

**March Meeting:  
Friday 20<sup>th</sup>  
at 7:30**



**Mile Hi Rock & Mineral Society  
Ronald Knoshaug, Newsletter Editor  
13495 W. 71st. Place  
Arvada, CO 80004  
Volume 34 March, 2009**



**Membership Meeting at Valley Lutheran Church  
Friday, March 20th, at 7:30 PM**



The Official Publication of the Mile Hi Rock & Mineral Society  
**ROAMIN' RAMS**

**Volume 34    March, 2009    No. 3**

**2009 Officers**

President, Don Beamer  
303-429-5467  
Vice President, Ron Knoshaug  
303-423-2923  
Secretary Judy Knoshaug  
303-423-2923  
Treasurer, Jennie Baldwin  
303-659-7630

**Committees**

Programs, Vacant  
Field Trips, Gail Beamer  
303-429-5467  
Memorial Case, Bruce Brown  
Claims Committee Chair, Ted Gildea  
303-730-9332  
Membership, Bruce Brown  
Refreshments, Martin Peters  
303-450-5202  
Newsletter, Ron Knoshaug,  
303-423-2923  
Denver Council, Ron Knoshaug  
303-423-2923  
Librarian, Vacant  
Show Liaison, Judy Knoshaug  
303-423-2923

**Snow policy:** If the roads appear icy, a decision will be made by the officers by 6:30 PM as to whether or not to cancel the meeting. If the decision is to cancel the meeting, a telephone relay will be set up to call all appropriate members. If we do not reach you, and there is a question about the meeting, feel free to call any of the four officers for information. The safety of our members is more important than a meeting.



**RAMS MEETINGS**

The Mile Hi Rock & Mineral Society meets the third Friday of each month at the Valley Lutheran Church, 7375 Samuel Dr., Denver, CO 80221-2705. The doors open at 7:00 p.m. unless otherwise notified. Guests are always welcome.

The primary objective of the Mile Hi Rock & Mineral Society is the education of its members on all aspects pertaining to the rock and mineral hobby and associated arts.

DUES:	Family-	\$15.00
	Individual-	\$10.00

**ROAMIN' RAMS NEWSLETTER**

The Mile Hi Rock & Mineral Society, Inc., a non-profit organization dedicated to the education and the display of the earth sciences, publishes this newsletter monthly. Material in the newsletter may be reproduced in publications that are not sold for monetary gain provided credit is given to the author and the newsletter.

The Mile HI Rock & Mineral Society is a member of the Colorado Federation of Mineral Societies, the Greater Denver Area Gem and Mineral Council, the Rocky Mountain Federation of Mineralogical Societies, and is an associate of the American Federation of Mineralogical Societies

### Calendar for Coming Events

- March 12-15** **Rockhound Roundup in Deming, New Mexico.** Put on by the Deming Gem & Mineral Society; Southwestern New Mexico Fairgrounds; Hours 9-5. Free admission. Displays, demonstrations, jewelry, rocks, drawings, reffle, field trips, silent auction, live auction. Martin Peters (303-450-5202) is planning to attend. If you would like to attend, call Martin.
- March 14-15** **Mineral Sale Bill Hayward**, a long-time mineral collector, especially in the Pikes Peak area, is having a spring sale at his house. Time: 10:00 AM – 5:00 PM each day. Lots of crystals and minerals for sale. Items from Red Feathers Lake and Crystal peak. Some new stuff. Address: 3286 Quitman, Denver, CO; for more information, call Bill at 303-455-1977.
- March 20** **RAMS meeting** 7:30 PM Valley Lutheran Church, 73rd Avenue and Samuel Drive, Westminster. Bring your microscope (if you have one) and we will look at some micro-minerals.
- March 27-29** **Gem and Mineral Show sponsored by the Fort Collins Rockhounds Club**, at Lincoln Center, 417 W. Magnolia St., Fort Collins; March 27: 4-8 pm; March 28: 9 am-6 pm; March 29: 10 am – 5 pm. Admission: Adults ( over 18) \$3 daily; Student age #1 with ID; Children under 12 free when accompanied by adult. Exhibits, door prizes, demonstrations, silent auction, grab bags, gem & mineral dealers.see <http://www.fortcollinsrockhounds.org/>
- April 9** **Flatirons Mineral Club Silent Auction.** West Boulder Senior Center, 909 Arapahoe Ave. (Just west of the Main Boulder Public Library), 7:00 pm Minerals, crystals, fossils, and lapidary. For more information, contact Bob Smith, 303-530-4735 or bob15smith@hotmail.com
- April 10** **North Jeffco Gem & Mineral Club Silent Auction** North Jeffco Community Recreation Center, 6842 Wadsworth Blvd. Setup begins at 5:30 pm; Auction begins at 6:45 pm. Mineral specimens, gems, jewelry, crafts, equipment, and bake sale. Check out begins immediately after the auction. No early checkout. Free parking, free admission, and free refreshments. Public invited. Sellers and buyers welcome. For additional information about bid sheets, buyer numbers, seller requirements, etc, call Ron Knoshaug at 303-423-2923 or email at [jrknoshaug@comcast.net](mailto:jrknoshaug@comcast.net)
- April 11** **Field Trip to North Table Mountain.** Joint field trip with the Flatiron Mineral Club. Call Ron Knoshaug (303-423-2923) for more information.
- April 18** **Colorado School of Mines Geology Museum's first "Garage Sale.** See page 2 for more information
- April 24-26** **COLORADO MINERAL & FOSSIL SHOW-SPRING.** Friday & Saturday, 10 a.m. – 6 p.m., Sunday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Holiday Inn-Denver Central, 4849 Bannock St. (Retail and Wholesale) Free Admission – Free Parking – Open to the Public; Minerals, fossils, gems, jewelry and lapidary Dealers from across the U.S., and from China, India, Brazil, and Russia.
- May 2** **CMS Silent Auction** at Holy Shepherd Lutheran Church. More information next month.

**NOTE: The Colorado School of Mines Geology Museum** now has a sales shop with mineral specimens as well as some books and other items. It's located in the lower floor of the Museum, which is always free to the public and is located at the southwest corner of 13<sup>th</sup> and Maple Streets, Golden, and is open 9 a.m. – 4 p.m. Monday-Saturday, 1- 4 Sundays. A new exhibit about meteorites and Colorado meteorites was also recently completed in the museum. See <http://geology.mines.edu/museum/>

**Freshments: Please bring some treats to share with the group.**

### Equipment Sale Chuck Allen

Equipment very clean and really good condition:

Highland Park A-50 combination unit mounted on bench with motor and many peripherals ...\$800

Highland Park 10" Trim Saw mounted on bench with motor ...\$150

Raytech Gem Saw L-65 mounted but not on a bench with motor... \$50

Diamond Pacific Genie Unit model 77-863... \$800

10"X1 1/2" 100 grit grinding wheels for \$25 each

1" black 100 grit wheels for \$20 each.

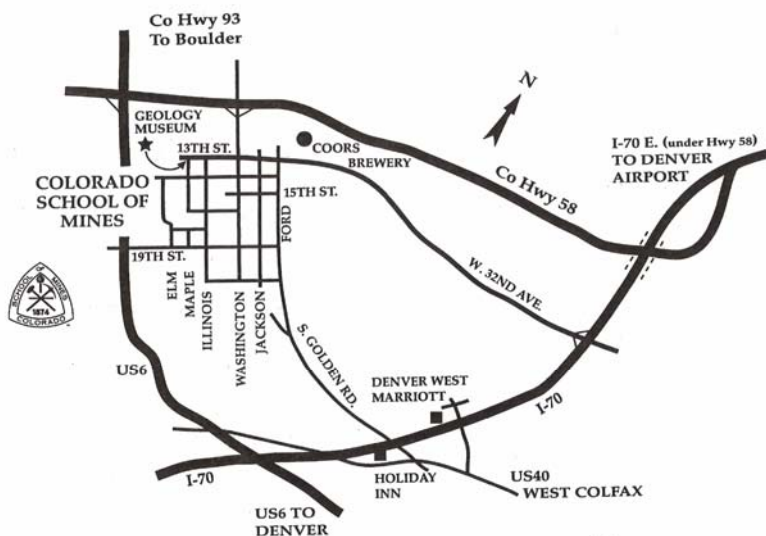
1000 grit at \$5 per pound.

If interested: **Call Chuck Allen at 720-922-2906**

### Colorado School of Mines Geology Museum's first "Garage Sale."

Your club members are invited to the Colorado School of Mines Geology Museum's first "Garage Sale." This event will occur on April 18, 2009 from 9 A.M. until 4 P.M. in our Museum at 1310 Maple Street (southwest corner of 13<sup>th</sup> and Maple Streets), on our campus in Golden, CO. There will be a wide assortment of rocks, lapidary equipment, furniture, and miscellaneous items that were excavated during spring cleaning of one of our warehouses. Our Gift Shop will have a 20% off sale on our entire stock that day. Additionally, we will be dedicating our newest treasure, a fabulous mineral donation from the Oreck family. Weekend parking is usually never a problem. A map is provided below.

This is one way that our Museum recognizes the philanthropy that the Denver area mineral clubs extend to our students in the form of various scholarships, from the proceeds of the Denver Gem and Mineral Show. Don't miss the fun. For further information, please phone Bruce Geller at 303-273-3823.



**Mile Hi Rock & Mineral Society Meeting Minutes February 19, 2009**

President Don Beamer called the meeting to order at 7:34 p.m. at the Valley Lutheran Church.

**Treasurer's Report** – Treasurer Jennie Baldwin gave the financial report. She stated the last report was as of October 31, 2008, at which time the balance was \$5,563.80; receipts since then total \$185.00 of membership dues; disbursements total \$861.04, representing \$100.50 dues to the Rocky Mountain Federation of Mineralogical Societies, \$114.00 to the RMFMS for liability insurance, \$42.00 for P.O. Box rent, \$500.00 to Valley Lutheran Church for our meeting space, and \$104.54 to Ron Knoshaug for newsletters and the Christmas ham. The balance as of January 31, 2009 is \$4,887.76. Jennie added this total if composed of \$2,459.30 in the CD, \$2,351.11 in the checking account and \$77.35 in petty cash. There were no questions in regard to the financial information. Bob Hammig moved to accept the report. John Hansen seconded and the motion carried.

**Legislation** – Don Beamer commented that the March 2009 issue of *Rock & Gem* magazine referenced the Omnibus Public Lands Management Act of 2008. He added the article states the act will remove millions of acres from use for new mining, rockhounding, and casual recreational activities and provides for a National Landscape Conservation System, which could prohibit or severely limit recreational rockhounding on affected lands. In addition, he said the article notes the Paleontological Resources Preservation Act is still lurking in the future, which is likewise not friendly to our hobby. There was some discussion about sending a letter to our representatives in Congress about the acts. Don Beamer and Ron Knoshaug may work on such a letter.

**Field Trips** – Don Beamer said he is starting to work on field trips. He noted there are several possibilities for Memorial Day weekend – such as the claims for a day or two with a side trip to either Manitou Springs, Joe Dorris's claim or perhaps the magnetite area. Ron stated he would lead a trip to Book Cliffs the weekend of May 2 & 3 and one to Farson, Wyoming in June for petrified wood. Other possibilities mentioned were Devils Head, Hartsel, Sedalia Copper Mine, Calumet, and Red Feather Lakes. Don said the club picnic would be the weekend of July 17-19 and asked which club should be invited. Ron Knoshaug suggested the Pueblo club, whose claims overlap ours. He added we met a very nice couple from the Pueblo club at the New Mexico symposium and feels we should become better acquainted with the members of the club. The group reviewed the Denver area clubs that had been invited in the past and decided that among them the choice should be the Denver G & M Guild. Ted Gildea said he would chat with Roger Bennett on what size group could be expected from the Guild. Don Beamer said the decision will be deferred until later.

**2009 Meetings** – Don Beamer asked how many meetings should we have this year and noted that several are necessary – August to plan for the September show, a September meeting to plan for the silent auction, November as required by the bylaws, and December for the Christmas party. He added that July is the club picnic and the May meeting could be at the claims as in 2008. Since the usual September meeting would fall during the Denver show, Gail Beamer suggested September 24<sup>th</sup> to plan for the auction. Both Walt Baldwin and Judy Knoshaug spoke against canceling meetings for lack of a program. Judy said there were talented people in the club who could give a program. Don Beamer said if we go back to monthly meetings, he wants to return to Friday nights. Ron Knoshaug noted that according to the schedule in the church's bulletin there were no events on Friday nights. Gail Beamer said when she attended the church meeting, it was indicated there was a conflict with Friday evenings. Don said he will contact the church again about this. For March, it was decided there would be a viewing of micro-minerals with microscopes from the Knoshaugs, Beamers, and Larsens.

**New Members** – Judy Knoshaug remarked she thought a matter that should be very important to the club is gaining new members and asked if anyone had any ideas on how to do this. She added she thought we might select a number of known interested persons, send them a complimentary monthly newsletter, and perhaps they would become interested enough to join.

**Meeting Space** – Ted Gildea suggested the club consider finding a new meeting space and said space is available at Dinosaur Ridge, except that the room is smaller than this one and there are steps. Ron Knoshaug will try again to contact Jack, Rose Reynolds' friend, about the Broomfield space.

**Memorial Case** – Bruce Brown said he is working on a memorial case for Donna Chirnside and asked where it should be placed. Gail Beamer moved the case be placed at Park Hill Elementary School. Ron Knoshaug seconded and the motion carried.

### Mile Hi Rock & Mineral Society Meeting Minutes February 19, 2009 (Cont)

**Colorado Federation** – John Hansen reported the Colorado Federation will soon have officers and then some action can be taken.

**Librarian** – Bruce Brown volunteered to be club librarian and will contact Scott Grable to acquire the books.

**Sales** – Ron Knoshaug announced Bill Hayward's and Chuck Allen's sales.

There being no further business to come before the meeting, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted, Judy Knoshaug, Secretary

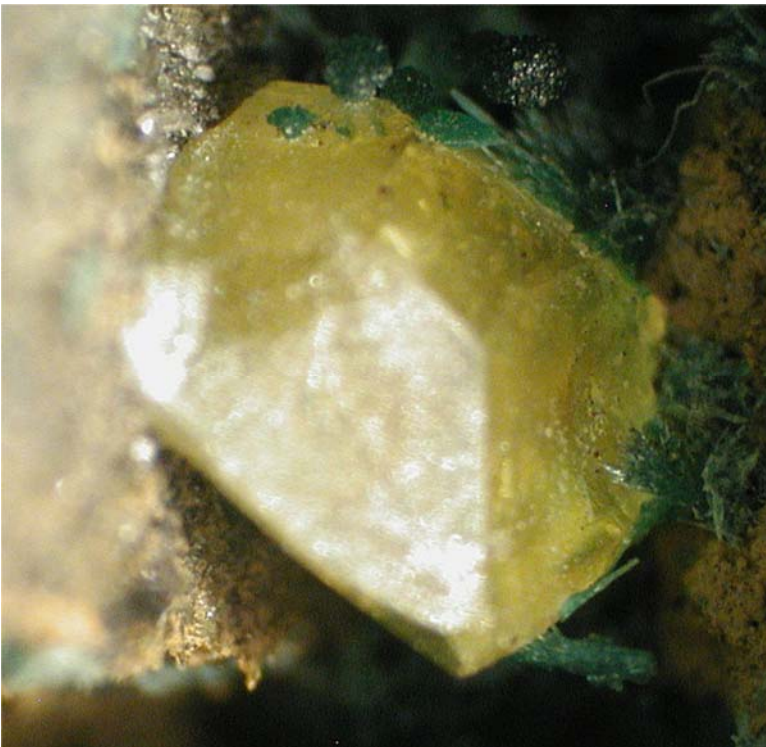
### Denver Gem & Mineral Show Mini Report March 2009

The Denver Gem & Mineral Show is only a few short months away. Remember the dates September 18 – 20<sup>th</sup> and the theme "Fossils – Windows to the Past". Are you ready for the show? Have you planned your exhibit or the exhibit for your club? Do you know what you will be doing at the show? The volunteer sign up sheets and job descriptions are out. Your club representative should have them and they should be circulating at your meetings. Please read over the job descriptions and select where you would like to help at the show. There are many easy and some sitting jobs. Whatever you decide to do please remember that every volunteer is appreciated and valued. And many are needed – about 400+. That's a lot of people! And that's why we need YOU!

There are probably many other people from your club volunteering so if you have never done it before, tag along with one of them. They will help you out. You will have fun and experience something new. The show is a grand one but cannot operate without the volunteers.

Some new people have joined the committee lately. Terrance Yee is the new Exhibits Chair, and April Pullen is his assistant. Lloyd and Pat Ferguson will be in charge of the show program. These four are all from the North Jeffco Gem & Mineral Club. From the Littleton Gem & Mineral Club, Joe Gierczak will be helping with Set Up and Richard Parsons with Tear Down. The Set Up and Tear Down positions are under Martin Hannu, Buildings & Grounds. The Show Committee can always benefit from new talented people. If you are that special person who would like to be more involved with the show, contact your club representative or the Show Chair, Barb Melby, at 303-423-5876.

Respectfully submitted, Judy Knoshaug, Secretary



### Rocky Mountain Micromineral Association

There is a new mineral group in town. It is the Rocky Mountain Micromineral Association. This group is only a few months old and has microminerals as its focus. This is an informal group – no dues, no officers, no newsletter (so far) The group meets on the second Sunday of each month from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. at the Colorado School of Mines Museum. The meetings are informal but future meetings may have programs on topics concerning microminerals. Microscopes and free microminerals are available at the meetings. Although it would probably be helpful to have a microscope, there is no requirement to do so. Anyone is welcome to attend and discover the amazing world of microminerals. If you are interested or wish to broaden your mineral horizon, please come. For further information, contact Richard Parsons, 303-838-8859 or [richard.parsons@att.net](mailto:richard.parsons@att.net).

**Micro-Wulfenite crystal from Lemitar area, New Mexico (Knoshaug specimen and photo)**

**Why Try Micromounting? The Top Ten Reasons to Try Micromounting**  
**An article by Julian Gray entitled Why Micromounting?**

Here's a top ten list - just like Letterman's, but without the canned laughter. There are many reasons to get into micromounting, but these are the top ten.

**10 - STORAGE** - While you probably can't fit a thousand micromounts on the head of a pin, you can sure fit them in a box under your bed, making micromounting ideal for apartment dwellers or anyone who has heard the immortal phrase "Get those rocks out of here!"

**9 - EASY COLLECTING** - Field collecting superb 10 cm crystals of a rare mineral isn't particularly easy, but the micromounter can find something of interest almost anywhere. Even poorly mineralized roadcuts, or fossil localities will often yield something of interest to micromounters, if only calcite or pyrite crystals.

**8 - PERFECTION** - Micro crystals are perfectly formed and undamaged far more often than cabinet specimens. They are the peak of aesthetics.

**7 - VARIETY** - There's only a few hundred minerals out there that come in nice big crystals, and almost no new species are found in sizeable crystals. Go to any mineral show and what do you see - table after table of aquamarine, quartz, and fluorite. Micromounters work with far more species than hand-specimen collectors, and are familiar with far more rarities.

**6 - LOW PRICES** - The average price of a micromount is \$3. Really expensive ones are \$20. The initial expense of a good scope and proper light is pretty steep, but after that you're set - you can buy fifty great specimens without breaking the bank. (Or why pay at all, trading your duplicates to other micromounters around the world is a huge part of micromounting.)

**5 - NO FAKES** - When a lot of money is changing hands for a fine cabinet piece, one has to be wary that the specimen hasn't been altered or faked in some way. Faking micromounts is not only extremely rare, it's nearly impossible, as a microscope easily reveals glue where it shouldn't be.

**4 - CHEAP SHIPPING** - Sending 100 micromounts by airmail to Europe is far more affordable than 100 cabinet pieces.

**3 - YEAR ROUND FUN** - A large part of what drives field collectors is the thrill of discovery. The micromounter with a good hoard of material doesn't have the constraints of a field season - no matter what the weather is like he can pull some rocks out of storage, trim them down, and find fantastic crystal-filled vugs never before seen by man. The micromounter can delve through his stock of material and find new stuff any day of the week, and he can go collecting in his basement even if it's 2:00 am and 20 degrees below Celsius outside. It's a year round hobby.

**2 - WEIRD & WONDERFUL** - The micromounter sees things that aren't even imagined by 'macro' collectors. Things like spiral millerite crystals, Sweet Home Mine rhodochrosite rhombs with moving bubble inclusions, or minerals like rutile, pyrite, and boulangerite in ring crystals, to name a very few!

**1 - FREE STUFF!** - Last time you went to your average, garden-variety mineral show, did they have tables filled with fine cabinet specimens free for the taking? At micromount symposia, give-away tables loaded with interesting stuff are standard practice. Micromounters are a very generous bunch! What, you need more convincing?



**If you have a microscope, please bring it to the March meeting. We plan to look at some interesting and weird micro-minerals, such as the "Spider" collected at Marshall, Wyoming. If you have some minerals you wish to examine under a microscope, please bring them along.**

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**Manganese mineral, "Spider" ( Mineral name of specimen unknown) found at Marshall, Wyoming (Knoshaug specimen and photo)**

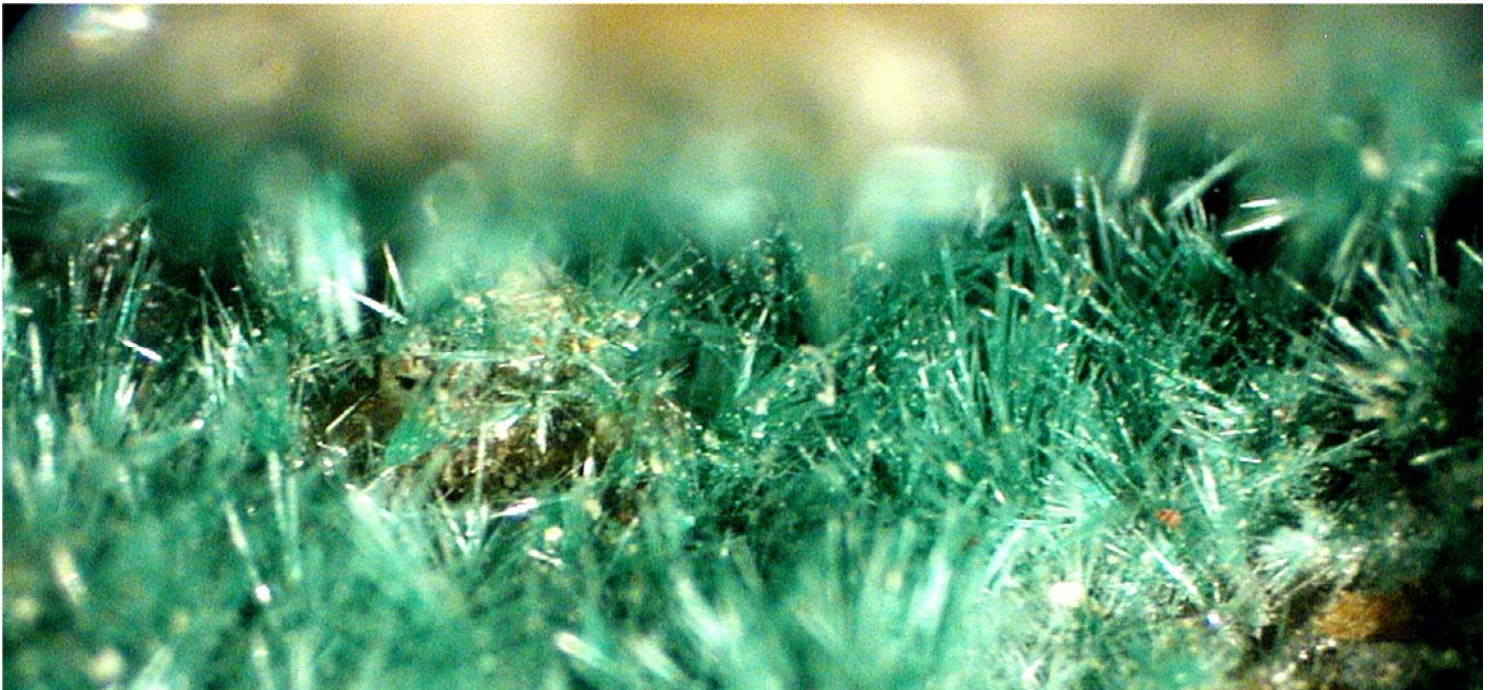
**Some Interesting Micro-Minerals**  
(all photos and specimens are Knoshaug's)



**Azurite crystals from Mex Tex Mine, New Mexico**



**Realgar crystals from at Getchell Mine, Nevada**



**Brochantite crystals , " The Lawn", from the Mex Tex Mine, New Mexico**