

Sept 69

T H E



J A S P I L I T E

Affiliated with the Midwest Federation
of Mineralogical and Geological Societies

OFFICIAL P UBLICATION

of the

ISHPEMING ROCK AND MINERAL CLUB, INC.

Published quarterly

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DEADLINES: Jaspi-Lighter-Articles must be in by the 15 of each month.
Jaspilite---March 1, June 1, Sept. 1, and Dec. 1.

MEMBERSHIP: The Ishpeming Rock and Mineral Club, Inc. is open to any one interested in the "Earth Sciences".
Initiation Fee \$1.50
Husband and Wife 3.00
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OUR PURPOSE

To enjoy, to learn, to teach and to conserve
The rocks, the gems the fossils and ores

To collect, to admire, to brag and to show
The material we've found we'll trade for yours.

Don't forget to save your Betty Crocker coupons, and stamps, give them to Marian Markert.



JUST A ROCK

BY Barbara Thatcher
via The Gemrock

While walking down a rocky road
I spied a rock that interested me
As I stopped and picked it up,
My friend, who stood beside me, said,
"Whatever will you do with that dirty old thing??
It's just a rock."

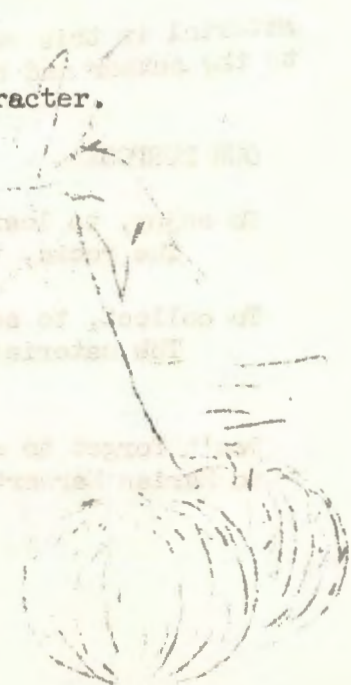
It wasn't pretty. It was gray and scarred
And full of pits and lumps and holes.
It didn't fit my pocket
So I held it in my hand.
"I think you're crazy," my friend laughed. "That ugly thing
Is just a rock!"

Being used to such remarks, I smiled,
And we walked on.
I knew the secret of that rock--
A secret well-kept for a million years.
When we reached home I bade my friend
To look and watch in silence
As I took a sledge and chisel and hit the rock.
One sharp blow and a miracle unfolded,
My friend gasped and a tear came to my eye,
For what had been ugly and gray and "just a rock"
Had yielded forth a myriad of sparkle.
No million-dollar diamond could be more perfect,
Nor glisten and shimmer more
Than the exquisite perfection of those--crystals--
Quartz and calcite and bubbly chalcedony.

My friend, no longer laughing, said,
"How did you know?" and I replied,
"Each rock has its own beauty and personality and character.
Many times the loveliness is hidden deep inside.
Partially or all,
And we never know what miracle each rock holds
Until we CARE enough to search for it."

"I see," said my friend, "Yes, I see."
So no rock is "just a rock".
And I answered, "yes,
And no man is "Just a Man".

"ONLY A FEW COLLECTING DAYS LEFT BEFORE WINTER"!!



YOUR PRESIDENT SPEAKS

In this issue of the Jaspilite, I would like to report on the 2nd. Upper Peninsula Gem and Mineral Show held at Calumet, August 7, 8 & 9th. If I make critical comments they are intended to be constructive and be of help to others in the future.

First let me say that the show was very successful from the standpoint of attendance. I don't know what the total was but it appeared that there were many more people than at Ishpeming the previous year. The location had much to do with this. The building was prominent, easy to find, plenty of parking available and a large sign out front. The large attendance made the show successful for the commercial dealers. There were nine fine commercial displays and all seemed to be doing good business.

The most disappointing aspect of the show was the very small number of personal exhibits, both competitive and non-competitive. At the Ishpeming Show there were about 62 competitive displays, at Calumet, the last count I got was 21. Most people are rockhounds because they enjoy the beauty of minerals and gemstones and most of us like to have people see and appreciate our displays but when the opportunity arises to exhibit our materials where large numbers of people could see them, very few take advantage of the shows. I actually had thought that after the success of the First U.P. Show that there would be at least twice as many displays at the second show. As a point of interest, in competition, there were four personal displays from the Ishpeming Club, one from Crystal Falls, at least two from Munising, and four (I think) from Escanaba. So even the host club was not well represented.

WINNERS: We were not able to get all of the winners in each class but the host club supplied five champion ribbons, one for each division. The winners of these ribbons were.

Open Division - John Tuchowski of the Iron River Club.

Mineral Division - Albert E. Murray of the Escanaba Club.

Lapidary Division - Bernard R. Smith from the Ishpeming Club.

Jewelry Division - Lillian B. Sarazin of the Copper Country Club.

Fossil Division - Kenneth R. Smith of the Ishpeming Club.

The Copper Country Rock and Mineral Club is to be congratulated on a job well done and a fine show. At last report the Escanaba Club is planning to host the third U.P. Rock and Mineral Show. It is my sincere hope that everyone will start planning now to support this effort, and let's get those individual displays out of the basement and into the show where everyone can see and enjoy them.

Bernie Smith

MIDWEST FEDERATION OF MINERALOGICAL & GEOLOGICAL SOCIETIES
1972 FIELD TRIP CONVENTION

to be hosted by the Ishpeming Rock & Mineral Club Inc.

The Midwest Federation of Mineralogical & Geological Societies has accepted the Ishpeming Rock & Mineral Clubs bid to host the 1972 Field Trip Convention. The Ishpeming Rock & Mineral Club, Inc. recently extended an invitation to The Midwest Federation to hold the 1972 Field Trip Convention in Ishpeming. Club delegates, Mr. & Mrs. Vernon Miljor of Gwinn extended a personal invitation to the group at its Annual Meeting in Murdo South Dakota. "We are extremely happy that this honor has been given to our Rock & Mineral Club. We shall invite other U.P. Clubs to become part of this field trip management as we feel that an undertaking of this size will have to include the whole U.P." Murdo South Dakota was the site of the 1969 Convention which attracted over 3,000 enthusiasts. "We felt that 2,000 persons would be a reasonable amount to expect in 1972 but at the rate of increased interest our numbers may exceed the 3,000 that went to Murdo." The Ishpeming Rock & Mineral Club Inc. hosted the 1960 convention in Ishpeming with so many favorable comments and requests for another one in this area, our club members decided to try it again and that is why the invitation was submitted. In 1960, 806 persons registered for the trips. Three years later in Hibbing the ranks had swollen to almost fifteen hundred. The Houghton convention in 1966 attracted in the neighborhood of 2,000 collectors. The 1969 Field Trip Convention at Murdo, South Dakota drew in excess of 3,000 persons.

We feel that we shall have to use the facilities of Ishpeming-Negaunee and Marquette in arranging for and holding this huge convention.

At least half of the 3,000 persons will be using campers, trailers, and tents while they are in the area, and that means about 1,500 persons will be filling the motels, hotels and cottages of Marquette County. The campers may present problems but we do hope that some temporary arrangements may be made where accommodations will be adequate and appropriate.

Our club hasn't wasted any time as they have already named as General Chairman, Bob Markert, and important planning meetings will take place this fall. At least four persons will serve on the Steering Committee and we shall be naming at least a dozen chairmen in the very near future.

These rockhounds will return to this area year after year providing they like what they see and do in 1972. It is my intention that this area will go all out to make this the Best Field Trip ever held.

Your comments and support at this time will be appreciated. Do you have any suggestions for me to follow?

C. R. Markert

ED. NOTE: As I do not have a report on the Murdo Convention, be sure to read the September Midwest Federation's Newsletter "Convention Highlights".

A smile is a curve that can set many things straight. via Crystal Cluster.

LEGEND OF THE METEOR

by--Jim White

Some time ago there was a statement in the daily paper stating "It has often been remarked that thousands of people live in New York, and have never seen the Statue of Liberty, while relatively few tourists visit the city without seeing this historical monument." It seems to be true in our Upper Peninsula.

There is an outstanding tombstone in a little grave yard in a little hamlet called Wisula, on road M-35 leading from Baraga to Lake Mine. Legend has it that it was a meteor, and during a church service one night it dropped from the sky into this little church yard, illuminating the whole country side, and frightening all the inhabitants. It was supposed to have come down so fast that it formed a tear drop shape. The stone was so hard that a number of tools were ruined in trying to carve it. This is the Legend as I heard it.

On July 12, 1969, Fern and I went to Ontonagon and seeing the stone decided to take a look at it. It was rather outstanding, and we saw the carving on the stone (Simi 1846-1930).

We thought we would try and learn the true story of its origin. We started to look for some of the old timers. We stopped at a farm house about a quarter of a mile from the church and learned that the Simi farm was down the road about two miles in the little community of White. It was off highway -35, about a mile. We missed the first road and took a road called China road. It was a round-about way, but we arrived at the same destination. The scenery was beautiful. We stopped a number of places to enquire our way and were very interested in the local conversations. The China road led us three or four miles through woods and hills but did come to the Simi farm.

As I went to the Simi house, an attractive young woman came to the door. I identified myself and explained what I wanted. She informed me that her husband was working in the back field, and that he was a grandson of the lady that was buried in the grave where the stone had been placed. She informed us that her husband would be in, in an hour and would be there all afternoon.

As we were on our way to Ontonagon, we promised to stop back later in the day. This we did and talked to Mr. Erwin Simi and a neighbor of his. We became very interested in the real story of the stone, and other historical places around the community.

They told us the meteor was found in one of their fields, and was buried about a foot below the surface of the ground.

Scientists have expressed the belief; it did not fall on the Simi farm, but was brought there by Glacier. It was uncovered in 1902 and later installed in the cemetery.

cont.

Legend of the Meteor:

Mr. Simi told me that the inscription was sand blasted on the large stone in 1930 and that the stone could have been sold for a sum of money at that time. It does have the form of a teardrop and is a wonderful memorial. The one who sleeps beneath it will never be forgotten.

The Simis were very accomidating, and friendly people. The talk with them was very interesting and rewarding. We learned of Silver Mountain, Limestone Mountain and their locations. More about them later.

It was truly an interesting trip!

Ed. note: We will looking forward to an article from Jim on Silver and Limestone Mountains.

* * * * *

NATURE'S SCULPTURES HUNTED

A small but growing band of prospectors has been poking into the steep bluffs on a stretch of beach along Lake Superior looking for concretions, rounded masses of mineral matter found in banks of clay and fine sand.

The concretions, experts say, may be as old as 20,000 years. But, they admit, the objects might be considerably younger, too. Some may still be in the process of formation.

Concretions are defined as mineral matter built particle by particle in concentric layers by circulating waters. An object different from surrounding material forms a nucleus around which water precipitates silica, calcite or an iron compound.

Their size varies widely. Some are as small as a pea, others the size of a softball. Many are almost perfect spheres. Some have protuberances or attached globules. A few are nearly flat, with one side--or sometimes both--looking like a bas-relief carving.

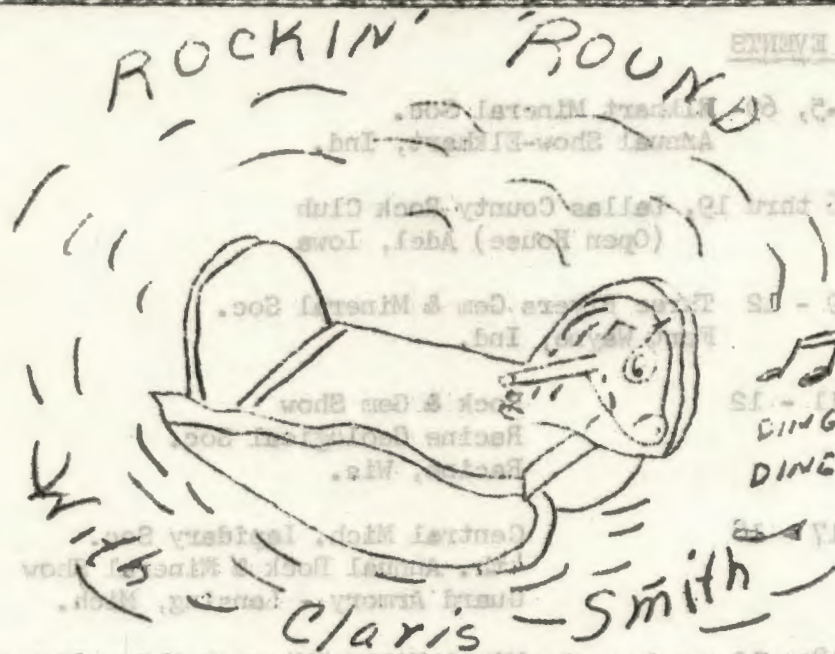
They are found primarily along two miles of lakeshore east of Odanah at the Bad River Indian reservation in Ashland county. via Milwaukee Journal

* * * * *

HINTS from Exchange bulletins:

A rectangular vacuum cleaner bag makes a good filter for reclaiming oil from your saw. At first the oil filters through it in six to eight hours, but, slows as the bag fills with sludge. The oil comes out clear and ready to use again. via the Template

When working with soft stone--as alabaster, marble, or onyx--soak it in water a day or so before cutting in oil. The oil won't soak in and later, when polishing, a better finish will result. via The Crystal Gazette



We hear a number of our members have been in and out of the hospital during the summer. Fern White, Edith and Ray Anderson, Helen Nelson, Mary Schenk and Tim Hughes, son of Doris Hughes. We wish them all a Speedy Recovery.

The Club offers its sympathy to Virginia and Stanley Long who lost their son this summer.

We also hear that the Werner Wurfel family from Ravenna, Michl, members of the Ishpeming Club, are on a color tour in the Copper Country.

FIELD TRIP:

On Sunday afternoon, October 12, Bob Markert will guide a field trip to _____? That's to be a surprise! The group is to meet at 1:00 P.M. at Eagle Mills school house. Members will be called again.

Thirty two members and guests turned out for Jarl Kivela's trip after Quartz Crystals. We hear that all were well rewarded. We wish to thank Jarl for a very well organized trip. A good time was had by all!

Our thanks again to the members who have contributed to the Jaspilite. It's your material that makes it a CLUB bulletin. We would like to hear from every one of you, about your personal experiences and trips in the rock hobby.

PLEASE HELP! Bring or, mail all articles, including committee reports to me every month.



COMING EVENTS

Oct. 4-5, 69- Elkhart Mineral Soc.
Annual Show-Elkhart, Ind.

Oct., 6 thru 19, Dallas County Rock Club
(Open House) Adel, Iowa

Oct., 9 - 12 Three Rivers Gem & Mineral Soc.
Fort Wayne, Ind.

Oct., 11 - 12 Rock & Gem Show
Racine Geological Soc.
Racine, Wis.

Oct., 17 - 18 Central Mich. Lapidary Soc.
4th. Annual Rock & Mineral Show
Guard Armory - Lansing, Mich.

Oct., 18 - 19 Miami Valley Mineral & Gem Club
Annual Show. Fairburn, Ohio

Oct., 25 - 26 Flint Rock & Gem Club
Gem & Mineral Show
Bella Vista Mall
Grand Blanc, Mich.

Oct., 25 - 26 Grant Geological Soc.
Annual Gem & Mineral Show
4-H Grounds, Marion, Ind.

Nov. 1 - 2 Gem & Mineral Show
Light Guard Armory
4400 E. Eight Mile Rd.
Detroit, Mich.

Bauxite is pronounced BEAU-zite, not bawxite.

Geothite is pronounced GER-tite, not gay-tite (you can hardly hear the "r").

Beryl is pronounced BARE-ill not barl.
It's spelled pyrolusite, not pyrolucite.

Oolite is pronounced oh-oh-lite not ooh-lite.

Prehnite is pronounced PRAY-nite not PRE-nite.

Psilomelane is pronounced sigh-LOM-ee-lane.

Gneiss is pronounced NICE not niece.
via - The Geode



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dear Fellow Members:

Have always enjoyed your fine Newsletter. My husband and I are certainly planning on attending your M.W.F. Field Trip (72 is it?) We enjoyed the one at Houghton and this years so much.

Velma M. Dugan
past editor--Serendity Gems.

Dear Mrs. Smith:

Just a note to tell you we has some of your members on our bus at the Murdo Convention. My husband and I were guides and we had the Bemis, Meljour and Sunday families on our bus. They certainly were wonderful people, we have even had a letter from the Sundays since. Give our regards to these families, we hope we meet again someday.

Sincerely

Mr. & Mrs. George Fuchs
708 N. Edmunds
Mitchell, S.Dak. 57301

It was nice hearing from these people and we do hope we have the pleasure of meeting them soon, perhaps at the 1972 convention!!

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HUGH FOSSIL FOUND

via Crystal Cluster

A story from the Chicago Tribune reveals the discovery of the fossil bones of a prehistoric condor with a wing span of 18 feet. This is believed to be the largest bird fossil ever to be found. The find was made by Dr. Theodore Downs, a geologist at the Los Angeles county museum, in the Anza-Borrego desert in California. Dr. Downs has headed a 10 year fossil study in this area.

GENE R FARRINGER

The world is divided into two classes, those who go ahead and do something, and those who sit still and inquire, "Why wasn't it done the other way?"

Oliver Wendell Holmes

An old Indian Chief was on his first visit to a city and wandered into the lobby of a skyscraper. Just then an elderly woman stepped into a small room with a sliding door, a light flashed, the door closed and she was gone. A few minutes later the light flashed again, the door opened and out stepped a beautiful blonde. "UGH" ! muttered the old chief to himself, "should have brought squaw". The Toledo via-Sooner Rockologist

Be careful about calling yourself an expert. An ex is a "has-been" and a spurt is just a drip under pressure! Peru YMCA Rocks & Mineral Club

THE TRAGEDY OF A COPPER MINE

Minerals Metals and Gems by Verrill
via Gems-via Crystal Cluster

Kespi Cuyoc was an Indian who lived in the little village of Chuquikuma, nestled in a narrow canyon-like valley of the Andes. He had his own burrow in the copper mountain which he worked every day, as did hundreds of other men in the valley. Kespi was one of the better miners, as no other miner secured so much of the copper, or as many bits of turquoise as he had. Not that this mattered, for all copper and turquoise obtained went into the common lot. Even in the days of the Incan Empire, the only form of government was communistic; the miners knew no other way of life.

Dozens of other men were already on their way to their burrows this one particular morning. They were strong, stockily-built, brown-skinned fellows; their thick black hair bobbed and bound with fillets of woven cotton, their feet thrust into rope-soled sandals and clad only in breech-cloths, and a poncho to protect them from the chill of the morning air.

Despite his ineffective stone tools, he slowly, but steadily, burrowed farther into the mountain. As quitting time approached, Kespi dislodged a mass of friable malachite and revealed a great lump of dull reddish copper. Elated at such a find as an end to his day's work, Kespi pried and hammered at the protruding edge of the tough metal. Soft and malleable, it could not be broken and it was impossible to say how far it extended into the rock. Anxious to secure the prize before he quit work, Kespi swung his stone maul with all his strength.

It was the last blow he ever struck. As the heavy stone hammer hit the mass of copper there was a grinding crash, and before Kespi realized what had happened, the tunnel caved in and he was buried under countless thousands of tons of rocks.

Years passed. Kespi and his tragic end had been forgotten. Strange bearded white men clad in steel and carrying fearsome weapons that spit fire and death had overrun the land. The Empire was no more. Searching for the gold they all but worshipped, the Spaniards penetrated to the valley where the village of Chuquikuma still nestled amid its green fields in the shadow of the copper mountain.

The conquerors cared nothing for copper. In pure wantonness they devastated the Indians' fields, razed their homes and enslaved those of the inhabitants who did not succeed in escaping to the fastnesses of the neighboring mountains.

Centuries passed. The valley lay deserted. All traces of vegetation had vanished. Only the crumbling remains of adobe houses and walls and the neglected dried-up irrigation ditches remained a mute evidence that human beings had once dwelt there.

Then one day more white men entered the valley. Instead of weapons they carried gleaming steel tools, and as if by magic a town sprang into
cont.

The Tragedy of a Copper Mine--cont.

existence; a railway wound its way from the distant seacoast to the copper mountain. Great mills rose mushroom-like where once the Indian's fields had been, and the air was filled with the din of locomotive whistles: the rattle and clank and roar of machinery, was punctuated by the dull reverberations of blasting. Thousands of tons of the mountainside came thundering and crashing down as the exploding dynamite tore great gaps in the ore.

As a mine boss examined a rich vein of ore uncovered by a blast, he made a strange and gruesome discovery. Protruding from the broken rock was a human leg, the foot covered by a rope-soled sandal.

Carefully the rock was cleared away to disclose the body of a man clad in a scanty breech-cloth, an Indian beyond question. Beside him was a sack half-filled with native copper and lumps of high grade ore. Still gripped in his dead fingers was the wooden handle of a heavy stone hammer. Lying on his side, one knee drawn up, the man lay just as death had descended swiftly upon him. How that death had come was obvious for his head and body were crushed by the weight of the stone, which had caved in upon him. But otherwise the body was in perfect condition. Perfect because it had turned to stone. Through the centuries that had passed, the water, seeping through the crevices of the ore, had deposited its mineral contents in the skin and flesh of the corpse until the body became a solid mass of copper. Kespi had been found. After centuries within the mountain, he had been brought forth to the light of day, and ancient copper miner transformed to copper.

Today the strangely-preserved body of Kespi Cuyoc rests in a glass case in the American Museum of Natural History in New York City. Still wearing his loin-cloth, still holding the shaft of his stone hammer, with his sack of copper beside him, he lies there just as he was, when overtaken by the tragedy of a thousand years ago.

MALACHITE from Gem Scoop via-Pick & Shovel

Treasured for ages because of it's intense green color and interesting circular markings, malachite is easy to work but difficult to polish. The hardness is 3.5 to 4, composition is a basic carbonate of copper. Both malachite and azurite are associated with minerals of similar origin, such as cuprite, native copper and iron oxide.

Alternate bands of pale to dark green indicate places where malachite varies in density darker portions are denser and easier to polish. Because it breaks readily along the fibrous grain, cabochons are cut thicker to lend strength to the stone. It is heat sensitive but care in dopping prevents fractures.

Malachite, being a soft stone grinds easily. It can be entirely sanded on a 400 grit cloth using plenty of water, to produce a high gloss. It undercuts when polished on felt or cloth. Polish on leather with Linde A or chrome oxide. If a higher polish is desired, finish by cont.

Malachite: cont.

hand on clean leather dipped in a thin suspension of water and chrome oxide, to which a little soap has been added.

STAUROLITES

"Crystal Tears of the Fairies"

There are many stories told of the origin of staurolites, but my favorite is the one that follows. It's an interesting one and can well be used when talking to groups of school children or non-rock hounds. Those hearing it are likely to always remember the staurolite and to have a mental association with this geologic wonder.

Many many long years ago--even before the Indians roamed about the country in the Blue Ridge Mountains of Virginia--good fairies gathered sunbeams in the daylight hours, and adorned themselves with moonbeams as they danced at night.

One day the fairies were at a fountain filling some jars with water when a tired and weary traveler stopped to rest. Being good fairies, they provided a bed of lily pads for this wayfarer and refreshed him with drink from the fountain.

After feeling stronger, the strange and sorrowful man told them that he had traveled far--all the way from Calvary. Sitting with his back against a large tree and with the cool musical splash of the fountain in the background, he told them of the Crucifixion of Christ.

He told them of the Son of God who had come to save man and of his good works. He told them of the wicked king Caesar and of the weak Pilate; of Peter who denied Christ; and of Judas who betrayed him for 30 pieces of silver. He sorrowfully related to them the burden of the cross, the crown of thorns, and how Jesus was crucified on the cross. And though he went on to tell them about the resurrection and the promise of Christ, the fairies wept throughout the story. As their tears fell to the ground, they crystallized into small pebbles, and on each of them a beautiful cross was formed.

Three types of these crosses were later found in abundance. These are the Roman, the Maltese and the St. Andrews. Many are so perfect they appear to have been carved.

Today, these fairy crosses are commonly found in New Mexico, and also are abundant in Virginia and Georgia. They have, however, been transported to all parts of the world, some as wonders of nature and many more as good luck charms.

Some officers of World War I were known to have carried them in battle. It is even rumored that Woodrow Wilson wore one in his presidential campaign. Theodore Roosevelt carried one, and a popular oper singer sent one to the Pope for his blessing. Too, they are an important part

cont.

Staurolites---cont.

of the John Fox novel, "Trail of the Lonesome Pine." And within our own hobby, the Dona Ana County Club of Las Cruces, New Mexico--the city of crosses--has named their bulletin, the Staurolite.

From a mineral viewpoint, the staurolite is a rather complex iron-aluminum, hydroxyl silicate crystallized in the orthorhombic system. Often some of the iron is replaced by magnesium or manganese, and some of the aluminum by ferric iron. This abundance of the irons provides its rich reddish brown color. Though it has a hardness of seven, it has a tendency to be brittle. It breaks with an uneven or conchoidal fracture.

Staurolite has come by its name because of its unique habit of twinning in cross-like forms--and it was the Greeks who provided it. Staurols is Greek for cross, while lithos is Greek for stone--thus a stone cross.

Staurolites usually occur in mica schists and more rarely in gneisses and slates--but always in metamorphic rocks. Most of the staurolites from this country are opaque, but some from Switzerland are transparent.

These occur as sharp single crystals and are considered valuable gems.

It might be said that a staurolite cross is the Siamese twin of the mineral world. It is a perfect example of the clear intergrowth of two prismatic crystals--at almost right angles to one another.

And the next time you go hunting for any of these fairy crosses--remember that it has also been said that the closer to heaven you climb, the more perfect crosses you find.

by Maurie Pascoe

via Conglomerate

Editor of the Pseudomorph

* * * * *

The book Bountiful Sea tells about the soft lustre of pearl fading with time. They will last for generations if you caress each gem with a soft cloth dampened with alcohol and warm water, then with another dipped in water only.

Never dip them in water or any other solution: beware of polishing powders, rubbing is useless. The moonglow of the pearl comes from within the heart of the gem.

* * * * *

The early American wore false teeth of hippotomus ivory. To avoid a hollow-cheeked look, people without dentures or teeth, carried ivory balls in their cheeks, known as "plumpers".

"Newsletter" Hell's Canyon Gem Club

via -- Strata Data

* * * * *

Midwest Federation's NEWSLETTER

Published monthly except July & August as a Service to Member Clubs
Editor: Haydon Peterson, Route 5 - Box 229, Des Moines, Ia. 50317



Issue No. 97 - September 1969

THANK YOU

There is no way I can really thank the wonderful South Dakota club members for their hard work in putting on the Federation's 29th Convention. I know the handicaps these dedicated workers had to put up with... long distances between clubs and committee members, bad weather, slow communications, small towns not prepared for huge crowds, many members who had never attended conventions before having to plan one, but I know too how these South Dakota collectors have worked together as friends ever since the first club was organized in the state. So I was confident that they would work together for the Midwest Federation. It is my duty as President to thank the Host Clubs, but more than that I want to say how proud I am of these clubs and the many co-hosts throughout the state who made the convention a success. Thank you, all, from the bottom of my heart.

June Zeitner, MWF Pres.

WELCOME NEW CLUBS AND INDIVIDUAL MEMBERS

Our Membership Chairman, Roy Meyenberg, reports five new clubs and eight new individual memberships to our growing MWF family.

THE MOUNT CLEMENS GEM AND LAPIDARY SOCIETY, Melvin L. Berry, Pres., 238 1/2 North Avenue, Mount Clemens, Michigan 48043

THE SYCAMORE VALLEY LAPIDARY AND MINERAL SOCIETY, Mr. O. G. Langham, Pres., 410 S. Park St., Mason, Michigan 48854

MADISON COUNTY ROCK HOUNDS, INC.
Mr. Amel Priest, Pres., Peru, Iowa
50222

(continued page 2)

CONVENTION HIGHLIGHTS

Over 2500 members of the Midwest and its sister Federations gathered at Murdo, S. D. for the Field Convention. The Editors Breakfast, hosted by Florence Iverson and the Annual Council Meeting, presided over by June Zeitner, were first day events. Registration in the Auditorium kept Gertrude Larson and her committee flying, but displays by the Midwest Federation, Charles Smart, S. Dakota Geological Survey, S. Dakota Outdoors Div., and a silent auction, kept waiting lines entertained. Photographers from the Omaha World Herald, KÉLO-TV and the Rapid City Journal were joined by the South Dakota State Travel Bureau in interviewing and photographing guests. There were a few area rock hunts. At 5:00 P.M. Gov. Frank Farrar, Col. Kickland, Dr. Duncan MacGregor, S. Dakota Geologist, D. J. Cline of the S. Dakota Travel Division and U.S. Ranger William Hardman welcomed the group to S. Dakota, and following the ribbon cutting by June Zeitner, Convention Chairman Bob Wilson, and Gov. Farrar, the Murdo Lions Club said "Welcome" by feeding western beef with all the barbecue trimmings to 2700 people in less than 50 minutes. The live auction featured three licensed auctioneers who had no trouble getting "show" prices for the wonderful variety of materials donated.

Friday, June 13th turned out to be the coldest day on record for South Dakota for the month of June. Four inches of snow fell in Rapid City and snow was mixed with rain in the higher elevations of the Badlands. Nevertheless over half of the good natured rockhounds donned warm clothes and rode in buses to the alluvial rock beds of the Interior area. Plans of hunting in the prime area, the Weta basin, had to be abandoned because of impassable roads in such weather. (One rockhound tried it, and got (continued page 2)

convention highlights... from page 1

so hopelessly stuck it took him 13 hours to get out.) Collectors at Interior succeeded in finding over 60 Fairburns, plus lots of other kinds of cutting material. Tumbling size chalcadony pieces of several colors literally paved the road. Meanwhile back at the Auditorium the biggest rock swap ever held in the upper Midwest was going on. Most guests made some good swaps and had a chance to get acquainted with the host clubs... even the Field guides who came in cold and wet toward evening. Free coffee was served by the Pierre Chamber of Commerce throughout the convention. Free shuttle buses took people down town to see the window displays of South Dakota rocks, minerals, and fossils, to their motels, to the restaurants, and to the churches where special meals were served.

Because of the mud, the Saturday trip had to be in the same rock beds. Many collectors drove in their own cars and others took the buses. The Civil Air Patrol, in charge of Field Safety, estimated 1700 in the Field. Others went farther on along the gravel road toward Scenic or toward Wall or even to the Black Hills. Several fine jasper brachiopods and gastropods were found near Interior as well as several pieces of cycad.

The medical unit of the South Dakota National Guard had a field hospital at Murdo and took care of several minor emergencies and first aid calls. Dr. Robert Hayes of the University of South Dakota was in charge.

The annual Federation Banquet, planned by Beverly Andrews and her committee, was attended by over 600. Merit Award Certificates were presented to the 1969 winners by the President. A. I. Johnson, South Dakota Mine Inspector, told about the bonanza days of prospecting in the Black Hills and the record minerals and crystals. Members of the Sioux Falls club were responsible for the unique favors of Sioux Quartzite. Verne Montgomery was MC. June Zeitner introduced Russell MacFall as the President for the next Federation year, and Ellis Courter, immediate past President presented the Past President's Plaque to June. Pictures were taken for Earth Science and other publications by Steve Nelson, Editor of the South Dakota Newsletter.

Slide shows and movies were shown free at the Murdo theatre. Maps, books, and magazines were available. One booth sold dinosaurs for the children's party which was planned by Mrs. Dorothy Rice. A hayride, weiner roast, and street dance was also planned for teen agers.

Sunday trips were scattered, but most of them were in the Black Hills or western part of the Badlands. Most people were lucky enough to draw their first choice on Sunday trips. They were given directions for the time and place to meet their guides. Most of the Sunday trips reported some excellent finds. The Sturgis Chamber of Commerce gave a free breakfast to people who went there. The Ree Heighs Ranchers served free coffee to that group. Almost every attraction in the Black Hills gave discounts to those wearing convention badges. Many visitors went on to Salt Lake City, while some stayed in South Dakota several days. A week after the Convention there were still a number of rockhounds camping in Murdo. The residents of Murdo reported that they had never seen such a friendly and good natured group of people. There was absolutely no litter left by the guests. The Convention Committee has a stack of thank you letters from all over the Federation and the host clubs said that they enjoyed the chance to meet members from other states and to do something for the Federation.

IN EARTH SCIENCE. SEPTEMBER-OCTOBER ISSUE

Fellow members of the Chicago Rocks and Minerals Society know Anthony Gricius as a painstaking student of mineralogy. We are pleased to present his "Skeletal Galena Crystals" in the September-October issue of Earth Science Magazine. Do words like "holotype" confuse you? Harrell L. Strimple of the University of Iowa explains them for fossil lovers in this same issue.

Mary Cornwell for Earth Science

CLUB OFFICERS

should be looking soon for the proposed revisions of the Midwest Federation By-Laws. Bernice Rexin, past President of the AFMS as well as Midwest, with Howard Knight, Cal George, and many others worked on these revisions all year. The accepted proposals represent the best of ideas and compromises worked out by the Executive Committee, and the proposals as mailed to you were voted on and accepted by the Executive Committee at the meeting at Murdo. Clubs are asked to vote soon on the revised By-laws as it is felt the Federation will greatly benefit from the updated document. If there are any questions feel free to write to Mrs. Rexin, Mr. Knight, or any of the Past Presidents Advisory Council or current elected officers.

THE SPECIAL DISPLAY COMMITTEE

has a list of special displays for shows in the Midwest. This will be sent to each club in October. Show Chairmen, be sure to ask whoever gets your club mail, about this list.

EACH CLUB

is receiving two free copies of the new Federation Bibliography of Earth Science Publications. More may be purchased through Verne Montgomery, 830 Sheridan Place, Downers Grove, Illinois 60515

welcome new clubs... from page 1

THE JAMES VALLEY NATURE CLUB, Mr. Raymond O. Wolff, Pres., 1483 Third St. S.W., Huron, South Dakota 57350

THE THREE LAKES ROCK CLUB, Mr. John H. McCormick, Pres., Route 1, Three Lakes, Wisconsin 54562

Individual Memberships

MR. & MRS. MELVIN L. BERRY, 238 1/2 North Avenue, Mt. Clemens, Michigan 48043

MR. ARDITH L. PHILLIPS, 926 Neely Avenue, Muncie, Indiana 47303

MR. C. C. GREEN & MRS. EDITH GREEN, Box 6, Group 328, Route 3, Winnipeg, Manitoba (Canada)

MR. & MRS. EDWARD ZETTERBERG, 1101 N. Jefferson, Muncie, Indiana 47303 (Roscoe L. LaRue is on this family membership)

MR. & MRS. E. L. THOMPSON, P.O. Box 221, Montgomery, Illinois 60538

Jim Hanten, Convention Treasurer says that a full financial report will be issued early this fall, and that although the convention was planned as a break-even proposition, it is apparent that everything is in the black and there will be a small profit for the Federation.

Midwest Federation's NEWSLETTER



Published monthly except July & August as a Service to Member Clubs
Editor: Haydon Peterson, Route 5 - Box 229, Des Moines, Ia. 50317

Issue No. 98 - October 1969

OCTOBER IS CLEAN UP MONTH

Why not have a clean up trip in October to leave a favorite locality as beautiful as when you first went there? The Midwest Federation has a good reputation for keeping its field areas litter-free, and restoring shabby localities. The Midwest Conservation Committee, Cal George, chairman, and Anti-Litter Committee, Marie Beeler, and Peter Rookus, are helping us promote a program which will keep our favorite hunting grounds clean and healthy and open for future collectors. What can your club do to help? Take that clean-up trip, and then let these committees hear about it.

HELP WANTED -A MWF Talent Roundup

When Armstrong said of the moon exploration "We plead guilty of enjoying ourselves", he voiced a fact that many of us know. Work can be fun. To some of us the earth sciences and lapidary arts are just a hobby something to be done for spare time pleasure. But many of us see that to keep the hobby progressive and coordinated also takes organization and planning, in short, work. If you are one who doesn't mind the work which helps put your club on the map, maybe you would also like to have a chance at working on the Executive Committee.

Now, to start with, we have 15,000 members and only about 10% can have a chance at one of the Executive Committee jobs, at any given time. However that doesn't mean that the committees can't use more help. And every year there are vacancies and the Directors search frantically for just the right person to fill them. There should be a Federation file of talented people who have the time and the will to serve in some capacity. If you write in you can't be guaranteed a job at once of course but your name, your experience, and the position you are interested in will be on record, so

(continued page 2)

PROPOSED REVISED BY-LAWS

Copies of the proposed revised by-laws of the MWF have been mailed to each club together with a ballot to record your approvals and a self-addressed, stamped envelope, for return of the ballot to our secretary. Please remember, you have only 30 days to examine and ratify these revised by-laws from the time you receive them, so don't postpone immediate action. These new by-laws are the best we have every had, and represent long months of writing and debate and compromise. We feel that the revised by-laws will help the clubs as well as the new and future officers and committees. Thank you for helping in this important matter!

FEDERATION MANUALS

Various committees are hard at work preparing manuals to aid clubs in their many activities. There will be a Junior Activities Manual a Safety Manual, a Public Relations Manual, and a new Program Manual, among others. If your club has any ideas or materials which they would like included in any of these publications, please write the proper officer. Remember it is your Federation and you will get out of it what you put in to it. Officers want to serve the clubs as the clubs wish to be served. Ask for a Federation booth at your next show and find out what your Federation is doing for you and what you can do for it.

THE FALL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

will be held on November 1st at the beginning of the new term. The meeting will be in Detroit, Michigan in connection with the annual show of the Michigan Mineralogical Society.

WILLIAM J. BINGHAM

past president of the MWF (1955-56) died in St. Paul Minnesota on August 29th after a long illness. Bill served the gem and mineral hobby in the Midwest in many ways, attending many executive meetings and shows in his wheel chair. He was nomenclature chairman for the Midwest for several years. He was active in the Minnesota Mineral Society, was well known for his color slides, his frequent interesting articles, and his interest in all aspects of the hobby. Binghamite, that regal cutting material from northern Minnesota was his discovery. Bill is survived by two children. He will be missed by his many friends in the Midwest and American Federation. The Midwest Federation has made a gift to the AFMS Scholarship fund in memory of Bill Bingham, a wonderful friend to us all.

CORRECTION

On page 6 of the 1969 Midwest Directory the correct price of American Federation Uniform Rules and Gem Lists are 25¢ each.

help wanted . . . continued from page 1

that a president looking for a specific talent from a certain area may decide that you are the best qualified.

Here is what we need to know: What offices have you held in your own club? What is your career? What special training or degrees do you have? What is your special interest in the hobby? Do you like to write letters? Can you attend meetings 2 or 3 times a year which may be several hundred miles away? Are you familiar with the by-laws and operational procedure of the Midwest and American Federations? Do you take part in competitive display, Scholarship Fund, Anti-Litter Campaign, and other Federation activities? Do you read club bulletins and the Midwest Newsletter and Earth Science magazine? Do you like to organize, plan, and follow through? Do you attend work meetings as well as social meetings? Do you have any creative ideas or constructive ideas for a particular committee? Do people like to work with you or for you? Have you held offices in other organizations? Do you have time enough for a job which may take several hours each week?

Write as complete a resume as you can and give two references . . . one an officer of your own club, and one a past or present Federation officer. Then mail the application, with your name, address and telephone number, to Jean Reynolds, 107 Tuttle Avenue Clarendon Hills, Illinois 60514. Applications will be cross filed by state and by type of work you are particularly interested in. Thanks for helping.

**IF YOU HAVE AN ITEM OF INTEREST
SEND IT TO THE NEWSLETTER EDITOR**

**OUR CLUBS SHOULD HAVE
A "MOON WALK" FILM**

Is there some good hearted club with a little spare cash which they would like to use to help the other clubs? NASA has released several spectacular moon walk programs which certainly would be popular with most program chairmen and club members. In areas where there are many programs available, perhaps members do not realize how much the Federation programs are used. If your club would like to help please write Mary Anderson, Program Chairman, (Route 3 - Box 241 E, Kokomo Indiana) and tell her which of these films you will give the Federation film library. Also send a copy to Haydon Peterson (Newsletter Editor, Route 5 - Box 229, Des Moines, Iowa) so your new program can be published.

Here are the programs available and their prices:

- 1) "Complete From Blastoff to Splashdown of Apollo 11" - Full Color, 400 ft. 8mm \$40.00.
- 2) "Moon Walk". This reproduction is much clearer than the telecast and has all the famous TV scenes. - In Black and White, 400 ft. 8mm \$20.00.
- 3) "Highlights of Apollo 11 Flight and Moon Shot" - This is a set of 24, 35mm color slides. \$10.00.

Any of these may be ordered from Movie Newsreels, 1621 Cahuenga, Hollywood, California 90028.

NEW SLIDE PROGRAM AVAILABLE

The Lizzadro Museum of Elmhurst, Illinois has donated a new slide program to our MWF Program Library. This program consists of 75 color, 35mm, slides. When you order ask for "Cameos Intarsia and Scotch Jewelry". Slides are done in the grand style of the Lizzadro Museum, having being photographed at the Museum. You will be able to see these works of art when you visit the Museum. This group of slides will make a very fine program and was rated "tops" by the Executive Board which had the pleasure of a prevue recently.

**1970 PROGRAM PLANNER'S AID GUIDE
SOON TO BE AVAILABLE**

The Program Planner's Aids - 1970 will be the title of the new booklet now in preparation and to be published by the Library Committee soon. Mary C. Anderson is the chairman and Jane Auler is the assistant chairman of this committee.

In this new edition the committee will place at the finger tips of the member clubs program chairmen some worthwhile aids to get the mind working on original ideas that would especially fit their club. The information for the new aids guide was obtained from replies to letters sent to club program chairmen to learn their ideas for improving the MWF help to member clubs. (Clubs that did not reply may still do so. Just ask in your club for the person who received the blank, make your comments and return to Mrs. Anderson).

This new guide will have guidelines for the making of a good slide program, something which the MWF always needs to continue a flow of new programs to its members. Also a list of speakers that can be called upon for talks to your club.

Claris W. Smith
1513 Lynn St.
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Robert K. Richards
205 E. Cass St.
Negaunee, Michigan 49866

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