

Lake George Gem & Mineral Club

Club News

April, 2022



We are pleased to announce the April meeting of the LGGMClub, which will be held at 9:00AM April 9 in the gym of the Lake George Charter School. The school is located about ½ mile east of Lake George, just south of US 24 (watch for the sign).

Bob Carnein will present an illustrated talk on the basics of mineral identification: “**Successful Mineral Identification**”. **Bob’s talk will cover the tools you need to carry with you in the field and how to develop the skills you need to ID minerals yourself.** Even if you have already mastered the techniques of mineral identification, this talk is guaranteed to give you some new insights or sharpen skills lost over the winter. Bring a specimen that you are having trouble identifying.

Note: April through October meetings start at 9AM.

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Scheduled Programs at Club Meetings:

John Rakowski will present his “Mineral Collecting 101” class at the May meeting, followed by a trip to the Club claim.

- **Election of officers** has been postponed. Please contact one of the current officers (listed at the end of this newsletter) if you would consider running for a 2022 office.

- **Here’s an April events list from Pete Modreski:**

. Fri-Sat-Sun., Apr. 8-10, Colorado Mineral and Fossil Spring Show, Crowne Plaza Hotel & Convention Center, 15500 E. 40th Ave., Denver CO. Many mineral, gem, and fossil dealers; no admission charge. Sponsored by RMGM Promotions.

Thurs., Apr. 21, 7:00 p.m., Colorado Scientific Society monthly meeting, Jim Granath (Consulting Geologist), “**Petroleum exploration in newly discovered basins of Namibia**”; and Bob Raynolds (DMNS), “**Seeking ancient man in the Turkana Basin**”. Planned as a combined Zoom plus live presentation in Berthoud Hall Room 241, CSM campus. Please see the CSS website, <https://coloscisoc.org>, for updates and details.

Sat., Apr. 23, 6-10 p.m., “**Rock Out for the Ridge**”, annual fund-raising dinner and event for Dinosaur Ridge, at the Fossil Trace Golf Club, Golden. All are invited to attend! Dinner, music & dancing, silent auction. For details, please see <https://dinoridge.org/programs-and-events/special-events-and-workshops/>. Tickets to attend, \$125; per table, \$1000. “Proceeds help fund the mission at Dino Ridge: to educate the public about and ensure preservation of the natural treasures at this unique and super-hot Colorado geo-heritage site.”

Thurs., Apr. 28, 5:00 p.m., “**Controlled Fusion Research**”, by Joy Dunn, Chief Operating Officer, Commonwealth Fusion Systems (CFS), and past chief of manufacturing for SpaceX. A special lecture presentation cosponsored by the Colorado Scientific Society and the CSM chapter of the American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics. Tentatively scheduled for the Grand Ballroom, CSM Student Center, 5:00-8:00 p.m. All will be welcome. Please see the CSS website, <https://coloscisoc.org/>, for updates and details.

- **May 7, Noon to 4:30, Colorado Mineral Society’s Verbal and Silent Cash-Only Auction.** Wheat Ridge United Methodist Church, 7539 W. 38th Ave., Wheat Ridge. Info at www.coloradomineralsociety.org

- **Carol Kinate sent this info about the 2022 LGGMC Mineral & Gem Show:**

SAVE THE DATE – August 19-21, 2022 (LGGMC Annual Show)

Again - A word from your Show Chair – I am reaching out to all members looking for additional help with this year’s Annual Show. I am listing the current positions needed to be filled to make our show a success. My contact information is listed below.

- **Volunteer Coordinator** (*shift assignments* for the show, field setup/takedown and kids’ activities)
- **Signage** (installation/takedown of signage - currently (7) locations)
- **Field Layout Coordinator** (marking of field weekend prior to show immediately after monthly meeting)

ALL signup forms for shift assignments will have been updated, ALL signage will have been updated, ALL materials for field layout and current map will have been updated and ready to use.

Thank you for your time and consideration. Please contact me with any questions whatsoever. Looking forward to a GREAT show!

Carol Kinate, Show Chair
kinatec@aol.com
719-648-9015 (call/text)

- **Dave Alexander sent this info about upcoming field trips:**

At the March meeting, Dave announced that, to prevent issues like we sometimes have with people signing up for trips but otherwise not participating in Club activities, he will be opening registration for many trips **at Club meetings this year**. Members who attend Club meetings will have “first dibs” for registration, which could be important for limited trips.

Although I haven’t otherwise heard from Dave this month, you can check the website for field-trip information.

ADDITIONAL COMING EVENTS OUTSIDE THE LGGM CLUB: (Nearby gem, mineral, fossil and geology events that you may enjoy.)

Please check the websites to find out current status of club meetings.

- **Cañon City Geology Club**, meets on the 2nd Monday of the month at 6PM in the United Methodist Church, Cañon City
- **Columbine Gem & Mineral Society**, meets on the 2nd Thursday of each month, 6:30PM in the meeting room, Mt. Shavano Manor, 525 W. 16th (at J St.), Salida
- **Colorado Springs Mineralogical Society**, meets on the 3rd Thursday of each month at 7PM in the Mt. Carmel Veteran’s Service Center, 530 Communication Circle, Colorado Springs;
- **Pueblo Rockhounds**, meets on the 3rd Thursday of each month at 6:30PM in the Westminster Presbyterian Church, 10 University Circle, Pueblo.

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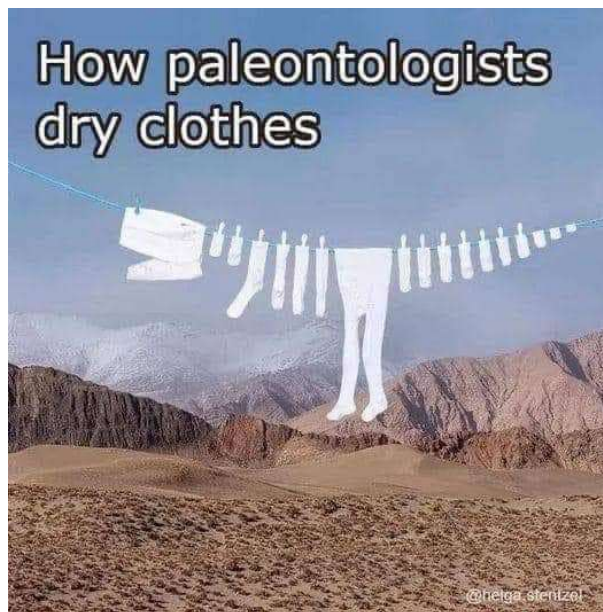
Wayne Orlowski sent the following interesting links about geology and mineralogy:

- The Antarctic volcano where ice meets lava: Mt. Erebus

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_vcsei-Jq6U&list=PLMrtJn-MOYmdVj5FnsS9FhEuXyhl7euUC&index=6

Editor’s note: Ask Wayne to show you his Erebus crystals!

- And, for you weird paleontologists out there....



...and here are a few links I found

- The **International Gem Society** published this glossary of terms used for faceters:
https://www.gemsociety.org/article/glossary-of-faceting-terms-and-definitions/?utm_source=ActiveCampaign&utm_medium=email&utm_content=A+Glossary+of+Gemstone+Faceting+Terms+for+Students&utm_campaign=A+Glossary+of+Gemstone+Faceting+Terms+for+Students

- Geoscientists reveal first detailed imaging of the plumbing underlying thermal vents in Yellowstone National Park:

https://vtx.vt.edu/articles/2022/03/science-yellowstone-hydrothermal-study-holbrook.html?utm_source=join1440&utm_medium=email

- The Colorado Geological Survey has just published a “Rock Talks” article about Creede. You can read it here:

<https://coloradogeologicalsurvey.org/2019/61553-creede-last-boom-town/>

- Here is the latest installment of “**Bench Tips**” by **Brad Smith**: (www.BradSmithJewelry.com)
COLORING EPOXY



There are two ways to add color when you are using epoxies. The first is to add a powdered material like colored chalk, charcoal, or powdered colors from an art supply store. One that I particularly like is a set of pastel glitter powders. A second way is to add a liquid pigment like nail polish, model airplane paint, or tinting pigments from a marine supplies store.

In preparing epoxy for use, the important things are to use exactly equal parts of the two components and to thoroughly mix them together. Coloring material can be added at any time. If I'm making just a small amount, I squeeze out equal sized droplets onto a piece of scrap paper or aluminum foil and mix thoroughly with a toothpick.

To mix larger amounts of epoxy, I use a gram scale to weigh the first component. Then I zero the scale and weigh out the same amount of the second component, add coloring if needed, and mix.

If you are using 5-minute epoxy, the mixing needs to move quickly. But I like to work carefully when

adding color. So, I squeeze out equal sized droplets side by side on the scrap paper. Then I work with just one of the droplets to add the colors. The 5-minute clock only starts when you mix in the second droplet.

More smart solutions for your jewelry making problems can be found in my metal arts books on Amazon at <http://amazon.com/author/bradfordsmith>



Notes from the Editor

Bob Carnein

Newsletter Editor

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Last month's speaker, **Steve Veatch**, presented a fascinating look into the world of Spencer and Julie Penrose. If you missed it, Shame On You! For this month's newsletter, Steve sent the following article about the Cripple Creek-area ghost town of Independence. As usual, you're guaranteed to learn something new about Teller County.

Independence: A Town of Troubles in the Cripple Creek Mining Mining District of Colorado

By Steven Wade Veatch

A troubled man, with a festering and poisoned mind, emerged from the shadows on a Saturday night, just five days before Thanksgiving, 1903. He went down the shaft of the Vindicator mine, a substantial gold producer in the town of Independence, one of more than a dozen camps in the Cripple Creek mining district of Colorado. While down in the mine, this man planted a device that would later explode, killing two men. He had hoped to kill more. This was not the last act of violence committed by the fanatic bomber known as Harry Orchard. He later planned another attack, one that would be more destructive and more lethal for the town of Independence. And there would be other incidents of mayhem: saloon fights, gunfights, railroad accidents, and injuries from mining. Independence was anything but a quiet town.

First known as Hull's Camp, the town was renamed by promoters after the storied Independence mine, which is 2.5 miles south of the townsite. According to *The Morning Journal*, Mr. W. S. Montgomery, one owner of the Hull City mine, said:

Yes, there will be a town at Hull's camp and it will be known as Independence. The site of the new town is an admirable one, with plenty of water and well sheltered by the surrounding hills. It is the center of the most productive section of camp. The streets are now being laid off and

already several large business firms have signified their intention of locating in the new town” (The Morning Journal, Oct 28, 1894).

A group of town organizers formally platted Independence on November 11, 1894 (MacKell, 2016).

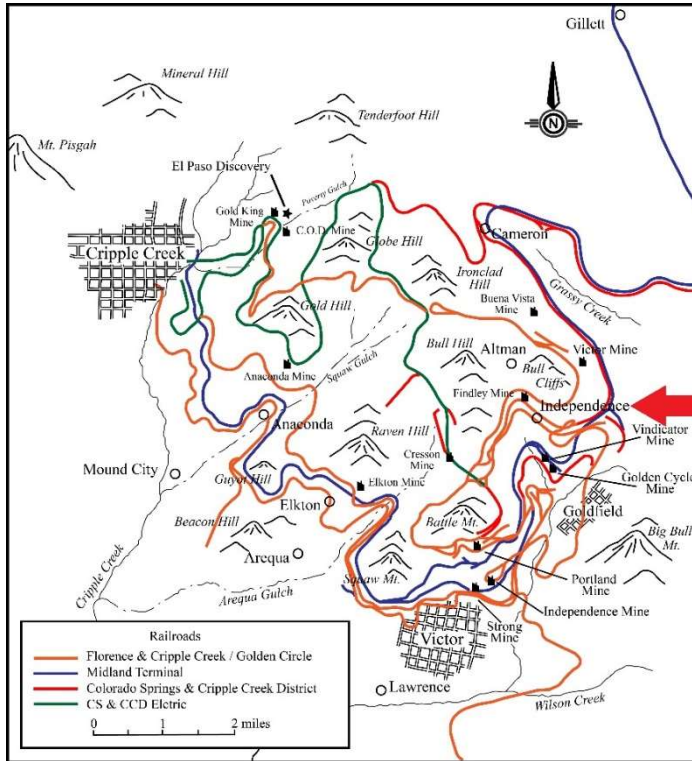


Figure 1. Map of the Cripple Creek mining district. A red arrow points to the town of Independence. The Vindicator mine is almost due south of the town of Independence. The Independence mine is northeast of Victor. Modified from Jameson, 1998.

Independence was a place where miners and their families lived, and by 1896, the population reached 500 (MacKell, 2016). An active business district along Montgomery Avenue included of an assayer, jeweler, photographer, and one doctor (MacKell, 2003). There was a drugstore, grocery, meat market, bakery, barber shop, two saloons, and a lumber mill. According to the newspaper, Mrs. Marshall “set a good table” at her restaurant (The Morning Journal, February 27, 1895). Willard F. French ran an active assay office in town. Independence also had a boardinghouse and two hotels

(MacKell, 2016). Mrs. Mamie Crook’s Hotel Montgomery offered a “Nice home for miners, good board and clean rooms at reasonable rates” (MacKell 2016). *The Independence Retort* published a weekly newspaper.

The Midland Terminal Railway stopped at the modest depot on First and Montgomery to

handle freight and passenger traffic (MacKell, 2003). While the railroad built the depot, the station agent lived in a nearby box car (The Morning Journal, December 13, 1894). While laying tracks toward the depot, the railroad made a cut in the ground on the property of the Longfellow mine number 2 and exposed a gold vein. The cut was near where the depot was to be built. Owners of the claim picked up some pieces of rock from the vein and threw them into the firebox of a nearby locomotive. The rock came out of the fire blistered with gold. Within five days, miners had dug a carload of ore (The Morning Journal, December 19, 1894). Station agent Jackson of the Midland Terminal depot at Independence later became a joint owner of the lease on the Longfellow number 2. Newspapers later reported of several gold strikes there. The Florence and Cripple Creek Railroad also had a depot in Independence (figure 7).

Accidents and injuries were not uncommon at the railroad depots in Independence. In one example, a moving train struck a Mr. Adams near the main Independence depot about 6:30 pm on Tuesday, June 20, 1899. Adams was from Pueblo and was on an excursion to the mining district. He was taken to the Sisters’ Hospital in Cripple Creek and died that evening (The Morning Journal, June 20, 1899).

Saloons did a brisk business in Independence. *The Morning Journal* reported this unusual story: “John Lamb of Independence, commenced a suit in district court to recover money lost by him in an Independence gambling hall. The defendants in the case are Charles Zeigler and Charles Cunningham. Lamb alleges in this complaint that while on his way home from work he dropped into the gambling hall and saloon of the defendants and after being given a drink or two by them his brain was so stupefied by the drink and drugs that he did not know what he was doing. He alleges that the defendants then induced him to play a game of chance, and he lost \$117¹. Scott Ashton, of Victor, is the plaintiff’s attorney” (*The Morning Journal*, August 15, 1899).

Independence was likewise the location of a large ore loading rail yard. Locomotives made it a noisy place, with their pistons chuffing, whistles blasting, and brakes screeching. Switch engines and crews traveled around to the various mines and mills and switched ore cars out—pulling the loaded ore cars away and replacing them with empty cars. The switch crew would then assemble loaded ore cars into a train that hauled the ore to a mill for treatment. People in town surely would have noticed the heavy rumbling of a train as it rolled by, pulling loaded ore cars. They watched locomotives that ran through the area, belching plumes of heavy black smoke, soot, and cinders. The air smelled of coal and hot valve oil, and the wooden railroad ties reeked of creosote.

Figure 2 shows the Midland Terminal Railway engine number seven, with its switch crew taking a break at the town of Independence in 1904. The photograph also reveals the dual gauge track and extra link-and-pin coupler socket on the engine, allowing it to handle either standard or narrow-gauge equipment. The coupler—for narrow gauge cars—was offset, while the standard gauge coupler was centered (the coupler can be clearly seen above the “cowcatcher” in figure 2). Both the Midland Terminal and the Colorado Midland were standard gauge, but other railroads in the district were narrow gauge.

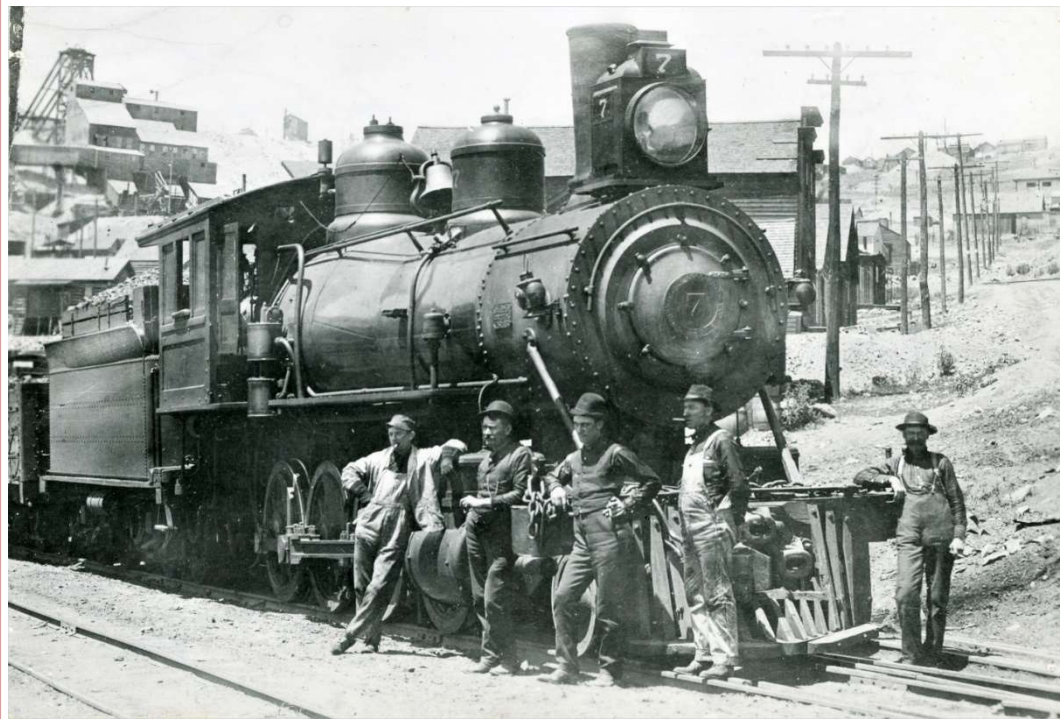


Figure 2. Switch engine and its crew in Independence, Colorado. Hull City mine in the background. Photo date 1904 by an unknown photographer. From the Joata (Osborn) Bottcher collection. Courtesy of the Cripple Creek District Museum, CCDM A8524.

¹ Around \$3,160 in today’s dollars.



Figure 3. The town of Independence, Colorado, looking northwest. Photo date 1897. Webster and Yelton photographers. Courtesy of the Cripple Creek District Museum. CCDMA82. 329A.

Independence continued to grow, and by 1899, 1,500 people called it home (Sprague, 1953). The town crowded around two important mines, the Vindicator and the Hull City mine.

The Vindicator mine was in the Montgomery gulch section of this small gold-rush town. It was a steady producer, and by 1907, *The Mining Investor* reported the mine had almost 25 miles of underground workings and had distributed, in total, over \$1.7 million² in dividends to stockholders (The Mining Investor, March 2, 1908). By 1910, the Vindicator was the fourth largest producer in the district, employing 350 miners who worked there.

The rich Hull City mine, which covered an area of 39 acres, was within the town limits (Lindgren and Ransome, 1906). According to Lindgren and Ransome (1906) the “Hull City had a complex vein system where calaverite, the main ore mineral, coated narrow seams in these veins. Quartz and fluorite coated small vug holes.” By the end of 1899, the mine had produced \$900,193³ in gold, and during the next three years (January 1, 1901 to January 1, 1904) generated gold worth \$999,174⁴ (Lindgren and Ransome, 1906).

By 1906, the Hull City’s main shaft reached a depth of 1,265 feet, with 11 levels; a second shaft, the King shaft (sometimes called the Vaughn or Glorietta shaft) was 860 feet deep, with 12 levels. This King shaft was in operation near the southern boundary of the mine (Lindgren and Ransome, 1906).

² Around \$50,421,000 in today’s dollars.

³ Around \$30,000,000 in today’s dollars.

⁴ Around \$31,300,000 in today’s dollars.



Figure 4. The town of Independence with the Hull City mine (foreground) and the Vindicator mine. Library, The State Historical Society of Colorado. CCDM A82-132.

The record of accidents and deaths miners suffered at the Hull City mine is incomplete. *The Aspen Weekly Times* reported that an explosion killed James Drury in the lower stopes of the mine on June 4, 1901. According to the

reporter, “He was warned before going into one of the stopes that one of the shots had failed to explode but went on and drilled into the blast. The entire side of this head was blown away” (*The Aspen Weekly Times*, 1901). Another mine accident killed A. M. Mellon on the morning of April 5, 1902, as he rode in a cage in the Hull City shaft. When he carelessly stuck his head out from the cage, a passing timber crushed his skull and snapped his neck. He had no relatives (*The Telluride Journal*, 1902). Records show that rocks from a bucket dropped on John Williams, killing him (Sherard, 2006). The nearby Vindicator injured and claimed the lives of an unknown number of miners. The true extent of these grim statistics for the Vindicator and the Hull City mines will remain largely unknown.



Figure 5. Early photo of Independence. Mining operations dot the landscape. Photographer and date unknown. Courtesy of the Cripple Creek District Museum. CCV93GKCCM WA.

Cripple Creek was a Western Federation of Miners union stronghold, and a crisis arose on August 8, 1903, when Cripple Creek union miners walked out in support of the striking smelter workers in Colorado City, Colorado (Taylor, 2003). The issue was over hours worked each day and pay. By August 11, at least 3,500 men had quit work in 50 of the district's mines (Jameson, 1998). The district soon became a battlefield, with confrontations between labor, employers, and the state of Colorado. About that same time, the district's labor wars spilled over into the town of Independence. The disputes resulted in injuries and loss of life. Harry Orchard, who resided in Independence, became embroiled in the district's labor strife, and committed several acts of violence. On November 21, 1903, a bomb set by Orchard exploded on the sixth level of the Vindicator mine, killing superintendent Charles H. McCormick and shift boss Melvin H. Beck, who were inspecting the mine (Orchard, 1907; Annual Report for the Vindicator, 1903).



Figure 6. Harry Orchard, whose real name was Albert Edward Horsley, lived in Independence and left behind a bloody trail in the Cripple Creek Mining District. Photo courtesy of the Cripple Creek District Museum.

About six months later, Orchard, with the help of Steve Adams, placed between 150 and 200 pounds of dynamite under a loading platform at the Florence and Cripple Creek Railroad depot in Independence (Jameson, 1998; Sprague, 1953). On June 6, 1904, at 2:15 am, while a crew from the Findley mine waited for a train, the bomb exploded. The blast blew one miner 150 feet away from the depot, killed 13 miners, and injured another 20. Orchard and Adams covered the soles of their shoes with kerosene, so the sheriff's bloodhounds could not track them, and disappeared into the darkness. Colorado's lieutenant governor declared the county in a state of insurrection and mobilized the National Guard (Jameson,

1989).

The strike lasted for fifteen months before finally coming to an end. Thirty-three people were killed, but organized labor lost out as a result of determined opposition by mine owners and the state of Colorado. With no further union representation in the district, miners worked under the tight control of mine owners (Taylor, 2003).

Harry Orchard was later convicted of blowing up the former governor of Idaho, Frank Steunenberg, in 1905. Facing the death penalty, Orchard confessed to the murder of the former governor and 16 other people. Orchard died in the Idaho state penitentiary April 13, 1954, at the age of 88.



Figure 7. The Florence and Cripple Creek depot in Independence after Harry Orchard blew it up on June 6, 1904. Courtesy of the Cripple Creek District Museum. CCDM 82 420.

More commotion would come to Independence on February 11, 1906, when two masked gunmen robbed the Silver Bell Saloon. A gun battle broke out that killed one robber, while the other outlaw fled packing \$1,800 in cash (MacKell, 2016).

After the district's labor wars ended, Independence's population shrank. Records reveal that, in 1919, 500 people remained in town. The town's population continued to dwindle as gold mining declined. Its post office closed in 1954, and the Hull City mine ended operations in 1958. A handful of people remained for a few years after that, but then the town nearly disappeared—melting into thin air. Today, only a few ramshackle historic structures survive.

Acknowledgments

I thank Ben Elick for modifying the map used in this paper. I thank the Colorado Springs Oyster Club and Dr. Bob Carnein for their critical reviews.

References and further reading

Annual Report for the Vindicator Consolidated Gold Mining Company, 1903.

Jameson, E., 1998, *All That Glitters: Class, Conflict, and Community in Cripple Creek*: Chicago. University of Illinois Press.

Lindgren, W., and F. L. Ransome, 1906, *Geology and Gold Deposits of the Cripple Creek District, Colorado*: Washington, Department of the Interior, U.S. Geological Survey Professional Paper No. 54.

MacKell, J., 2003, *Cripple Creek District: Last of Colorado's Gold Booms*: Charleston, Arcadia.

MacKell, J., 2016, *Lost Ghost Towns of Teller County*: Charleston, History Press.

Orchard, H, 1907, *The Confessions and Autobiography of Harry Orchard*: New York, The McClure Company.

Sherard, G. 2006, Colorado Mine Accident Index: Fatal and Non-Fatal, Retrieved from <https://history.denverlibrary.org/sites/history/files/ColoradoMiningAccidents.pdf>, on January 21, 2022.

Sprague, M., 1953, *Money Mountain: The Story of Cripple Creek Gold*: Lincoln, University of Nebraska Press.

Taylor, R.G., 2003, *Cripple Creek Mining District*: Palmer Lake, CO, Filter Press.
Aspen Weekly Times, June 8, 1901, p. 3.

The Morning Journal, Oct 28, 1894, p. 1.

The Morning Journal, December 13, 1894, p. 8.

The Morning Journal December 19, 1894, p. 3.

The Morning Journal, February 27, 1895, p. 1.

The Morning Journal, June 20, 1899, p 4.

The Morning Journal, August 15, 1899, p. 4.

The Morning Journal, December 26, 1899, p. 94.

The Mining Investor, March 2, 1908, p. 70.

The Telluride Journal, April 10, 1902, p. 6.

Monthly Mineral Quiz

Last Month's Mineral: Celestine, SrSO_4 .



Once called celestite, last month's mineral commonly occurs in cavities in marine sedimentary carbonate rocks (limestone, dolostone), in geodes (most famously, up to 35 feet across in northern Ohio), and occasionally in hydrothermal veins (as at the Cresson open pit, Cripple Creek, CO). Its name derives from the Latin for *celestial*, a reference to its sometimes delicate blue color. It's a tough mineral to identify because of its similarity to baryte and its variable color. A strontium flame test can help. Powder a tiny (rice-grain size) piece of the mineral. Obtain a short length of platinum or Nichrome wire. Make a small loop on the end of the wire. "Clean" the wire by dipping it into a gas flame (stove-top flame will work). Leave the wire in the flame until yellow flame disappears. Without touching the loop with your fingers, dip the loop into the acid/unknown solution, then touch the wet loop to the powdered mineral. Then dip this into the flame. If the mineral is celestine or another strontium mineral, you will see a brilliant red flash. If it's baryte, the flame color will be greenish yellow. If calcium, it's orange; sodium yields yellow. **When doing a flame test, be sure you use an oven mitt or glove to protect your hands from burns due to heat conduction by the wire.**

April Mineral (Carnein photos and collection)



The mineral for April is one that you might have collected at the **Steve Gorman's** Gold City claims (photo on right, above). As you can see, the color varies widely, but brown to greenish brown is most common. The two middle photos are of specimens from Canada, which produces some of the finest (sometimes gemmy) examples of this mineral. Well crystallized samples are not uncommon. You might recognize that the photo on the left (above) is a tetragonal crystal. This mineral, which is named for a famous mountain, has a very complex and varied chemistry (it's a complex silicate). Hardness is $6\frac{1}{2}$, SG is 3.3 to 3.4, and it has no well developed cleavage. It commonly occurs in skarn deposits and in contact or regionally metamorphosed limestones. Associated minerals include grossular, wollastonite, and epidote. What is this widespread mineral?

Eckel, E.B., 1997, *Minerals of Colorado, Updated and Revised by R.R. Cobban, et al.*: Golden, Colorado, Fulcrum Publishing.



The Lake George Gem and Mineral Club is a group of people interested in rocks and minerals, fossils, geology and history of the Pikes Peak/South Park area, Indian artifacts, and the great outdoors. The Club's informational programs and field trips provide opportunities to learn about Earth science, rocks and minerals, lapidary work and jewelry making, and to share information and experiences with other members. Guests are welcome to attend, to see what we are about!

The Club is geared primarily to amateur collectors and artisans, with programs of interest both to beginners and serious amateurs. The Club normally meets on the second Saturday of each month at the Lake George Community Center, located on the north side of US Highway 24 on the east edge of town, sharing a building with the county highway shops. **In the winter, we meet at 10:00AM. From April through October, we meet at 9:00AM, to allow more time for our field trips.**

Our organization is incorporated under Colorado law as a nonprofit educational organization, and is a member of the Colorado, Rocky Mountain, and American Federations of Mineralogical Societies. We also sponsor an annual Gem and Mineral Show at Lake George, where collectors and others may purchase or sell rocks, minerals, fossils, gems, or jewelry. Annual membership dues (Jan. 1 through Dec. 31) are \$15.00 for an individual (18 and over), and \$25.00 for a family (parents plus dependents under age 18). New memberships and renewals are only accepted Jan 1 through March 31 each year.

Our Officers for 2022 are:

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