

30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Year

1953-1983

THE



J A S P I L I T E

September 18, 1983

Affiliated with the Midwest Federation  
of Mineralogical and Geological Societies

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

Published Quarterly

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1983 Swap & Sell Chmn.	James Procunier	

MEETINGS: Business Meetings: 1st Friday of the month, 7:30 p.m. at Bothwell Middle School, Marquette (1st Thursday evening June-Sept.)  
 Program & Activity Meetings: 3rd Sunday of the month at 2 p.m. at the Ishpeming Senior Citizens' Center, Pine & Division Sts., Ishpeming, October through 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

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

Deadline for JASPILITE: January 1, March 1, May 1, July 1, September 1, November 1  
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IRMC MEETINGS AND EVENTS

- Sunday, September 18, 1983 9:00 a.m. All-Day Field Trip to Holmes Mine. Meet Ishpeming National Guard Armory at 9:00.
- Friday, October 7, 1983 7:30 p.m. Business Meeting, Bothwell Middle School, Marquette.
- Sunday, October 9, 1983 all day Fall Color Tour to Dukes Area. Meeting Time and Place to be announced.
- Friday, November 4, 1983 7:30 p.m. Business Meeting, Bothwell Middle School.
- Sunday, November 13, 1983 2:00 p.m. First Indoor Program of the Season. To be held at Ishpeming Senior Citizens Center, Pine & Division Streets, Ishpeming. Program to be announced.
- Friday, December 2, 1983 7:30 p.m. Business Meeting, Bothwell Middle School.
- Sunday, December 18, 1983 Annual Meeting of IRMC and Christmas Party. Time and Place to be announced. (See November JASPILITE for details.)

Deadline for next JASPILITE: November 1

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HOSTESSES FOR BUSINESS MEETINGS:

- Helen Johnson October 7
- Marian Markert November 4
- Allan Korby and Art Wiig December 2

DONORS FOR DOOR PRIZES:

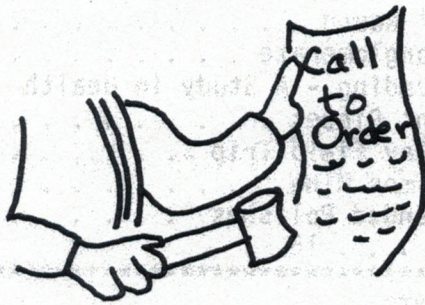
- Bob & Marian Markert November 13
- Arnold Mulzer January 15

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GROWING A CRYSTAL

A single eight-sided crystal of alum can be made by dissolving one part of ordinary potash alum by weight in five parts of warm water. This produces a heavily saturated solution which, after cooling, yields an initial seed of alum. (allow approximately 2 days) Suspended, in the remaining solution, the seed gradually grows into a gleaming octahedron. This takes weeks, but be patient and you will be rewarded by a crystal over half an inch across, as beautifully faceted as a diamond.

via Ozark Earth Science News



# the President's Message

by Bruce Spike

FELLOW CLUBMEMBERS -- Thanks for your help in making the Rock Swap a huge success. The Silent Auction receipts will insure the continuation of our present level of scholarship awards. It is most gratifying to see the club members join in mutual effort behind a project and see it through to a successful conclusion.

## WHAT IS A GOOD CLUB MEMBER?

- \* A person who enjoys being a member of the group.
- \* A person who participates in club activities.
- \* A person who learns from knowledgeable members and guests.
- \* A person who helps others by teaching.
- \* A person who shares of his time and knowledge.

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No Minutes of Business Meetings were available to the editor at press time.

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## A VERY WARM WELCOME TO . . .



Dennis and Janice Mapes  
 285 County Road 510 475-9345  
 Negaunee, MI 49866

Rev. William Rogers  
 715 East Vine - Apt. 10 486-8290  
 Ishpeming, MI 49849

Susan Van Hulle  
 23304 Wohlfeil 313-295-2012  
 Taylor, MI 48180

MENOMINEE COUNTY FIELD TRIP

by Helen Johnson

We started out about 9 a.m. on July 10 in lower 60° weather, with a clear, blue sky and the promise of much warmer temperatures to come. The caravan was made up of five vehicles and included Arnold Mulzer, Lucille Scotti, Regis Walling, Laurence Sain, Olive Sain, Bart and Ingrid Bartelli, Ernie and Helen Johnson, Sally Ahrndt, Leon Anderson and his mother, Don and Jan Ruonavaara, and two pebble pups -- Michelle Scotti and Annette Johnson.

After following a few backwoods roads, we opted for a much-needed quick stop at a roadside. It was here that Ernie talked to an 80-year-old man who was "Just driving around the U. P. for a couple of months".

On to Bark River where we met Fabian and Luella Steinbrecher and Bob and Margaret Johnson. After a few hellos and how-do-you-dos and letting the four girls (Michelle, Annette, Lucille and Jan) have a ride on the merry-go-round and a turn at the curved slide, we started out to see the old farm with its concrete relief pictures set among rock frames.

We started out, that is; but Arnold got us lost! This was really a new feature to the field trip -- no one ever got lost with Arnold on this trip before! So, we made a circle and started out from the beginning again. This time, we got there. The "pictures" were really good and cameras were snapping. The weathered boards of the buildings are now in an advanced state of disrepair. But, still, we marveled at one old hermit's dream of how he wanted his farm.

Back over the same dusty, limestone roads and we were at 47 Creek to pick up a few fossils. No such luck, this particular day, as the creek had quite a bit of water in it. We did see a snake crawl into its hole in the bridge, though.

And then, on to the Steinbrecher Farm near Felch! This was a marvel to see. Fabian Steinbrecher started out about twelve years ago by hiring a guy from Iron Mountain to replace the wooden window sills on his house with some stone material that Fabian was to provide. Well -- he thought the guy charged too much for the service and thereby a new hobby was born for him. Eight to ten years ago he started to put a mowing strip around his entire house -- using only a chisel for his tool. Following the white Italian marble mowing strip came the front walk made of dark granite which Fabian hauled in from South Dakota. Following were many outdoor features among them a rock garden - of rocks, not plantings - and a huge white quartz boulder from the Groveland Mine which has a specular hematite vein running through it. From his yard, he moved indoors to enhance the living areas with tiles, shelves, etc.

This summer, work in continuing by way of shoring up the front porch was not built strong enough to hold up the new 26-ton slate tile roof he installed on his home in June of this year.

Following coffee and goodies prepared by the Steinbrechers, many field trippers took a limited tour of the farm. Fabian generously supplied many trippers with small or large samples of Lavakite - a dark, blue marble which he uses generously around his property. And, of course, they extended a welcome invitation to all of us to return and visit them again.

CRACKERBARREL

by Helen Johnson

During our Crackerbarrel held on the evening of August 6, the IRMC was very proud to have Grant Tomkin of Resource Explorations as our speaker. Grant has been working at the Ropes Gold Mine during the exploration phase of the re-opening of that mine.

The slide presentation began with a view of the headframe, buildings and a mill processing building as it looked in the mine's heyday in the 1800's. The Ropes Gold Mine was founded by Julius Ropes, a druggist from Ishpeming. When the mine was in full swing back then, there was an actual little town near the minesite which consisted of a few homes and a school. There were actually 75 people living there at that time. None of these buildings remain today.

Calumet and Hecla re-opened the Ropes Gold Mine during the 1930's. They did a lot of work there but did not remove any gold from the mine.

Callahan Mining Company bought the property in 1975; and in 1979 they started to do some exploration. Using a 75-horsepower pump to take 21 million gallons of water from the mine. New headframes were built; and other improvements made. The exploration shaft, made like a kind of corkscrew, will become an air shaft when the mine is in production.

Once down in the shaft, the workers found all timbers in the mine to be still in good shape and only the ladders needed to be replaced. Since dewatering, however, the timbers have begun to deteriorate. There are 15 levels in the mine and it is about 800 feet deep. The drifts are a pretty good size - 6 feet high and 5 to 6 feet wide. One stope is about 400 feet high. The 15th level extends several hundred feet both to the east and to the west.

During the exploration, along with drill cores, chip samples and large specimens were taken from the mine for metallurgical testing. The gold in the mine is real fine gold mixed with pyrite.

You drive up to the mine on the same road today as in years past when the mine first opened; soon miners will be traveling that same road as they go to work when the Ropes Gold Mine goes into full production.

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## OUT OF THE MOUTHS OF BABES

by Marian Markert

After Bob had been collecting some of the local minerals, his mother gave him her old china cabinet in which to display them. Not having a great variety of minerals, he filled in with duplicate pieces.

So one day when our son was about 4 years old, he brought a couple of his friends in to show them his Dad's collection of mostly hematites. Upon eavesdropping, I heard him say, "See, there is Daddy's caceous, there is Mommie's caceous, and there is my-caceous hematite."

CRACKERBARREL

An annual highlight of our crackerbarrel session is the presenting of the raffle prizes to their rightful owners. Because not all winners were present, some of the winners had their prizes delivered and/or mailed to them. The prizes, donors and the winners are listed below.

<u>PRIZE</u>	<u>DONOR</u>	<u>WINNER</u>
\$50.00 cash	IRMC	K and E Dobson, Negaunee
27# Copper Specimen	Laurence Sain	Harvey Richards, Ishpeming
Opal & Sterling Silver Ring	Arnold Mulzer	Ernest Johnson, Marquette
Kona dolomite clock	Ben Ogea	Edith Tanner, Flint
Tiger Eye Ring	Nelson Short	Dee Anick, Marquette
Chlorastrolite Necklace	Dave Myers	John Brofka, Marinette
Sterling Silver Chain	Jim Bowns	Bob Procunier, Ishpeming
10mm Zircon, 10k Gold Pin	Jim Procunier	Frazier Tubbs, Negaunee
Verde Antique Clock	Bruce Spike	Steve Hunter, Marquette
Agate Locket	Jim Procunier	Charles Downs, Marquette
Wonderstone Necklace	Jim Procunier	Leona Schnarr, West Bloomfield
16 x 20 Oil Painting	Mrs. Leon Anderson	J. Allen, Ishpeming
Weewee Slate & SS Bolo	Sally Ahrndt	O. K. Lee, Perry, MI
Rag Rug	Ingrid Bartelli	Leona Yeadon, Marquette
Pewter Miner Statue	Copper World	William Green, Marquette
Amethyst/Copper Critter	Red Metal Shop	V. C. Rochelieu, Marquette
Black Quartzite Clock	Bob Markert	Bill Parch, Fountain City, WI
Malachite Bolor & Buckle	Tony LaChance	Ray McGonegal, Jackson, MI
Olivine Crystals Necklace	Audubon Jenkins	Francis Leadbetter, Marquette
Puddingstone Clock	Pat Bemis	Al Veenkant, Marquette
Pyrolusite Specimen	Frazier Tubbs	Henry Belmore, Marquette

# FIELD TRIP

WHEN: Sunday, September 18

WHERE: Holmes Mine

MEET AT: Ishpeming Armory at 9 a.m.

The third Sunday in September will find the members of the Ishpeming Rock and Mineral Club exploring the Holmes Mine located just south of Ishpeming. Other nearby localities may be visited as well.

The object of our search at the Holmes Mine will botryoidal hematite.

Please bring a sack lunch as this field trip will continue through the afternoon.



# FIELD TRIP



WHEN: Sunday, October 9

WHAT: Annual Fall Color Tour



The IRMC annual Fall Color Tour will take place on Sunday, October 9, 1983. The exact time of departure and meeting place are yet to be determined.

This year the Color Tour will center in the Dukes area and will possibly include a side trip to the Laughing Whitefish River and/or Falls.

A CAMERA will be a must on this field trip and a sack lunch should be brought with you.



To us Michigan Uplanders, summer is flooded with the short season of growing and going; it's full of people and places. We may not get to go many places because our homes are filled with family and friends here to enjoy Michigan's Upland.

Rockin' Round



with  
Ingrid Bartelli

Among them are rockhounds from all over North America. It may be the proximity of our home to the Tourist Park that brings us so many enjoyable visits with rockhounds moving through the area. I'm sure every other member of the IRMC has happily shared knowledge of our mineral wonderland with visitors.

Now there's a nip in the evening air, heavy morning dew, the birds are flocking and some leaves are turning color -- signals that the fall season is here. Soon our visiting friends, like the migrating birds, will all be heading south for the winter.

Many of our own club members will join the migration. In fact, Tony and Eleanor LaChance headed west and then south before September arrived. We'll have to wait till spring before they return. We'll miss those two REGULARS. (A REGULAR is a club member who attends all meetings and is present to contribute talent, specimens and lots of labor at every club event. We have 20 to 30 club members who qualify as REGULARS.)

Those of us who stay at home will have many pleasant memories of our summer visitors to warm our hearts through the long winter. And possibly some of our migrating members will have the opportunity to return a visit with some of our summertime friends.



I R M C    C O N G L O M E R A T E

by Ingrid Bartelli



The back bone is one of the most vital parts of a person's anatomy. We'd collapse without it. So it is with our rock and mineral club. Those members who make up the back bone of our club are the officers. They support and lead the way for all of us lesser-member-parts of the club's anatomy.

In the March 11, 1983, issue of the JASPILITE all the officers for the past thirty years are listed on pages 8 and 9. What an elite group!

Among the past presidents we have several of those prestigious persons who are still guiding the course of events of the IRMC. They are: Bob Markert, president 1953 and 1959; Elmer Jarvi, 1961; Marian Markert, 1965; Laurence Sain, 1970; Pat Bemis, 1972; Ernest Johnson, 1973-74; Frazier Tubbs, 1975; Carlton Gutman, 1976-77; Olive Sain, 1980-81; and current president, Bruce Spike. There they are -- our sustaining membership. Along with current officers, they comprise the Board of Directors of our club.

They say that, "Once a president - always a president". At least, the past presidents feel that special leadership concern for the organization. No wonder we have such a healthy, functioning group presently celebrating its 30th anniversary.

It really isn't necessary to introduce these folks in our "meet our members" column because everyone knows them. Also, it would take a special issue of the JASPILITE to relate their interests and contributions to the club. Very briefly, we will pay them honor.

MEET THE MARKERTS - Bob (president, 1953 and 1959) and Marian (president, 1965).

If our club has a founding father and mother, it is the Markerts who qualify. They have been the spinal cord in the back bone of our group for thirty years. They conceived the club's birth and showed us the way. They parented us with material things of great value and years of inspiration, toil and labor. But more important, they shared their wisdom, interest, enthusiasm and sincere love with all of us. They are the rock on which our club is built and each of us carries a part of the rock in our hearts. Long live our life-time members, Bob and Marian -- beautiful people!

The Markerts maintain membership in our group for their family who were members during the early years when Ishpeming was home. They are Dudley and Anne Markert of Burke, Virginia, and Scott and Donna Markert of Baltimore, Maryland.

(continued on page 8)

IRMC CONGLOMERATE (continued from page 7)MEET THE JARVIS - Elmer (president, 1961) and Mamie

One of the rewards for holding the Sunday meetings in Ishpeming is the opportunity for some of the newer members to meet the old-timers from the Ishpeming area that helped determine what our club is all about. Elmer and Mamie are two such folks. They don't move too far from home anymore, but we have a chance to know them better at our Ishpeming-located meetings.

The first tales I heard about the Jarvis was in regard to Elmer's prowess as a tour guide, especially in the Copper Country. As he sized up a flooded road, he'd say, "Lots of water - good bottom," as he charged through the mud hole. In such manner he took the group to many excellent collecting areas. Wish some of us newer members would get a chance to follow you, Elmer.

Mamie has a deep feeling for the beauty of our rocks and minerals just as they exist in nature - particularly crystals. To see some of our hammer-happy rockbusters demolishing a cluster of crystals can move her to tears. (I shudder at the thought of how much beauty I have unknowingly destroyed with my hammer.)

Elmer and Mamie, it is a joy to know you.

MEET THE SAINS - Laurence (president, 1970) and Olive (president, 1980 & 1981)

Leaders they be! And achievers! Their museum collection is one of the better ones in the U. P.

The Sains are interested in all aspects of rock and mineral lore - geology, collecting, displaying, museum specimens, cutting and lapidary, thumbnails, and micro-mounts. They do not limit their interest to materials from our local area as most of us are prone to do. The world is their perimeter.

They are skilled and expert lapidarists as the many folks who have purchased their wares will testify. Olive's driving desire is to "know all there is about minerals" and she works hard at her books to achieve the status. She has become an "authority" for mineral identification.

We can live at peace with these perfectionists who are so far advanced from the rest of us because they share. They're always willing to teach, show, share and work. They store the club's supplies, keep the public displays in order, furnish samples of local materials, etc., etc., etc.

Few decisions of the club are made without their blessing - in fact, many decisions originate with the Sains. Personally, we are the fortunate "gainers" as they tolerate us on a "best friend" basis. The entire membership and community benefit from the Sains membership.

MEET THE BEMISES - Pat (Charles) (president, 1972) and Theresa

To know them is to love them. Quiet, humble and kind, these folks attract friends wherever they be.

(continued on page 9)

IRMC CONGLOMERATE (continued from page 8)

Pat is one of the most creative persons in our club. This skilled craftsman is always dreaming up and building something new, different and beautiful made from rocks and/or metal and wood -- inlaid knife handles, unique buckles, clocks, tables, fireplaces -- you name it!

Theresa does beautiful lapidary craftwork. Their specimen collection is nothing to sneeze at either! Frequent trips to visit family on the west coast give them opportunity to rockhound in that area.

Probably the greatest gift these REGULARS contribute to our club is their smiling, friendly presence. Everyone loves Pat and Theresa who reside near Rice and Bass Lakes with a Gwinn address.

IN 1973-74, ERNEST JOHNSON WAS PRESIDENT. But, because of the unique and tremendous contributions of the Johnsons to the club, the next issue will carry the details.

FRAZIER TUBBS WAS PRESIDENT IN 1975. We "met" Frazier in a previous issue.

MEET THE GUTMANS - Carlton (president, 1976 & 1977) and Susan

The Gutmans are a lovely young couple; both are employed and they are raising their precious daughter Hally. We see very little of these busy people, but we know where they are and are quick to call for help when we need it -- particularly the micro-mounters. Carlton, a graduate of Michigan Tech, is the authority and teacher for those of us interested in mineral crystal identification. Even though they are so busy, Carlton gives freely of his time and wisdom.

The Gutmans have been and are involved with specimens on a commercial level at their Pick and Gad store in Copper Harbor and more recently from their home on Magnetic Street in Marquette.

Carl was an able and professional president of the club having training and experience in group leadership.

The Gutman womenfolks, Susan and Hally, are petite, sweet, lovely ladies, more interested in Carl than in rocks and minerals.

Carl and Sue, we appreciate every minute of time you can spare for the IRMC.

THIS BRINGS US UP TO OUR PRESENT PRESIDENT, BRUCE SPIKE, whom you have met in an earlier edition.

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AN INTERESTING THOUGHT: As soon as the second man appeared on earth, the rights of the first man were cut in half. Now divide your rights by the total population and that explains everything.

via many bulletins and The Rocky Reader

## ROCKHOUNDING - A STUDY IN HEALTH

by Bob Markert

One of the unusual experiences of the Markert Family happened back in the early 1950's shortly after the club was formed.

It seems that in the eyes of the Chambers of Commerce in both Ishpeming and Marquette the collections of the Markerts was a tourist attraction and many tourists didn't realize what a trap they were in for. Many of the visitors became "dyed in the wool" rockhounds from even the simplest exposure to the unusual formations of rocks and gems.

One warm day in April when the water was running in the streets of Ishpeming and some of the collecting piles were just coming into view from under a winter supply of snow, the phone rang. It was the Marquette Chamber of Commerce. It seems they had some visitors who would like to view our collection. We said, "Send them up," and we would let them look it over.

That was the beginning of a wonderful friendship as we were to soon learn that these people - Jerry, Pauline and two daughters - were making a trip of desperation. They were dressed in fur coats and dress clothes, and never in the world did they think they were going to do the things they did on the following two days.

Jerry had been given the sad news that he had six weeks to two months to live; they were on the beginning of a trip, destination unknown. None of them were rockhounds, but that was when they came in the front door of our home.

We offered them the knowledge we had on rockhounding and we offered them rockhounding clothes; but they preferred to his those hematite piles in the clothes they came with. We saw a complete change in the attitude of all four members of that family. They became enthused collectors; their fur coats became as red as the hematite piles we collected on; and, if any of you remember the limonite pseudomorph pile, you know what I mean when I say "red".

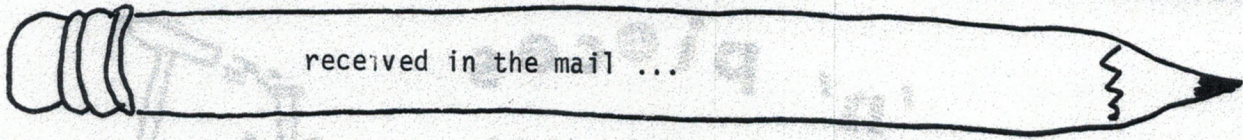
The happy part of this story has to be the fact that Jerry's scheduled visit to the doctor revealed a new man and the change convinced his doctor that rockhounding was for him also.

Jerry went on to become president of a Lower Michigan rock club; and he led many field trips, including one up to Bancroft, Ontario. Jerry's longevity was not two months; but I have been told he had six to eight years more in which he enjoyed the hobby of rockhounding.

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ROCK PAPER ????? Ukrainian researchers have developed a new type of paper for industrial use. It is made of basalt which is abundantly found in the Ukraine. The rock is melted in electric furnaces, then passed through special strainers, producing strong, elastic fiber. Basalt paper is said to be water and rot resistant and can be heated to 800° Centigrade without melting. It is expected to be used in the manufacture of industrial filters.

via many and The Rocky Reader



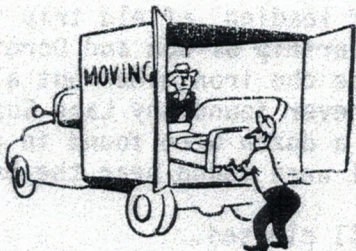
Dear Ernie and Helen:

... Everything is going well down here so far. Work is really interesting and it generally keeps me quite busy. I've only been out to the mine area twice. Once I found some micro crystals of wavellite. The other time a bag full of agatized bones and the sort. Crystal collecting is terrible here but lapidary material is plentiful.

I'm going to miss our swap and sell this year. I always had a good time at them and was looking forward to this year's. Good luck to the club and hope it doesn't rain! ... Hello to all!

I noticed there are many shows in Florida this November and December. Let me know if you or anyone is coming down by chance.

Mike Elliott



**IF YOU MOVE...**

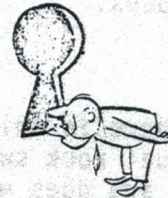
... please send the editor your new mailing address. Remember, it costs **DOUBLE** to send out another Jaspilite to you!

Laurence found these in the Mining Journal, dated July 26 and July 27, respectively:

**30 YEARS AGO - ISHPEMING:** The Michigan Mineralogical Society is to be feted by both a luncheon and dinner Monday, arranged by their hosts, the new Ishpeming Rock and Mineral Club.

Because the host club anticipates heavy appetites on the part of visiting rock collectors, brought on by a morning field trip, and the comparatively high, clear air of Northern Michigan, a luncheon at the Winter Sports clubhouse will emphasize baked beans, ham and other "stick to the ribs" victuals.

**60 YEARS AGO - ISHPEMING:** The Michigan Verde Antique Marble Company has on display, in its office in the Dundon block, four slabs of marble from its quarry six miles north of Ishpeming, declared by Charles H. Carter, the company's manager, to be the finest examples he has ever seen. Carter has been in the marble business for many years and has inspected all the marble quarries of any importance in the country. He is ready to wager that no plant in America has produced samples of equal beauty.



# bits 'n' pieces

by Arnold Mulzer



Another season is drawing to a close; and what a summer it was -- starting off with the Midwest Convention at Kalamazoo. I met a lot of old friends and acquaintances.

Also, I was pleased and proud of the Ishpeming Rock and Mineral Club; and I let the fact be known that the IRMC will have produced three presidents for the Midwest with Jim Edwards being elected first vice president. Jim and his wife joined our club in 1959 when he was stationed at K. I. Sawyer Air Force Base.

Charles Markert served as president of the Midwest in 1959-60 and the late Floyd N. Mortensen in 1960-61.

\*\*\*\*\*

Over Labor Day weekend, I had the pleasure of leading a field trip in our area for the ESCONI club of Chicago under the leadership of Don and Dorothy Auler, who are also members of the IRMC. We not only made the iron mines but also the Kona pits and the Lake Superior beaches. I have never found any Lake Superior agates at Presque Isle; but, on this trip, about a dozen were found in a short time. One gal picked up an egg-sized beauty. All were found near the breakwater.

I know they went back to the Chicago area well pleased.

To the Ernie Johnsons and Allan Korby: special thanks for helping me out these two days.

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Elsewhere in this issue, you will see the names of members that were donors at our annual rock swap. Thanks to all that helped in any way. The affair was a success; and dues won't have to be raised to keep this club going.

No snow on the ground yet; but let this be the first call for your 1984 dues. Be an early bird this year.

## B O N A N Z A - Three Times Over

by Helen Johnson

After two days of field tripping with Arnold, ESCONI club members met with a few IRMC members at Bonanza on Sunday evening for a good meal and lots of socialability. It was a chance for all to review two days of rock hunting and sightseeing that included



(continued on page 13)

BONANZA - Three Times Over (continued from page 12)

the phenacryst area, Jasper Knob, Jaspilite, Kona, etc.; and to share a few specimens with each other.

Following a trip on the Huron Mountain Railroad on Monday, the group will be headed back home, with a few extending their trip to include the Copper Country for a few days.

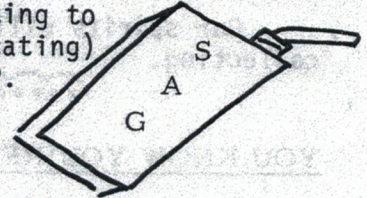
Everyone expressed their gratitude to Arnold for a very well-run and successful field trip. Good hunting, good meal, and good friends -- a Bonanza, three times over.

## L A B O R D A Y F I E L D T R I P

by Bruce Spike

To say that everything went smoothly and according to plan would be a little exaggerated. However, we enjoyed ourselves and had fun so what more could you ask.

We began our trip Friday afternoon about 2:30 because we wanted to wait for the mail. A hundred and fourteen miles is not a long trip; we had plenty of time. Well, three miles from home we ran out of gas. Exasperating to say the least and I went to the nearest place (U.P. Fabricating) to phone my son for a little help. The kind souls at U.P. Fabricating donated a can of gas to get me started again so we were off once more. Finally arrived at Twin Lakes State Park about 6 p.m.



Saturday morning dawned clear and bright, we were to mee Leon Anderson and the Proconiers at the park. Zero hour (9 a.m.) arrived but where is everyone. While killing time we visited a couple (not rockhounds) at the park who were from Manistee, MI. They asked many questions, like what do people in the U. P. do? "We drove up U.S.41 clear to Copper Harbor and haven't seen any industry. Didn't Wisconsin sell the U. P. to Michigan?"

Answers to these questions, we enjoy ourselves. The main industries in the U. P. are mining, logging and tourism. And, Wisconsin did not sell the U. P. to Michigan.

Finally, we locate the other rockhounds, they were waiting at the park entrance. Then our group headed for the Minesota Mine near Rockland. No spectacular specimens are found but a few pecks of apples got picked and by 11:30 a.m. it is HOT! Ingrid leads a few of us to a vent in the side of the mountain where cool air gushes forth like a breeze from an air-conditioner. We hate to leave this cool spot but it's time to go for lunch. Where did we have lunch? Way down at a road-side park at the foot of Military Hill by the Ontonogan River.



(continued on page 14)

LABOR DAY FIELD TRIP (continued from page 13)

Then back to rock hunting at the Michigan Mine. Not too much here either but we did visit a pre-historic mining pit at the top of the ridge, ate chokecherries and gathered grapevines. Then we set out for the Mass Mine near Mass City but it started to rain and we headed back to Twin Lakes Park.

Sunday morning, it's a little cooler and we head north to South Range. An old quarry here shows a cross section of all the old basalt lava flows on top of Jacobsville sandstone. Very interesting. Then off to Tri-Mountain Mine where Sharron Spike and Leon Anderson each found large chunks of copper imbedded in a reddish rock matrix. After lunch and a few more pecks of apples, we went to the Globe Mine. Here a few specimens were collected, nothing spectacular.

Still in an exploratory mood, we headed for the Champion Mine piles where we finished out the day. Many old copper bricks were collected. A copper brick is a brick from the old smelter and is impregnated with copper. Looking at the waste piles one can imagine the size of the hole underground.

Sunday evening most of the group got together for a dutch treat dinner in Houghton to continue the comradeship of the day. When we left the restaurant, it was raining and it rained all night and all day Monday.

Our spirits will never dampen even though the weather may be too wet for collecting.

YOU KNOW YOU'RE IN THE COPPER COUNTRY WHEN:

The books on the season's snowfall aren't closed until Memorial Day.  
 Asked their nationality, more people claim to be Finnish than American.  
 You can drive 150 miles without finding a red, amber and green traffic light.  
 Two break-ins are considered a crime wave.  
 You could miss summer if you sleep in late.  
 "Toot" is a noun.  
 The Library serves tap beer.  
 You are not weird if you smile at a stranger.  
 Rapid transit is a bunch of snowmobiles on a bar run.  
 It takes at 20 years to qualify as a resident.  
 The water isn't warm enough for swimming until August, if then.  
 Everything comes to a halt during deer season.  
 You can still find a one-room schoolhouse.  
 You're nothing if you don't own a four-wheel drive truck with a plow.  
 You can pry copper souvenirs out of the pavement.  
 You work your social calendar around the schedule of the high school basketball and hockey teams.  
 People tell you how terrible the winters are, but don't answer when you ask why they live here.  
 Coke is a soft drink.

via The Rock Table and Kettle Krier



## THE HOLMES MINE

by Helen Johnson

The object of our search on our field trip to the Holmes Mine will be botryoidal hematite. Grape ore is described in one book as "relative small clustered masses with smooth botryoidal surfaces or grouped rounded prominences." Also, a very good specimen of Martite was found at the Holmes Mine in 1936 by a Mr. Schwartz. This lesser-known of our iron mines produced four grades of iron ore. Holmes Lump and Holmes Crushed were both hard, steel-blue hematite ores and Junction Bessemer and Junction were both soft, red hematite ores.

The Holmes Mine came into being in 1915 and was owned and operated by the Cleveland-Cliffs Iron Company. By February of the following year, they started sinking the shaft, the greatest vertical depth to be 1390 feet. Being sunk through diorite, the shaft was going down at the rate of 125 feet per month. This was said to set a record for the Marquette District.

The hoist system, considered to be by many the finest arrangement of its kind on the range, was devised by then Superintendent L. C. Eaton. Two buckets, each four feet high by three and one-half feet in diameter, were used for hoisting rock and other material. They were operated in such a way that they could not dump while they were being hoisted and nothing could fall back into the shaft even after the buckets reached the surface. The buckets were operated just as efficiently as skips or cages were.

On Thursday, December 14, 1916, an accident was recorded at the Holmes Mine. Three men were killed and three men were injured when the bucket they were riding in fell 104 feet to the bottom of the shaft, then at 1067 feet deep. A fourth man later died because of injuries received. Five of the men were found in the bucket after the accident.

When the buildings and equipment were complete, the Holmes was said to be one of the most complete and attractive mines in the Lake Superior District. The mine had three crushers, the concrete base for one of which was eighty feet high.

The Oliver Mining Company drove a shaft from its Section 16 Mine, located nearby, to the Holmes. This shaft was to be used as an opening for workmen in case of fire or other trouble. When the Holmes shaft reached a point directly opposite the Section 16 drift, CCI began a drift to meet it and connect the two mines.

By 1930 the Holmes had produced 2,359,425 tons of ore, its greatest production during that period being 360,495 tons in 1926. The ore was shipped by rail to both the Presque Isle (Marquette) and Escanaba ore docks to be later shipped to lower lake ports.

The Holmes Mine was acquired from the Lake Superior Iron Company by the Oliver Mining Company, a division of United States Steel Corporation, in 1935. The Holmes, along with the Section 16, Hard Ore, Hematite and Section 21 Mines, continued to operate under the name of the Lake Superior Iron Company until these mines ceased operations in 1946.

(continued on Page 16)

THE HOLMES MINE (continued from page 15)

The information for this article was obtained from the following sources:

1. THE IRON ORES OF LAKE SUPERIOR, 7th edition; Crowell and Murray. (Cleveland, Ohio, 1930)
2. THE MINERALOGY OF MICHIGAN, E. Wm. Heinrich, (Lansing, 1976)
3. THE SAGA OF IRON MINING IN MICHIGAN'S UPPER PENINSULA, Burton H. Boyum. (Marquette, Michigan, 1977)
4. WEEKLY MINING JOURNAL, July 15, 1916 edition, (Marquette, Michigan)

The author wishes to thank the Research Librarian at the Marquette County Historical Society for her co-operation in finding some of the sources named above.

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DO WE WEAR AN IMPREGNABLE SHELL?

One of the ways harmful and toxic substances can enter our body is through the skin. We would not reach into an acid solution knowing it would be harmful to our skin. Yet many hobbyists will reach into solvents and cutting oils and think there is no danger.

Solvents will dry out the skin, cause chapping, enter cuts, and be absorbed by the blood. Many of the fast acting solvents are chlorinated hydrocarbons and can be harmful if breathed or absorbed into the skin. These solvents include carbon tetrachloride, perchlorethylene, trichlorethylene, xylene, toluene and benzine. Each of these solvents are toxic and the exposure level for breathing is only a few parts per million. When absorbed into the blood through the lungs or skin, they affect the liver and kidneys and cause anemia and possible leukemia.

Cutting oils contain particles from the stones that are cut, and these compounds can be absorbed into the blood through the hair follicles, cuts and veins near the skin surface. Used oils can cause dermatitis and skin ulcers as well as adverse effects from the mineral compounds on vital body organs.

Take proper precautions and wear rubber gloves to avoid these hazards.

via Environmentally Speaking  
1981 Show Issue

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JASPER is more troublesome to polish than agate because many jaspers contain hematite which is very difficult to polish. If you're on a field trip, a good way to test for good jasper is to wet it. If it absorbs the water and dries rapidly, throw it away. It will not polish. If it stays wet and does not dry right away, it contains a high amount of chalcedony and will take a good polish. Most jaspers polish well on leather with Linde A, but good results can be obtained with tin oxide on either felt or leather.

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Failures can be divided into those who thought and never did and those who did and never thought.

BOTH via Earth Science News

# RECOMMENDED POLISHES

CMO=Cerium Oxide TO=Tin Oxide LA=Linde-A DIA=Diamond CHO=Chrome Oxide

	CMO	TO	LA	DIA	CHO		CMO	TO	LA	DIA	CHO
ACTINOLITE		X				LABRADORITE		X			X
AGATE	X	X				LAPIS LAZULI		X	X		X
ALABASTER		X				LIMESTONE	X	X	X		X
AMAZONITE		X				LAPIDOLITE					X
AMBER		X				MALACHITE		X	X		X
AMBLYGONITE		X				MOONSTONE		X			
ANDALUCITE		X				NEPHRITE		X	X		X
APATITE			X		X	OBSIDIAN		X			X
AVENTURINE		X				ONYX	X	X			X
AZURITE		X			X	OPAL	X	X			
APOPHYLLITE					X	PERIDOT		X	X	X	
ARAGONITE					X	PETRIFIED WOOD	X	X	X		X
AXINITE	X					PHENACITE		X			
BARITE					X	POLLUCITE	X				
BENITOITE	X					QUARTZ	X	X			
BERYL	X	X		X		RHODOCHROSITE		X	X		X
BLOODSTONE			X			RHODONITE	X		X		X
BRAZILIANITE		X				RUBY				X	
CALCITE		X			X	RUTILE			X		
CASSITERITE		X				SAPPHIRE				X	
CELESTITE					X	SCAPOLITE	X				
CEROSITE					X	SCHEELITE					X
CHRYSOBERYL				X		SERPENTINE		X	X		X
CORAL		X				SMITHSONITE		X			
CORUNDUM				X		SODALITE	X				
DANBURITE		X				SOSOLITE	X				
DATOLITE		X				SPINEL		X	X	X	
DIOPSIDE					X	SPHALERITE					X
DIOPTASE	X					SPODUMENE		X			
DIORITE	X	X	X		X	SUNSTONE		X			
ENSTATITE		X				THOMPSONITE	X				
EPIDOTE		X				TIGER-EYE	X	X	X		
EUCLASE		X				TITANITE(SPHENE)		X			
FELDSPAR	X	X				TOPAZ		X	X	X	
FLUORITE		X			X	TOURMALINE		X	X	X	
GARNET	X	X	X	X	X	TURQUOISE	X	X	X		
GOLDSTONE	X	X				UNIKITE	X				
HENATITE	X					VARICITE	X	X	X		
HICKORYITE			X			VESUVIANITE	X				
HOWLITE	X	X	X		X	WILLIAMSITE			X		
HYPERSTHENE		X				WONDERSTONE		X	X		
JADITE	X	X	X		X	WULFENITE					X
JASPER	X	X	X		X	ZIRCON		X			
KYANITE		X				ZOISITE	X				

VIA THE OPAL AND OTHERS

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- Sept. 10-11 SWAP Muskegon, MI. Muskegon County Rock & Mineral Society, Pioneer Park
- Sept. 10-11 SWAP Wilmot, WI. WRK-ROCK-ART-SALE. Kenosha County Fairgrounds.
- Sept. 10-11 SWAP Ladysmith, WI. Flambeau Gem and Mineral Club, Kenny's Thorn-apple Campground.
- Sept. 16-17 SHOW Holland, MI. Tulip City Gem & Mineral Club, Holland Civic Center.
- Sept. 24-25 SHOW Hartland, MI. Livingston Gem & Mineral Club, Hartland High School, 9525 Highland Road.
- Oct. 1-2 SHOW Racine, WI. 25th anniversary show, 7th & Lake Avenue.
- Oct. 8-9 SHOW Detroit, MI. Greater Detroit Gem and Mineral Show, Light Guard Armory, 4400 East Eight Mile Road.
- Oct. 8-9 SHOW Traverse City, MI. Grand Traverse Area Rock & Mineral Club, College Gym, College Drive.
- Oct. 14-16 SHOW Lansing, MI. Central Michigan Lapidary & Mineral Society, National Guard Armory, 2500 South Washington Avenue.
- Oct. 29-30 SHOW Bridgeport, MI. Tri-County Rock & Mineral Society, Bridgeport Spaulding High School.
- Nov. 5-6 SHOW Oshkosh, WI. Oshkosh Earth Science Club, Park Plaza Mall, Hwy 45 at Fox River.
- Nov. 5-6 SHOW Park Forest, IL. Park Forest Earth Science Club, Forest Trail Jr. High School, Lakewood at Wilson.

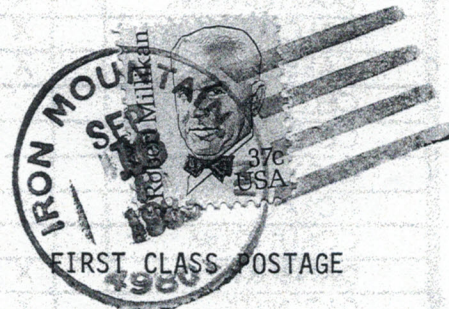
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September, 1983

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