



The Magical Arizona Diamond

By: Sherry E Engler

As we embark on the new year of 2018, the possibilities are endless if we dare to dream and perhaps believe in a little bit of magic as does my good friend Cowboy

Talltale. I would be amiss if I did not relate his intriguing story to the good folks of Rim Country to give inspiration for this upcoming year and information on the valuable Arizona Diamond (Diamond Rim Quartz Crystal) which may be collected in the Tonto National Forest.

Realizing Cowboy Talltale has earned his name with good reason, I still found myself fascinated with his account of collecting an Arizona Diamond. During a family and friend get-together over the holidays, Cowboy Talltale recounted a New Year's Eve event which would change his life forever, which explains the quartz crystal he wears religiously attached to an aged strand of leather around his wrinkled neck.

And this is his tale:

It was New Year's Eve back in the seventies (Cowboy Talltale doesn't pay much attention to time so the year is unclear) when he and his good buddy, "Buddy" and Buddy's little sister, Charlotte were sitting around the campfire near the ole homestead waiting for the New Year to chime in. All of a sudden, at the stroke of midnight and the NEW YEAR, a shooting star lit up the sky right in front of them. According to Cowboy Talltale's great great grandpa, if you see a shooting star at midnight on New Year's, you should follow it and a treasure will await. So, the three of them loaded up in Cowboy Talltale's ole jeep and ended up on Highway 260, about twenty miles east of Payson.

Cowboy Talltale wasn't too fond of Charlotte tagging along because she chattered constantly and was somewhat on the plain side. He felt it hurt his cowboy reputation being seen with such a homely pup but, because she was Buddy's sister, he felt obligated to include her.

Buddy directed him where to drive and they all agreed to stop and look for the New Year's treasure on Diamond Point Mountain, part of the Mogollon Rim. Buddy went north but Charlotte insisted on following Cowboy Talltale and they headed to the east.

And lo and behold, as Cowboy Talltale held the flashlight, scouring the ground for any type of treasure, the shiniest, prettiest Arizona Diamond gleamed with such brilliant light, it flashed his eyes. Charlotte noticed it at the very same instant but, lo and behold, as she picked up the precious stone, her appearance immediately changed. Hair that had resembled a grizzly bear's shimmered slick and smooth in the moonlight. Her complexion shone smooth and gracious and her eyes beamed with beauty. What a transformation for that homely pup! Charlotte looked beautiful! She gleamed with the same beauty that radiated from the Arizona Diamond.

There are several names for this Arizona quartz crystal, including Arizona Diamonds, Lemuria Diamonds, Payson Diamonds and Sedona Diamonds. Some of these gems of nature have amethyst qualities and purple coloring. These beautiful crystals were formed, perhaps a hundred million years ago, when an inland sea split North America. They are composed of silicon and oxygen atoms shaped by the influences of temperature and pressure changes.

In Rim Country, we are blessed to have the opportunity to find these unique crystals throughout the Tonto National Forest. Please contact the forest service for specified regulations on collecting and specific locations for the Arizona Diamond. Surface collection is allowed year-round; however, there are regulations regarding the use of shovels and picks. Also, permits may be required depending on the plans of collection and the quantity one intends to gather.

Rock hounds from all over the world visit Rim Country for our precious mineral and rock formations. There have been claims that some Arizona Diamonds are so clear, they rival the Herkimer diamond.

Many believe there are magical powers associated with the Arizona Diamond. Healing, light, energy are just a few words used when describing the medicinal properties associated with these Arizona crystals. Many believe the crystals are pure and cleanse the soul of those who carry them. Vibrations of the universe are also associated with these gems of the earth, giving ancient vibrations of knowledge and insights to those who wear them. The gift of spirit is one of the attributes credited to these precious crystals.

Cowboy Talltale swears to the magical powers of his Arizona Diamond. It changed Charlotte from a homely pup into a beautiful woman he dated for a short time. (She apparently broke up with him Valentine's Day of the same year.) When asked if he wears the gem around his neck to remind him of his love for Charlotte, he denied any such association. He declares it is to give him insight into his world and to inspire him to believe in the magic of life.

May 2018 bless you and yours richly. And whether you are lucky enough to find an Arizona Diamond or not, may you always be inspired by your world and the magic of life.

