

Gold Exploration

American Bonanza Gold Mining is working underground at Copperstone in La Paz County to convert resources into reserves. After dewatering a decline last November the company extended it 500 feet to their target area about 600 feet underground. The target is a mineralized zone discovered by surface drilling in 1996 that returned good results.

America Bonanza Gold has spent over \$600,000 on the current project. Predecessor companies Royal Oak Mines and Asia Minerals worked on the property since 1995, doing surface drilling totaling 28,330 feet. Copperstone's former production came as an open-pit mine operated by Cyprus Minerals. From 1987 to 1993 Copperstone produced 514,000 oz. of gold.

Another gold exploration project is active in Yuma County at the BVO mine (Bronco Verdstone-Oakland) where Abington Resources started drilling in April. The BVO is also a past producer.

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Mineral Resource**3809 Update**

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) of Arizona has complied handouts, and posted on their website, interim guidelines and forms for miners attempting to comply with 43 CFR 3809 requirements enacted to protect public lands from hardrock mining. The Arizona BLM website lists the pdf files available. The *Document Operator Information for Casual Use, Notice and Plan level Operations and for Providing a Financial Guarantee as Required by 43 CFR 3809* is especially useful.

The BLM regulations provide for three types of operations on public lands: Casual Use, Notice level and Plan of Operation level operations.

Casual Use means activities ordinarily resulting in no or negligible disturbance of the public lands or resources. Casual Use operations involve simple prospecting with hand tools such as picks, shovels, and metal detectors. Small-scale mining devices such as dry washers having engines with less than 10 brake-horsepower are allowed, provided they are fed using only hand tools. Casual Use level operations are not required to file an application to conduct activities or post a financial guarantee. Generally, locating, surveying, and monumenting mining claims, provided the activity does not require road construction with motorized equipment, or any other surface disturbance, falls under the Casual Use classification.

Notice level operations include only exploration activities in which five or less acres of disturbance are proposed. Presently, all Notice Level operations require a written notice and must be bonded for all activities other than reclamation.

Plans of Operation include all mining and processing activities (regardless of the size of the proposed disturbance), plus all other activities exceeding five acres of proposed public land disturbance.

Financial guarantees do not necessarily need to cover any pre-existing disturbance if the pre-existing disturbance is **not used in any way**. Operators are encouraged to conduct a thorough inventory of the claim to determine the full extent of any existing disturbance and to meet with Field Office personnel at the site before developing an estimate.

If an operator constructs access or **uses existing access** for an operation and would object to BLM blocking, removing, or claiming that access, then the operator must post a financial guarantee that covers the reclamation of the access.

The Reclamation Bond Calculation Spreadsheet provides a Microsoft Excel spreadsheet to help miners estimate their reclamation costs. Generally the BLM will accept the results of the estimator pending verification of data input.

ADMMR Budget

The tumultuous State Legislative budget session is over and the outcome for ADMMR was generally good. The Department was given a two-year budget that includes the Museum and all current staff.

Changes were made in State statute to allow the Department to establish a reasonable entrance fee to the Museum for persons over the age of eighteen. This change enables the Department to comply with a request from the State Legislature that an admission fee for the Museum be instituted. Museum visitors 18 and over now pay \$2.00. Department visitors are still allowed access to the Information Office without charge, as are those who only visit the gift shop.

The change that would have reduced the Department's rental charge for the state-owned space in our building, which was originally in the State Budget, was line item vetoed by Governor Napolitano. This may result in a budget shortfall for the Department for FY2004 and FY2005.

Again, the Department wishes to thank all of those who supported us in our troubled time. To those who wrote letters, sent e-mails, spoke at hearings, made phone calls, circulated petitions — we thank you. The silver lining to the last few hectic months has been witnessing the outpouring of support from our friends and clients. The staff and volunteers of the Department and the Museum extend our grateful thanks.

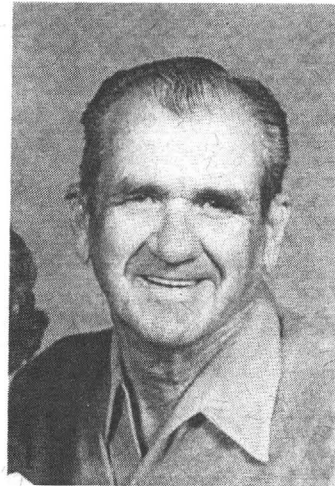


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Address Correction Requested

Arizona Department of Mines & Mineral Resources, 1502 W.
Washington, Phoenix, AZ 85007

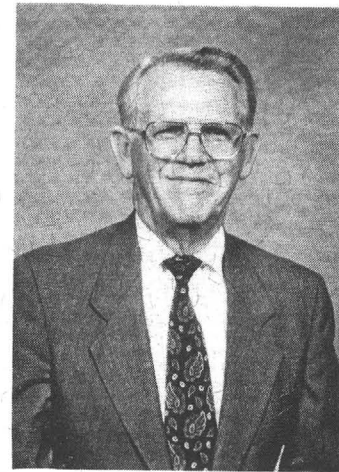
602-255-3791, toll-free in Arizona 1-800-446-4259, www.admmr.state.az.us



ADMMR lost two former directors in April and May of this year:

John J. Jett
(L)
1917 – 2003

Leroy E. Kissinger
(R)
1928 – 2003



John Jett, Director of the Department from 1970 until retirement in 1986, died on May 30.

John's career in mining spanned five decades. Born in Lake Village, Arkansas, John and his family moved to Arizona in 1939. After serving in the U.S. Army during World War II he returned to Arizona and attended the University of Arizona, receiving a Bachelor of Science degree in Mining Engineering. He worked for Phelps Dodge at Bisbee where he assisted in the planning of the Lavender Pit. After leaving Phelps Dodge in 1952 he worked in Colorado for the Atomic Energy Commission and in Denver where he became President of Vulcan Denver Corporation. He returned to Arizona in 1970 to become Director of the Department.

Survivors include his wife Mildred, three daughters, Ellen Dreyer, Marilyn Majerczyk, and Juliet Jett, and six grandchildren.

John was a highly principled administrator and a stalwart guardian of the State's money, running the Department with as spare a budget as possible.

John recognized the importance of data in the mining world, for current exploration and production, as well as preserving information for future generations of mineral exploration. Under his guidance the Department began the formidable task of organizing, preserving, and digitizing Arizona mining information and maps.

John was a fervent supporter of the small, independent miner. Under his long reign at the Department John shaped the Department's role as a comprehensive resource for the small miner.

Leroy Kissinger, Director of the Department from 1988 until his retirement in 1993, died on April 15.

Leroy was born in Read, Colorado. After serving the U.S. Army Air Corps he attended the University of Oklahoma, receiving a Bachelor of Science degree in Geological Engineering. He worked as a private consultant before coming to the Department.

He is survived by his wife of 50 years, Leona; sons Stephen of Knoxville, Tennessee and Stanley of Tucson, Arizona; granddaughters, Chelsea and Talia of Knoxville and grandson, Mark of Tucson. He is also survived by brothers Jack and Lawrence and sisters Lois Bond and Caryle Kassahn along with many nieces and nephews.

Leroy was serving as Director when the Department moved from the State Fairgrounds into its current quarters. He viewed the new, high profile location, near the capitol Mall, as an opportunity to promote and publicize the Mineral Museum and the Department. The Mineral Museum became a much more prominent part of the Department under Leroy's leadership and flourished under his guidance. He saw the benefits to the mining community of educating the public on the importance of mining. Some of his long-range plans for the Museum are still in the process of being realized.

Leroy continued to serve and promote the Department even after retirement when, in January 1999, Governor Jane Hull appointed him to the Department's Board of Governors.

Museum News

By Susan Celestian, Curator

2002 ended with an all time high museum attendance of 40,568, including 19,872 school children. It seems that folks are discovering our hidden treasure.

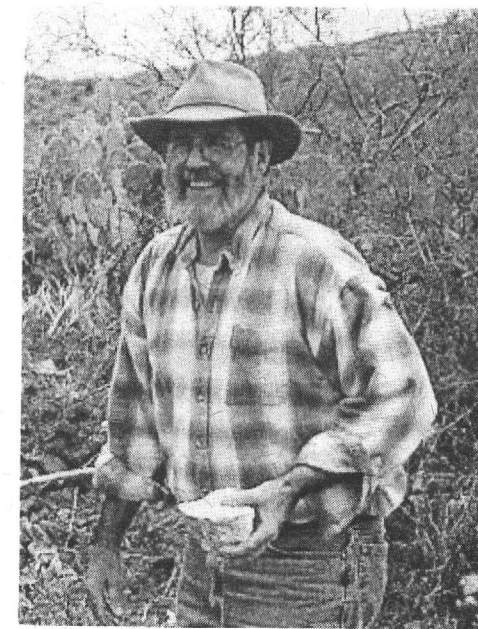
The first quarter of 2003 was a busy time for the Museum. It was "Show Time" and the volunteers and staff spent a lot of time in Outreach. January began with Rockfest, where we set up an activity table and an exhibit "Metallica Pondus." Certainly, over 1500 children created their own mineral/rock collection-on-a-card at Rockfest – giving the Museum folk barely time to breath. During the next three months, we also sold minerals at the Flagg Show; and exhibited at the Globe Gem & Mineral Show "The Many Faces of Calcite," Tucson Gem & Mineral Show "Sand Castles & Hidden Treasure," and Phoenix Gem & Mineral Show "Banquet of Rocks."

February 22 was Prospector's Day with a record 377 people attending! It was great family fun with outdoor activities, including gold panning, a coin shoot, blacksmithing demo – and the nearly reconstructed stamp mill ran for the first time (using dummy stamps). Keep your eyes open for its completion. Inside the Museum, demonstrations, jewelry making, creating "My Collection," and a table of 50% off minerals kept everyone busy.

Also, during this time, Liz Anderson and I were working with Pat Oso of the Mesa Tribune to create a newspaper-style classroom tabloid on geology. The result was a beautiful (if I do say so myself) "tab" entitled *What on Earth*. It is designed to be used in third through fifth grade classrooms, where each student will get a copy. Right after it was printed, we held a workshop for teachers to acquaint them with the subject matter and resources available to them.

On May 3 we celebrated 11,602 hours of donated volunteer time!!! The banquet was a good time of great food and warm fellowship. How fortunate we are to have such dedicated, talented and wonderful volunteers. Stop in and see the photos of this past year's activities posted on the wall of the mezzanine. If you aren't pictured there this year, maybe we'll see you next year. THANK YOU VOLUNTEERS!

WANTED: Arizona type minerals and interesting twinned minerals.



Board Member Appointed

In June, Governor Napolitano appointed Dr. Raymond Grant to serve the remainder of Leroy Kissinger's term on the Department's Board of Governors.

Grant, advanced mineral collector, geologist, and Museum supporter, is a familiar face around the Department. Being a past and also a current chairman of the Arizona Mineral and Mining Museum Foundation and past president of the Mineralogical Society of Arizona, Grant brings a "mineral and museum" perspective to the board.

Grant was a professor of geology at Mesa Community College until his retirement in January of 2001. He received his master's and doctor's degree in geology from Harvard University.

Grant co-authored the comprehensive and authoritative *Mineralogy of Arizona*, third edition, as well as numerous other mineral and geological publications.

"I look forward to being on the Board," Grant says, "I am an ardent supporter of the Museum and the Department and, with retirement, am able to devote more time to serving."



Do you need this information in an alternative format? Please call the Department at 602-255-3795.