Pacific Northwest Chapter





JUNE 1991

MEETING REPORT

The April 27th meeting of the Pacific Northwest Chapter was convened at the Division of Geology and Earth Resources in Lacey, WA. President Becky Harris opened the business meeting with approval of the minutes from the last meeting. Cheryl Stewart presented the Treasurer's report.

Prior to the 17th Annual Mineralogical Symposium (Sept. 27, 28, & 29, 1991) we need to have an election for Pacific Northwest Chapter officers. Mike Groben has agreed to chair the nominating committee.

Plans are being finalized for our Second Annual Field Trip and Volunteer Clean-Up Party. During the meeting, members expressed a desire to return to the Washington Pass area. The dates of August 16th through the 18th have been set. We will meet on Friday evening, August 16th, at the Klipchuck campground west of Mazama. Additional information will follow at a later date.

President Becky Harris has requested that Ray Lasmanis form a committee to assist Ardis Bynum, Resource Assistant, Okanogan National Forest, with a display case that will feature the geology and minerals of the Washington Pass area (Golden Horn Batholith). The case will be placed in the Early Winters Visitor Center. Donations of specimens suitable for display and representative of the area will be needed.

The 17th Annual Mineralogical Symposium September 27,28 & 29, 1991 will feature tourmaline. Mike Groben has secured Two noted experts as our featured speakers. They are Vandall T. King; who will lecture on tourmaline group mineral nomenclature and Northeast U.S. tourmaline localities and Cal Graeber; who will present papers on San Diego County, CA. and world wide tourmaline localities. These papers will form the core of an outstanding program.

During the meeting, registration fees were set for the 1991 symposium. The preregistration will be \$30.00 for members, and \$45.00 for non-members. At the door, the registration will be \$35.00 for members, and \$50.00 for non-members. Registration will include the price of our annual dinner. The registration fees partially pay for symposium facilities and transportation costs for featured speakers.

We voted to reinstate competitive displays and slide competition during the symposium. Dan Ice was placed in charge of the slide competition and to develop rules which are reproduced in this newsletter. Carl Harris will look after the "Self-Collected" as well as "Best Case" competition. We decided that this year the "Self-Collected" and "Best Case" winners will be selected by popular vote of those attending the symposium.





There was a three-part program at the April 27th meeting. Sharlene Harvey presented a 30 minute video tape, "Eruption at the Sea", produced by John I. Kjargaard. The video tape presents graphic scenes of Kilauea volcano in its ninth year of eruption and how, during March 1990, the flows turned towards the community of Kalapana. By the end of the summer historic sites, black-sand beaches, and lush forest along with a church, store and 100 homes lay buried under 15 to 25 meters of lava.

A detailed tour of the Division of Geology and Earth Resources Laboratory was presented by Rex Hapala. There was a lot of interest by the members in the operation of the Phillips model PW 1729 X-ray generator and defractometer unit.

A Slide program was presented titled "Tucson 91-there and back". It described a trip to the Tucson Gem and Mineral Show as well as localities visited along the way. These were as follows: Palo Verde Hills, Los Angeles county (fossil fish, barite crystals); Cyro Genie claim, San Diego county, CA (black tourmaline); and the Rowley mine, Arizona (large vugs opened with up to 1 cm. wulfenite crystals.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Beginning Balance:

\$421.00

Expenses:

Deposits:

Jan - Apr phone Postage

\$195.00

\$19.93

\$38.80 \$58.73

Ending Balance:

\$557.78



Cheryl Stewart Treasurer



- Entry to the competition is limited to registered symposium attendees.
- 2. The following must appear on each slide.
 - a. Mineral Name and Locality at which it was collected.
 - b. The entrant's full name.
 - c. Indicate the "TOP" of the slide.
 - d. Type of camera used. (ie- 35 MM, SEM, etc.)
- The entrant must supply a description of the mineral shown in the slide.
- The entrant must be the actual photographer who took the slide and must own sole copyright to the slide.
- 5. Slides may be of any mineral or mineral aggregate. The size of the specimen is not limited. The mineral does not have to be related to the symposium topic.
- 6. All slides must be original 35mm transparencies.
- 7. The maximum number of slides per entrant is three.
- All entries must be submitted to Dan Ice no later than 9:00 am on the morning of Saturday,
- 9. The contest will be held ONLY if there are 5 or more entrants.
- 10. In the event that more than 30 slides are entered, the committee will pre-screen and select the 21 semi-finalist slides. The selections of the committee will be final and without recourse.
- 11. The slides will be shown to the audience at the Saturday Afternoon meeting and the single winner will be selected by ballot of the meeting attendees.
- 12. The prize for the slide voted best will be a ribbon which will be presented to the winner during the Sunday morning meeting. The top three slides will also be shown during the Sunday morning meeting.

NOTICE

Mailing labels showing a date indicate that your 1991 dues are now payable. For 1991 the dues are \$15.00 and should be sent to the treasurer: Cheryl Stewart, 511 Choker Court, Lacey, WA 98503.

Those members who have not paid dues since 1989 will be dropped from the membership if payment is not received within 30 days. We value your membership so please send in your back dues.

QUIZ

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ATTEND OUR FALL SYMPOSIUM SEPT. 27-29, 1991 TO FIND OUT!



NEWS



February 1, 1991, Pittsburgh, PA.

PAUL E. DESAUTELS HONORED WITH THE 1990 CARNEGIE MINERALOGICAL AWARD

Dr. James King announced today that Paul E. Desautels, retired Curator of the National Collection of Gems & Minerals at the Smithsonian Institution, is the recipient of The Carnegie Mineralogical Award for 1990. Dr. King will travel to Arizona to make the formal presentation to Mr. Desautels during the Tucson Gem & Mineral Show, February 9th.

Paul Ernest Desautels was born in Philadelphia on September 24, 1920 and took an interest in minerals by age 14. His interest was fostered during his study for the Boy Scout's Rocks and Minerals Merit Badge and numerous visits to the Academy of Natural Sciences. Paul received his B.S. degree from the University of Pennsylvania in 1942 and took a position of junior chemist with the Atlantic Refining Company working on fuel additives for higher octane aircraft fuels. From 1944 to 1946, he served in the U.S. Navy as Lt. J.G. line officer in gunnery and fire control on the U.S.S. Warrington (a destroyer escort). After World War II ended, Paul went on to receive his M.S. in chemistry from the University of Pennsylvania in 1948.

From teaching chemistry at Haddon Heights High School in New Jersey, Paul became a professor of chemistry at Towson State University in Maryland until 1957. During this period he organized the chemistry department, taught inorganic chemistry and qualitative analysis as well as courses in mineralogy, gemology, geology, crystallography, mathematics and astronomy.

"In 1957, Desautels was appointed a curator in the Department of Mineral Sciences at the Smithsonian Institution. Here he was responsible for curating the world-reknown gem and mineral collections that have an estimated value of over 100 million dollars. His duties involved establishing collection policies and goals, building a network of communication and support, purchasing hundreds of thousands of dollars' worth of specimens, conducting hundreds of exchange transactions, preparing budgets, raising funds, and being involved in public relations, seminars, publications, and the supervision of employees and volunteers. "In the course of events, he manages to give thirty to forty lectures a year to amateur groups and to groups from other professions. In addition, he answers hundreds of letters from amateurs every year" (Kemp, Rocks & Minerals, 1967). These last comments were made when Desautels was awarded the American Federation of Mineralogical Societies Award in 1967. At the Smithsonian he received the Director's Medal for outstanding service to the National Museum of Natural History" (Mitchell, Rocks & Minerals, 1988).

After his retirement in 1982, Paul continued to use his expertise and knowledge of the mineral world by serving as advisor to the assemblage of the Perkins and Ann Sams mineral collection in Midland, Texas. This extraordinary collection of some of the finest mineral specimens in the world went to the Houston Museum of Natural Science where Paul saw its installation in a new museum gallery. He also worked on the Hall of Geology and Hall of Mineral Science which opened in 1990. Now a resident of Florida, Paul also continues a life-long interest in collecting micromounts, upgrading and adding to the collection he donated to the Smithsonian.

One of the highlights of Paul's busy career was the publication of his book, *The Mineral Kingdom* (New York: Grosset and Dunlap, 1968). This text reflected Paul's ability to communicate difficult subjects in an interesting and understandable manner. He has also authored: *The Gem Kingdom* (New York: Random House, 1979); *Rocks and Minerals* (New York: Grosset and Dunlap, 1974); *Gems in the Smithsonian* (Washington: Smithsonian, special publication #4608, 1965); *Treasures in the Smithsonian: The Gem Collection* (Washington: Smithsonian Institution, 1979); *The Jade Kingdom* (New York: Van Nostrand Reinhold, 1986).

Paul Desautels has published dozens of articles, papers and notes. His crystallographic expertise qualified him to make most of the crystal drawings that appear in Frondell's (1962) Dana's The System of Mineralogy, vol. 3, Silica Minerals. He authored a column entitled "The Museum Record" for the Mineralogical Record and has been a continual contributor to Rock & Minerals magazine. Popular articles by him have appeared in Natural History magazine and in the Smithsonian magazine.

Among the many honors Paul has received is having a mineral named for him (desautelsite). "We take great pleasure in naming this new species... in honor of Paul E. Desautels, curator of the mineral and gem collections of the National Museum of Natural History at the Smithsonian Institution. His efforts in expanding the collection and assuring its pre-eminence have been very successful" (Dunn, Peacor, and Palmer, 1979).

Desautels is a Fellow of the Mineralogical Society of America as well as among others, the Mineralogical Society of Great Britain, International Gemological Conference, Friends of Mineralogy, Mineral Museums Advisory Council, American Orchid Society, and the Houston Bromeliad Society. Paul founded and is a lifetime member of the Baltimore Mineral Society. He also founded that society's annual micromounting symposium and was elected to their Micromounters Hall of Fame.

At the presentation ceremony, Paul Desautels will be awarded a certificate of recognition, a bronze medallion and a \$1500 cash award. The Carnegie Mineralogical Award was started in 1987 by The Carnegie and underwritten by the Hillman Foundation, Inc. to recognize major contributions which promote and improve the preservation, conservation and educational use of minerals and mineral collecting, ideals embodied in The Carnegie's Hillman Hall of Minerals & Gems. Past Award recipients are the Tucson Gem & Mineral Society, 1987; Dr. John Sinkankas, 1988; and Dr. Frederick Pough, 1989. Nominations for the 1991 Carnegie Mineralogical Award should be submitted to the Mineral Museums Advisory Council Selection Committee or to Richard Souza, Department of Minerals, The Carnegie, Pittsburgh, PA.



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