

by Jari Kivela

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"My old lady was all the time naggin' me about never havin' no hobby. So now I tell her I'm a rockhound."

The area from Reseport to Moigon and on down to Sibley Peninglation and the second sec

Cartoon by Bill Stokum via Gary Wells - From the Rock ette, May, 1961, issue.

Lake Superior Field Trip.

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by Jarl Kivela

June 17 marks the beginning of what should be an unforgettably interesting, and probably quite profitable, field trip; certainly from the viewpoint of scenic attractions to be captured on film, new friends to be made, and the rocks and minerals found along the way--these should more than compensate for the inconveniences encountered.

At the present writing, the number of Ishpeming Rock and Mineral Club members attending is uncertain; as is the proposed schedule. That is, the schedule need not be followed in detail; but, as time is limited to seven days of collecting, the use of all time should be put to the best of advantage.

However, the general idea of stops and time involved is printed here for the attention of club members attending.

The designated place of departure will be the Ski Museum in Ishpeming at 6:00 a.m. on Saturday, June 17. Anyone desiring to leave Friday can join the group at the Canadian Soo Chamber of Conmerce at approximately 11:00 a.m. The hour here will be determined by the amount of time required in crossing over to Canada via ferry boat. Collecting will begin at Haviland Bay; stops at Whiskey Point to Mamainse Point and on to the Agawa River Camp Grounds where camp will be set up for Saturday night. Tourist resorts and motels are available in this area. Along with agate collecting, stops at mineral mines and fishing will also be in order for the day. It is hoped that Jack Bagnall of the American Soo will have this portion of the trip arranged and that he will be able to accompany the group on Saturday and Sunday. The Indian Pictographs at the Agawa Rocks Will be one of the photographers' delights.

Affiliated with the Midwest Federation of Mineralogical Societies and the American

On Sunday, June 18, camp should be cleared by 72:00 d.m. with the group headed toward Michipicaten and Wawa; the land of the "Big Goose". Very little information has been received about this region other than that there are a number of old gold mines in the area and the Chamber of Commerce personnel at Wawa will be glad to escort the group. Much less is known of the area from Wawa to Marathon. Upon arriving at Marathon, the shores of Lake Superior will again be beckoning the agate collector and photographers should find some inspiring scenes to film. Headquarters for Sunday night can be set up somewhere between Marathon and Rossport with a Provincial Park being situated at Rossport for the campers. Gas stations and restaurants are located in most towns along the route, although the run from the Agawa River to Wawa, and then from Wawa to Marathon has absolutely nothing; with the exception of White River which is east of Marathon. By filling gas tanks at each station, no difficulties should be experienced.

The area from Rossport to Nipigon and on down to the Sibley Peninsula should provide excellent opportunities for agate, amethyst, and more than likely an abundant supply of beach stone, much of which will polish well. Camping for Monday night will be at Sibley Provincial Park located east of Port Arthur and 14 miles south of the main highway on the Sibley Peninsula.

Tuesday and Wednesday, the 20th and 21st have been scheduled the group for collecting in the Lakehead region: Port Arthur and Fort Williams. The camp grounds at Chippewa Park, six miles south of the twin cities will be Tuesday night's camping area. Motels; resorts and cabins are guite plentiful from Nipigon

Lake Superior Field Trip (Continued)

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to Fort Arthur and then south into Minnesota. Wednesday night can be spent at the Pigeon River Camp Grounds which are just north of the Canadian-Minnesota border.

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Nev o fact block

An early start Thursday morning will give the group ample time to collect in the Grand Marais, Minnesota, area, and also at the Thompsonite Beach. A letter, to Mr. Howard Jackson or A. L. E. Peterson of the Cook County Gem & Mineral Society at Grand Marais should be contacted if their services are to be desired 14

in start 10502 - das fr. Sting - tett Start and 1.00 Thursday, Friday, and Saturday nights will have the group in the Ely-Chisholm-Hibbing areas for the next two days and three nights. A wonderful collecting program will be set up by Mr. Richard Lake of the Mesabi Rock and Mineral Club, also a member of our own Ishpeming Rock and Mineral Club, for those who make the trip. A tour of the world's largest "hole in the ground", the Hill-Rust mine, will be included in the program. Also, two evenings of rock talk and swapping will be in order. These should prove to be quite attractice gatherings, and trading material is therefore a must in one's belongings. 2.2 12 and been a right of a stream treat but reaches

Sunday, the 25th, it's good-by to friends and homeward bound.

It is estimated that a total of 1,300 miles will be traveled. Is your car in good operating condition? Need more be said?

One dismal side of the picture which should be mentioned is the matter of being tormented by mosquitos and other insects. This time of year is the very worst for mosquitos in the region you will be traveling through; so by all means, take an adequate supply of fly dope.

What was thought to be an average estimate for financial funds to make this trip around Lake Superior was \$150.00 for a family of four. This will vary considerably of course depending on motel prices and the amount of food consumed and prices per plate. At any rate, the campers should experience a lower cost of expenses. The sector of the sect

Above all, "Safety First" is always the first order of the day -- whether driving, collecting, or playing--take care and use care! bandred pounds of beryl, only

To each of you making the long and wonderful journey, may the rewards of collecting be plentiful.

Good Rockhunting!

The next time you find a deposit of chert, bring home a solid piece and slice it. You will have the finest whetstone for sharpening knives and gravers you could ask The fact will be able that then the talos interest the part of all ask

When fitting a stone to a setting, hold the stone over a cigarette lighter or a candle until it is covered with lamp black. Binking points will show up clearly.

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Gens & Minerals via the Rock ette

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THE mineral beryl has long been one of the most sought after crystals in nature's crystalline forms. This may have been due to its scarcity, its occurence, often in well formed, lightly tinted crystals, or because it is related to the fabled emerald and aquamarine. It has long been sought after by "rockhounds" and other collectors.

In recent years, however, beryl has become important, not because of its place of esteem in collections of minerals, but because it is badly needed by Uncle Sam (beryl is the sole source of the light metal, beryllium).

To fully understand the sudden need for this mineral, one must know something about it, and the many new uses which have been found for it in only a few years.

In the latter part of the 1930's, many scienti sts felt that the metal, beryllium because of its light weight and other properties, might be able to solve some of the problems in the metallurgical field. Tool makers discovered that if a small amount of beryllium was added to the metallic alloys used in various tools - the tools would not spark during their usage. This would be a great help in oil and gasoline refineries, as well as other industries which were likely to harbor explosive atmospheres.

Phospor-bronze contact clips, used in high temperature electrical service, were often worn out after only a few days of work. One manufacturer then discovered that if the metal beryllium was substituted, in place of the phosphorus, the clips would last a year or more under the same conditions.

Uncle Sam was brought into the picture, however, when research scientists discovered that beryllium could be used in many atomic reaction experiments.

Not all experiments with beryllium prove to be very successful, however. A beryllium compound was once used inside fluorescent tubes. As long as the compound was inside the tube, it was safe. If one cut himself on a tube, the compound would sink into the wound, and cause it to take an abnormal amount of time to heal. In recent years, newer and safer compounds have been substituted, so the tubes are not as dangerous.

It is said in commerce, that the metal beryllium comes from "common" beryl. No type of beryl is at all common, and the total production of the entire world in one year could probably be hauled away by two sturdy trains. Even with that in mind, we must take into account the fact that 86% of the mineral, beryl, is made up of silicon and aluminum. About 4% of the weight of beryl is oxygen, so in one hundred pounds of beryl, only about ten pounds would be the metal beryllium.

One geologist has estimated that less than 4/10,000ths of one percent of the one percent of the earth's weight is beryllium. Most of the ore is concentrated in a few deposits scattered throughout the world. It is usually found in coarsely crystallized parts in granit pegamites.

In the mineral collector's view, beryl is one of the most desirable minorals. Beryl occurs in a great variety of forms, often in fine crystals of many tints. Hexagonal crystals of buff, blue, reen, and pink are not uncommon, and often the crystals have a different color at each end, such as blue and pink.

Tiny traces of minerals in boryl (pure beryl is clear and transparent) cause the orystals to take on a variety of shades. The most desirable forms of beryl are emerald and aquamarine, both held in high respect since the early days of human history, golden beryl, of a beautiful rich yellow, and morganite, a rare stone, transparent, and tinted a porfect pink.

BERYL

(cont.)

Every ence in a while, a veryl crystal is found which, through some process, had been broken up into several pieces. The crystal would be found comented together by quarts, or rarely, some other minoral which solidifies at a lower temperature.

The United States produces only about one to three hundred tons of beryl yearly. Most of this comes from the states of South Daketa, Colorade, Maine, New Hampshire, Connecticut, and Massachusetts. In these states, it is usually recommend as a byproduct of feldspar or mica mines, since most mines could not operate on a profitable basis if just the mineral beryl was mined. Because the United States cannot provide its own supply of beryl completely, we must import some, from India, Brazil, and Argentina. Because the beryl crystals are scattered sparsely throughout the pegmatite, mines cannot be worked, although beryl, in its unrefined form has a selling price of almost seven hundred dellars a ton.

One of the most interesting finds of the mineral was made in the village of South Acworth, New Hampshire. In the later part of the nineteenth century, many discoveries of beryl occurred. One large mountain, it was found, was composed of a milky quartz, with thousands of beryl crystals of all sizes and shapes embedded in it. During a scientific supleration of this site, many crystals were discovered which weighed over five bhousands pounds, and there were several of ever ten thousand pounds apiece. Although the voin of quartz varied from forty to seventy feet in width, this was the greatest concentration of the mineral beryl ever to be found, and many of the crystals found in this area still held records as to their energy.

Buring World War II, the government sunt a few mining engineers to the site, to estimate the potential amount of beryl in the deposit. The government engineers were theroughly amazed at what they found in the tiny New Hampshire village. From about five exploratory blasts of dynamite, they picked up almost nine tons of this strategic mineral. Several cuts were made into the meuntain, and in one cut of about four hundred feet of ere zone, one hundred and eighty-eight square feet was composed of pure beryl.

Beryl has a glawsy lustor, and a hardnoss of eight. A vo y few specimons of omerald fluorosco, usually yellow, but somtimes light pinks grading into deeper reds.

OF THEFT TRI

One of the most famed areas in the world, Muse, and Chiver, Columbia, gained their fame from the beautiful, perfictly colored emeralds found in veins of quartz in black limestone. Even before Columbus landed in the West Indies, the ancient Incas were mining this beautiful stone, and using it to adorn their high officials. When the first Spaniards invaded the realm of the Incas, they became greedy, and tortured the Indians into telling them where their rich mines were located. The Incan mines, taken over by the Spaniards, provided large amounts of treasure to be sont back to the Old World. Beryl, in the form of emerald, gold, silver, and many other precious stones were sont to Europe. Brazil is a chief source of the gemstone aquamarine, which is found in her many rive s, along with more or less pure beryl.

Boryl has long been known for the beautiful crystal forms it takes during solidification. Beryl is usually in prismatic hoxagons, which are oftan several fact in length. At times, the boryllium in a crystal will be replaced by cosium. Many times, a piece of boryl with a cosium content will be found in a tabular grystal. In addition to the crystal forms, boryl may occur grainy, or in columnar masses, although crystals are the most common.

As genstones, the transparent types of beryl have been used as gens since the beginning of recorded history. For the typical mineral collector, a few specimens of this mineral are gens indeed. To the technician, a solid lump of pure ber yllium represents the metal which can help solve his problems....so be yl is one the ess ential metals needed for atomic age engineering.

as recorded in the March '61 issue of Marqueets Geologists Ass., of Chicago, Ill.

Tife in Cooher Pedy Life in Coober Pedy

Who cares if the mercury soars to 130 degrees at Coober Pedy? The natives have their own version of air conditioning.

Coober Pedy is an Australian opal-mining town. On the surface it's hot enough to cook your brains. That's why the miners lounge in burrow-like homes underground, where the temperature rarely goes higher than a comfortable 80 degress w Fahrenheit. In the aboriginal tongue, "Coober Pedy" means literally, "white man in a hole.!!

Opals were first discovered there in 1915. The first miners ate rabbit and States South kangaroo, fought flies and snakes and almost died of the intense heat. Then they took a tip from the wombat, a bear-like marsupial that burrows in the ground. The miners dug out homes in the barren, ochre-red soil .: Ledges along the wall of the burrows make tables, beds, and shelves. Today, all but two or three of Coober. Pedy's buildings are underground, including the post office. the state a construction of

of all they lynn That's how they beat the heat in Coober Pedy,

1 2.

Healthways Magazine Digest, June

at it into that when the The Markerts would like to know whatever, happened to all the specimens that were promised for the Silent Auction being held in conjunction with the Midwest Federation's annual convention being held at Saginaw this year. The M & S Rock Shop will match pound for pound any specimens that you donate for this auction. The Club was underwritten the shipping charges to the Convention.

In Contract Distants

Remember how nice it was last year to be on the receiving end; and how successful our Silent Auction was at that time, thanks to the people from Saginaw and thanks to the people from all the other clubs in the Midwest,

Service & Charles the

The start with the

Your specimens may be still donated by dropping them off with your name and identification and suggested price at the M & S Rock Shop. Please take part.

Che C. M. Martin Mill . P. and a second of the second of

Bort Sawdust

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A laborer came into the office of a diamond saw manufacturer and exhibited a can of some 200 carats of diamond bort and wanted to sell same. Upon being closely questioned where he obtained same, he finally replied, "Ah done had mah wife's stone cut ovah, and de cuttah done gime de sawdust."

Mineralogist via The Rock ette

Don't like to brag--but! Everybody thinks I'm a real great gardener. They all compliment me on my-green thumb! What they don't know is that I went on a field trip and smashed it with my rockhammer -- and now the durned thing turned green!

. That's my excuse for all the errors in this here publication. the supported in the larger of them he have white the tortage and Midwest Federation Letter-of-the-Month

May, 1961

"TOMBSTONE EPITAPH"

Subject: Tailmating.

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By: Floyd Mortenson, Freeident of the Midwest Soderstion.

This page is dedicated to all you people aunicat This is because from A through L who did not turn in any 0 3800 03 12.65 made : articles for these last two issues of the Jaspilite. You who henefit of those who may however, for the benefit of these who may be so include the This is your club bulletin. We have asked animoto, di Ja d 11 for some little or big article from all of you. A few have been very cooperative and have contributed more than their share, Whatse tol all Our hearty thanks to you! neiterss: of a future cash settlement) of materials, regularly a nona'on Asbfor the rest of you - blod ton each ofw. to has not for We 25 the grounds of an official show no emerser to persons on 1103 the next issue of the Jaspilite is coming Jule out around September 15, 1961. Remember that date. If you have not contributed an article so far, compose, find, or tell us. DUP SHAE SHO Tolash Interanno di noi iroque loscmething which can be published in our Interante and the starsard and bulletin. availab Internamos to those who attend the shaw or fair. These licensed deniers depend upon such sales in order to recover their cost of leasing space as well as the conts of 1

All people who are members of the Ishpeming Rock & Mineral Glub whose names lare found in the alphabet between A and R and who have not contributed an article for 1961, please submit something to either of your editors by September 1. . SDABOIS.

If we do not get the needed response, we will be forced to stop publishing ."The run of botieser and sent is soltner end Jaspilite", as our club members don't sain list more spileron anours sucluques seem to be interested in their bulletin. Jand and vilragenen ton al it indi timbs had head times been duped. Jund ob ave sidd Juli The next Jaspilite will be exactly what you make it, not what the editors make At the 1961 Middent Federach there will be monitive ste itas 1. to privent Taligating on the Raisgrounds. Remember the dates-to "asing" . and the dates ping will be uncouraged the part and sugar the to Mrs. batters who, have leased more from the sheet com-September 1 - Deadline for submitting articles for the next Jaspilite, add. September 15, - Approximate date for publishing the next Jaspilite this add

The Hast Society, the Tri-County Rocks and Miny aloges Augura Etwil hard to bring you a fine Cams and Minerals Pair and any induced many reputable dealers to purchase booth space. I ask your wholehearcad cooperation in percentator, these dealers and enjoying the entire program propered for you.

T HORE TO SEE YOU IN SACTMAR, June 29-30, July 1-2, 1941

Stneezely, Moyd. Marganessa, Provident M.W.F.

May, 1961

THEORY STATES HOT SALAR

Subject: Tailgating.

By: Floyd Mortenson, President of the Midwest Federation.

It hardly seems that it should be necessary to send out a communication to the membership on the subject of "Tailgating". This is because most of our members do not indulge in this practice.

However, for the benefit of those who may be so inclined and also for the purpose of informing all members of the hazards involved, I hope to bring this thing out into the open where we can take a good look at it, examine it for what it really is and understand some of its undesirable side effects.

"Tailgating" as discussed here means the sale for cash (or credit with the intention of a future cash settlement) of materials, regularly sold by dealers, by any person who does not hold a dealers' license and who has not leased space from the show committee to persons on the grounds of an official show or gems and minerals fair and where licensed dealers are operating in space leased to them by the show committee.

When we stop to think about it, I am sure that we all realize that our gems and minerals shows and fairs receive substantial support from the commercial dealers who lease booth space and make available fine gems, minerals and other material to those who attend the show or fair. These licensed dealers depend upon such sales in order to recover their cost of leasing space as well as the costs of license fees and taxes as may be 'applicable. For this reason, it is not desirable to callow unfair competition in the form of illegal sales of similar materials from the tail gates of station wagons and from the trunks of cars parked on the show grounds.

If we do not get the needed response, wo

This practice at times has resulted in purchasers being unwittingly duped by unscrupulous persons operating from tail gates. 'Of course, to be honest about it, I admit that it is not necessarily true that all Tailgaters are unscrupulous persons. But this we do know, that people have at times been duped.

At the 1961 Midwest Federation Gems and Minerals Fair at Saginaw, I am informed that there will be positive steps taken to prevent Tailgating on the Fairgrounds. Swapping will be encouraged and a special parking lot will be open for those who wish to park and swap or trade materials from their cars. "Sales" of material will be prohibited by other than licensed dealers who have leased space from the show committee. The grounds will be adequately patrolled and due action taken against those who sell without a license contrary to the Ordinance of the City of Saginaw. It is hoped that activities between individuals will be confined to trading or swapping.

The Host Society, the Tri-County Rocks and Minerals Society have worked hard to bring you a fine Gems and Minerals Fair and have induced many reputable dealers to purchase booth space. I ask your wholehearted cooperation in patronizing these dealers and enjoying the entire program prepared for you.

I HOPE TO SEE YOU IN SAGINAW, June 29-30, July 1-2, 1961

Sincerely, Floyd Mortenson, President M.W.F.

Many recknounds, than Mandy-forset a continue of calling rocks and minerals by alchamaes, local asses, and theouroch asses. Jada is a good example. Is Aclaona, rockhounds call a greed 600, and the Jarpar, "Jade".

Subject: Rockramas in 1961. and al same alboalar maintain it and a solution of a stress of purely local addition and minicaling mames common to its stress a list of purely local addition Director. Taul solution the proper hands a common language properly based on Science. For how to should be a penalty or fine for elob mambers who call something by its wrong or should be a penalty or fine for elob mambers who call something by its wrong or should be a penalty or fine for elob mambers who call something by its wrong or should be a penalty or fine for elob mambers who call something by its wrong or should be a penalty or fine for elob mambers who call and the something by its wrong or should be a penalty or fine for elob mambers who call and the something by its wrong or should be a penalty or fine for elob mambers who call and the source of the

The Rockrama Division is happy to report that there will be at least one Rockrama in 1961. This will be held in Indianapolis, Indiana, on October 6, 7, and 8. This is a Friday, Saturday, and Sunday.

Again an active Central Region Society is planning on a good show for the Rockhounds of the Midwest Federation. This year it is the Indiana Geology and Gem Society of Indianapolis that will host the Rockrama. They plan on a full schedule of three days of interesting displays, informative speakers and programs as well as working displays.

All <u>Clubs</u> in the Federation are invited to display and participate in a show that will again make Mid-West history. As in the past two Rockramas, this will be a NON-COMPETITIVE SHOW and clubs as well as individual displays are welcome.

The show will be held in the Agricultural and Horticulture Buildings of the "Indiana State Fairgrounds in Indianapolis. Many dealers will be present with the finest examples of cutting material and specimens for you to see and purchase.

Rockramas are FUN and are a place to make New Friends and see all your acquaintances. SOCOcoo, whether you plan on displaying or just visiting, mark your calendars now and arrange a trip to Indianapolis. The Indiana Geology and Gem Socity will soon have a mailing in the hands of all M.W.F. societies inviting you to participate. If you plan to exhibit, contact either Mr. C. O. Mull, General Show Chairman, 915 E. 49th Street, Indianapolis, Indiana; or Mr. Bert Earnest, Club Exhibit Chairman, 6120 Eastridge Drive, Indianapolis, Indiana.

ROCKRAMAS are no longer new in the M.W.F. They are now a well established, well planned, and well visited show. Plan on attending and see exhibits, displays and interesting programs. Any club in the Northern or Southern Region that would like information on Rockramas and how to hold them, please contact Russ Kemp, 19 East 144th Street, Riverdale 27, Illinois.

We will look forward to seeing all our friends at the October Rockrama.

learning the many focate of thighes kein by. Heatdes the educational values and

Memphis, Tenn. A "Rocks and Minerals" exhibit by Mary Frances Bradley, 12, was the hit of a recent Junior High Science Fair. Everyone admired the bits of hornblende, amethyst, jasper, and other rocks. But what really got them was a plain piece of gravel in the center marked: "Rock from Elvis Presley's driveway."

From Have Pick Will Travel - Rohr Rockhounds, May, 1961, via The Genrock.

DURS ARE OVER-DUE!

HOW TO LEARN CORRECT MINERAL NAMES

Many rockhounds, the country over, have the negligent habit of calling rocks and minerals by nicknames, local names, and incorrect names. Jade is a good example. In Arizona, rockhounds call a green Cave Creek Jasper, "Jade".

The problem of eliminating misleading names is one for the Clubs. If each club would make a list of purely local nicknames and misleading names common to its area, and stress the proper names instead, it wouldn't be long before all rockhounds could speak a common language properly based on Science. Perhaps there should be a penalty or fine for club members who call something by its wrong name.

I well remember the time I made up my mind it was absolutely imperative to call minerals by their correct names. We were in the office of a Professor of Geology in Canada. He showed me ten gorgeous specimens of uranium, nickel, and silver ores from Canada. After identifying each one once, he said, "They are yours if you can name them all."

Often under stress people find hidden reserves to see them through. Something in my subconcious came to my rescue and I rattled off the names and claimed the specimens. But my hands were clammy and my pulse was like an astronaut's at countdown. I resolved never again to risk so much by knowing so little.

Correct, names are really easy to learn. Just like learning the names of people you make a reminder association of each specimen. Many names are self describing. "Ite" means like. "Pyr" means fire, Thus Pyrite means "resembling fire".

Some minerals are named for colory some for people, and some for places. Others for their form or some important characteristic.

What's the best way to go about learning the right names of rocks and minerals? Reading, of course, is important. But there is no substitute for seeing and studying the pecimens in person. Even well-written word pictures, and clear photographs can't familiarize you with a mineral you have never seen.

Mineral Shows are the best way of learning correct names and the true scientific side of your hobby. At these shows, many varieties, old and new, are shown. Correct labeling is a big consideration in judging of displays. Specimens displayed are top examples in crystals, color, cleavage, luster, and other physical attributes. Often the only place some of these mare pieces are every shown is at a big Gems and Minerals Fair or Show.

Every rockhound in the Midwest has a wonderful opportunity to see one of the finest groups of specimens every assembled at our own Federation Show in Saginaw on June 29, 30, July 1, and 2. This is the finest and most accurate way of learning the many facets of this big hobby. Besides the educational values and artistic beauties of such a show, there are the bonuses of new friends, rock talk, good food, entertainment, and just plan FUN.

the hit of a recent funior High Science Fair. Everyona admired the bits of hornblands, amethyst, jasper, and other rocks. But what really wanigs2 ni yoy self

By June Culp Zeitner

19 East WAth Streat, Riverdale 27, Illinois,

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DUES ARE OVER-DUE!

SKIN DIVING FOR PRECIOUS JADE

For decades, beachcombers have picked up jade pebbles on the California beaches from Crescent City south to Morro Bay. Large cobbles of jade have been, and still are, laboriously dug from beneath heavy boulders and sliding sand at each low tide by hundreds of searchers. But that's doing it the hard way. In recent years, skin divers have retrieved a tidy little harvest from the ocean bottom off Jade Cove, eighty miles south of Monterey, California.

None of the jade found here, or elsewhere on the North American continent, is the bright green material used in modern Chinese jewelry. That brilliant stone is usually jadeite, most of which comes from Burma. American jade, like that used by the ancient Chinese, is nephrite. Both types of jade come in many colors and differ only in specific gravity and very slightly, in hardness. Nephrite jade from the California coast is usually olive green to black, with varying transluscency. Some very fine light green translucent material has come from Jade Cove, but much of the green stone found on the beach is serpentine, too soft to be used as gem stone. Serpentine can be scratched with a pocket knife while nephrite cannot.

Among the pioneers in the skin diving operation at Jade Cove were Alyce and Ernest Porter of Atascadero, California, and their friend, Lawrence Thomas, from Morro Bay. It was Ernest Porter who discovered a spectacular cavern offshore from Jade Cove. The walls of this cave are solid nephrite and the floor was once strewn with boulders of the stuff. The cavern has become known to skin divers as "The Jade Room".

Like much of the California coast, the narrow beach at Jade Cove is under water at high tide and may be reached only by a treacherous switchback trail at any time. To lighten their loads, most skin divers don their rubber suits before descending to the beach, usually basing their operation at nearby Plaskett Creek Forest Camp. This camp was opened in 1958. It has over fifty camp or trailer spaces, water and clean rest rooms.

A reef of serpentine with "plates" of nephrite lies less than a half - mile offshore in about thirty-five feet of water. On clear days undersea visibility may be thirty feet or more and the jade "rock garden" is a truly beautiful sight. Jade pellets found on the beach have eroded from this underwater ledge. Following its discovery, there came a period during which the reef was blasted and plundered, but retreiving jade with mechanical equipment has since been outlawed. Thanks to the state regulatory measures which are enforced by the U.S. Forest Service Rangers, the pleasure of diving for nephrite at Jade Cove will continue for many years.

Regulations permit divers to float larger pieces of jade to the surface by means of inner tube rafts, however. A deflated tube is towed down to the ocean floor and the jade boulder is shoved onto it. Then the tube is inflated with air from a spare diving tank and the weight lifted to the surface. Floors of plywood or net protect the tubes. The rafts also serve as resting places for jade as it is brought up.

Tales of fantastic prices paid for large hunks of Jade Cove nephrite, often weighing upwards of a ton, should be taken with a grain of salt. Many huge pieces have been bubught ashore, but few have reaped any bonanza. The Porters and Thomas raised one magnificent specimen, weighing 1,300 pounds, which is on display at the Shell Shop in Morro Bay. Another gigantic piece was given to the Museum of Natural History at Santa Barbara by the diver who retrieved it.

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Skin Diving for Precious Jade (Continued)

The reason large chunks of nephrite are a drug on the market lies in the toughness of the material and the reluctance of stone workers to tackle it with expensive, large, diamond-edged saws. Both jadeite and nephrite are composed of interlocking fibers and have absolutely no cleavage lines. Consequently, jade is difficult to saw; moreover, it splinters badly when blasted of sledged.

Smaller pieces which may be slabbed on the less expensive small diamond blades used by most rockhounds are more saleable and may bring from one to five dollars per pound, depending on quality. Gem quality nephrite in slices sells for as much as two dollars per square inch. So, while no one is apt to make a fortune at Jade Cove, a day's diving there may turn out to be a holiday for free. Story by Bess and Edgar Haynes Taken from Ford Times, May, 1961, issue,

Among the pioneers in the skip diving operation at Jade Cove ware Alyce and Ernest rotter of Atasonders, Caligarited Aview Avera in I al Lewrence Thomas, from Motro Bay.

I had twelve bottles of whiskey in my cellar, and my wife told me to empty each and every bottle into the sink or else. So I said I would, and proceeded Like much of the California coast, the herrow beach at Jode Cove is under whith the I withdrew the cork from the first bottle, and poured the liquor down the sink, with the exception of one glass, which I drank. Then I withdrew the cork from the third bottle, and emptied the good old booze down the sink, with the exception of in about thisby-five feet of water one bottle, which I drank. I pulled the cork from the fourth sink, and poured the bottle down the glass, which I drank, I pulled the sink out of the next glass, and poured the bottle down the cork, which I drank. I guiled the bottle from the cork, and drank one sink and poured the rest down the glass. I drew the next cork out of my throat and goured the sink down the bottle, sinked the drink, and drank the pour. When I have everything emptied out, I steadied the house with one hand and counted the bottles and corks and glasses with the other, which were twenty-nine. To be sure, I counted again when they came around and I had seventy four. And as the house came by, I counted them all again, and finally I had all the houses and the sinks, and the corks and the glasses counted, except one house and one sink cory at much Barbara by the diver who reprieved in.

which I drank.



The Markerts and Don Steeleo opened their new rock shop on U.S. Highway 41 in Ishpeming. Seems to be the new hang. out for rockhounds nowadays.

Be sure to stop in and look around. You'll have a chance to visit with friends and talk rocks--and what better atmosphere can you ask for than rocks?

Our best wishes for success to the M & S Rock Shop!

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Marjama lists himself as a real

rockhound now. He traded a bed--mattress spring and all--for a rock! The rock? It's a beautiful large, polished greenstone. Enough to make any rockhound green with envy.

Anybody got a greenstone they'd trade for a bed? You can have your choice of beds--all of 'em if you want!

The Lee's of Waukeshaw, members of the Wisconsin Geological Society, and the LaVictoire's and deCarille's from the Minnesota Mineralogical Club joined us on the Midwest Calendar of Events fieldtrip on Saturday and Sunday, May 27 and 28. Where were the Ishpeming Rock and Mineral Club members? The article on Beryl in this issue is being submitted because of the relative interest of Beryl to collectors of this region. Beryl may be found at Randville, Michigan, and Republic, Michigan. Our Beryl is not of gem quality, but it is very interested specimen material. Please refer to Strategic Miteral Report #10-State of Michigan Geological report for information on Beryl locations.

Our sympathy is extended to Mr. Tolson Radloff on the passing of his wife, Grace.

Corundum is a recent discovery at the Beacon Mine in Champion. It was found by Clem Newman and Robert Markert and it has been positively identified by high-powered magnifying at the Research Laboratory in Ishpeming. The nicest specimen of saphire that we have seen so far is in the possession of Clem Newman.

Swante Merrila and Bud Bamford are conducting guided tours (field trips to us rockhounds) for the summer months. If you desire such a trip, arrangements can be made at the M & S Rock Shop.

ATTENTION! This is good news to all who are interested in the polishing phase of this hobby. Mr. Tolson Radloff, who taught the silversmithing class at our Midwest Federation Fieldtrip Convention, is going to teach silversmithing this summer in L'Anse at the Craft Store.

If you want to learn how, don't miss out on this!

Art and Olive Breau have visited with various club members in Ishpeming on their recent trip here. They are the people who found the coral head you have been hearing so much about. Don't forget--it's going to be on display at the Saginaw Show. Don't miss it if you go.

Dues are due. Dues are over-due. Act now

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