

Place: Arden
Community Club
Hall Rd
Arden, WA



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

The Panorama Prospector

May 2012

Minutes April 2012

By Ginger Pitman

The meeting was conducted after our program given by Leon Agee. We are grateful for his coming to present his program: "Inclusions in Gem Stones" even though he has been fighting pneumonia. The pictures were spectacular. Thank You; Leon and Bonnie, we will see you at the Rock Rollers show.

There were 39 members and 2 young visitors for the meeting. Refreshments for the next meeting will be provided by Arden/Kathy Fritz, Mike Latapie, and Bob's brownies.

Our door prize was won by Joe Barreca, and each of the visiting boys.

We displayed a pair of glasses, a sweatshirt, gloves and a couple of other items deemed lost and found from the show. The glasses were advertised in the paper/radio but no calls.

The flow table from the Forest Service was a "hit" among the show visitors but we will ask for someone from the Forest Service to accompany the display who can explain the stream flow.

Bill gave a final show report. We did very well and were able to fund our scholarships which is most of the reason for the show, education being the other part.

Sylvia gave our treasurer's report which included \$300 for the club shop and upkeep.

Dave Paquette gave a short talk about a group in Chewelah who he feels is doing something about our loss of freedoms if no more than a place to vent.

The Novaks presented a field trip on May 26 for Thulite over by Riverside. If you are interested get in touch with them.

We received a thank note from the Summit Spirits 4-H club for letting them do our concessions.

Dave Paquette brought a big rock that he found up on Boulder pass. *continued on page 2*

The Loon Lake Copper Mine

By Joseph Barreca



All-flotation mill of the Loon Lake Copper Mine.

All too often the club goes to an old mine with just the minerals in mind looking for some trophy to bring home. I'll be the first to confess that I am guilty of that more often than not. In the June 2006 newsletter I wrote about the Loon Lake Copper Mine, (Blues on Grouse Creek) just thinking about blue and green rocks.

But the Loon Lake Copper Mine was much more than that, and if I had had the information and the initiative to research it more deeply six years ago, the experience would have been a whole lot richer. If Spokane Falls saloon owner, "Jack" Squire had followed up on the claim he discovered on Grouse Creek in 1886, he might have become a lot richer too. As it turns out, no one got rich on the Loon Lake Copper Mine, but for awhile it produced the most valuable copper ore in the county.

Five years later in 1891 after some other prospectors, A. W. Kemp and George Komar, rediscovered the prospect, they called in the big thinkers, including mining engineer L. K. Armstrong and Spokane mining magnate, Patsy

As he was watching the Discovery Channel, a program about where to find meteors, he saw the same kind of rock he had collected. Makes him wonder if there are meteorites up on the ridge of Boulder/Sherman Passes.

The most important discussion of the evening was about a relocation of the annual rock show. Arden Fritz gave a committee report and recommendation. Considerations were given to: one floor level, traffic flow, maybe more vendors, taxes, use of the stage. This was followed by a point by point presentation by Brian Martell costs/etc. After further discussion the vote to move to the Ag Trade Center at the fairgrounds next year was unanimous. A lot of logistics will need to be done but it will be exciting.

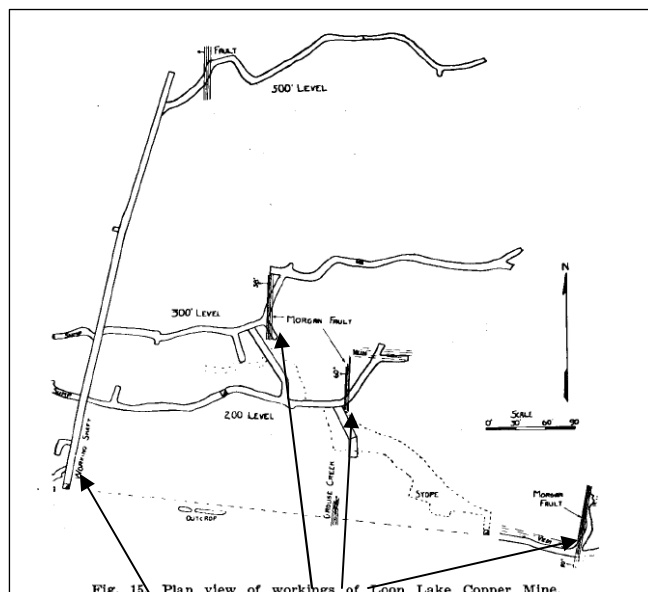
Summit Spirits 4-H club will be asked to do our concessions again. They did a great job and we are glad to have a non-profit group. As one of their community projects they have taken on the job of sewing the grab bags for us. We will need to get the pattern and material to them. Thank you. It is a huge job done for us.

A Thank You to Bev Bockman for the use of her cabbng machine. Gene Meyer did a great job demonstrating with it.

A Thank You to all who worked, attended and were vendors at the show. It was a great time. Even though it is time to change we are grateful to the Fort Colville Grange for the years we were there.

Clark, who funded a tunnel into the hillside where the outcrop surfaced. What he found was that the mineral rights to the section that appeared to contain the ore, were owned by the Northern Pacific Railroad. They were given ownership of land in a checkerboard pattern along the route to entice them to build a railroad to the Pacific. But they would neither develop the mine nor sell the rights to it. So Clark bailed out. This was the second in a series of disputes and poor decisions that would sidetrack the mine's development.

Another four years later, in 1895, George T. Crane, a Spokane hardware store owner, obtained title to the land and brought in mining engineer, Frank C. Loring. The big thinkers became think-biggers, and they raised \$1.5 million dollars to develop the mine. They put in a shaft of 200 feet and a drift of 251 feet, but still missed the biggest ore body in the mine by 20 inches when they ran out of money in 1900.



Crane Shaft Morgan Fault

Another 5 years lapsed with no further work on the mine. Then with World War I about to break out in Europe, copper prices shot up and interest in the mine shot up with them. In 1915 George Crane reorganized the company and immediately discovered a vein of rich chalcocite (Cu_2S) with streaks of covelite (CuS) running almost 50% pure copper. Evan Morgan became the general manager of the mine.

Morgan was already famous and wealthy for having developed Loon Lake into the early equivalent of Coney Island. When Corbin's railway reached Loon Lake in 1889, Morgan built a playground for tourists from Spokane to come out for the day. It included a Ferris wheel and a



steamboat that took passengers and a string of row boats trailing behind around the lake on tours.

"An important underground feature of the mine is the Morgan fault, which seems to follow the trend of the pay-shoot and faults the vein on all levels. The fault and pay-shoot have the same downward trend and the best ore is found on the

east side of the fault.” (*Metal Mines of Washington, Earnest Patty, 1921, Page 153*) So Evan Morgan was an, owner, manager and the namesake of the main geologic feature of the mine.

For the next 2 years, mining was good. Carloads of ore with 20% copper were being shipped. The main ore became chalcopyrite (CuFeS_2), a kind of rock often collected by rockhounds. “During 1919 this property ranked as the second largest copper producer in Stevens County and the third largest producer in the State.” (*Patty*) Despite the success of the mine, it fell into bankruptcy. There were disputes among the owners about a shady land deal in which the company bought land from members of the board. Also the think-biggers had built one of the finest processing plants in the State. But the mill never did use its full capacity.

The mine never re-opened. Evan Morgan and others retained ownership and kept planning for a comeback. In the Crossroads on the Columbia Digital Archive there is a letter from Morgan to his granddaughter, Gail, written December 31st, 1927 on Loon Lake Copper letterhead. It says that it was 28° below zero the night before; that they were putting up ice in the ice house; asks if Gail got the \$5.00 Evan sent for Christmas and is signed with 134 Xs for kisses. Nothing is said of the Loon Lake Copper mine.

If you visit it today, you will see a large tailings pile with an occasional green or blue rock stained with copper. Busy beavers have blocked the culvert on the road crossing Grouse Creek to the mine from the hill where the mill once stood. Their pond is full of greenery, but not from



Malachite. It remains at the end of the cycle of hope, hard work and heartbreak that mark many a mining venture. On even the most adventurous rock trips, all you have at the end of the day is a story and maybe some rocks, but wouldn't it be better if you brought a story with you too?

Johnie's Jabber

By Johnie Pitman

The weather seems to have turned in our favor, it's time to get some more field trips on the calender. Jerry and Vanita Novak have arranged the trip to Tunk Creek, Okanogan County on May 26. Meet at the city park in Riverside at 9:00 AM, for more information contact Vanita at 738-4578.

Bruce Hurley (413-2768) is leading a trip to Metaline Falls for trilobites on June 2, time and place to meet will be announced at the meeting.

The Ag Trade Center in Colville has been reserved for our show next year, thanks to Arden Fritz.

The scholarship applications are in the hands of the trustees so they will select the winners.

The North Idaho Clue's show will be the 2-3 of June at the Fair Grounds in Coeur D'Alene, so plan on attending it if you can.

The program this month will be rock pictures taken by Jeff Tetrick.

LET'S CELEBRATE



As many of you know Daniel and Tina Lundy will be having a baby but you may not know it will be **twins**.

Which doubles the fun but also the funding. So as a club maybe we can help out with a “baby” money tree. We'll give you some time to think about it and plan on putting our envelopes on the tree at the June meeting. This is only for those who want to, nothing official just our gesture for what will be an exciting time. Babies aren't due quite yet but twins seem to come early. We extend to all the family our best wishes.

The Fifth Seattle Mineral Market

Saturday, May 19th, 10 AM until 5 PM at the Lake City Community Center. 12531 28th Avenue NE. Next to the Lake City Library. Free admission, free parking and free minerals for kids. 30 mineral and ore specimen dealers, several gem dealers, and several geology and mining book dealers will be there. The website for the show is: www.cannonmicroprobe.com

Rockhound Legislation

Brian Waters

(This is the next in a series of missives from Brian Waters of the Washington State Mineral Council on proposed legislation to allow rockhounding on public land.)

The first meeting we had with the DNR was, as I wrote, "a getting to know you" meeting. (Myself and Bob Pattie represented the WSMC and James Keffer represented the PSK.) At that first meeting the DNR acted like they didn't know who we were, what it is that we do, or what we wanted. One of the DNR representatives that was there even said that they were blindsided by the legislation. (I think they got a lot of heat from legislators because of our truly grassroots effort.) In any case the only real thing that came out of that meeting is that the DNR told us they thought they could work with us under the Multiple Use Act (MUA states that the DNR must allow for multiple uses, including recreation, as long as it does not interfere with the stated purpose of the State Trust Lands that they manage which is to raise money for the state.) We basically agreed to meet again.

That brought us to the second meeting we just had. The only concrete thing that came out of the second meeting was that the DNR requested that we use Bulletin 37 (list of known minerals in the state) and show them which minerals we are talking about. (Basically they don't want us collecting any precious material, though we pointed out that we do collect garnets?) From what I understand, if we are collecting material that is not precious than they do not need to require a permit or collect money, but if it is precious I believe they will require a fee of some sort since most of the lands we are talking about are Trust Lands that are supposed to raise money for certain agencies in the state.

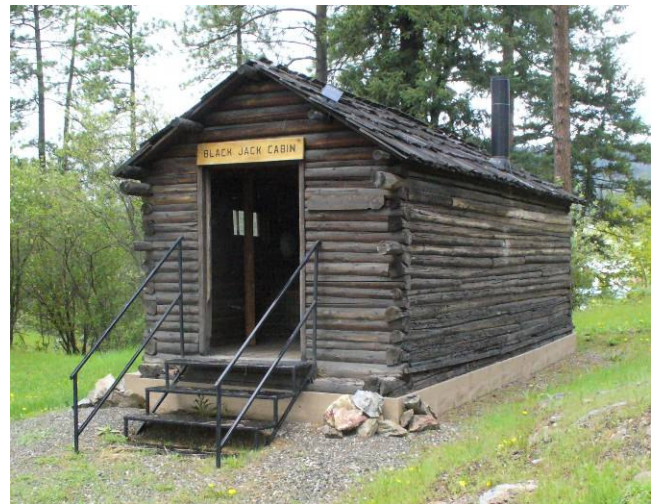
Also at this second meeting the DNR representative started talking about amounts, and from what I can gather they do not want a yearly amount as they think that is unenforceable. Not only that but from the way it sounded to me, they wanted a very small daily amount. The DNR reps keep talking about sustainability. (Like today's rockhounds are going to take all available material of interest to rockhounds and leave none for future generations.)

One other thing that I picked up at the second meeting is that the DNR would like to have us collect in only designated areas. (easier for them to control and enforce). We have been trying to tell them that their goal of sustainability is not compatible with their goal of keeping rockhounding in designated areas.

You can find out more by visiting <http://www.mineralcouncil.org/>

The Blackjack Miners Cabin

By Joseph Barreca



The Stevens County Historical Society has a new collection of mining artifacts starting with this miner's cabin. It is behind the Keller House on the grounds of the Keller Heritage Center Museum and Park (KHCMP) in Colville. It was donated by the Bureau of Land Management who had it as a mobile display. Inside you will see various tools, cooking equipment, a stove, bed and other items from the time of the big mining boom around 1900. The KHCMP is open daily May through September: Monday - Thursday 10am to 4pm and Friday - Sunday 1pm to 4pm. <http://www.stevenscountyhistoricalsociety.org/>

Beside the cabin they have constructed a model mine with tracks going into a would-be tunnel in the hillside. On the tracks they have assembled a collection of mining carts and a special cart meant to hold a couple of pneumatic drills on arms that can be positioned across a wide range of angles and elevations. They don't have drills on the arms of this cart. If you have any lying around, they would be glad to use them. If you haven't worked underground before, the

intended use of this cart would be a mystery without the drills.



Both of the ore carts are designed to dump their loads into a skip at the main shaft, where they would be hauled up out of the mine. The second one looks like you might find a place to stand on the back of it once you got it going down the tracks in a drift. Drifts are built at a slight upward angle. An average ore cart holds a ton of rock. Once you get it going down the tracks, you can hop on and ride most of it down to the skip station. I have clear memories of one of my first days underground pushing a similar cart down the tracks and jumping on for the ride. My first big mistake was holding on to the lever used to dump the cart. The second was moving it enough to release the load in front of the cart going full speed down the grade. The cart went flying and so did I. When I got my helmet and light functioning again, I was looking at a pile of white rock in the light of the yellow lamp and realizing



that I now had to get the cart back upright on the track and load all the ore back in it. It was like a nightmare from the Seven Dwarfs.

Another feature of the exhibit is this derrick.

It is built for a vertical shaft and the bucket would

have been positioned below it on a track where it may have been maneuvered beneath an ore shoot to fill before being wheeled on a dolly to the bottom of the shaft for the derrick to lift.



The last major piece in the exhibit is this air compressor. A bigger mine would have had a permanent one at the top of the shaft with pipes running down to each level. This one would have been handy for exploratory tunnels and shafts because it could be brought in and used for drilling without permanent buildings. The gas engine is on the left side in this picture and the compressor is on the right with pressure tanks on the outside of the frame.

This new exhibit is fun to see and compliments the many other displays:

- Museum of Indian, Pioneer Life and Historical Items
- Keller House of 1910
- Graves Mt. Lookout Tower
- Hixon Castles and Garden
- Colville's First School House
- Farmstead Cabin
- Trappers Cabin
- Pioneer Machinery Museum
- Sawmill
- Blacksmith Shop

It really is worth a visit.

Hazardous Mine Sites

A new list of Hazardous sites has been released by the State Department of Ecology. <http://www.ecy.wa.gov/biblio/1209042a.html>

The only mine listed in Stevens is the Bonanza Mine near Evans where cleanup work has not yet begun.