

MAR 56 ?

**T H E**



**J A S P I L I T E**



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PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

MIRACULOUS MICROMOUNTS

There is a way whereby mineral collections may be freed from the confines of dark and dusty basements and brought into the tidy respectability of the living room.

So-called "Micromounts" are tiny crystalline fragments, suitably mounted in fingerring size boxes for examination by means of a binocular microscope. The tiny boxes, which afford needed protection in handling, were formerly of cardboard but now are made of plastic and have transparent covers.

Viewed under the concentrated beam of a suitable lamp which intensely illuminates the specimen from the side, an incredible world of beauty is revealed. Hours of pleasure may be derived from a few mounts as the hills and valleys, the crevasses and caves, are explored by the intrepid observer. The beauty of tiny crystals, in 3D and technicolor, is breathtaking.

Each tiny jeweled specimen, ordinarily too small to be appreciated, is prepared by mounting on a stick of blackened balsa affixed with a drop of model-airplane cement.

This is then tested for height before the stick is cut off at the proper length, using a razor blade, and glued centrally into the box, the interior of which has been made light-absorbing by a coating of dull black paint. Dental forceps are best for handling the specimen and the adhesive hardens almost immediately.

Larger transparent plastic boxes are obtainable that serve admirably to keep the small boxes in good order and very compact for storing or transporting. No one need call attention to the advantage of such a collection --- yet it's all there!

The 'scope is a necessary expense, of course - about \$100 - but from this point on a new world of wonder continues to beckon and intrigue the viewer.

Ask for a demonstration, and you'll become a convert to the fascination of this specialized aspect of our hobby.

R. K. Richards



## IN MEMORIAM

On April 11 of last year, the people of the community and especially the members of the Ishpeming Rock and Mineral Club were saddened by the passing, after an illness of only a few hours, of one of their most active and best liked members, Mr. Gustave Engman.

Gust, as he was better known to us, was one of our most willing workers, ready to undertake any job assigned to him that would benefit the club or any of its members. He was an ardent collector and at the drop of a hat would be up with the most nimble of the "pebble pups", climbing hills or scrambling over the mine dumps in a manner that belied his age.

Mr. Engman was born in Ishpeming in 1884, the youngest of five children. The family had the misfortune of losing their father in a mine accident while Gust was still an infant, and a few years later the oldest brother also lost his life in a similar accident.

Mr. Engman began to work at the age of 14 and for the greater part of his life was engaged as a butcher and meat cutter for the Ishpeming Store Co.

Fraternally, he was affiliated with the United North Lodge, the Vasa Lodge and the Brotherhood of Trinity Lutheran Church.

After the death of Mrs. Engman he made his home with his daughter, Mrs. Donald Belstrom, 701 E. Empire St. in Ishpeming.

The members of the Ishpeming Rock and Mineral Club have lost a truly great friend and fellow hobbyist but he shall always be remembered.

"Bud" Bamford

## GOGEBIC IRON RANGE

We know of only two Rock and Mineral Clubs in the Upper Peninsula, - the Ishpeming Club and the one at Ironwood. Both are located in the principal iron ranges of Michigan, Ironwood on the Gogebic Range and Ishpeming in the Marquette Range.

In several trips to the mine dumps in and around Ironwood, we have met a few "rock hounds" from that district who are members of the Ironwood Rock and Mineral Club. They make several field trips each summer, besides going over the old and new iron ore piles around Ironwood and Hurley, Wis. Last summer they made a trip to the north shore of Lake Superior, between Duluth and Grand Marais, in search of agates and thompsonites. A wonderful time was had by all who made the trip, not only in finding agates, but in seeing the beautiful scenery along the lake. Another trip was made by this club to the Beacon Mine at Champion. Here they reported finding tourmaline, siderite, garnets and specular hematite.

On all of these field trips the members travel in a caravan, sleeping in cars at night, eating in the open, etc.

At most of the meetings they have a swap session which goes over very big with the members. Each member brings a specimen and a swap is made, some gaining on the trade, some not doing so well.

We do not know if the Ironwood Club is affiliated with the Midwest Federation or not. They are a very active club, enjoying the beauty of our Upper Peninsula and the advantage of living on an iron range which is paradise to a "rock hound".

"Champ" Lewin



## VALUABLE LESSONS IN GEOLOGY

During the period from October 19, 1955, to February 15, 1956, a ten-lesson course in geology was given at the Ishpeming High School. Two-hour classes, conducted by Mr. Richard Randolph, Geologist, Cleveland-Cliffs Iron Company, were set up to include the following subjects:

10-19-55

Introduction of Continental Masses, Isostasy, Bedrock and Mantle, Erosion, Subsurface Water

11-2-55

Glaciation, Sedimentation, Saline Lakes, Faults and Folds, Fossils

11-16-55

Igneous Rocks, Magmatic Action, Diastrophism, Metamorphism

11-30-55

Classification of Mineral Deposits, Controls, Process of Formation

12-14-55

Mineralogy - Field

1-11-56

Mineralogy - Laboratory - Crystallography

1-18-56

Gems and Semi-Precious Stones

1-25-56

Metallic Minerals - Description, Resources

2-8-56

Non-Metallic Minerals - Description, Resources

2-15-56

Petrology - Petrography - Examination

On December 14, 1955, members of the class were invited to the home of Mr. and Mrs. Bob Markert for a social hour. Their extensive rock and mineral collection provided many specimens for further study of our lesson in Field Mineralogy.

We were also privileged, on February 15, 1956, to have a talk by Dr. Tsu Ming Han, Mineralogist and Microscopist, Cleveland-Cliffs Iron Company, and given an opportunity to examine various specimens microscopically.

These lessons proved very interesting and enlightening to the members of the Ishpeming Rock and Mineral Club who were able to attend and while the results of the examination might not warrant degrees in geology, nevertheless they did indicate that considerable valuable information had been absorbed.

We are very grateful to both Mr. Randolph and Dr. Han for their instruction.

Irene Lutes

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## EXCHANGE BULLETINS

During the past several years, the many parent organizations of the Midwest Federation of Mineralogical and Geological Societies have sent us their many club bulletins and we members of the Ishpeming Rock and Mineral Club sincerely thank all of you for these bulletins of information. We hope to be able to exchange ours on a quarterly basis from this time on. Although this current issue was delayed, we hope the accumulated news items will be of interest.



SURPRISE -- BOB AND ANITA LAVIS!

This one is on you. The members of the Ishpeming Rock and Mineral Club miss you two active past officers of our club. We hope that you are enjoying good collecting both in minerals and friends. Of course we know that you will and the people of Wallace, Idaho, are certainly the ones to gain on this move.

In January of 1953, a group of hobbyists met in the Ishpeming Winter Sports Clubhouse for the purpose of forming the Ishpeming Rock and Mineral Club. Anita was chosen as Secretary and Bob was picked as Treasurer of the club. They did a wonderful job on their respective jobs throughout the ensuing year. The next year, 1954, found Bob taking the President job which pleased all members. Many enjoyable meetings and field trips were planned by Bob during his tenure as Pres. Both Bob and Anita were very much responsible for the first issue of the "Jaspilite" and for the display of minerals in the National Ski Museum in Ishpeming.

In January, 1955, we members of the Ishpeming Rock and Mineral Club sadly discovered that we were going to lose our friends as Bob accepted a position as a Mining Engineer with the Hecla Mining Co., in Idaho. Bob was a Mining Engineer for the Cleveland Cliffs Iron Co. here in Ishpeming. Anita taught an elementary grade in the High Street School and is now teaching in a little town of Elk Creek, Nev. They have purchased a home in Silverton and it has a beautiful view of the mountains in all directions. Have you found out yet if thar's gold in them thar mountains, Bob?

Bob is now working amongst lead, zinc, silver, gold and uranium bearing minerals, which is quite a change from the various iron ores that we have here. Bob is working at the Star mine in Burke, Idaho, and one can remember reading about this little town that is built in a canyon so narrow that the railroad tracks go down the main street. In several spots the engineer has to stop the train so the awnings can be lowered to allow the train to go by. The only place for the stream to run is under a portion of the street. The railroad runs right through the hotel, or rather the hotel straddles the tracks. I know that we have narrow streets in Ishpeming, and we are filled with deep emotion to think that Bob and Anita would have to look around until they found a city with narrow streets so they would not become lonesome for their "beloved" Ishpeming.

BEST WISHES FROM ALL OF US.

Bob Markert

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DUES NOW PAYABLE

Treasurer, Bud Bamford, reports 1956 dues are now payable at the rate of \$1.00 for adults and 50¢ for Juniors. This issue of The Jaspilite is being sent to all 1955 members and if you shouldn't receive the next issue, it might be because your 1956 dues are in arrears.





## DIAMONDS

### Michigan Farmer Finds One, and You Might Too

On a farm mantel, or in a collection of curios, a fortune in the form of a Michigan diamond may await someone with a discerning eye.

Naturally, it would be a diamond in the rough, not a cut and polished gem almost any person could detect at a glance.

Commercial production of diamonds is pretty well restricted to South Africa, but the Dark Continent by no means holds a monopoly on their incidence. The point is well substantiated by the experience of Frank Richmond, a farmer living near Dowagiac, when he visited his gravel pit on a cold and wet day in 1894.

The slanting rain had washed away a light deposit of earth and there, brilliant among a rubble of pebbles, lay an odd stone which Richmond poked into his jeans and exhibited subsequently to neighbors. Someone with imagination sent the farmer to a jeweler, and after close scrutiny and tests, his find proved to be an 11-carat diamond.

The first stone to expose itself was picked from a well opening near the little town of Eagle in Wisconsin in 1876. It commanded \$1 as a curiosity from a Milwaukee jeweler, who had no idea of its true identity.

A gem salesman identified it as a diamond of the unusual weight of 16 carats. It was sold to Tiffanys in New York and cut into stones of ring dimensions.

The original owner sued the jeweler, and after long litigation, the Supreme Court of Wisconsin decided the Milwaukee jeweler deserved the sale price inasmuch as no fraud was involved in the dollar bargain from the well digger.

### Came From Canada

A diamond of 21 carats was found at Kohlville, Wis., smaller ones near a half dozen other towns in that State, one at Milford, O., and several in Morgan and Brown counties in Indiana. More than 100, the largest a 30-carat stone in Ontario, have been claimed through accident.

They came from Canada in the clutch of a titanic ice sheet which ripped over Michigan and other Midwestern states a half million years ago. As the glacier melted, the diamonds, scattered through the drift, were deposited throughout an area 600 miles long by 200 miles wide.

"Discovery of diamonds throughout the area, which includes Michigan, of course, are certain to continue," wrote the late Dr. William Herbert Hobbs, internationally known geologist of the University of Michigan. "While the number sown in the drift is undoubtedly large, their dispersion is such that it is unlikely they can be profitably recovered."

In other words, if you look sharp and are exceedingly lucky, you still hold a chance of obtaining riches from what appears to be an unusual pebble.

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NOTES FOR  
THE AMATEUR LAPIDARIST

Some "rock hounds" are content with just collecting specimens. Some collect and also do a bit of cutting and polishing. There are some, however, who collect and would like to cut and polish but who hesitate, thinking it too hard or costing too much for equipment.

This latter group is the one I would like to convince that cutting and polishing is neither hard or costly but really an interesting part of rock collecting.

We will start with our most common rock - Jasper or Jaspilite. This rock, with veins of Specularite running through it, makes a beautiful cabochon. It varies in hardness but is easy to work with.

Several companies offer inexpensive single unit lapidary machines or some wood shop machines will serve the purpose as well. Bob Markert uses his Shopsmith which is well adapted to this work, being of variable speed. I have a home-made 2-spindle sanding and polishing machine that serves the purpose for which it was built. 1/8" or 1/4" slabbed rock may be purchased instead of buying a trim or slabbing saw.

The design or shape of the finished cabochon is left up to the individual. In grinding the rough cabochon, keep the stone in motion so as not to develop flat spots; also work the stone across the face of the grinding wheel so as not to develop grooves in the wheel face.

The same process applies when sanding or polishing --- keep the stone in motion. Don't hurry the grinding and sanding. The extra time spent doing a good job makes the cabochon polish a lot easier.

Bob Schenk

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REMINDER --  
CONVENTION AND EXHIBITION

The 9th Annual Convention and Exhibition of the AMERICAN FEDERATION OF MINERALOGICAL SOCIETIES --- July 12, 13, 14, 15, 1956 --- will be held in conjunction with MILWEST FEDERATION OF MINERALOGICAL AND GEOLOGICAL SOCIETIES.

Host Society  
Minnesota Mineral Club  
St. Paul, Minneapolis

to be held in

HOME ACTIVITIES BUILDING  
MINNESOTA STATE FAIR GROUNDS  
On main highways midway between  
St. Paul and Minneapolis.

See the largest mineral and gem exhibition ever held in the midwest, and meet the collectors.

The Ishpeming Rock and Mineral Club plans on exhibiting at this Convention.





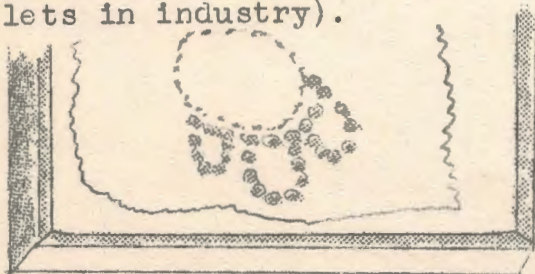
## "JEWELS" SET IN INTERESTING NECKLACE ARE MADE FROM PELLETS OF IRON ORE

Recent published information regarding a necklace made of pellets of iron ore has caused considerable comment among local residents.

The idea was conceived by Mrs. Mather, widow of Mr. William G. Mather, who became President of the Cleveland-Cliffs Iron Company in 1890, Chairman in 1933, dedicating his energies to the company for more than fifty years.

When jasper was processed at the Humboldt Plant in Ishpeming, Michigan, and pellets made therefrom, Mrs. Mather was given a sample of the product. She immediately visualized an amusing application of the pellets in the form of a necklace.

Piercing the pellets for a chain upon which to string them became a problem to the Cleveland jewelers who, after breaking diamond drills on the resistant material, sent them to jewelers in the east to be drilled. Failure resulted in each case, so that upon their return, Mrs. Mather, herself, taking her husband's watchchain, some curtain rings and a pair of pincers, shaped curtain rings around the pellets and formed the necklace (later, the curtain rings were replaced with gold ones to make the necklace a permanent record for this little incident in the progress of pellets in industry).



## OBSERVING THE NON-COLLECTOR

Non-collectors usually think we (mineral collectors) are slightly or entirely off the beam. They probably have some very good reasons. Who else would get out of bed at 5 A.M., drive over a hundred miles, dig around in rock piles all day, eat cold or burned food, sleep outside with the mosquitos, and be very happy to return with only a sackful of fair to poor specimens?

To a serious collector, the non-collector is a queer animal who does not appreciate excellent specimens. If you are explaining something about a specimen, he or she will invariably wander off to the other end of the cabinet, ask some stupid question, and ask you to repeat the explanation. They seem to have acquired the idea that all rocks are indestructible and, therefore, can be dropped at will.

Then we have the halite-lickers. When this character sees a piece of halite it is immediately raised and applied to his tongue. There are two effective cures for this. One consists of telling the licker that it is composed of a white silvery metal and a green poisonous gas. About this time the licker himself turns green. The other method is more effective; simply substitute a piece of alum for the halite.

The non-collector usually associates minerals with common objects. They call agates candy, geodes are called cocoanuts and you can guess what kind of a name they give to a barite desert rose.

William Locher  
Junior Member



By those in JANUARY born  
No gem save GARNET should be worn  
It will insure you constancy,  
True friendship and fidelity.

# BIRTH STONES

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The FEBRUARY born shall find,  
Sincerity and peace of mind--  
Freedom from passion and from care  
If they the AMETHYST will wear.

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Who in this world of ours their eyes  
In MARCH first open, shall be wise,  
In days of peril firm and brave,  
And wear the BLOODSTONE to their grave.

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Those who in APRIL date their years,  
DIAMONDS should wear, lest bitter tears  
For vain repentance flow. This stone  
Emblem of peacefulness is known.

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Who first beholds the light of day  
In spring's sweet flowery month of MAY,  
And wears an EMERALD all her life,  
Shall be a loved and happy wife.

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Who comes with summer to this earth,  
And owes to JUNE her day of birth,  
With ring of PEARL upon her hand,  
Can health, with wealth, and peace command.

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The glowing RUBY should adorn  
Those who in JULY are born;  
Thus they shall be exempt and free  
From all love's doubts and jealousy.

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Wear a SARDONYX, or for thee  
No conjugal felicity;  
The AUGUST-born without this stone  
'Tis said must live unloved and lone.

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A maiden born when autumn's leaves  
Are rustling in SEPTEMBER'S breeze,  
SAPPHIRE on her brow should bind  
'T will cure affections of the mind.

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OCTOBER'S child is born for woe,  
And life's vicissitudes must know;  
But lay an OPAL on her breast,  
And hope will lull the woes to rest.

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Who first comes to this world below  
With dull NOVEMBER'S fog and snow,  
Should wear TOPAZ of amber hue,  
Emblem of friends and lovers true.

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If cold DECEMBER give you birth,  
The month of snow and ice and mirth,  
Place on your hand a TURQUOISE blue--  
Success will bless whate'er you do.