

GEMFIELD

The Goldfield Gem Claims



In 1962, Earl Neeser was out in the hills around Goldfield looking for signs of gemstone deposits. From several miles off he noticed an area with surface disturbance and when he got to the area, he found the original Chalcedony deposit area which he called New Jerusalem.

He filed additional claims for Goldfield Gem Claims 2-4 and later added #5. According to Earl, many in the Goldfield area thought he was crazy because they were only looking for gold and silver deposits, not gemstones. Esmeralda County has deposits of many other minerals besides gold and silver. Earl worked the claims for several years and by 1966 opened them up to rock hounds who would visit the site to pick up their own specimens. He would have them sign a log sheet which informed them that they take full responsibility for their own actions and would not hold anyone or group liable in case of accidents while on the claim. **(Visitors are still required to sign in on site or in Goldfield.)** There are over 40 pages of logs with visitors to the site from the late 60's to the early 1970's showing people who visited and where they were from.

Earl Neeser doing business as "Gem Field," for many years mailed out rock samples and shipped bags, sacks and truckloads of rock to shops all over the US and overseas.

In June of 1977, Fred L. Nachman did an article for Rock and Gem Magazine on the Gem Field Site detailing 5 sites on the claim, with each site containing different types of gem chalcedony. He found many different colors and all were beautiful and of gem quality.

In October 1984, Robert W. Ferguson did an article in the Lapidary Journal on the Goldfield Gem Claims (Gemfield) that detailed the rocks found and his visit with Earl Neeser. The article included color pictures of the rocks as well as descriptions of their colors and uses. In May 2016, Tom Farley did an article in the Rock and Gem magazine with color photos about his visit to the Claims.

Mention of the Chalcedony deposits in Esmeralda County are found in a series of articles on Gems and Precious Stones written by Henry Hanks in 1876. (Reprints available from Classicnevada.com)

Sometime before 1987, Earl Neeser teamed up with Arthur Burton to work the claim and Art ended up with a part interest in the Goldfield Gem claims.

In April 1987 Earl Neeser sold the claims 2-5 to the Camaldolese Hermits of America, Inc. except for the reserve held by Art Burton. The Monks made beautiful cabochons with religious themes but in May 1989, Georgia and Arthur Burton purchased Goldfield Gem 2-5 from the Monks.

Arthur F. and Georgia A. Burton obtained an Esmeralda County License and operated Burton's Goldfield Gems for many years. In July 1999 Georgia Burton Bowman bought the New Jerusalem Mining Claim (Gemfield Gem 1) from Earl Neeser who had moved to Idaho. This brought all the claims under one ownership again. The site continued to be open to rock collectors on the honor system and Georgia had many nice letters (and payments) for rocks collected from the site. Several Goldfield residents also helped by forwarding money left in the box on site for payment. In 2006 Georgia Bowman had a stroke and son Steve Bowman (and the rest of the family) started helping with the claims.

In early September 2015, we (Sharon Sirnes Artlip and sister Nadiah) contacted the Bowman Family and asked about the possibility of buying the Gemfield Claims site. We wanted to keep the site open for rock hunters. Like many residents of Goldfield, we have enjoyed going out there and enjoying the peace and tranquility of the area. Unfortunately, some people have gone out there and dumped trash and destroyed the old trailers

that were on site. After working out details and filing papers with Esmeralda County and the BLM in Reno, Gemfield Gem claims was ours at the end of 2015. The Bowman family has given us many documents and materials regarding the site which we will be digitalizing and putting on computer, and people are more than welcome to view these records of past visitors.

Sources – Stories told by Earl Neeser to Slim Sirnes and other visitors to the Gemfield Gem claims as well as documentation and information provided by the Bowman Family..

The following information was originally printed as a handout provided by Art and Georgia Burton on the Goldfield Gem mines.



The Rainbow Colors of Chalcedony Gemstone

CHALCEDONY, a smooth fine-grained variety of native silica (quartz), occurs in a wide variety of forms, Jasper, Carnelian, Onyx, Sardonyx and others. Since prehistoric times, it has been prized for its hardness and beauty. Primitive people fashioned from it implements and weapons as well as ornaments.

CHALCEDONY occupies a place among the stones of the Bible. Among the twelve stones, representing the twelve children of Israel, which were set in the breastplate of the High Priest (Exodus 28), are found five of six forms of CHALCEDONY. It is present in a similar abundance among the foundation stones of the new heavenly city Jerusalem, near the end of the book of Revelation (Chapter 21, verse 19.)

Although the names "Gem Field" and "gem chalcedony" appears misleading, the Bureau of Mines wrote in their "Health and Safety Report," that Gem Field is a semi-precious gemstone mine. This tends to back Mr. Neeser's statement that Gemfield is the largest chalcedony "gem" claim in the United States and includes many different colors

and patterns of the stone. The material is of consistent 7-1/2 hardness and takes a superb polish. CHALCEDONY occurring in concretionary, mammillated or stalactitic forms of waxy luster in a great variety of colors, usually bluish white, green, gray, yellow or brown. It has compact fibrous structure and a fine splintery fracture. On a 35 degree angle it will fracture or cut by hitting a piece of stone without a saw.

Hollow nodules of CHALCEDONY containing water and an air bubble, which is visible through the semi-transparent wall, have been found. In all ages CHALCEDONY has been the stone most used by the gem engraver, in many colored varieties, described under special headings, and are still cut and polished as ornamental stones, cabs, bookends, rings, necklaces and other jewelry.

Variiegated RAINBOW CHALCEDONY from Goldfield Nevada mines come in many patterns and colors: Bulls eye, parallel waves, dendritic, picture stones, agates, jaspers, opalite, and common opal are also found. Colors range from a green, which when polished rivals jade, to the deep reds of carnelian. Other colors include yellow, purple, lavender, orange, blue and sunset. CHALCEDONY takes a high polish and is ideal for Jewelry, knapping, tumbling, and crafts. It will also spark when hit with iron.

Cutting and Tumbling rock is available from our website: www.gemfieldnv.com



This is a BLM Lode claim and per BLM requirements, only picks, shovels, pry bars and other hand tools are allowed. No mechanical equipment.

Site is Under Camera Surveillance

NOTE: Although these claims are on BLM property, the rocks, minerals and other materials are claimed property and **MAY NOT BE COLLECTED WITHOUT PERMISSION**. This permission is granted by visitors signing the visitor log which is also a release of

liability. Signing the Visitor Logs, picking up information sheets, and making Payments can also be done at the following locations:

Gemfield Headquarters

Wild Inspirations 306 Crook Ave,
Goldfield, NV Hwy95 & 5th Ave, 775-485-3789
Or at the following Sites:

Hidden Treasures ROCK SHOP/Antiques & more
at Bellevue and Oasis 775-485-3761
Goldfield Emporium at Hwy 95 & Columbia
Goldfield Stop at Hwy 95 & 4th Street 775-485-3783
Clarks Custom Camp RV PARK
Hwy 95 at 5th Street - 775-485-3460

Vanderford's Gold Strike Hwy 95 at 4th Street
Material collection is on the Honor system. If you just want a small pretty rock, please take it as a gift, but we rely your donations to pay our loans, maintenance costs, and government fees. You may collect as many specimens as you like, estimate the weight (5 gal. bucket about 35-40 lb.) donate \$1/lb. and either mail in (checks made to **Goldfield Art & BS, PO Box 5, Goldfield, NV 89013**, drop it off to a businesses or **Paypal** to goldfieldart@yahoo.com. Discounts are available for Rock Clubs and larger amounts of rock. **If you are reselling please request a receipt to show when selling at rock shows.**

These payments help us keep site open to the public and to provide assessment work, signs, cleanup, maintenance and handouts on the rocks and other minerals found on site and in the future to obtain bonds and permits from the BLM to open up additional areas for collecting.

Visitors are required to stay away from fenced off areas as these are old mine sites. Keep your vehicles on the roads provided and please **DO NOT BLOCK ROADS**. There are donkeys, horses, antelope, lizards, and rattlesnakes around so please fill in any holes you make and use caution when visiting. Water and facilities are not available so bring it with you and remove all trash when you leave.

Local Services available in Goldfield: 2019-03R
FOOD-Dinky Diner Hwy 95& Franklin 775-485-3231
MOTEL & Saloon - Santa Fe 5th Ave 775-485-3431
RV & Camping – Clarks Hwy 95& 5th St 775-485-3460
General Store-Supplies Hwy 95&Euclid 775-485-3477

