

Place: **Union Hall**  
Meyers Street  
Next to Campus Life  
In Kettle Falls



Time: 7:00 PM  
Third Tuesday  
Each Month  
(Jan.-Nov.)

## The Panorama Prospector

### November 2006

#### Panorama Gem and Mineral Club Minutes for October 17, 2006 *by Luci Bristow*

Johnie called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM. Vanita greeted everyone and asked for help with cookies for the next meeting. Joyce Dawson and Bob Adams graciously volunteered. Thanks, Joyce and Bob!

Sylvia gave the Treasurer's report. \$5,055.97 in bank. Breakdown is as follows: General Fund \$4,402.46, Scholarship \$653.51, Sapphire Auction \$64.00, Silent Auction \$62.00. Our next item for auction will be a "Hobbyist" Tumbler donated by Rex. It is a 2-barrel tumbler. Our auction next month is anything you have related to rocks or some other favorite thing. Bill Allen has graciously accepted to be the auctioneer.

Rex talked about the October 7 Lone Star Mine Field Trip to Curlew. There were 7 present. They did well. It appears that they may re-open the mine. Mike Latapie enjoyed a trip to Solo Creek and found some great crystals. He also visited Lolo Pass and was not allowed on the Plum Creek land. Vanita and Jerry had a great time at Emerald Creek. A 2-oz. garnet! Joe went to a Barter Fair in Tonasket and found a nice sample of bog opal. Bob talked about their trip to Calvert Hill. A very nice aquamarine was found. Ann Sebright talked about a trip to a gold mill, and along the way they enjoyed China Bend Winery! Joe mentioned that he has CD's on metal mines of Washington. One from 1921 and the other from 1914 - 1918. Please see him if you are interested. Maureen asked Sylvia to read an article on the Hagerman Fossil Beds in Idaho. It generally talked about how a water rights deal may save the Idaho fossil bed.

Johnie announced that it was time for us to think about officers for next year. The nominations opened for President, Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer. A unanimous slate for President: Johnie Pitman, Vice President: Steve White, Secretary: Luci Bristow, and Treasurer: Sylvia Allen, was given. Trustees for the coming year are: *(continued Page 4)*

#### Huge Calcite Crystals Part 1 - Exploring *By Bob Bristow*

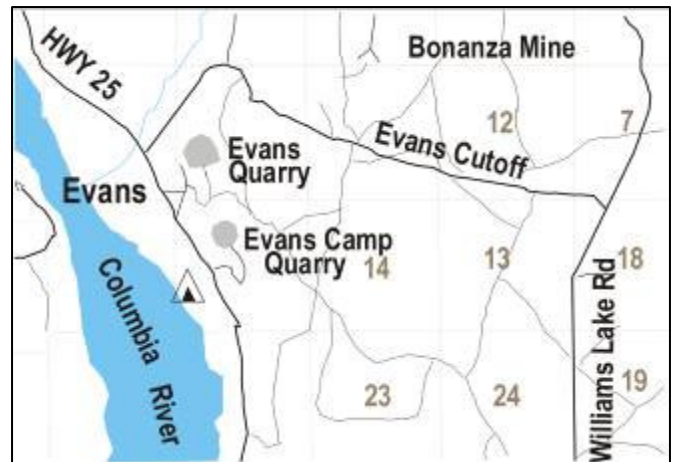


Figure 1. Map Showing the Quarries

Evans Camp Quarry was listed in one of the rockhounding books and I took my son and my brother and his wife to explore it in the early 1980's. Figure 1 is a map of the Evans area. It was a typical small quarry except that it had two small caves. These caves had both cave decorations and cavities lined with aragonite crystals. I didn't want to disturb any of the formations in the caves but some of the flowstone and cave decorations were on the surface of



Figure 2. The Author Climbing up to Cave

the quarry walls. These could be collected because they would weather and disappear rapidly. However, what really was interesting was a slab of limestone that had been dumped recently in the middle of the quarry floor. This large slab was completely covered by clear, well-formed aragonite crystals.

Unfortunately, the slab had been dropped on the side with the crystals and then rolled over. This left hundreds of one to two inch clear crystals laying all over the ground. We picked up a bag each. We then went on to explore the caves. One cave didn't have much in the way of cave decorations and the other was filled by red mud. A large stalagmite was showing in the mud so we knew that it had been open at one time. (The stalagmite was about 12-inches long by four wide. We didn't take it because there were layers of mud all through it.)

A couple of years later, I took Luci to see the quarry and get some more crystals. The crystals were still there. I decided to explore the old processing plant. There was a large concrete structure still standing where a crusher had been. There were a number of rooms and while checking them out I encountered the smell of dead meat. I followed the smell to a support area with a narrow slit in the top and a slope of dirt down to a concrete wall at the back. In the dim light, I could make out a plastic-wrapped form about six feet long and tracks where someone had dragged it down the steep incline. With the hair now standing up on the back of my neck, I crawled back out and raced to the car. I got Luci and a flashlight and crawled down the steep slope to the plastic form. With beating heart I unwrapped one end and stuck the flashlight in. It was a dead dog! Someone had gone to a great deal of trouble to see that it wouldn't be found!

Some years later, Rex Barrans and I went back to see if this would be a good place for a club field trip. There were some big changes. The whole bottom of the quarry where the aragonite crystals had been was now covered by red mud. A big part of the mud that had filled the cave had flowed out onto the quarry floor covering the crystals. Figure 2 shows the author climbing up to one of the caves. Since we didn't have any lights, we didn't explore the cave. I came back with my brother together with lights and climbing rope. The cave went up at a steep angle and the rope was handy to get back down and out. There were many cave decorations. Figure 3 shows two small columns at the end of the area now free of mud. In a few more years, there may be more of the cave to explore since it appears that tons of mud come down each spring.



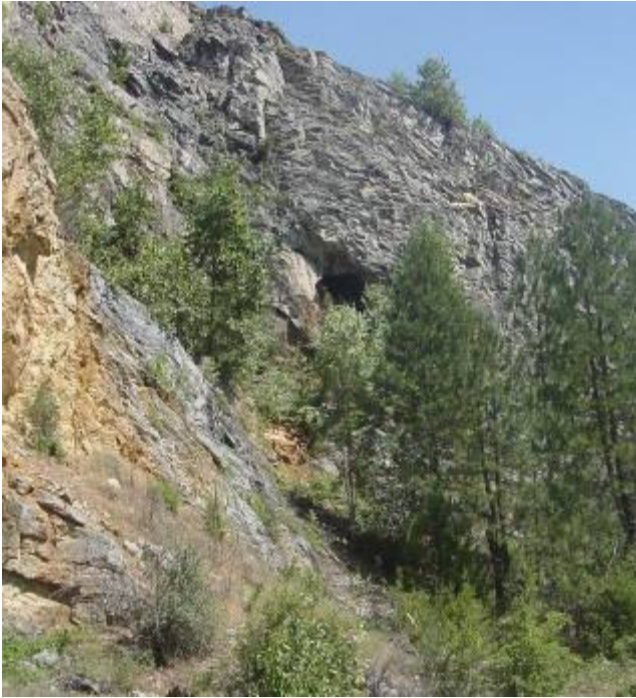
**More Evans Camp Quarry**  
*By Joe Barreca*

Figure 3. Columns at end of Cave

I can't really accuse Bob of stealing my thunder on this one. He told me about the quarry above the Evans Campground this summer and I drove up there on July 1<sup>st</sup>. (It is Powell Quarry #619 in the Geologic Atlas of Stevens County.) I have been meaning to go back ever since to look for fluorescent minerals at night. There has been one small thing holding me back, Poison Ivy.



I managed to waltz around it on the first trip. With luck, the leaves are off now. The road was blocked when Bob went up but I drove all the way in a two-wheel drive pickup with only a little slippage. The caves Bob talks about are still there. There is definitely a lot of red mud flowing out of the northern one. I was not prepared to go spelunking on this trip so I can't report much about how it looks inside. If you want to go into it, be prepared for lots of muck. There is now a helpful rope below for getting up the rocks. Once up there the southern cave is a short trail away. While on the trail, look up the rock face to an open vug 3 to four feet across covered with calcite crystals. I made it up there climbing the rock but next time, I'm taking a ladder.



This is a picture of the southern cave with some mineralized rock in the foreground. The northern cave is between the mineralized part and the other cave. I didn't get a very good picture of it, but here is the rope. Okay, a rope is not too thrilling, but this one is worth looking for. I also did not get a very good picture of the crystal vug, but I did get a picture. Tree leaves blocked a clear view this summer, but they should be gone by now.



The white behind these leaves is all crystals.

If you do go up there to see the rocks, don't neglect the view of Lake Roosevelt. It is spectacular, especially off the cement loading structure that Bob talked about. (End)

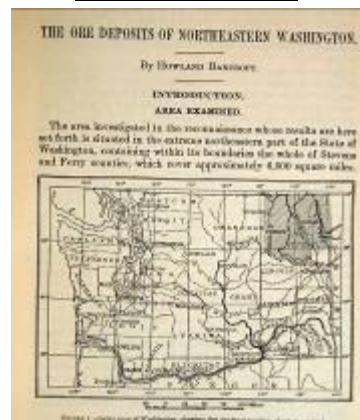


### Mining Bulletins on CD

With some luck and a lot of help from Scott Hirsch of Secure Webs, I have digital images of the pages of three mining bulletins from 1914-1921. They have detailed discussions of many of the mines we visit. 1.) #550, Ore Deposits of Northeastern Washington, Howland Bancroft 1914 with 22 pages for instance on the Germania Mine. 215 pages. 2.) #677, Geology and Mineral Deposits of the Colville Indian Reservation, Joseph Pardee, 1918, 168 pages.

3.) #23, The Metal Mines of Washington, Ernest Patty, 1921, 365 pages.

They are fairly crude right now, but I will get them in some kind of order and make copies for \$10/each. Call if you are interested, (509) 738-6155. *Joe Barreca*



(Meeting minutes continued from page 1)

Bob Bristow – 1 year, Joyce Dawson – 2 years, and Warren Buell – 3 years. We will vote at our next meeting. You still have time to nominate someone other than the slate if you so desire. Officers take office in December.

Fran Davis talked about our club hats. It was agreed to purchase 72 hats. Half will be beige hats with a net back that also has a green bill. The other half will be a gray hat with a solid back with a green bill. Thanks, Fran, for a great job!

After the break, the judging began for the “ugly rock”. A rock belonging to Ginger Pitman took first place with a rock owned by Marjorie Wilson taking second place. It was noted that all the entries were UGLY!

Johnie gave a short talk on the class he took for identifying petrified wood. The method of identifying petrified wood is the same as used for live wood, as the cell structure has to be used in both cases. Lots of petrified wood cannot be identified because the basic cell structure is not readable.

#### **Upcoming events are:**

November Meeting Auction.

November is dues month.

December 19 – Christmas Party at the American West Bank in Chewelah - 5 – 9 PM. Decorate at 5 PM and eat at 6 PM. Our Christmas eats will be potluck.

Y’all come!

7<sup>th</sup> Gem and Mineral Show will be March 30 and 31, 2007 at the Grange. Set-up begins on March 29 at 8:00 AM. Show Theme: Obsidian.

A list has been sent to the NW Federation newsletter updating names and addresses for members who were inadvertently dropped when the editor lost the names in a computer failure. Thanks for your patience in this matter.

### **The Rock Gypsy**

*By Joe Barreca*



In lot of ways, Philip (Flap) Lozerrte is a typical rock hound. He belongs to the Pow Wow Club of America and goes to Madras, Saddle Mountain and CleElum. He loves to talk about rocks and exchange some he has for some you have. And he has a problem storing all the rocks he has managed to collect. Actually he has a big problem with that. He lives in a camper.

That might be tolerable for ski bums or an extended field trip, but most of us could not handle it for long. It forces you to be pretty picky about your rocks and Flap has some nice ones, especially these big pieces of bog opal from Mattawa, and some limb



casts that look dull the outside from the diatomaceous earth where you find them. But once you cut and polish them, they are worth lots of money. He has been offered hundreds for finished pieces by rock shops on the West Coast.

That brings up another problem with being on the road, no way to finish the pieces so the ordinary person might want to take one home and put it on display.

By now you might be thinking “So why doesn’t he just get a job and a house and treat rock hounding like any other hobby?” The rest of the story is... A while back Flap caught tuberculosis. As a rare disease, most of us are not familiar with some of the impacts it has, even if you survive. One of those is to cause the backbone to degenerate. With some even rarer luck, Flap was in a hospital in Seattle when a convention of doctors who treat this condition was meeting there. The leading specialist in the world operated and placed metal disks in his back. A lot of others came by to check it out. Even after this kind of surgery, most patients never walk again. Even though he has some long-lasting pain, Flap is out and about, but he can’t go back to his former job of moving and hauling. He has some disability money coming in and makes enough money collecting drift wood and selling it to pet shops to get by.

I met him at the Okanogan Barter Fair near Tonasket and traded for some rocks. But of even more interest to him was finding a way to get some of his rocks cut and polished so he could sell them. Mike Latapie has been helping with that. He tried cutting some slabs, but most bog opal shatters too easily to make that practical. So Mike is experimenting with some new big specimens to see if a few cuts and some polishing can turn them into nice bookends. I have one like that and it really shows off the petrified wood inside. You will probably see some at a club meeting in the near future.

(One interesting discovery was that a few pieces of the these rocks glow bright orange under the club's UV light.)

Flap is off to Arizona for the winter. That sounds like a pretty good combination, great rock picking and warm weather in a place that is used to snow birds. I'm wondering though how he will manage to bring back all the rocks he's bound to find.

### **Hounding the Hubbard**

*by Joseph Barreca*

It was back in the middle of August when our little expedition set off to find the Hubbard Mine. Rex Barrans and Scot Jackson had not been there in a long time. New member Fran Davis volunteered her spiffy SUV. We picked up Mike Latapie in Onion Creek and were off through Northport and into the backcountry to find the Hubbard Mine.



Finding the road was not too bad. Going up it was impossible. We neglected to bring a chain saw and years of storm winds had crisscrossed it with downed trees, so we picked our way back to it over and under them.

This ore bin was in fairly good condition, considering that the tunnels were driven around 1944. We scrambled up the tailings pile (which was not too interesting) and found the adit right away. That was enough to discourage the most level-headed of us. But some of us went in anyway. The tunnel is long



and there is some water at the start, but after the first 30 feet or so it is hard rock and reasonably safe. But the rocks were not too interesting. We found out why near the end where an ore shoot emptied down from a shaft above (It was completely clogged). This adit was just for hauling out the ore.

That might have been the end of

it, but I brought an aerial photo that showed something up higher on the hill. Rex and Fran found it while the rest of us were underground.

The underground crew went up after lunch and found a large opening with a pair of holes. The one to the right went down sharply and fed into the ore shoot we had discovered in the adit below. The other was full of water and appeared to go straight back. Although principally a zinc and lead mine, there were also nice samples of copper and pyrite. When we got some samples back home, they showed some interesting fluorescence, but I didn't take the UV light into the shaft with me, so just where it is and how much is debatable.

Government records show that the mine only produced one carload of ore. You have to show some production to hold a mining claim, but then you are taxed on that production. With all the work that went into this mine, it's hard to believe the production was so low. The ore is said to have been in "disseminated lenses and irregular masses." Maybe they never really found a vein. Or maybe they just didn't tell the G-Men. At any rate we'll need more equipment when we go back. We should bring the club too. The best specimens were in the tailings outside this upper shaft and we should be able to drive there next time.



