



SAME ONE I SOLD -- Adam (Bud) Ledford gem hunter from Route 1, Hayesville, is shown telling Fred O. Scroggs of Brasstown and Dr. George F. Size of Murphy that the large pink sapphire shown on the front page of the Asheville Citizen Sunday, July 23, is the same one he sold to Kermit Martin, a gem cutter, from Bryson City on Saturday, July 15,

1961. Martin's "gem strike" gained worldwide coverage and has "lured hundreds of rockhounds and curious sightseers" to the Cowee Valley gem fields where the sapphire was reported to have been found. According to Ledford the stone, was actually found near Buck Creek on Chunky Gal Mountain in Clay County over four years ago by Harold Moss, of Hayesville.

Giant Sapphire Strike Called A Hoax By Club

By JERUE BABB

Members of the Tri-State Rockhounds Club, Inc. of Brasstown, N. C. have disclosed information which indicates that the "giant sapphire and ruby find" of Cowee Valley is a hoax. The "historic gem strike" that was reportedly made July 15, 1961 in the Cowee Valley gem fields of Macon County by a mountain gem hunter from Bryson City is actually a specimen found in Clay County over four years ago and recently sold to Kermit Martin of Bryson City by Adam (Bud) Ledford.

Martin, Wednesday, took issue with the charges. He said he never told anyone that he found the stone in Cowee Valley and he denied buying the stone from Ledford. Martin said he did purchase one stone from Ledford but it was a heavier one. In denying that he found the stone in Cowee Valley, Martin said "The Newspapers" got it mixed up. When asked if he complained about the mix up Martin said he intended to but hadn't gotten to it.

When the news of Martin's fabulous "find" hit the front pages of daily and weekly newspapers last week the old time honest-to-goodness rock hounds of this area shook their heads in disbelief.

Several members of the Tri-State club got together to talk the situation over. It was common knowledge that a sapphire specimen of the magnitude pictured and described in the daily accounts of the "giant gem find" was uncovered in Clay County several years ago.

The knowledge of this earlier find and the official state and actual experiences of rockhounds and prospectors in this area all pointed to the fact that Martin's find were one and the same. As Wayne Matheson of Andrews, N. C. put it, "I know of nowhere in North Carolina where corundum deposits of gem quality, red or pink, are found in massive form except the Buck Creek area in Clay County. I have one of the first corundum reports published by the State of North Carolina in 1905 and nowhere in this book does it say anything to the contrary. I don't believe you'll find any except in Clay County."

In order to substantiate their theory two members of the Rockhounds went to Hayesville Thursday, July 27, and talked to Adam (Bud) Ledford who they knew had had a similar specimen in his possession for the past four years.

Mr. Ledford was shown the picture of the pink sapphire shown in the Asheville Citizen Sunday, July 20, and when asked if he recognized it he replied, "It's the one I sold to a fellow Martin over in Bryson City."

Ledford added that he sold the specimen to Kermit Martin about 10 a.m. Saturday, July 15, 1961 at his home on Route 1, Hayesville. The Ledford home is located between the Shooting Creek Bridge and the Georgia line near Scroggettown. Martin had tried to buy the stone several times before.

Ledford said that he bought the stone from Harold Moss, also of Hayesville, in the summer of 1957.

Also it was reported that Jim Stoinoff of Hiwassee, Ga. and Miami Springs, Fla. saw the stone and offered Ledford \$100 for it. The stone has been shown to many people in the North Georgia-Western North Carolina area and was even taken to Atlanta for appraisals.

Ledford said that Moss told him that the stone was found above Buck Creek on Chunky Gal Mountain in Clay County. Harold Moss, the man who Ledford says dug the stone

from Chunky Gal Mountain, said when he saw the picture on the front page of the paper "It favors the one I sold to Bud Ledford, it sure does. I believe it's the same one."

Adam Ledford's mother, Mrs. Bonnie Ledford, and his brother, James, both agreed that the sapphire pictured in the paper was "a match for the one Bud had."

Arthur Palmer, owner and operator of Palmer's Museum Marble, N. C. and rockhound, related the following story about the reported gem find.

"I stopped by that man's (Martin's) gem shop Thursday July 20, and was looking at his gems. In a few minutes he came walking up to me with those two rubies in his hand. I knew right then that I had seen them before over at Ledford's."

I have seen the stones twice before. I took Fred O. Scroggs over to Ledford's once before to see them two-three years ago. The other day would make the third time that I've seen them."

Ruby and sapphire specimen are found together. The only difference is in the color.

Fred O. Scroggs, rockhound and gem cutter, of Brasstown

N. C. said, "I recognized the specimen in the illustration in Sunday's issue of the Citizen as being the same that I have seen on two different occasions in Bud Ledford's collection."

The Tri-State Rockhounds have many times traveled the hills and Chunky Gal Mountain in the quest of ruby and sapphire in smaragdite. The knowledge of this particular material led to the feeling that Martin's "find" was a hoax since the specimen is surrounded by smaragdite according to Dr. George F. Size, President of the Rockhounds club. Dr. Size added that Martin admitted to some of the group, Fred O. Scroggs, Wayne Matheson, and himself that the material that he has shown and has been written about "did not come from Macon County but did come from Clay County."

At the same time Martin told the group of Tri-State Rockhounds that the stones were in the bank and he couldn't get them out for them to see. Dr. Size says Martin told him "there's no need in trying to fool you as I know you would recognize that the stones came from Clay County."

Wednesday Martin admitted that he did tell one man he found the stone in Clay County but later found out he was wrong, that the stone was found in Macon County.

The rubies and sapphires found in the Cowee Valley gem fields are found in a crystal form not in smaragdite as those in Clay County.

The Tri-State Rockhounds, Inc. is a non-profit hobby group that collects and studies rocks and minerals. They own a clubhouse at Brasstown, and hold regular meetings. One spokesman emphasized that their only interest in this matter was the furthering of their hobby.

Harold Moss said that he remembers selling the stone along with two other stones to Bud Ledford for \$220. Ledford did not disclose how much he received for the stones but he said he received less from Martin than he paid for them.

The Tri-State Rockhounds meet once a month. Their next meeting is at the Clubhouse in Brasstown, August 5, at 7:00 p.m. Any interested Rockhounds are invited.



THEY ARE LOOKING IN THE WRONG PLACE if they are looking for sapphires similar to the one reported found by Kermit Martin. Stones of that variety are found only near Buck Creek on Chunky Gal Mountain in Clay County according to experienced rockhounds and official state reports.

Local Board To Be Closed August 2-9

The draft board will be closed from August 2 through August 9. Three local boys were inducted to Knoxville Thursday, July 27. They are Henry Allen, Dennis Dockery, and Hubert Myers.



FINAL RESTING PLACE of a 1960 Ford wrecked on US 64 in the Peachtree Straight shortly after 10:00 A. M. Wednesday morning. **TWO LOCAL BOYS INJURED.**

Johnny Anderson, 21, of Murphy and Andrews and Billy Decker, 17, of Murphy were involved in a one-car accident while traveling on Highway 64 East shortly after 10:00 a.m. on Wednesday, August 2.

Anderson, who was driving the 1960 Ford Starliner, owned by Cline Hicks of Murphy, lost control while passing another car and skidded for an estimated 100 yards. The car then left the road on the right side and clipped a telephone pole which knocked the car into a ditch causing it to flip end-over-end across a secondary road. The Ford landed in a ditch in front of Murvell Hunsucker's house. This description of the wreck was made by Hunsucker, who witnessed it.

Anderson and Decker were taken to a local hospital in Murphy where they were treated for lacerations and later released.

A. A. To Have Special Meeting

The Tri-State Group of Alcoholics Anonymous, which has its regular meeting every Tuesday at 8:00 p.m., in the New Regal Hotel, Murphy, North Carolina, announces a special meeting on Tuesday, August 8, at 8:00 p.m., in the New Regal Hotel which will be open to anyone who wishes to attend.

The featured speaker is a man who has been in attendance at fifty-five different state conventions of Alcoholics Anonymous throughout the United States. This man has a message for people who need help either for themselves or for friends or relatives. It is believed that all clergymen, lawyers, doctors, teachers, social workers, church leaders, and all folks at all interested in human welfare should avail themselves of the opportunity of learning something about the program of Alcoholics Anonymous at this meeting.

It is now known that alcoholism in the United States number six times as many as there are active cases of tuberculosis, and one hundred fifty-five times as many as there were cases of polio in the nation last year; therefore, alcoholism concerns us all. As of now, there is almost an alcoholic on the average to every family.

For information concerning Alcoholics Anonymous, write Post Office Box 237, Murphy North Carolina.

Murphy Calendar

THURSDAY, AUGUST 3
10:00 a.m. Peachtree Home Demonstration Club will meet at the home of Misses Mae and Dale Sudderth.
7:30 p.m. Community prayer service at Free Methodist Church.
8:00 p.m. Official Board meeting at First Methodist Church.

FRIDAY, AUGUST 4
6:00 p.m. MYF Picnic will be held at the home of Miss Brenda Ann Quinn.

SATURDAY, AUGUST 5
7:30 p.m. Tri State Rock Hounder Meeting at their building in Brasstown, Dr. A. S. Furcron, State Geologist of Ga. will be guest speaker.

SUNDAY, AUGUST 6
6:15 a.m. Mass at Providence Hospital Chapel.
11 a.m. Holy Mass at St. Williams Catholic Chapel.
6:30 p.m. Training Union First Baptist Church.
8:00 p.m. Joint services of Presbyterian and Methodist Churches at Presbyterian Church.

MONDAY, AUGUST 7
6:30 p.m. Rotary Club at Family Restaurant.
6:30 p.m. Civitan meeting at New Regal Hotel.
7:30 p.m. Cherokee Lodge No. 146 AF & AM Masonic Hall.
7:30 p.m. Evening Circle of Presbyterian Church at Fellowship Hall of the church.
7:30 p.m. YWA's will meet at the home of Miss Dorothy Mull.
8:00 p.m. St. Jude Adult Education Study Club at St. William's Catholic Chapel.

TUESDAY, AUGUST 8
10:00 a.m. Gladys Morris Circle of First Baptist Church will meet at the home of Mrs. Wallie Williams.
6:30 p.m. Lions Club in the recreation hall of the First Methodist Church.
8:00 p.m. Commission meeting of First Methodist Church.

8:00 p.m. Elizabeth Hale Circle of First Baptist Church at the home of Mrs. Claude Monteith.
8:00 p.m. Ruth Swan Circle of First Baptist Church will meet at the home of Mrs. Harry Dickey.
8:00 p.m. Frankie Martin Circle of First Baptist Church at the home of Mrs. Arden Davis.

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 9
6:30 p.m. Brotherhood Supper at First Baptist Church.
6:30 p.m. General Meeting of W.M.U. at First Baptist Church.
7:00 p.m. YWA's will meet at First Baptist Church.
7:00 p.m. RA's will meet at First Baptist Church.
7:00 p.m. GA's will meet at First Baptist Church.
7:20 p.m. Midweek services at Presbyterian Church.
7:30 p.m. Midweek services at First Methodist Church.
8:00 p.m. Hour of Power of First Baptist Church.
8:15 p.m. Choir practice at First Methodist Church.
8:45 p.m. Choir practice at First Baptist Church.

THURSDAY, AUGUST 10
1:00 p.m. Cancer Clinic at the Health Office.

New Student Registration

High School Students who have moved into the community or returned to the community should report to the high school office for registration on August 14th, or 15th. The office will be open from 8 a.m. until 4 p.m.



Andrews Girl Joins WAVES

Shown above is the latest addition to the WAVES, Miss Maxine Wheeler, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Clyde H. Wheeler of Andrews, N. C. who enlisted in the WAVES on Friday, July 21, at the Columbia Navy Recruiting Station.

Maxine was graduated from Andrews High School in May where she was an active participant in the Science Fair and played basketball in addition to her regular studies. The new WAVE is undergoing training at the Naval Training Center, Bainbridge, Maryland.



A 30 INCH PIKEY weighing 8 lb, 2 oz, was caught Saturday July 29, in Hiwassee Lake at the mouth of the Noddy River. Shown above with his catch is E. W. Whitaker (right) and Junior Hardin who was in the boat. They are both of Andrews.



FOUND ONLY IN CLAY COUNTY. This is the picture which touched off the rush to the gem fields of Cowee Valley last week. This sapphire was reported in both daily and weekly papers across the country as being found in Macon County. Evidence has been gathered by the Tri-State Rockhounds Club, Inc. that this specimen was actually found over four years ago in Clay County.

Youth Baseball

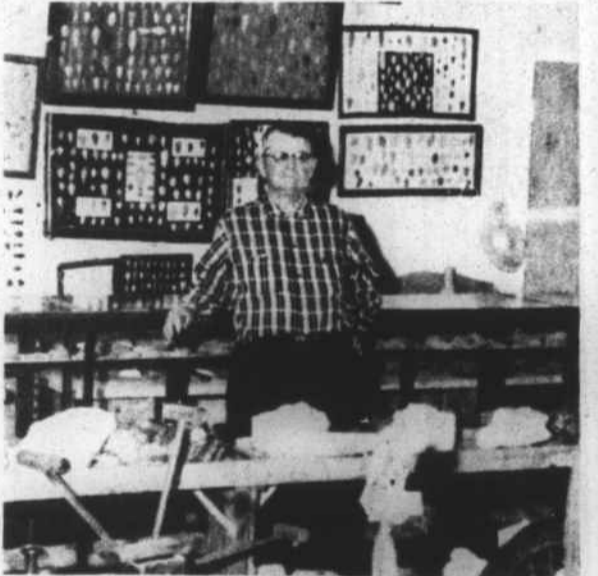
On Thursday, July 27, the Braves defeated the Yankees 4-0. Donald Morris pitched a no hit game for 5 innings and Eddie Palmer gave up 1 hit in the inning he pitched.

The Indians forfeited their game to the Dodgers on Monday, July 31.

The Yankees defeated the Cardinals 3-2 to win the championship for this season. Hugh Carringer pitched for the Yankees and also knocked in the winning run with a single in the top of the seventh. Coye Stewart pitched for the Cardinals.

The Indians defeated the Giants 7-3. Johnny Phillips pitched for the Indians and Johnny Moore pitched for the Giants.

Standings	WON	LOST
Yankees	8	2
Cardinals	5	5
Braves	2	8
Indians	6	4
Dodgers	5	5
Giants	4	6



SAW IT TWICE BEFORE - Arthur Palmer, local rockhound and owner of Palmer's Museum at Marble, says that he saw the pink sapphire that Kermit Martin now has twice before at Bud Ledford's in Hayesville.

AUNT HET



I could of got home in time to fix Pa a good supper, but he enjoys feeling sorry for himself and I like to give him a chance once in a while.

AUGUST	1961					
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
-	-	1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31	-	-

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