

The Sooner Rockologist

Vol. 65 Number 7

August 2010

Oklahoma Mineral & Gem Society Purpose

The purpose shall be an educational relationship among the members for the study of rocks, gems, minerals, fossils, and lapidary techniques, and for the exchange of the results of such studies and classifications with similar societies and the public. (We have fun, too!)

Membership & Meetings

General Membership meetings are held on the third Thursday of each month at 7:00 p.m. (with the exception of June and December when we celebrate with an anniversary picnic in June and a December Christmas party in lieu of regular meetings). Guests are welcome!

On the first Monday of each month at 6:00 p.m. (except on holidays), we meet for a Demonstration & Work Night to give members an opportunity to share information and teach each other and assist each other with various personal projects.

Meetings and work nights are held at the Will Rogers Garden Exhibition Building, 3400 N.W. 36th Street in Oklahoma City. Annual dues are \$10.00 for a single membership and \$15.00 for husband and wife (children also). A \$1.00 per person initiation fee applies to new members, subject to application and approval.

IN MEMORY OF MINNIE LEE MORGAN

By: Paul W. Cinnamon

It was with genuine sadness in my heart that I learned of the passing on July 27, 2010, of an icon of our organization, Minnie Lee Morgan. I also feel a great lack of the ability to competently tell you of her loyalty and many contributions and accomplishments not only to OMGS, but to her late husband Granville, her church, her friends, and the imprint she has left on all that knew her. I'm certain that all her friends can relate many, many interesting stories involving Minnie Lee and Granville. As my association only goes back about 25 years, and their love affair with one another and OMGS pre-dated that by many years, I can only relate a few of the things I remember as well as a few facts I gleaned from conversations with them over the years.



It is impossible for me to write about Minnie Lee without including Granville in the story. If I am incorrect in stating some of the facts, I apologize, but I will relate them as I remember.

Minnie Lee (Hill) Morgan was born June 21, 1915 on a farm S.E. of Tyler, Texas. She experienced a very humble and hardscrabble childhood. She knew first hand how to harness a team of mules or horses and plow a field. Her thriftiness and love of gardening and flowers probably came from this early upbringing. She took a secretarial course after high school, and this propelled her into a love of writing that was to become a great asset. She served as the editor of the *Sooner Rockologist* for many years, and continued to write her monthly "Rocker Tailings" column containing interesting tidbits of news about all the OMGS members up until a few years ago when she and Granville entered a nursing home after Minnie Lee began to suffer from the effects of Parkinson's disease.

One event of historical significance that Minnie Lee and Granville played an important part in, is regarding the beginning of Tinker AFB. When the U.S. Army was issued the approval to establish a U.S. Army Air Depot in Oklahoma, Granville was the third military man assigned to the project, and Minnie Lee, a civilian, was the sixth employee. The planning and organization of what we know today as Tinker AFB took place in an upstairs office in the Plaza Court Building at NW Tenth and Walker. This was where Granville Morgan and Minnie Lee Hill met. They soon fell in love and were united in

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2010 Elected Officers

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Elaine Welch

John Bode

Two year term:

Bill Chaney

Donna Dove

Joann Carroll

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Anniversary Picnic: Donna Davis

Audio/Video: Tom Manners

Christmas Party :

Property Custodians: John Bode & Paul Cinnamon

Education: John Luna

Federation Activities: Arlene Burkhalter

Field Trips: Debbi Cunningham

Historian: Joann Carroll

Hospitality: Ambrosia Geffre

Librarian: Norma Cinnamon

Meeting Display: Doyle McCown
Billie Marie Nedd

Membership: Wanda Mander-scheid

Programs: Vernon Dorton

Parliamentarian: John Bode

marriage on February 14, 1943. This union lasted 63 years, until Granville's death at age 100 in 2006. They had no children.

Granville's career continued at Tinker until his retirement in 1971, as even after his release from the military he continued as a civilian employee. Likewise, Minnie Lee was continuously employed at Tinker AFB, retiring several years after Granville. For a number of years, she was Editor of The Hometown News, which I believe was the predecessor of the Tinker Takeoff. Following their retirement, and in addition to their activities with OMGS, Granville served as the Chaplin of the State Fair of Oklahoma for many years, and Minnie Lee delved deeply into genealogy research, tracing a number of her ancestors back to their emigration to America.

Granville was a very knowledgeable rockhound, but his passion was the collection of fossils, while Minnie Lee loved mineral specimens. She was one of the best in the identification and judging of minerals. In latter years, Minnie Lee affectionately referred to Granville as her "Old Fossil."

For many years, club members and guests at our OMGS Christmas Parties were regaled with "Cousin" Minnie Lee's almost perfect imitation of Cousin Minnie Pearl. She had the build, the look, the voice, the dress, and the hat (of course with the price tag dangling on a string) and always delivered a hilarious recital involving our members and events of the preceding year. The memory of her entry into the room with a booming "HOW-DEE, I'M JUST SO PROUD TO BE HERE," still brings a smile to my face.

I recall that my first field trip with OMGS was to the General Materials Gravel Pit. Minnie Lee led me around the area and made an effort to aid me in identifying the various rocks and fossils, and tried to teach me the difference between them and the many "leaverites." I carry many of these "snapshots" of Minnie Lee in my mind. Memories such as that she always sat on the front row at our meetings, and never being one to "fritter" away her time, she was just apt to occupy herself while participating in the meeting by shelling peas, or snapping green beans from her garden.

Minnie Lee and Granville served our organization in many capacities throughout the years. Granville was OMGS president in 1964, and served as OMGS field trip chairman for many years. One memorable field trip that many of our long time members frequently talk about was to West Texas in the vicinity of Big Bend National Park. At her funeral, several stories were related by her family and friends. One of these typifies Granville and Minnie Lee.

Minnie Lee and Granville were in their old auto, rockhounding out in the desert, quite a distance away from civilization. Minnie Lee was driving. They were bouncing over a series of sand dunes and it was pretty rough going. Suddenly Granville exclaimed, "Butchee" (a term of endearment that he used frequently), I think we're out of gas." "We can't be", Minnie Lee replied, "remember, I filled the tank before we left that last town". "Look at the gas gauge, it's on empty," replied Granville, and at about the same time the engine died. They came to an abrupt stop, and when they got out to see what could be the problem

<i>Publicity</i>	<i>Open</i>
<i>Newsletter Editor:</i>	<i>Tom Manners</i>
<i>Scholarship:</i>	<i>John Bode</i>
<i>Show 2009:</i>	<i>Open</i>
<i>Sunshine:</i>	<i>Donna Davis</i>
<i>Telephone:</i>	<i>Open</i>
<i>Ways & Means:</i>	<i>Dean & Wanda Manderscheid Doyle McCown</i>
<i>Workshop:</i>	<i>Open</i>
<i>Web Master</i>	<i>Open</i>

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If you have articles of interest that you would like to see printed in The Sooner Rockologist, please be sure to contact the editor.

Please submit your contributions no later than the first of each month. Your submissions may be edited for punctuation, clarity and space. If you have an announcement or a trip report to share, please e-mail me or give it to me at the monthly meetings. E-mail attachments in MS Word are appreciated so as to prevent retyping the information. Unless otherwise noted, articles are written and/or contributed by the Editor.

If you owe membership dues, please mail your check to:

OMGS
Attn: Jeannie Manners
P. O. Box 2084
Oklahoma City, OK
73101-2084

they spotted their gas tank sitting in the sand, -- two dunes back. They rushed back and after succeeding in plugging the broken gas line, they carried the tank back to their car. As it was already getting late in the evening, they were forced to spend the night in their car. They said that they suffered through the long, cold desert night, but by the next morning, they had devised a plan. They removed the rear car seat and put it in their trunk. Then they placed the gas tank behind the front seat and were able to use a non-essential hose from under the hood to run down through the floor board and connect onto what was left of the gas line. Minnie Lee started the vehicle and carefully drove back to civilization. She pulled into the first full service gas station they came to, and when the attendant came out to help them, she said "fill it up." Of course when the attendant opened the cover he was looking at the ground, and they both had a good laugh at the astonished look on his face.

In addition to the services previously mentioned, Minnie Lee served as OMGS secretary several times. Because of their service and dedication to OMGS, in 1995, Minnie Lee and Granville were bestowed the honor of OMGS Lifetime Memberships.

Several years ago I wrote a little poem regarding my hobby. I think it may be appropriately applied to Minnie Lee.

Life is like the lapidary wheel,
And whether it grinds you down,
Or polishes you up,
Depends upon the stuff
You are made of.

Minnie Lee was a rare gemstone. We shall miss her.

From The President's Desk

We thought June was hot, then came July and now August. Sadly, July brought more bad news. Minnie Lee Morgan, one of the last 2 surviving OMGS charter members, passed away at the young age of 95 (see Paul's article).

On a better note, the Davis garage has brand new doors, with a repaired LeSabre inside. The truck went in the shop on the 2nd. We still have a few small repairs around the house and yard to complete. Then back to the projects we started before the hail came. We'll still have some time to enjoy the improved patio and front porch before it gets too cold. We like to have breakfast on the patio. We're making room for company to join us, for either breakfast or supper.

Back to club stuff: Debbi Cunningham - field trip chairperson - has been working hard on a lot of ideas for club activities. Check with her for more info. She has some dates for a trip to Black Mesa in November. I want to go on that one. If you have any ideas for places to go, give her a call.

The 2011 Nominating Committee has been formed. If ap-

NOTE: *We would like to receive input from each and every one of our members on what you would like to see happening during our work night the first Monday of each month, so we can determine who will give instruction in those particular areas of interest. Thank you*

A BIG THANK YOU TO EVERYONE WHO CONTRIBUTED TO THIS MONTH'S NEWSLETTER.

Regarding health issues, Donna Davis is on our sunshine committee. She said she hasn't been receiving any notifications lately of folks being ill or having difficulties. In that regard, no news is good news!

But if you don't know who to contact to tell about these things, she is the person. She asked that I be sure to remind everyone.

Her phone number is 760-6566, and her e-mail is

robertdavis3@cox.net.

Please be sure to keep her abreast of these issues so our club can help out if needed. Thanks!

proached to fill an office, please consider serving. It takes a lot of people to keep the club's business running smoothly. Thank you to everybody who joined us at the AKS Gem & Jewelry Show. It was nice that they invited us to come again. Also, thanks to everyone who signed up to work the OETA AugustFest. It is a great opportunity to get OMGS recognized and to tell what we are about. Sorry I had to miss it this time. We will also miss the general meeting this month. Unfortunately, there is an Air Force reunion in Hawaii the same week that Robert & I will be attending. Ya gotta do what ya gotta do.

See you at the September meeting. Remember there will not be a Monday nite workshop due to Labor Day.

OMGS Board Meeting

July 8, 2010

Members Present: Dale Moore, Donna Davis, David Read, Joann Carroll, Paul Cinnamon, John Bode, Donna Dove.

Guests Present: Robert Davis, Oscar Carroll, Norma Cinnamon, Bill Dove.

Dale Moore, chairman, brought the meeting to order. Jeannie Manners (secretary) is on vacation and Donna Dove will record the minutes.

The minutes are printed in the *Rockologist*. David Read moved and Donna Davis seconded that the minutes be accepted as printed. Approved.

Treasurer's Report: David Read's report will be filed for future audit.

Correspondence: AKS Gem Show will be August 6,7,and 8 in the Hobbies, Arts and Crafts Building at the State Fairgrounds. OMGS tables will need volunteers. No other correspondence unless Jeannie Manners has additional information.

New Member Applications: None, unless Jeannie Manners has new member applications.

Sunshine Committee: Jean McKissack is having back surgery on July 12. Nina Brown is recovering from surgery. John Bode is recovering from a detached retina.

Business: The OMGS annual picnic had 28 people present, 4 less than in 2009.

The website domain of "OMGS-minerals" needs to be renewed in November.

The business cards have been designed by John Luna and are ready for printing. Donna Davis will contact VistaPrint to see about getting them printed.

Dale Holland with B.C. Clark will present a program at the next general meeting. The program will be presented first, followed by the general meeting. Janice Mobley will send an e-mail message about the program.

Debbie Cunningham, field trip chairman, is researching a field trip for the fall to a meteorite museum in Texas.

Donna and Robert Davis talked about their trip to Herbert Macy Lapidary in Comanche, Oklahoma.

Dale Moore reported that the OETA AugustFest will be coming up next month, and there will be a volunteer sign-up sheet at the next general meeting.

Paul Cinnamon is checking on another possible trip in the fall to the gravel pit.

David Read met with Tom Cronin of the OKC Geological Foundation to possibly coordinate future programs for OMGS education. Tom Cronin invited the OMGS to participate in a meeting they will be having in 2011.

Paul Cinnamon reports that the repairs to the storage shed have not been done yet because of the weather.

The OMGS auction was successful, with an attendance of 95.

Meeting adjourned.

Donna Dove
Acting Secretary
(edited by Jeannie Manners)

OMGS General Meeting Minutes

July 15, 2010

President Donna Davis called the meeting to order, and thanked Dale Holland for presenting our program this evening.

We welcome our guests this evening – Dale and Peggy Holland, Destiny, Elizabeth, and Paul S.

Correspondence: We have received newsletters from other clubs, information about the Tulsa show this coming weekend.

Lou Dorton made a motion to accept the May minutes as published in the *Rockologist*; Debbi Cunningham seconded, motion passed. Your 2010 directories are still available from Jeannie, if you haven't picked it up yet.

David Read gave the treasurer's report which will be filed for future audit.

Displays: Billie Marie Nedd brought some ruby items; Teresa brought some wire wrap jewelry; Bob Welsh brought some Queensland agate.

New Members: Shawn & Maritel Shaefer received their new member packet.

Announcements: David R. found some information on the 5th annual Sand Springs Oklahoma Artifact and Fossil Show on September 5, and the Indian nations Artifact & Fossil Show on September 11.

John Luna will not be present at the next work night on August 2, but Vernon can lead the silversmithing class. The bead class at Alouette's will be next Wednesday. The bead class at Artworks will be Saturday, July 24.

The library has some new items – a DVD on the art of gemcutting, a book on faceting, and a pamphlet of Oklahoma minerals by county.

OETA wants us to participate in the August Fest on August 15. Please sign up this evening, or contact Norma Cinnamon.

The AKS Gem Shows will be here again August 6, 7 & 8; we will have a booth.

Committee Reports: Field Trip – We're looking at a 2-night November trip to the Black Mesa State Park. We're also looking at visiting the Salt Plains State Park the first weekend in October. Anyone interested needs to contact Debbi Cunningham, so she can make reservations.

Sunshine – John B. had eye surgery; Joann C. had the flu; Nina B. is recovering from emergency surgery; Jean McKissack had back surgery.

The *Rockologist* had a blank page for page 6: the TFCU brochure page can be viewed on the online version. Please give Tom Manners, editor, an article about your rock travels.

Thanks to Doyle and Norma for cookies tonight, and Dale and Darla for helping in the kitchen. Volunteers for August: kitchen help – Lou Dorton; cookies – Debbi Cunningham and Joann Carroll. The silent auction in May was very successful. Next month's program will be presented by David Read; he will talk about tumbling.

Meeting adjourned.
Respectfully,
Jeannie Manners, secretary

ROAD TRIP TO COMANCHE

by Donna Davis



A few days ago, Oscar, Joann, Robert & I took a day trip down south to the town of Comanche. We visited Herbert Macy Lapidary - 907 S. Hwy 81, Rt.1, Box 29 - Comanche, 73529 - on the south side of town. Look for a big sign that says ROCK SHOP on the left. We had a really fun time. Herb is a rockhound from way back and has lots of neat stories, as well as tons of rocks. Just about anything you want, he's got at least one. There's lots of rough outside, most of it he collected, and almost as much crammed inside the little shop.

There's carvings, specimens, fossils, slabs, finished gifts, some cabs, some beads, just a little of everything. He sells most of the rough for \$1 per pound. Some is higher, depends what it is. Dino poop was \$2. There are buckets to use to collect, or take your own. Herb doesn't take plastic. He's does pretty much a cash business. He's been known to take a check, if you look honest. ha-ha. Best thing is - prices are reasonable, and he rounds down when you total up. Tell him you are from the club and he may drop off a few more bucks. I do know that the more you buy, the lower prices get.



Herb's regular hours are Wed-Sat, 10am-6pm. In the summer when it's too hot to farm, he'll come over on Mon. or Tues. if you call and make an appointment. 580-439-4186. A bit of advice - Go Early - there is NO shade outside. We took big umbrellas. Guys - wear a hat. The inside can get a little toasty. There's only a window a/c and a couple of fans. It's a little bit close quarters inside - we left our purses in the car until it was time to pay.



Take the H.E. Bailey turnpike to Chickasha. Toll is \$1.50 each way. Get off at the Marlow - Hwy 81 - exit, then go south. It was an easy trip, took us about 2 hours, with a "rest" stop. We got there when he opened and left at lunchtime. There's not much in Comanche, but Duncan has plenty of food, gas, etc., just 9 miles north.

Go visit Mr. Herbert Macy. See lots of cool stuff, get lots of rocks and make a new friend.

A REUNION WITH OMGS FRIENDS FROM THE PAST

BY Paul W. Cinnamon

Norma and I recently returned from a very pleasant trip to Cheyenne, Wyoming, where we went to attend the marriage of our Grandson, Taylor Kime. Taylor, the son of Craig and Kelly Kime married Jennifer Curnow, a wonderful young lady and a native of Wyoming. Taylor met Jennifer during the Cheyenne Frontier Days Rodeo and festival last year.

While we were there, we spent a couple of days vacationing in Rocky Mountain National Park, and then went back to Cheyenne to attend the opening performance of the Frontier Days Rodeo.

As he has done for many years, Craig had his Wire Works sales booth open during the festival, and as the rodeo was ending he called us on our cell phone to tell us there were some old friends waiting at his booth to see us. When we arrived there a few minutes later, we found Evan and Elsabe Allen waiting for us. I'm sure many of you will remember them.

Evan and Elsabe joined OMGS in 1996, soon after they immigrated to the United States from Zimbabwe, Africa. They had fled the violence that was going on in their area at that time. The native people were being encouraged to rise up and overthrow white European landowners, and many of their acquaintances and friends had been attacked, and some murdered. Evan and Elsabe lived on a farm and ranch encompassing some 12,500 acres, with several thousand head of livestock. When it became apparent that they and their two children were in imminent danger, they left their home and with a few clothes and possessions packed into suitcases, obtained visas to the United States. I don't recall how or why they made their way to Oklahoma City, but because of their great interest in rocks and minerals, they soon located our organization and became active and valued members for the few years they lived in Oklahoma.

Evan met Elsabe when he was employed by DeBeers to prospect for the possibility of diamond deposits on Elsabe's family ranch. I believe there were some mining operations for minerals taking place on the ranch at that time, and although he didn't find any diamonds in the ground, he found a jewel – Elsabe. Elsabe has a great knowledge and passion for colored stones, and she is an accomplished faceter. They faced a great struggle and uncertain future for quite some time after they arrived in the U.S., and lived in fear of their visa not being renewed which would have forced them to return to Africa. I don't know the entire story regarding their efforts that finally led to them being granted citizenship in this country, but I do recall assisting in drafting a letter from OMGS vouching for their integrity and requesting that they be allowed to become legal residents. In due time their case was heard and they and their children, now grown are all citizens. Their daughter is married and lives in Edmond. Their son is in the air force, and currently is stationed in Germany. Those who know them may recall that Evan's elderly parents came for a visit of several months while they lived here, but could not obtain permission to become residents, and had to return to Africa. Evan told me that today they live in a tiny apartment, and that his mother has dementia and mostly doesn't know anyone and his father is her caretaker.

I inquired about what has happened to the family's very successful ranching and farming operation in Africa, that had been developed over several generations, and employing many native blacks while providing them with good living conditions and salaries. Evan said that soon after they left, everything was destroyed, the livestock was killed and eaten, the crops destroyed, and now the natives are destitute and starving.

After several years in Oklahoma City, Evan was offered a job in Florida that paid a lot more than he was making in Oklahoma City, so he and Elsabe moved to Florida. He said they soon found that the cost of living in Florida was far more than OKC, so they didn't really improve their situation. I believe that while they were living in Florida, their son joined the Air Force, and eventually was stationed at the AFB in Cheyenne, Wyoming. I think this played a large part in their decision to move there.

Evan and Elsabe apparently have fond memories of their life in Oklahoma, and may return here to retire in a few years.

Although our visit was short and occurred while we were surrounded by the ongoing festival, it was very good to see them again, and we hope to have them back with us in OMGS soon. I'm quite certain that they would enjoy hearing from any of their old Oklahoma friends, and I can provide contact information.

OMGS Calendar

August 12 - OMGS Board of Directors Meeting

August 18 - Beading Workshop @ Alouette - 10:30 am

August 19 - General Meeting - David Read will present a program on rock tumbling

August 20th–21st - Tahlequah 2010 Rock & Mineral Show, Swap & Sale, Tahlequah Community Bldg., 300 W.1st St., Tahlequah, OK, Friday 9-6, Sat. 9-5. Free admission, Rocks, minerals, fossils, jewelry, demonstrations, education displays, children's area and snack bar. Contact Sara at 918-458-0801 or Don at (918-207-9733.

August 28 - Beading Workshop @ Artworks - 1:00 pm

Sep 4 - 5th Annual Sand Springs Oklahoma Artifact & Fossil Show, First Assembly of God Church, 500 N. Wilson Ave., Sand Springs, Ok Admission, \$3 Adults and children over 12

Sep 6 - NO work night due to National Holiday (Labor Day)

Sep 9 - OMGS Board of Directors Meeting

Sep 11 - Indian Nations Artifact & Fossil Show, Mabee Center (south entrance), 7777 S. Lewis Ave. Tulsa

Sep 16- General Meeting - Program To Be Announced

Oct 2-3 Great Salt Plains Field Trip - Dig for selenite crystals

Nov 12-14 - Black Mesa State Park - Rockhounding for Petrified wood, fossils and rose agate.

If you have changes, corrections or additions to the OMGS Calendar, please e-mail me at trmanners@sbcglobal.net or call me at (405) 577-2029.

For a complete listing of ALL the rock and gem shows around the nation please go to the web site: <http://www.rockngem.com/showdates.asp>

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