

Mine Yielded some octahedral galena crystals on white dolomite. Attached to some of these galenas were tiny siegenite crystals to about 0.5 mm. Not many of these specimens were recovered.

The first half of 1990 has been a good year for specimen production in the Viburnum Trend, probably one of the better years in a decade. A few good specimen have also trickled from the Buick Mine, however not in the quantities of fine specimens that have come from Miliken and West Fork. It is hoped that the price of lead will remain high and that activity in the district will stay at a peak. If so, during the first half of this year we may have only scratched the surface and more and better specimens will come to light this fall and winter.

References

- Lasmanis, R., 1989, Galena from Mississippi Valley-Type Deposits: *Rocks and Minerals*, V. 64, No. 1, pp. 11-34
Wharton, H.M., et al, 1975, Guidebook to the Geology and Ore Deposits of selected mines in the Viburnum Trend, Missouri: Missouri Dept. of Resour., Geol. Survey, *Rept. of Inv.* 58, 60 p., 26 figs., 6 tables.

Personality: Scott J. Williams

Many old-time collectors will remember Scott J. Williams, the man who showed that dealing in fine minerals could be a successful business and not just a hand-to-mouth operation. We all remember well, how his booth was always the first one to be visited, (and how crowded it was!) with the cabinets in the back full of marvelous surprises, and he had the most attractive shop in Scottsdale. Scott was a marvelous teacher, he knew what he was talking about, being a professional mineralogist. I do not think I would ever have learned what I did, if Scott had not taught me how to look at minerals, not just the aesthetics of them, though his specimens always were beautifully trimmed and cleaned and pleasing to the eye.

In the early 60's, Scott went back to the University, and got his M.A. and after that, took a position at Peru State College in Nebraska, the oldest State teacher's college west of the Mississippi, teaching, which all along had been his ambition. He was remarried about then to a lovely lady, Ann, who had been his pupil at the University, and they had a daughter, Julie. For 25 years Scott has been head of the Department of Geography and Geology (Subjects that are not taught enough to teachers!), and Julie was his star pupil and got a degree in these subjects in her own right, besides one in art, as she is a gifted artist. What a background, what a teacher!

Scott retired this June, he is now *Professor Emeritus*. Julie's wish was to go into the mineral business, with her father as consultant, and the business is called *Julies' Minerals and Art (Fine Minerals, Art and Fossils)*. They will make their first appearance at the Holiday Inn North in Denver, and I am sure many of his old friends will be happy to know **Scott is back!** And many of the younger collectors will treasure specimens with the Scott J. Williams labels, especially the white ones from his private collection.

Among other things, they will have choice milky quartz crystal groups from a new locality, which I have not seen, but they sound most attractive; mostly, they are thumbnails and

Halls Gap Millerite Locality: A Collector's Update

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Halls Gap, Kentucky is one of the world class millerite/honessite/peculiar pyrite localities. Located south of Stanford, Lincoln County, Kentucky on U.S. 27, this locality is frequented by collectors from throughout the United States.

This exposure and its minerals has been described in *Rocks and Minerals* (Medici, 1981).

The outcrop is located near the top of the Muldraugh escarpment (see article by the author in the last issue of MN). There is only one small pullover on the northbound direction that provides fairly convenient parking for one vehicle. US 27 is heavily travelled, but has only two lanes of traffic and has no shoulder. The risk of walking along the side of the road is obvious.

The geodes throughout the road cut (which is exposed on both sides of the highway) contain sulfides. Millerite is almost exclusively found in the so-called *millerite zone*. This is the zone that is most heavily undercut by collectors.

The amount of undercutting varies from about 3 - 7 feet at any given time. As of late June, 1990, there have been no significant collapses of the overlying strata. However, the risk of rock fall is great. If you are beneath the rock, the result could be unpleasant at best and deadly at worst.

Geodes are not exposed in the *millerite zone*, a collector must randomly select a spot, then using a short handled sledge hammer and a **sharp** chisel, start whacking into the wall until a geode is encountered. A lot of stamina and persistence is required to spend the day at Halls Gap. Of course, luck does play its role. Some collectors, presumably without physical stamina (or patience) are now coming in and excavating with air hammers, cutting ever-deeper into the *millerite zone*.

This writer would appreciate hearing from anyone with information on unusual mineralogical occurrences, research reports or references on work that relates to Halls Gap or unusual geodes in general. I will be working with veteran Halls Gap collector Bill McKenzie on a detailed stratigraphic and mineralogical investigation of the geodes.

References

- Goldstein, Alan, 1990, Geodes on Muldraugh Dome: a new (temporary) locality: *Min. News*, Vol. 6, No. 7, p. 5
Medici, John, 1981, The Halls Gap Millerite Locality: *Rocks and Minerals*, May/June, pp. 104-108

miniatures, and some cabinet sizes. They have the exclusive and are in the process of exploring the new locality. It will be so nice to see him again, or to meet the *legendary* Scott for the first time! I wish him, Julie, and Ann a lot of success in this new endeavour.

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