

FRIENDS OF MINERALOGY

Pennsylvania Chapter

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EDITORIAL: MINERAL MUSEUMS

A VITAL TOPIC FOR OUR SYMPOSIUM

According to the mainstream media, our country is experiencing a domestic downturn. The economy is down, jobs are down, disposable income is down, travel is down and the quality of life has diminished. If you believe in the trickle down effect, the "nonessentials" such as museums residing at the bottom of the economic food chain, must really be down! And in some cases, museums are being financially challenged.

We as mineral collectors have always looked to museums of the natural history persuasion, to serve as repositories and conservators of great mineral collections. Some among us have already made provisions (or nurture the idea) that some day our own collections might successfully end up in the right museum. But the economic picture is threatening many museums and forcing collectors to reevaluate the final disposition of their own collections.

In light of government funding cutbacks, shrinking endowments and less disposable income from the public, can our great mineral museums survive? As noted in our last editorial, the mineral museum picture in Pennsylvania is appalling; and this in a

state which has a great mineralogical heritage. If you wish to see minerals in Pennsylvania, look to private collections, because things are spartan between the halls of Bryn Mawr and the Carnegie Museum.

We think the issue is so important, we've elected to devote our 2003 Symposium to the subject. This will be our first attempt to hold a symposium at the Delaware County Institute of Science in Media. It's a desirable choice, for this facility of 1840s vintage offers an aura of early natural science museums. Pennsylvania had many of these cultural gems in the last century, and they were the prime method of fostering the public interest in mineralogy. Now this historic place, with its showcases of minerals, microscopes, goniometers and the like, seems like the ideal environment to host a symposium about museums.

So how can we as an FM Chapter possibly impact the future of mineral museums in Pennsylvania? The problem isn't exclusively financial. A big part is the perception on the part of museum board of directors, that the public is no longer interested in mineralogy. If the public was clamoring to see minerals, you can be assured our museums would place them right out front. The attention span of the public (always short anyway) has been seduced by electronic eye candy; and in the case of natural history, has been pulled towards dinosaur mania (remember "Jurassic Park"—electronic eye candy!).

I believe we as an organization can take the high road in helping rejuvenate the public interest in mineralogy. I also feel we need to better network with the mineral clubs in Pennsylvania, in order to better assist this effort. Most of them already do a commendable job in gaining publicity for their local shows. In most cases, drawing hundreds of people

from their communities. Imagine if the hundreds in each community could be unified into the thousands they represent as a total constituency. Perhaps that would catch the attention of museum management.

A good starting point is learning how others have successfully achieved this goal. Our symposium aims to focus on the subject in an interesting and creative way.

Our program will be headlined by several knowledgeable speakers. John Jaszczak of the Seaman Mineralogical Museum staff is also an authority on the mineralogy of graphite and crystal epitaxy. He has participated in the major museum upgrade now underway in the Upper Peninsula of Michigan. Mike Hawkins of the New York State Museum has many years of experience in acquiring and building the magnificent collection of New York State minerals now on rotating display in Albany. DCIS President Al Palmer and Dave Saja of the Cleveland Museum will help round out the perspective on museums. These folks are all part of successful and vibrant museum programs, and their lively and entertaining insights will provide a worthwhile symposium. The slate of activities will also include a field trip to an active quarry, which is currently being arranged. I hope to see a large turnout. ✕

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RESERVE THIS DATE!

**PA/FM FALL SYMPOSIUM
NOVEMBER 1-2, 2003**

**"MINERALS, MUSEUMS
AND MORE"**

**DELAWARE COUNTY
INSTITUTE OF SCIENCE
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MEDIA, PENNSYLVANIA**

OBSCURE PENNSYLVANIA LOCALITY

A History and Description of the Siderite and Barite Mineralization at Fairhope, Somerset County, Pennsylvania

by
Jay L. Lininger

Introduction

Over the past year there has been a considerable amount of media attention focused upon Somerset County in southwestern Pennsylvania. In the aftermath of the 9/11 diaster, and the subsequent Queue Creek Mine accident and rescue, the newsmakers have discovered an obscure portion of the country that was heretofore unfamiliar to the public at large.

Much the same could be said of the region, mineralogically speaking. Though the area has been a prolific producer of high-grade bituminous coal for more than a century and a half, its list of collectible mineral species is virtually nonexistent. There is one exception and it came to mind recently after one of my regular visits to the home of Joe and Jeanne Dague. Some nicely crystallized siderite and barite they recently recovered at the old Savage Clay Mine near Fairhope, caused me to think back over several decades when the locality first came to light. My desire to provide an account of the location was further fueled by the fact that no written description of the location has previously been published.

My own personal involvement with the location first developed in 1982, after several conversations with George Buchanan of Telford. At the time, George was in somewhat of a creative mode, seeking to search for Pennsylvania minerals *"which should exist."* He was particularly infatuated with the colorful iridescent siderite which had been collected for years at Frostburg in nearby Garrett County, Maryland. In his capacity as a consulting geologist, George had access to a large resource of research materials in his company office. Studying the geology at Frostburg, he reasoned that similar geology to the north along the Allegheny Front in Somerset County, should

have a good chance to host the same mineralogy. Furthermore, local economic reports indicated that the Savage Brick Company had operated at least one plant near the village of Fairhope.

After identifying this specific area, George determined to scope it out and invited me to join him. On an early spring Saturday morning in 1983, we began the search hoping the sparse vegetation would be helpful in locating any mine dumps. The trip from the Pennsylvania Turnpike onto Rt. 220 south in Bedford County ran parallel to the Allegheny Front. Here one could gain a sense of the area's rugged topography. The scarpface along the eastern slope

"A number of mineral species were recovered at Fairhope. The prime minerals, siderite and barite came in two distinct forms each."

of the mountain range attains an average of 1300 feet in elevation. As we drew nearer to the Mason-Dixon Line, a water gap carved by the east-west trending Wills Creek gave us a cross-sectional view of the mountain face. Heading westward to the village of Fairhope, we soon began passing evidence of earlier mining activity.

The workings were located on the steep mountain cross section to our north, above the road and Wills Creek. After finding a suitable place to park, we made our way to the numerous dumps scattered along the steep slope. Shortly thereafter we found evidence of mineralization in the iron-rich fire clay and were soon collecting nice specimens of siderite and barite. It was one of those infrequent times when a discovery was easy to find.

A History of Fairhope

The long term economy of Somerset County has been impacted by coal mining for more than 150 years. The layers of Silurian and Devonian rocks of the Allegheny range were the subject of intense investigation over the years. Franklin Platt, regional geologist for the 2nd Pennsylvania Geological Survey devoted the majority of his report (HHH, 1876) to the mapping of a sequence of coal beds that included the Conemaugh group, Upper Kittanning, Lower Freeport and the valuable Pittsburgh coal.

George Buchanan's study of the Frostburg occurrence led him to conclude that the fire clays utilized by the Savage Company in the manufacture of refractory brick, occurred within the same sequence as the Pittsburgh coal. The fire clay was generally tan or gray in color, but one iron-rich variation, a brick red in color, hosted the siderite-barite assemblage at Frostburg. It became a matter of following and finding the same series north of the Pennsylvania line, in order to establish a new location.

This same philosophy was employed more than a century earlier in the search for additional deposits of coal and clay. L.M. Gorsuch, a Maryland entrepreneur, established the Savage Mountain Fire Brick Works at Frostburg in 1865. The rapid expansion of the steel industry in western Pennsylvania produced a trickle down effect which impacted several related industries. Steel making required gargantuan amounts of coke, the fuel required in the Bessemer process. Coke was manufactured from bituminous coal, which in turn required coking ovens lined with highly heat-resistant fire brick. Gorsuch became one of a number of fire brick suppliers and by the 1870s, his Frostburg plant was furnishing 10,000 bricks per day. As his reserves of

clay became depleted, the company undertook a search northward, and the fire clay beds near Fairhope became an economic reserve. Sometime after 1900, a brick plant was established near Fairhope and the manufacture of brick was begun in Somerset County. The ruins of this plant can still be found to the west of the mine workings.

The Mineralogy of Fairhope

The similarity between the occurrences at Frostburg and Fairhope is remarkable. From a more technical aspect, these red clays interspersed with the fire clays can be regarded as a form of iron carbonate (siderite) ore. Beds of this ore were refined as early as 1837 at the Lonaconing Furnace in Maryland's Georges Creek Valley. Other deposits would be similarly employed. Regional nonferrous clay beds were frequently "polluted" with siderite nodules which local miners described as "ore balls." It is within the shrinkage cracks of these nodules that crystallized siderite and barite are found.

Just when the mineralogy of these clay nodules first attracted the attention of mineralogists is not known. The iridescent colors of the micro siderite crystals would have been rather obvious to anyone handling a specimen. The first reference I could find in print was authored by the noted mineralogist Waldmar T. Schaller. His 1906 paper "*Siderite and Barite from Maryland*," became the first of a number of references about this interesting assemblage. Others included "*The Fire Clays of Maryland*" (1922), "*Minerals of Maryland*" (1940) and "*Minerals of the Frostburg Fire Clay Mine*" (1953).

My efforts to locate references that might describe this same assemblage being found in the Commonwealth produced no success. Prior to the specimens collected in 1983, I had never seen this particular variety of iridescent siderite from Pennsylvania. However, the relative ease with which we made the initial discovery makes me unsure we were finding something entirely new. I do recall that the dumps worked by George and myself bore no evidence of earlier collecting.

A number of mineral species were recovered at Fairhope. The prime minerals, siderite and barite, came in two distinct forms each. Siderite occurs as multicolored, iridescent microcrystals forming in clusters. Siderite is also found in larger



A view of the Fairhope fire clay mine dumps looking down slope towards Wills Creek and nearby railroad line. Mineralization was found in this area. Photo by the author.

crystals typical of the reddish color and rhombohedral morphology more common to the species. Barite occurs in brilliant transparent crystals up to $\frac{1}{8}$ " in size and forming beautiful and complex groupings. Barite also occurs in white crystalline masses typical to other barite-forming environments. One assumes these variations to represent different generations of mineralization.

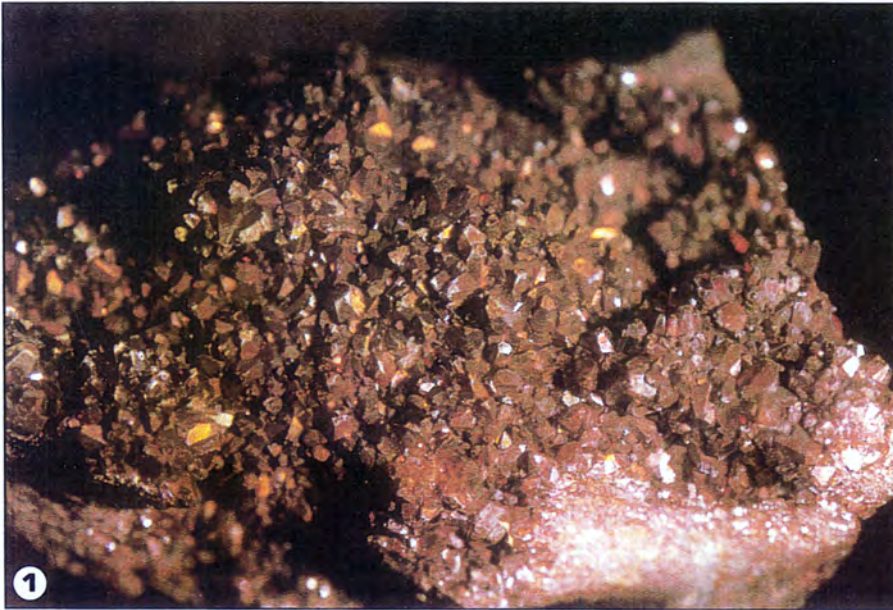
Also collected by the author at Fairhope were micropyrrite masses of crystalline sphalerite associated with siderite and quartz, and quartz as milky masses or tiny brilliant crystals. Further south at Frostburg, other reported species include galena, goethite, hematite, marcasite, millerite and dickite. Though millerite is rare at Frostburg, some splendid sprays on siderite were recovered in the 1940s and 1950s. These are very rare.

It is recognized that Fairhope cannot be classified as a major Pennsylvania specimen-producing locality. It is neither as extensive or accessible as the mine workings at Frostburg and in all probability, less able to produce some of the other species in the Frostburg assemblage. A report of the occurrence is worthy of note, because over the last several decades, similar mineral producing

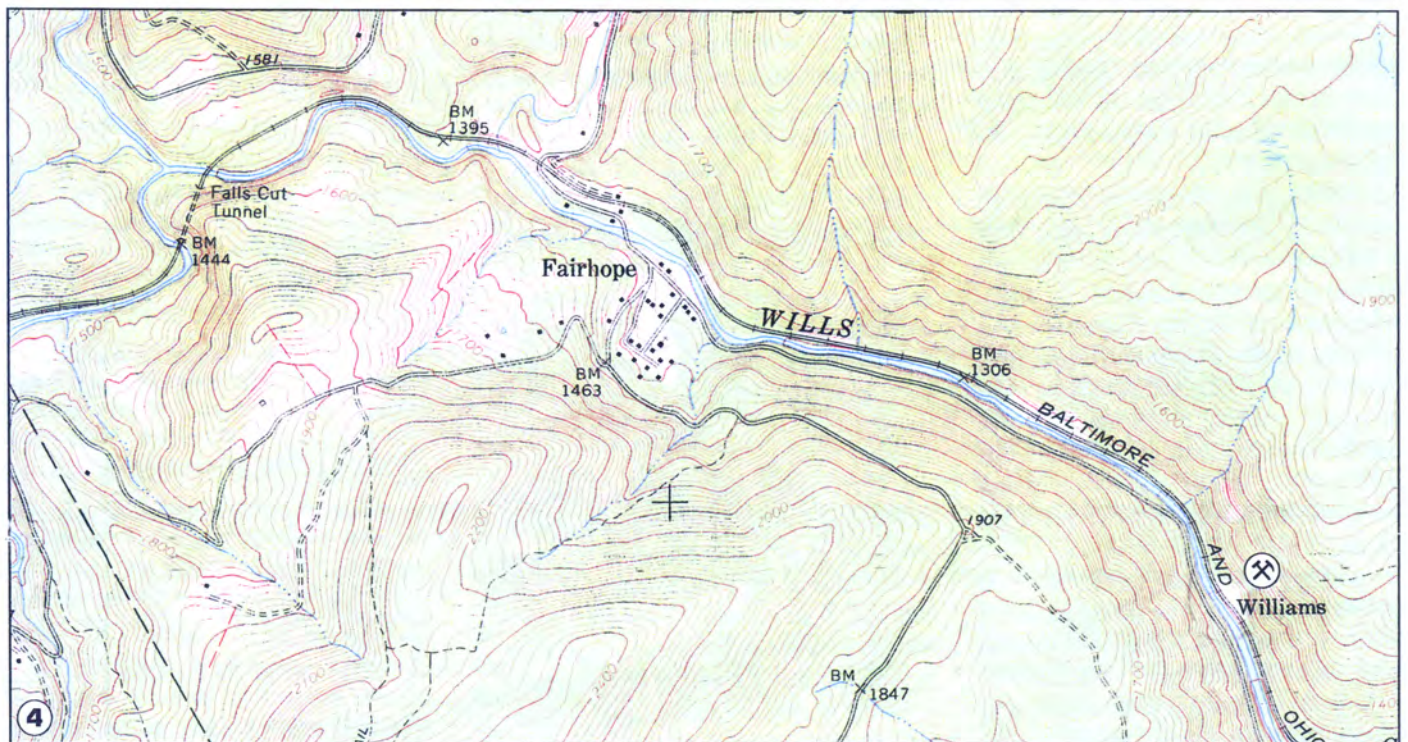
nodular shale and clay deposits have been recorded. The fascinating phillipsite-producing occurrence at Frankstown, Blair County is a typical example. Nodular occurrences, while mostly overlooked by field collectors, represent unique sedimentary environments. They can often be the host for interesting mineral specimens that like Fairhope, are worthy of our attention.

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1. Iridescent crystals of siderite, 4 × 5." 2. Cluster of transparent barite crystals, field of view, 1." 3. Clear barite twinned crystal exhibiting complex morphology. 4. Location of mineral-producing mine dumps relative to the village of Fairhope. Specimen photos by George Buchanan.



NEW PENNSYLVANIA LOCALITY

An Update on the Recent Sulfide Zone Discovery at the Codorus Quarry, Emigsville, York County, Pennsylvania

by Saul Krotki
and
Jeri L. Jones

Introduction

Several seasons ago, an interesting mineralized sulfide zone was discovered in the dolomitic limestone of the Codorus Quarry. The zone was uncovered through quarrying operations along the north wall on the third level of the opening. Minerals of particular interest included unusual octahedral crystals of pyrite, sphalerite crystals, barite crystals, and bright yellow coatings of the cadmium sulfide mineral, greenockite. I had visited this location on several previous trips, but when John S. White contacted me for assistance in arranging a local field trip for several visiting guests, the location came to mind as a possibility. Jeri Jones kindly arranged permission, and I was able to accompany John White and his guests Saul Krotki and Eileen Tobin for a visit. Krotki, a noted micromineralogist and mineral photographer from Seattle, Washington, wrote the following account for the Bulletin of the New York Mineralogical Club. He and his father, the late Carl Krotki, have maintained a two-generation affiliation with the club. The account is reprinted here with permission from the newsletter editor and supplemented with additional information from Jeri Jones. Anyone seeking to visit the occurrence should do so by contacting Jeri at his website, www.jones-geo.com.

The Recent Visit

On June 8, 2003, attired impeccably in my tuxedo, I put Fred Astaire to shame as I danced with my daughter at her wedding in Baltimore. I would, alas, immediately find myself changing into steel-tipped boots, worn jeans, and a hard hat for the plans ahead.

On the following day my partner, Eileen

Tobin, and I joined our good friend and host John S. White, for a visit with Jay L. Lininger of Matrix Magazine in Dillsburg, Pennsylvania.

I very much enjoyed Jay's expansive, highly organized, and well-displayed special collection of Pennsylvania minerals. His care in representing and preserving so many occurrences, so much of them self-collected, stands as an example of what can be accomplished by persistence over time. Among the most impressive specimens were several perfectly formed five inch twinned yellow calcites from a York County, Pennsylvania marble quarry.

"This association at the Codorus Quarry is the first iron-zinc assemblage known in recent years in any York County quarry."

Jeri L. Jones, a consulting geologist and avid local collector arranged for us to tour the active Codorus dolomite quarry at Emigsville, Pennsylvania, where after work hours, we were able to drive directly into the quarry to a wall which had been producing specimens of calcite, pyrite, along with minor coatings of greenockite. Twenty-six different minerals have been found to date, mostly micros. In one unique occurrence a pocket, rarely encountered in the quarry, yielded fifty calcite crystals. Many were floaters, some as large as five inches. See photographs and research by Jeri at www.jonesgeo.com.

John, Jay, and Jeri focused their efforts on the most promising wall of the quarry,

while Eileen and I went off to explore in opposite directions. In the bright sun light, I collected some thumbnail calcites from a vertical seam, but soon found myself overwhelmed by the heat which was climbing to over 80 degrees. I quickly returned to the shady area where the others were examining the sulfide seam. John S. White had the comment of the day when he said, "The rock overhangs are extremely dangerous. Hit the wall anywhere and boulders tumble down from above. Find a good crystal and you can hit the rock all you want and nothing happens!" I did manage to chip out a few fine micro calcites of varying morphology.

Eileen returned from the distant wall with the prized specimen of the day. At the edge of a puddle, she noticed a curious peach colored rock which turned out to be a small hand-sized specimen covered with undamaged dolomite in unusually tall saddle shaped crystals.

Jeri kindly set out samples from the sulfide layer which provided me with a box of material for further micromount study.

The next day John, Eileen, and I, explored a few road cuts and muddy hills in Maryland. These investigations yielded garnets in schist, diopside, and minor dravite in the Cockeysville Marble, and at a muddy river bank locality, some interesting specimens of botryoidal goethite geodes were collected.

In the evening John showed his collection of single and twin crystals which included a 1.5" twinned zircon and an amazing .75" gemmy twinned spinel.

Leaving the intense humidity behind, next thing we knew we were on the plane to Seattle carrying back our hefty load of specimens to integrate with our collections at home.



An overview of the Codorus Quarry as it appeared in the Spring of 2003. Matrix photo.

Data on the Codorus Quarry

The Codorus Stone Supply Company Inc. quarry is located 0.7 miles east of Emigsville, York County, Pennsylvania. The quarry is located 0.2 miles north of Mundis Race Road and 0.3 miles west of the intersection of Mundis Race Road and Dellinger Road. The property is equally divided by Manchester Township and East Manchester Township. The quarry can be found on the U.S. Geological Survey York Haven 7.5' topographic quadrangle at the latitude 40 01' 18" N. and longitude 76 42' 57"W.

The Codorus Quarry was incorporated in 1957 by the Parthmer family of Mount Wolf, Pennsylvania. Work progressed slowly until 1972 when the Susquehanna Quarries Company took over the quarrying operation. Since that time the quarry has expanded rapidly in size. Presently, the quarry is worked by the General Crushed Stone Quarry who also is responsible for the crushing of the stone. The Parthmer family is still responsible for the marketing and distribution of the crushed products.

Today, four benches have been developed at a depth of approximately 150 feet. The quarry has been worked along the strike of the strata for a distance of about 1320 feet with a width of approximately 710 feet. The main floor of the quarry lies at an elevation of 420 feet above sea level.

Currently, stripping of the soil is occurring toward the north. With the relocation of the gas line to the west and north of the quarry from the east side of the property, expansion of the quarry is continuing to the east. The dump piles have continued to grow to the west of the quarry. Also, back-filling of the older portion of

the quarry has started immediately below the entrance ramp at the west end of the quarry.

Geology

The rocks exposed in the Codorus Stone Supply Inc quarry belong to the Vintage Formation (Stose and Stose, 1944; Jonas



A view of a section of the Codorus Quarry sulfide zone. Matrix photo.



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MINERALS OF THE CODORUS QUARRY

1. Sphalerite rim on a core of calcite, with pyrite bands in dolomite, 5×7".
2. Pyrite in dolomite; note octagonal crystals. Specimen 5×7½".
3. Dolomite crystals described by Saul Krotki. Crystal measures 4 mm; microphoto by Saul Krotki.
4. Greenockite in yellow coatings associated with pyrite and sphalerite; 3×4".
5. White sulphate mineral, possibly hexahydrite or melanterite adjacent to the sulfide zone.

and Stose, 1930, Stose and Jonas, 1939, Wilshusen, 1978). The formation is named for its excellent exposures in the village of Vintage, Lancaster County.

The Vintage Formation is the oldest limestone/dolomite unit exposed in York County and is regarded as Lower Cambrian in age. The Vintage Formation lies directly on top of the older Antietam Formation (a sandstone and quartzite unit), which underlies the ridge to the north of the quarry. Various marine fossils from the Antietam Formation are markers indicating these rock units of Lower Cambrian age. The largest exposed area of the Vintage Formation in York County is located to the south and east of Emigsville and is believed to be about 650 feet thick at this point (Stose and Stose, 1944). From here the Vintage Formation continues to the northeast to the Susquehanna River at Saginaw.

The rocks exposed in the quarry are a generally thick-bedded, well stratified dolomite. Because of the uniform dipping of the strata to the southeast, the youngest rocks in the quarry are found in the south wall, while the oldest strata is currently exposed in the northern wall.

As one enters the Codorus Quarry it is evident that the rocks are layered or stratified and that these layers are tilting downward toward the southeast. On closer examination, the beds are shown to be dipping at 25° with the strata striking in a northeastern direction, following the general trend of the area's geology. With the uniform angle of the strata throughout the quarry, this is an indication that major faulting or folding is absent. This is helpful information in seeking mineralized areas.

In 1990, a pyrite-chalcopryrite seam was first discovered during the quarry expansion. This seam, approximately 16" thick, was found on the lower level in the northeast corner of the quarry. At first, the seam was only observed along the strike of the strata but with recent blasting in the area, the seam has been exposed along the dip of the strata on the east wall and along a pinnacle still remaining 75 feet west of the east wall. On the east wall, the seam follows the dip upwards to the working level above (level 3). From this exposure, the pyrite-chalcopryrite seam is located approximately 24" above the contact zone of the dolomites. Other minerals associated with the seam are barite, calcite, chamosite, dolomite, goethite, greenockite, marcasite,

smithsonite and sphalerite. This particular seam appears to be the best mineral assemblage yet found in the quarry. Other limestone quarries in the York Valley have produced several good mineral assemblages (lead and zinc at the former York Stone & Supply Company quarry in 1976; titanium assemblage at the former Kline's quarry in Wrightsville; and, a small lead and zinc assemblage at the now abandoned Medusa Quarry in West York). This association at the Codorus Quarry is the first iron-zinc assemblage known in recent years in any York County quarry.

From the evidence seen thus far, the writer feels that this pyrite-chalcopryrite seam originated as a sedimentary feature. In many cases, seams like this one formed as fault zones. There is no evidence of faulting at the Codorus Stone occurrence as the seam dips at the same angle and strikes with the dolomite. The pyrite-chalcopryrite seam appears to be a localized occurrence as the mineralization has not been seen to the west along the north wall. Presently, the iron seam extends approximately 125 feet along the strike to the west from the northeastern wall. Likewise, the seam is not present along the east wall on level four up dip from the visible seam.

Mineralogy of the Sulfide Zone

Barite occurs as tabular white crystals closely associated with major calcite seams and in the cavities associated with the pyrite-calcite seam.

Calcite is the most common mineral in the quarry and occurs either as translucent rhombohedral crystals or as cleavage masses. Occurs as fillings in joints, stress fractures and faults in the sulfide zone.

Chalcopryrite occurs as massive, compact masses surrounding the pyrite. Often easily identified by its weathering as it tarnishes and changes to iridescent colors.

Chamosite occurs as small greenish-gray masses composed of micro plates resembling a mica. Associated with and usually rims the chalcopryrite-pyrite specimens.

Goethite occurs as the weathering product of the pyrite and chalcopryrite in the northeast corner of the quarry. Appears as dark reddish masses with no crystals visible.

Goslarite A zinc, hydrous sulphate mineral with crystals clear to transparent or also found as massive. Usually occurs as the decomposition of sphalerite. One of the rarer minerals from the Codorus Quarry.

Greenockite occurs as yellowish-green crusts associated with the sphalerite and more often as a weathering product of the chalcopryrite.

Hydrozincite at the Codorus Quarry is white to gray in color. Massive appearance, commonly is associated with sphalerite as this mineral is an oxidation product of the zinc ore.

Marcasite occurs as honey-comb shaped crystals associated with the calcite and pyrite. Tarnished to a deep purple resembling chalcopryrite.

Pyrite occurs as small cubic yellowish crystals in other areas of the quarry. In the sulfide zone it occurs in octahedral metallic crystals up to 1/2" in size, and as massive metallic segregations, frequently with massive chalcopryrite and sphalerite.

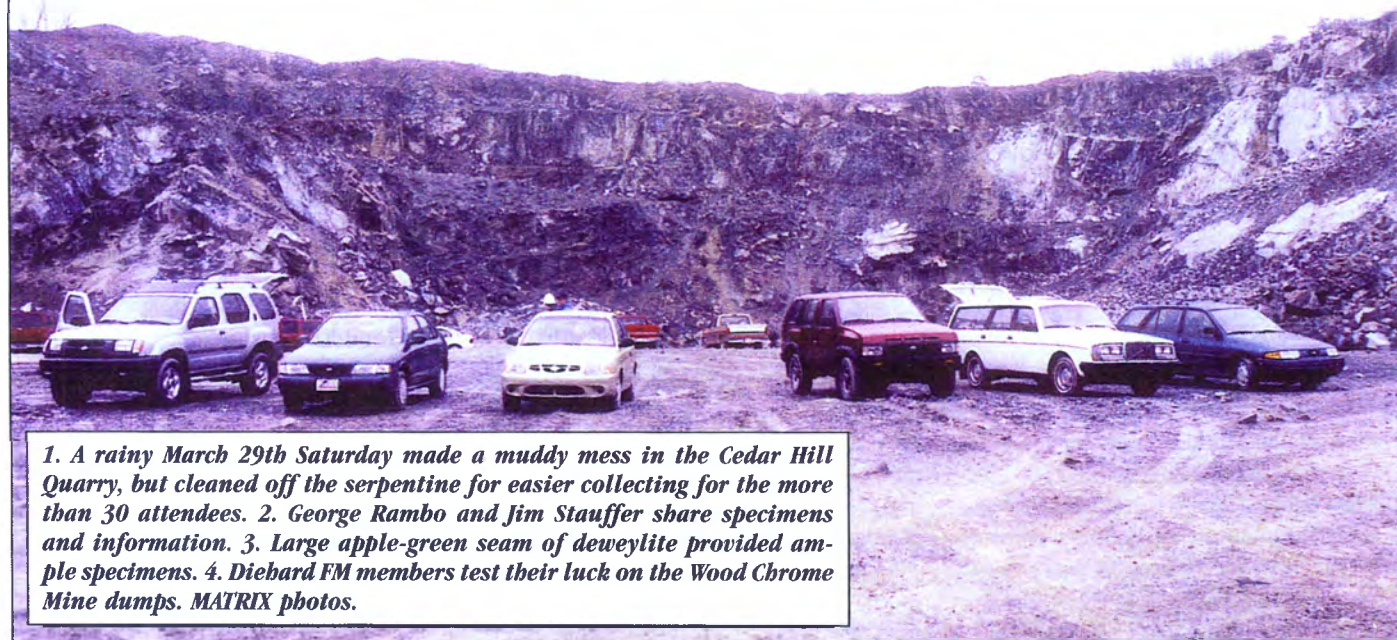
Smithsonite occurs as a grayish earthy masses associated with the chalcopryrite-pyrite seam. Also associated with greenockite and sphalerite in other parts of the quarry.

Sphalerite occurs as small yellowish-brown crystals and massive with a resinous luster. Recently found specimens have been associated with the greenockite and smithsonite. ✕

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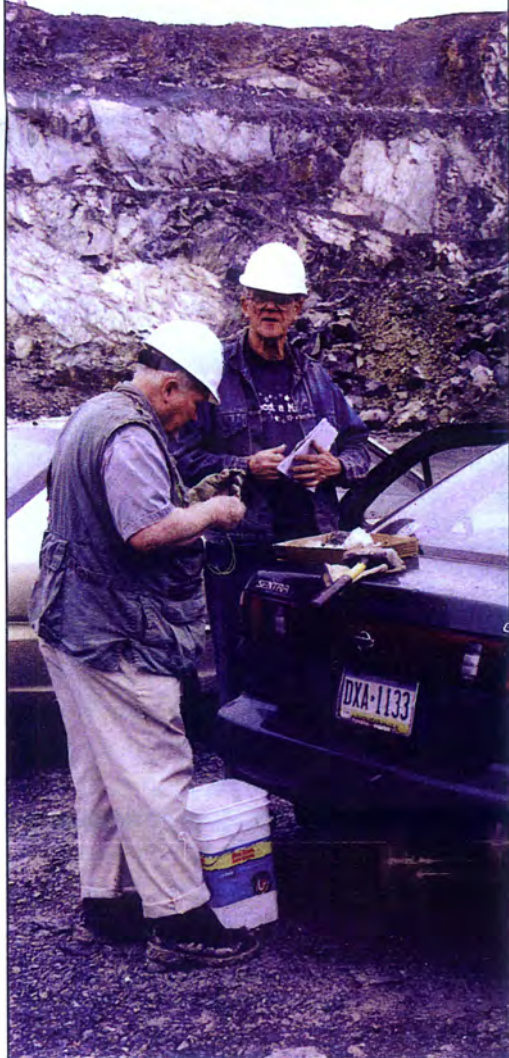
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FM/PA SPRING FIELD TRIP

1. A rainy March 29th Saturday made a muddy mess in the Cedar Hill Quarry, but cleaned off the serpentine for easier collecting for the more than 30 attendees. 2. George Rambo and Jim Stauffer share specimens and information. 3. Large apple-green seam of deweylite provided ample specimens. 4. Diehard FM members test their luck on the Wood Chrome Mine dumps. MATRIX photos.

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President's Message

Well, it's difficult to believe the summer has passed so quickly. We are back from a summer collecting journey in Colorado. My wife is back at her teaching job and I've started to check out new leaf rakes for the fall, and of course, to finalize plans for the fall FM/PA Symposium.

The Board met on August 24th to finish planning the Fall Symposium. We've planned what I believe to be an excellent and timely topic that should be of interest to both collectors and earth science professionals. Our program lineup will feature a number of speakers that are well connected in the world of museums; several will be traveling great distances. The Symposium is our major event for the year and I encourage our members to support it through their attendance. We had a great turnout for our Spring field trip. Let's con-

tinue the momentum for this important Autumn event.

Included with this issue of the newsletter is a preregistration form. Please fill it out and return it as soon as possible. I for one, am planning to retire my leaf rake for that weekend, regardless of how many leaves may fall. Let me also note that at last year's event, the give away table was a bit sparse, as were the donations for the auction. So please remember to bring items for both. Besides specimens, the auction welcomes other donations such as books, periodicals, artifacts and artwork. These gifts are important in helping to sustain the activities which benefit FM/PA members. Your participation is a positive response to the hard work the Board has accomplished in bringing this worthwhile weekend to our membership. The Fall is-

sue of the newsletter will provide Symposium specifics, but in the meantime, Roger Mitchell wanted me to inform everyone that on street parking at the Institute does not require meter feeding on the weekends!

A note on our other chapter communication: Dave Saja, long-time member of the Pennsylvania Chapter has created an outstanding website which showcases our organization. You can visit it at:

<http://www.geocities.com/sajas.geo/FM/index.htm>

Our newsletter also boasts of an upgrade in color quality thanks to a new digital proofer which significantly boosts the tones. Let the board, and especially Jay, know of your thoughts and comments on newsletter quality and content.

I hope to see you all at the Symposium.

Arnold Mogel

President FM/PA Chapter Inc.

Marcelle Weber: A Tribute

On July 8th, our Chapter (and the hobby of mineralogy at large), lost one of its best in the person of Marcelle Weber of Guilford, CT. Her unexpected death came as a shock since many people, including this editor, had dialogued with her at the Rochester Symposium in April. Though her influence was felt in various sectors of the hobby, Marcelle was best known for her passionate pursuit of micromineralogy. This was underscored when she was honored by being the first woman elected to the Micromounters Hall of Fame.

Marcelle was born in Randolph Co., Indiana on September 18, 1918. After earning a degree in business administration from Indiana University, she accepted employment with the Remington Arms Company in Fairfield, CT. It was here that she met Charles, her husband of 60 years. The Webers had three children, seven grandchildren and one great-grandchild. Marcelle became an avid, lifelong mineralogist. She excelled in field collecting as well as working the microscope, and her sight identification skills were exceptional. The Webers, though living many hours north of the Commonwealth, supported the Pennsylvania Chapter of FM through regular attendance at our annual Symposium. Marcelle was also an active member of the Micro-

mounters of New England, the Tucson Gem and Mineral Society, the Mineralogical Association of Canada, the Baltimore Mineral Society and the local clubs at New Haven and Stamford.

One of Marcelle's admirable qualities, was her exuberance for field collecting. Not a social mineralogist, she was unafraid to get dirt under her fingernails or grub in the toughest conditions. She accomplished major grubbing at her favorite location, the alkaline complex at Mont St. Hilaire, Quebec. Several years ago, she and Charles were honored as namees for a new species, charmarite, one of a steady stream of new minerals being found in this unique location.

On a personal note, Marcelle will be greatly missed by this editor. Some years ago, she and Charles approached me with an offer to represent *MATRIX* at Rochester and Springfield. This task, for which they would accept no remuneration, required a real effort; the transporting, displaying, selling and accounting for every issue dispensed. Their belief that publications added significantly to the body of mineralogical knowledge was the goal that inspired this volunteer effort. It was a kindness that offered inspiration to a small, struggling magazine which counted on



every sale to keep it solvent and one which will keep her memory alive for me. An e-mail from my friend Julian Gray probably said it best. . . *"I'm sure that she, Charlie Hall, Neal Yedlin, et al. are all scouring Heaven now looking for something to mount and look at with God's own microscope."*

A memorial service for Marcelle, will be held on October 11, 2003 at 2:00 PM, at the First Congregational Church on the Green, 122 Broad, Guilford, CT. A time of gathering and fellowship will follow. ✕

For more information please contact Arnold Mogel at Pioche@Losch.net 570-739-4034
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