

# HISTORY AND HIGHLIGHTS OF THE AGMC — part 1

*This is the first of seven articles concerning the History of the Club. I hope you like them.*

*Joel Johnstone, Editor*

It appears that the first time the club started being concerned with its history was for its 20th Anniversary in 1964. By this time many of the original members of the Club had either passed or had moved on. It was then that they discovered much of the early records held by the Secretary and Historian were missing or incomplete and they started to attempt to contact early members to fill in the blanks. At the Club meeting on February 10, 1964 a number of "well known and qualified speakers" were invited to present to the members some of the problems that confronted the Club at the beginning and to also bring some of the lighter side and personal reminiscences. In the next News Nuggets they regret that many more of the long time members had not attended. The Club increased their efforts after this to fill in the blanks as best they could. This culminated 5 years later at the Silver Anniversary of the club in 1969 with a great historical write-up by Dean Wise. The club celebrated the 30th (1974) and 40th (1984) Anniversaries with large specially decorated cakes. Nothing seems to have been done since then to celebrate the club's anniversary. On January 22, 2019 the club will have been in existence for 75 years.

The following is from a compilation of sources, not the least of which was an article written for the New Mexico Miner & Prospector, Publication Of The New Mexico Miners And Prospectors Association, Don Lusk, Editor; Vol.10, No. 1, November 1947. By the time of this publication the club had been in existence for almost 4 years. This appears to be the first attempt at documenting the early history of the club. It also is the first publication we have of the club's Constitution. To this has been added information gleaned from early ledgers (1944 to 1954), newsletters and

the historical write-up by Dean Wise on the occasion of the Club's 25th anniversary. I do not consider myself a great writer, so much of the following is simply a compilation of others words edited so it reads well.

## Formation of the Club

In the beginning the enthusiasm of the young geologist was necessary to promote our country's urgent search for strategic minerals during the dark days of World War II. Amateur and professional rock hunters eagerly attended the University of New Mexico's Community Evening College for studies on the "Critical Minerals of New Mexico". This class was taught by Dr. Vincent C. Kelley, who later became the Director of the Department of Geology and an honorary Member of our Club. Friendships developed in these classes as was the desire to continue the pleasant associations. During the class, Oscar Branson, a graduate student, suggested a club composed of people interested in gems and minerals in New Mexico would be an interesting continuation of the course. Other class members agreed and the concept for a gem and mineral club was formed. And so it was that the Albuquerque Gem and Mineral Club was named and formally organized on January 22, 1944. The 17 initial members were: Mr. & Mrs. Oscar Branson, Mr. & Mrs. Saul Bell\*, Mr. & Mrs. Ben Boddy, Mr. & Mrs. Paytims, Mr. & Mrs. Guy Shockley, Dr. Vincent Kelly, Mrs. Bessie Paradis, Mr. Bill Gilpin, Captain Edwin Fisher, Mr. William Parker, Ken Carmichael, and Jerry Burnham. Initially chartered with 17 members, by the end of the first year the Club had grown to 30 and by the end of 1947 had grown to a membership of 56. The first several years, members were issued numbered cards to indicate their membership.

Besides still being in World War II, the early records indicate the new Club was beset by many problems. Mostly people problems. Where to meet? What kind of programs? Who, and where were the

leaders? This era passed when, as recorded in the minutes, an Executive Committee stated there was too much emphasis being placed on social activities and not enough on rocks.

The climax of the first five years occurred in August 1949 when the club hosted the 6th Annual Convention of the young Rocky Mountain Federation of Mineralogical Societies. This affair, which was attended by the noted mineralogist Dr. Richard M. Pearl, was described as the most successful convention to date for the young Rocky Mountain Federation.

## Next Month: Organization, Meetings, & Programs

*\*Yes that is Saul Bell of the Saul Bell Design Award Competition and founder of Rio Grande Jewelers Supply. About the time of the foundation of AGMC, an opportunity arose for him to purchase the White Eagle Trading Post, located along Route 66, (renamed Central Avenue where it passed through the heart of downtown Albuquerque). He ran White Eagle as his primary business while he launched Rio Grande as a wholesale supplier. Impressive huh?*

# HISTORY AND HIGHLIGHTS OF THE AGMC— part 2

*This is the second of seven articles concerning the History of the Club.*

## Organization

The Club's first president was, by one account Oscar Branson, with Guy Shockley\* not being elected until 1945. In 1947 the Constitution of The Albuquerque Gem & Mineral Club indicated that the officers of the club shall be a President, Vice-President, Recording Secretary, Treasurer and a Corresponding Secretary. These officers were to serve for a period of one year, and, together with three members appointed by the President shall constitute the Executive Committee. The Annual Meeting was the last meeting in January of each year, at which time officers were elected for the following year.

The voting and annual meeting was changed in 1960 to November because "the RMFMS wanted our listing of officers by the first of the year" and the board was willing to accommodate them.

In 1964, to protect the members in those complex times the Executive Board incorporated the Club with the State of New Mexico as a non-profit institution. We are indebted to an Attorney-at-Law member, the late Byron Guse, who drew up and filed all incorporation papers at no cost to the club.

## Meetings

Early meetings were held in the Administration Building at the University and in private homes, until attendance became so large that this was no longer feasible. Early in 1945 a room in the Public Service Building was used, through the generosity of Mr. Arthur Prager, President of the Public Service Company.

By 1947 the Club met at "7:45 on the first and the third Wednesday evenings each month, usually in the Public Service Building (using the door near the rear of the building, on Fifth Street)". Anyone with interests in common with

the group was always welcome either as a visitor or a prospective member. The Club was also pleased to help in any way possible those who might be interested in organizing similar clubs in other places.

Membership in the club remained at a 25 to 45 level until 1952 when, under a hard-working Executive Board and spurred on by the boom search for uranium, the membership experienced a phenomenal growth. In 1953, when the club was first privileged to hold its regular meetings in the new Geology Building Lecture room, this room seemed too large. By 1955, after experiencing "standing room only" attendance at its meetings, the club pondered what to do. It was literally bursting at the seams with 230 members and income barely matched expenditures.

In February of 1960, the club voted to only have one meeting a month, beginning in March. It was set that the fourth Monday of each month would be the meeting date.

## Programs

Through all of the years a regular schedule of programs have covered every conceivable subject of special interest to our hobby. During the nearly first four years of its existence, the club fully justified itself both from the standpoint of entertainment, and that of instruction, for some extremely interesting lecturers were heard, among them Dr. V. C. Kelley, Dr. Stuart Northrop, Dr. Reike, and Dr. Lincoln LaPaz, all of the University of New Mexico; Clare A. Dietrich of the Byrd Polar expeditions, William DoBell, on the cutting and dying of agate in Germany, KC. T. Griswold, on Barite deposits in Missouri, Alfred Dittert, on the Tonque Ruins, and Major Charles Zirweis, authority on ivory.

Club members themselves have talked both from experience and from research, on the following subjects: Cryptocrystalline Minerals; the Cutting and Fashioning of Gemstones; Placer Min-

ing; Halite; Turquoise; Opals; Reflection and Refraction in Gems; Radioactivity and Radioactive Minerals; Petrified Wood; Birthstones; and many other subjects. The late Roger H. Downer gave many interesting accounts of his experiences during the gold rush days in Nevada.

Some of the demonstrations put on by various members and guests included blowpipe technique, sand casting and centrifugal casting of gem mountings, fluorescence of minerals under ultraviolet light and the use of binocular microscope, the last by E. D. Kipp, of the Public Service Company.

Movies on subjects of special interest to the group have been shown from time to time, some of the U. S. Department of Mines films having been shown several times as new members expressed a desire to see them. Projectors and film were often borrowed or rented during the early months, and upon one occasion Mr. Segerstrom of the U. S. Geological Survey who was passing through Albuquerque showed some very fine color movies of the Paricutin volcano. Ray Allen and Louis Giannini were both generous enough to show movies for the club with their projection equipment.

Outstanding, among the many social events held was the barbecued venison dinner held in the fall of 1946, at which half a deer and very elaborate trimmings magically disappeared. Most meetings are followed by very simple refreshments.

## Next Month: Field Trips, State Fair & Gem Show

*\*Some records indicate Guy Shockley was the first president.*

# HISTORY AND HIGHLIGHTS OF THE AGMC — part 3

*This is the third of seven articles concerning the History of the Club.*

## Field Trips

Many wonderfully pleasant Club sponsored Field Trips have been conducted for mineral specimen additions to our collections. The Club has long insisted on a program of proper field trip etiquette that has gained many a return invitation. During the first two years of the club's existence, field trips were somewhat limited due to transportation difficulties. However some trips were made then, and after the end of the war numerous trips were made up of large and small groups and by individuals, with many an interesting gem or mineral specimen being brought back.

The first trip made by the club as a group was to the San Pedro mine, shortly after the organization of the club. Transportation was in trucks supplied through the courtesy of Jack Nichols. We continue this tradition by holding our annual picnic there.

Some of the early group trips were to the Rio Puerco region both west and southwest of Albuquerque; to the Coronado monument near Bernalillo and southward along the Rio Grande back to Albuquerque; to Bernardo Bridge and the surrounding region; to Golden, N.M.; to the old Tonque ruins; to Bland and tent rock; to the ice caves near Grants, and El Morro monument.

On one early trip a group of about thirty got caught in a severe and totally unexpected hailstorm, and were thoroughly drenched. As everyone came straggling back to the parking area, wet to the skin, some concern was expressed for a visiting couple from New York City, who were unaccustomed to this rugged western terrain. Just as a search party was about ready to start hunting them, they came strolling in, quite dry. They had driven some sheep out from under a pinon bush and crawled under it themselves. Everyone else was so wet that the men built a huge fire in order to

warm up and dry out, and some of the feminine members of the group removed certain unmentionable garments and hung them near the fire to dry.

One member of the club, on a two week trip into the Florida mountains near Deming, collected an assortment of agates, including banded agate, plume agate, moss agate and also carnelian, which he cut and polished into most attractive gem stones and cabinet specimens. He reported that near Grass Lake in the southern part of the St. Augustine plains there was a belt of banded agate and quartz crystals and casts of all descriptions. This deposit was estimated to be about five miles wide, and at least 40 miles long. .

A good deal of very nice turquoise had been collected by various people in areas around Cerrillos, Tyrone, and near Alamogordo.

A trip by a small group to the northeast shore of Elephant Butte Lake netted them some valuable limb sections of opalized wood of gem quality, which were cut into gemstones and some highly fluorescent specimens. Also, some exceptionally fine feldspar moonstone was brought back from the southern part of the state.

Club members were among those collecting some of the finest Smithsonite in the world from the old Kelly mine near Magdalena. However, this mine is no longer in a safe condition for anyone to go into.

Specimens collected in the region up and down the Rio Puerco from Albuquerque have been sheet selenite, petrified wood, fossilized shell as well and gem quality red jasper.

## State Fair & Gem Show

From its formation the club participated in the State Fair with mineral displays, though initially they were not competitive. By 1947 the club had a large pyramidal case that was displayed in the Industrial Building in conjunction with

the NM Bureau of Mines and Mineral Resources exhibit. In 1955 the Club started actual judged competitions at the Fair. By 1965 there were 72 displays that took over almost a third of one of the Fair's major buildings.



The Albuquerque Gem & Mineral Club display at the 1947 State Fair. This cabinet of gems and minerals was on display in the Industrial Building in conjunction with the New Mexico Bureau of Mines and Mineral Resources exhibit.

In 1963, after long and arduous efforts by the executive committee, a significant opportunity was presented. The New Mexico State Fair Hobby Department permitted our club to have a sales booth adjacent to the annual gem and mineral exhibits. This sales booth continued from 1963 to 1969. Thousands upon thousands of minerals were collected, labeled, and packaged for 25¢ grab bags. Thousands upon thousands of mineral specimens, gems, slabs, and lapidary ornaments were collected for the booth. Beyond-the-call-of-duty efforts by a few hard working and zealous leaders ably and willingly assisted by many other members and friends made the sales booth pay off. This was probably the precursor for the NM Rock Fiesta Gem Show that started in 1970 which eventually became the Treasures of the Earth (TotE) Show of today.

## Next Month: Finances & Scholarships

# HISTORY AND HIGHLIGHTS OF THE AGMC — part 4

*This is the fourth of seven articles concerning the History of the Club.*

## Finances

The earliest records for the club come from the financial ledgers maintained from the inception of the club in 1944 until 1954. A lot of interesting information can be gleaned from its lines. Collecting a dollar per year for adults and fifty cents for students didn't generate a huge treasury very quickly. Fairly meticulous records were kept. Early records indicate that members often donated items the club needed. There are some reimbursements for movie rentals from the University of New Mexico. By the end of their first year the club had \$23.79 in its account.

In the early years most of the funds went for postal cards, and in October 1946 we see the first records of payments for refreshments, all of \$5.50. We also see some purchases of flowers for members.

In 1945 the club purchased a one year subscription to Rocks & Minerals for \$2.00. In 1946 the club purchased its first piece of equipment from NM School Supply - a film projector for \$13.98. There are also entries of fines to members for not bringing a specimen to share at meetings - 5¢.

In 1947 regular membership dues are now \$2.00 per adult, with student dues half of that. Members joining in the last half of the calendar year only paid half the dues for the remainder of the year. By the end of 1947 the club had amassed a balance of \$85.61.

1948 records the first payment to the Rocky Mountain Federation of Mineral Societies for dues, then later a loan of \$20 to RMFMS which the region pays back a few months later. That year the club also records having an auction and selling tickets for a raffle for a rod, reel & creel. In March a club building fund was started and by the end of the year it had all of \$180.40, but it doesn't seem to have been carried forward. By the end of 1948 the clubs accounts had swelled

to \$363.10.

In 1949 records show the club was selling to members the book "Getting Acquainted with Minerals" by George Letchworth English, published in 1934, having purchased 7 copies from the NM Bookstore in February. That year is the first record of the club paying for an advertisement in the Albuquerque News. There is also an entry to Nebraska Salesbook Company for membership cards. The club also paid a considerable sum - \$41.89 - for a "Bldg Booth at Convention". This would have been the 6th Annual Convention of the Rocky Mountain Federation of Mineralogical Societies. July shows another loan to RMFMS to the tune of \$150 which is again paid back in a few months. In October the club purchases a Gemlap and motor from NM Minerals for \$46.90. The club is also selling bags of something for 50¢ - tumbling material maybe? They also sold Christmas cards to make money as well.

In 1950 the books record the club buying a display case from NM Minerals for \$35.70. We also see the first payment for mimiographing maps for a field trip, and the purchase of 500 stickers, presumably with some sort of club logo on them, which are then sold to members for 5¢ each. There clearly was some spending going on as an audit of the books at the end of the year indicates the club accounts are now down to \$179.51. By the end of 1951 it has gone up to \$204.32, due in part to the sale of local melons at meetings. By the end of 1952 the account now has \$219.73.

1953 is another year of heavy spending. Dues are still at \$2.00 per adult, \$1.00 for students. In January 1953 the club prints 1000 membership cards for all of \$6.00. It is also the first entry that indicate that badges are being bought and sold. But throughout the year purchases are made for folders, brochures, copying, food, table rentals, etc and by the end of the year the balance shows only \$9.70. In 1954 dues are raised to \$3.00 per adult and \$1.50 per student. In Janu-

ary of 1965 a "Family" membership appears to be added for the annual cost of \$8.00. By October it is announced the dues for the following year will go up to \$4.00 for adults, \$2.00 for students, and \$10.00 for families. In 2000 President Paul Hlava announces that the club is facing a considerable shortfall, and they need to raise the dues to \$20 per family (from the previous \$16.00) to cover Newsletter costs, Federation Dues, and Insurance starting in April, encouraging members to pay their dues early to avoid the increase.

## Scholarships

With super annual auctions and superb member participation, the club was able to offer its greatest achievement with the giving of its first University scholarship in 1960. These annual scholarships have continued. They are awarded by the Department of Geology to a graduate student whose studies have included an emphasis on mineralogy. In 1965 the Club presented the University of New Mexico, though the Department of Geology, a gift of \$4000 to establish a permanently endowed scholarship fund, the interest from which will be given annually and henceforth to a deserving student to assist their studies. In each of the years 1967 to 1968 additional gifts of \$500 were added to the endowment so that the total fund was \$5000, the original goal.

In addition to this effort, another campaign was launched in 1958 to assist the American Federation of Mineralogical Societies' scholarship drive for a \$50,000 fund. Our club diligently collected Betty Crocker coupons, pennies, and made grants to this fund drive. We were named a 200% club. This effort was very worth-while to the membership at the time.

## Next Month: Community Service & Club Logo

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# HISTORY AND HIGHLIGHTS OF THE AGMC — part 5

*This is the fifth of seven articles concerning the History of the Club.*

## Community Service

Another project supported within our club by many members from 1958 to 1967, was the collection of literally thousands of U.S. Commemorative stamps which in turn were sent to a central collecting mineral club in the state of Washington, then turned into cash by a charity which purchased huge food and milk supplies for hungry peoples in poor countries abroad.

In 1960, Dr. Stuart A. Northrop, Curator of the Geology Museum, an Honorary Member and longtime friend to our club, invited us to place an appropriate case in the Museum. A beautiful case was built and installed. It is reserved for the use of our Club members' mineral specimens and lapidary art on a rotating basis.

In 1965 an enthusiastic member of our Club was elected State Chairman for the Rocky Mountain Federation's Advisory Committee when it appeared that public lands for recreational use would be removed from use for mineral specimen collecting. The national effort of the several Regional Federations in this work was most rewarding.

In 1967 we joined with the newly formed New Mexico Association of Gem and Mineral Societies whose purpose in being is to provide better communication, friendly ties, an annual State Show, and improved liaison with the Rocky Mountain Federation for all New Mexico gem and mineral societies.

## Club Logo

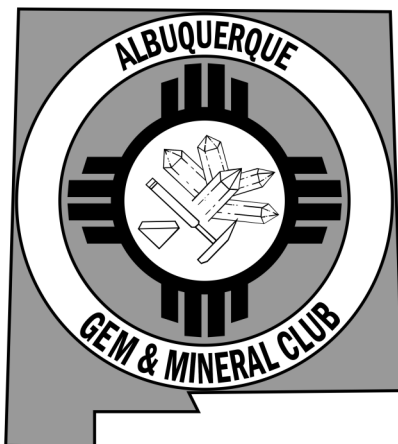
March of 1983 was the first use of what could have been considered the first logo for the club on the News Nuggets. February of 1985 is the last time it appears. Speakers were given two club coffee cups (with the logo?) and a certificate (though the notes indicate the certificate was to be designed at a future point). There were also some pins de-

signed with a variation of this logo as well as membership vests.

In 2013 the club held a contest for a new club logo which was voted on at the December 2013 Holiday Party. The winning logo was designed by Joel Johnstone and is still in use today.

**Next Month: Newsletter Hardcopy Archives & Awards**

*Joel Johnstone, Editor*



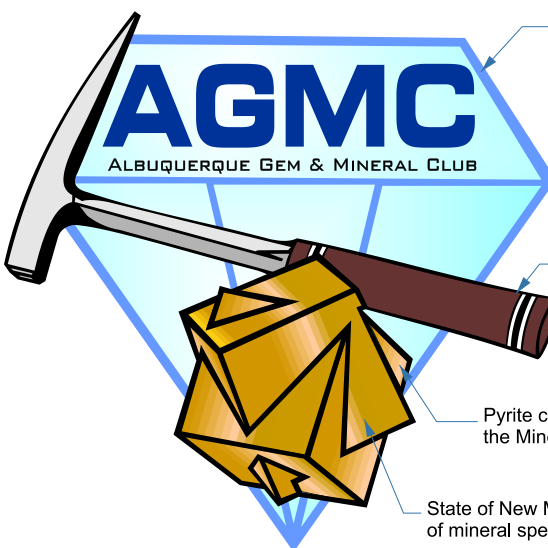
Early Club logo and cover - 1983-1985



Pin using early Club logo



Club vest using early Club logo



Diamond after logo of American Federation of Mineralogical Societies represents Gem portion of our name

Rock hammer after logo of Rocky Mountain Federation of Mineralogical Societies represents that we go out in field to collect.

Pyrite crystal specimen representing the Mineral portion of our name.

State of New Mexico in face of mineral specimen.

Club logo—2013 to present

# HISTORY AND HIGHLIGHTS OF THE AGMC — part 6

*This is the sixth of seven articles concerning the History of the Club.*

## Newsletter Hardcopy Archives

The first official news bulletin of the Albuquerque Gem & Mineral club was published in 1953 sometime shortly after the general meeting in January. For current numbering purposes the single page letter is considered Volume 0. The editor, Louis W. Heister expresses a desire to publish monthly. Our archives are spotty in those early years and we don't find many hardcopies of the bulletin. The only other newsletter we have for 1953, or at least portions of it, is the June issue. Our records are missing 1954 entirely - don't know if they are missing or just not published. The next issue we have a copy of is March of 1955 and then 6 other issues. These early issues are typed and photocopied or dittoed (you remember those blue copies from school). From the July 1961 newsletter - "The kind-hearted, thoughtful, and understanding board members, voted to buy a new mimeograph machine for the Club, at the last board meeting. The one we have now is getting old and very undependable. This newsletter is the first mimeographing done on the new machine." They typically don't have much except the year on them - no volume, issue, month or even page numbers. Most were just one or two pages in length. We are missing 3 months in 1956, the entire year in 1957, then pick up again in 1958. Some of these years appear to have newsletters sent out about every two weeks, which would match up with the number of meetings each month. Officially Volume and Issue numbering didn't start until the January 1970 issue which is labeled Volume XXVI (26) Number 1. They continued this sequence until 1980, when for some reason the volume number reverted back to XXVI (26). This sequence continued until 1987 when the volume number jumped to XXXIV (34) for the last two months of the year. 1988 then started as

XXXV (35). This sequence continues through today.

The mid to late 90's were evidently difficult for the editors. 1994 is correctly volume XLI (41). For some reason the editor changed the volume number to XL (40) in the August issue and continued the error through November, but corrected it for the special December issue. 1995 is correctly volume XLII (42). For some reason the editor changed the volume number to XLIII (43) in the July issue and continued the error through the end of 1995. 1996 should have been volume XLIII (43). But because Volume 43 was started in July of 1995, the editor labeled 1996 as Volume XLIV (44). 1997 continued this error and was labeled Volume XLV (45) - it should have been XLIV (44). The error was finally corrected the next year by making 1998 Volume XLV (45) which it should have been in the first place which solved the issue from there on out.

## Awards

As the first newsletter states, the club was slow in the department of establishing a newsletter. Our records indicate we started participating in the RMFMS Bulletin contest as early as 1970.

In 1971 the News Nuggets gets third place in "Group 2" in the competition.

In the June 1977 News Nuggets editor Regina Modreski announced that the News Nuggets took first place in the RMFMS Bulletin Competition - Small Bulletins Category. Then in September the News Nuggets was awarded third place in the "New Editor" category for the American Federation bulletin contest. According to Regina, "We lost a lot of points for not having more short items relating to the hobby."

In January of 1987 the club was informed that the News Nuggets received the fifth place award in the Rocky Mountain Federation Bulletin contest for small bulletins.

In 1996 the News Nuggets took third place in the RMFMS competition. As Paul Greenfield, Editor stated in the June 1996 issue; "There was good advice and great encouragement. Two issues of the News Nuggets were submitted to the RMFMS bulletin contest. We obtained a third place award. The contest is an evaluation (similar to the competitive exhibition awards) based on a structured judging format. We were judged fairly on the basis of what we submitted. The bulletins submitted did not have any personal news of members; I might add few of our bulletins did. One of the bulletins had no articles from the AMFS, RMFMS, or exchange bulletins. That bulletin also had no hints, safety information, book reviews or humor. The other bulletin was downgraded because the name and date was not on each page, and not all articles were credited with an author. Other than the lack of personal news the short comings were technical errors and omissions of the editor. I believe a large club has more of the characteristics of a professional organization than it does of a social club." The News Nuggets received an honorable mention at the AFMS competition.

In 2001 Editor Orlando Garcia took third place in the RMFMS Bulletin Competition for New Editors. In 2002 the News Nuggets took First Place in the RMFMS Bulletin Competition - Large Newsletter Category and 10th in the AFMS National Competition.

## Next Month: The Newsletter Masthead & Editors Through the Years

# HISTORY AND HIGHLIGHTS OF THE AGMC — part 7

*This is the seventh and last in a series of articles concerning the History of the Club.*

## **The Naming of the Newsletter and Changes to the Masthead:**

Early Nuggets were just typed – nothing fancy. Each editor seems to have put their “mark” on the newsletter in accordance with their abilities.

### **First News Nuggets masthead - 1963-1968**

In August of 1963 we see the first hand drawn masthead of just the text News Nuggets, which also seems to be the first time the newsletter officially gets that name. The July 1963 newsletter states; “The winner of the Newsletter Name Contest is Mrs. Beryl Russell. Her entry “News Nuggets” was chosen by the judges and from now on the Newsletter shall be known by that name.”

Ruth Bronson takes over several years later and makes the font a little fancier and in February of 1968 a simple hand sketched landscape scene is added behind the text. In March the sketch becomes more detailed and is clearly the view of Albuquerque and the Sandias from the west mesa. In April the sketch is replaced with a black and white photograph of the same Albuquerque & Sandias scene.

### **Rock-pick masthead - 1969-1973**

By March of 1969 the photo is gone and we have a text masthead where the “T” in Nuggets has been replaced by a rock pick. That masthead stays around with slight modifications until February of 1973.

### **Cover by E.R.Wood - 1973-1977**

In March of 1973 the rock-pick masthead is replaced with a professionally drawn cover by artist E. R. Wood show-

ing a wooden arch/gate, which is used until November of 1977.

### **NM mineral map cover - 1977-1983, 1985-1987**

The rest of the 70’s seem to be a mix of simple typed newsletters with no graphics, to some that have a very simple hand drawn text masthead. Even the Rock-pick “T” isn’t brought back. But the cover sheet for mailing purposes starts to contain a hand drawn map of New Mexico with several mineral locations drawn on it. In the lower right is the text News Nuggets. It was drawn by Pete Modreski, President at the time.

### **Club Logo cover—1983-1985**

This continues until 1983 when the cover is replaced with the early club logo until February of 1985 when the Pete Modreski's map cover is brought back. It was only supposed to be an "interim" cover but stayed well after the Modreski's moved to Denver. It pretty much stays this way until February of 1987.

### **Rockhound sketch cover - 1987-1998**

In February of 1987 the cover is radically changed to have a fancy text masthead over a hand sketch of a rockhound swinging a pick at a nice outcropping of minerals drawn by Ms. Sharon Peregrine Johnson, Albuquerque artist and co-author (with husband Byron) of such notable literary gems as "Gilded Palaces of Shame" and "Wild West Bartender's Bible". You can spot her "SJ" in the lower right corner. Although the font in the masthead changes over the years, the drawing remains until February of 1998.

After 1998 the masthead is a simple text font with a mineral cluster clipart - I think the mineral cluster is the basis for the mineral cluster on the old name badges. The January 2000 issue is the first one that members are converted over to receiving entirely electronically and by August 2001 editor Orlando Gar-

cia indicated that over 80 members now receive their Nuggets electronically.. Even though being mailed electronically, the News Nuggets remains pretty much just black & white text with little or no graphics or photos. What graphics there are is generally hand drawn maps and black and white clipart. The February 2001 Nuggets contained the first color photo of a specimen inserted by Editor Orlando Garcia for the monthly Mystery Mineral column. More mineral photos and color clipart appear throughout the rest of the year but disappear in 2002. Graphics, photos and clipart go missing from the Nuggets from 2003 until 2013. A hint of what's to come first appears in the December 2013 Special issue edited by Earlene Shroyer – some simple color poinsettias in the masthead. In January 2014 the first full color News Nuggets with lots of graphics and color pictures is published. It incorporates the new club logo designed by Joel Johnstone and voted on at the December 2013 Holiday Party. The rest, as they say, is history.

## **Editors through the years:**

It appears that prior to 1963 the newsletters were probably written by the corresponding secretary as there generally is no indication of who put it together. Typically the current president's name is at the top. The first person identified as the editor is Ardythe Beavers on the new News Nuggets masthead. In the January 1976 Nuggets, editor Regina Modreski states bulletin cannot be a one-person job as it has in the past.

*This concludes my journey into the Club's history and I hope it lets you understand how things became the way they are today.*

*Joel Johnstone, Editor*

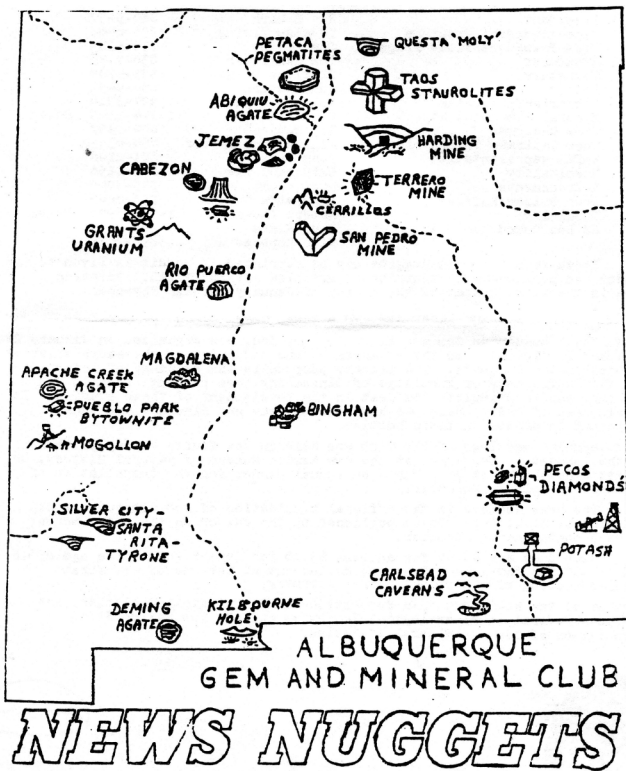
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# NEWS NUGGETS

First News Nuggets masthead - 1963-1968

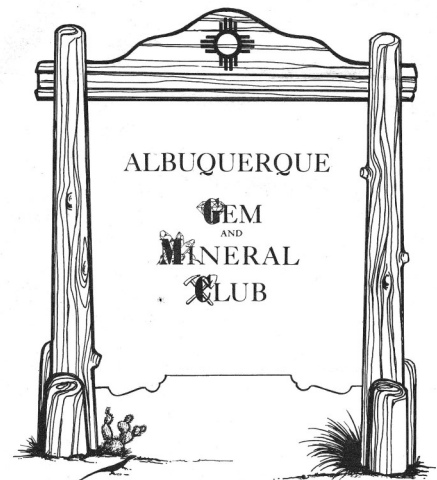


Rock-pick masthead - 1969-1973

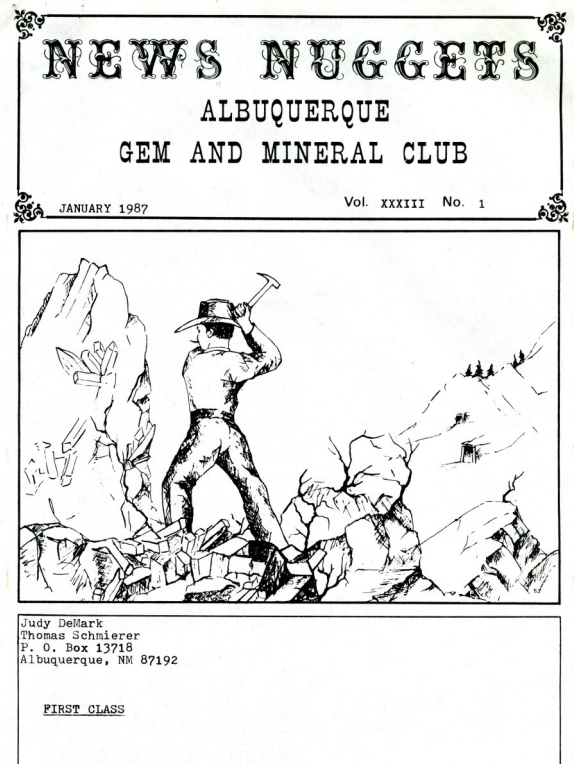


NM mineral map cover - 1976-1983, 1985-1987

# NEWS NUGGETS



Cover by E.R.Wood - 1973-1977



Rockhound sketch cover - 1987-1998