

# There Is a Mine in Your Mind

## A GOLD MINE

We all look for riches  
 And things that are fine.  
 For gold and for jewels  
 And metals that shine.  
 We search all our life  
 Till we're all worn out.  
 Yet we have a gold mine  
 We know little about.

We don't need to travel  
 The earth or the skies  
 Nor blast through a mountain.  
 So try and get wise  
 That it is much nearer  
 But harder to find.  
 This gold mine, my dear friend,  
 Is your brain and your mind.

The key to your riches  
 Or fortune or fame.  
 Or what else you desire  
 To have in your name  
 Is your mind. So dig in  
 With powers combine.  
 "There's gold in that brain," so  
 Develop your mind.

KNUTE O. HOLM

### THE ISHPEMING ROCK AND MINERAL CLUB

- PRESIDENT - Robert B. Davis - 206 Oak St., Ishpeming, Mich.
- VICE PRESIDENT - Robert K. Richards - 110 E. Clark St., Negaunee, Mich.
- SECRETARY and CURATOR - C. Robert Markert - 107 W. Ridge St., Ishpeming, Mich.
- TREASURER - George R. Bamford - 437 W. Empire St., Ishpeming, Mich.
- LIBRARIAN - Paul LeSage - 107 E. Euclid St., Ishpeming, Mich.

## PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

Here we go with our first issue of The Jaspilite. We have appreciated the other member clubs of the Midwest Federation sending us their issues. We have gained much information from them and they have been valuable in planning this, our first issue. We do not actually have a staff as yet. This issue was put together by the officers of the club who have all tried out their journalistic talents. We expect to go to press several times a year, our club being too small for a monthly issue.

As many of you readers know, we are centered in an area of exceptionally good collecting. We will attempt to describe as many of them as possible in this and future issues. Since jaspilite is such a prominent mineral here in Ishpeming, it seemed an appropriate name for our paper. Jaspilite is akin to the prominent industry of this area, the mining of iron ore. Nature has "converted" some of this mineral to direct shipping iron ores. At the present time, jaspilite is being mined and the hematite recovered from it. This has meant the reopening of mines closed many years ago when the higher grade ores were mined out.

Burton Boyum, representing the National Ski Association, has informed us that the Museum will have a hardwood floor and a kitchen on the main floor by Dec. 2nd when the Museum will be opened for a Ski Club party. They expect to purchase a cabinet for the display of their trophies shortly, so that we may place more of our mineral collection into a second case, now being used for the trophies. We are quite proud of our display and would welcome any of you out-of-towners, who may be passing through, to visit our display. We owe a great thanks to all of you who so generously contributed your choice specimens for this display.

## MARQUETTE JASPER

Near downtown Marquette, where the new highway just south of town passes over Whetstone Creek, lies some fine jasper. Several veins of bright to dark red material cut through the badly weathered green chlorite schist; and pieces are fairly easy to dislodge. This makes excellent cutting material, and is even superior to the jaspilite of the knob area near Ishpeming.

The collector will find that the veins, several inches in width, continue below the highway as the terrain slopes toward the lake. Railroad switching yards obscure the deposit for some distance, and we have not visited the lake shore a short distance farther, but someone ought to!

### COLLECT ROCKS, TOO!

It is almost an axiom that minerals are never found pure; they are invariably mixed or attached to other minerals, or rocks. This points up the fact that what we are apt to scorn as "just rock" is, again, a mixture of minerals - often those in which we are particularly interested.

It has been claimed that the Lake Superior region has all of the known rocks of the world and half the rest! It is suggested that specimens be collected, say 3" by 4" in size, that are clean, fresh, and typical. Some of the rock types easily collected in this locality are: sandstone, quartzite, granite, diorite, limestone, gneiss, slate, chlorite schist, conglomerates, and dark rocks possibly properly termed pyroxenites, hornblendite, or even basalt. Within a day's travel are amygdaloidal rocks containing such minerals as calcite, copper, epidote, and laumontite. Let's collect and study our rocks - they're composed of nothing but minerals.

Bob Richards

## A COPPER COUNTRY FIELD TRIP

A successful field trip must take much careful planning and enthusiastic backing, which was the case of our field trip to the Keeweenaw Peninsula. On the morning of June 19th, 1954, three station wagons loaded with enthusiastic rock hounds left for Houghton at 5:00 A. M. At the Engineering Building of Michigan Tech., Professor Spiroff met us and conducted us through their excellent museum. Two hours and 15 minutes was hardly enough time to see this museum, however, there was collecting to be done and we bade Prof. Spiroff adieu and headed for the Baltic Mine.

At the Baltic, we found and loaded our wagons with native copper, chalcocite, bornite, chalcopyrite, ankerite, and either pink calcite or rhodochrosite.

The South Range Quarry was next on the program to be given the "once over", and it was soon to echo to the rythmical beats of the prospectors' picks, however, pangs of hunger and thoughts of those hot pasties, plus the weight of our sample bags, pried us loose from the sausserite of the quarry.

Sixteen hot pasties and oodles of cake and pop were punished in the park just west of Hancock. With our stomachs full, we moved on to the afternoon's program. Gassing up the cars at Hancock gave us an unusual and unscheduled experience. The attendant of the gas station was talking to Dr. Bertucci of Ishpeming on his ham radio hook-up, and invited us in to talk to the Dr., who is a neighbor of ours in Ishpeming. Our schedule beckoned to us and we made our way past the Quincy Lookout and on to the Wolverine Mine. We didn't get the exceptional epidote crystals, however, some of the smaller ones were found as well as some copper.

The Allouez Mine found "Prof." Markert lecturing the group and describing how to find domeykite. You guessed it - everyone found domeykite except the "Prof." who had to get his from the rest of the group.

After visiting the Keeweenaw Agate Shop at Ahmeek, we moved on to Five Mile Point where tents were pitched, station wagons readied for sleeping, and camp fires started. Wasn't long before the aroma of boiling coffee, hot chili and hamburgers wafted among us. With a full stomach and lulled to sleep in his hammock by the stiff breeze off Lake Superior, Scott Holman was the first into the hands of Morpheus. While Scott slept, the rest of us tried for agates and built a bonfire on the beach. SLEEP - how peaceful -- Bill Locher in his swayback hammock, Rundman and LeSage in their explorer's tent, Dud and Dan in Ponti's tent and the rest of us in the wagons. 3:00 A. M. RAIN and lots of it. Still raining during breakfast, however, bacon and eggs never tasted so good (half fried and half boiled). Remember that cake and frosting? Anita couldn't help it if all the Baltic copper was piled on top of it.

At 8:00 A. M. we were at the Iriquois Mine. The club is very grateful for the opportunity to visit this locality and discretion was keynoted here. The Copper Falls Mine was to be next, but they must have moved it since last year, as Bob Markert could have sworn that he was on the right trail. It was too wet, anyway, to go hiking through thimble berry bushes.

The Delaware Mine was a lot easier to find, and good collecting was had with chlorastrolites, copper and one datolite being found here. The Lemins and Bamfords caught up with the group at this point. It was also here that one certain guy went into the agate business. Anyone want to buy any agates?

Noon time and lunch at Silver Creek Falls. Champ Lemin relieved the load of specimens Bob Davis was carrying in his car. Bob must have been figuring on filling up with agates too. The beach near Silver Creek didn't yield any of the big ones that we came for, however, a number of smaller agates were found.

Guess we'll have to go to Minnesota for the larger ones.

Lunch again and home by the way of the free museum near Calumet and the Houghton Agate Shop. We left the Agate Shop and the Samuelson's hospitality about 9:30 P. M. Slept like rocks that night, only to get up bright and early and leave for a visit to Illinois and the Midwest Convention in Milwaukee.

Bob Markert

#### ORE TRIMMER GONE BUT NOT FORGOTTEN

The ore trimmers are now extinct, but they are not forgotten.

They were the husky men who with pick and shovel, leveled off the iron ore as it streamed down the ore dock chutes and into the holds of ships.

Ore trimmers were proud of their jobs. It was their constant boast that when they trimmed a cargo, the boat was never off keel. They boasted that no vessel was lost on the lakes no matter how wild the storm, if the ship was properly trimmed.

The trimmers worked in gangs and were paid by the ton. The boss trimmer, with plumb bob and measuring tape in his hand, stood above the hatch and shouted orders to his crew, "a little more here and a little more there," until the load was level as a dance floor.

The trimmers were paid by the ship's captain after each cargo was loaded. Payment was made in silver or gold to the boss trimmer, who would meet with his crew for the "reckoning." Usually receipts were split at some waterfront saloon. There the trimmers, two-fisted men, drank and fought.

At first the Irish dominated the trimmer's trade. In later years the French Canadians joined some gangs. Much rivalry

existed, particularly when there were not enough ore boats to keep all the trimmers busy.

Ore trimmers worked about seven months a year during the navigation season. They were a well-paid class of workers in the low wage era before the turn of the century. Most trimmers made about \$1500 for the season. Some men of stamina were able to work around the clock during the rush season and boosted their earnings to \$2000 or more.

Inventive genius put an end to ore trimming. The new and larger carriers were equipped with bumper beams, which spread the stream of red ore evenly in the hatches. Although the trimmers had a union which operated like a closed shop locally, it did not have enough national influence to outlaw this mechanical development. Now there are no more ore trimmers, but the colorful lore of the race lives on.

Reprinted from The Mining Journal, Marquette, Michigan

The Ishpeming Rock and Mineral Club wishes to express its gratitude to its friend, Knute O. Holm of Marquette whose poem appears on our cover. This is one of many that he has written. Although physically handicapped, by the Grace of God he has developed other talents. Mr. Holm, along with several other members of his family, has muscular dystrophy.

Bud Bamford gave us an interesting demonstration of his lapidary work at the October meeting. He took us through all the steps of cutting, grinding, and polishing. Those of us without such experience now have more insight into this fascinating phase of the mineral hobby.

## SULPHUR-THE YELLOW ELEMENT

Sulphur-not gold-is our most valuable "yellow element." Except for its use as a money standard in some countries, and its use in jewelry, gold has few uses. Sulphur, and things made from sulphur, are important to almost every part of our life today. About eighty per cent of all sulphur produced goes into the manufacture of sulfuric acid. There's hardly a manufactured article made today that hasn't had sulfuric acid used directly or indirectly in its making. In fact it has been said that the prosperity of the country can be measured by the amount of sulfuric acid it uses. Sulphur has many uses including matches, gunpowder, tires, overshoes, and the good old sulphur and molasses preparation.

Sulphur is light yellow in color when pure, sometimes amber when stained with hydrocarbons; some slag-like, volcanic specimens are reddish in appearance from selenium contamination. Sulphur is not very hard, having a hardness of two on Moh's scale. It has a resinous luster, conchoidal fracture, and is brittle.

The best specimens come from the Italian sulphur mines, where well-formed crystals up to six inches or more in length are found. Probably comparable ones are to be found in the economically important deposits of Louisiana and Texas, but because of the method of mining (Frasch method of melting sulphur underground and piping it to the surface), the only crystals found are imbedded in drill cores.

If you are fortunate enough to own a crystal or two of this non-metallic element, great care should be taken to protect it from sunlight and handling. The warmth of the hand will cause crystals to expand at the surface and crack, marring the natural beauty and perhaps destroying the crystal. A beautiful crystal or crystal cluster will grace any display and perhaps be the apple of the owner's eye.

Paul LeSage

## REMINDER--

### THE MIDWEST FEDERATION CONVENTION

Michigan will be keynoted in 1955 with one of the biggest hobby shows of the year. Have you ever attended a gathering of such a happy and friendly bunch of collectors? If you haven't, you have missed something big. Better plan now on being in Detroit on June 23-24-25, the dates of the 1955 Convention of The Midwest Federation of Mineralogical and Geological Societies. Convention headquarters will be the Hotel Detroit, and we know that John Mihelcic, convention chairman, will leave no stones unturned to give you three delightful and busy days in the Detroit area. Remember all those fine people that came up to Ishpeming for a field trip in 1953? This will be your chance to renew all those acquaintances and to meet others.

Watch the issues of the M.M.S. Conglomerate for additional news of the Convention. See Paul LeSage, your club librarian, and obtain the latest copy of the Conglomerate for your reading pleasure and information. These bulletins from the various organizations are being filed by Paul and may be borrowed at any time by the members of the Ishpeming Rock & Mineral Club. Read these instructive and informative bulletins to increase your knowledge of your hobby.

### BIOGRAPHY--GEORGE R. (BUD) BAMFORD Treasurer, Ishpeming Rock & Mineral Club

Back on December 2, 1904 amidst the howling of wintery winds of the North Country, Mr. & Mrs. George Oliver Bamford looked on in amazement and joy at their spanking brand new arrival, George R. Bamford (later to be known as Bud).

Bud accepted them and his new home, stuck around to be educated in the Ishpeming Grade and High School. He spent the next 15 years or so working at the Section 16 Mine of the Oliver Mining Co. Bud had his first real contact with the beautiful botryoidal Goethites that were

## ISHPEMING'S CENTENNIAL

brought to surface at that mine. He wishes now that he had stockpiled some of the exceptional specimens that were common at that mine.

In April 1930, he succumbed to the weaker sex. He wasn't collecting minerals, then, although he knew his jewels when he saw them (Yes siree, he married Lena Nault.) He has two lovely daughters, Marcia and Mary. There is now a pebble pup in the family, a grandson, Stephen, who knows "wocks" when he sees them and doesn't fail to tell "Bompa" about them.

Bud is now working as fire truck driver for the City of Ishpeming, a job he's had since 1936. You visiting rockhounds (pardon that word) can locate him easily at the Ishpeming Fire Hall.

Bud was one of the organizers of the Ishpeming Rock and Mineral Club and was Vice President during the first year of organization. He was very instrumental in planning the field trip of the MMS in this area in 1953. He was one of the foremost and hardest workers in the assembling of the club's mineral display in the Ski Hall of Fame.

A Layman's Geology course in the Ishpeming High School during the winter of 1949 was more or less responsible for starting Bud off in this hobby of Mineral Collecting. Others of the club received the same inspiration.

Bud has a very nice collection featuring many of the rarer forms of iron minerals. The collection is quite general though, as a result of the numerous friends that Bud has found in this hobby. Many of Captain Thomas' specimens are included in his collection. Bud cuts and polishes and has helped many of the younger lads of the club in preparing their own cabs, etc.

Just mention mineral collecting and Bud will stop what he is doing and head for the collecting areas.

Bob Markert

In 1844 William Burt and his party of surveyors were running lines in what is Negaunee. Noticing that his compass was behaving strangely, they investigated and found outcroppings of iron ore. About ten years later these early prospectors established a settlement adjacent to the mines which is now the SE part of Ishpeming.

For months before the opening day, facial foliage was very much in evidence. By July nearly all male Ishpeming residents sported beards or side burns.

Sunday, July 25th, the Centennial opened with impressive religious ceremonies in the stadium. There were aquatic events, aerial displays, street dancing, tug-of-wars, a carnival and a Cornish wrestling exhibition. This was the only tragic thing that occurred to mar an otherwise perfect celebration, as two Swedes performed the cornish style wrestling as no Cousin Jacks familiar with the sport could be found. Jack Rowett must have turned over in his grave.

The Centurama, portraying scenes in the history and growth of Ishpeming, was held each evening at the stadium. A pageant of possibly a dozen scenes starting with the visit of Father Marquette and in historical order led up to the present time.

The big event on Saturday was the largest parade ever held in the Upper Peninsula, requiring three hours to pass a given point.

The citizens of this community who so generously gave of their time for months in preparing the celebration can justly be proud of their efforts. They displayed the spirit of cooperation and friendliness always found here when needed to promote a celebration of this magnitude. This same spirit has helped the good people of the town through the ups and downs of 100 years of iron mining  
...AND BROTHER THAT'S BEEN NO BED OF ROSES!

Bud Bamford