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J A S P I L I T E

Affiliated with the Midwest Federation
of Mineralogical and Geological Societies

THE JASPILITE

Official Publication

of the

Ishpeming Rock and Mineral Club, Inc.

December 15, 1964



Best Wishes
for a very Merry Christmas
and a Happy New Year!

EDITOR'S NOTES

This is a "different" issue of the Jaspilite, as you will discover. We do not have an article from President Roy Hansen. He spent six weeks on a special training course somewhere in the Southwest, so that's an excellent reason for not getting the article--he wasn't around to give one. He should be back home by this time, however. Hope you enjoyed yourself, Roy!

Also, due to Roy's absence, there is no "Rockin' Around" column. Several others were approached and requested to try their hands, but nothing was sent in. I missed typing it as much as you'll miss reading it.

There are no minutes of our meetings to put in the Jaspilite. Mrs. Mary Mortagne, our secretary, is going to add a pebble pup to their family and has been unable to be present. Also we understand that the Mortagnes are moving (or have already left?). Our best wishes to this fine couple. Someone has been taking the minutes at the meetings, so please don't think there aren't any--it's just that I didn't know whom I should contact.

Several articles were promised, but were never received. How about getting them in for the next issue?

New members who are also getting a pebble pup are the Galladays. Congratulations!

Several members have heard from the Weekleys. They are now residing in the Philippines and have written about this experience to us. It seems that all is not warmth and sunshine--there are geckos on the ceiling (a necessity, it seems), buckets of water just about every day, sun that burns in minutes, foods that become a luxury or unheard-of item, along with houseboys and housegirls who do just everything for you for next to nothing.

Our Christmas party was excellent as usual according to those who attended. Fine foods, fine company -- what else can you expect when rockhounds get together?

Officers, who will begin their terms in 1965, were elected at a fall meeting.

They are:

President - Marian Markert, Ishpeming
Vice-President - Lucien Hunt, Marquette
Secretary - Dave McGowan, Marquette
Treasurer - Rufus Maynard, Marquette
Publicity - Bob Markert, Ishpeming
Librarian - Leonard Lawson, Marquette
Editor - Roy Hansen, Ishpeming.

Our congratulations and best wishes to these people.

Next in this issue--Glenn Gregg deviates from the usual article by submitting the following article and the new proposed Constitution and By-Laws. Read this carefully!

Carol Kokko

ABOUT THE FOLLOWING ARTICLE

The proposed new Constitution for the Ishpeming Rock & Mineral Club, Inc., is being submitted in this copy of the Jaspilite for your review. We would like to have you read and study it, and then make comments. The final form will then be drafted and voted upon at one of our regular meetings.

The Constitution Committee has met many times redrafting, studying, and putting into shape this revision. We believe it adequately takes care of the purposes and functions of this club. There have been many arguments, suggestions, and re-appraisals, and from this the proposal has been drawn. Give it your best thinking as it will govern our actions as a club for many years!

Glenn Gregg

WILL TRADE

KONA DOLOMITE and
other fine cutting materials, rough,
from Upper Michigan for what have you?

Roy Hansen
1890 Prairie, Ishpeming

CONSTITUTION and BYLAWS

of the Ishpeming Rock and Mineral Club, Inc.

CONSTITUTION

- (1) **Name:** This club is known as the "Ishpeming Rock and Mineral Club, Inc."
- (2) **Purpose:** The purposes of this club are:
 - (a) To encourage a general interest in the earth sciences.
 - (b) To encourage an interest in various forms of lapidary and related arts.
 - (c) To educate members and the public in collecting and use of our mineral resources.
 - (d) To keep a record of mineral collecting localities in this vicinity with a listing of the minerals found, and to encourage the search for minerals not previously recorded.
 - (e) To foster good sportsmanship and promote good will in the field.
- (3) **Membership:** Membership is open to anyone interested in the purposes and objectives of this club. There are five types of membership: Junior, Senior, Family, Associate and Honorary Life.
- (4) **Officers:** The club will have the following elective officers: President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer, Librarian, Curator, Publicity Officer, and Editor.
- (5) **Executive Board:** The Executive Board consists of all the officers of the club and the past presidents who are active members as defined in the Bylaws. The Executive Board conducts all business between meetings of the club with the exception of the annual meeting.
- (6) **Meetings:** Regular meetings of the club will be held on the third Sunday of each month unless otherwise agreed upon by the Executive Board. During the summer months field trips may supplant the need of regular meetings. The annual business meeting and installation of officers will be the regular January meeting of each year. During crisis or emergency, the Executive Board is authorized to conduct the Annual Meeting by mail or other

CONSTITUTION and BYLAWS

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feasable means. A meeting may be called by petition of ten percent of the active members.

(7) Club Publication: The club publication is The Jaspilite.

(8) Dissolution: If the club dissolves, all its assets and property will be given to a local non-profit organization having parallel purposes and interest. Final action will be taken by active members.

(9) Amendments:

(a) This Constitution may be amended by a two-third's affirmative vote of the active members who are present and voting or represented by proxy at any regular meeting. Voting is done by secret ballot. Notice of proposed amendment will be sent by mail to members one month preceding the voting date and will be announced at the monthly meeting preceding the voting date.

(b) The Bylaws may be amended by majority vote of members present at any regular meeting.

BYLAWS

(1) Duties of Officers:

(a) President: The President will preside at meetings of the club; is an ex-officio member of all committees; presides at meetings of the Executive Board; and performs all such duties as are incidental to the office of the President and are properly required of him.

(b) Vice-President: In the absence of the President, is empowered to exercise all of the functions of the President. The Vice-President is Chairman of the Program Committee and is an ex-officio member of the Membership Committee and the Budget and Finance Committee.

(c) Secretary: The Secretary has charge of all papers, keeps such records, makes such reports and performs such duties as are incidental to that

CONSTITUTION and BYLAWS

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office, and properly required of him or her by the club.

(d) **Treasurer:** The Treasurer has charge of the funds of the club, conducts its banking business and keeps records of all monetary transactions. He or she must submit a report at each regular Executive Board meeting and an audited report at the Annual Meeting. The Treasurer is the Chairman of the Budget and Finance Committee.

(e) **Librarian:** The Librarian has charge of all library materials and will keep them accessible to the club members. He may appoint assistants.

(f) **Curator:** The Curator has charge of the club mineral collection and its security. He insures that all specimens donated or loaned to the club are properly identified, catalogued and placed in a locked exhibit where they will be accessible to the club members for observation and study. The Curator is the Chairman of the Curatorship Committee.

(g) **Publicity Officer:** The Publicity Officer writes and releases news and publicity for the club. He is an ex-officio member of the Education Committee.

(h) **Editor:** The Editor selects, arranges and publishes material in the Jaspilite. The Editor appoints necessary assistants.

(2) **Committees:** The President appoints the Chairmen of all Committees. He may appoint committee members with the concurrence of the chairmen concerned.

List of regular committees:

(a) **Education Committee:** The Education Committee has charge of all matters (aside from programs) pertaining to the education of the members and the public as stated in the Purposes of the Constitution.

(b) **Program Committee:** Program Committee has charge of the scheduling and presentation of programs. Plans and organizes field trips.

(c) **Budget and Finance Committee:** The Budget and Finance Committee prepares

CONSTITUTION and BYLAWS

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the annual budget for approval of the Executive Board and monitors expenditures, informs the members on the condition of funds in relation to the budget.

(d) Membership Committee: The Membership Committee directs the program of attracting new members, retaining present members.

(e) Curatorship Committee: The Curatorship Committee accepts, catalogs, identifies, exhibits and provides security for specimens loaned to or owned by the club.

(f) Fund Raising Committee: Plans programs and conducts fund raising activities. The Chairman is also ex-officio member of the Budget and Finance Committee.

(3) Election of Officers:

(a) Officers shall be elected at each October meeting by plurality vote.

(b) Two months preceding the October meeting, the President shall appoint a nominating committee of three (3) members who shall select a slate of officers from the active members. Nominations shall also be accepted for any or all offices from the floor at the Annual Election. The nominating committee shall circulate a questionnaire among members for their suggestions regarding candidates.

(c) Voting shall be by hand vote unless otherwise requested by a majority of members present. New officers shall be installed at the close of the January meeting.

(d) Upon resignation or vacancy in any of the offices, the Executive Board shall elect a member to fill such vacancy for the unexpired term, except for the Presidency.

(e) The term of each officer extends until his successor is installed unless the officer is recommended to be dismissed by a two-third's (2/3) majority vote of the Executive Committee and dismissed by a two-third's (2/3)

CONSTITUTION and BYLAWS

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majority vote of a general membership meeting.

(4) Membership:

(a) Any person may make application to this club on the regular application form, such application to be passed upon by the Executive Board.

(b) Classes of membership: There shall be five classes of memberships:

Junior Members: Ages 8 to 18 inclusive;

Senior Members: Ages 18 and upwards;

Family: Family group;

Associate Members: Out-of-town members who cannot take part in regular meetings, but would like to be associated with the Ishpeming Rock and Mineral Club, Inc.

Honorary Life Member: Someone who has contributed greatly to the benefit of the club, who is recommended and voted upon by club members. The number of Honorary members shall not exceed five per cent (5%) of the total membership.

(c) A member may be dropped for unworthy conduct by a two-third's (2/3) majority vote of the Executive Board or by regular membership. Such member will have the right to be heard in his own behalf.

(5) Quorum: A quorum at a regular meeting shall consist of twenty percent (20%) of the regular members.

(6) Dues and Fees:

(a) Individual memberships:

Initiation fee:	\$1.50
Junior	1.00 per year (no initiation fee)
Senior	2.00 per year

(b) Family membership:

Initiation fee	1.50
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CONSTITUTION and BYLAWS

- Head of Family \$2.00 per year
- Each additional member 1.00 per year, not to exceed \$5.00
- (c) Associate Membership 2.00 per year
- (d) Honorary Life Membership Honorary

Initiation fee is good for the life of the member. Dues are payable yearly at the January meeting. Any member over three months in arrears from the annual meeting date is considered delinquent. During periods of delinquency all club privileges will be revoked. Revoked membership may be re-instated by payment of current dues.

Susanne Skou

The flight from O'Hare Field to Mobile, Alabama, was uneventful, so they say. To my provincial mind it was eventful, to fly 1,000 miles in a silver ship (aluminum) 20,000 feet above the ground, through the Barth's atmosphere at 400 miles an hour and land safely at a designated spot. No dream of a magic carpet ever did so good.

We had waited impatiently to meet Susanne Skou. She had stood us up for two weeks. We liked her from the start, even though she is travel worn. She is a working girl of Danish ancestry, 56 feet across the beam, 430 feet long, 25 feet draft, and 7,050 tons weight (DW). You can feel her heart beat for M/S means motor ship with a diesel motor of 8,000 H.P. I like the throb of the big diesels. This is a working ship in the service of Alcoa Steamship Co., and she carries twelve passengers with good grace.

The working ships are the ships for us. The ships that find a way to load anything that comes along, carry the load, and deliver it to any port.

The shores of the Mobile estuary are lined with rusting hulks of ships that look as though they would never float again. They are the victims of mishaps of the sea and mistakes in planning or financing that reached a dead end. It was not a jolly sight for one who loves ships. Spare me from such a graveyard. We left Mobile half laden, proceeded through the night to the intricate Delta and up the mighty Mississippi River to dock above New Orleans where we took on many items of merchandise both bulk and packaged.

Three days had passed since our departure from Mobile as we proceeded the 90 some miles down the great river to the Gulf, loaded to the waterline. The river shores are now lined with oilwells and great industrial plants for the recovery of sulphur, lime and oil.

When I knew these river shores in 1915, there was nothing of an industrial nature except a few shrimp canneries and the

shrimp fishing fleet that worked the bayous.

The Gulf of Mexico was blue and a blue of every hue. I had to count the days to know five days had passed since we left the bay in Alabama. We met the mighty river of the Sea, the Gulf Stream where it makes up in Yucatan Channel as we headed around the west end of Cuba a good four miles from shore. Castro let us know he was watching us. A MIG Fighter plane flew over our ship in a strafing attitude. I hope Castro knows I stopped smoking his Havana cigars months ago.

We are now well below the Gulf of Mexico as we passed between the Cayman Islands (Grand and Little) on the morning of the sixth day. There are few ships that we pass as we glide across the rolling seas for beautiful days and nights. We eat, sleep, read and play, and the lovely sea is always there to wonder at. It is warm enough for straw skirts but I have not seen any as yet. There are 11 passengers and 25 in the crew. We are all on the same team and all is well.

The climate is tropical, the moon is bright upon the Caribbean Sea. We have seen the Southern Cross, and the big bright Centari stars low on the horizon. Clouds appear and suddenly there is a drenching downpour. The clouds pass and it is soon dry again. The sea is ruffled by squalls; our ship, heavily laden, rides the storms without being tossed about. The high winds blow and we must cling to some support and work our way to shelter. Sea weed floats by; there are flying fish and sea birds far from land. Now a week has rolled by.

Jamaica

The Island of Jamaica is higher, longer, wider, greener, and grander than we knew. The mountains rise out of the blue Caribbean Sea, and the sight of them is overwhelming. The Island is one hundred and forty-four miles long and forty-nine miles at the widest point. The ridges of the Blue Mountains rise to their greatest point at Blue Mountain Peak, 7,388 feet above sea level, and when you first look up toward these mountains,

THROUGH THE DRAGON'S MOUTH (Continued)

you are likely to be at or near sea level.

As you may now know, the beauty of this island leaves me speechless, but I will try to sing a few words in praise of Jamaica. The Island of Jamaica is green for this is a tropical island with the rainfall often found in the tropics. A great variety of trees and plants native to this land grow in great profusion. There are also many tropical plants and trees that have been brought here, as, for example, the Breadfruit Tree brought here by Captain Bligh of the famous ship "The Bounty." There are large areas of arable land; there are also terraced gardens on steep mountain sides. Everything grows abundantly. The crops include oranges, grapefruit, pineapples, breadfruit, bamboo, sugar cane, cashews, coconuts, kapak, copra, ackee, mangoes, bananas, and many fruits I never heard of before.

The Mongoose was imported from India to put an end to the terrible scourge of Cobras that once infested the Island. The Mongoose has also brought the rat population under control. Now the Mongoose threatens to become a pest, eating the chickens and the birds; will they have to import tigers or elephants to bring them under control?

The laws of chance seem to be suspended here for motor traffic careens in heedless fashion on the hilly, twisty, narrow roads and nothing happens. Everyone drives on the wrong side of the road as fast as the British cars will go. As passengers we became weary from pushing on the floorboard as though we had brakes underfoot.

Xamayca, meaning "Land of Streams and Forests," was history's approximation of the name of this island, and Arawak as the tribal name for the aborigines who lived here when Columbus visited the island in 1494. Columbus gave the name of "Indian" to all the natives of this land, for he mistakenly believed he had found a new route to India.

The succession of peoples that have invaded and dominated this tropical island paradise include the Arawaks and the Carib

Indians, the Spanish, the Danes, and the British. The people who now dominate the land or soon will, are the descendants of the slaves imported from Africa and exploited by the plantation owners of various national origins. So we have an island paradise where man has made life a hell for other men and women at certain periods in its history. The leaders in these depredations must include the pirates of whom Henry Morgan was one of the most infamous. One more name must be mentioned before we let the ghosts lie in whatever peace they may have found. George the third of England expelled one of his bastard sons who bore the name of George Heron, by giving him an extensive grant of land on the Island of Jamaica, so he was removed from the circles of the Crown Court of England.

At a much later period, in 1943, 35,000 acres of this grant became the property of Alcan, Aluminum Company of Canada. We visited the ancient house of George Heron which still stands in disrepair near Williamsfield. We also visited the Alcan quarries and refinery in this vicinity. The property owned by Alcan was purchased for the bauxite. This is the ore from which aluminum is produced. The bauxite is in irregular pockets of all sizes and shapes for a depth of a few feet to over a hundred feet. These pockets of bauxite are deposited in cavities in the limestone rock which forms most of the surface rock of the island by some process still under discussion and study. I will not venture any opinion on this natural process for many sure enough geologists have stumbled over this one. We will know all about it when Mr. Ron Anderson, chief geologist for Alcan writes his book based on eight years in these formations. Mr. Anderson was kind enough to take us on a red carpet tour or red earth tour of the properties and mills, in the company Land Rover. The bauxite is the reddest thing there is on earth. Commercial alumina is refined from it in the mill and then shipped around the world from Port Esquivel.

We sustained courage enough to embark on a perilous journey of crossing the island by car on the twisty mountain roads, driving of course on the wrong side, with the chance you might meet another car coming

THROUGH THE DRAGON'S MOUTH (Continued)

at you, at the fastest speed possible.

Kingston was our starting point. We passed Half Way Tree, (half way to heaven, that is) Constant Spring, and up to Stony Hill where we had a gorgeous view of much of the Island and Kingston Harbor, and Port Royal, the pirate Morgan's wicked city. We stopped at Castleton Gardens, an arboretum of tropical plants and trees, where a guide informed us of many growths such as the strychnine trees, the hummingbird's drinking cup and others strange to us.

We crossed the ridge of the Blue Mountains which rise to over 7,000 feet and then descended to the north side of the island following the course of the Wag River, passing through many small native villages and the plantations of Banana Palms, Coconut Palms, and the fields of sugar cane.

The north shore is the resort area where \$50-a-day private clubs and motels are to be found. We passed them by, for they were not for the likes of us. We are just kids from the hills (Clarendon Hills) in these surroundings. Nothing but the people who frequent these places could detract from the beauty of the shores, beaches and hills of this tropical island.

Driving further west along the coast we came to a most beautiful scene at Roaring River Falls on Dunns River. The river here cascades over great travertine boulders in a succession of waterfalls with pools between the cascades. Here the native populace was playing in the pools and waterfalls. Boys and girls of all ages and many different racial strains were enjoying themselves at play. Their costumes were brief, colorful, some improvised and insecure. The scene would have stopped all traffic, if you could reproduce it on the Lake Shore Drive in Chicago.

Returning across the mountains and valleys we ascended a deep ravine called Fern Gully. At some period in geological history, a mountain stream had cut this gorge and then found some other course to the sea (probably subterranean) through the limestone strata. A great profusion of ferns and fern trees formed a bower of cool

shade that excluded most of the sunlight. A road had been made in the bed of the stream, a twisty windy uphill road that was a delight to follow.

Jamaica was discovered by Columbus on May 3, 1494. Columbus returned to Jamaica in 1505 and stayed here for 2 years as his ships were no longer seaworthy. How did he get back to Spain and prison?

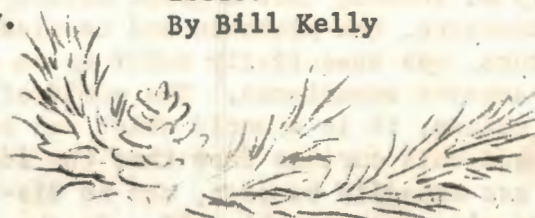
The Susanne Skou was docked in Jamaica for a week, first at Kingston on May 25, 1964, and then at the nearby port of Esquivel for the unloading of Cargo. We had not expected to spend more than three days total in these ports, but tropical downpours of warm but very wet rain delayed operations. These delays were trying for our Captain Carl, some of the crew and a few of the passengers. The rest of the passengers enjoyed all of the time in this strange and exotic island in the middle of the Caribbean Sea.

We were visited repeatedly when in Port Esquivel by the largest alligator one could imagine this side of a bad dream. He would float by the ship without a ripple, impelled by his submerged claws. When the crew were painting the ship's sides from rafts and platforms suspended from slings, he would glide by seemingly intent on taking an inventory, or just working up an appetite. We decided he lived in a swamp nearby with a small stream connecting it to the sea. On the map it was Alligator Pond.

There was much discussion on board the Skou as to whether he was an alligator or a crocodile or some other relic of the age of reptiles. The matter was settled once and for all time by Wylma. As we finally pulled away from the dock and headed toward the blue Caribbean Sea, Wylma waved toward the shore where the small stream met the sea, and called out, "See you later, Alligator."

To be continued in the next issue.

By Bill Kelly



HAVE YOU EVER WONDERED WHY PRECIOUS STONES ARE PRECIOUS?

I have one of those questions which children ask of their parents and which leaves them completely stumped--a question like, Why is grass green? This question is: Why are precious stones precious? It is very peculiar, when you think of the subject. Why should human beings have spent an immense amount of time, energy and money in collecting coloured pebbles? There is no conceivable economic value in this and they are rather pretty in their way, but it seems very strange that this enormous amount of energy should have been put forth on the collection of precious stones, and also that such an immense mythology and folklore, as has arisen and been crystallized around precious stones, should have ever come into existence.

Why should precious stones have always been regarded as extremely precious? Well, this question was asked some fifty years ago by the distinguished American philosopher, George Santayana, and he came up with this answer. He said, I think, that they are precious because, of all objects in this world of transience, this world of perpetual perishing, they seem to be the nearest to absolute permanence; they give us, so to say, a kind of visible image of eternity or unchangeableness. Well, I think there is something in this answer, but I don't think it goes back far enough; I don't think it goes to the most important psychological factor which determines the preciousness of precious stones. And here I shall quote from another philosopher of antiquity, Plotinus, the great neoplatonic philosopher, who in a very interesting and profoundly significant passage says, "In the intelligible world, which is the world of platonic ideas, everything shines; consequently, the most beautiful thing in our world is fire."

This remark is significant in several ways. First of all, it interests me profoundly as showing that a great metaphysical structure, the platonic and neoplatonic structure, was essentially built up on a quasi-sensory experience. The world of Ideas shines, it is a world which can be seen; and this curious fact that the ideal world can actually be seen, can be discovered also in Plato himself. In the

Phaedo, Socrates speaks about the post-humous world to which good men go after they are dead, and it is rather difficult from the dialogue itself to make out whether this is simply a paradise world, or whether it is also in a sense the world of Ideas. But anyhow, what Socrates says about this world--which he calls the other earth--is again that in this other earth everything shines, that the very stones of the road and on the mountains have the quality of precious stones; and he ends up by saying that the precious stones of our earth, our highly valued emeralds, rubies, and so on, are but infinitesimal fragments of the stones which are to be seen in this other earth; and this other earth, where everything is brighter and clearer and more real than in our world, is, he says, a vision of blessed beholders. Well, here again is another indication that a great metaphysical idea, the platonic Idea, the platonic system of an ideal world, is also based upon a world of vision. It is a vision of blessed beholders, and I think we now begin to see why precious stones are precious; they are precious because in some way they remind us of something which is already there in our minds. They remind us of this paradisaical, more-than-real world which sometimes is glimpsed consciously by some people and which I think most people have had slight glimpses of, and which we are all, in some obscure way, aware of on an unconscious level. And as Plotinus says, it is because of the existence of this other world, this luminous other world, that the most beautiful thing on earth is fire.

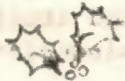
Now it is an interesting fact that we still speak about diamonds having fire, that the most precious, most valuable diamonds are those with the greatest amount of fire, and the whole art of cutting diamonds is of course the art of making them as brilliant as possible and making them show off the greatest amount of fire within. And indeed it can be said that all precious stones are in a sense crystallized fire. It is very significant in this context that we find that in the Book of Ezekiel, where he is describing the Garden of Eden, he says it is full of stones of fire--which are simply precious stones--so that we see, I think quite definitely, that the reason

HAVE YOU EVER WONDERED WHY PRECIOUS STONES ARE PRECIOUS? (Continued)

why precious stones are precious is precisely this, that they remind us of this strange other world at the back of our heads to which some people can obtain access, and to which some people are given access spontaneously.

from an article by Aldous Huxley
contributed by R. K. Richards

* * *



COLORED DIAMONDS

Diamonds are usually thought of as being white, transparent, or as the opaque, dark-colored "borts" or "carbons" known as "black diamonds" which are used for industrial and manufacturing purposes, but they appear in almost every color. Perhaps because the "water-white" or "first-water" diamonds are the rarest when perfect and free from flaws, they have become the most highly valued. But as far as actual beauty is concerned they are not comparable to many of the canary, cinnamon, pink, green or blue diamonds. When these are large and perfect, they are more valuable than pure white stones of the same size. One such stone is the famous Hope diamond which has sometimes been declared a sapphire.

In British Guiana, two Negro diamond miners found a very large crystal of a rich red color. One insisted it was a red diamond, the other was equally positive it was some other stone. The man who held to the diamond theory reminded his partner that diamonds often were covered with a "skin" of a dull red, brown, or gray color and that a diamond merchant in Georgetown could remove this. But the other was not to be convinced. It would be a simple matter to prove whether the stone was a diamond, he declared, for diamonds were known to be the hardest of all materials. If the stone was a diamond it could not be broken by striking it with a hammer, and if it was not a diamond and was smashed there would be no loss. The other agreed to the test and the stone was struck a sharp blow with a hammer, breaking it into countless tiny fragments. This was to be expected, for while diamonds are the hardest of stones,

they are very brittle and are composed of many layers of pure crystallized carbon. As a result a diamond may be broken very easily and there are numerous instances of diamonds "exploding" or flying into countless fragments of their own accord, due to some internal strain or stress.

However, the Negroes, ignorant of this property of the stones they were seeking in the gravel bed of the stream were perfectly satisfied that the red stone was some valueless crystal. But it was such an odd and pretty thing that one of the two saved a few of the larger fragments with the idea of taking them to the city to find out what the stone was. Imagine his chagrin when he was told that he and his partner had smashed a thirty carat diamond of almost priceless value owing to its unique color!

from a book by A. Hyatt Verrill
contributed by Carol Kokko

* * *



"These rockhounds!...These amateurs! Always use their 'extras' to build fancy fireplaces and then leave those jagged rocks sticking out on the inside. Loose a suit every year that way."

N-BLAST CREATES NEW MINERAL

Creation of man-made minerals by the fire and fury of an American underground nuclear blast was reported Thursday, March 7, 1963. And by ironic coincidence one of them is believed to be the artificial counterpart of muscovite--a form of mica first found in nature many years ago by the Russians. Others included various lead containing minerals.

This nuclear-age variation of alchemy was reported by Leonard M. Gard of the geological survey who said it resulted as an unusual by-product of the Atomic Energy Commission's Project Gnome. This was the detonation of a nuclear device packing the wallop of 3,000 tons of TNT 1,200 feet below the surface in a thick salt deposit southeast of Carlsbad, New Mexico, on December 10, 1961.

Experts of the AEC said it was doubtful if the new finding, of itself, would lead to industrial applications of blast-created minerals. They said the types of minerals that can be created in a salt environment, like the site of the Gnome blast, are apparently limited, but the work demonstrates beyond doubt that strange chemical transformations can be achieved beneath the ground by the high pressures and temperatures of nuclear blasts and that conceivably:

(1) Such blasts in materials richer in chemical elements than ordinary salt--for example, in limestone, which contains nearly a dozen basic chemical elements--might well lead to "something new and useful" in the industrial line.

(2) Chemicals now used in industry might be placed inside a blast site prior to a detonation and converted into entirely new products having different applications.

Gard, a geologist employed at the Denver branch of the geological survey, was one of a group who studied the Gnome site before and after the blast.

In a report in the technical journal Science, he said the blast produced veins of "black salt containing (man-made) minerals created by the blast" and that the veins resembled ore-bearing veins seen in

western mining camps.

The minerals included such things as:
(1) Quartz and mica derived from impurities which are present in the pre-shot salt and were caused to fuse with other chemicals under great heat and pressure.
(2) Lead minerals, such as lead hydroxide chloride and lead sulfide--with the lead coming from the melting of lead blocks used in the shot area to measure effects of the detonation. The molten lead then combined with chemicals in the salt.

Referring to the mica, Gard said studies showed it to be a "micaceous mineral--probably muscovite."

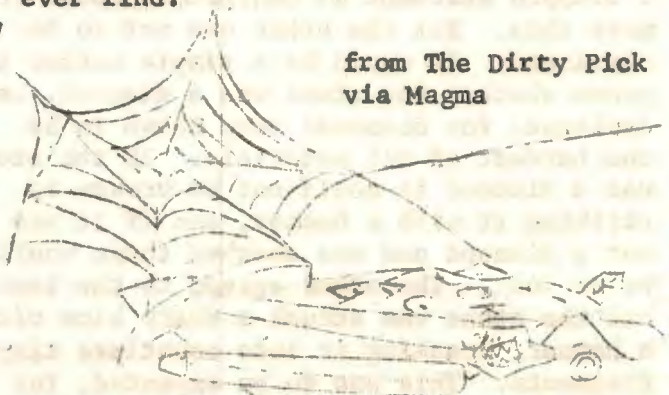
Washington Report
Via the Pick and Shovel
contributed by Domenica Carlyon.

* * *

RECIPE :

Take a tree (size depends on the size pot you've got), cover with water, stir it around a mite 'till it's saturated and sinks to the bottom (say about 600 to 800 years). Now add a smidgeon of silica and about that much manganese, and a pinch of iron for a purty color. Now drop on top of it a few layers of assorted sediments--anything handy layin' around the place--about 3000 feet of junk. Let it set for two to five million years--take yer time--the longer the better. Now drain off the water and set it out in the sun. Now take a few fair sized cyclones, turn 'em on full force all at once. Repeat this stunt until the sediments is all blowed off. The result will be as purty a piece of gem material as you will ever find.

from The Dirty Pick
via Magma





JEWELRY SOLDERING

Common errors are--

Balling of solder - improper fluxing, dirt, insufficient heat, flame concentrated on solder pellets rather than on base metal.

Solder pops off - poor or dirty flux, pre-heating too fast.

Solder won't flow into joints - Dirt or oxides in joint, insufficient fluxing, uneven heat.

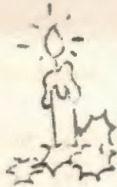
Solder seams show - poor fitting, not enough heat, too much solder.

Solder joint breaks - poor fitting, not enough solder, not enough heat to cause bond.

Lumping or solder - not enough heat and fluxing.

Base metal fuses - too much heat, solder too high fluxing.

From The Template
contributed by Bob Markert



SOLID AS THE ROCK OF GIBRALTER



How many times we've heard that expression. Yet, did you know that Gibraltar is far from solid? It is filled with natural caverns. Not even the British garrison which has Gibraltar knows all the caves. Two British soldiers disappeared in mammoth St. Michael's Cave and were never heard of again.

There are many fascinating legends about the origin of the apes which abound on the Rock of Gibraltar. According to one, England will continue her rule of Gibraltar only as long as the apes remain.

Why, then, is this mighty rock, which juts 1400 feet out of the sea, called solid? I imagine that's because of its strategic position--it controls the entrance of shipping to and from the Mediterranean Sea a symbol of strength.

Carol Kokko

Scott Markert heard just recently that the Rock of Gibraltar is going to be moved to France where it will be renamed DeGaul Stone!

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