



THE BULLETIN OF THE COLORADO SPRINGS MINERALOGICAL SOCIETY Published Since 1960

Colorado Springs  
Mineralogical Society  
*Founded in 1936*

Lazard Cahn  
Honorary President

July 2017

PICK&PACK

Vol 57.... Number #6

### CSMS General Assembly

Thursday, July 20, 7:00 PM

This month's speaker is Steven Veatch

**Topic: The Cripple Creek Mining District: The Lost Stories**

**Please note that the location has changed for the**

**July 20th General Assembly. We will be at:**

**The Garden Ranch YMCA**

**2380 Montebello Drive West**

**Colorado Springs CO 80918**

**Please note: Attendance is limited to 60 people at this site for this meeting only. We will be meeting elsewhere starting in September. Information about the new meeting site is posted on page 3 in this issue.**

**\*\*In case of inclement weather, please call 719 593-9622\*\***

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### Preview for the July 20 General Assembly Presentation

By Steven Veatch

### THE CRIPPLE CREEK MINING DISTRICT: THE LOST STORIES

Take a mind-boggling look at one of the most important parts of the history of the Pikes Peak region—the Cripple Creek Gold Rush. This astonishing program is designed for your delight and takes a fresh look at the mining district. For fans of local history this is an essential review. Join Steven Veatch and explore the additional details and perspectives he has amassed through lost photographs, forgotten diaries, and recently found records. You don't want to miss this program.

One More Note: We still need help with the hospitality supplies for our General Assembly Meetings. Please see the Help Wanted ad on page 15 in this issue. Thank you!

COLORADO SPRINGS MINERALOGICAL SOCIETY PO BOX 2 COLORADO SPRINGS, COLORADO 80901-0002

# CSMS Calendar

July 2017

Thu., **July 6**—**Board Meeting**, 7 p.m., The Hanlon residence

Tue., **July No Meeting due to July 4th**—**Fossil Group**, Jerry Suchan, 303 648-3410

Thu., **No meetings until Sept.**—**Faceting Group** John Massie, 719 598-5903

Thu., **No mtgs until Sept.**—**Pebble Pups & Jrs**, Steve Veatch, 719 748-5010

Thu., **July 20**—**General Assembly**, 7 p.m., The Garden Ranch YMCA, see below for address

Thu., **No meetings until Sept.**—**Crystal Group**, Kevin Witte, 719 638-7919

**Note: The Micromount Group is not meeting at this time. If you are interested in meeting, please call Dave Olsen, 719 495-8720**

**Appointment Only**—**Jewelry Group**, Bill Arnson, 719 337-8070

**Appointment Only**—**Lapidary Group**, Sharon Holte, 719 217-5683

The Garden Ranch YMCA is located at **2380 Montebello Drive West** in Colorado Springs. For more information on any of the sub-groups, meetings, and other CSMS valuable information, go to our website, [csms1936.com](http://csms1936.com)

## Upcoming Events of Interest to CSMS Members

Submitted by Pete Modreski

**July 14-15-16**, 9 a.m. – 6 p.m. daily, there will be a “**Home Rock Show (Sale)**” by John Haney, 4242 Thompson Court, Denver CO. 80216 (south of I-70, east of York St. & west of Steele St.). “Rough rock, slabs, cabs, enhydros, fossils, amber, minerals, crystals, gemstone bowls & boxes, lapidary equipment & supplies; discounts for lapidary students.” Contact, [Rocksisme@comcast.net](mailto:Rocksisme@comcast.net), 303-296-8268.

**Sat.-Sun., July 15-16**, The **Florissant Scientific Society** will hold its annual multi-day event at the Bear Basin Ranch in southern Colorado, south of Canon City. “Gary Ziegler, ranch owner and international archeologist will show us the culturally modified trees there and tell us about his work in Peru. There is a cabin where 6-8 people can bed down for the night. Campers are welcome. You can look at the Bear Basin Ranch's website to get a feel for the ranch. Other accommodations are available in Westcliffe and Florence. More information, including costs, to come later.” See <http://www.fss-co.org/> for future info to be posted.

**Thurs.–Mon., July 20-24, Gold and Silver Deposits in Colorado**, a symposium cosponsored by the Friends of the Colorado School of Mines Geology Museum, the CSM Museum, DREGS (Denver Region Exploration Geologists Society), and Friends of Mineralogy, Colorado Chapter. The event will include a welcoming reception at the CSM Museum (Thursday evening), two days of talks (Sat.-Sun., July 22 - 23), a Saturday evening banquet with a speaker, and two days of field trips (Fri. July 21 and Mon. July 24) to historic Colorado gold and silver mining areas, focusing on the Front Range and the northern half of the Colorado Mineral Belt. Full information about the symposium is at: <https://tinyurl.com/goldsymposium>. Registration cost will be \$100; students, \$50; banquet, \$40; each field trip, \$40. The registration form, including the list of field trips, is now available on the Friends of Mineralogy-Colorado Chapter website, at the link given above.

**Aug. 4-6, Creede Rock & Mineral Show**, at the Creede Underground Mining Museum and Community Center,

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Creede, Mineral County, CO. 10 a.m. – 5 p.m. daily; see <http://creederocks.com/> .

**Aug. 10-13, Contin-Tail rock & mineral show**, Buena Vista Rodeo Grounds, Buena Vista, CO; see [www.facebook.com/ContinTail](http://www.facebook.com/ContinTail)

**Aug. 17-20, Woodland Park Rock, Gem, & Jewelry Show**, Woodland Park, CO; see <https://www.facebook.com/woodlandparkrockandgemshow/>

**Aug. 18-20, Lake George Gem & Mineral Show**, sponsored by the Lake George Gem and Mineral Club, Lake George, CO. See <http://www.lggmclub.org/>

**Sep. 8-16, Colorado Mineral and Fossil Fall Show**, Crowne Plaza Hotel - Airport, 15500 E. 40th Ave. Denver, CO.

**Sep. 9-17, Denver Coliseum Mineral, Fossil, and Gem Show**, Denver Coliseum; see <http://www.coliseumshow.com/>

**Sep. 13-16, Denver Fine Mineral Show**, Denver Marriott West, 1717 Denver West Blvd.; see <http://finemineralshow.com/denver/>

**Sep. 15-17, 50<sup>th</sup> annual Denver Gem and Mineral Show**, Denver Mart, 451 E 58<sup>th</sup> Ave., Denver, CO. **Gold and Silver** is the 2017 show theme. See <http://denvershow.org/wp/>

**Nov. 11-12, 38<sup>th</sup> annual New Mexico Mineral Symposium**, at New Mexico Institute of Mining & Technology, Socorro, NM; see <https://geoinfo.nmt.edu/museum/minsymp/home.cfm>

**Nov. 17-19, Denver Area Mineral Dealers Show**, Jefferson County Fairgrounds, Golden CO.

### **New Meeting Site for September 2017 through September 2018**

Thanks to the efforts of Ernie and Marilyn Hanlon, we have a new home for our General Assembly meetings as well as for the Pebble Pups and the Crystal Group. Still pending are meeting sites for the Board of Directors, The Fossil Group, and The Faceting Group.

Starting with the September 21, 2017 General Assembly and Pebble Pups meetings, we will be at the Mt. Carmel Center of Excellence in the Multipurpose Room. The address is:

Mt. Carmel Center of Excellence  
530 Communication Circle  
Colorado Springs, CO 80905  
719 309-4714

Basic directions: From Highway 24/West Cimarron St., head South on 8th Street 0.4 miles to West Moreno Avenue. Turn right, go 0.3 miles to Communication Circle, turn right for 495 feet. You are there.

### **Photos of the 54th Annual Pikes Peak Gem Mineral and Jewelry Show**

Frank Rosenberg has submitted 115 pictures from our recent show. Some are posted on pages 10 and 14 of this issue. If you want to see them all, please check our gallery page on the web site ([csms1936.com](http://csms1936.com)) in the near future. Thanks to Frank for taking the time to capture images of all the people, sights, and activities at the show.

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## CUSTER, THE BLACK HILLS, AND GOLD

Mike Nelson    csrockguy@yahoo.com



I often camp up in the Black Hills of South Dakota and in doing so am constantly reminded that George Armstrong Custer is always present in the area. Custer left behind the name of a town, a mountain peak, city streets and numerous motels, cafes, bars—you name it and Custer's name will be affixed at some location in the Hills. Of course, he also left behind the *beginning of the end* for a large group of Native Americans who were soon to lose their ancestral hunting grounds and their nomadic way of life. There seems no middle ground here in the west for Custer—praise him for opening the Black Hills to mining and settlement or despise him for destroying the local population of Native Americans. His destruction was not so much killing the Natives in firefights, but in opening the Hills to settlement which resulted in the resettlement of the Natives and their loss of a huge hunk of land and lifestyle. The *beginning* of the end started with Custer's expedition to the Hills in 1874 and the *end* came only two years later at the Battle of the Greasy Grass (AKA Battle of the Little Bighorn or Custer's Last Stand). Literally hundreds of books and articles have been written about Custer in the West and readers have their choice of authors. Even today there are new tomes being published that win major awards. It is tough for me to understand how new information seems to appear and therefore offers authors a chance for different interpretations.

At any rate, I am interested in the rocks and minerals that seem associated with the Custer expedition of 1874. Thanks to authors like Ernest Grafe and Paul Horsted (2002), campsites and trails covered by the Expedition are well known and one can follow along the entire Black Hills' route if desired. Like many geologists and rockhounds I am greatly interested in the area around Custer City, the site of his "gold discovery."

Lt. Col. George A. Custer was a Civil War hero (at least to the "North") and at age 25 received the rank of Brevet Major General, and accolades poured in from the press for the "Boy General." After the War Custer remained in the U.S. Army and in 1866 was awarded the rank of Lieutenant-Colonel and assigned to a new regiment, the Seventh Cavalry. Most/all of the regiment referred to him as General Custer.

It was hard for army officers to advance in rank after the War and certainly "reconstruction duty" in one of the former Confederate states was not a great stepping stone. Custer viewed himself as a frontiersman and pathfinder and yearned to do battle with Native Americans occupying much of the Plains States, especially the loose confederation of the various Lakota bands (mostly Oglala and Hunkpapa), the Northern Cheyenne and the Arapaho. Therefore, Custer was instrumental in convincing General Philip Sheridan, Commander of the Division of the Missouri and General Alfred Terry, Commander of the Department of Dakota, that a military reconnaissance of the Black Hills of the Dakota Territory was a necessity. All three officers wanted to subdue, by whatever means (such as firefights, slaughtering the Buffalo [Bison] herds, etc.), the Native Americans occupying the Hills and the Powder River Basin to the west; however, an unpublicized argument was to confirm the presence of minerals rumored to exist in the Black Hills. President Grant then approved the expedition since after the Financial Panic of 1873 the country needed new re-



Most Army officers thought the slaughter of Buffalo by meat and hide hunters, settlers, miners etc. would signal the end of the nomadic Native Americans.

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sources such as gold and timber, and any gold/mineral rush to the hills would also provide “jobs” for the many unemployed men (and a few women).

So, off Custer went on July 2, 1874, from Fort Abraham Lincoln across the Missouri River from Bismarck, North Dakota, with somewhere close to 1200 men. Besides members of 10 companies of his 7<sup>th</sup> Cavalry (including a 16 piece band), the group included ~110 wagons and accompanying teamsters, about 300 head of cattle for food in case the hunters could not produce game, a medical staff, several newspaper correspondents, the experienced miners Horatio Ross and William McKay (perhaps disguised as teamsters), several Native American Scouts, at least two of Custer’s staghounds, extra horses and mules, Chief Engineer Captain William Ludlow and his assistant (who produced wonderful maps), and Scientist George Bird Grinnell, a graduate student at Yale who later became a famous anthropologist, naturalist and writer, assigned to describe the flora and fauna. Grinnell had three assistants: 1) Newton H. Winchell later became the Director of the Minnesota State Geological Survey and authored the six-volume treatise entitled *The Geology of Minnesota*; 2) Luther North, a jack-of-all-trades best remembered for leading a group of Pawnee Scouts (along with his brother Frank) who later helped protect the Union Pacific Railroad and then became business partners with William (Buffalo Bill) Cody; and 3) A.B. Donaldson, a botanist and “newspaper man” from Minnesota. William Illingworth was the Expedition’s photographer who evidently was hired by Ludlow to provide photos for the U.S. Army. The Expedition also included at least one woman, a former slave known as Aunt Sally who cooked for Sulter John Smith.

The initial part of the trip through western North Dakota and northern Wyoming was hot and dry with alkaline water but the Expedition reached the northwestern outlier of the Black Hills (Bear Lodge Mountains near present Sundance, Wyoming) around July 20. On July 25, they crossed the Wyoming-South Dakota state line and entered the Black Hills proper from the Northwest.



The expedition passed very close to Sundance Mountain on July 22. The isolated peak is a Tertiary laccolith.



Perhaps the Expedition knew they entered South Dakota by spotting a “state line.”

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## CSMS Recent Field Trip Summaries

By Mike Webb  
Field Trip Coordinator

### Topaz Mountain Gem Mine

CSMS was well represented at the Topaz Mountain Gem Mine on June 10, with 22 members participating. Joe, Susan & Krystle Dorris were wonderful hosts. George and Carl were busy operating machinery, turning over piles and eventually focused on working virgin ground. We celebrated Joe Dorris's birthday and enjoyed perfect weather with a cool breeze and plentiful sunshine. The elusive topaz discoveries were sporadic, but determination and patience eventually paid off for most participants. Thanks Dorris Family for allowing our participation.



Topaz Mountain Gem Mine, Tarryall Mountains, Park Co, Colorado



Debra Bell made some of the first topaz discoveries of the day.



Sue Waber found a nice 56 carat blue topaz specimen.



Joe Dorris, George, & Carl's production from exploring with heavy equipment.

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## Dotsero Goethite after Pyrite

Our club's inaugural visit to Dotsero's Goethite after Pyrite locality was a highly successful and pleasant outing. Six dedicated members attended the field trip including Ernie & Marilyn Hanlon who generously shared samples of the interesting pseudomorph specimens found in the area. After the 15 mile and nearly 3,500 vertical foot climb from the banks of the Colorado River into the Flat Top Mountains, members were rewarded with an amazing display of wildflowers, temperatures in the low 70's, and numerous mineral discoveries. Fine examples were found by all participants. Mark Schultz found several large specimens including one exceptionally appealing cluster.



Billy & Debra Bell with excellent pseudomorph specimens.



Mark W. Schultz with one of his large Goethite after Pyrite discoveries.

Field trip photos submitted by Mike Webb

## CSMS Field Trip Schedule

Red Feather Lakes, CO: Margrette (Rainbow) Lode Claim. July 15. Leader Ernie Hanlon.  
Contact: eehanlon@netzero.net Quartz var. Amethyst.  
(This trip is filled. To be put on the wait list or to cancel, contact Ernie )

Smoky Hawk Mine: Florissant, CO, July 21. Leaders Joe Dorris and Mike Webb.  
Contact: mwebbstudent@yahoo.com Amazonite, Smoky Quartz, Fluorite, Goethite.

Hartsel, CO: Park Co, CO, August 12. Leader Mike Webb.  
Contact: mwebbstudent@yahoo.com Barite

Montezuma, CO: Burke & Martin Mine. August 26. Leader Mike Webb  
Contact: mwebbstudent@yahoo.com Silver, Sphalerite, & Galena.  
(Limited spaces remaining)

Delta, Utah: Topaz Mountain. September 8, 9, & 10. Leader Mike Webb.  
Contact: mwebbstudent@yahoo.com Topaz, Red Beryl, Amethyst, & Garnet.

## PEBBLE PUPS CORNER



### CSMS Pebble Pups & Junior Group

The Junior Group & Pebble Pups meet at the Senior Center every third Thursday at 5:30 PM until 6:15 PM or so. We only meet during the academic year, and we include January. So, it is Sept through May.

Special announcements and field trips are noted on our blog:

<http://pebblepups.blogspot.com>

and through the CSMS website:

<http://www.csms1936.com>

## LIFE MEMBER OF COLORADO SPRINGS MINERALOGICAL SOCIETY ELECTED TO THE WESTERN MUSEUM OF MINING AND INDUSTRY'S BOARD OF TRUSTEES

By Chase Alexander

Steven Veatch, a life-member of the CSMS, was recently elected to the Western Museum of Mining and Industry's Board of Trustees. Veatch has a long relationship of working with WMMI on educational and research projects. Veatch also has museum experience through the Cripple Creek District Museum.

Veatch's family came to Cripple Creek in the 1890s from England and worked in the district's mines for over 40 years. The other side of the family established a ranch in the wilderness near Boulder in 1865. They later moved to the rough-and-tumble Caribou mining camp. His great-grandfather, who was 14 years old; attended Caribou's first school session in 1872.

According to the WMMI's website, the Museum of the West was incorporated in 1970 as a private, non-profit with a mission to preserve and interpret the rich mining history of Colorado and the American West. The nucleus of the collection was a group of mining artifacts contributed to the museum by Mr. Frederick McMenemy Farrar and Mrs. Katherine Thatcher Farrar.

In 1972, the name was changed to the Western Museum of Mining & Industry to better define the museum focus. The museum received its full accreditation by the American Association of Museum in 1979 and, in acknowledgment of its exacting standards and successes, was re-accredited in 1980 and 2000.

Over 4,000 artifacts are on display at the 27-acre indoor/outdoor exhibit site; which includes a ten-stamp ore mill, a multi-purpose center with exhibits, a theater and a 5,000-volume research library. The entire exhibit complex is an exciting and exceptional tool for learning about Colorado history, mining and industrial technology, geology, and the environment.



El Paso and Old Gold mines from Roseland Hill. Cripple Creek District. Teller County, Colorado. Photo date 1903. Credit: US Geological Survey.



### 2017 CSMS Officers

Ernie Hanlon, President  
Lisa Kinder, Vice-President  
Mark Lemesany, Vice –President  
Barbara Middlemist, Secretary  
Ann Proctor, Treasurer  
Norma Alexander, Membership Secretary  
Larry Jones, Editor  
Doreen Schmidt, Member-at-Large  
Ariel Dickens, Member-at-Large  
Jean Luce, Past President

### 2017 CSMS Chairpersons

Lisa Kinder, Program Coordinator,  
Mike Webb, Field Trip Coordinator  
TBD, Science Fair Chair  
Frank & Ellie Rosenberg, Librarians  
TBD, Social Committee Chair  
Ann Proctor, Store Keeper  
Michael Kosc, Webmaster  
Mike Nelson, Federation Representative  
Ernie Hanlon, Federation Representative

### 2017 Satellite Group Chairpersons

Crystal, Kevin Witte  
Faceting, John Massie  
Fossil, Jerry Suchan  
Jewelry, Bill Arnson  
Lapidary, Sharon, Holte  
Pebble Pups, Steven Veatch

### SECRETARY'S SPOT

by Barbara Middlemist

General Meeting Minutes for the  
Colorado Springs Mineralogical So-  
ciety — June 15, 2017

The president called the meeting to order at 7:02PM, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

President Ernie called for a moment of silence for Ray Berry. Ernie remembered Ray as well liked and respected and a super collector who shared his knowledge and experience as a mineral collector with so many of us. He will be missed.

The program was given by Pete Modreski. His topic was "How to Start a Mineral Collection."

Pete's talk covered how minerals are formed. He showed slides on how rocks are changed by the conditions present at a location during the formation time frame. He spoke of the differences between igneous and sedimentary rocks. There are over 5000 known minerals. New minerals are discovered all the time at a rate of 50-100 new minerals per year. There were several slides of unlabeled minerals. The group had a good time identifying these. Many minerals are difficult to identify as many have a similar appearance. Minerals may have the same chemical composition but different crystal structure. Pete recommended the Golden Nature Guide Series on Minerals as a good beginner's book.

He reminded us all how important it is to label all specimens when you find them. If purchased make sure a label is included. We may think we'll remember where a specimen came from, but it is so easy to forget the exact location. Specimens can be delicate, wrap and store them carefully. He concluded his talk with information on how crystals are formed in pegmatite dykes. Colorado is home of many crystal types.

Ernie reminded us to sign up for door prizes. As usual, there was a varied and desirable assortment from which to choose.

Ernie announced a break for refreshments. Doreen Schmidt took over handling all the storage and management of the items needed to setup the refreshments on a temporary basis, along with other temporary help. **VOLUNTEERS ARE NEEDED IF THE CLUB WANTS TO CONTINUE SERVING REFRESHMENTS.** Starting in July there will be no hospitality coordinators. Call any board member to volunteer. We need your help.

Ernie gave thanks to all who helped with the show. Some members were there all 4 days. A special thanks to Mark, Frank, Jack and John for loading those heavy cases into the trailer.

Guests and new members were welcomed and asked to say something about themselves. The membership secretary handed out membership cards to new members present.

There were 2 field trip sheets at the front table. Information was

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provided for both.

The July 20<sup>th</sup> meeting will be at 2380 Montebello Dr. West at the YMCA 7-9 p.m. Attendance is limited to 60 people to comply with fire codes.

The September General Meeting will be at Mt Carmel Center.

Ernie asked for updates from officers and satellite group leaders. Other than Norma's membership report there was nothing new. Jerry, fossil group lead, reminded people that the July meeting falls on July 4<sup>th</sup> and will not be held. Members will be notified of the time and place of the next meeting.

**NEEDED!!!** Volunteers to form a committee to find members to run for 2018 board positions.

The following positions will be vacant:

President

Vice President

Membership Secretary

Member at Large

Meeting was adjourned at 8:48.





## "Oh, Where is my Specimen?"

by Blake Reher and his mother Susan Freeman

### *Blake 's concern*

I am done.

I am tired of collecting all day,

The specimen's I think are OK.

That my mom throws out anyway.

She throws them outside, and there they hide.

### *Mom's comeback*

Rocks originate outside, they have lived since the  
Western's Interior Seaway's rolling tides.

My son's devotion are insects embedded in time  
I get it – Fossils are identified as specimens.  
Throw them out will bring bad omens.

As I was sorting out my son's room  
Aka a sedimentary site  
I missed the imprint of a very small trilobite  
In our yard this beetle took flight.

Now – I need to make this right  
I don't want to fight.

What we need to dispel this gloom  
Is a serious plan to add more room.



**The poets pause for a photo.** Blake Reher is a student at Cheyenne Mountain High School in Colorado Springs. He has been with the Pebble Pups for 5 years and now helps lead the program. His mother, Susan Freeman, has helped with the program since Blake joined. Susan Freeman is on the left and Blake Reher is on the right.

## Brad's Bench Tips for July

### FANCY RIVET HEADS

For a nice looking rivet head, use brass escutcheon pins. You'll have perfectly rounded heads that are all the same size and shape. The pins are a little hard to find, so try the best hardware stores first. Be sure to get solid brass pins, not brass plated steel. If unsure, test them with a magnet. The pins are readily available online. Lee Valley Tools has them in 14 - 18 gauge and lengths from 1/4 inch to 1 inch. Go to <http://www.LeeValley.com> and do an item search on "brass escutcheon pin."

For best results, select a drill that gives you a hole with a close fit to the rivet. Trim the rivet to leave a little less than one diameter sticking out the back side. Place the head on a scrap of hard plastic on the anvil so as to not flatten the head. I prefer a ball peen hammer (with a small 3/8 inch ball) for setting the rivet.



### EASIER PRONG SETTING

When setting stones in a prong mount, the tool is less likely to slip off the prong if you grind a groove into its face or rough up the face a bit with sandpaper. Some folks prefer a prong pusher for doing this, and others like a set of pliers.

The easiest way to create a slot on the pusher is with a file, and the easiest way to create a slot on one jaw of your pliers is with a cutoff wheel. Then rough polish the slot with a medium grit, knife-edge silicone wheel.



See all Brad's jewelry books at  
[Amazon.com/author/bradfordsmith](https://www.amazon.com/author/bradfordsmith)



**(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 5)**

After spending several days traversing the center of the Hills (reaching the Needles-Harney Peak at the end of July) area the Expedition reached the area a few miles east of Custer at a locality termed Agnes Park and “Permanent Camp.”

The miners of the Expedition, Ross and McKay, had been looking for minerals, especially gold, during the last few days. It seems they found a few flakes near what is now Custer City and additional flakes and tiny nuggets along French Creek that runs through the “Permanent Camp” (now known as Custer’s Gulch). Most of the gold found along French Creek came from prospectors digging a hole along the stream through the gravel and preferably down to bedrock. They then panned the gravel and sand lying on the bedrock surface and removed the tiny flakes. Altogether it was not a great find; however, the tiny bits of metal certainly caused “gold fever” among the members of the Expedition as noted by a reporter for the Inter-Ocean (as reported in Grafe and Horsted (2002): *At daybreak there was a crowd around the ‘diggins,’ with every conceivable accoutrement. Shovels and spades, picks, axes, tent-pins, pot hooks, bowie knives, mess pans, kettles, plates, platters, tin cups, and everything within reach that could either lift dirt or hold it was put in service by the worshippers of that gold, gold...Officers and privates, mule whackers and scientists, all met on a common level, and the great equalizer was that insignificant yellow dust.*

On August 3 Custer, not wanting to wait with the news of “gold in the Black Hills” until the Expedition returned to Ft. Lincoln, sent scout Charley Reynolds with a dispatch to Ft. Laramie in east-central Wyoming. In glowing terms Custer over-exaggerated the gold discovery knowing full well that a rush would soon begin to the Black Hills!

On August 5, 1874, 21 claim-holders from the Expedition formed the *District No. 1, Custer Park Mining Company, Custer’s Gulch, Black Hills, D.T. Aug. 5, 1874*. The discovery claim belonged to miner Ross while one of the other claimants was Sarah Campbell (Aunt Sally who held title to “No. 7 below Discovery”). In reality, very few of the claim owners ever returned to the Black Hills, although historical records point out that miner Ross and cook Aunt Sally did live out their days in the Black Hills; neither became wealthy from the gold along French Creek.

The Expedition left the Custer City area with dreams of gold and headed north leaving the Hills in mid-August at a locality known as Custer’s Gap along Boxelder Creek north of Rapid City. Either good work by the



In the central part of the Hills the Expedition, or at least the photographer, termed these rocks the Organ Pipe range. Today they are known as The Needles and are part of Custer State Park situated north of Custer City.



Calamity Peak and the valley of French Creek near where Custer established his “Permanent Camp.” This scenic locality is located a few miles east of Custer City and is now on private land, but bisected by US 16A (heading east towards Custer state Park). Gold was “discovered” in the foreground by miners Ross and McKay. It was given the name Golden Park.



Custer’s “Permanent Camp” near Golden Park in the valley of French Creek. This photograph is a part of the Illingworth collection and the print is scattered across the internet without much copyright information. However, Grafe and Horsted (2002) give credit to the Minnelusa Pioneer Museum.

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scouts or sheer luck allowed the Expedition to “discover” the gap through the upturned sedimentary rocks that allowed movement onto the Plains. Near Bear Butte the Expedition camped for a couple of days to retrofit the wagons and then had a rather uneventful trip back to Ft. Lincoln arriving July 30<sup>th</sup>.

The Laramie Treaty of 1868 had awarded the Black Hills to the local Native Americans and forbid settlement by “outsiders.” Custer left the Hills in summer 1874 but by December of that year the gold-seeking Gordon Party (28 persons) from Iowa evaded Army patrols and built a stockade near Custer’s Permanent Camp. The group was evicted by the Army in spring 1875 but the floodgate had cracked open and by the fall thousands of potential miners were camping in Dakota Territory and trying to “sneak into” the Hills; some were successful while others were killed by Native Americans or turned back by Army patrols. On November 3, President U.S. Grant decided the Army would no longer patrol and turn back the settlers and the “rush” was in full force and hostilities with Native Americans became a common occurrence. This brings us to June 25, 1876, and completes the journey to the *end*. Certainly, hostilities with Native Americans continued for another year; however, the two-year interval between Custer’s arrival in the Black Hills in summer 1874 and his demise in summer 1876 was the *journey to the end*.

Flakes of gold can be panned, with hard work, from many streams in the Black Hills (avoid the commercial outfits). And, one runs into claim markers at numerous localities. However, none of the placer deposits seem more than recreational opportunities, but—hope springs eternal.

As for my panning attempts, I have a grand total of two flakes from French Creek. However, I neither dug down to bedrock nor worked very hard! I just wanted to see if the early miners left a small tidbit for an ole geologist.



Bear Butte near where the Expedition camped after leaving the Hills. The Butte is an Eocene laccolith and is related to Sundance Mountain shown in Figure 2.



The Expedition returning to Ft. Lincoln. The Illingsworth photo is often listed as the group leaving the Fort. However, Grafe and Horsted (2002) noted that several wagons had stacks of elk antlers picked up in the Hills indicating a return trip!



Two small flakes of gold panned from French Creek. The largest is ~3mm.

### REFERENCES CITED

Grafe, E. and P. Horsted, 2002, Exploring with Custer; The 1874 Black Hills Expedition: Golden valley Press, Custer, SD.



# 54th Annual Pikes Peak Gem, Mineral, and Jewelry Show

All photos page 10 and 14 courtesy of Frank Rosenberg





## Our Staff...

**Larry Jones—Editor**

We encourage everyone to submit articles, photos, illustrations or observations.

Share your experiences, your new finds, or simply your experience at our last field trip.

Handwrite it, type it, or email it. Format does not matter. All submissions are welcomed. The DEADLINE for items to be included in the next Pick & Pack, is the **20th of the month**

To submit an item:

For hardcopy photos or articles, mail to the address below or bring them to the General Meeting. All hardcopy photos remain the property of the submitter and will be returned. Electronic photos should be submitted at resolutions above 200 dpi in TIF, BMP, JPG, or PIC format. Articles are preferred in Word. Editor will correct font.

E-Mail to:

[csmseditor@hotmail.com](mailto:csmseditor@hotmail.com)

Mail to:

Pick & Pack Editor  
PO Box 2  
Colorado Springs, CO 80901

The PICK&PACK is published ten (10) times per year (no issues in January or August). Unless otherwise marked, materials from this publication may be reprinted. Please give credit to the author and CSMS PICK&PACK.

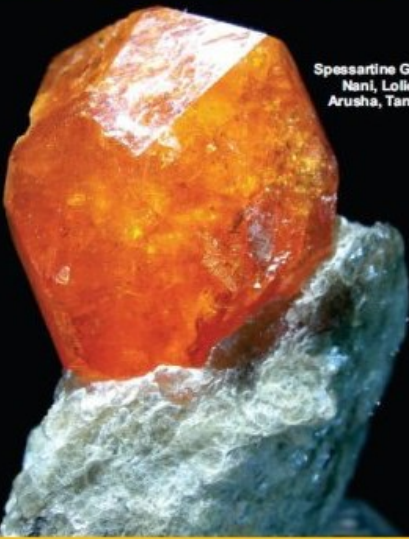
## CSMS

### T-Shirts, Badges, and Pins

are available for sale. If you celebrated a CSMS anniversary in 2015 or 2016, you are eligible for your one year pin award. Please see Storekeeper, Ann Proctor

## Classifieds

**Buena Vista CONTIN-TAIL**  
Colorado's Largest Outdoor Gem & Mineral Show!



Spessartine Garnet  
Nani, Lolondo,  
Arusha, Tanzania

**August 10th - 13th, 2017**  
Buena Vista, CO Rodeo Grounds

## Help Wanted

The club is looking for someone (it could be a couple or a team) to take over bringing the Hospitality Supplies and setting up the snack table for the General Assembly Meetings. The job is pretty easy, and folks will help at the meetings. The actual refreshments are brought by different sub groups each month.

There are 3 supply bins and a coffeemaker to have on hand for the meetings.

Please call Doreen at 719-577-4165 for more information. Thank you!

## 18th Annual Lake George Gem & Mineral SHOW!

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**CSMS is an incorporated nonprofit organization with these goals:**

To promote and disseminate knowledge of the earth sciences, especially as they relate to mineralogy, lapidary, and fossils.

To encourage study, collection, and fashioning of minerals.

To accomplish the same through social meetings, lectures, programs, displays, shows, and field trips.

The Pick & Pack is published 10 times each year to assist and promote the above.

**Joining the Colorado Springs Mineralogical Society (CSMS):** Meetings are held the **third (3rd) Thursday of each month**, except January & August, **7:00 p.m.**, at Mt. Carmel Center of Excellence, 530 Communication Circle, Colorado Springs, CO 80905. (Starting (9/21/2017) **Visitors are always welcome.**

CSMS also offers Satellite Group meetings that allow more focused attention in specific areas of our members' interests. Our current Satellite Groups consist of the following: Crystal Study Group, Faceting Group, Fossil Group, Jewelry Group, Lapidary Group, Micromounts Group, and Pebble Pups/Juniors. For details on Satellite Group meetings, check out the calendars on page 2 and the web site.

Yearly dues include 10 issues of the *PICK&PACK*, all field trips (additional fees may be required on some field trips, and members are responsible for all transportation to and from), participation in all Satellite Groups (some groups may request additional fees to help cover resource costs), free admission to the *Western Museum of Mining & Industry*, a year of learning and enjoyment, plus a lifetime of memories.

Individuals—\$30, Family—\$40, Juniors—\$15, Corporate—\$100, \*\*\*\*\*Application is on the web site.

If you are interested in joining CSMS or would like more information, we encourage you to attend our next General Meeting or visit our web site: [www.csms1936.com](http://www.csms1936.com)

**CSMS is a Member of the following organizations:**

American Federation of Mineralogical Societies (AFMS)

[www.amfed.org](http://www.amfed.org)

Rocky Mountain Federation of Mineralogical Societies (RMFMS)

[www.rmfmts.org](http://www.rmfmts.org)