

Whippoorwill E-Comment

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MONTROSE CONVENTION REPORT #1

MY doctoral minor at the University of Florida was in geology, though I believe I took my basic courses in the wrong state. The simplified geology of Florida hardly resembles that of Colorado. Florida consists entirely of relatively young sedimentary deposits, chiefly limestone, marl, cochina, and clay. The oldest deposits are Eocene in age, roughly 60,000,000 years old. The majority of the state consists of Pleistocene and Recent features which were deposited virtually yesterday, washed, of course, out of the Appalachian mountains. There are no mountains in Florida – the greatest elevation is not much more than 300 feet. I was one of the fortunate few who attended the 2004 AAPA convention in Montrose, Colorado last month. Not only did I have a grand reunion with old AJ friends, but I was also treated to a postgraduate course in geology in the midst of the most spectacular mountains I have ever seen. The roots of the San Juan mountains in western Colorado were Proterozoic in age – Precambrian, a billion years or so in age, uplifted and penetrated by multiple volcanoes accompanied by vast regional and local metamorphism surrounding gigantic batholiths with accompanying multiple dikes and sills. *Spectacular* is the only word that describes it.

Convention hosts, Glenn and Shirley Simpson led an expedition south toward Ouray via the Million Dollar Highway, climbing steadily to Red Mountain Pass at 11,018 feet, descending to Silverton which lay at 9,300 feet. There was snow on the mountain tops which were magnificent in the thin atmosphere, standing boldly against a cloudless, intensely blue sky. Most of us flatlanders were hypoxic, short of breath, but we moved at a leisurely pace and rested frequently.

We visited Fritz Klink's North American Graphics equipment and supplies business where I witnessed more packaged fonts of new type than I had ever seen. We threaded our way, crab-like between rows of presses and papercutter and linotype and stacks of paper and printed items. Fritz demonstrated the operation of his thin space machine which cut thin spaces from a roll of brass. After the tour, we dined in Fritz's Pickle Barrel Restaurant where we mingled with tourists who had ridden a narrow gage ancient train on an excursion from Durango, to the south of Silverton. We visited Dan Garner who was operating a massive embossing press, and had refreshments at an open house at George Chapman's backyard pressroom, which also housed his father's 1925 Chevrolet sedan.

There was plenty of time for shopping in the many quaint Silverton shops, and Fred Liddle got to see the actual Hoe newspaper press that Daniel Day's Uray *Solid Muldoon* was printed on a century and a quarter ago. After a long day in the Little Switzerland area of the San Juan Mountains, everyone slept well that night.

Glenn and Shirley Simpson set the bar extremely high for informative entertainment at this convention. I do not believe it will be equaled or surpassed very soon.



WHIPPOORWILL E-COMMENT replaces the *Whippoorwill Comment* paper publication that has been distributed in the AAPA bundles for 165 issues. It is the work of J. Hill Hamon, at his Whippoorwill Private Press at 1515 Evergreen Road, Frankfort, Kentucky 40601. The e-mail address is kyhamon@aol.com. Another convention report will follow soon. This issue was created on Microsoft Word, a standard word processor available on nearly every computer.