

Place: Arden  
Community Club  
Hall Rd  
Arden, WA



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

## The Panorama Prospector October 2011

### Panorama Gem and Mineral Club

Minutes September 19, 2011

*Luci Bristow*

President Johnie greeted everyone and opened the meeting. Vice President Bob gave a few “words of wisdom”. Luci asked that people bringing dessert please be in contact with her with regard to what they were thinking about bringing so that as Hospitality Chair she could cover what else was needed. Tina Lundy, Kay Lupton volunteered desserts for our next meeting. President Johnie read the treasurer’s report in Sylvia’s absence. Dan Lundy acted as “the money man” for the silent auction. Good job! President Johnie reminded everyone that there were door prize tickets available. There was a door prize for youth and one for adults. Our guest speaker, Dean Yongue won the first door prize which was a beautiful rock bird house made by President Johnie. Steve Fox won the second door prize - a pamphlet on Gems and Minerals of Washington. We are seeking a Chairperson for the door prize events. If you are interested, please contact President Johnie.

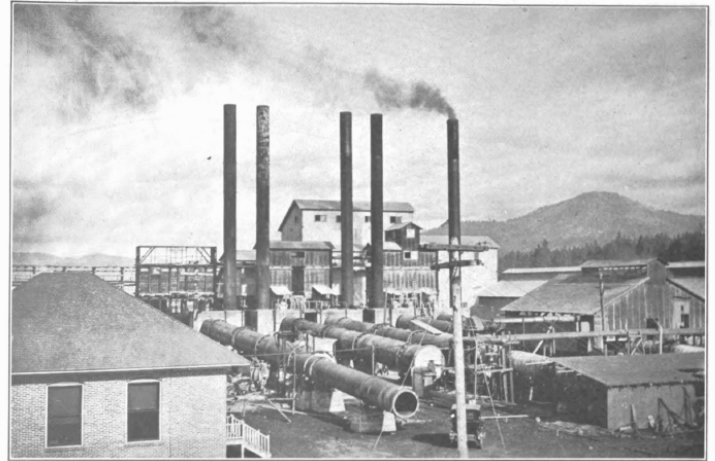
The question of insurance for the Club came up. After much discussion, Bill Lupton said that he knew an agent that covered such events and will look into what is available for the Club. He will report on his findings in a couple of months,

Steve Fox will have a booth at Cider Fest in Marcus on October 1, 2011. Information about our Club will be available.

Mike Latapie brought up field trips. Unfortunately, this year our field trips have been fairly minimal since our Chairperson was incapacitated with illness and our former Chair is not able to continue in that capacity. A discussion will be held at the next meeting. He also brought up the Black Light for the club. The light is in need of some repairs, but will be present at all future meetings.

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WASHINGTON GEOLOGICAL SURVEY BULLETIN NO. 20 PLATE XVIII



Calcining plant of the Northwest Magnesite Company at Chewelah.

### The Mining History of Stevens County

*By Joseph Barreca*

This is a picture of the Northwest Magnesite Plant in Chewelah around 1920. It is taken from The Mineral Resources of Stevens County by Charles E. Weaver of the Washington Geological Survey, 1920. That book in turn is available in Adobe PDF files from the Stevens County Crossroads on the Columbia Digital Archive, [www.crossroadsarchive.org](http://www.crossroadsarchive.org). Mining played a big part in the history of Stevens County. It also is a key component of rockhounding. At the October Meeting I will be giving a presentation on the History of Mining in Stevens County. Since Stevens County once contained both Ferry and Pend Oreille Counties and together they have over 1800 mines, I probably won’t cover everything. So here are some hints about what to expect and how you can find out more.

The good news is that just about every kind of rock, mineral and metal can be found in the hills around us. The bad news is that they are hidden in probably the most complex geologic area in North America and to a great extent the land is

Please remember that should you need the black light, you need to call the person responsible for bringing the light and let him/her know so that it can be available for you.

Dean Yongue gave a very interesting and informative presentation on prospecting. Many questions were answered. Dean did an excellent job with his description and examples of prospecting.

Joe Barreca has the program for the next meeting. Nominations for officers will take place at the next meeting.

Schedule of events:

October – Nominations

November – Elections

Annual Scholarship Auction

December – Christmas Potluck/Party

Newly Elected Officers take Positions

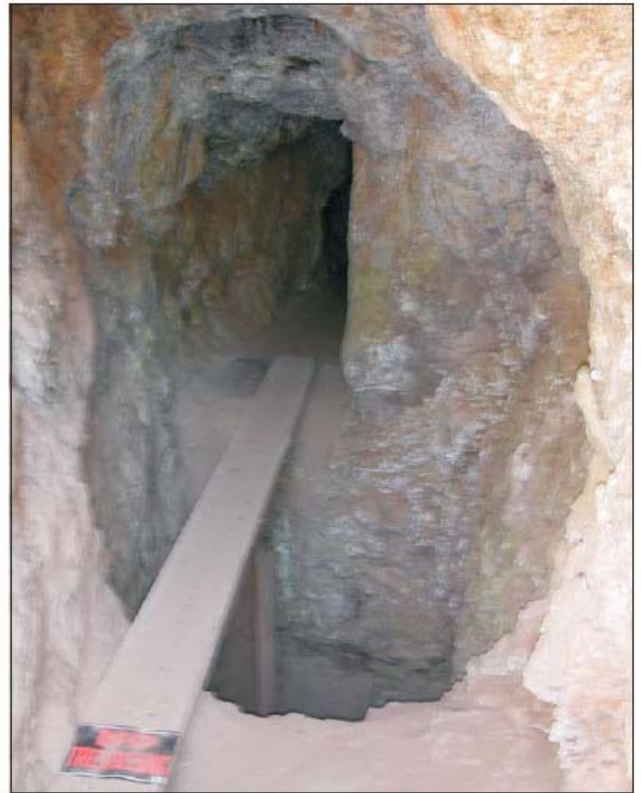
*End of minutes*

covered by trees. So basically we look for certain kinds rocks where people have found them before. Over time, this naturally reduces the chance that those kinds of rocks will still be there.

Here is where mine history comes in. Hardly any of those 1800 mines are still active and a lot of interesting rocks are waiting to be found again. To be clear, not all of the rocks we are interested in were mined commercially. Most crystals, fossils and agates have no mines associated with them. But lots of interesting minerals that were mined have a large variety of other minerals, interesting rock formations, etc. associated with them. So there is a lot of material out there for arm-chair prospectors to look into before heading to the field. A good place to start are the DNR reports on Inactive and Abandoned Mines. There are 78 of them for our area alone. And they are all a couple of clicks away from our website. Under "Helpful Hints" on the website, you can look for the link to the Inactive and Abandoned Mine Report at <http://panoramagem.com/?p=457>.

For instance, in the report on the United Copper Mine, you will find information on the whole complex of mines in that area. The report includes a map of the adits and roads; statistics about production; a description of the various adits and tunnels; history of ownership and operation; theories on the underlying base rock (Belt Series) and the veins of ore (vertical and

probably continuing below the depth already mined); the richness of the ore (70 to 300 oz of



**Figure 5.** View inside the Copper King No. 1 adit. Plank crosses the vertical shaft, which is caved at 10 feet. View to north.

silver/ton in one case); heavy metal amounts in the runoff and references to other papers and books on the topic. So this is one heck of a good start on researching a whole group of mines. From reading it you can expect to find Chalcopyrite and Malachite in the waste rock, know what parcel numbers to look up to find current owners and have pictures of most of the remaining features of the mine.

This complex of mines produced 10.5 million lbs. of copper, 1.7 million oz. of silver and 1400 oz of gold in its day. Most of the production was between 1906 and 1920. As a rockhound field trip, it would provide a great place to tour even without finding any great rocks.

On the Crossroads Archive website: <http://crossroadsarchive.net/items/show/4141>

There is a ledger from the Copper King mine that shows WW Dickson as owning 10,000 shares. If we search for him on the same site we find that he was Chewelah's 1<sup>st</sup> mayor.



# Mining for Gold in the 1930's at Rattlesnake Canyon (Gulch) on the Columbia

*From Nancy Ross*

The information in this article, which takes place during the years of the Great Depression, is shared by Nancy Bock who with her husband Lauren are NAMA members. The information was provided to her by Nancy (Moller) Ross a relative of hers who is the daughter of Hubert Moller whose story this is.

All quotes are from an email from Nancy Ross.

Hubert Moller who would have been nineteen years old in 1933 saw an ad in a newspaper (probably a Tacoma paper) for a partner to join the Hester brothers mining for gold along the Columbia River. *"It sounded like an interesting adventure to him (my Dad was always up for interesting adventures as a young man) and there was possibility for earning money."*

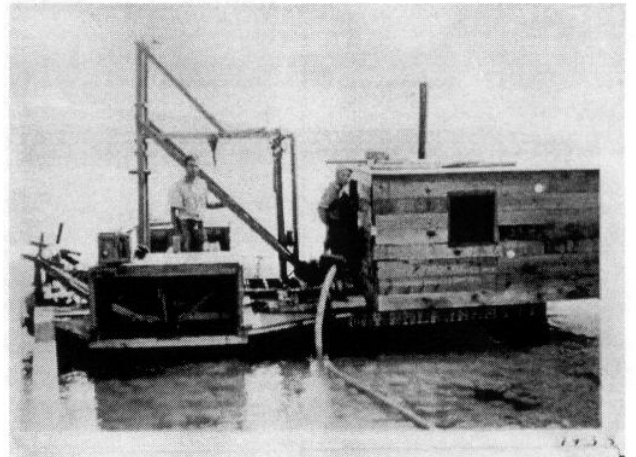
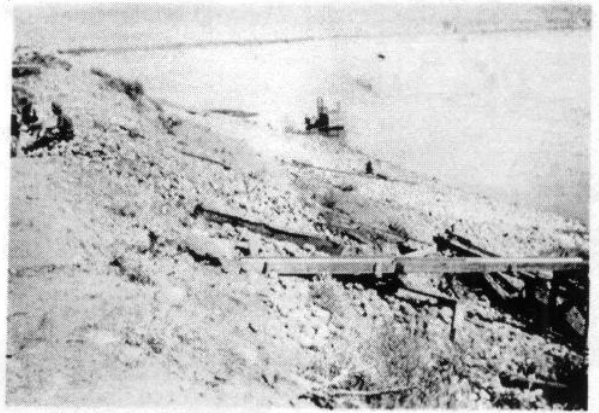
*"The location originated at the confluence of the Okanogan and Columbia Rivers near Brewster and moved around as they sluiced. They had days where they found nothing; days where they would get a little gold dust; and one day that they actually ended up with several ounces of gold dust in the sluice riffles. Gold prices were about \$20 an ounce. They had to supplement their gold findings by gathering fruit from abandoned orchards, chasing abandoned chickens, and fishing. They also gathered logs out of the river for firewood and to sell as firewood."*

Nancy said her Dad told her *"they made enough to keep them supplied in beans. My understanding was that this was a less than 2 year operation but my sister thought it was closer to 5 years."*

The claim is now underwater because of the dams that have been built on the Columbia River.

*"My dad also worked on the Grand Coulee Dam in the very early stages. I don't know if it was including in his mining operation time or not. He*

[This must have been a fairly good claim since they worked it for so long. It would have also been hard times during the Depression. Hubert Moller doesn't look to be just 20 years old here.]



Cal Hester 1934



Hubert Moller 1934



didn't last long there. The ranchers and farmers of the area were supposed to get the jobs working on the dam and were not getting the jobs. He thought a union would help them get the jobs they were promised so he helped in trying to organize this union. He got fired."

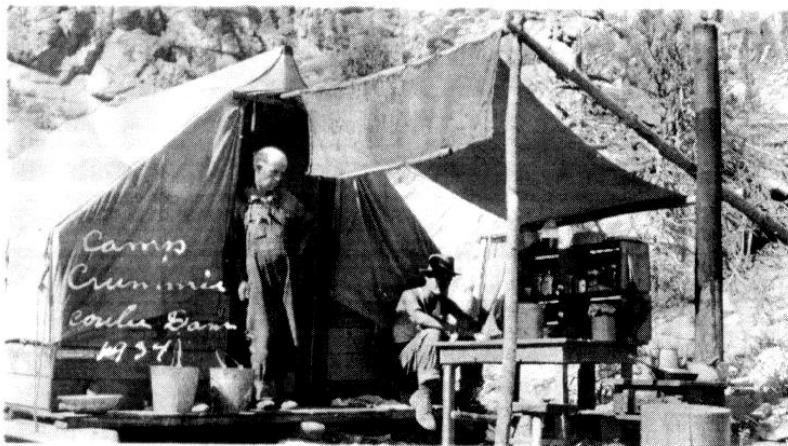
"My dad went back to see the grand opening celebration of the Grand Coulee Dam when President Roosevelt was there in 1937. He climbed up on top of a billboard so he could see the President."

Thanks again to Nancy Ross and Nancy Bock for sharing this story.

Does anyone else have a story to share?



Notice Cal Hester in the middle pulling the string to trip the shutter on the camera



## Johnnie's Jabber

By Club President, Johnie Pitman

I don't have any great adventures or exciting rock collecting trips to report, but there are a few reminders that I need to bring to your attention. OH!! yeah, Thanks to Steve Fox for setting up a booth at Ciderfest in Marcus and talking about and giving out information about our club. His voice was getting a little raspy by the end of the day because there were people at his booth nearly

all day.

Joe Barreca has the program for this month and Bruce Hurley will provide a door prize.

It's October so it's time for officer nominations, with the election to be done at the November meeting. We will be looking for a field trip coordinator and field trip leaders for next year.

Bill Allen has secured the Fort Colville Grange Hall for the 2012 show and has sent out dealer applications. The show will be the last Friday and Saturday of March with set up on Thursday. Every few years we take a look at other venues for the show and I think it's time to do that again, so be considering serving on a committee to find a place that would have more space for kids activities, displays and demonstrators.

The November meeting is our annual rock and related items auction to raise money for our scholarship fund, so think about what you would like to donate. Then December is the Christmas Party and gift exchange. There will also be a time for stories that you want to share.

Now that summer is over and kids are back in school, remember the club shop is open on the first and third Saturday every month from noon until 5:00. There is a charge of two dollars an hour to use the equipment.

See you soon, Johnie

## Some Changes for Earth Science Week at the Stonerose Fossil Center

### Saturday, October 15

9 - 12 Experts will teach proper techniques in quarrying and collecting fossil specimens

2 - 3 No host group lunch with guest speaker Peter Cooper, Chief Geologist from Kinross Gold Corporation, at Tamarack Pizza (John May, Senior Exploration Geologist at Kinross may speak if Peter's travel schedule changes).

2 - 4 Fossil Identification Workshop &

**Tour of the Stonerose Collections**  
6 - 8 Mini presentations at the Republic Elementary Multi-Purpose Room by Dr. Bruce Archibald, Jack Nisbet, and Regan Dunn, graduate student of Dr. Caroline Stromberg

**Sunday, October 16**

9 -11 Expert led fossil dig at Stonerose's original fossil location, the "Corner Lot"  
1 - 4 Guided geological tour of unique features in and around the Republic and Curlew area

**Monday, October 17 Rescheduled for November 7<sup>th</sup> (tentative)**

9:30 - 11:30 Tour Kinross Gold Corporation's milling plant and watch how a gold bar is made. Everyone must register for the Kinross Tour with the Stonerose Interpretive Center at least 14 days in advance. Age 12+. Some Restrictions Apply.

For more information visit the Stonerose Website at [www.stonerosefossil.org](http://www.stonerosefossil.org) email us at [srfossils@rcabletv.com](mailto:srfossils@rcabletv.com) or call (509) [775-2295](tel:775-2295).



**Proposed Action for Forest Plan Revision, Colville National Forest**

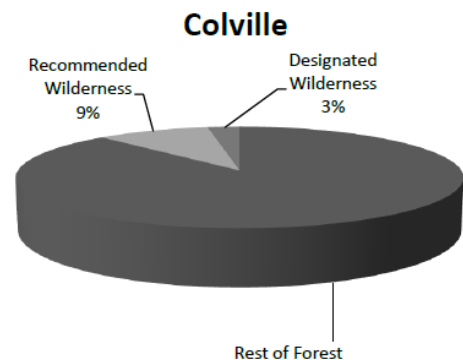
*By Joseph Barreca*

At the September Meeting there was a discussion about the proposed changes in management of the Colville National Forest. Since this is one of the main areas where we look

for rocks, there was intense interest in the topic. I thought a closer look at what is being proposed might be in order. The whole plan, 72 pages, is available from [www. PanoramaGem.com](http://www.PanoramaGem.com), our website. You need to click on the Forest Service category on the home page and then on "read more" part of the post to get to the "Management Plan" link. Believe me, this is a lot easier than trying to find it on the Forest Service website itself.

My basic impression is that there is no direct mention of rockhounding in the plan and this is a good thing. Every activity that they do mention comes with a list of management objectives, goals, issues and "tools" to deal with it. The plan does talk about "*The goal for recreation settings and experiences would include providing a spectrum of high quality, nature-based outdoor recreational settings where visitors access the forest, including access to the biological, geological, scenic, cultural, and experiential resources of the Forest.*" So is rockhounding "geological recreation"? Hard to say.

The big issue seems to be proposed new wilderness.



The plan would triple the amount of wilderness in the forest, much of it along the Kettle Crest. But it insists that it will not change use from the existing situation unless there is an act of congress. "*Management areas designated by Congress have boundaries set that only Congress may change. These are National Scenic Trail locations and the Congressionally Designated Wilderness... Recommended Wilderness, and Wild and Scenic Rivers are recommendations until a final designation is made by Congress.*" (P. 52)

The plan does express some concern with new trails developed by use of GPS. But it implies that they are mostly done with ATVs, which corresponds to my experience. Personally I would say "Let sleeping dogs lie."