

JAN-76

THE



J A S P I L I T E

Affiliated with the Midwest Federation  
of Mineralogical and Geological Societies

# Midwest Federation's NEWSLETTER



Published monthly except July and August as a service to members clubs.  
All news, articles, subscription orders and requests for information concerning publication  
should be sent to the Editor, Haydon Peterson, Parrot Printing, 2125 Forest, Des Moines, Ia. 50311

Issue No. 162 - February 1976

## Meet Paul Good

### OUR SECOND VICE PRESIDENT

Second Vice President is Paul Good, Griffith, Indiana. Paul has served on Bulletin Editors' Committee and showed outstanding leadership in this field. He served as President of his local club and as show chairman for local shows. He is an expeditor for a large manufacturing plant.



## **Bicentennial** FEATURES

by June Zeitner



One of the early bicentennial gem shows was the 1975 show of the Central Michigan Lapidary and Mineral Society of Lansing. The central display of the Bicentennial Mineral Heritage theme was a group of 20 cases of displays which showed antique articles together with the raw materials which went into them.

Materials shown were glass, iron, copper, pewter, lead, zinc, gold, tin, silver soapstone, jet, amber and sulphur. Antiques included priceless and appropriate examples of pressed and cut glass, sparkling jet and amber and gold and silver jewelry, pewter tableware, soapstone carvings, copper pots, iron tools, historic guns and a crystal radio set.

Some of the larger pieces were a copper wash boiler, a steel bear trap and a lithographer's soapstone. These larger items were placed on a platform of Chicago brick facing the entrance. Specimens accompanying the big antiques were huge and showy.

The red, white and blue background was accented by the flags of the United States, the State of Michigan and the Bicentennial flag. A low rail fence with pots of flowers enclosed the entrance display.

Co-chairmen Lola Pearson and Nancy Smith and their entire committee and club are to be congratulated for their excellent use of this theme.

Bicentennial themes are planned for 1976 by McDonnell Douglas and other St. Louis area clubs for the Midwest and by Kalamazoo, Michigan, Hot Springs, South Dakota and many others. We would be interested in hearing your plans.

## Scholarship fund tops \$200,000

The trust fund of the AFMS Scholarship Foundation continues to grow at an ever increasing pace. The total reported by the Foundation Treasurer, Ellis W. Courter, is now \$202,792.05 with \$24,533.17 of this having been received during the past fiscal year. This tops all previous contributions for one year.

The contribution of the Midwest Federation for this period was \$7,739.50 which brings the grand total of Midwest contributions to \$61,649.38. Every club in the Midwest is to be congratulated for their fine support of the Scholarship Foundation over the past years.

Because of the increased income realized from the growing fund, the interest (which is the only part used) allowed three \$750 bonus scholarships to be pledged during the year in addition to the usual six grants, making a total of \$11,250 awarded during the year to support college graduate students working on their masters or doctorate degrees in science fields.

Beginning with the new 1976 awards, the amount of each grant will be increased to \$1,000 per year with each grant still covering two years. The usual six two-year grants will be awarded and hopefully funds will also be available for another bonus award. To date, 52 students have been assisted in their education for a total expenditure of \$51,900.

### PUBLIC IMAGE AND COURTESY COMMITTEE

Mrs. Ruth Mogg, R. R. 1, Box 231, Grayslake, Illinois 60030

The Central Iowa Mineral Society of Des Moines, Iowa is an active club. Mr. William Ashby, Treasurer for the club, described some of their activities.

They answer questions about rocks and minerals of Iowa for the Iowa Development Commission. Some of the members have Boy Scout Troops and Blue Birds in their homes to observe and ask questions about collections. They visit grade schools to exhibit and discuss specimens and they also conduct discussions in the Adult Education Classes. They present programs for the Des Moines Women's Club and have exhibits at the Iowa State Fair and the Des Moines Public Library. This past year they had an exhibit and gave demonstrations for two days at the Des Moines Plaza Shopping Center. They also furnish displays for Drake University and have set up the Straight Collection there. They always cooperate fully with the owners of areas when they are on field trips and they welcome visiting rockhounds any time.

What does your club do? Please let us know.

## SCHOLARSHIP TREASURER'S REPORT

OPERATING STATEMENT - Nov. 1, 1974 thru Oct. 31, 1975

### OPERATING INCOME

Interest Earned - Bonds in Trust Fund	\$13,959.30
Savings Account	411.74
Gain on Matured Bonds	45.00
<b>TOTAL EARNINGS</b>	<b>\$14,416.04</b>

### OPERATING COSTS

Office Supplies and Expense	\$396.50
Postage & Communications	299.76
Plaques	686.78
Bank Charges	5.00
Trust Fund Administration	537.27
	\$ 1,925.31

Scholarships Granted or Pledged	\$11,250.00
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURES</b>	<b>\$13,175.31</b>

**TOTAL GAIN FOR PERIOD** \$ 1,240.73

TREASURER'S REPORT - Nov. 1, 1974 thru Oct. 31, 1975

### ASSETS

Bonds - First National Bank of Minneapolis	
Public Service Electric & Gas Co.	\$10,148.30
American Tobacco Co.	5,002.80
Borden Co.	5,002.80
Crucible Steel Co.	8,000.00
Sears Roebuck and Co.	10,000.10
General Motors Acceptance Corp.	14,962.50
Pacific Gas & Electric Co.	10,060.60
Trailer Train Co.	5,000.00
Columbia Gas System	5,025.00
Carolina Light and Power Co.	10,000.00
Trans-Continental Pipe Line Co.	9,180.00
American Telephone & Telegraph Co.	9,775.00
Southern Bell Telephone Co.	9,950.00
Appalachian Power Co.	10,150.00
Ford Motor Credit Co.	10,100.00
Federal National Mortgage Assoc.	9,993.75
Michigan Wisconsin Pipe Line Co.	10,100.00
Virginia Electric & Power Co.	10,275.00
Ohio Edison Co.	5,125.00
European Coal & Steel Co.	9,950.00
Texas Commerce Bank Shares	9,664.50
City of Montreal	10,000.00
	\$ 197,465.35
Savings Account - American Savings & Loan Detroit	11,214.04
Checking Account - Manufacturer's National Bank, Detroit	1,226.06
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b>\$ 209,905.45</b>

### LIABILITIES

Accrued Accounts Payable - 1st National Bank, Minnesota	\$ 537.27
Scholarships Pledged but not paid	7,500.00
	\$ 8,037.27

**CONTRIBUTIONS (Principal fund)** 202,792.05

<b>DEFICIT - As of November 1, 1974</b>	2,164.60
Less: Net gain for period	1,240.73
	923.87

\$ 209,905.45

## POLLUTION

The late Dr. Wm. Pecora, Undersecretary of the Interior, calculated that all of man's air pollution during his thousands of years on earth does not equal the amount of particulate and noxious gases from just 3 volcanoes: Krakatoa, near Java (1883); Mt. Katmi, Alaska (1912) and Helka, Iceland (1947).

He points out that nature's pure water isn't so pure after all. A few examples:

The springs feeding the Arkansas and Red Rivers carry approximately 17 tons of salt per minute.

The Lemonade Springs in New Mexico carry approximately 900 pounds of sulfuric acid per million pounds of water. (This is more than 10 times the acid concentration in coal mine discharges.)

The Mississippi River carries over 2 million tons of natural sediment into the Gulf of Mexico each day.

The Paria River of Arizona carries 500 times more natural sediment than the Mississippi River - yes, one billion tons of sediment per day.

## MASTODON PARK

A committee of housewives near St. Louis is winning its fight to save a notable fossil site from which the skeletons of sixty mastodons have been removed. The state had sold the land for a development when concerned housewives decided to take action. The ladies were told that they would have to raise a half million dollars to buy the land and preserve it as a park. They were also given a deadline for coming up with the money. The Federal Bureau of Outdoor Recreation agreed to match funds and the State Legislature provided \$200,000. When it appeared that the ladies would meet their goal, the final \$28,000 was pledged by the McDonnell Aircraft Company of St. Louis.

Now a Mastodon Park is assured and the four housewives and their helpers are starting to think of a museum dedicated to the extinct resident of their area.

The McDonnell Douglas Gem and Mineral Club helped the Mastodon Park Committee at their recent annual show. McDonnell and other St. Louis area clubs will host the Midwest Federation Convention in July.

## LARGEST BLACK OPAL

The world's largest black opal, weighing an astonishing 145 pounds, was recently found at Andamooka, Australia. Professional lapidary, Bill Moriarty, will soon cut the opal into about 30,000 pieces. The stones could bring over three and a half million dollars on the market according to an officer of the Australian Jeweler's Association. The king-sized gem was found by a miner and sold to John Roberts and Yoshe Goldberg who named it Koninderle, the Aborigine word for rainbow.

PLEASE!! DON'T BE A LITTERBUG!!

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Issue No. 163 - March 1976

Meet Our

## Treasurer

Milford J. Sharp of Fairview Park, Ohio is the 1976 Treasurer for the Midwest Federation. He has had financial experience as local treasurer for his union. He has also been a State Director for Ohio.



Mr. and Mrs. Milford Sharp

Mr. Sharp is now a teacher in training of workers in installation and operation of switching equipment for Ohio Bell Telephone Company.

## IT'S ALL AMERICAN TIME !

Every club should fill out and mail in its All American entry now. This is also the Midwest Merit Award competition. The blank appears in the November and January AFMS Newsletters and was handed to delegates at Detroit. If your club's Award Chairman can't find a copy, I have extras.

Midwest has always been the leader in this program. It is important to us to keep up with our own history and accomplishments, to learn what others are doing, to share our ideas, and to participate in the activities of our Federations. Please see that your club entry is in the mail soon. No scrap books this year so your entry should not be too much work. We have had many winners and are proud of them all, but we are also proud of all the clubs who have participated. Absolute deadline for postmark is March 1st. Why not do it now since 1975 is now history?

Judges for the current competition are announced on page 2. Mail those entires to me: June Zeitner, Midwest Merit Awards Chairman, Mission, South Dakota 57555.



THIS IS YOUR LAND  
KEEP IT CLEAN

## Plans continue for convention

The site of the 1976 Midwest Federation Show and Convention is at the "Show Center" located at 9785 St. Charles Rock Road in West St. Louis County just minutes away from Lambert International Airport.

## St. Louis in '76

MIDWEST FEDERATION  
SHOW AND CONVENTION

JULY 22 - 25, 1976

The Show Committee is also pleased to announce that they have now selected the headquarters motel which is the Ramada Inn, 9636 Natural Bridge, Berkeley, Missouri 63134. This motel is about 1/2 mile from the airport, 1/4 mile from Interstate 70 and is about 3 miles from the show site. The Ramada Inn will provide free transportation to and from the airport and to the show site for their guests. When writing the motel for reservations, ask for "1976 MWF Convention Special Rates". The Show Committee has reserved 200 rooms and expects them to go fast so reservations at the headquarters motel should be sent in early. These special rates are good only through April 1, 1976.

The headquarters campground is "Pinewoods Park", which is located one mile west of Wentzville on Interstate I-70 at AA exit. You may write the owners, Leonard and Ellen Grimm, Route #1, Box 314, Wentzville, Missouri 63385. This campground has fishing, recreation area, pavilion, Olympic size pool, and a large number of camp sites with no or full hookup.

A complete list of recommended motels and camping facilities close to the show site may be obtained by writing the show chairman.

The show itself will have over 300 displays on one open floor which is completely air conditioned. In addition to the competitive displays and other special displays, the show will have a large number of museum exhibits.

Show attendees will be able to purchase supplies from 40 nationally known gem and mineral retail dealers. A large wholesale area encompassing 16 dealers has been provided from the wholesale trade. Free special lectures and programs are being provided all four days of the show.

The show committee has selected "Twenty-one Tours, Inc." of St. Louis, Mo. to provide daily tours from the show to out-going attractions in the area.

Inquiries about the show should be directed to Garald Hook, 932 St. Charles Avenue, St. Charles, Missouri 63301, phone 314-724-5427.

## WELCOME! NEW CLUB!

Sanilac County Lapidary, Inc.  
Mr. Henry Wede, President  
5301 Harrington Road  
Corswell, Michigan 48422  
Joined 1-16-76

## JUDGES ANNOUNCED

Mrs. June Zeitner, Merit Award Chairman for the Midwest Federation, has announced the following judges for the Midwest regional division of the AFMS All American program and the Midwest Merit Award Competition. Chairman: Mr. Leo Yanasak, Midwest Past President, Des Moines, Iowa. Committee Members: Clyde Hanson and Doloris Poffenberger, both of Des Moines.

In keeping with the custom of the past several years all committee members are from one area to facilitate conferences and communication. Past judging teams have been from Mountain Home, Arkansas, the Chicago area and the Twin Cities of Minnesota.

Mr. Yanasak is currently show advisory committee Chairman for the Midwest and has served the Federation in various capacities for many years. An active member of Des Moines Lapidary Society, Leo has held all offices in that club and has been in charge of such projects as the clubhouse owned by Des Moines Lapidary.

Clyde Hanson is a past president of the Dallas County Club and the Des Moines Lapidary Society. He is also a member of the Central Iowa Mineral Club. Doloris is Vice President and program chairman of the Dallas County Rock club and served that club last year as secretary. The Dallas County Rock Club has won several All American and Merit Awards in the past. Des Moines Lapidary was a winner last year and has contributed much to the Federation including the hosting of a national show.

Guidelines will be provided the judging team and all entries postmarked prior to March 1st will be judged. All American Trophies will be awarded at Austin at the National Show and Midwest Merit Awards will be presented at St. Louis at the Midwest Federation Banquet.

## NEW FOSSIL BOOK

A new fossil book, Common Fossil Plants of Western North America, is the first guide to the fossil plant kingdom written especially for the amateur. This book, written by Dr. William D. Tidwell, may be ordered from Brigham Young University Press, Marketing 205 UPB, Provo, Utah 84602.

## COMMITTEE APPOINTMENT

Howard Taylor, MWF President, announces the appointment of Leonard Nicholls, 32141 Meadowbrook Lane, Livonia, Mich. 48154 as chairman of a new committee to be known as "Reopen and Keep Open Collecting Areas".

## NATIONAL "GEM CAPERS" OF '76

June 17, 18, 19 & 20, 1976

The annual National Gem and Mineral Show of 1976 will be held at the Austin Municipal Auditorium and Convention Center on Town Lake in Austin, Texas. The show and convention will be hosted by the Austin Gem and Mineral Society for the American Federation of Mineralogical Societies and the South Central Federation of Mineral Societies.

The headquarters hotel is the Sheraton Crest Motor Inn also on Town Lake and only a very short distance from the Auditorium. Hotel reservations should be made through the Austin Chamber of Commerce, Austin, Texas 78704.

Visitors to the show will have the opportunity to hear some very outstanding speakers on earth sciences and the lapidary arts.

There will be special exhibits at the Texas Memorial Museum. A shuttle bus will be available from the Auditorium, Hotel, to the Museum.

There will be no organized hunts directly from the show. There will be hunting information available and after the show hunts are being planned.

Planned for your extra pleasure are two activities which will be held at the Coliseum. Thursday we will have a Bar-B-Que supper with square dancing immediately following. On Friday we will serve Mexican Food with a special program immediately following.

The swappers area will be in the Coliseum, just across from the Auditorium, and will be open from 10-5 Thursday, Friday and Saturday. We are asking all swappers to bring your own card table, box or magic carpet to set up your material. Remember, there will be no selling or buying in the swappers area.

For an advance registration packet, write Roberta Goldenberg, Route #3, Box 196G, Georgetown, Texas 78626. For general information regarding the show, write National "Gem Capers" of '76, P.O. Box 4327, Austin, Texas 78765.

## \$6,000 CHECK

The Midwest Federation has received a check in the amount of \$6,000 as a partial payment of the Midwest's share of the 1975 Greater Detroit International Gem and Mineral Show.

## MRS. ELLA PARR STRICKEN

Mrs. Ella Parr, wife of Bernard Parr who is a past president of the Midwest Federation, died at Mansfield General Hospital, Mansfield, Ohio in December. She was a past president of the YWCA and a member of Church Women United, the Women's Committee of the Mansfield Symphony Society and Descendants of Mayflower Pilgrims for the State of Maine.

It was the wish of Mrs. Parr that tributes of remembrance be made to the classes for the partially seeing and the blind, department of special education of the Mansfield City Schools. In addition to her husband, she is survived by two sons.

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## Executive meeting

The Midwest Federation Executive Committee will meet at the Ramada Inn, 5560 6th Street, S.W., Cedar Rapids, Iowa 52406. (319-366-7721). This is the spring meeting and will be held April 10, 1976. A noon luncheon will be served and tickets will be sold in advance. MOtel rates are \$17.00 for a single room and \$23.00 for a double. Free camping is available to all trailers at the show site fairgrounds. There are limited electric hook-ups. All other facilities are at the building sites on the fairgrounds. Mr. Truman J. Ramsell, Show Coordinator, invites all MWF officers and members to display at their show. Both competitive and non-competitive displays are welcome. There will also be a "Come and Go" area. However, this is non-competitive.

## GEM TIARA TO JUNE ZEITNER

June Zeitner, a past president of the Midwest Federation and associate editor of the American Federation Newsletter, will be presented with the American Bicentennial Tiara as the "First Lady of Gems" during the International Gem and Mineral Show in Washington, D.C. April 29th through May 2nd. Announcement of the presentation was made by the committee in charge of the show which will also feature other special features with a Bicentennial theme.

The Tiara is being made by Honey O'Sullivan, a jewelry instructor. It will feature a faceted stone or cabochon to represent every state and Washington, D.C. Many of the stones in the Tiara representing the states have been contributed by the many friends of June who are hobbyists and friends.

## NEW APPOINTMENTS ANNOUNCED

Safety and Field Trip Chairman  
Larry Bigley  
6126 Hartley Street  
Lincoln, Nebraska 68507

Administrative Assistant to the Treasurer  
Mrs. Milford (Gladys) Sharp  
3901 West 210th Street  
Fairview Park, Ohio 44126

## Meet Our

### MWF FIRST VICE PRESIDENT

The 1976 First Vice President for the Midwest Federation is Hazel Kuntz, 5 Deer Ridge, Quincy, Illinois. Hazel was a commercial artist specializing in pen and ink and layout work before her retirement. She is a member of two clubs, The Worthen Earth Searchers, Carthage, Illinois of which she was program chairman and the Gem City Rock Club, Quincy, Illinois where she served as secretary. She has also been State Director for Illinois. Her main interest is in minerals but she does some work in lapidary when time permits.



Miss Hazel Kuntz

## SPECIAL EXHIBITS AT CONVENTION

In addition to the competitive displays and other special displays, the Midwest Federation Show and Convention will have a large number of museum exhibits. Among these are the "A Mineral Display from the Keweenaw" from the Cranbrook Museum in Michigan; a mineral display from tri-state area collected over 100 years ago exhibited by the Carnegie Museum of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania; an exhibit of fine gemstones from the Smithsonian of Washington, D.C., and an exhibit of the "Old Lead Belt" and "Viburnum Trend" from the Ed Clarke Museum of the Missouri Geological Survey, Rolla, Missouri.

Headlining the working exhibits and demonstrations are "An Equipment Demonstration" by Crystalite Corporation, California; "A Tumbling Demonstration" by Geosonics, New London, Iowa; an art working exhibit by A. O. Henry, Omaha, Nebraska; a gemstone tree and picture-making exhibit by Bev and Hugh Carroll, Fort Dodge, Iowa; a wirecraft exhibition by McNamar, Des Moines, Iowa; and the sand bottle art by "Almax" Rock and Gift Shop, Lockesburg, Arkansas.

St. Louis  
in '76

MIDWEST FEDERATION  
SHOW AND CONVENTION

JULY 22 - 26, 1976

## WELCOME NEW CLUB!

Cleveland Geological Society  
Sister Joan Acker, H.M.  
20770 Hilliard Road  
Rocky River, Ohio 44116

## PROGRAMS

by E. Donald Stinnett, Program Chairman

Business is good in this part of the Federation. Even though we have no new program to announce yet, there is one in the making. We very much appreciate the new programs you all are sending to us.

We will be going to the convention in St. Louis so will not be taking orders between July 15th and August 31st. Most clubs are out field-tripping then, and I hope this doesn't inconvenience anyone.

## NEW NAME

The Museum Rock and Mineral Club of Oshkosh, Wisconsin recently changed its name. The club will officially now be known as the Oshkosh Earth Science Club. The 1976 president is Mary Jane Overton, 436 West 14th Avenue, Oshkosh, WI.

## GIANT TEXAS PTERODACTYL

Fossil collectors visiting Texas for the National Show will have the thrill of seeing the giant Texas Pterodactyl at the Texas Memorial Museum. The bones of the gigantic flying creature were discovered in the rugged Big Bend area in the early 1970's by geology student, Douglas Lawson. The wing span of the ancient Texas size animal is estimated at about 51 feet, making it the largest flying creature known to science. The Memorial Museum also houses the superb Barron Mineral and Gem Collection. Shuttle bus trips to the Museum will be available from the show which will be in the Austin Auditorium on Town Lake.

Field trip information will be available at the show. There are excellent fossil hunting locations near Austin, and the hill country of Texas also has collecting areas for mineral and gem hunters. The Llano Uplift is the source of Texas blue topaz and other gems, rocks and minerals. Ranches around Mason and Enchanted Rock are favorite sites. Southeast of Austin are locations for petrified wood, including palm.

The four day show promises something for everyone interested in the earth sciences and lapidary arts. Displays will feature everything from hand cast jewelry to tektites, the Texas outer space objects. With lectures, seminars, luncheons, barbecues and a host of other events, the schedule is packed with education and recreation for old and young.

## WINTER CRYSTALS

*Earth Science News* tells how to collect beautiful crystals in the winter. The crystals are snowflakes. While there is no trophy at present for the best snowflake collection, here is how to do it. Collect the fragile crystals on cold black velvet and transfer with a cold toothpick to glass microscope slides which have been kept at a 32 degree temperature. Spray at once with acrylic which will harden immediately. The process is said to be simple, interesting and fun. Brrrrr!

## RECENT DISCOVERIES

*The Oshkosh (Wisconsin) Quarrier* prints an item about the exciting scientific discovery in west central Africa of a burned out natural nuclear reactor. French scientists believe it may have caused mutations in the plant and animal life of the region about 2 billion years ago. Work has stopped at the area of the open pit uranium mine for investigation of the spontaneous reactor which is the only known natural atomic pile. Henry Chauvet, chief geologist of the mine, said the reactor was started by unknown causes and burned with a cataclysmic effect on the environment for more than a million years but that radioactivity from the spontaneous fission has long since disappeared.

*The Rockfinder (Michiana Rock and Gem Club)* reports that Dr. Bruce Raemsch, anthropologist from Hartwick College, Oneonta, New York and his archeological team have recently found a hand ax and several other ancient tools at a dig near Cobleskill, New York which are thought to be 70,000 years old. In earlier digs Dr. Raemsch discovered 30,000 year old tools.

## EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS

A club particularly active in the educational aspects of the hobby is the Colorado Springs Mineralogical Society. The club members are concentrating on the mineral, gem and fossil deposits of their own area. Their prospecting and collecting are scientifically done, and their records are available in pictures as well as in writing. Their program on *Florissant Pegmatites* has been popular everywhere it is shown. Another of their professional quality programs is about the legendary gold town, Cripple Creek. The club is almost finished with a documentary on the *Florissant Fossils* and is sixty percent or more through with a comprehensive program on Colorado minerals. Many clubs could produce similar programs even if their area is not as richly blessed as Colorado Springs.

George Cihacek, Editor of *The Loup Scoop* (Nebraska) says thirty-six out of the forty-two members of the Loup Valley Club are graduates of a rock and lapidary class sponsored by the Platte College Continuing Education Division. Schools all over the country will offer such courses if there are enough requests.



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THIS IS YOUR LAND  
KEEP IT CLEAN

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION  
of the

ISHPEMING ROCK AND MINERAL CLUB, INC.

Published quarterly

OFFICERS & COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN - 1976

President	Carlton Gutman	201 W. Magnetic	Marquette
1st Vice President	Robert Phillips	RR.1, 405 S. Rose	Ishpeming
2nd Vice President	David Proper		Marquette
Secretary	Sandra Phillips		Ishpeming
Treasurer	Arnold Mulzer	322 Rock St.	Marquette
Sunshine	Mildred Jenkins		Ishpeming
Publicity	Bonnie Proper		Marquette
Finance	R.R. Anderson		Marquette
Field Trip	Robert Phillips		Ishpeming
Safety	Leonard Bartelli		Marquette
Curator	C.R. Markert		Ishpeming
Scholarship	Marian Markert		Ishpeming
Hostess Ch...	Eleanor LaChance & Barbara DePetro		Marquette
Education	Vernon Miljour		Gwinn
Jr. Member Co-ordinators	Pat Elie & Chris Miljour		Gwinn
Librarian	Ernest Johnson		Marquette
Bulletin Librarian	Edith Anderson		Marquette
JASPILITE Editors	L and O. Sain (pro tem)		Marquette
U. P. GEM & MINERAL SHOW.....	Frazier Tubbs		

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

Meetings: Business meeting....1st Friday of the month, 7:30 P.M. at Bothwell Middle School.

Program & activity meeting....3rd Sunday of the month at Bothwell Middle School, 2:00 P.M. Oct.--April.

Field trips during the summer months.

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

Initiation fee.....\$1.50

Husband and wife annual dues.. 3.00

Adult annual dues..... 2.00

Junior annual dues..... 1.00

Material in this bulletin may be copied provided full credit is given to the author and the bulletin.

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 and Marian Markert

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A Message From The President:

We all know by now that this is our Bicentennial Year. Closer to home, it is also our club's Show year. Both commemorations will take consummate devotion and hard work. It is hoped that every club member besides volunteering their time to make this Upper Peninsula Gem and Mineral Show the most memorable ever, will also seriously consider contributing an individual display and actively participate in the events of the Show. Remember too that our 'trademark' at the Show will be the wearing of a homemade vest; indeed, it's your free ticket to the Show!

Our junior members represent the future of our hobbies and perpetuation of the club. Like the rest of us, they should be involved in the specific areas of concentration during the special programming at our Sunday meetings. From these experiences should come encouragement for our 'juniors' to not only submit a collective display for the Show, but also individual exhibits.

Every club and organization to accelerate its momentum and gain relevance must attract new members. Personal contact with interested persons is an integral ingredient in inspiring enthusiasm. So too is a well-mounted publicity campaign. This takes both an energetic Publicity Chairman and Jaspilite Editor(s), both posts now sadly vacant - any volunteers?

The snow is finally leaving the area. Not long off are our beloved club and individual field trips. We all are reminded of how fortunate we are to have within easy access some of the finest collecting locales in not only America, but indeed the world. All effort should be made to preserve proper safety measures and protective mechanisms to assure continued prosperous collecting. Not only is it for minerals that we collect, it is also for the therapy and opportunity to get to the yet unspoiled great Upper Peninsula natural splendor. Let us make every effort to guarantee it remains that way.

Carlton Gutman

\*\*\*\*\*ATTENTION.....Our April meeting will be the Second Sunday instead of the third because of Easter. Please make that change on your calendar.

Fred Rydholm will be our guest speaker for the program after which we will go into our special interest activity groups.

.....

We are grateful for our co-hostesses who add an important part to the sociability of the club meetings. The equipment and supplies must be brought in each time and although many members assist, the majority of the responsibility falls on Eleanor and Barbara. Thank you!

Your now 'pro tem' editors thank Edith Anderson, Arnold Mulzer especially for their contributions to each bulletin and to the officers and members who write up the business and news of the club activities.

## .....NOTES from the SECRETARY'S MINUTES

Program Chairman, Bob Phillips, outlined programs for the year: January.....Micromounts, February.....Silent Auction, March..... Mineral Displaying, April.....Fred Rydholm, speaker, and May..... Junior Members' Presentation and MWF Slide Film.

At the same time, the meeting format will be changed so that, following the formal program, members may join one of four groups for further enjoyment. The four groups are: Lapidary, Exhibiting, Mineral Identification, and Mico-mounting and Photography.

President, Carlton Gutman announced a further change in the meeting format in that the board meeting will still be held on the first Friday of the month, but the meeting will be open to the general membership. The third-Sunday-of-the-month meeting will then be consisting of programs only.

This new format will eliminate the necessity of much duplication in taking the minutes by the secretary and, hopefully, will allow someone to more readily volunteer for this position. The minutes will no longer be duplicated to hand out at each meeting; but they will be read at the business meeting each month and approved at that time. Notes from the secretary's minutes will continue to be published in the Jaspilite as before.

Ernie Johnson reported that the lapidary equipment at the Bothwell school will be in good condition for use by the IRMC during meetings.

Four books have been added to the library; one purchased and three were donated by Carlton Gutman.

The question was brought up about charging initiation fees for new junior members. This question will be considered on referral to the club's constitution and by-laws.

Regarding vests to be worn at the Show was decided as follows: Each member will be responsible for making their own vests in red, white and blue colors. Ingrid Bartelli offered to assist members in the Marquette area to make theirs.

A book will be placed in the club's library in memory of Charles Tapola, charter member who passed away in March.

Treasurer, Arnold Mulzer reported on paid memberships for 1976. He said that after March 31, dues will be delinquent. He is hoping that everyone will send in their dues so he won't need to send out delinquent notices--postage being what it is.

The new membership list (1976) will be published in the June issue of the Jaspilite and only paid up members will get the bulletin.

Dave Proper resigned as 2nd vice president and his wife, Bonnie, as publicity chairman due to moving from the area. They will be moving to Houghton County and he will be working for MTU.

NOTES FROM THE 1976 SHOW COMMITTEE

We are in need of Chairmen or Chairladies for these committees: 1- Judges, and 2- Programs. Let's have some volunteers. We have two judges lined up and two programs so that is a start.

Nine special displays have been secured and we hope to get more from the people who haven't yet replied to our letters. We hope they are trying to make arrangements to include our show in their vacation plans.

Ten dealers have been signed up and we have a few on the reserve list in case of a cancellation. The dealers selected by the committee are ones with a wide variety of material to sell.

Our club will have an information booth along with the one from the Midwest Federation. This should help to publicize our club activities and help us to get some new members.

When one of the committee chairpersons calls on you to help with the show please make arrangements to do everything you can. We need help from all our members. You may be asked to do something on a couple of committees. We have some people who are serving as chairman of one committee and are working on another one.

How about hearing from our out-of-town members? One of you is bringing an outstanding special display that will be a big attraction. We would like to hear from the rest of you. If you are going to be up here at the time of the show please let us know about it. We need your help and would appreciate a display.

Bob Phillips needs information for his Exhibits Committee in order to make plans for using the space at the Lakeview Arena. Forms are included in this Jaspilite and were distributed at the March meeting. Everyone please fill these in and tell us what you will display and what you will contribute to the club display. Bring the form to the April meeting or mail it to Bob Phillips if you can't get to one of the April meetings or at least by the first week of May.

\*\*Watch for complete outline\*\*  
\*\*of SHOW in June bulletin.\*\*

Frazier Tubbs,  
Chairman,  
1976 U.P. Gem and Mineral Show

Dear Friends:

The card received from the club and those sent by individual members during my illness were greatly appreciated. It helped so much to know that you were all thinking of me.

I am getting along fine but my activities are very limited and progress seems so slow. I am looking forward to the time when I will see you all and be able to participate in the club activities.

Sincerely,  
Dorothy Tubbs

"If most of us are ashamed of shabby clothes and shoddy furniture, let us be more ashamed of shabby ideas and shoddy philosophies."

.....Albert Einstein

IRMC 1976 SHOW EXHIBIT INVENTORY

We have 11 special exhibits each characterized by a painting owned by the Club. I would like to see one or two volunteers be responsible for each exhibit. Below is the list of paintings. Indicate your first, second, and third choices by placing a number in the space after each entry on your Exhibit Inventory Sheet. In the case of multiple requests, the Exhibit Committee will make the final assignments.

Each exhibit should include minerals or rocks associated with the particular theme of the painting. Each person responsible for an exhibit is encouraged to use his own material as well as material borrowed from others if necessary. Each exhibit should have an appropriate title. Minerals or rocks should be clearly and correctly labeled. We are looking for a good deal of imagination. This group of exhibits will be roped off so that they are out of reach of spectators. Display cases, therefore, are not required. Below is the list of exhibit themes/paintings:

1. The Champion Mine
2. Landscape of the South-Central U.S., Oklahoma, etc.
3. Lightning storm scene
4. Prehistoric miners at work
5. Farm scene indicating the use of minerals
6. Cliff Shaft Mine, Ishpeming
7. Steel mill scene
8. Prehistoric dinosaur scene
9. Petrified wood
10. Lake Superior shore line
11. Ancient sea bed

THE CLUB DISPLAY

Our club display theme will be Minerals--Our Nation's Building Blocks. In this display I would like to see good specimens of rocks and minerals which have contributed to the unparalleled growth of the United States during the 200 years of our existence.

I want to be able to show not only our base metal minerals but also those containing precious metals, coal, limestone, dolomite, and other industrial minerals. All entries should be of U.S. origin, of course.

As part of the exhibit I would like to see Club members do some research on some of the more basic building block categories, such as copper, iron, lead, zinc, coal, limestone, etc. The resulting information should include the development of the uses of each group from colonial times to the present. Also include the principle minerals which apply to a given category. Figures comparing today's consumption with that of 200 years ago would also be appropriate. Below are some suggested topics to research.

Iron	Clay	Potash	Molybdenum
Copper	Gold	Commercial	Mercury
Coal	Silver	fertilizers	Graphite
Lead	Tungsten	Uranium	Feldspars
Zinc	Titanium	Manganese	Salt
Concrete	Lithium	Barium	Vanadium
Glass	Fluorine	Boron	Others that you feel may be important

Limit your notes to the amount that can be typed onto a 3 x 5 card. Your notes do not have to be submitted on a 3 x 5 card, however. Indicate your category choices on the inventory sheet. Take more than one if you can. These notes will be due by the end of May.

Start looking through your material for specimens for the various categories. I expect to have the majority of Club members contributing. This year we are not going to rely on only a few. Your specimens do not need to be limited to your research category. I need an idea of what the Club can or cannot offer.

INDIVIDUAL DISPLAYS

Please indicate the number, theme, and size of your display(s) that you plan to enter. I need some idea of the number of displays we will have to arrange at the show. Also include wattage if it is significant.

Return the inventory sheets to me by April meeting preferably so that I can tabulate your contributions prior to the next meeting.

Bob Phillips, Exhibit Com. Ch.

IRMC Exhibit Inventory Sheet

Club members name \_\_\_\_\_

I will be responsible for the following special noncompetitive exhibit. Choose three and indicate preference by using numbers 1, 2, and 3.

- 1. The Champion Mine \_\_\_\_\_
- 2. Landscape of the South-central U.S., Oklahoma, etc. \_\_\_\_\_
- 3. Lightning storm scene \_\_\_\_\_
- 4. Prehistoric miners at work \_\_\_\_\_
- 5. Farm scene indicating the use of minerals \_\_\_\_\_
- 6. Cliff Shaft Mine, Ish. \_\_\_\_\_
- 7. Steel mill scene \_\_\_\_\_
- 8. Prehistoric dinosaur scene \_\_\_\_\_
- 9. Petrified wood \_\_\_\_\_
- 10. Lake Superior shore line \_\_\_\_\_
- 11. Ancient sea bed \_\_\_\_\_

I will prepare a brief resume of 1 or 2 of the suggested categories to be used in the IRMC display. (This may include historical and present uses, the principle minerals of economic value which apply to the given category, principle mining areas in the U.S., consumption data, etc.)

- 1. \_\_\_\_\_
- 2. \_\_\_\_\_

I have available specimens for the club display also.

applicable category                      specimen description

- 1. \_\_\_\_\_
- 2. \_\_\_\_\_
- 3. \_\_\_\_\_

(List additional specimens on a separate sheet of paper)

I plan to enter the following display(s) in the show:

	<u>Display theme</u>	<u>Competitive?</u>	<u>approx. size</u>	<u>approx. wattage</u>
1.	_____	_____	_____	_____
2.	_____	_____	_____	_____
3.	_____	_____	_____	_____

(List others on separate sheet of paper)

RETURN INVENTORY to Bob Phillips

## BITS AND PIECES.....Arnold Mulzer

Two junior members were added to our club this year. Chris Johnson, son of Ernie and Helen, has the honor of being the youngest pebble pup. He is active in Cub Scouts and Junior Hockey. Dennis Helt is a well-traveled pebble pup as his father is a career Navy man. Dennis was born in Boston and has lived at the Great Lakes Naval Station and also spent a year in Cuba. We are sure he will be an asset to our club, too.

Being a rockhound gives one a chance to meet some very nice people from other clubs in many states. A few I have met and enjoyed are the Zecks, Weeds and the Nelson Shorts of the Livingston Club, Howell, Mi., the Binders and Voges of the Racine, Wisconsin club, and the Williams of the Esconi Club of Wheaton, Illinois.

I have said before that mining and shipping iron ore is the basis of the economy of Upper Michigan and it may be of interest to many outside of railroad members of this club that the shipping of ore has changed in the last few years. Today pellets are shipped year around and are stored dock-side at Escanaba when the navigation of the Great Lakes is shut down. Seasonal employment is almost a thing of the past.

The Wayne Wilsons and Fred Garceaux are wintering in Florida and missing all our snow, or are they? According to Ray Anderson, he cannot recall snow depth any greater in the 65 years plus that he can recall.

An article by Vern and Christine Miljour "How to plan a collecting trip" which first appeared in the Jaspilite last year was reprinted in Rock Box, the bulletin of the Parma Lapidary Club of Parma, Ohio. It is nice to know that some people appreciate the work of other rock hounds. Vern and Chris should be proud of the fine article they put together.

Speaking of bulletins which are exchanged between clubs, the Rockhound Harold, Port Huron club, ran my article about "The world's largest Gem stone" which first appeared in the Jaspilite. But do you know that there are some of our club members who have never climbed Jasper Knob in the city of Ishpeming to see the rippling formations of jaspilite and the surrounding scenery which includes several mines in the area. To me, a trip to this spot should be a must for local and visiting rockhounds. If you haven't been there call me and I'll see that you get there. That's my project for this summer.

I thought that the article in the last Jaspilite by Faustin Anderson and Lil Johnson about their trip to Lower Michigan was very interesting. We need more of these. Let's see your article in the next issue.

It's not too early to get a case of your specimens ready for our Show. The Lakeview Arena is a big place. Let's try to fill it up. Also be sure to fill out the inventory sheet by Bob Phillips. We all have to do our part to make the show a success.

.....

SHOP HINT: To grind out pits in cabs, spray the cab with red enamel from an aerosol can. Then grind the paint off. Pits and lines will stand out as bright red spots, making it unnecessary to wipe the cab to see if the pits are out. It is especially helpful when grinding free forms. (from Living Stones via- Earth Science News)

## TUMBLE POLISHING....L. W. Sain

I write this article not as a professional but as an amateur lapidarist and because quite a few people have complimented us on the excellence of the finished product of our tumble polished stones and have asked about our process.

Everyone who polishes stones has his or her own method of procedure and keeps experimenting until he or she obtains the desired results. We, too, have experimented after attempting to follow instructions from others and doing extensive reading and arrived at the following procedure:

First we sort to try to have stones of the same hardness. As an example, we do not put thomsonite in with agates as they are softer and wear away much faster. Contrary to what we have read in many places, we do not like to use all stones of one size. We feel that by mixing the sizes the grinding and polishing action is better as the smaller stones carry the grits into the smaller spaces thus causing a grinding and polishing action on all surfaces.

**STEP ONE:** Regardless of the size of the tumbler, the barrel should be approximately  $\frac{2}{3}$  full and should be kept this way in the entire process by adding more stones when it falls below this amount. Add  $\frac{1}{2}$  lb. of grit (we don't like mixed grits as they don't break down evenly and leave deeper scratches) to each 5 pounds of rock. Then add enough water to just cover the rocks and provide a slurry with the grit. We usually run this for 6 days (24 hours a day) but it can depend on the rocks; beach stones require less time than fractured or crushed stones.

**STEP TWO:** Drain off the slurry and rinse both rocks and tumbler thoroughly. Do not pour slurry into the sink as it will plug your drains. Use a dry well in the backyard or allow to settle and then pour off water and dispose of the thick part with garbage. Next, sort the rocks and remove all that have broken edges or aren't wanted. My wife sorts them using an opti-visor for magnification. She sorts them into three groups: throw-aways, those for the next grind and those that need more rough grinding. You may have to make several rough grinds before you have enough stones ready for the second grind.

When you have enough ready for the second grind, the tumbler must be  $\frac{2}{3}$  full, add  $\frac{1}{2}$  lb. of 220 or 240 grit per 5 pounds of rocks and enough water to make the slurry. Again we run them for six days. Then they are treated the same as from the rough grind: rinsing thoroughly both rocks and tumbler and sorting the rock into three groups: throw-aways, regrind with 220, and those ready for 600 grit.

**STEP THREE:** Fill the tumbler  $\frac{2}{3}$  full and add  $\frac{1}{2}$  lb. of 600 grit for 5 pounds of rock with just enough water to cover and mix well with the grit. Again we run them for 6 days, 24 hours a day. When this is completed, drain, rinse as before and sort. When you have enough rocks for the polish run, wash them and the tumbler thoroughly. We do this by filling the tumbler  $\frac{2}{3}$  full of rocks, adding water to cover completely (at least  $\frac{1}{2}$  inch over the rocks) then add a generous supply of detergent ( $\frac{1}{2}$  cup) so the water becomes very soapy. Run for 2 to 4 hrs. to cleanse the rocks and the tumbler. Drain and rinse both the rocks and the tumbler thoroughly with clear water.

....next page....

STEP FOUR: Again the tumbler should be 2/3 full of rocks. Add 2 heaping tablespoons of tin oxide and enough water to mix it to a creamy solution. This solution is reusable as long as it does not become contaminated. We reuse it each time but add another tablespoonful of tin oxide. Run again for 6 days. Then drain and rinse saving your polishing solution or as much as possible for the next polishing time. Again place your rocks in the tumbler and add detergent and water as before. Run for a couple of hours to burnish the stones. Then drain and rinse. You should have a good polish when they are dry.

There are several precautions, however. Some stones like quartz, amethyst, obsidian and the like nick very easily, especially when you reach the polishing and burnishing steps. Here it is wise to provide a cushioning agent. This can be done by adding cob grit, plastic beads, crushed styrofoam, etc. We like to thicken the liquid by adding thickening tablets or Karo syrup. When polishing amethyst, we had our best luck by using Karo syrup and broken up styrofoam.

REMEMBER, THESE ARE THE IMPORTANT STEPS:

1. Selection of stones as to hardness.
2. Keeping tumbler 2/3 full.
3. Sorting after each grind.
4. Don't skimp on the grits.
5. Thorough cleansing between grinds.
6. Burnishing after polishing.

Some people recommend opening the tumbler occasionally to allow gas to escape. We have not done this and have had no trouble with the three different kinds of tumblers we run.

I hope that our procedure will aid you in obtaining the results you desire. Good luck!

.....  
THE COPPER CONNECTION

A strange and wonderful metal is copper, known to early man for its uses for tools and projectiles, developed by modern man as the base of vast industries, and beloved by rock hobbyists for beautiful crystals and treasured gems.

The United States gets 10% of its copper through bacteria living in the mine tailings. The bacteria multiply rapidly in dumps with pyrite content. They attack the pyrite and turn it into sulfuric acid which in turn leaches out copper, which the bacteria convert to water soluble salts.

Scientists have now isolated bacteria from Icelandic hot springs which can process copper dumps more efficiently. An article in Christian Science News points out that some companies add acid to speed up the work of the bacteria but that the waste from Kennecott mines has a plentiful supply of pyrite, so no additional acid is needed.

A news release by the associated press from Ohio recently said that there may actually be a real basis for the folk medicine cure for arthritis--the copper bracelet. Dr. Helmer Dollwet, a biochemist from Akron, says that he is researching the copper bracelet treatment which



.....the Copper Connection

is usually laughed at or dismissed as a useless myth. He tested 54 volunteers with ethylene and found that 88% of them felt less pain in their arm which was exposed to ethylene when the arm was pricked with a pin. He stated that the chemical reaction of copper worn on the skin is to produce an anesthetic ethylene which can be absorbed through the skin. His research is continuing.

So, we may look forward to a TV commercial about a copper bracelet produced by bacteria, to compete with all the pain relievers made from the salts of ancient seas.

.....The American Federation Newsletter  
February 1976

\*\*\*\*\*  
\* \$25.00 REWARD \*  
\* If party will return the opal color slag specimen or \*  
\* have information as to the party who took same. \*  
\* No legal action will be taken. \*  
\* ....Frank G. Matthews, Sr. \*  
\* R.1, Box 29A U.S.Hwy 41, Negaunee, Mi. \*  
\*\*\*\*\*

In a letter received from Frank G. Matthews, curator of the Jackson Mine Museum he states that someone took a large piece of opal colored slag from the Museum collection. He says it is not the cash value of the specimen but the sentimental value as it was a gift from the late John Jacobson a good friend of his.

Frank Matthews is a member of our club. We don't see him often because he is deeply involved in the Carp River Forge project and the Bicentennial along with being curator of the Jacson Mine Museum.

His letter included a Museum 'calling' card with this inscription on the back "Keep on the trails, and off the grass, so we may preserve Negaunee's historical past". There were many stampings on the envelope in addition to the Jackson Mine Museum stamp: "Burt Survey, Sept. 19, 1844"; "Marji-Geesick, June 1845, Chief of Ojibway Indians takes Jackson party to Iron ore body"; "Iron ore, discovered in Negaunee, Mich. 1844" and "1776 Bicentennial 1976, 1847 Carp River Forge 1856, Negaunee, Michigan 49866".

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UNUSUAL QUAKES ROCK ARIZONA AND MICHIGAN..UPI--Cleveland Press, Jan. '76.  
via....Rock Box

A pair of earthquakes--both in areas where such jolts are all but unknown--rattled windowpanes and frayed nerves in the desert around Prescott, Arizona and in Southeastern Michigan and Southern Ontario. The trembler that rumbled through Michigan Monday still has scientists shaking their heads in disbelief.

It just serves as a lesson that the old Terra Firma isn't as 'firma as we thought' according to Henry Pollack, head of the Seismological Center at the University of Michigan.

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## CALENDAR of SHOWS, SWAPS and FIELD TRIPS

## APRIL

- 9-11....Flint Rock and Gem Club SHOW, Williams Community Center,  
3501 Minnesota Ave., Flint, Michigan.
- 16-18...Michigan Gem and Mineral Society SHOW, Armory, Jackson, Mich.
- 17-18...Minnesota Mineral Club SHOW, Brookdale Center, Minneapolis,  
Minnesota.
- 24-25...Clare Rock and Mineral Club SHOW, Shepard, Michigan.

## MAY

- 1-2.....Blue Water Lapidary Society SHOW, Wagonsail Gym Community  
Center, Port Huron, Michigan
- 8-9.....Kalamazoo Geological and Mineral Society SHOW, Community Cen-  
ter Bldg., Fairgrounds, Recreation Park, Kalamazoo, Michigan
- 15-18...Midwest Mineral and Lapidary Society SHOW, Dearborn Youth Cen-  
ter, Michigan Avenue and Greenfield Rd., Dearborn, Michigan
- 22-23...FIELD TRIP. Alpena Earth Science Society. Contact Cal Loomis,  
323 Washington, Alpena, Mi. 49707 for details. Field trips  
will include Sink Holes, Presque Isle, Paxton Quarry, Rockport  
Quarry, etc. They have an evening program, a meal together,  
etc. Sounds like a great fun and educational experience.

## JUNE

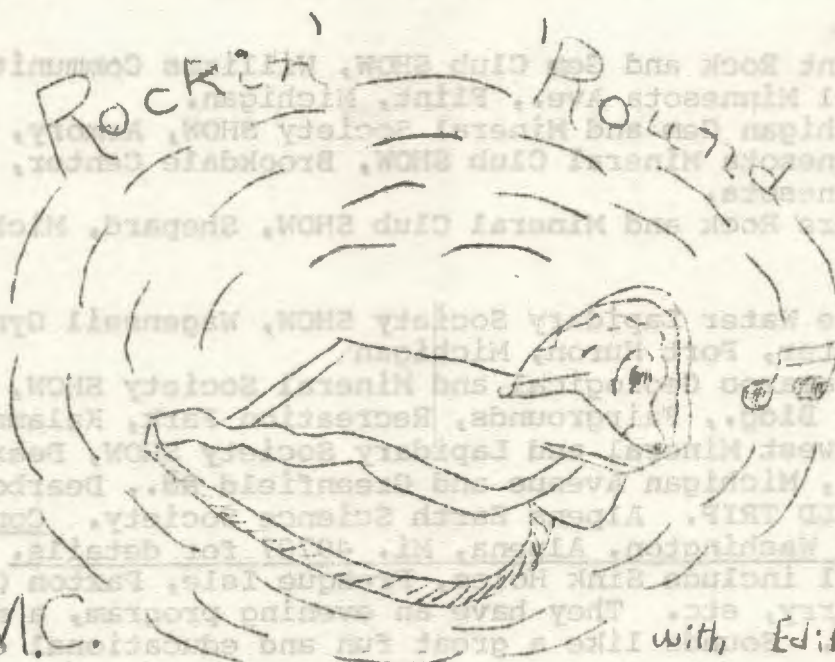
- 11-12...Missouri Valley Gem and Mineral SHOW. Platte Community Bldg.,  
Platte, S. D. 97 miles north of O'Neill, Nebraska.
- 17-20\*\*\*National Show and Convention. Austin, Texas.
- 22-25\*\*\*MWF SHOW. St. Louis, Missouri. (Read in enclosed March MWF  
Newsletter for details. Arnold Mulzer says he already has a  
motel reservation so he can be near the show. Anyone else  
from our club going to this show?)

## JULY

- 9-11....Stonehead Lapidary and Mineral Club SHOW. Mineral River Plaza,  
White Pine, Michigan
- 11.....SWAP. Lapeer County Gem and Mineral Society. Crampton Park,  
Lapeer, Michigan.
- 26...Week of....Field trip. Don Clarke will lead Keweenaw field trips  
from Copper Harbor.
- Aug. 1.....week of...Wayne Henderson will lead the trip around the  
north shore of Lake Superior.  
Fee is \$15 per person for the two tours or \$7.50 for one of the  
weeks. Send applications to Don Clarke 1107 Maple St.,  
Essexville, Mi. 48732. Registration closes June 1 or whenever  
the quota is reached.  
(The Sains, Andersons, Bartellis and the LaChances are going  
on the Keweenaw trip which just precedes our Show. The first  
three couples learned so much and had a great time last year  
that we registered early to be certain of being included again.)

## AUGUST

- 6-8.....U.P. GEM AND MINERAL SHOW hosted by the IRMC, Lakeview Arena,  
Marquette. Included will be Quickie Field Trips, Rock Swap,  
Door Prizes, Silent Auction, Exhibits, Displays, Dealers,  
Food, free information and mining lore, etc.  
Contact Frazier Tubbs, chairman P.O. Box 102, Ishpeming, Mi.  
49849 for further information.



with Edith Anderson

Weather, namely snow cancelled two of our March business meeting dates so the regular meeting was especially busy what with general business, the Show and program. Exhibiting manuals were available and the program committee showed two ways of displaying to give us some ideas to start with in planning our own. One was a scaled down standard show case and the other from a jewelry store. Questions on exhibiting were answered according to the manual. The offer was made to help anyone who had a problem in selecting a category to exhibit in, making of labels, etc.

We will miss David and Bonnie Proper who are moving to Houghton. Hope they learn the good collecting sites in that area to show us.

Lucky Sandy and Bob Phillips, they missed our big snow storm this month as they were vacationing in Florida.

Pat Elie was ill with the flu and then had the misfortune to break a bone in her foot--had to wear a cast for a month but is now on the mend.

Jim Bowns underwent open heart surgery at Marshfield, Wisconsin. He is convalescing at home and doing well. Just can't wait to be out on a field trip.

Leonard Hanninen had surgery on his knee this winter. Hope he will be able to get around on the rocks by summer.

Ken Hodgins spent considerable time in the Marquette hospital during January and since then has been confined to bed a couple of times with a bad cold. Hope he will soon be out and around.

Mrs. Fred Masters is a patient in Bell Memorial Hospital.

C. R. Markert had a heart attack and is in the intensive care unit in Bell Memorial Hospital.

We hope that good health soon catches up with all sick club members so they can return to their normal activities. ....over..

.....rockin' 'round

Dorothy Tubbs had offered to do the typing and mailing of the Jaspilite since the resignation of the Sains but sorry to say she had to enter the hospital for minor surgery and then after a short stay home for a much longer stay. She is home after about six weeks but will not be able to fulfill her offer. So we are grateful that the Sains offered to do this issue. We hope Dorothy continues to improve so she can join in club activities soon. We have missed her.

We understand our U.P. Gem Show is attracting folks from long distances. Had word from C. Chatters who is spending his winter in Florida asking for the date of our show and swap. He has attended our past rock swaps and is planning to attend this one.

George Bell at the January Meeting offered to help any member who would like to learn how to do lapidary work by working on some Kona. He had a paper for people to sign up who wanted one or more lessons so that he could make out a work schedule for a couple or two juniors and an adult to come to his home to work on his machines. This is just another of the thoughtful deeds George has done for rockhounds.

Our bragging table has been of interest each month. Keep it up; bring some of your goodies for others to see, admire and learn about. The mini-silent-auction has netted the club some extra cash. Thank you--donors, bidders and buyers!

We welcome Mr. and Mrs. Richard Closner and Peter as members of our club. Also pebble pups, Chris Johnson and Dennis Helt.

Door prizes in January were donated by Sains and Bartellis and won by Rufus Maynard, Olive Sain and Dennis Helt. In February the prizes were won by Ernie Johnson, Edith Anderson and Scott Bowns --donated by the Bemis's. Door prizes won in March by guest Mr. McLaren, Helen Johnson and Becky Helt were donated by the Smails. Audubon Jenkins will provide door prizes in April.

Remember our April program meeting is the second Sunday. If you enjoy getting the Jaspilite make sure your 1976 dues are paid or this will be your last issue.

We express our heartfelt sympathy to the family of Charles Tapola who passed away on March 9, 1976. He was a loyal charter member and although unable to attend meetings in his later years, we who knew him during his active years in the club will miss him.

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SHOP TIP Petrified wood should be cut in half lengthwise of the grain. This produces a more varied pattern. Sometimes cutting crosswise will give good patterns, but this is not usually the case. Limb sections are rather on the scarce side as they usually tend to disintegrate before they petrify. If they are cut diagonally and polished to show the grain it is much better. The limb itself is a novelty and just polishing one end adds to its beauty.

By Raymond Carr, Warren Ohio "Polishing Owyhee Jasper" via The Rock Slide

TRANSFORMER OIL  
(by Stan Conway in Glacial Drifter)

.....how about the great rock buster in his workshop--is he making oily smells? Could be that he is working at becoming an extinct specie like the dinosaur. What is he using for cutting oil?

If that diamond saw is giving off a mist you could possibly be absorbing or inhaling particles of poison toxin into your blood. The PBB scare is nothing compared to PCB, or Askarel. PCB is polychlorinated biphenyls or just plain transformer oil. (PBB is polybromated biphenyl) Either oil is very cheap, in fact I understand that you can get it free. However, the unaccounted cost can make it the most expensive lubricant yet. That is in human suffering.

For the sake of your safety let me tell you the weird and gruesome story Al Nutile related to me.

Al felt lucky when he built his 18" diamond saw and obtained all the lubricating oil he needed without cost. All he had to do was haul it away. The power company used this oil in those giant sized electric transformers, and if it is discolored it is replaced. What Al did not know at the time was that while sawing, the oil would create a mist. He made a hood for the saw hoping to contain the mist, but whenever he would open the hood, the oily mist would engulf him.

Al began to feel light headed and had a general sensation of numbness. Fear set in that he might be becoming paralyzed. There were several times when he collapsed with no control over his nervous system. Food was distasteful and cooking smells became nauseous. He lost 40 pounds in about 5 month's time. The family doctor as well as several specialists could not diagnose the problem. It was recommended that he go to Mayo Clinic. Extensive tests were run and finally blood tests revealed a large accumulation of PCB in the blood and body fats. The cutting oil was the culprit in this case.

Al has not regained much of his lost weight, but as he said, "I don't need it." You can believe that he isn't cutting slabs with transformer oil any longer. Anybody else using the stuff? If you want more information on this problem, I'm certain that Al would be glad to warn and advise. Al J. Nutile, 967 N. Baywood Dr., Holland, Mi. 49423.

Kind of scary, isn't it?

(Here in Marquette, the Lab. at NMU is checking on the cutting oil we have used. L.S.)

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**TO POP OUT THOMSONITES:** Hold a cold chisel perpendicular to the thomsonite nodule and pop the desired thomsonite out with one good tap of the hammer on the chisel. Placing the chisel parallel to the thomsonite puts too much pressure on the nodule, and usually results in breakage. Because they are so brittle, it may be wise to leave them in the matrix, and later grind the matrix off in your workshop.

Via- Gems & Minerals and Rockhound News

\*\*When you cut soft stone, such as Marble, Onyx, etc., soak the stone in water for 24-48 hours before cutting in oil. The oil will not penetrate the rock.

## SILVER-SMITHING TIPS

A Stockton, California club member uses stainless steel solder in silver work as it is cheaper, easier to handle, and does a beautiful job.

If you will use 1/3 lacquer and 2/3 thinner, you can dip the polished silver in it and the polish will last indefinitely. It also keeps the silver from staining some people's skin.

The success of the final polish on silver depends on the number of buffing wheel threads--not the amount of rouge used. A cheaper buff just will not give the same results as a quality one.

Plain old-fashioned whiting moistened with ammonia water makes an excellent agent for polishing tarnished silver. Wipe the paste on, allow it to dry, then rub it with a piece of lemon. Wash and dry thoroughly and the silver will stay bright longer than with ordinary cleansing.

To rub smooth the high points of a gold article, use sodium-bicarbonate with a minimum of water.

To antique silver jewelry paint the places to be darkened with raw egg yolk. Rinse off the egg and rub highlights with Linde A.

Glue your pattern on the silver with rubber cement. Removes easily.

Bon Ami applied with an old toothbrush will give a satin finish.

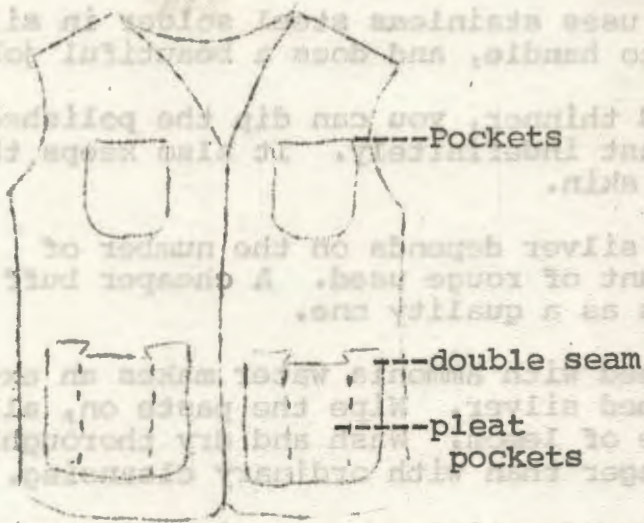
When you want to solder one part of a piece without having the solder run into an unwanted area, try painting the area not to be soldered with a thin paste made with jeweler's rouge and water. To remove, scrub with a stiff brush.

When you get too much silver solder on a piece of jewelry and try to get rid of it by filing, it takes quite a while. To get rid of excess solder without filing, take a narrow strip of silver about 1/8" wide and 3/4" long. Cut a small slit in one end. Heat the piece with excess solder on it and touch the slitted piece of silver to the excess solder. The excess solder will flow up the piece of silver.

Do you have trouble with thin bezels caused by lengthy polishing processes after all soldering is done? If so, next time try giving each piece a good polish before attempting any soldering. Using this procedure your silver piece will retain their form and strength and will stand up much better with wear.

Before polishing, smooth the silver with emery cloth or pumice stone and water. Two polishing agents are used on silver---tripoli and rouge. Tripoli is used to remove any remaining roughness from the silver and rouge is used to give the silver a final high polish. After all the rough spots and scratches have been removed with tripoli, the silver should be boiled in ammonia and soap water to remove all traces of grease before proceeding to the final polishing with rouge. If a satin finish is desired, finish with a brass brush. An antique finish may be acquired by darkening the silver with carbonate of soda and then smoothing it with fine pumice.....(The Crystal Gazette )

MAKING A PROSPECTOR'S JACKET/VEST



jacket/vest--front

BE SURE TO DOUBLE STITCH ALL SEAMS, ESPECIALLY THE POCKETS

ON THE FRONT: Place two pockets on the breast section of the vest. These are for "special" specimens, and should not be pleated, as they would be too full, and the stones would fall out when you stoop.

Sew two pockets near the tail of the front vest. These should be pleated to give them fullness. They will hold more rock this way.

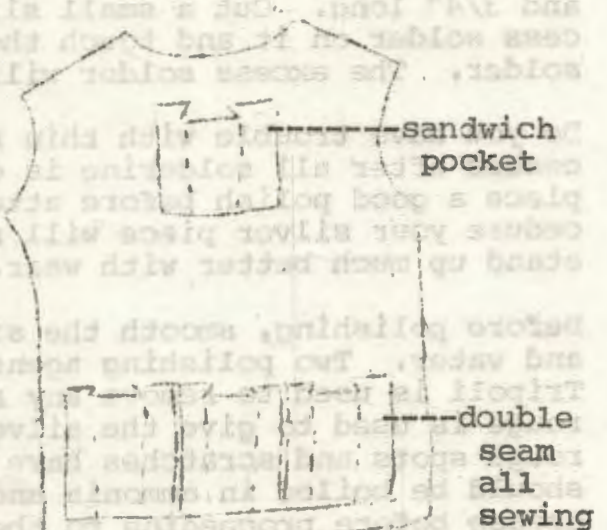
ON THE BACK: Cut a long pocket, 1½ times the width of the back section of the vest. Divide it into three sections. (Be sure to double stitch.) Make a double pleat in each section.

Place a pocket in the middle of the back of the vest, near the neck. This is for a sandwich, cookies, etc. This pocket can also be pleated to give more room for the goodies.

Face front and neck. Sew shoulder seams. Face arm holes. Sew side seams, leaving a split near the bottom on each side. Hem. (Use snap fasteners if you wish to close the vest, or sew in a heavy duty zipper.)

Use this jacket once, and you'll never be without it.

This jacket was made years ago, and credit goes to Evanell Simpson. (via..Gem time)



Back of jacket

Make a long pocket, divide into 3 parts and pleat each pocket

A prospector's jacket is great to use while in the field collecting. You can carry as many stones in the pockets as in a bucket, and they are much easier to handle, since they can be evenly distributed. Also it will leave your hands free.

Purchase a cest pattern to use as a guide. The jacket should be made from a fairly heavy material or light weight canvas.

Make the arm holes nice and big.... cool in the summer and room enough for a jacket underneath in winter.

METEORITE FROM HEAVEN  
SERVES AS GRAVESTONE

In a churchyard at St. Henry's Luthern Church in Nisula, Michigan, is a gravestone that was "sent from heaven."

The stone, a meteorite, rests over the grave of Lena K. Simi. When she saw it fall one night in the 1920's, Mrs. Simi declared that it was to be used for her headstone when she died. She believed that was why the meteorite had landed in a field across from her home.

A devout Christian woman--her place in the little church was seldom empty--she decided that her gravestone had been sent by God.

Mrs. Simi died in October, 1930. She had been bedridden for a long time and was frail and weak. A mysterious fire broke out in her home, and although the 84 year old woman managed to escape, she died before the doctor could arrive.

She was buried in the little churchyard. Her grandsons, honoring her wishes, pried the meteorite out of the field near her home and placed it over her grave. It was simply engraved with her name and the span of her life, 1846-1930.

(Some of our club members will recall the "meteorite"? found by the Bemis's and which they brought to a club meeting in the back of a pick up truck a few years ago. Occasionally we hear about someone sighting the blazing trail of a falling meteorite but seldom do we have verification of the fact possibly because we don't have the necessary knowledge to identify one even if it fell in our back yard. The following article may be of interest and help to all of us.)

IDENTIFICATION OF METEORITES

Meteoritics, the science of meteorites, craters and meteors, has attained a new importance with the dawning of the space age. The first step in studying meteorites is the recovery of the meteorites themselves. Without the dedication of interested and competent amateurs, the science of meteoritics could not have progressed as far as it has.

ORIGIN

Where Meteorites Come From----Most scientists believe meteorites are part of our solar system derived from the asteroid belt located between Mars and Jupiter. Meteorites may be captured by the Earth when they are pulled from their orbits by the gravitational attraction of the sun or planets or collide with each other.

Definitions---a Meteor is an object in the sky that produces light upon entering the Earth's atmosphere. These bodies are usually quite small and are sometimes called "shooting" or "falling Stars". Large, extremely bright meteors are called fireballs or "bolides" and can be as bright as the moon or sun. A meteorite is a solid body that has fallen on the Earth's surface from outer space.

.....next page.....



## .....meteorites

## FALLS

Falls and Finds--- A fall is a meteorite that was picked up after it was actually seen to fall. A find is a meteorite that was not seen to fall, but was recognized by the diagnostic features described in this article.

Sight--- When a meteor enters the Earth's atmosphere the resulting fireball produces light, due to the friction between its surface and the air. A smoke or dust trail is produced in the sky by the fireball caused by the removal of material from the surface of the meteorite

Sound---Because the fireballs are traveling at high speeds, they sometimes produce a sonic boom or whistling heard over 30 miles or more from where the meteorite lands. Several booms may be succeeded by irregular sputtering sounds, comparable to an automobile backfiring.

## TYPES

Composition---Iron meteorites are composed of almost 100% metal, a nickel-iron alloy. Stony meteorites contain about 75-90% silicate (stony) minerals and 10-25% nickel-iron metal and iron sulfide. A few meteorites are the in-between types called stony-irons with about 50% iron and 50% silicates.

Size---Meteorites vary from pieces or microscopic size to large masses measuring several feet or more in diameter. The average person is most likely to find a meteorite that measures from 2-6 feet.

Weight---Meteorites are generally heavier than ordinary rocks. Iron meteorites are very heavy, usually weighing about three times as much as ordinary rocks of the same size. Stony meteorites are not quite one and a half times as heavy as ordinary Earth rocks.

Shape---In most cases meteorites are very irregular in shape. Some meteorites take the shape of flat cones. They are seldom round.

Crust---The surface of many freshly fallen meteorites is usually fairly smooth and featureless. Some meteorites show flow lines, furrows, shallow depressions, deep cavities, and smooth pits (thumbprints). The iron meteorites show characteristic smooth pits or thumbprints, resembling imprints of fingers on soft clay. The crust of a freshly-fallen meteorite is generally black, but weathering on the Earth changes this black surface to brown. On very old finds the crust may have disappeared altogether.

Tests---The best single test for an object suspected to be a meteorite is to grind off a small corner on a carborundum wheel. Inspect the ground surface for evidence of metallic specks. Iron meteorites will give an appearance of freshly cut iron. A strong magnet will attract the surface of an iron meteorite. A stony meteorite will show silvery appearing flecks scattered in a compact stony mass. These stony meteorites will be attracted only slightly by a strong magnet. A few stony meteorites will not be attracted by a magnet.

Interior---It is not advisable to break, hammer or cut open a possible meteorite, as this rough treatment destroys some of the material and lessens its scientific value. Only a small corner should be ground off in order to test the specimen. Do not use an acetylene torch for cut-

.....meteorites

ting, the extreme heat destroys the meteorite's interior.

Iron meteorites have a dense, silvery appearing interior. Stone meteorites vary considerably in appearance from dense, grainy rocks to very broken looking mixtures of materials. The color ranges from white to black but it is most often a light to dark gray in stony meteorites.

The Center for Meteorite Studies at Arizona State University has the large and famous Ninninger Meteorite Collection. This collection of over 800 different meteorite specimens was assembled by the life-long efforts of Dr. and Mrs. H.H.Ninninger and was purchased from them by Arizona State University. The collection is being actively used for space oriented research by scientists at the university and many other investigators throughout the United States. We are always anxious to add new specimens to the collection by gifts, purchases or exchanges.

WHAT TO DO IF YOU THINK YOU HAVE A METEORITE

Field Information-- If you are fortunate enough to see a meteorite fall and can recover it, or if you find one in the field, do the following: note carefully its location, take photographs of the meteorite and its location, then contact us immediately. We will examine the specimen and estimate its value.

Check list:

- 1. Is the specimen heavy.....Yes No
- 2. Is the specimen solid and compact.....Yes No
- 3. Is the specimen attracted by magnet.....Yes No
- 4. Is the specimen black or brown and rather smooth on the outside?  
Yes No
- 5. Does the specimen show metallic specks on a cut surface?  
Yes No

If you check "Yes" to all the above questions, the object is very likely to be a meteorite. In some cases, some answers can be "No" and the object may still be a meteorite. If all the answers are "No", the object is probably not a meteorite.

Send this check list and the suspected meteorite (or if it is too large, send a small piece) to the address below and they will examine it. If the specimen is a meteorite, they will estimate its value and make an offer for its purchase. If the specimen is not a meteorite, it will be returned to you. This service and any testing is free of charge.

Send to:

Dr. Carleton B. Moore, Director  
Center for Meteorite Studies  
Arizona State University  
Tempe, Arizona 85281

(Report by Susan Kirby from booklet "Identification of meteorites" by Carleton B. Moore, Arizona State University and Paul P. Sipiera, Northeastern Illinois University and published by the Center for Meteorite Studies, Arizona State University, Tempe, Ariz.)  
via River Valley News

"Don't be afraid to use whatever talent you possess. The woods would be silent if no birds sang except those that sang the best"

HEMATITE IS MICHIGAN'S MINERAL

The state House has voted to make hematite Michigan's official state mineral, to keep company with the state flag, gem (chlorastrolite), bird, flower, fish, tree and rock (petoskey stone). The House approved the designation on a 82-16 vote. The proposal will now come before the Senate. Hematite is an important red-brown ore of iron found in the upper peninsula.

\*\*\*\*\*Laurence Sain reports that the transformer oil he has been using does not have PCB in it. He had it tested March 24 at the biology department at NMU by Ron Parejko, assoc prof. He is doing the research on the fish from Lake Superior. A relief to be sure!

It's better to be safe than have disaster strike so should you have any doubt about the oil you are using, have it tested. Be safety minded.

Return Postage guaranteed

1st issue, 1976

JASPILITE

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