

## **July 4, 2003**

# **Collecting the Middle Cambrian Spence Shale at Spence Gulch**

This is the classic Spence Shale location. Walcott himself collected this locality for about a week. First collected by Mr. Spence it has been collected and collected and collected again. Once again we were collecting with Mike and Linda McCollum from Eastern Washington University along with a few other friends.

After many, many, years the Spence Shale is finally going to be systematically worked to describe the numerous trilobite species that occur. This was one of the steps along the way.

This is Spence Gulch. When there is actually water there is a small creek that runs right along the bottom of the outcrop. Over the years this stream has created the outcrop that we have today, and it helps clean up the tailings at the bottom as well. This place has more trilobites per square foot than most places that I collect. Though the quality isn't 100% the quantity usually makes up for it.



Mike, Linda, Jake, and I working the base of the outcrop. Lots of trilobites can be found here.



Linda inspecting a few of our findings.



Linda, Mike, and I stopping for a quick picture



We measured the exposed portion of the outcrop and divided it into 1.5 meter sections. Then we systematically collected it. Hopefully we will be able to learn something from the diversity of trilobites found.



View from the southern edge of the outcrop looking down at the diggings.



Grandpa never misses a trip if he can help it.



Linda taking a closer look at some trilobites.



Mike and Jake wrapping specimens.  
Note that they are using aluminum foil.  
The stuff works great.



A few of the flowers that we saw.





