working together we screened bucket after bucket. At the end of the day we did not have a whole lot to show for it,



The crew ready to dig and screen

but it was fun nonetheless. We kept hoping that the next bucket would be the "lucky bucket" with a choice piece of watermelon tourmaline, or a well formed aquamarine. We did find a few green and pink tourmalines, a couple of small watermelon tourmalines, a sweet quartz crystal, and some nice aquamarines.

During the dig, Jeff or his miner Pete would take small groups on a tour of the mine. This was a real treat, because even though I have been fortunate to have been underground many times collecting, the thrill never gets old.

After more screening and a couple late bucket treasures, we started cleaning up. I went over to Jeff to thank him for a great day and asked if I could have him sign the latest Rocks and Minerals magazine which has the Oceanview mine as the feature article. Jeff was very gracious and as he was signing said, "Chuck, you need to really go over to that gentleman in the orange shirt and introduce yourself, that's Ed Swoboda, and he is the real legend of this mining district."

You can imagine what a thrill that would be for me and Charlie. We wandered over and introduced

(Continued on page 10)

A lot of work for each small treasure found



American Mineral Treasures-By Chuck Kominski

(Continued from page 9)

ourselves, I asked Ed to sign the magazine also. It was a terrific experience, we spent 15 or so minutes talking about his collecting adventures in the Tourmaline Queen and the Benitoite Gem mine. At the end he asked where we were from and told him Arizona, he said "Oh, you must be Wulfenite fans then." We said of course, and told him about the Wulfenite mines we have collected at. He gave me a card and said "Put your name and address on this card, I may have something left from the San Francisco mine that you may like."

Well I won't expect to see anything in the mail, but it was such a nice and genuine offer I could not believe it. Ed then went on to say, "Hey you need to introduce yourselves to that gentleman over there, that is Pete Megaw, he's from Arizona too." And so Charlie and I went to go introduce ourselves to another legend in collecting. We spoke a few minutes with Pete before taking our leave and heading back to the car to leave for the hotel.

This was the end of our collecting summer of American Mineral Treasure locations. On the drive back to the hotel that afternoon, I thought back to the trips we had been on, the sites we saw, the hard work in collecting the specimens, the satisfaction of saying we had been there, and the fun that I had with my boys (and wife on the last dig). We talked about repeating the trip next year. Maybe we will, or maybe we will find a different adventure in collecting. Time will tell.



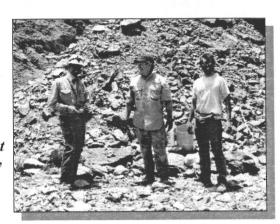
Chuck Borland of the Smoky Hawk explains how they drill and blast to find the pockets

Cooking at the Collins Cut by Chuck Kominski

Seventeen very hardy and possibly very foolish AMMMF Field Trippers made a rare summer collecting trip June 25th to BHP's San Manuel Mine to dig at the Open Cut, Collins Vein.

As the trip loomed and Arizona sweltered with record temperatures I worried that digging at an open cut would be unbearable. However, the weather cooperated that day and it was cool enough to dig without too much discomfort.

Jim Ricker, Mark Candee, and Marcus Oligeleri get a little dirty



We were

met at the front gates by Reed Skinner, who oversees the ongoing management of the site. He gave us a quick safety briefing and we followed him to the silica pit where the original Mammoth mine shaft was located. The silica pit was used by the mine to provide flux for the smelter operations. Reed said we could collect there at the pit or he could take us up the hill to the Collins Open Cut. Soon all 17 of us were snaking our way up the winding road to "The



Cut".

The
Collins Cut is
large, over
300 feet long
and 60 feet
wide, so there
was plenty of
room for us

to dig.

Within a few minutes everyone had found a good spot to dig for both the common (Wulfenite, Mimetite, Vanadinite, Descloizite, etc.) and uncommon (Wherryite, Creaseyite, Alamosite, etc.). The Mam-

moth-St. Anthony mines are world famous for the variety, uniqueness and quality of its minerals. In fact Mindat.org lists 96 valid mineral species and 8 as type localities including Bideauxite for Mammoth-St. Anthony.

The sounds of hammering soon filled the air as veins and pockets in the brecciated rock were being

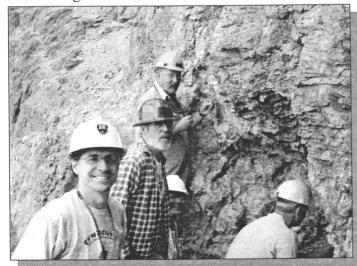


Michael
Shannon
shows off his
form in getting out
Creasyite

exposed.

I saw wulfenite of amazing variety found by Bill Yedowitz, Evan Jones, Tom Corson, and Clete Hinton. Some looked like Rowley, others were reminiscent of Red Cloud, and some like Total Wreck, and some totally unique. We are hoping to photograph some of Bill's wulfenite for *mindat.org*. Michael Shannon worked hard for the rarer minerals and was rewarded with finding pockets of Creasyite.

We stayed at the Cut until 2:00 pm. Reed had stayed with us all day and we needed to let him get on with his day. So we followed Reed down the winding road back out to the front gate. A fantastic trip we owe our thanks to Jeff Parker and Reed Skinner of BHP for setting this trip up and guiding us on this outing.



The crew checks out a major pocket.



Foundation Officers

Chairman	Ray Grant
Vice-Chairman	Phil Richardson
Treasurer	Darrel Dodd
Secretary	Harvey Jong
Corresponding Secretary	Lavone Archer

This newsletter is published by the Arizona Mineral and Mining Museum Foundation.

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For Submission Information.

Address all other questions to our mailing address:

The Arizona Mineral and Mining
Museum Foundation
P.O. Box 41834
Mesa, AZ 85274

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

Foundation Trustees

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