

May 22, 2003

Collecting Cambrian Trilobites in the Spence Shale

This was my first trip of the year into the material that has made us "famous". The Spence Shale. Long hikes and hot days keep most people away from these sites, but there are a few that venture up here. I didn't take any pictures of the stuff we found, because it was one of those, not so productive days, but the scenery was nice. I think the temperature was in the upper 90's. A real scorcher when it is about a 2 hour hike. According to some encyclopedias this mountain range, the Wellsville Mountains, is the steepest in the world, based on a width to height ratio.

A view from the bottom. The Spence Shale is above the brown cliffs just right of center.



View from the middle of the canyon looking up at the cliff forming Brigham Quartzite. The Spence is mostly covered in the canyon. If you look you can see one of our quarries just below the gray cliffs on the left side of the photo. It looks like a small brown spot.



A view from across the canyon at the old Antimony Mine. It was active during both World Wars.



A view from near the top looking down Antimony Canyon at the "road".



This little knob has what we call the Ogygopsis Zone on it. It is the lowermost section of the Spence Shale that we collect.



View from the Spence Shale at the "saddle". Since the Spence is softer than the rocks just older and younger than it it has weathered faster. Once again you can see the cliffs of the Brigham Quartzite, now below us, and Brigham City, (hometown) in the background.



And again.



And again. The valley floor is at about 4400 ft. we are at about 6400 ft. Over 2000 ft up. Thats a long hike. The Wellsville Mountains are the steepest mountain range in the world. They are tall, but narrow.



And again.



One of the spots that we quarried.



Jake (right) and Nick (below) Skabelund actually invited me to go with them on this trip. This is the kind of place that requires a lot of hard work. These guys are a couple of the few that venture up here.



On the way back home. Jake in the foreground is carrying a Stromatolite from the Ute Formation just above the Spence Shale, see below. Behind him is an old mining "hotel".

