

Stones of Power

Conversation with a Crystal Seeker

by Alice Tallmadge

Steven Glass, one of the founders of the Crystal Light Mining Company in Eugene, looks ageless. He sounds it, too. He talks with the enthusiasm of an adolescent, but also with the confidence of an adult who's endured many a rite of passage. He tells the story of his introduction to rocks and it sounds like the opening scene of a post-Vietnam-era movie. Confused vet Glass and his Native American buddy are fishing in the woods near Sweet Home. Fish gets hooked through the eye, looks miserable. Glass and friend question the whole idea behind the time-honored sport, and killing in general. Friend suggests they look for rocks. How? asks Glass.

"We walk along the creek and whatever looks pretty, we pick it up," says his friend.

Glass did just that. For years. He didn't know trash from treasure, just picked up whatever caught his eye. "I drug 'em home. Tons of the crap," he says.

Eventually he got curious. He went to LCC and studied geology. Then he transferred to the U of O where he ran into a brick wall called calculus. There he was discovered by the owners of a fledgling mining company who wanted a man who knew about rocks, not formulas. They made him director of mining and exploration, and for four years Glass hunted for thunder eggs, picture jasper and pink agate limbs.

When a huge uranium deposit was discovered underneath one of his

company's mining claims, life got complicated. Nuclear companies challenged the claim, court costs swelled, and the mining company had to fold. Glass took to hunting petrified wood, and also began to listen to what his "treasure" had to teach him.

"I started feeling the transformation that petrified wood had made, from being some organic substance to something else. All of a sudden I could see that maybe you could transform yourself from what you are into something that maybe will live longer, or something greater than what you

Quachitas Mountains in Arkansas. He dug and saved and finally got his "grub stake together and went to Arkansas."

And again a new-age cinema script: seeker with purpose pours savings, dreams and family into muffler-hanging vehicle and (variation on a theme) heads east. In Arkansas the land is stingy and stubborn. A week goes by with no big strike. The money is dribbling away and the doubts are pouring in. Spectres of the wrong move, the venture that failed, the bad risk haunt the seeker.

Quartz can change physical impulses into electrical impulses and the reverse . . . it transmutes energy.

perceive yourself as being," he says.

Glass transferred this teaching to re-birthing—a process during which individuals re-experience and release emotional trauma from the past. He took a year-long seminar with Leonard Orr, founder of the re-birthing technique.

But the earth kept pulling at him. It would not let Glass rest thinking he had found some all-embracing answer. Internally he became motivated to deal with himself in the present rather than focus on living forever. Externally he was drawn to dig for crystals.

Glass dug crystals in Nevada, but kept hearing of a crystal mecca—the

Clouds cover the sun. The seeker meets the bottom of his soul. The flood gates open. Failure looms huge, invincible. The seeker finds a mud hole and begins to dig as if his own life is buried there. He digs seven feet. Nothing. He hits hard rock. The rock angles to the right. Exhausted, he too spades to the right. He finds a vein dripping with seven-inch crystals. He pulls one out, and crawls out of the hole.

" . . . and all the clouds, I swear, swirled and the sun shone down and I cleaned back a space on this crystal and there was a rainbow inside and I blissed out. It was like a peak-out. I knew that I had paid for my trip, that

everything was OK, and that the Great Spirit had blessed me. All the risk and putting everything we had on the line, it paid off."

Glass pulled 600 pounds of crystals from that vein, and returned to Oregon "filled up."

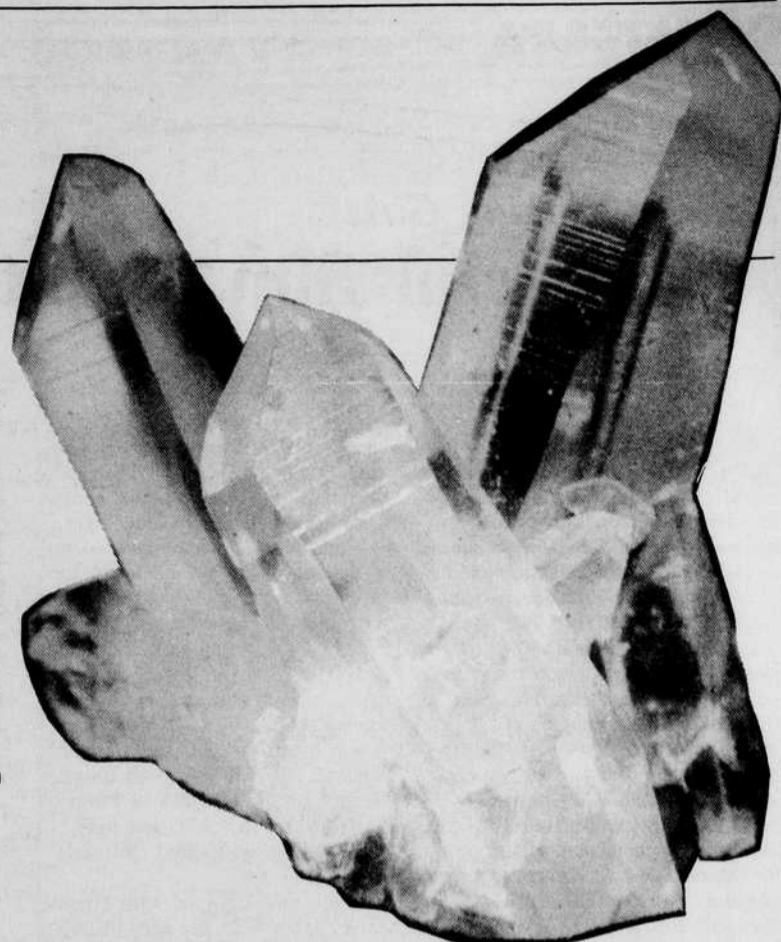
"All of a sudden I was in the crystal business. I had a power stone and I had a vision of some 'way to go.' The Great Spirit said, 'Here's all these crystals. Do with them what you can.'"

What Glass did with those crystals was sell them—at the Saturday Market, the Country Fair, to wholesalers and at rock shows all over Oregon. Then he mined for more. But Glass' experience in that mud hole had taken

him beyond wanting to mine crystals just to make a living. He believed there was something in crystals that had affected him in a deep layer of his being, and could possibly affect others. He wanted to share crystals with the world.

And the world was ready to take them. In the last seven years the market for crystals has grown tremendously, says Star Glass, Steven's wife and partner in the mining company. Steven adds that the price of crystals

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