

April 10, 1987



THE JASPIRITE

Affiliated with the Midwest Federation of Mineralogical & Geological Societies

ROCK and MINERAL CLUB
P.O. Box 102
ISHPEMING, MICH. 49849

Business Meetings: 1st Friday of Month. 7PM at Jacobetti Veterans Facility
425 Fisher Street, Marquette, Mich.
Program & Activity 3rd Sunday of Month. 2PM at Ishpeming Senior Center, Pine
Meetings: & Division St., Ishpeming, Mich. (Field Trips-May-October)

Fellow Rockhounds:

I would like to start this off by first thanking Laurence and all the rest of the past officers for doing such a good job this past year. You have done such a good job, I hope with all your help I will be able to do the same.

Because of the change in the April meeting date and site, the board voted to dispense with our annual silent auction and put the additional effort into the summer Swap, Shop and Show. My fond hope is that it will be extra special.

Here is wishing all of you good rockhounds the best success in hunting next summer and every year after.

Good luck at Rockhunting,
Pat Bemis, president

REPORTING on programs.....Bruce Spike

First quarter of 1987. The winter months have been a period of programs and planning. The details for our field trips have not all been worked out yet and we are still open for suggestions. Our club activities fall into a general pattern of entertaining programs, enjoyable field trips, a Swap, Shop and Show, enjoying the moon of colored leaves, a show and tell to announce the summers collection discoveries, and then wind up with a Christmas celebration as a finale.

During January, February and March we explored the world of wonder with entertaining programs that extended over two continents. Nick Ilnicky started off with the misty past of Newfoundland and Labrador where the Vikings made a small settlement and mined bog iron ore to make nails and metal parts for their ships. Nick states that this settlement dates back 1000 years and is the oldest known evidence of white man on the North American continent. Now I am sure that the Vikings didn't just sail across the Atlantic looking-for bog ore. They knew it was there at Port L'Anse aux Meadows long before. They must have made charts (maps) of their travels and I have a hunch that they contributed to the Bronze Age, about 3000 BC to 1100 BC, by hauling our Michigan copper out through the St. Lawrence River and used Port L'Anse aux Meadows as a staging point before crossing the ocean. Perhaps some day we will find a sunken canoe load of copper to prove it.

In February, Pat Bemis took us via slides to view the upheaval of Mt. St. Helens. Located in the Cascade Range which is relatively young as mountains go and still under extreme pressure. The Cascades include many cinder cones which, like Mt. St. Helens appear to be extinct but who knows. Mt. St. Helens hadn't blasted off for over 100 years. In traveling to the West Coast, evidence of old lava flows is encountered from central Wyoming on.

Our March program was equally interesting and entertaining. Mr. Fillmore Earney is a professor of earth science at Northern Michigan University. He has traveled extensively on all the continents and likes to get into the heart of things, even going down under the sea to view the inner workings of a coal mine. We also got to see the Equator--it is a wide band of black-top which extends clear to the mountains. That's what the picture showed. The living conditions and economy in the Southern Hemisphere are in sharp contrast to our own. However, not quite as harsh as Labrador two centuries ago.

Sunday, April 26---PROGRAM MEETING OR A FIELD TRIP

We will meet at the Jacobetti Veteran's Facility (parking lot on the southeast corner) by 1:30 P.M.

Come dressed and equipped for a field trip if the weather is clear and warm. Two collecting sites will be visited--Palmer and Lindbergs.

If it is a cold wet day, we will stay at the Veteran's facility to view interesting slides belonging to some of the club members and have some refreshments during the afternoon.

In other words, we will meet regardless of the weather, Sunday, April 26 at 1:30 P.M. If you have any questions call one of the officers.

SPECIAL PARTY for Florence Hill

Florence Hill served as Michigan's State Director for nine years before retiring. A special party is being held for her Saturday, May 16, 1987 from 1:00 to 4:00 p.m., at the Clarion Hotel (Long's Convention Center), 6820 S. Cedar Street, Lansing, Michigan. Our club is contributing to the party and gift.

The committee is compiling a scrapbook of snapshots, cards, letters/testimonials to be given Florence. If you have an amusing story, etc. regarding Florence, please send it to Mrs. Bettie Patterson 14933 Brown Road Lansing, Michigan 48906. Reservations to attend the party must be sent to Bettie by April 15. (The editor has the reservation form.)

1987 SWAP, SHOP, and SHOW Assignments----Pat Bemis, pres.

Co-chairmen.....	Bruce Spike and Nick Ilnicky
Publicity.....	Ernie Johnson
Site Procurement.....	Laurence Sain and helper
Set up Crew.....	Pat Bemis, Tony LaChance, Leon Anderson, Allan Korby, and Art Wiig
Tables.....	L. Bartelli, Bruce Spike, Arnold Mulzer, Bob Markert
Signs and Flags.....	Bruce Spike
Raffle prizes and draw prizes.....	Nick Ilnicky, Pat Bemis, Arnold Mulzer
Registration chairman.....	Jan Ruonavaara, Marie Spike, Marian Short, Dorothy Bowns, Marge Ogea, Marian Markert
Exhibit chairman.....	Olive Sain and helpers
Silent auction.....	Ernie Johnson, Nelson Short, Jim Bowns, Art Wiig, Allan Korby, Bernie Kaukola
Cracker barrel lunch.....	Ingrid Bartelli, Jan Ruonavaara, Marie Spike, Lucille Scotti, Teresa Bemis
Cracker Barrel speaker.....	?
P.A. System.....	Laurence Sain
Announcers for door prizes.....	Nick Ilnicky, Don Ruonavaara, Tony LaChance
Traffic control.....	Leonard Bartelli and helpers
Field trip.....	Bruce Spike, Leonard
Souvenir pins.....	Laurence Sain

CHLORASTROLITE----Michigan State Gem.....Arnold Mulzer

February 11, 1972, Governor W.B. Milliken signed the bill which made Chlorastrolite the State Gem. It passed the House 77 to 11 and the Senate 20 to 4.

Chlorastrolite is a mixture of silicate materials found in compact gray-grain nodules seldom larger than 3/4 inch in diameter. The finest grade of this mineral makes into fascinating cabochons due to the "turtle back" pattern of light to dark olive green. Polished chlorastrolites have a chatoyancy as you move the stone under a light. The 'greenstone' as it is commonly called is compact and takes a very high polish. However, some may be hollow or have inclusions of datolite, copper, etc. Chlorastrolite is found off Isle Royale and in parts of the Keweenaw Peninsula.

Dave Myers, club member from L'Anse, has given a greenstone pendant as a raffle prize in connection with our August 1 Swap. Some lucky ticket holder will be the proud owner of our state gem stone at the drawing during the crackerbarrel at the Swap.

RAFFLE TICKETS, PRIZES: Last year there were more than 25 very fine prizes, starting with a \$50. cash prize and we're aiming for a comparable number again.

To be a winner you have to buy tickets and members are urged to get out there and be super sales persons. All members will receive an allotment of tickets to sell. If you didn't pick them up at a meeting they will be sent to you.

This is the club's main source of income for its maintenance and philanthropies so every members support is needed. Donations for the raffle and door prizes are also needed. If you haven't contributed in past years would you please make the effort to do so this year. And for the regular donors, a big THANK YOU for your past contributions and we need your continued support.

Please return your sold and unsold tickets at least a few weeks before the Swap, Aug. 1.

(Note: a typographical error on the raffle tickets need correcting. It should be silver and jade bola instead of bowl.)

DUES: This will be your last issue of the Jaspilite unless your dues are paid for 1987. For those who have paid, your dues receipt is attached in this issue unless it was given to you at a meeting.

A new membership list for 1987 will be available by May 1 at club meetings and field trips. If you want the list sent to you, send the editor a stamped, self-addressed envelope.

MICHIGAN-----SHE'S QUITE A STATE

State bird: ROBIN, State tree: WHITE PINE, State fish: TROUT, State flower: APPLE BLOSSOM, State stone: PETOSKEY STONE, State Gem: Chlorastrolite, State motto: Si quaeris pensinulam amoenam circumspice (If you seek a pleasant peninsula, look about you.),

Michigan's name is derived from the Indian words "Michi Gama" meaning Large Lake.

Michigan was admitted to the union in 1837, the 26th state.

Michigan's lower peninsula is 277 miles long from north to south and 195 miles from east to west.

Michigan's upper peninsula is 318 miles from east to west and 164 miles from north to south.

The upper peninsula is as big as Connecticut, Massachusetts, Rhode Island and Delaware combined.

No point in Michigan is more than 85 miles from the Great Lakes.

Michigan has the longest shoreline of any state, 2,242 miles and another 879 if islands are included. This equals the length of the Atlantic Coast from Maine to Florida.

Geologically, Michigan is shaped like a pile of saucers.

Calendar of Activities--May through July

The club's field trips have not been finalized for May through July to go in this newsletter. However, we generally go to the Copper Country over Memorial Day weekend which would be May 22-25. The other monthly trips are generally the 3rd Sunday of the month which would coincide with our indoor program meetings unless we need to change because of the availability of a field trip leader for a special site.

Keep in contact with field trip leader Bruce Spike 226-3933 or president Pat Bemis 346-3361 for information on each month's trip.

June 20-21: MGAGS Seminar, Schoolcraft College, 18600 Haggerty Road, Livonia, Michigan. Tickets are \$8. per day but may be ordered at a 25% discount before June 6 from Lee Kirby, 3660 Embarcadero, Drayton Plains, Michigan 48020.

The week following the seminar is full of exciting places to visit and enjoy, climaxed with the MWF Show and Convention.

June 25-28: Show, Swap, Auction. Midwest Mineralogical and Lapidary Society of Dearborn and the MWF Show and Convention. 15801 Michigan Avenue (Michigan and Greenfield), Dearborn, Michigan in the Dearborn Civic Center. \$3. a day or a 4 day pass for \$10.

June 28-29: Field Trip and Tailgate. Stonehead Lapidary and Mineral Club. Mineral Plaza, White Pine, Michigan. Write for information to Mrs. Carole Stoops, 59 Maple, White Pine, Michigan 49971.

July 18-19: Show, Carlton County Gem and Mineral Club. High School, Moose Lake, Minnesota. Also field trips and swapping. Stampede at 2 pm-Saturday.

Aug. 1-2: Swap, Shop and Show on the 1st and the field trip on the 2nd. Ishpeming Rock and Mineral Club. Ishpeming Township Fire Hall on U S 41 west of Ishpeming. Details will be in the July newsletter.

Gardening.....Ingrid Bartelli

It was hard to believe we were living in the supposedly Arctic region of uppermost Michigan when we had a February with no snow and crocuses blooming the first week of March. The local rock piles were bare and begging had we had time to get there. Since then we have had a respectable winter blizzard to bring us back to sober reality.

Nevertheless, it is time to be thinking of our gardens. Many of us have tomato seedlings sprouting on our sunny window sills. We do enjoy our gardens, especially at this time of year when we visualize them as portrayed in the seed catalogues.

How similar are our "rock gardens"--yours and mine. About the only difference is the time it takes for them to grow. Our backyard gardens grow in a single season measured in weeks or months. Our "rock gardens" took millions of years to grow. We didn't do the planting but all of us rock hounds are busy with the harvest just as are the commercial interests--mining companies, oil drillers, etc. Much of the harvest is for "bread and butter" rocks--coal, iron ore, gold and such. Most rock hounds harvest "pretty rocks"; those that can be cut, polished and used for adornment of our homes or personal wear.

Some of us find the most pleasure in harvesting the tiny but gorgeously beautiful "rock seedlings"--those minute perfectly formed mineral crystals hiding and growing in tiny pockets of more massive rock.

Just as tomatoes and petunias need nourishment to grow, these crystal rock seedlings grow from various chemical solutions that seep into their home cavities. The chemicals in solution and their attraction for each other determine the size, shape and color of the rock seedling crystal flowers. And there are just as many and they are just as beautiful as the flowers pictured in our seed catalogues and magazines.

Harvesting our "rock garden" is more difficult than picking raspberries or digging potatoes. Since we didn't plant the garden we have to locate the rocks first. And, since it took so many millions of years to grow, they are hard, durable and, in most cases, out of reach for our rock hammers and chisels.

Just as we freeze pease and beans and can peaches and apple sauce, we preserve our rock harvest in museums, show cases, boxes or bags tucked away in a corner, in crafted frames and in small micromount boxes. There is no pressure of time in preserving our rocks as there is with our backyard garden harvest. The rocks will lay around until we are ready to work on them. This provides all season, years, a life time, even multi life times, of enjoyment and pleasure for everyone who takes the opportunity to indulge in "rock gardening."

Yes, it takes work but only the labor of love.

FIELD TRIP INFORMATION ...L. Brown, Safety & Field Trip Chairperson, MWF

Fear of liability for injuries deters many landowners from allowing us of their property for rock collecting. A new law which took effect on Oct. 1, 1984 in Wisconsin, limits the liability of property owners who allow the use of their land for recreational types of activities provided they are paid less than \$500. for it. This law generally exempts landowners from liability when they allow the use of the land for hiking, bird watching, rock collecting, and most other recreational uses. This change has opened up collecting sites previously closed to collectors. Another change in the "Trespass" law made trespass a civil offense, not a felony,

making enforcement simpler. It is very important to obtain the permission of the landowner before entering private lands. Be sure you know what your state statutes on landowner liability and trespass are. If changes are needed, contact your elected representative and tell him about Wisconsin's law.

IS IT JASPER? IS IT AGATE? DO YOU KNOW?...Carlton Co. Gem & Mineral Club

Jasper and Agate are the rocks most often dealt with by the rockhound and hobbyist in the pursuit of their goals as lapidaries and collectors. Do you really understand the difference between the two types? Confusion often arises in trying to describe a specimen as Jasper or Agate. An attempt is made here and now to clear up this confusion! Read on!

To begin: Jasper and Agate are composed of extremely interlocking quartz crystals, called cryptocrystalline quartz. As such, they are both members of the fine grained quartz family, commonly referred to as chalcedony. Chalcedony occurs throughout the world in beds, bands, nodules, geodes, botryoidal (grape-like) masses, as a replacement of fossils, wood tissue or other minerals, and as a cementing material. It is deposited from silica-bearing waters, often carrying other mineral impurities.

It is the presence of these mineral impurities which stain the micro-quartz grains to produce the wide variety of color patterns, banding effects and inclusions that differentiate the basic gem forms of cryptocrystalline quartz--Jasper and Agate--from drab chalcedony.

Now, the difference between the two! In general, Agate is a TRANSPARENT TO TRANSLUCENT form of chalcedony in which the coloration takes the form of regular bands, rings, clouds as wispy or lacy inclusions or distinct groups. Agate which contains concentric bands is referred to as fortification agate. Moss agate contains delicate wispy or lacy inclusions of colored minerals, sometimes the green mineral chlorite, other times the black mineral manganese, which penetrated cracks in the silica gel matrix prior to hardening, as fine picture-like images.

Jasper on the other hand, can be somewhat TRANSLUCENT, but is most often OPAQUE. The coloration of Jasper is usually darker than that of Agate, and is totally at random with respect to distribution and pattern. Finely divided hematite gives the reddish color to Jasper and another iron mineral, goethite, is responsible for the yellows and browns. Chlorite and nickel minerals contribute the green coloration. As does Agate, Jasper comes in many colors and displays an infinite variety of patterns. Because of these properties, Jasper is an extremely versatile material for cabochons, scenic "pictures" to be framed, and other functional or decorative purposes. It is truly the "bread and butter" gemstone of our hobby.

THE JASPILITE

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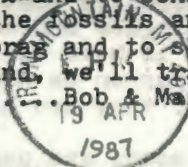
MEMBERSHIP: The IRMC, Inc. is open to anyone interested in the earth sciences.

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.



ROCK and MINERAL CLUB

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