

THE



J A S P I L I T E

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of Mineralogical and Geological Societies

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of the
ISHPEMING ROCK AND MINERAL CLUB, INC.

Published Quarterly

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Deadlines: January 1 April 1 July 1 and October 1

Meetings: Business Meeting: 1st Friday of the month, 7:30 p.m.
at Bothwell Middle School, Marquette
Program & activity meeting: 3rd Sunday of the month at
2:00 p.m., Bothwell Middle School, October-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 & 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

CONTENTS

President's Corner	3	Why They Win	12
Secretary's Notes	4	Michigan's Official Gem	13
Club Meetings	6	Copper Project	14
U. P. Gem Show	7	Cataloging Your Specimens	15
1979 Field Trips	8	What is a Rockhound?	16
MGAGS Seminar	10	Clean Your Specimens Safely	17
Bits and Pieces	11	Safety Hints	18

EDITOR'S MESSAGE

(A SHORT COURSE IN HUMAN RELATIONS)

The 6 most important words . . . I admit I made a mistake. (I should have volunteered for the editor's job earlier; too much reading material has stacked up since last spring.)

The 5 most important words . . . You did a good job. (It will be very difficult to follow in Sandy's footsteps.)

The 4 most important words . . . What is your opinion? (Your new editor will need every member's opinion of what to place in future issues of the JASPILITE.)

The 3 most important words . . . If you please. (Please, please write some articles for me.)

The 2 most important words . . . Thank you. (Thank you so very much to all who wrote articles for this issue when called upon.)

The 1 most important word . . . We. (We can all do this together, putting out the JASPILITE, I mean.)

The least most important word . . . I. (I, being least important, will only be editing your newsletter. Dorothy Tubbs has graciously consented to type all the stencils; and, faithful as ever, the Sains will remain as publishers and mailers.)

"A Short Course in Human Relations" was found in the PICK AND SHOVEL newsletter; the comments in parentheses are those of your new editor. While, I am sure, this short article was really meant for an entirely different purpose, I could not help but feel when I read it that it would apply so well to the situation we have had in our club in obtaining a new editor for our publication. I do hope our problem is now solved by our using this joint venture in putting out our paper; and now, we can look forward to many more issues.

Because of my very common name (there are at least four of us in Marquette alone), I am taking the liberty of placing my address and telephone number here.

1962 West Fair Avenue Telephone number:
Marquette, MI 49855 228-9422

Please use the above to call or write me with a few articles or newsworthy items.

Helen Johnson

When you see no end to your troubles, just remember that a diamond is only a piece of coal that has been "hard pressed" for a long time.

via GLACIAL DRIFTER and ROCK CHIPS

THE PRESIDENT'S CORNER

BY Bob Phillips

Congratulations, Club! Another fine show is now in your pocket. Again you maintained a tradition of excellence. Against several major odds, such as high gas prices, a tourism drop, and the usual number of competing activities, you gave the area an event of high quality and had a good time doing it. A follow-up recommendation - while things are still fairly fresh, each show chairperson should condense their notes and jot down procedures and comments into files so that the next set of chairpersons will have a strong base of information to work from. Thanks, Larry, for serving as the general chairman.

The field trips are a real treat with Bruce Spike's leadership. Maybe Bruce will stay for 1980. With the price of gold, we should be checking out the Yellow Dog.

The existence of this JASPILITE issue is to be credited to the willingness of Helen Johnson, Dorothy Tubbs and Laurence Sain. Thanks! It means a lot to the club.

A MAP OF MICHIGAN? RIGHT!

Wear it as a bolo, pin or tie clip. This polished copper Michigan cutout, admittedly a bit partial to the Upper Peninsula, is offered for sale by members of the Ishpeming Rock and Mineral Club.

You'll want one for yourself and for members of your family who have been displaced to other parts of the country.

Frequently we see maps, labeled "Michigan", with the entire Upper Peninsula missing ---- not so with these.

Made of a native U. P. metal, copper, these pins, bolos and tie clips measure approximately 2-1/2 inches by 2 inches.

Each member of the IRMC can assist in this project by buying, selling and advertising this "predominantly U. P. jewelry. They are a bargain at under five dollars -- excellent Christmas gifts!!

For more information and supplies to fill your orders, call L. Bartelli at 226-3762 (Marquette).

IRMC ANNUAL CHRISTMAS DINNER AND PARTY -- DECEMBER 16

SAVE THIS DATE!

Our scholarship chairman, Marian Markert, has received a letter stating that we are now a 1000% club.

NOTES FROM THE SECRETARY'S MINUTES

by Laurence Sain

APRIL 5, 1979 - Business meeting.

Proceeds of the Silent Auction authorized to be spent on MWF scholarship fund and our local club scholarship fund.

Plans made for Memorial Day weekend field trip. Interest shown by other clubs.

Show plans discussed.

APRIL 22, 1979 - Program meeting.

Ms. Mary Klenow of NMU was presented with a \$100.00 scholarship. The MTU presentation to be made at the show.

A six-inch diamond trim saw was presented to the Bothwell Middle School.

A slide program on displaying for competition was presented by the Tubbs' with a panel fielding questions.

Door prizes were furnished by Jim Bowns.

MAY 4, 1979 - Business meeting.

Need for clarification of our scholarship eligibility rules discussed. Consensus seems to agree that it was for continued education.

Club selected Jasper Knob for clean sweep operation.

Summer business meetings to be held on Thursday evenings.

Various chairmen reported on progress for the show.

MAY 20, 1979 - First field trip (program meeting).

Visited Champion Mine, Michigan for garnets and staurolite and then to the Ohio Mine. Small turnout.

MAY 25-28, 1979 - Memorial Day weekend field trip.

Led by Frazier Tubbs and Bruce Spike. Had visitors from Lower Michigan, Illinois and Minnesota.

Mine dumps visited: Ojibway, Central, Phoenix, Franklin, Quincy, Laurium and Arcadian. Datolite, copper, mohawkite, silver and good micros found.

JUNE 7, 1979 - Business meeting.

Notification of our club winning American Federation Award and MWF award received.

June 15th field trip to Republic Mine announced.

Show chairman reported on show progress.

JUNE 15, 1979 - Republic Mine field trip.

Always an enjoyable and successful trip.

JULY 5, 1979 - Business meeting.

Most of the meeting was devoted to the up-coming show. Final show meeting set for August 6.

Authorization was given for the purchase and sale of U. P. pins, tie bars and bolos.

Field trip set for July 15 to the Palmer area.

(Continued on the next page)

Notes from the Secretary's minutes, (continued)

AUGUST 6, 1979 - Business meeting.

DeSonia rock collection accepted with thanks.
Most of the meeting was devoted to show planning.

AUGUST 11-12, 1979 - U. P. Gem and Mineral Show.

A beautiful, successful show was held. More on it elsewhere in this issue.

SEPTEMBER 6, 1979 - Business meeting.

Congratulatory letter from June Zeitner on club awards.
Thank you letter to Markert's for scholarship donation.
Club Logo purchased from Carl Kurin.
Labor Day weekend field trip a success.
Plans for a color tour promised by Bruce Spike.
Clean-up of Jasper Knob set for October 7.
The JASPILITE will be coming out due to a co-operative endeavor.

SEPTEMBER 23, 1979 - Color tour.

A beautiful trip through L'Anse and Baraga area. Visited the pyrolusite mine at Alberta, Shrine of the Snowshoe Priest, Sturgeon River gorge and falls, and Silver Mountain.
Next business meeting - Friday, October 5.

Welcome to new members - - Morris L. and Beverly Niles
Anchor Bay Court, Lot 32
10413 Dixie Highway
Anchorville, MI

"Hope you're feeling better now" wishes go to two of our very active club members: Allan Korby and Dorothy Tubbs.

We all hope you are back with us, at full strength, by the next meeting.

DON'T FORGET . . .
ANNUAL CHRISTMAS DINNER AND PARTY . . .
ST. JOHN'S CHURCH, ISHPEMING, MICHIGAN . . .
DECEMBER 16 -- TIME TO BE ANNOUNCED LATER . . .

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Nov. 3 and 4 SHOW Tri-County Rocks & Minerals Socy., Bay County
Community Center, 800 John F. Kennedy Drive,
Bay City, MI.

June 12-15, 1980 SHOW MWF Show and AMF Show, Lincoln, Nebraska.

People who tell you never to let little things bother you have never tried sleeping with a mosquito in their camper, or a fly at daybreak.

via "Rock Trails"

CLUB PROGRAM MEETINGS

by Olive Sain

OCTOBER 21, 1979 - Third Sunday of the Month

Share your summer experiences by bringing a display of some of the prize specimens you have added to your collection -- found, traded, gift or purchased. Use a "pop" flat or similar flat box to set your specimen (labeled, of course), along with your name.

Bring along a pair of needle nose pliers and learn to make a small item in just a short time. It will be a fun thing to do. If you wish, you may make a second and third item before coffee time. The materials will be provided.

NOVEMBER 11, 1979 - Second Sunday of the month

This will be a "learn to do" meeting to get you started on something you may like to continue working on during the winter. The tools needed are very simple ---a sharp pointed metal tool and a sharp narrow blade. We will have an example at the October meeting which should give you plenty of time to get a couple tools ready for November. Laurence and I gathered the slate from the Arvon Quarry which was noted for its high quality slate. We have plenty for everyone to work on. I will have some patterns and tracing paper for you to use.

We who attended the MGAGS seminar this spring saw it done and Bart and Laurence had a chance to start a project.

Also, bring bragging specimens.

DECEMBER 16, 1979 - Third Sunday of the Month.

The annual club Christmas dinner and party will be held on December 16. Remember the rock gift exchange and the fun of drawing for extra gifts provided by some of our members.

Needed are volunteers to make individual favors and also some volunteers to make table centerpieces.

So far, we do not have a program. Any suggestions?

* * * * *

CLUB BUSINESS MEETINGS

November 2, 1979	Bothwell Middle School	7:30 p.m.
December 7, 1979	Bothwell Middle School	7:30 p.m.
January 4, 1980	Bothwell Middle School	7:30 p.m.

* * * * *

Do you know how many books the IRMC has in its library? Did you ever read or use any of them?

11th ANNUAL U. P. GEM AND MINERAL SHOW

by Laurence Sain

Friday, August 10, found a goodly number of club members on the scene at the Ishpeming National Guard Armory to set up and organize the show. Tables were hauled in, set up and promptly covered with paper so that dealers and exhibitors with displays could begin setting up in the afternoon and evening.

Due to the excellent turnout and good organizing by all of the show chairmen, one of the finest shows that we have produced began to take shape. We had eight dealers, two demonstrators and numerous competitive and non-competitive displays.

On the morning of the eleventh, opening ceremonies were held on the steps of the Armory. The Invocation was given by Rev. Paul Frederick of Wesley Methodist Church of Ishpeming. Mayor Joseph welcomed everyone to the show and the Ishpeming area. President Bob Phillips presented a \$100.00 scholarship to Michael Wisniowiecki of Michigan Technological University. Miss Ishpeming, with hard hat and safety glasses, broke a rock to open the show. This was done in lieu of the proverbial ribbon cutting ceremony.

Approximately eight hundred people registered as visitors to our show. Eighteen states were represented as well as Ontario, Canada. Twelve different rock and mineral clubs were listed on our register. Many were the compliments from our visitors.

The field trips were well patronized each day, and the field trip chairman received many compliments for his able directions and assistance. The payments for the extra Kona collected at the site was donated by the Markerts to the club scholarship fund.

Thanks are due to the patronizers who furnished special exhibits or interesting displays.

All in all the show as successful socially, intellectually and financially. The reason for its success was the excellent co-operation of every member of the club and the willingness to accept responsibility and carry it out.

As your general chairman I say a hearty thank you and "Orchids to all."

* * * * *

Seven-Up can be used to clean silver and gold findings. Dip, rinse well, rub with a soft cloth. Use separate solutions for gold and silver.

via many bulletins & Oshkosh
Quarrier

* * * * *

The IRMO needs YOU! If asked by a member of the Nominating Committee to serve as an officer say "YES". A club cannot function without officers!!

FIELD TRIPS - SUMMER OF 1979

by Bruce Spike

Our Ishpeming rockhounds are a hearty lot; they start the season early. On May 20, in the face of a chill wind and drizzle, they ventured forth to Beacon Hill at Champion where a wide variety of minerals and crystals are to be found.

Having worked up a good appetite, we proceeded to Van Riper State Park to enjoy a basket lunch. Having derived new energy, we proceeded over to Baraga County and the old Spurr Mine. Martite and metamorphosed garnet was abundant there. Next we explored the rock outcrops south of Lake Michigamme for staurolite. The staurolite was plentiful, but the matrix is very hard. A short stop at the Ohio Mine completed our day - the cold drizzle making the wind bite deep.

The following weekend being Memorial Day weekend, we again set forth in quest of treasures - this time to the Copper Country Treasure Chest.

From our headquarters at McLain State Park, we visited the Ojibway, Central and Phoenix mines. Copper specimens, datolite, analcite, rocks to cut and quartz crystals containing copper were collected. On the following day the Quincy, Gratiot, Laurium and a few other mines yielded some of their specimens to the collectors.

In June, the Cleveland Cliffs Iron Company graciously allowed us to visit the Republic Mine. Some beautiful crystals of quartz and calcite were collected that day. The operations of a working mine were also interesting to watch.

In mid-July we visited the old mines in the Palmer area collecting jasper, goethite, micaceous hematite and many crystals.

August, being our show month, was a busy time. Two field trips were conducted for members and visitors alike. We had rockhounds from Wisconsin, Illinois, Indiana, Ohio, Pennsylvania and Lower Michigan on these trips. We gave them a look at Jasper Knob, our famous gemstone, the Tilden Mining operation and took them to Ogden Pit for banded magnetite, the marble quarry for verde antique Lindberg's Pit for kona dolomite. The visitors were very appreciative of the opportunity to collect and for the guided tour.

Labor Day weekend is always a good time for a field trip. Using the Hancock City Campground as headquarters, we again visited many of the old copper mine dumps. Silver specimens were found by several. Tony LaChance showed us how to do it. You slide down the slope completely wild and out-of-control and swing your detector wide. It lays out a terrific blast - that's SILVER. Anyhow he came up with a beautiful slab of pure silver. Sharron Spike found the largest chunk of copper - a fine specimen weighing in at two pounds.

(continued on next page)

Field Trips (continued)

On September 23, we had a combination sight-seeing and collecting trip. While the fall colors had not reached their peak, they were, nevertheless, beautiful. Our first stop at the old Taylor Mine near Alberta yielded pyrolusite and quartz crystals.

Folded rocks and a slate anti-cline also attracted attention. A stop for much at the Shrine of the Snowshoe Priest, Bishop Baraga, and then over to the Sturgeon River gorge and falls we went. The hike down to the river and falls was worth every effort. Next to Silver Mountain and a climb up the mountain, aided by 261 steps, yields an unbelievable view in all directions.

FIELD TRIPS FOR THE WALKER MUSEUM CLUB

by Dorothy Tubbs

On August 23, a group of 21 adults and 2 children arrived in our area for some rock hunting. These members of the Walker club had started from Toronto, Ontario, Canada, on a two-week trip around Lake Superior and this was their last stop.

Thursday afternoon Bruce and Frazier, our field trip chairmen, guided them to the Rope's Gold Mine and the Verde Antique Quarry. No gold was found but they did find the usual Verde Antique serpentine and other specimens.

That evening most of the group came to our house and Frazier showed them our slide program about the history of Michigan's copper industry. They enjoyed this since they had just spent two days of hunting in the Keweenaw area under the guidance of Richard Whiteman.

On Friday Frazier had to spend the day serving on a jury in Probate Court so I substituted for him in helping Bruce guide the group. We went to the Beacon Hill and Phoenix mines in Champion. A variety of minerals were found at Beacon Hill and lovely goethite specimens were found at the Phoenix mine.

Everyone was very happy and well satisfied with their hunting in our area and even said "it was the best hunting they had on the whole trip".

I shared a mutual interest in micro specimens with several members of the group. They were especially glad to find some good micros for their collections. All of them were wonderful people and it was a pleasure to spend the time rock hunting with them.

The toughest form of mountain climbing is getting out of a rut!

via "The Rock Bag" and
"Rock Trails"

MGAGS SEMINAR IN JUNE

by Dorothy Tubbs

This event, sponsored by the Michigan Geology and Gemcraft Society, was held at the Mid-Michigan Community College at Harrison and attended by seven of our members: Olive and Laurence Sain, Ingrid and Leonard Bartelli, Arnold Mulzer, Frazier and Dorothy Tubbs.

It was a new experience for Frazier and me and we really enjoyed it.

Frazier and I weren't much interested in the wide variety of lectures and demonstrations on making jewelry but there were others we attended. We went to John Passaneau's illustrated lecture on micromounting twice. I was especially intetested in his pictures of minerals associated with copper which looked so much like the specimens we had found in our Michigan Copper Country. Frazier enjoyed lectures on photography and making slide programs and I learned a great deal from one on "Basic Rocks and Minerals."

On Saturday evening there was a square dance with a very good caller which provided lots of fun for everyone.

Arnold was busy much of the time promoting our Upper Peninsula Gem and Mineral Show. He wore his uniform as an Upper Peninsula Tourist Guide and attracted much attention.

Some of us were disappointed on Sunday because Dr. A. Chicanski from Eastern Michigan University was unable to come and his lectures on "Basic Crystallography" and "Basic Mineral Identification" had to be canceled.

On Sunday morning our State Director, Florence Hill, met with the Assistant Directors at a breakfast meeting. This was interesting to Frazier since he has been unable to attend Directors' meetings because of the distance involved.

Not only did we learn much about our hobby at this seminar but we had the pleasure of visiting with old friends and meeting many new ones. We hope that we will be able to attend the MGAGS Seminar scheduled for June, 1980 and urge you to go if you can possibly do it.

The catalyst or hardener added to fiberglass resin will progressively destroy the tissue of the eye and produce blindness. This will occur even though an attempt is made to wash out the eye. Once the chemical has started to destroy the eye, there is no known way of stopping the destruction or repairing the damage. The moral of this is, when handling chemicals of any kind wear appropriate eye protection. The cost of a pair of safety goggles is a small price to pay.

via many bulletins & Oshkosh Quarrier

BITS AND PIECES

by Arnold Mulzer

Upper Michigan is considered by many rockhounds as a Collector's Paradise with our iron mines in the Marquette, Menominee and Gogebic ranges, the copper mines in the Keweenaw and the limestone quarries in the Eastern end of the peninsula. I believe a location that is being overlooked is Menominee County. Incidentally, that is the place of my birth, having left there forty years ago to go rail-roading for the good old Lake Superior and Ishpeming.

While on the farm rocks meant work and the fields had to be picked -- a job for the whole family. If you were to visit my brother and sister's farm, you would find permanent fences built of stone that I helped pick up. Fossils and agates meant nothing to me at that time.

Since becoming a rockhound, I keep my eyes open when I visit the farm. Just recently I came across a large boulder of Jaspilite. It was no doubt carried there by one of the glaciers. I have picked up similar specimens in the Ishpeming-Negaunee area. If anyone is interested in this one-ton yard rock, my brother, Laurence, said he would move it from the back forty and load it for you with his front end loader.

Also, this summer my nephew and I made a good find of several different kinds of fossils from a river bed. I have these at home and am waiting for a fossil expert to identify them. Better yet, I will give them to an interested person.

If any of you are interested in a field trip to Menominee County, let the club know. I could do some leg work by checking out gravel pits, stone piles and stone fences.

In the area there are charcoal kilns still standing. They are built of limestone and fossils are found in limestone. Don't get me wrong! I don't propose to look for fossils in these historic kilns. We will use a camera instead of a rock hammer.

DID YOU KNOW THIS ABOUT YOUR LIBRARY?

by Ernie Johnson

Did you know that there are over 55 books and many additional articles in our library and they all pertain to our common hobby?

Did you know that less than 10% of the books are checked out at any one time? Did you know that less than 10% of the club members utilize the library and its wealth of information?

Did you know that your librarian is developing a bad back and a hernia -- just from transporting all that weighty information to a meeting and then carrying it all back home again?

WHY THEY WIN

by June Zeitner

Some clubs are often among the winners of the Midwest Merit Awards and the All American Awards. The winners are not always from big cities, and they are not always big clubs. They are not always clubs with plenty of money. And they are not all experienced older clubs either.

What do these clubs have in common? Spirit! Enthusiasm! Zeal! They are clubs who love what they are doing and reach out to help others fall in love, too, with the wonderful world of minerals.

Here is a resume of the winners for the Midwest Federation.

Duneland Rock Club, Gary, Indiana . . .

Ishpeming Rock and Mineral Club, Ishpeming, Michigan. The proximity of this club to well known field areas, has inspired this club to be leaders in field trips, safety, and information about their mineral-rich area. The 94 members are strong in all round service to members, other clubs, community and Federation . . .

McDonnell Douglas Gem and Minerals Society, Cedar Rapids, Iowa ..

Roehm Geology Club, Berea, Ohio . . .

Earth Science Club of Northern Illinois, Downers Grove, Ill . .

Judges are always impressed by the variety of projects clubs are involved in. The winners always have all the activities that other clubs have, but beyond that they have something extra. A little more creativity. A few extra activities. And an indefinable spirit.

Midwest judges for this year were Terry and Marie Huizing, Chuck and Jinny Jennings, and Charlotte Ferguson. The Federation had 40 entries, with Illinois and South Dakota having the most entries. There were also 12 Honorable Mention Certificates.

via September MWF Newsletter

Thank you, Dorothy, for doing such a good job of it when you submitted the IRMC for the Midwest Merit Award and the All American Award.

Dorothy will have an article in the next issue of the JASPILITE on this club project. We will be anxious to read it.

Volunteers are needed to make favors and table centerpieces for the Christmas party. Offer your services now!

CATALOGING YOUR COLLECTION

by Richard Mason

Why should you catalog your collection of rocks, minerals or gems?

First of all if you keep your specimens loose in drawers or boxes, sooner or later they are going to be badly injured. It would be much better to keep them in trays with small compartments separating the individual specimens. An alternative is to keep them in the small plastic boxes made for this purpose which you can buy through our club occasionally.

No matter where you choose to keep the various specimens you accumulate, they should be labeled in some manner. A label kept with your specimens is easily separated, so the best way is to paint a small area of the specimen (in an inconspicuous place) with white enamel or a white correction fluid used to correct typing errors. When this is dry, write the number on it with a good quality ink (some inks fade with age). When this is dry, cover the number with clear fingernail polish. This prevents the number from being rubbed off.

The number you apply to the specimen should be recorded in your catalog. I think the best catalog is the card type because it is so easy to insert new cards as you build your collection.

The best cataloging system is a simple one. The card should have a number matching the one you put on the specimen. The most important thing to record about the specimen is location. Other information would include what it is and perhaps how you obtained it (bought, swap, or found it yourself) and what amount you paid for it if you bought it.

One method of numbering is to take a reasonably complete alphabetical listing of minerals and assign a number to each. Using this method, Azurite would have a lower number than Wulfenite, etc. If more than one location for each mineral is involved, you could use letters behind the numbers.

EXAMPLE: 161 Fluorite
Weardale, Durham, England
Wards Natural Science Establishment
161A Fluorite xls with Amethyst
pays Flat River, Ontario
Vacation 1968

Another method of cataloging would be to follow Dana's System of Mineralogy Vol. I, II, and III. The number Dana assigns to a particular mineral would be the number that you would use.

via The Oshkosh Quarrier

"PET ROCK" FAD

Dr. Richard Stone is chairman of the University of Southern California Geology department. He takes a lot of ribbing about his name. He says the "Pet Rock" fad is a very clever advertising deal, but there is more to it than a catchy publicity and promotion job. It involves the age-old affinity man has had for rocks. I think right now it also reflects the current back-to-nature movement, our interest in ecology, environment, the plants kick - except rocks don't die and plants do.

Early man looked at fossils and believed that the organism grew in the rock. He didn't know the true nature of what he was seeing.

Primitive man also saw religious relationships with meteorites. Wouldn't you feel there was something supernatural if this heavy rock fell from the sky? People have brought rocks home from vacations as souvenirs, to put in rock gardens, fish bowls, to decorate, to use as door stops or paper weights, etc. There is even rock candy. Stone says most geologists don't collect rocks but he took a round stone from his shelf and identified it as a dinosaur stone that was used to help digest those prehistoric animals' food. He says "What can you get for a man who has everything? A "Pet Rock"! He can use it as a door stop, or throw it at his wife, or feed it to his seal. They too use rocks to help digest their food."

via See, Saw and Tumble and AFMS Newsletter

THE ROCKHOUND

He is a special breed. He is a hunter, collector and craftsman. He loves nature's hills but is always trying to bring them home with him. He appreciates nature's beauty but is never satisfied until he has polished it. He is a safety-minded citizen but is willing to scale a mile-high cliff for that "special" rock specimen. A rockhound has the swapping instinct of a pack-rat, the agility of a mountain goat, the immunity-to-rain of a duck and the perseverance and patience of Job. He is a person who searches for, finds and cherishes forever those bits of chemical beauty - rocks and minerals - and traces of former life - fossils - which afford him a glimpse of infinity on a shelf.

from the Palamar Gem via AFMS Newsletter

Assistant State Director's Message

Recently Dorothy and I together with our guests, Arline and Harold Buehler, went to a meeting of the Baraga Co. Gem & Lapidary Club. (Arline was a former Michigan State Director) The Baraga club is small but is very active and is interested in sponsoring the UP Gem and Mineral Show. They are going to work on it and see if they could do it.

Congratulations for winning the AFMS & MWF awards!

Frazier H. Tubbs

CLEAN YOUR SPECIMENS SAFELY!

by Ken Ricardi

With the summer field trips behind us, we now face the task of cleaning and possibly reducing some of the matrix on those mineral specimens and fossils we found. Most specimens will clean easily with a soft toothbrush. * Other specimens may need an acid-type solution to remove rust and other corrosions. Whatever method you use, **READ LABELS FIRST!** (*Using detergent and water first but make sure that your specimen isn't soluble in water or the chemical you use.)

Before starting a project, be prepared with the necessary first aid in case of an accident. After an accident has occurred, we tend to not think clearly and wasted time can be costly. When working with caustic solutions, you must respond quickly in case of an emergency. Keep dangerous fluids out of the reach of small children and pets. Here are a few points to consider before using cleaning solutions and chemicals.

1. Follow instructions. **DON'T MIX CHEMICALS** unless specified on directions. Some chemicals don't mix and will produce poisonous fumes which can damage lungs when inhaled. Work in well ventilated rooms (better yet, out-of-doors).
2. Wear rubber gloves and rinse unprotected skin if any chemical solutions should come in contact with it.
3. Wear safety glasses to protect the eyes in case you splash chemicals toward your face. Sometimes even flushing the eyes out with clear water cannot stop eye damage - it is better to prevent the situation with safety glasses in the first place.
4. Do not use any petroleum-type solutions near open flames, hot water heaters, gas range and furnace pilot lights, just to name a few.

To reduce the size of your specimens, make sure your power tools are in proper working order. No sharp edges on blades, guards on pulley motors and adequate lubrication to keep from binding the equipment and possibly scoring your specimen. Here are a few points to consider before trimming your specimens:

1. Wear safety glasses to protect your eyes from flying matrix cutting specimens.
2. Wear dust masks to reduce the chance of inhaling smaller particles into the lungs.
3. Do not wear loose fitting clothes while operating your power equipment - they can become entangled and cause serious injury.
4. If you have long hair, tie it back so it won't get caught in your power equipment.

SAFETY HINTS ON CLEANING SPECIMENS

Many rockhounds use acid in cleaning specimens, and many do this in or around laundry tubs where bleach is used. The Illinois Bell Telephone Co. gives us this important advice; household bleach, sold under various names, is a solution of hypo-chlorite, and if any substance of acid content is added, it will release poisonous chlorine gas. Death can come within minutes as it did to a woman who had been using a well-known toilet bowl cleaner. Not satisfied with the results, she added some household bleach and stirred the combination with a toilet bowl brush. Vinegar or other acids can also liberate chlorine gas from bleach.

KEEP THESE ITEMS IN A SEPARATE PLACE!

via Exchangite, Rock Trails

Malachite is one of the outstandingly colorful gemstones; however great care must be taken in working with it as it is very poisonous in the raw state. First, never lick malachite to see the color. If you wet your finger to apply it to the stone, do not put it back in your mouth for a second wetting.

When grinding it wet, use caution and wear a mask when grinding it dry or polishing it.

When cutting it on the saw, do not get contaminated oil on your skin for any length of time. If you smoke, you can tell very easily if you are getting malachite dust because your smoke will be getting sickeningly sweet. The reason for this sweet taste is that the copper oxide dust mixes with the moisture in your mouth and this combination reacts on the tar of the tobacco turning into saccharin an artificial sweetener.

via Chit & Chat & Template

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