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THE



J A S P I L I T E

Affiliated with the Midwest Federation  
of Mineralogical and Geological Societies



OFFICIAL PUBLICATION  
of the  
ISHPEMING ROCK AND MINERAL CLUB, INC.

Published quarterly

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1975 ROCK SWAP	Pat Bemis	Gwinn
JASPILITE editors.....	Laurence and Olive Sain	Marquette

Deadlines: March 1, June 1, September 1, December 1.

Meetings: 3rd Sunday of the month. (2 P.M.) Bothwell School, Marquette.

Membership: The Ishpeming Rock and Mineral Club, Inc. is open to anyone interested in the Earth Sciences.

Initiation fee.....\$1.50  
 Husband & wife annual dues..... 3.00  
 Adult annual dues..... 2.00  
 Junior annual dues..... 1.00

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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.  
 ..... Bob & Marian Markert

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## A Message from your President

Fellow Club Members:

First, I would like to thank those of you who helped to make our auction in February such a success. Your donations were appreciated and your interest in buying at the tables which netted \$102.00 for the American Federation's Scholarship Fund.

We are organizing a Micromount group within the club. Those who have signed up for the group will be notified as to when and where we will meet so start sorting your specimens.

It seems early to be talking about our Swap and Field Trips but the mild weather we have been having reminds us that it won't be long before we will be getting out that rock hunting equipment. Bob Phillips is lining up some good trips for this summer. These will help you get some nice specimens for your collections and for the Swap in August. The first trip will be a three day one over Memorial Day in the Ontonagon area. We will need your reservations for this trip at the April meeting so we can tell Trudgeons how many trailer spaces and motel rooms will be needed.

Our Swap will be on August 16th and the field trips on the 17th. Last year's Swap was a success and everyone had a lot of fun. Let's make this one bigger and better. Start getting your swapping material together and don't forget to save some choice specimens for the auction tables. We are asking every member to be on a committee this year. Say "yes" when you are asked to help. We do need all of you!

We have had two good meetings this year but I would like to see more of you at the meetings. Carl has lined up some interesting programs for the March and April meetings and there is plenty of room at the Bothwell School for all of you. Let's see you there!

Your president,

Frazier H. Tubbs

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MEETINGS and PROGRAMS.....Carlton Gutman, 1st V.P.

March 16: Mrs. Anita Meyland will talk about heritage crafts and the Bicentennial.

April 20: Fred Rydholm will talk about local history and the early mining areas.

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 THE NEXT ISSUE OF THE JASPILITE (JUNE) WILL BE MAILED TO THE 1975 MEMBERSHIP LIST. Send your dues to the club treasurer or pay at a club meeting. Arnold Mulzer 322 Rock St., Marquette, Michigan 49855.



## NOTES FROM THE SECRETARY'S MINUTES

The president announced committee chairmen appointments for 1975 (these are listed on page 1 along with the elected officers). Still needed are a Display Chairman and General Chairman for the 1976 Show.

The Encyclopedia of Minerals has been ordered for the club library.

Olive Sain told about a field trip around Lake Superior to be conducted by Wayne Henderson and one in the Keweenaw area led by Don Clarke. These will be from July 26th to August 9th.

The club president will appoint a committee of three persons to nominate members for life membership not to exceed 5% of the club membership.

Since MGAGS doesn't accept club memberships the Board decided to send them \$5.00 to help defray the cost of the monthly newsletter they will be sending to the club.

Vern Miljour offered to summarize and categorize all members according to the information sheets filled out last year.

The secretary will fill out the application blank for the American Federation and send it to the Midwest Federation.

Ray Anderson showed a bolo tie which will be given to the Marquette city recreation director and said key chains will be given to the ladies in the recreation office. These were donated by club members.

At the March meeting some members will report on and display specimens from the Silver Lake area, Ohio mine and the Ontonagon area.

To increase members' knowledge of the rock hobby the following suggestions have been made:

1. A micromounters' group be formed within the club.
2. A mineral be named each month for study and display at the meetings.
3. Hold a mini-auction each month to correspond with the mineral of the month.
4. Lapidary classes each month at the school or at designated separate meetings.
5. Completion of field trip data sheets to have within the club information about collecting sites, location of contact persons, maps, etc.
6. Have some programs about local old mining sites and mineral locations.

Notes about the 1975 I.R. & M.C. Swap from the secretary's minutes:

The Swap will be held on Saturday, Aug. 16th at the Marquette City Tourist Park. Field trips will be held on Sunday, August 17th, similar to those held last year.

Pat Bemis will serve as General Chairman of the Swap. Chairmen of the

.....next page



.....1975 Swap.....

various swap committees will soon be appointed. All club members will be assigned to a committee so time for working won't be more than two hours and members will have some time for swapping.

The "Majestics" will be asked to serve lunches and refreshments again this year.

The Pebble Pups will have their own auction table. It was suggested that adults may bid at this table but will bid against other adults and not against the Pebble Pups.

Dorothy Tubbs, secretary

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NEWS from the Assistant State Director...Frazier Tubbs

Announcement has been made of two appointments in the state officers. Mrs. Harold (Arline) Buehler of Saginaw was appointed as Michigan State Director of the Midwest Federation to serve out the remainder of "Bud" Nicholls' term. Ted Trudgeon was appointed as a second assistant state director for the Upper Peninsula.

I would like to remind you of the first annual Educational Seminar of the Michigan Geology and Gemcraft Society. It will be on Saturday, April 5th from 11 A.M. to 7 P.M. and on Sunday, April 6th from 1 P.M. to 5 P.M. at the Washtenaw Community College near Ann Arbor. Cost of all Seminars for both days is \$5.00. The drawing for the MGAGS raffle will be on April 6th at 4 P.M. If you would like registration blanks or more information contact me.

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Welcome....New Members.....Ray Boerup, 2nd V.P.

Leon Anderson, Box 74, Little Lake, Mich. 49833 Phone 346-3466

Donna Markert (Mrs. Scott), 10 Whirlwind Ct., Apt. 10, Baltimore, Maryland. 21207

Mr. and Mrs. David Proper (Bonita), 236 Kawbawgam Rd., Marquette, Mich. 49855. Phone 249-1941

Junior Members:

Elizabeth Yelland, Mehl Lake, Gwinn, Mich. 49841 Phone 346-4871

Lucy Boogren, 604 Elm St., Box 255, Gwinn, Mich. 49841 Phone 346-9390

Nora Boogren " " " "

Joe Boogren " " " "

Janet Plimpton, Box 349, Gwinn, Mich. Phone 346-5296

Theresa Roberto, Box 446, Gwinn, Mich. 49841 Phone 346-3046

Terry Meden, 115 Smith St., Gwinn, Mich. 49841 Phone 346-5851

Jane Cross, Box 271, Gwinn, Mich. 49841 Phone 346-3455



SHOW AND TELL.....Vern Miljour, Education Chairman

This year we hope to learn more about rocks and minerals; identification, where found, etc., by way of a "show and tell" table. Bring a specimen or more from your collection, identify it and tell us about it. You can BRAG and we will LOOK, LISTEN and LEARN.

January meeting:

George Bell had Mozarkite cabochons; rough and polished pieces of conglomerate jasper from Wyoming; phenocryst cabochons from Negaunee; crosses of epidote and copper, Kona dolomite and agate.

Pat Bemis had a large chunk of float copper from Calumet; halfbreed from Rockland; Montana agate; petrified wood from Washington; carnelian agate from Oregon and epidote and copper from Rockland.

Elizabeth Yelland displayed pieces of jasper, pyrite and obsidian along with some fossils.

Laurence and Olive Sain displayed opened geodes from Iowa and Illinois to show a variety of materials lining and making up geodes; arsenopyrite, cobalt and silver from Ontario; 'leopard stone' from the Bighorn Mountains and jasp-agate from Cloquet, Minnesota.

Frazier and Dorothy Tubbs had a beautiful specimen of Datolite crystals and one of pyrrhotite.

Vern and Chris Miljour displayed a large specimen of fluorite identified as coming from southern Illinois.

Joe Dunham exhibited a large specimen of Taiwan jade.

Bob Schenk displayed miniature lamps and furniture. He asked everyone to save plastic bottles and bottle caps for him.

February meeting:

Eileen Dunham displayed the beautiful specimen of Tourmaline in quartz she found at the Champion mine.

Fat Bemis displayed jasper and agate from Burro Creek Canyon, Arizona.

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Long time members.....Charles and Selma Tapola

Charles and Selma Tapola, 84 and 76 years old, of Princeton Location near Gwinn celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary at Grace Lutheran Church, Sunday, February 23. Two hundred guests congratulated the happy couple. A delightful surprise was the presence of their granddaughter Doreen Miljour. Doreen and husband Michael live in Portland, Oregon where he is attending Western Chiropractic College.

Charlie reminisced back to his first job at the iron mine in Princeton when he was 17 years old. He worked 10 hours a day for \$2.00. He stayed



on the job for seven years. At that time, candles on soft hats provided the light in the underground mines; accidents were common.

His father built a sturdy log home in 1908 which is still occupied by Charles and Selma's son Bill and family. Selma's father also built a home near by.

While employed as a miner, Charlie was interested and active in the rock hobby and created a similar interest in others by providing them with specimens from his collection.

His present active hobby is wooden toy handicraft which Selma finishes. Selma also has many sewing projects which she enjoys. Although we do not see them on our rock excursions they are there with us in spirit.

Chris Miljour

#### SHARING

How often we hear the comment "Rockhounds are wonderful people!" They are happy, friendly and certainly active as they search far and near for rocks and minerals to look at, to study, or to cut and polish. When it comes to "sharing" whether it be time, talents or materials they are the greatest!!!

The following letter is an example of someone's appreciation for this "sharing":

Dear Mr. Bell:

I am writing this brief note to thank you again for your interest in my teaching endeavors and the welfare of my students at Bothwell Middle School, with respect to the art of cutting and polishing gemstones.

I personally would like to congratulate you upon the very high quality work you have shown us. It was an exceptionally exciting experience for many of my students. Furthermore, your personal interest and appearance, although it was somewhat laconic in nature, in my classroom has promulgated additional interest in this lost art.

On behalf of the students in my class and myself, we would like to again thank you for the donation of rough stock. You are always welcome in our class.

It was a pleasure to see a citizen of our community actively involved, interested, and willing to share his skill with students who are excited about their education! Thanks again.

Sincerely,

Jerry Dobrzanski, I. E. Instructor

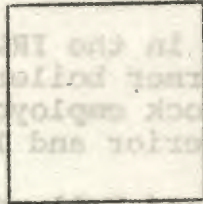
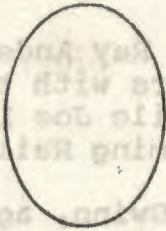
(This is the most recent "sharing" we have heard about. Other members have set up displays at several of the schools--those coming to mind are Ernie Johnson, Pat Elie, Vern Miljour, Ray Anderson, Pat Bemis. If others have loaned specimens for display in schools this year, let it be known---we're proud of you!!!)







FINDINGS.....TEMPLATES



Have you discovered that it is rather difficult and sometimes impossible to purchase findings or mountings to fit some of the cabochons you made? Be it rings, pins, pendants or other jewelry.

Templates used by the lapidarist give a wide range of sizes and shapes to select from when cutting out a shape for a cabochon. These sizes and shapes on the template are no guarantee you can then purchase a finding in which to mount it.

Templates are not used exclusively by those who wish to set their cabochons in purchased findings; some individuals prefer to make a silver mounting to coordinate or accent the particular cabochon.



However, there seem to be certain sizes and shapes of findings that are more available than others depending on the source of supply. It seems that each supplier stocks a limited variety according to which have been most popular among his clientele. But as you compare suppliers, there are certain shapes and sizes that are common to all such as 8 x 10, 18 x 25 and the 30 x 40.

A supplier had given George Bell the following list with this caution "do not cut other sizes unless you make your own mountings".

PENDANTS AND PINS	RINGS	RINGS	RINGS
30 x 40 O	8 x 10 S	18 x 25 O	8 x 16 N
22 x 30 V	10 x 12 Q	13 x 18 V	8 x 22 A
18 x 25 V	12 x 14 Q	15 x 20 A	9 x 18 V
13 x 18 A	12 x 16 Q	12 x 14 L	10 x 24 T
12 x 14 L	15 x 20 S	10 x 12 L	
10 x 12 S		10 x 14 S	
8 x 10		8 x 10	

Remember, this is only one supplier's listing but the point is well taken; either buy the findings before making the cabochons or at least check with a dealer to make certain the size and shapes are available. (I checked several supply houses and found other sizes but never all of the sizes and shapes found on a template.)

Use Scotch reflecting tape as backing for clear quartz or rutilated quartz cabs for 'way out' effects. Back obsidian cabs with aluminum foil for another unusual effect. Glue stainless steel strips between 2 or 3 contrasting slabs with epoxy. Then work from the smooth side to mark with a template. Pre-form and turn as if it were one solid piece. Everybody will say, "How did you do that?" via.....The Conglomerate.

DID YOU KNOW???? The star in a synthetic sapphire will move around with the light while in a genuine stone the star will stay centered?

"Faith does for living what sunshine does for stained glass windows."



Club Field Trips.....Bob Phillips, chairman

Check your calendars for this summer's field trips. You will get the specific details on starting time and meeting place for each trip in the June issue of the Jaspilite.

Many of the trips will be 'firsts' for most of the members so should prove exciting and rewarding. They hold out the promise of adding many new specimens to your collections and some extra for trading.

Memorial Day Weekend, May 24-26: This will be in the Ontonagon County area with Ted Trudgeon as leader. Frazier Tubbs has made the arrangements. The headquarters will be Trudgeon's "Done Roamin" Resort on Lake Superior. A sign up sheet will be passed at the April meeting for those who wish to make this trip.

Saturday, June 21: Republic Mine Tour. Bob Phillips will make the arrangements for the day's activities.

Sunday, July 27: Bob Markert will lead the group to three collecting sites in the Humboldt- Republic area.

Saturday, August 16: ROCK SWAP to be held at the Tourist Park in Marquette; site of the 1974 Swap. Pat Bemis, general chairman.

Sunday, August 17: A choice between 2 trips to follow the previous day's Swap. A fee will be charged for one of the collecting sites. Sign up sheets will be provided at the ROCK SWAP for these trips.

Saturday, August 23: The Silver Lake Prospect will be headed up by Bob Phillips. This one will be a real adventure with boats needed to cross Silver Lake to reach the collecting area.

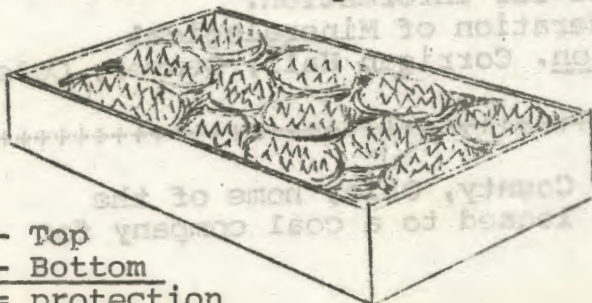
Should there be too many obstacles to carry out the Silver Lake trip; an alternative trip will be to the Galena and Sphalerite collecting sites.

Sunday, September 14: Two collecting sites will be visited under the leadership of Frazier Tubbs....Alberta for pyrolusite and the Ohio Mine.

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COLLECTING BOXES

Cut down orange boxes make excellent collecting and storage boxes. Specimens packed in tissue so they can't move.

This item deserves a special mention. Citrus fruit boxes from the supermarket makes sturdy re-usable collecting boxes. Cut them down to about five inches in depth.



1- Top  
1- Bottom  
= protection

They can be packed with the most delicate crystals placed tightly side by side and with nothing over them but the lid. The boxes will stand at least 150 pounds on top of them with no ill effect.

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.....collecting boxes...

We brought tiny perfect calcite crystals, suspended on almost invisible mesolite "hairs", home from Oregon after a two week trip without losing anything. Label all boxes used at the time of packaging. Whenever you have a small amount of paint left from another job, give the boxes a coat thus lengthening their life further, and also giving them a fresh surface for marking with a felt pen.

We started using this type of box two years ago and will be using the same ones for a long time yet. Added to that they store easily full or empty.

(Mary and Bob Hillsdon, Richmond, B.C....via The Conglomerate)

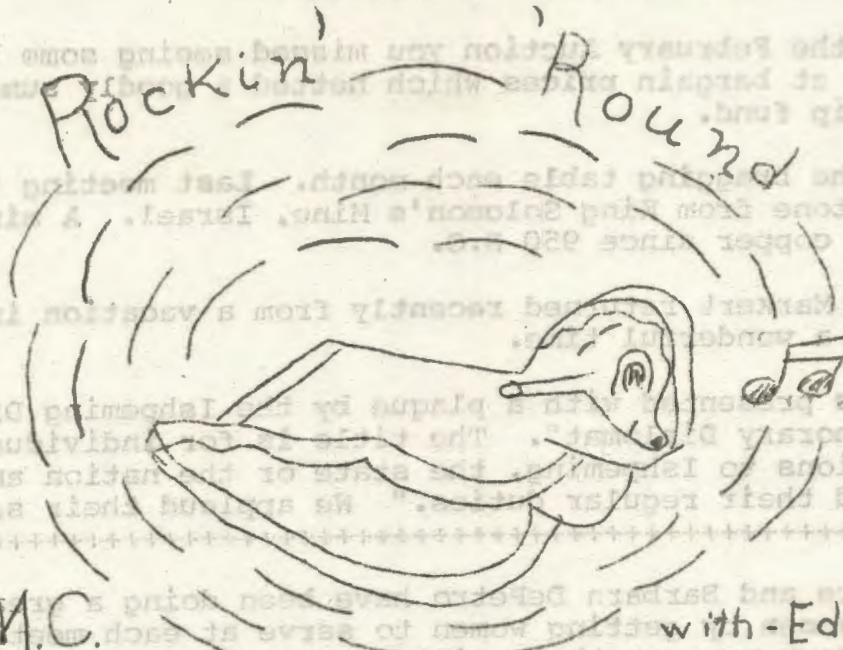
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 CALENDAR OF SHOWS & SWAPS

- April 5-6: MGAGS Seminar. Washtenaw Community College, Ann Arbor, Mi.
- April 5-7: Muskegon County Rock & Mineral Assoc. SHOW. Bartel-Rodes Gym, Muskegon Community College, Muskegon, Mi.
- April 11-13: Flint Club, SHOW. Williams Community Education Center, 3501 Minnesota Ave., Flint, Mi.
- April 12-13: Kenosha Gem & Mineral Society, SHOW. St. Therese Hall, 2020 - 91st St., Kenosha, Wis.
- April 18-20: Michigan Gem & Mineral Society, SHOW. National Guard Armory, 100 Armory Court, Jackson, Mi.
- April 19-20: Mesabi Mineral Club, SHOW. Memorial Building Arena, Hibbing, Minn.
- May 3-4: Midwest Mineralogical & Lapidary Society of Dearborn, SHOW. 15801 Michigan Ave., Youth Center, Dearborn, Mi.
- May 10-11: Kalamazoo Geological & Mineral Society, SHOW. County Fair Grounds, 2900 Lake St., Kalamazoo, Mi.
- May 17-18: Parma Lapidary Club, SHOW, SWAP. Cuyahoga Fairgrounds, Eastland Rd., Berea, Ohio.
- May 18-19: Nishna Valley Rock Club, SWAP. Write to Willis Towne, 1101 Hill St., Harlan, Iowa 51537 for location and details.
- May 24-26: Rockwood Gem & Mineral Society, SWAP. Greensfelder County Park, Allenton and Henken Roads, Allenton, Missouri. Also silent auctions and field trip maps available. Free camping. Write to Dr. Gene Carron, 7 Carman Acres, Manchester, Missouri 63011 for further details.
- June 7-8: All Iowa Rock Roundup. Hosted by the Illowa Club in conjunction with their annual SWAP (buy, sell, swap). Buffalo, Iowa, a small town at the southwest corner of Davenport in the "Camp Oakwood" campgrounds near the town.
- June 7-8: Heart of Wisconsin Gem & Mineral Society, SHOW. Includes a SWAP. Howe School, 121 8th St. North, Wisconsin Rapids, Wis.
- June 14-15: Old Capitol Geological Club, SWAP. Write to George Vacik, 806 8th Ave., Coralville, Iowa 52241 for information.
- June 19-22: AFMS and Rocky Mountain Federation of Mineralogical Societies. Convention and Exhibition. Corrigan Hall, Denver, Colo.

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The former SELLS Flint Farm in Coshocton County, Ohio, home of the favorite Nellie Blue Flint, is now being leased to a coal company for strip mining.





I.R. & M.C. with - Edith Anderson

March came in like a lion--Does that mean we can expect an early spring? Our field trip chairman, Bob Phillips has a long list of potential field trips and most of them short distances away with a challenge of exploring. Be ready for a busy summer.

Congratulations to Charles and Selma Tapola who celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary. We wish them many more years of happiness and good health.

Let's all be ready to help of SWAP chairman, Pat Bemis, so that we have as great a swap as last year. Start gathering materials for the silent auction tables.

It was voted to give Ron Heaviland, city recreation director, a token of our appreciation for his cooperation at the Tourist Park last summer. Ray Boerup donated a beautiful white agate bolo tie for Ron. Arnold Mulzer provided the key rings for the office girls. Ray Anderson delivered them and said how pleased they were to receive the gifts.

Adeline Hudson, who spent a long period in the hospital is now home and improving rapidly.

Laura Maynard has also been in and out of the hospital for the past several months had to return again last week.

Ernie Ingison, who has been laid up for much of the fall and winter is now up and walking with crutches.

Pat Elie has been to Rochester at Mayo's for a check up and treatment.

For all those who have been ill at home or in the hospital, we wish a return to good health and hope you will be able to join us soon.

Dorothy and Frazier Tubbs will have a meeting March 18th at their home for those wanting to form a micromounting study group.



.....Rockin' 'Round.....

If you missed the February Auction you missed seeing some beautiful material going at bargain prices which netted a goodly sum for the AFMS Scholarship fund.

Don't forget the bragging table each month. Last meeting the Smalls had an Eilot Stone from King Solomon's Mine, Israel. A mine which has been producing copper since 950 B.C.

Bob and Marian Markert returned recently from a vacation in Las Vegas where they had a wonderful time.

Bob Markert was presented with a plaque by the Ishpeming Diplomats naming him "honorary Diplomat". The title is for individuals who have made contributions to Ishpeming, the state or the nation and "for effort and work beyond their regular duties." We applaud their selection!

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Eleanor LaChance and Barbara DePetro have been doing a great job as hostess chair women by getting women to serve at each meeting and helping them. Is your name on their sign up sheet to serve at one of the meetings?

Dawne Small, Joe LaChance and Elizabeth Yelland received the draw prizes provided by Ray Anderson at the January meeting.

Pat Bemis, Barbara DePetro and Janet Plimpton received the door prizes provided by George Bell at the February meeting.

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The Time to Hunt L. Superior Agates

Why do we try to time our agate-hunting expeditions to Lake Superior so as to be there in early spring or after storms? Because that's the best hunting, of course, but why is it so? The usual answer is that winter storms and ice "break the agates loose and wash them in." There is a more accurate explanation, however.

The wave action of winter has greater velocity and strength, and the retreating waves carry sand off the beaches out to be deposited in off-shore bars. The actual result is to uncover agates already along the waterline.

Spring and summer waves are more gentle. They bring the sand back in, but lose strength and drop the sand at the beach again, covering the agates that may be there. Any storm has something the same effect as winter waves. It is the shifting of the sands which alternately hides and discloses treasures.

So the ardent agate-hunter will be found in boots and warm clothes, braving stormy weather and early spring chill, hoping to find those elusive beauties of the Lake Superior beaches.

(By Wayne Henderson via Tips and Chips)

"Anything that is easier said than done can usually be done a great deal easier if so much wasn't said."



19th Century Gold Rush.....O. Sain

Not only California and Alaska had gold rushes! What is now the city of Marquette once had a small scale gold rush in the late 1800's. A recent bicentennial feature in the Mining Journal related those exciting events. Gold bearing quartz was mined in the eastern section of the city that assayed from \$4.00 to \$84.00 per ton of rock with some silver also present. Float copper was sometimes found during the digging. Much of the tailings were hauled away to be used in the construction of basements. (Perhaps some homes have gold in their basement walls and don't know it!)

After Moore's find, Spear got an option on adjoining land and formed the Marquette Gold Mining Company. Northwest of the Moore holdings, Stafford and some other men made a find and formed the Eureka Gold Mining Company. Moore formed the Euclid Gold Mining Company and sold shares at fifty cents a share but retained controlling interest. Tailings from Moore's mine were used to macadamize Prospect street--called one of the few gold bearing streets in the world.

Although they continued to find gold; no paying lode was located and within two years or thereabouts mining was halted.

Another gold find was made some distance away from town on the Dead River by Anderson and Bending. A gold smelting furnace was set up and operated by D. H. Merritt. First the quartz was crushed, then roasted in a furnace and finally put through a lead bath to recover the gold. This process yielded 93% of the mineral from the quartz.

Another gold and silver operation known as the Ole Nelson Gold Mine was opened on Lake Street. This closed abruptly when some of the rocks from blasting went through the windows of a nearby residence.

From the first free gold found in quartz in 1884 to 1888 considerable excitement and high hopes of striking a real bonanza spurred the men on. (Excerpts from Ken LaFayette's article in the Mining Journal, 1975)

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COUNTY GOLD MINE MAY RUN AGAIN

The ROPES GOLD MINE north of Ishpeming is known to rockhounds near and far due to the field trips there during each of the Midwest Field Trip Conventions hosted by the IR&MC. Also the near by fine collecting area for talc, asbestos, verde antique and other minerals.

According to the Mining Journal, the Callahan Mining Corporation of Darien, Connecticut purchased the Ropes Gold Mine in January of this year. The company will be doing exploratory work on the 80 acre parcel of land. Secretary of the Corporation, William A. Nicely said "We're contemplating exploring the mine to try to evaluate what's there and what potential the mine has--if any. Then a decision will be made whether to open it or not."

The mine was purchased from Arcadian Copper Mine Tours, Inc. of Hancock. In addition to the purchase price, the sellers will receive 3% royalty

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## .....Ropes Gold Mine.....

on the "net smelter returns" payable in installments derived from any future mining undertaken at the Ropes.

This property has changed hands several times in the past twenty years. Calumet and Hecla, now Universal Oil Products of Evanston, Illinois, owned the mine prior to when some local, private individuals bought it. Arcadian Copper Mine Tours, Inc. of Hancock, owned by Louis Koepel of Hubbel; Abel Matero Jr. of Baraga; Shirley Walitalo and Paul Walitalo of Baraga; and Shirley Kempainen of Detroit purchased it in 1955 from Joe and Goldie Paull and Ed Thomas of Ishpeming.

Koepel said they thought about making it a tourist mine when they bought it but soon learned it would cost too much to fix the mine shaft and develop the area for tourists, so they did nothing with it over the years.

During the mine's peak production from 1883 to 1897, Koepel said the Ropes produced \$647,902 worth of gold and silver and some \$51,929 in old tailings. The price of gold then was reportedly \$16.50 per ounce, compared to 1975 prices of \$173.50 and higher per ounce.

According to William Nicely, the Callahan Mining Corporation is "a small company" listed on the United States Stock Exchange, incorporated in Arizona. Callahan owns the Galena Silver Mine in Idaho which they claim is the "second largest silver mine in the United States." In addition the company owns zinc and copper concerns in Virginia and Washington and received 50% of the cash flow of a smelting and refinery company in the United States.

.....Who knows; sometime in the future Marquette may once again have active gold mining. Rockhounds, take a second look at some of the quartz you picked up in the area; it may contain a trace or more of gold. Who knows, except a gold panner, perhaps some of our streams flowing over gold bearing ore may retain grains of gold amid the silt and gravel in quiet pools. Living in such a richly endowed area is exciting!

The thought that comes to mind.....How is the change in ownership of the Ropes going to affect the rockhounds who have collected there or in the vicinity in past years? It may not be as easily accessible, especially if exploratory work begins.

( Excerpted from Craig Rensburg's report in the Mining Journal, 1975.)

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The first amateur Rockhound Club was formed in 1886 in New York. The first Mineral and Gem magazine was called the "Mineral Collector". In 1926 the "Rocks and Minerals Magazine" appeared and from then on clubs began to form in fairly rapid succession.

There are approximately 20,000 adults and 2,000 junior members in the more than 250 clubs in the Midwest Federation. The Midwest includes Michigan, Ohio, Kentucky, Indiana, Illinois, Wisconsin, Minnesota, Iowa, Missouri, Arkansas, Kansas, Nebraska, S. and N. Dakota. The southernmost and westernmost states have clubs in other Federations, also.



## DATOLITE.....Dorothy Tubbs

Datolite is one of four minerals in the Datolite Group of the Silicates. Chemically it is a basic ortho-silicate of Boron and Calcium with a formula of  $\text{HCaBSiO}_5$  or  $\text{Ca}(\text{BOH})\text{SiO}_4$ .

Physical characteristics are:

1. Crystal shape: Varies in habit; usually is short prismatic, or tabular.
2. Luster: Vitreous. Transparent to translucent; opaque.
3. Color: Varies--white, grey, pale green, pink, red, honey yellow, amethystine.
4. Cleavage: Not observed.
5. Fracture: Conchoidal to uneven.
6. Streak: White.

There are 3 varieties of Datolite.

1. Ordinary: These are glassy crystals of varied habit, usually with a greenish tinge.
2. Compact: Massive; opaque in various shades of white, light green, pink, red and yellow.
3. Botryoidal: Botryolite. Radiated, columnar, having a botryoidal surface and containing more water than the crystals. (found in Norway)

Datolite is found chiefly as a secondary mineral in veins and cavities in basic eruptive rocks. In the United States it is found in Massachusetts, New Jersey and in Connecticut in the crystalline form. Crystals are also found in the Keweenaw area of Michigan but aren't usually as perfect as those found in the eastern United States.

Michigan's Lake Superior region is famous for its lovely opaque variety of Datolite which comes in a great variety of colors. It is usually found in a nodular form varying from very small to large nodules weighing several pounds. The outside of the nodule is covered with wart-like bumps varying from grey to greyish white or red to red-grey in color. The larger nodules look very much like a cauliflower. The breaking surface inside is like a fine porcelain in texture but don't break them open. Wait until you can cut them with a saw. The nodules often have finely disseminated copper throughout or sometimes the nodules are formed in pieces of conglomerate copper.

Datolite is also found in the poor rock piles of the copper mines as small seams in the trap rock. Here it is also associated with veins of Calcite, Prehnite or Thomsonite.

Sometimes Datolite is found on Lake Superior beaches as water-worn smooth pebbles similar to Thomsonite or Prehnite with the same vitreous or china-like surface.

It is said that Datolite was found in the upper levels of the copper mines and so is now at the bottom of the waste piles. If you are looking for Datolite you might find it by digging at the base of the piles. But keep your eyes open for you might find it anywhere in the poor rock piles of Michigan's copper mines.

(Reference: Dana's Textbook of Mineralogy)



HOW HOLLOW IS A GEODE

Have you ever cut open a Mexican Coconut geode, with high hopes of finding a beautiful crystal-lined cavity inside, only to find instead a solid mass of nondescript rock? Although there is no certain method of identifying the kind, size, or color of crystals before a geode is opened, the chart on the following page will be helpful in estimating the approximate size of the cavity by merely measuring the outside diameter and weighing the geode. Instructions for use are on the chart, but a few words of explanation may be helpful.

The chart will give accurate results if the geode and the cavity are perfect spheres, and if the entire geode is composed of quartz weighing 165 pounds per cubic foot (1.5277 ounces per cubic inch). This ideal situation never exists in nature, but fair approximations can be made with the chart if measurements are carefully made. If the geode is egg shaped, the average diameter can be found by adding the largest diameter to the smallest diameter and dividing by two. Use calipers to measure diameters most accurately, but fair accuracy is possible with a ruler, if the geode is placed on a flat surface against the vertical side of a box or wall, and a book or other rectangular object is placed against the wall and the top of the geode. The ruler is then used to measure the distance from the flat surface to the edge of the book that is in contact with the top of the geode.

Be sure to weigh the geode to the nearest ounce, or more accurately, if possible. Most rock shops have scales reading in pounds and ounces, and many household scales can also be used. The accuracy of the chart increases with larger geodes, because a one inch sphere of quartz weighs only 0.8 ounces. The difference in weight, however, between a 4" geode with a 2" cavity and a 4" geode with a 3" cavity, for example, is approximately one pound.

Don't expect perfect results with the chart, but it is far better than the usual method of hefting the geode in your hand, and saying, "Well, I think this one may be fairly hollow." (Via-- Tuscarora Bulletin; The Touchstone; The Streak Plate and The Blab and Slab.)

\*\*\*\*\*

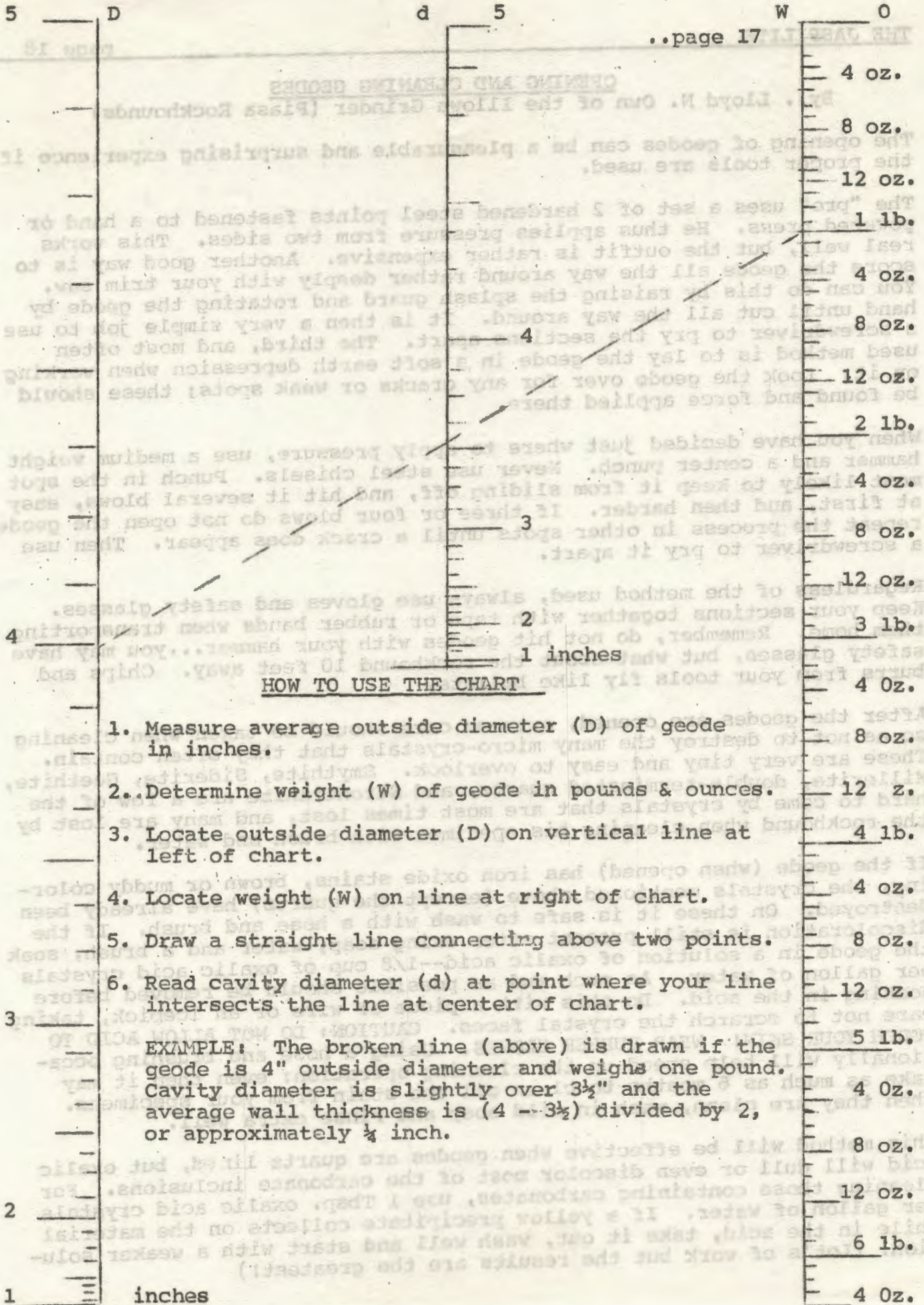
MOHAWKITE.....Shop hint

Members of the Blue Water Gem and Mineral Show, Ray and Faith Siebert, received instructions for changing the color of Mohawkite from Hilltop House ( Mac and Jenny McCartney).

Cut and polish a cabochon then put it in a tin plate, filled half way with clean sand. Heat the oven for 15 minutes at 200°. Then turn the oven to 350° and watch every 5 minutes until the cabochon reaches a bluish-purple cast. Take the pan out of the oven and let the cab cool.

We found it took 30 minutes to reach the shade, depending on the stone. We also found when picking out a slab, pick one with smaller formations and you will have more metal that turns color. (Via-----Rockhound Harold)





**HOW TO USE THE CHART**

1. Measure average outside diameter (D) of geode in inches.
2. Determine weight (W) of geode in pounds & ounces.
3. Locate outside diameter (D) on vertical line at left of chart.
4. Locate weight (W) on line at right of chart.
5. Draw a straight line connecting above two points.
6. Read cavity diameter (d) at point where your line intersects the line at center of chart.

**EXAMPLE:** The broken line (above) is drawn if the geode is 4" outside diameter and weighs one pound. Cavity diameter is slightly over 3½" and the average wall thickness is (4 - 3½) divided by 2, or approximately ¼ inch.

1 inches

4 Oz.



OPENING AND CLEANING GEODES

By.. Lloyd N. Own of the Illowa Grinder (Piasa Rockhounds)

The opening of geodes can be a pleasurable and surprising experience if the proper tools are used.

The "pro" uses a set of 2 hardened steel points fastened to a hand or powered press. He thus applies pressure from two sides. This works real well, but the outfit is rather expensive. Another good way is to score the geode all the way around rather deeply with your trim saw. You can do this by raising the splash guard and rotating the geode by hand until cut all the way around. It is then a very simple job to use a screwdriver to pry the sections apart. The third, and most often used method is to lay the geode in a soft earth depression when working on it. Look the geode over for any cracks or weak spots; these should be found and force applied there.

When you have decided just where to apply pressure, use a medium weight hammer and a center punch. Never use steel chisels. Punch in the spot most likely to keep it from sliding off, and hit it several blows, easy at first, and then harder. If three or four blows do not open the geode repeat the process in other spots until a crack does appear. Then use a screwdriver to pry it apart.

Regardless of the method used, always use gloves and safety glasses. Keep your sections together with tape or rubber bands when transporting them home. Remember, do not hit geodes with your hammer...you may have safety glasses, but what about the rockhound 10 feet away. Chips and burrs from your tools fly like bullets.

After the geodes are opened, extreme care should be taken when cleaning so as not to destroy the many micro-crystals that they often contain. These are very tiny and easy to overlook. Smythite, Siderite, Goethite, Millerite, double-terminated quartz, and Strontianite are a few of the hard to come by crystals that are most times lost, and many are lost by the rockhound when cleaning his specimen with brush and water.

If the geode (when opened) has iron oxide stains, brown or muddy coloring, the crystals mentioned above (except the quartz) have already been destroyed. On these it is safe to wash with a hose and brush. If the discoloration is still present after using soap, water and a brush; soak the geode in a solution of oxalic acid--1/8 cup of oxalic acid crystals per gallon of water. As much mud as possible should be removed before soaking in the acid. Do this with a piece of wire or an icepick, taking care not to scratch the crystal faces. CAUTION: DO NOT ALLOW ACID TO TOUCH YOUR SKIN! WEAR RUBBER GLOVES. Using a hose and brushing occasionally will help speed up the cleaning operation; even then it may take as much as 6 months to clean all the stain from your specimens. When they are clean, wash in mild soap and rinse extra well.

This method will be effective when geodes are quartz lined, but oxalic acid will dull or even discolor most of the carbonate inclusions. For cleaning those containing carbonates, use 1 Tbsp. oxalic acid crystals per gallon of water. If a yellow precipitate collects on the material while in the acid, take it out, wash well and start with a weaker solution. (Lot's of work but the results are the greatest!)



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Issue No. 152 - February 1975

## Scholarship Foundation, Inc.

### SCHOLARSHIP PRESIDENT'S ANNUAL REPORT

For the year Nov. 1, 1973 to Oct. 31, 1974

The Foundation's Fund has shown an excellent increase during the past year. Total assets Nov. 1, 1973, were \$159,469.00 which you can compare with the attached Treasurer's Report. Although the expense for Plaques has increased sharply, this is due not only to inflation, but also to the fact more and more of our Clubs are reaching new heights in support of the Fund. Several have attained 1500%, 2000% and 2500% this year and one, the Glendale Lapidary and Gem Society of California, has reached 2700%. In anticipation of continued support by our wonderful members, we are now prepared to issue Plaques, Certificates and Seals to 4000%.

We were very sorry to receive word from General Mills that they are forced to terminate the Betty Crocker Coupon Program which will end Dec. 31, 1974. Begun more than ten years ago by Bernice Rexin in the Midwest Federation, the program spread rapidly to all sections of the AFMS. It not only brought in more than \$19,940.00 for the Fund, but added greatly to increasing participation by our members.

*In the Midwest Federation the two students who are now receiving grants to help with their education are Wayne, R. Goodman, Ph.D., University of Cincinnati, and Miss Lynn Goldstein at Northwestern University.*

### ALL AMERICAN CLUB AWARD BLANK

A copy of the ALL AMERICAN MERIT AWARD blank which your club is to fill out and mail in by the last of March is being enclosed with copies of this newsletter going to each club. This is your chance to tell us how wonderful your club is. Tell us all about yourselves. All pictures, clippings, etc. will be returned if you wish. (Include postage, please!) Last year the Midwest had more entries than any other Federation. Help the Midwest, and help the image of your club by entering! We want to know about you! Mail to Mrs. June Zeitner, Mission, South Dakota 57555.



### PRESENTS CHECK FOR \$3,500

Ralph Ulrich (left), President of the Lincoln Gem and Mineral Club, Lincoln, Neb., presents a check in the amount of \$3500 to Midwest Federation President Terry Huizing at the fall Executive Committee meeting at Hammond, Ind. on Saturday, Nov. 2. Check represents first payment of the Midwest's share of the profits of the National Gem and Mineral Show held in Lincoln, Neb. last June 13-16.

*From the Nation's Capitol...*

## The Washington Scene By Kenneth Zahn

The intense, unrelenting force of inflation is having dramatic effects on budget cuts for lower priority projects which include funds for recreation and management of the public lands. The Bureau of Land Management will have a tough time trying to enforce some of the provisions of its regulations.

\*\*\*\*\*

Ronald H. Walker, Director of the National Park Service, said that "probably in response to energy shortage and economic restraint," people are (a) visiting fewer parks and staying longer, (b) increasing visits to historical areas, (c) increasing visits to nearby parks, and (d) reducing only slightly total use of parks and recreation areas.

\*\*\*\*\*

A prominent Congressman stated that "opinions expressed in public hearings have little effect on changing proposals. We wouldn't necessarily let the few who attend sway our conclusions. Our biggest influence comes from analyzing heavy letter concentrations, especially if they are well written and constructive." A word to the wise or need I say more.

WHEN YOU  
DRIVE





## A LETTER FROM A SCHOLARSHIP WINNER

Dear Mr. Courter:

The purpose of this letter is to inform you of receipt of my scholarship grant on 1 November 1974. I would herein like to again express my sincerest thanks to the American Federation of Mineralogical Societies for institution of this program. I am particularly honored to be the first award recipient from the University of Cincinnati. As such, I would also add the hope that many of my colleagues benefit from the program in future years. The A.F.M.S. is certainly to be commended for the civic interest shown by the institution of such a foundation.

It would be unfair of me to fail to give credit to another group of people who have made receipt of this honor possible for me, the faculty of the Department of Geology at the University of Cincinnati. Particular kudos are due Professor Potter, who, in addition to his contributions to we students as a lecturer, and to his discipline as an outstanding researcher, has worked with the A.F.M.S. in establishing this award for Cincinnati students. But my thanks also go to the remaining faculty, who have challenged my intellect while guiding my course in geology. I would not have received such an honor without their aid.

Since I was unable to convene with you in Lincoln last June and talk about my own pursuits in geology, I thought you might be interested in a brief account of my study. I am currently culminating work on my M.S. dissertation, which is a study of the microfauna, in particular the conodonts, of a Lower Mississippian sequence of rocks in Kentucky. I am additionally a candidate for a Ph. D. at Cincinnati; while my dissertation plans are not yet concrete, I will likely be studying lebensspuren from the same Mississippian sequence. My coursework is centered on invertebrate paleobiology, with ancillary backgrounds in stratigraphy-sedimentation and biology.

The grant awarded me by the A.F.M.S. will directly contribute to my academic goals. My present plans are to use it to defray costs of studying marine ecology this summer at the Duke University Marine Station in Beaufort, N.C. This program, which has been participated in by Cincinnati paleobiology students for several years, adds immeasurably to recognition of fossil assemblages as representative of parts of once-living communities. The generosity of your organization will allow me to realize such a learning experience next June.

Upon closing, allow me to reiterate my thanks to the American Federation of Mineralogical Societies for this honor. I will strive to make your selection a good one. I will conclude by expressing the hope that I can personally meet you and other foundation members at a future meeting.

Best wishes for continued success of your fine program.

Sincerely yours,  
Wayne R. Goodman

## Federation communication

By June Zeitner

It is surprising how little the average club member knows about the way his Federation and AFMS are run. Many have no idea about the services rendered by the Federations. In fact, some say openly they don't know what good the Federation is, and then vote to drop multiple Newsletter subscriptions.

The purpose of the Federation Newsletters is to inform the members of the clubs, all the clubs and all the members. Various systems are used by the Regional Federations, but whatever system they have, someone in every club, most often two in each club, and sometimes more, receives copies of each issue of their own region's and the AFMS Newsletter. If the club does not know or understand about the Federations the trouble might be that these Newsletters are treated like private property. It may be the person who gets them reads them and files them and the club members do not ever see them. Perhaps the officer may be interested in only one item in a newsletter and mention it to the members, but neglect to mention all of the other important things in the issue. Items are selected for the Newsletters which are of wide interest. Someone in every club will enjoy each of these items, if they are made available. And as the members as a whole learn all of the workings of the Federation their interest and appreciation will grow, and the Federations will be strengthened.

The clubs are wonderful at coming up with solutions for seemingly hopeless problems. So here is a problem for all to work on now. Communication. Help our communication system work. It is necessary for our survival, and is somewhat costly. Is your club helping all it can?

### DENVER SITE OF AFMS CONVENTION JUNE 19-21

The American Federation will hold its 28th Annual convention in conjunction with the 32nd Annual Rocky Mountain Federation show and convention in Denver, Colo. on June 19-22. Host is the Denver Council of Gem and Mineral Societies

Extensive plans are being made for the show and in coming issues of the Newsletter these plans will be unfolded.

There is much to see and do in Denver, the Mile High City of Colorado. While attending the National Gem and Mineral Show for 1975, visitors can take trips to the State Mineral Museum and the Museum in Denver's beautiful city park. Then a short distance away is Golden with the Museum of the College of Mines and Boulder with the State University Museum. There are fabulous mining areas in the Rockies as well as spectacular scenery, abundant wild life (birds and animals, that is) and historic and picturesque settlements.

### Supply orders

Clinton Heckert, Director of Supplies for the MWF, has been shipping all supplies with exception of stationary... letterheads and envelopes. Effective immediately he will also be shipping the letterheads and envelopes. Send all your orders for supplies to Clinton Heckert, 725 Stewart Street, Elgin, Ill. 60120.



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Issue No. 153 - March 1975

## Educational Seminar

The First Annual Michigan Geology and Gemcraft Society Educational Seminar will be held in Ann Arbor, Michigan, Saturday and Sunday, April 5 and 6, 1975. The advance ticket sales began February 1st. The admission charge is \$5.00 per person for both days for all seminars. If someone decides only to attend a selected lecture, the charge is \$1.00 per lecture.

The seminar is being hosted by the Washtenaw Community College. There are unlimited attendance facilities for all lectures and special demonstration areas. The seminar will cover many facets in the geology and lapidary fields such as silversmithing, faceting, photography, carving, spheres, fossils, geology, gemology, preparing and maintaining a mineral collection and seminars for bulletin editors and for leaders of junior activities.

Washtenaw Community College has given us permission to allow self-contained campers on the college property, but there will be no hook-up available. Within a 3 mile radius from the college, there are several nice motels: Holiday Inn East, Howard Johnson, Stage Stop Motel and the Marriott Inn, plus countless restaurants.

There is an area of interest for everyone at this seminar. A good attendance is expected. For further information contact Mr. Lary Bailey, V.P. MGAGS Seminar Chairman, 61340 Fairland Drive, South Lyon, Michigan 48178. Phone: 313-437-3463.

## Announce judges for awards

Co-Chairpersons of the judges for the Midwest All American Clubs and the Midwest Merit Awards will be Bill and Jean Dahlberg of Minneapolis, Minnesota. Bill is a former treasurer of Midwest and Jean was Minnesota State Vice President. The Dahlbergs are active members of the Minnesota Mineral Club of Minneapolis and are well known to Midwest Federation members. Serving with them on the judging committee will be Mr. and Mrs. J. Webster Jones, also of Minneapolis, and Mr. and Mrs. Harold Maine of Robbinsdale. Mr. Jones is past president of Minnesota Mineral Club, and Mr. Maine, a school counselor, is prominent in the activities of the Central Minnesota Mineral Society.

Mrs. June Zeitner, Merit Awards Chairman, in announcing these judges, asks that all clubs help make the judges work difficult, by sending in their entry for this annual competition. It is hoped that Midwest can surpass its excellent record of last year. Entries must be postmarked by March 31st and should be mailed to Mrs. Zeitner either at Mission, S.D. 57555 or her winter address, 2205 South 281, Edinburg, Texas 78539.

## Clubs active on state stones

Clubs in Maryland, Georgia, Massachusetts and Washington are busy trying to get official State Gems and or Minerals named in time for the Bicentennial. Best of luck to them! If other states are working on such projects, please contact June Zeitner. Arizona now has an official gem. It is turquoise, an appropriate choice. Most of the states (33 or more) now have State Stones. The first hints on how to get State Stones were printed in AFMS Newsletter 11 years ago.

A few states which have passed State Gems or Minerals have apparently forgotten about it. In a recent survey, one state which previously reported that they had a state stone, wrote that they did not. Another state said for \$1.75 they would find out if they did or not. And, a third had the State Geological Survey send a list of state symbols such as bird, flower and tree...everything but their well-known gem, which according to the clubs was adopted several years ago. If officials and bureaus of your state have forgotten, remind them and also your fellow citizens.

Some states have gone far in recognizing their state stone. Ohio has an educational museum at Flint Ridge showing the historical significance of Ohio flint. Illinois sends samples of its fluorite to those inquiring about the State Mineral. Specimens of the State Stone are seen in several state museums and statehouses and Governor's mansions. What has your state done?

## New MWF Appointments

Safety and Field Trip Chairman -  
Mr. Marion Gingery  
G-4481 Mollwood Drive  
Flint, Michigan 48506

Credentials Chairman -  
Mrs. Esther Mullaly  
30018 Dawson Street  
Garden City, Michigan 48135



*Johnny Horizon says*

**THIS IS YOUR LAND  
KEEP IT CLEAN**



# Scholarship award

Dr. Clayton H. Johnson of the University of Missouri at Columbia is the recipient of the AFMS Scholarship Foundation Honor Award for the Midwest Federation. Dr. Johnson is Associate Professor of Geology and has been active in the outreach of his department to earth science teachers, students and collectors.

Besides his work directing graduate work toward M.A. and Ph. D. degrees in the study of igneous and metamorphic rocks, he has spoken to lapidary clubs and high school science classes, identified specimens and answered questions from students, teachers and collectors, and headed the Science Teachers of Missouri. He led field trips for the National Science Teachers of America.

Dr. Johnson's Honor Award entitles him to select an institution and a graduate student to receive the scholarship of \$750 a year and good for two years of graduate study which is the Midwest Federation's share of the Scholarship Foundation's similar annual grants to each of the regional federations. These scholarships are paid for with income from the contributions in money and Betty Crocker coupons made by the member clubs of the federations.

## THE PUBLIC IMAGE AND COURTESY COMMITTEE

The Lake County (Illinois) Gem and Mineral Society has had many pleasant associations with the county and local officials whom they have asked to participate in their annual shows. A couple of months prior to the spring show, the County Board under the hand of the chairman proclaimed "Lake County Gem and Mineral Week" culminating at show time. The County Superintendent of Educational Service Region has cooperated by notifying elementary schools that the show is open without charge to chaperoned groups provided reservations are made. This invitation has also been extended to any other organization of young people or adults. These guided tours have been scheduled at about ten minute intervals. The officials, perhaps five, cut the ribbon opening the four day show and often stayed on to see the exhibits with emphasis on "Education in the Fascinating World of Earth Science." (The first two days have been especially designated for school children.)

Let us know what your club is doing to let those not in our inner circle realize the constructive factors that make up "rock-hounding our way" or whatever. We'll report on them. Please send the information to Mrs. Allan (Ruth) Mogg, R. #1, Box 231, Grayslake, Illinois 60030 (Chairperson)

## new program

Good news! Along with the ESCON I Micromounts and Ishpeming Field Trip, we have the American Mineral Heritage Stamp Program, thanks to American Federation and Norman Steel. But, we still need new programs to replace those that are wearing out. Come on, Clubs! Help your Federation help you.

Please do not order programs for July and August as we have clean-up and repair work to do.

E. Donald Stinnet, Program Chairman

## 1975 MWF DIRECTORY

The price of the 1975 MWF Directory is \$1.50 postage paid. You may recall that the pre-publication price was \$1.00 each for all orders received prior to February 1st. I have just been notified by Terry to advise our members that the price is as given above.

Clinton I. Heckert, Director of Supplies and Information  
725 Stewart Avenue, Elgin, Illinois 60120

## Help The Scholarship Fund!

Since General Mills no longer allows credit for coupons, you can be helpful to the Scholarship Fund by purchasing and using specimen index cards. They are \$1.75 per hundred postpaid anywhere in the USA and Canada.

The Tulip City Gem and Mineral Club of Holland, Michigan holds Silent Auctions at many of their general meetings throughout the year. At the last board meeting, it was passed in the form of a motion to give the proceeds from the Silent Auction to the American Federation Scholarship Fund.

The Charles City Rock Club became 500% by donating the money from the sales of their own cook book to the Scholarship Fund! The cook book is excellent! (They are all sold out!)

## GEOLOGY TOUR

Midwest Federation Geology Chairman, Wayne Henderson, and his assistants, are planning an exciting new service for Midwest Federation members. It is a Geology Tour of the Lake Superior-Keweenaw areas. This will be a two week camping trip and is scheduled for late July and early August. The group will be limited to the first fifty Midwest members who apply after announcements have reached all members. President Terry Huizing says he is sure this novel service to members will meet with enthusiastic approval.

## AFMS NEWSLETTER SUBSCRIPTION

An individual subscription to the AFMS Newsletter may be received by sending \$2.50 for ten issues to Parrot Printing Service, P.O. Box 1130, Des Moines, Iowa 50311. Make your check payable to AFMS Newsletter and be sure to include your zip code.

## AFMS CONVENTION in DENVER, JUNE 19-21

The deadline for convention pre-registration is May 1st. You may register by contacting the Registration Chairman, P.O. Box 1975, Denver, Colorado 80201. Fees are Adult (4-Day) \$5.00; Junior (4-Day) \$2.50; Adult Daily Admission \$1.50 and Junior Daily Admission \$.75.

Convention headquarters is The Capitol Plaza Inn, 303 West Colfax Avenue, Denver, Colorado 80204. Phone: (303) 292-9010. You may write directly for reservations.



TRICKS OF THE TRADE

(Gemstone News Letter via- GEMS)

One bad experience is all one needs and unfortunately in the gemstone field the cleverest of tricksters have a field day. Buyers of stones are aware of certain minor faults in almost any stone. Somewhere in a gem there is a fault, internal imperfection, uneven feet, some slight discoloration, that allows the dealer to know his stone, or perhaps even to identify his stone. There are however many "tricks of the trade" resorted to which enhance or upgrade a stone that otherwise might not bring a high price. Not much can be done to alter imperfections internally, but surfacewise, great miracles can be performed. Among the most prevalent of these might be the following:

Plum color star rubies from Mysore. This particular variety has a non-homogenous texture so that the surface of a polished stone always has minute vugs, cracklines, etc., when viewed under magnification. A favorite trick is to dip these stones in a reddish solution part of which remains in the cracks after drying the surface. Naturally it definitely enhances the color to a richer red.

Star sapphire and rubies. These are found with a vug or crystal holes that are left in by the cutters (after all, they are paid by the finished weight). On the unsightly blemishes which are found on the upper surface it has been found that imperfections can be drilled out just like a tooth and filling the vug with colored epoxy works wonders. It greatly improves the appearance and naturally adds a few dollars per carat.

Gemstone carvings. These are often damaged with careless handling and an arm or a leg can be expertly replaced with the modern epoxys. Fortunately for those who own a short wave fluorescent lamp, the epoxy in both the sapphire and carving shows up a bright green color. Most glues show some fluorescence.

Catseye and eye star stones. These stones are quickly enhanced with just a rub next to the corner of the nose where it touches the cheek. The slick film of oil is an old trick in the overseas tourist show. It lasts until you get out of the store.

Even the diamond doesn't escape the con artist as a quick touch of a ball point pen to the cutlet will add the minutest blue-white color and needless to say at least a few hundred dollars per carat.

+++++

MAKE DECORATIVE TILES WITH ROCKS

(Idea from Better Homes &amp; Gardens; via--Pebble Pusher)

With a little bit of cement and imagination you can convert that rock collection into any type of tile you want, to use on a floor or a fireplace, or just to line a walkway. The tile size will depend on the use you wish to make of them.

Build the form, for the concrete (cement) with 2 x 4's. Bolt them to a premeasured sheet of plywood to serve as the bottom of the form. It is easier to dismantle later, and for thorough cleaning. Coat the 2 x 4's

.....back page.....



.....decorative tiles.....  
 with linseed oil. Spread a sealer on the plywood. Use smaller rocks to fill spaces and to add color and variety after you have laid the larger rocks to be used flat down on the plywood. After the rocks are spread evenly over the plywood, lay a square of chicken wire over the rocks to serve as reinforcement for the concrete. Mix enough cement to fill in the form. Pour it in slowly, vibrate the form to settle the cement. Smooth the surface.

After it has set overnight, turn it over and dismantle it. Brush off the exposed tile with a soft wire brush. These tiles can be coated with a silicone sealer to bring out the natural color. If used indoors, ordinary floor wax gives them a soft patina.

+ + + + + + + + + +

Return Postage guaranteed

1st issue, 1975  
 JASPILITE  
 Ishpeming Rock and Mineral Club., Inc.

Laurence and Olive Sain, editors  
 818 West Kaye Avenue  
 Marquette, Michigan 49855



Mr. Mrs. C. R. Markert

R-1, Box 620

Ishpeming, Michigan 49849

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