



Arizona Rocks 42

Text and photos by Ray Grant

Another Arizona mining town that has become a big tourist attraction is Tombstone. Last month, I briefly described the mineralogy of Bisbee, after Bisbee, the Arizona locality with the most different mineral species would be the Tombstone area. Unlike Bisbee that was a major copper producer, Tombstone is noted mainly as a silver district. There were 22 mines in an area about four square miles, and 150 different mineral species have been recorded from the Tombstone area. The best reference is by Sid Williams in the *Mineralogical Record*, volume 11, number 4, July-August 1980, pages 251 to 260. Just as Dick Graeme is the leading expert on Bisbee, Sid Williams when he was alive was the world's expert on the Tombstone district. He was particularly interested in tellurium minerals from everywhere in the world and it turns out Tombstone had 23 different tellurium minerals. Tombstone is the type locality for ten minerals: cryptomelane, dugganite, emmonsite, fairbankite, girdite, khinite, oboyerite, parakhinite, schieffelinite, and winstanleyite. Sid Williams was responsible for describing and naming eight of these minerals. Sid had at least 25 more minerals from Tombstone that might be new minerals, but he never had time to describe them. After his death all of his laboratory, library, and unknown minerals went to the Hudson Institute of Mineralogy to be established as the Sid and Betty Williams Laboratory for Mineralogical Research. The Hudson Institute is a tax-exempt organization and is trying to raise funds to refurbish Sid's laboratory and continue his work on descriptive mineralogy.

You can find more information about the Hudson Institute at:

www.hudsonmineralogy.org

Tombstone is now a world famous tourist location and there is a "Tombstone's 1878 underground mine tour", and of course all the OK Corral events. Most of the dumps were removed in the late 1970s when the price of silver was high, so there is very little potential for collecting new material in the district.



Wulfenite with mimetite, Empire Mine, Tombstone, Arizona

