

SEPTEMBER 1990

FM FIELD TRIP GREAT SUCCESS

by Ray Lasmanis

At the suggestion of president Becky Harris the North Cascades field trip was organized by Cheryl Stewart to accomplish two goals: one, to create good will between the U.S Forest Service by policing for trash along the scenic highway; and second, to have the experience of collecting unusual minerals from the Golden Horn Batholith. The trip was kicked off Friday (August 17th) evening at the Klipchuck campground west of Mazama, Washington. Okanogan National Forest resource assistant, Ardis Bynum was kind enough to set aside five camp sites for FM members. Despite the heavy rain, by midnight 15 members and 3 children had checked in and set up camp.

The morning of August 18th Ardis Bynum arrived with garbage bags and maps to clean up areas for every team of volunteers. With yellow sacks in hand enthusiastic FM members went off to their assigned spots to pick up trash discarded by inconsiderate visitors. We filled trash bags at Cutthroat Creek, Silver Star view point, the big switchback below Early Winters Spires, Washington Pass, Blue Lake trailhead, and the Rainy Pass area. At noon we all met at Cutthroat creek and load our goodies into a U.S. Forest Service truck (cans, bottles, car parts, clothes, oil filters, paper, plastic, a steel ladder, a motorcycle helmet, a screen door, and even a Mercedes hub cap).

The rest of Saturday afternoon and Sunday members searched the cuts and talus slopes along state Hwy 20 from Washington Pass down to Cutthroat creek. The cut at the Silver Star view point was especially productive. The following minerals were found in the arfvedsonite granite during the FM field trip:

Smoky quartz crystals up to 9cm. with one perfect small Brazil law twin

Albite xls.

Microcline xls.

Arfvedsonite xls.

Astrophyllite xls.

Acmite xls. as inclusions in smoky quartz

Zircon xls. as inclusions in smoky quartz

elpidite xls.

Zektzerite xls.

hematite micro. xls.

siderite xls.

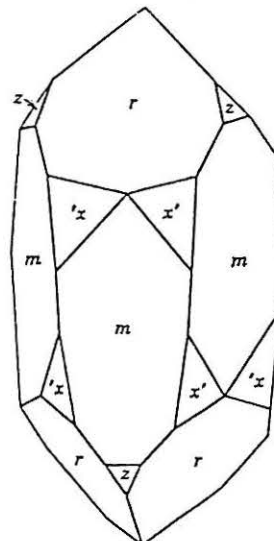


FIG. 64. Idealized Brazil twin, showing repetition of the  $z\{51\bar{6}1\}$  faces.

# PRESIDENTS MESSAGE

Hi everyone, I'll see you all at the Symposium.

Becky Harris  
president  
PNW Friends of mineralogy

## TREASURERS REPORT

July 7, 1990

Beginning balance	\$1192.37
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### EXPENDITURES:

January-June phone bills	\$83.20
Postage	\$61.00
Heldref Publications (Rocks & minerals ad)	\$105.00
Arlene Handly (FM past due acct. 1987 Symposium)	\$30.00
Larry Brown (Hats sold at 1989 fall Symposium)	\$21.20
Total paid out	\$300.40

### DEPOSITS:

Dues	\$120.00
Bank interest (January-June)	\$29.62
Total Deposits	\$149.62

Ending Balance (7-7-90)	\$1041.59
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Cheryl Stewart  
Treasurer  
PNW Friends of mineralogy

## 16th ANNUAL SYMPOSIUM

All arrangements have been made for this year's symposium. Mike Groben informs me that as of today (Sept. 6th) there are 20 conferred displays. We will probably have 22 to 26 cases for all to enjoy.

As mentioned in a previous news letter, this year's symposium is to be commemorated with an FM T-shirt. Being the President's little brother your news letter editor has exercised his sibling status... by holding my breath until my face turned blue, I was able to receive my T-shirt yesterday. Believe me friends it was worth a few million brain cells to get my hands on that shirt. These shirts are black with the FM logo and text commemorating this year's symposium in white. Having dabbled in the graphics business myself I can appreciate the amount of time and effort that went into such a work of art. I would like to personally congratulate member Lita Smith-Gharet on the fantastic job she did on these shirts and on behalf of the chapter I want to thank her for her time and skills. Take my word for it folks, You want one of these shirts.

If you have lost your reservation form, use the one below. Don't forget to reserve your room directly with the Alderbrook Inn and mention FM to get the convention rate.

This year we have planned to have breakfast, lunch and the banquet dinner on Saturday. Pre-registration will include the banquet, no other meals are included. By signing up for these other two meal functions you will be saving money as the hotel restaurant will be more expensive. Also, by signing up for these meals you will help keep the FM party together during these two meals. We must have a final count 48 hours in advance, so only those who have pre-registered will be able to attend these meal functions.

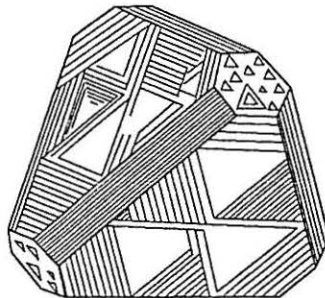
All meals include tax and 15% gratuity. Let's all support the 1990 symposium by pre-registering as soon as possible.

### NOTE:

Room reservations must be made directly with the Alderbrook Inn at:

1 - (800) 622- 9370 (in WA)  
(206) 898-2200 (out of state)

PREREGISTRATION FOR MEALS IS A MUST!!!



## REGISTRATION FORM

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

☐ I plan to bring specimens for display, please allow room for \_\_\_\_\_

### Registration cost:

Includes banquet  
Before Sept. 10 \$25.00 ea. \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
After Sept. 10 \$35.00 ea. \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Saturday Breakfast \$5.00 \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
Lunch \$8.00 \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
Dinner only \$18.00 \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Satellite Dealers \$15.00 \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Total enclosed \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Please make checks payable to:  
Friends of Mineralogy 1990 Symposium

Mail to:  
Cheryl Stewart  
511 Choker Ct. S.E.  
Lacey WA 98503

MEMORIAL TO NOBLE V. WITT  
BY  
CARL HARRIS

It is with the greatest of sorrow that I must inform this membership of the death of our dear friend Noble Witt. Noble was killed in an automobile accident near Prineville, Oregon on August 23, 1990. The funeral was held at St. John's Catholic Church in Vancouver, Washington on September 4th. Noble's body lays in rest at St. John's Catholic Cemetery also in Vancouver. Noble and his wife June were returning home from a fossil collecting trip when the accident occurred. June spent several days in the hospital and I am happy to report she is recovering from her injuries quite well.

Noble is survived by his wife June, two sons, two daughters, one brother, 17 grandchildren and 5 great-grandchildren.

We all have fond memories of our friendship with Noble, some more than others and many much more than me. But, my friendship began as a lad of about 13, and that means that Noble and I had been friends for more than half my life. I would like to take this time to share a few of my memories with you in hopes that it will bring back a few of yours.

Noble was one of the most philosophical people I've known. Noble had his eye on a zeolite that I had collected in Skamania county, Washington. He told me that if I would bring it to his house that he would make a fair trade for it. I recall how exciting that was for me because I had been to his home on many occasions and I knew the kinds of treasures he possessed in his vast collection. When I arrived at Nobles home I was under the impression that I would be able to choose the mineral for which I wanted to trade for; Noble had a totally different Idea. I remember spending a few careful hours searching that collection looking for that one specimen I felt would be worthy of my zeolite. I made my mind up and chose one of his zeolites, one from Poona, India. I remember looking at Noble and pointing at that beautiful mineral saying, "how about that stilbite". Noble walked over to a table and picked up what appeared to be the ugliest rock on earth and said, "I want to trade this one".

I had a kind of sinking feeling as I asked what it was. "Strengite, metastrengite, arsenopyrite in a matrix of barbosalite from Custer Co., South Dakota," he said.

I made the trade like I make most of my mineral trades, out of courtesy. And as usual I left with the impression that I had been "took". I learned from another member of FM later that the ugly rock that Noble gave me was extremely rare and it's monetary worth

was at least 500 times the value of what he ended up with. I returned to Noble's home with that specimen thinking that perhaps he did not know the value of his trading material. I was wrong. Noble wanted me to have that mineral specimen. I protested saying that what I received from him was considerably more valuable than what he had received from me. Noble became a little angry and snapped that the only way I was ever going to really enjoy mineralogy the way God intended me to was if I quit thinking of minerals as though they were dollar bills. He said that he believed that because of his generosity with me and others; generosity would come full circle to him four fold.

I went on a field trip with Noble to collect zeolites in Skamania co. Washington back in 1983. This was Noble's first trip to the deposit and I was excited by the prospect of using his vast knowledge of mineralogy to gain insight into the formation of the minerals. When we arrived, I proceeded to climb up to the top of the road cut where I had found minerals before. Noble stayed down at the road and studied the formation for quite some time. In the past I had always had my best luck by climbing up to the top of the road cut and working the main vug that I knew to produce the most material. My experience proved that by swinging a 10 Lbs. sledge hammer all day I would be assured of getting crystals. So, I proceeded to swing and swing and swing until sheer exhaustion forced me to stop. I turned and looked down at the road to see Noble still surveying the formation. I continued to swing the sledge and move vast amounts of overburden until again my strength ran out. Again, I turned to see what Noble was up too... this time I spotted him down low and way off to one side of the road cut. After a few years of working this deposit I knew where the mineralization occurred and Noble was far from it. I called to him to see if he wanted to come up to where I was. He said that he did not feel up to climbing around on the rocks and that he would stay down low. I proceeded to swing my sledge hammer trying to get at some crystals that I could see in the back of a large vug. After several hours we decided to call it a day. I was very disappointed with what I had to show for my days work as I only had a few small stilbite crystals. I felt even worse when I assumed that Noble had found even less. But as we packed up the tools I noticed that Noble placed a good size box in the back of the car. I asked if he had found anything good, he said that he wouldn't know until he got the minerals home and cleaned them up. A few days later Noble called me and invited me to come to his home to see what he had found. Now, knowing the deposit as well as I do and seeing where Noble spent his day collecting there I was convinced that I wouldn't be to impressed with what he had collected. Boy, was I wrong. That guy had collected about 20 of the most aesthetic stilbite specimens I have ever seen. They all consisted of doubly



terminated stilbite crystals perched perpendicular to the small stalactites on which they grew. The stalactites were about 2 inches tall and the stilbite crystals were all about 1 inch long. Noble had also collected 2 apophyllite crystals, an epistilbite crystal, and several specimens of mordenite. I had no idea that these minerals occurred there. The next time I visited that deposit I did just what I had seen Noble do. I looked over the formation of the rocks for about a half an hour and then ran over to where he found those fantastic specimens. I worked all day and never saw a trace of anything like what he had collected that one day. Noble was like that. He always had a way of looking at things and seeing what others could not. I learned another valuable lesson from Noble on that collecting trip and it's one that I may not truly master for years to come. That lesson is this; the more brains one uses the less brawn one needs.

Noble was a great scientist. I was always so impressed by his knowledge of geology and mineralogy. His insight into the pegmatite mineralization of the South Dakota Black Hills gained him respect from the most noted mineralogists from all corners of the Earth. Noble was known to correspond with and assist mineral professionals by reviewing manuscripts on mineralogy before publication. One of his greatest contributions to mineralogy came by way of his brilliant perceptive abilities. In about 1987 Noble discovered a deposit of the famous "Biggs Jasper" which contained vugs; these vugs contained the largest and most well formed Weddellite crystals known to occur on Earth. In addition to finding the spectacular specimens he also deciphered the process by which they formed and co-authored a paper for the scientific community.

I know that everyone of us has a few classic Noble Witt stories that come to mind. I also know that every one of us had great respect for the man. Although the man is gone the memories will live on....

Above all Noble was a husband, father, grandfather, and great grandfather; please keep his family in your hearts and in your prayers. The family suggests that remembrances be contributions to Air Life of Oregon, 2500 N.E. Neff Road, Bend, Oregon. 97701.

Noble V. Witt

Born

October 24, 1912 at Lorraine, Illinois

Died

August 23, 1990 at Paulina, Oregon