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MOLYBDENITE AT MAGNET COVE, ARKANSAS

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Magnet Cove, Arkansas, has long been famous for the wide variety of its mineral specimens and the writer wishes to add molybdenite to the list. As groups of people continue to visit the area and gradually wander farther from the more frequented stops, the list of minerals reported from that region should grow to some extent, but Williams' (1891) report will continue to be the authority.

On the annual spring field trip from the University of Arkansas in 1940, molybdenite was found near the north rim of the Cove on the northwest bank of Cove Creek in the southwest quarter, of the northeast quarter, of section 17, T. 3 S., R. 17 W., across the road from a yellow brick bungalow. The molybdenite is disseminated throughout two or three cubic feet of gray, siliceous material that is probably another occurrence of geyserite which is found at other localities within the Cove. Masses (up to four inches in diameter) of granular and crystalline pyrite are associated with the silica and small (1/32 to 1/8 inch) crystals of apatite occupy cavities. In one or two places the molybdenite is abundant enough to give a blue cast to the rock. Another specimen obtained shows a coating of molybdenite covering striated pyrite crystals. This coating is very thin and is easily removed leaving the crystal faces of the pyrite unchanged. It apparently does not penetrate the pyrite crystals except in preexisting cracks.

The bluish gray color of the molybdenite itself, its streak on paper, and the greenish color of the streak on glazed porcelain are characteristic. A chemical check was made by using the thiocyanate test.

In visiting Magnet Cove the writer has found it convenient to have a list of minerals occurring there, and the accompanying list has been compiled from the reports of Williams (1891), Landes (1931), and Landes, Parks, and Scheid (1932). Crystal fragments and an occasional good crystal of the minerals marked with an asterisk are abundant on the roadside bluffs at Cove Creek bridge, the Magnet cemetery, and at the Titanium Corporation strip pits.

ALPHABETICALLY ARRANGED LIST OF MAGNET COVE MINERALS

actinolite
aegerite (acmite)*
albite
allophane
aluminite
ankerite
apatite
aragonite
astrophyllite
augite
biotite*
braunite
brookite (arkansite)*
brucite
calcite*
cancrinite
catapleiite
cordierite (iolite)
eucolite
eudyalite
fluorite
garnet
  almandite
  andradite (melanite)
  grossularite
graphite
hematite
hornblende
hydrotitanite
hypersthene
ilmenite
limonite
magnetite*
manganopectolite
microcline
molybdenite
monticellite
natrolite
nepheline
octahedrite
oligoclase (sunstone)
olivine
opal (geyserite)*
orthoclase
perovskite
phlogopite
plagioclase
pseudoleucite
pyrite*
quartz
  aventurine
  milky
  novaculite
  rock crystal*
  smoky
rutile*
schorlomite
sodalite
sphene*
thomsonite (ozarkite)
variscite
vermiculites*
vesuvianite (idocrase)
wollastonite
xanthophyllite

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