A REVISED STATUS REPORT ON NEW GALENA

The Lenape Indians may have been aware of the lead deposits present on the North Branch of the Neshaminy Creek, 3½ miles northwest of Doylestown; unsubstantiated stories refer to lead from this area being used during the Revolutionary War; but it was not until 1856 when a specimen of ore was washed out and identified from the embankment of Wetherill's Mill Race that the local residents took any real interest in the "heavy rocks" they had been turning up during their farming activities. In 1860, Christian Moyer and Daniel Barndt were digging post holes, and discovered a "stone" so heavy they had trouble lifting it. With the help of a local blacksmith, the stone was smelted and proved to be lead. Upon reading of the discovery in a newspaper, a Philadelphian named Dickinson took a 3 month option on the Barndt tract, and mining operations were attempted with little success; and Dickinson gladly surrendered the option when the three months had expired. Jacob Neimeyer, who had previous mining experience, had also heard of the find, and in April of 1861, purchased the Barndt tract for $21,000 cash. A pit was opened on the right side of Old Limekiln Road, now referred to as "The Water Filled Pit"; followed by a second pit near the Mill Race, on the left side of the road. By June of 1861 over $5,000 of lead was recovered. Neimeyer suddenly sold out to a New York syndicate for a reported $75,000, and quietly retired to Ohio. The land passed through many hands; in 1877 the owner was listed as J. Detwiler; J. Doan was the owner on record in 1891. The last owner whose son still lives in the area was a Mr. Barba', who sold the land, some 31 acres to the Bucks County Park Commission, as a part of the new Peace Valley Park. An attempt was made to de-water the "Water Filled Pit" as late as the 1920's with little success, and the land has been used for farming and pasture.

Mining on the North side of the Neshaminy, in the area referred to as "The Three Pits" was started, also in the '20's. There are many local residents who tell tall tales, still as yet undocumented, about their mining experiences. Ore was carried from the pits along a narrow gauge railroad track to New Galena Road, to be hauled away for processing. Remnants of that track remained until about six months ago, when they were removed to make way for the Peace Valley Lake and Reservoir.

Presently, the area from the site of the dam to beyond the remnants of the mining operations has been completely bulldozed over, the mine pits capped and filled with material from the dumps, and on occasion, water inundates the entire area. It would be inadvisable for anyone who has not visited the location before bulldozing took place to attempt collecting there, however, anyone familiar with the various locations can still find interesting material, much of it containing many secondary minerals, scattered over the ground, when it is firm enough to walk on. When Peace VAlley Park is completed, probably by late Spring of 1973, there will be no chance at all to obtain New Galena specimens, since the mine pits and dumps fall below the permanent water line. Members of the Bucks County Earth Science Society, working with the permission of the Bucks County Park Commission, and in cooperation with Friends of Mineralogy (Region 3), Preservation of Mineral & Fossil Locations have collected and stored a good bit of the material so that it will be available for future research and study.

In checking over any New Galena material you have, if you can confirm any of the suspected minerals, or add new ones to the list, will you please advise either Dr. Davis Lapham or Robert Smith, II, at the Pennsylvania Geological Survey, Harrisburg, Penna. We would also appreciate hearing from you, so that we can compile further data on this location.

Mr. & Mrs. John T. Clauser, Jr., 593 New Road, Southampton, Penna. 18966

MINERALS REPORTED OR SUSPECTED AT NEW GALENA

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
QUARTZ	x	x	x	x			
DOLOMITE	x	x	x	x			
GOLD (In Galena)	x						
CALCITE	x	x	x	x			
SPHALERITE	x	x	x	x			
PYRITE	x	x	x				
ANKERITE	x	x	x	*			
CHALCOPYRITE	x		x				
BORNITE	x	x	x	x			
MALACHITE	x	x					
PYROMORPHITE	x		x			x	
GALENA	x	x	x	x	x		
CERUSSITE			x	x			x
BROCHANTITE			x		x		x
ANGLESITE			x		x	x	
TENORITE			x				
SILVER (In Galena)			x				
SIDERITE				x			
CLAY				x			
LINARITE					?	?	x
GREENOCKITE						?	
SMITHSONITE						?	
HEMIMORPHITE						?	
WULFENITE						?	
FLUORITE						?	
BARITE						?	
CHRYSOCOLLA							x

Column 1 - Gordon
Column 2 - Bulletin C-9
Column 3 - Bulletin M-50
Column 4 - Lapham 3/13/72
Column 5 - Smith 5/2/72
Column 6 - Smith 5/12/72
Column 7 - Montgomery 1/6/73
* = Ankerite probably a misidentification
? = Suspected but not confirmed

Report of Education Committee

In a very true sense, every FM member is on the education committee. We have obtained our knowledge of mineralogy from many sources. Some through formal training, some through personal study, but much from picking the brains of others who have learned before us. It is our responsibility to pass on as much useful information as possible, so that others may come to appreciate the marvelous and beautiful world of minerals. Who first got you interested? Who gave you their duplicate specimens to help build your collection? Who shared the joys of those first finds in the field? Who was your best teacher? Some of the very best never had a course in education. Who will remember YOU??

Share Your Knowledge

1. A number of good opportunities exist for individual FM members to exert a powerful educational influence with young people who are interested in collecting minerals. Scout troops need knowledgable advisors to help with geology and collector merit badge projects. FM members should contact their local scout leaders and volunteer their services to this worthwhile and rewarding effort. It doesn't take much of your time but can catch some boy or girl the right time to kindle a lifetime interest.

2. Those of us who are members of mineral clubs and societies have a real responsibility to the Junior members. Give them your time, your experience, and your excess specimens. Help their parents appreciate minerals and the proper attitudes toward their collection and preservation.

3. The Junior Earth Science Club of the North Museum, Franklin & Marshall College, Lancaster, Pa., has provided a start for many youth who have gone on to careers in geology and others whose mineral collections and knowledge are far ahead of most of us at their age. As older members moved on, and plagued by a drop in membership and interest, the Club was in danger of folding last summer. Your chairman and Martin Anne met with the officers and museum officials and offered to help advise the group. FM members publicized and attended their next field trip to help provide field identification and supervise safety. We do not anticipate taking over the Club, but feel that we will probably become more active in their programs. FM members may wish to consider establishing similar groups in their own areas, using local facilities when available.

4. Your chairman is a former Earth Science teacher with nine years experience in that field, and a BS in goelogy from Franklin & Marshall. Most classroom teachers of Earth Science have only limited exposure to mineralogy courses and practically no field experience. They will welcome your assistance. Share your experience by contacting your local school's science department chairman or principal and volunteering your services. Perhaps you can visit the classroom as a resource person. If not, at least you can invite the teacher to your home, or drop in after school to examine local curriculum and resources. You will probably be amazed how much your knowledge exceeds his concerning minerals, field and lab identification, specimen display and preservation, local collecting sites, and field trip possibilities. Invite teachers to join your mineral clubs and bring interested students along. Many will become active members and provide leadership potential, help for committees, work on shows, etc.

5. FM Members have already made significant contributions to professional mineralogy by notifying college, survey, and museum curator staffs about new localities, unusual finds at old localities, notable specimens in old collections, and potential collecting sites under construction. When your curiosity is aroused and your honest efforts at specimen identification, explanation of genesis, or mineral associations are frustrated, take your problem to a pro! Save questionable specimens for testing. This procedure has led to a steadily growing list of species new to Pennsylvania, and new insights on existing mineralogical problems.

6. Submit articles to mineral publications. Many FM members are specialists in certain areas of mineralogy, and are very knowledgable concerning specific collecting localities of interest. The Mineralogical Record (and lesser publications) are an

important educational outlet. Writing is a good project for those long winter nights. What good is our knowledge when we're gone - unless it has been recorded!?

7. Your chairman, and I am sure other FM members, have served as judges at local science fairs, hobby shows, mineral club shows, and other functions where minerals are displayed. When our resources increase, FM could offer an award for educational displays at these affairs. Until then, constructive criticism and encouragement can be given in liberal doses to exhibitors.

Share Your Specimens

1. Several educational outlets for duplicate excess specimens have already been mentioned. One should never forget the days when pieces we now consider to be "junkite" would have sent us whooping for joy! Beginning individual collectors, particularly young people, cherish very routine specimens when given by experienced collectors. We can also teach them the principles of specimen identification, display, storage, labelling, etc. Many specimens which are poor for display are good for study, since they represent what is more normally available in the field.

2. Members can provide a worthwhile service to their local schools by collecting representative classroom or lab specimens of rocks and minerals found within the school service area. First check with local earth science teachers to find if they could or would use them. Large coffee cans make good containers for the one to two-inch pieces. It is good to collect thirty to forty of each mineral species or rock formation represented. Nearby collecting localities may be sampled, and the Geologic Map of Pennsylvania is detailed enough to pin-point rock formations when used with a topographic map. One outcrop in each rock formation should yield enough useful specimens. Elementary schools study these things as well, so if your district has a good science program, or even a few "gung-ho" teachers, you will find your efforts rewarding. Your chairman has supplied a number of school districts this way.

3. A reward which cannot be overlooked is the fact that even these humble rock and mineral specimens have commercial value, and are an excellent source of income tax relief to the contributor. Check the (high priced) Ward's Natural Science Catalogue for bulk specimen rates and you will be surprised how much these little goodies can add up to a tidy sum. Get a thank you letter from the school or teacher, and quote catalogue prices to substantiate your itemized gift list.

4. Unusual specimens, as noted before, should be sent to a professional for study and analysis. This policy can contribute much to the knowledge of mineralogy in your region. Make yourself aware of current projects under study, and you may even assist in collecting specimens specifically for study.

Priorities

We need to examine our personal and collective resources before being able to realistically set goals. We would be foolish to offer services which we are ill prepared to produce, at an expense we are ill prepared to afford. Consequently, let us pick our brains for parameters, and limit our goals to those which are presently within our reach, hopefully consolidating these and moving in time to greater things. A geographically scattered group, no matter howenthusiastic, lacks the potential impact of a tight-knit team. It is strongly felt by the chairman that FM educational efforts, at this stage of the organization's development, may best be carried out by members on an individual project basis. Several members may wish to cooperate on advising clubs, serving schools, collecting specimens for educational distribution, etc. on a local level. Lessons learned may then be refined for general use. If you have an specific projects or questions please contact me and I will be glad to help find the answers.

James D. Stauffer