

October 22, 1987

# THE JASPIRITE

Affiliated with the Midwest Federation of Mineralogical & Geological Societies

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)



Hi! Fellow Rockhounds,

Well, here is another collecting season just about over, looking at all the beautiful colored leaves, I think it has been a very good summer. I just hate to see it end. If everybody had a good time like I did, it was a very good year. With all the rocks I collected, it will keep me busy all next winter.

I want to thank every one that helped to make the field trips a success this past summer. Here's hoping that everybody will have lots of goodies for our Show and Tell program meeting on November 8th, 1:30 P.M. at the Senior Center in Ishpeming.

Thank you again,

Pat Bemis, president

From the Secretaries Minutes...Dawne Smail

Ted and Leona Schnarr and Nelson Short reported on the Midwest Convention. This included the reasons for the raise in dues which may reflect eventually in a raise in dues for some clubs. The dues will now be one dollar per member. The motion to charge a fee to enter a display in competition to offset the costs of judges, ribbons, plaques, etc. was defeated but will be brought up again. As usual, with conventions, problems arose with supplies not being where they should be causing delays in registration and such things that can be so frustrating. But overall, the exhibits, programs, etc. were excellent and they recommend attending such an event when possible.

Discussion on obtaining insurance for the oil paintings belonging to the club. It is being looked in to.

It was approved to send Nelson Short \$10.00 to cover the cost of plastic frames to replace the cardboard ones on the slides in the set donated to the Midwest by the club and Fraser

\$100.00 was approved to be sent to the Midwest Endowment Fund.

The film library asked for donations to purchase carousels for all the slide programs so the slides would last longer because they wouldn't be handled every time they were loaned out. Clubs could donate money or purchase a carousel. It was approved to purchase a 140 slide carousel and send it to the film library for the Story of Copper.

The Sains served lunch for the August business meeting, Arnold Mulzer for the lunch in September, and the Markerts hosted the pot luck and cookout for the October meeting. After the potluck, Bob gave out door prizes. The winners were Lowell Smail and Pat Elie. To conclude the evening, everyone toured the Markert's beautiful mineral display. Dixie showed pictures of her and Dawne's trip to Disney World and Pat Bemis showed the many colorful pictures taken on the club trip north of Champion.

## CHRISTMAS DINNER and PARTY

Sunday, December 6th at the Northwoods Club

Social hour at 1 P.M. Dinner promptly at 2 P.M.

Cost per club member is \$5.00; guests \$9.95

Punch and a cheese tray at 1 P.M.; dinner- Smorgasbord

Table favors provided by Dawne Smail

Bring a gift to exchange and all the door prizes you can spare

Call Ingrid Bartelli at 226-3763 for reservations by December 1. Cancellations by Dec. 3.

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

Another season has come to an end and it was a very interesting one with a successful swap and show; the two field trips for outside clubs, and the many others who stopped to visit and collect will long be remembered. In the letters I have received from the Eastern Federation people and members of the Western Suburban Lapidary Club out of Elmhurst, Illinois they were more than pleased and are expecting to return to the Upper Peninsula soon. About half of the Eastern Federation people had never crossed the Mackinac bridge and didn't know what to expect. A great number got their first taste of a pasty.

The Eastern Rockhounds spent a week in the 'iron' country and we made most all of the high spots; the Tilden Mine, Verde Antique, Kona Quarry, Steinbrecker Farm at Felch, Presque Isle Park at Marquette, and the Ohio Mine. Also the tour of the two churches and much more. The evenings were spent around the campfire at the Tourist Park; talks on local lore, a swap, a potluck supper, slide program, singfest, drawing for prizes, and donations of specimens for all the visitors. The second week was spent in the Keweenaw Peninsula and some very fine copper specimens were found. The grand finale was held at the Kearsarge lodge on August 22.

Leon Anderson and I drove up to spend the last day with the group and extended an invitation for a return visit another year.

The West Suburban Lapidary Club were with us on August 29 and 30; they were two very full days. We think we showed them the best of the area in so short a time.

And now to change the subject, I want to talk about something else that has been on my mind. It's getting time again to think about next years dues. What does membership in a Rock Club give you? In all the exchange bulletins that I have read I find that none have dues as low as ours. Some go as high as \$12.00 per family. I think it's time for a change. To my thinking, club dues should take care of ordinary expenses such as rent, purchasing of supplies, publishing of the bulletin, postage, insurance and Federation dues. If anyone can take care of these expenses on family dues of just \$3.00 per year, please let me know. In the past years the profit from our annual Swap has been subsidizing most club functions and operating expenses leaving us short for developing new educational programs.

For those members who participate in addition to the fellowship you have educational programs, gain knowledge of where and what to collect, learn to identify minerals and how to work with them, swap minerals or purchase at low cost from silent auctions, meet people from distant places with a common interest, etc., the list is endless. So you see you really are getting a huge package of benefits for your small club dues. Think about it.

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#### SEPTEMBER CLUB FIELD TRIP...Dawne Smail

Labor Day weekend was a wonderful time spent in the beautiful Copper Country with good friends. Jan and Don Ruonavaara made reservations for our trailers at the Hancock City Park, a clean and well set-up facility. We arrived there Thursday afternoon to join Jan and Don who had already spent a few days there while visiting family and friends in the area. It was relaxing to be early and able to leisurely set up camp. We poked about the rest of the evening just enjoying the weather and testing our memories of the surrounding area. The Spikes arrived and parked next to us and we became a small community of IMAC.

Friday we visited Michigan Technological University to view the famous Ontonagon Boulder at the Seaman Mineralogical Museum on the 5th floor of the Electrical Engineering Building. The history of the boulder is fascinating and though not as large as subsequent finds it retains its attraction. We visited a few neighboring areas afterwards and along with copper, crystals and beauty, we found an abundance of apples. Don was proficient in discovering several varieties that were delightful to sample. We finished the day with a campfire, popcorn, and the companionship of Sue Ruppe and the Bartellis.

Saturday we visited Bumble Town-- always an interesting place, and we were rained on briefly but our spirits were never dampened! Rockhounds never seem to be done in by the elements. Laurium produced some beautiful Kinoite crystals for Lowell, which made the trip worthwhile in itself. The Cliff Mine was another visit where we observed some rock climbers testing their mettle. Quite frankly I'd rather slip, slide and scramble the rock piles to rappel a cliff face. While we visited around the evening campfire the Sains arrived from their busy day of judging at the Dickinson County Fair.

Sunday we made the trip up to the high Cliff Mine and enjoyed the spectacular view from the top. Of course you can meet just about anyone in the most remote places and Ingrid met old friends busily digging way up on the pile at the Central. Leon Anderson and his mother joined our group and he spent the days with us--and his talented mother joined us in the evenings as we visited at the campfire. Sharon Spike and I became so intent on searching a rockpile we found ourselves at the top which was not in our plans.

Monday we planned to visit High Rock Bay at the very end of the Keweenaw Peninsula. A four wheel drive trip. Our day began with a truly beautiful experience. Dense fog during the night was being gradually burned off as the sun rose and we drove through a fairyland of beauty. Orb spider webs were everywhere, sparkling with dew and turning the roadside into a vast display of jewels. From the low weeds to the tree tops the lacy patterns glittered. I've never seen such a phenomenon and will never forget this experience.

We had color to enjoy as well, as we traveled to the Bay. The leaves were turning and along with the blue lakes, we were drowning in visual displays of nature.

Imagine our surprise to find a small colony of campers at High Rock Bay! Trucks, tents, and motorcycles left us barely enough room to park our 3 vehicles. We lunched on the beach, then set off in our separate searches for agates or whatever else caught our fancy. Three large ships were visible near the horizon and we were exhilarated with the view, air, color, smell and sound of this wonderful inland sea. Olive produced some gorgeous agates and Dixie carried home several lovely stones.

When we gathered a few hours later, the campers were gone and we felt we'd spent a memorable day. We were even treated with the passing of several Canadian geese.

This was a long awaited visit to High Rock Bay for us--Dixie, Lowell and me; and tho we hope to go next summer, this weekend was a rockhound's dream. Success in collecting--but best of all--GOOD FRIENDS!

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FROM OUTER SPACE: A meteor fell into a field rented by a midwest farmer who promptly began to charge people who wanted to see it. When the owner of the land found out, he pointed out that the rental agreement didn't include mineral rights; therefore, the meteorite was his. The two came to an agreement and shared the proceeds until US Customs intervened. They confiscated the meteorite as "unmanufactured" and confiscated it because it had entered the country without payment of duty!! (Jean Woods, Kalamazoo News via Gems)

IRMC COLOR TOUR....Ingrid Bartelli

We have many 'guides' in our club. 'Guides' to rock and mineral collecting sites, to sites of historical significance, panoramic picture taking places and to blueberry patches. When it comes to color tours, Bruce Spike takes the prize.

We refer to 'hands-on' experiences. Bruce has 'foot-on' experience having walked over most of Marquette and surrounding counties than all of us cruising timber, surveying lands, running lines, etc., in his profession of forester and land management consultant. He is most aptly qualified to lead us on tours where he has already 'blazed the trail.'

This year he guided us up to the Wilcat Canyon country north and east of Champion. Beautiful country! We had heard of the towering virgin pines that had been harvested from the rocky ridges and valleys of the area. We knew about the silver mine from a previous trip with Bruce coming in from the east and wearily returning in 'quarter mile' stretches. More recently we knew this was "moose release" country.

The trip was physically easy this year as we drove the entire distance on well maintained logging roads. We rallied at the junction of US 41 and the Huron Bay Grade at the Peshekee River, headed north for a few miles along the Peshekee and then east on the Dishno Road. Bruce knew which fork in the road to take so we didn't wind up at Wolf or Dishno lakes, Hum-bolt or a dead end logging operation.

We traveled east along Dishno creek, then north up ridges of bare rocky outcrops, dipping into valleys of swamp land and marshes to climb up another ridge and down again. We crossed doubly bridged Dead River and on to Wildcat Canyon and beyond to a turn around, then back to watch for moose in some long misty marshes surrounded by the spectacular color of the hardwood forests interspersed with rich green conifers.

Bruce had seen 3 moose a few days prior to our trip and some were sighted a few days later but we saw only tracks. There were a surprising number of other folks driving the same route since it was on a Sunday with no logging trucks on the road. We had the feeling, with so many people around, that the moose were watching us and they probably were.

The weather was varied--sunny, foggy, with intermittent rain, even a lightning storm at Wildcat Canyon.

We returned home to rally at our favorite food establishment for dinner. We were completely saturated in the beauty and wonder of another part of the world our God created for us. Pat Bemis has photos, lots of them, to document the beauty.

Thank you Bruce for another superior trip.

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CORRECTIONS on Raffle Prizes

The copper picture was purchased from Copper World and donated by the Ruonavaaras.

Five prizes were drawn among those present as door prizes. These were as follows: A table lamp (glass base filled with polished rocks) from Pat Proconier, a mushroom grouping of toskey stone from Ingrid Bartelli and three agate pendants from Chet and Betty Williamson.

CLUB MEMBERSHIP...updated

Bill Peterman rejoined the club in August. We all remember her for the interesting talk she had given us on her work exploring for Kimberlite dikes in Iron County. We hope she will return to share with us the results of her study of a mineral area in Barage County that we are interested in.

Harry W. Keck, 516-70th St., Darien, Il. 60599 is a new member having been here with the West Suburban Club. We hope to hear from you during the year and to see you next summer.

Bob and Esther Mullaly 30,018 Dawson, Garden City, Mi. 48135 are new members and we wish them welcome. You may recall that Eather, who is president of the MWF was at our Swap and talked to us during the evening program, sharing some of her goals for the MWF during her year as president. I will bring her October letter to the November program meeting so that it can be shared with all of you.

CLUB NEWS and MEETINGS

Fri., Nov. 6--7 PM. business meeting at the Veteran's Center, Marquette. Lunch--Spikes.

Sun. Nov. 8--1:30 P.M. program meeting at the Ishpeming Senior Center, Division St. Bring your bragging rocks for 'Show and Tell'. Ron Thomas will talk to us about rock collecting in Germany. The Markerts will provide door prizes.

Fri. Dec. 4- 7 P.M. business meeting at the Veterans Facility, Marquette

Sun. Dec. 6- 1-4 P.M. IRMC Christmas party and Smorgasbord at the Northwoods Supper Club.

Check page 1 of this newsletter for details.

Fri. Jan. 8 (not 1) 7 P.M. business meeting at the Veteran's Center, Marquette. Hostess?

At our business meetings we are often treated to viewing someone's new handiwork with rocks or a new find. Pat Bemis's book ends of Wee-wee slate were beautiful as were Lowell Smalls slabs of the same material. Bob Proconier brought some interesting specimens from the Ropes Gold Mine of Quartz crystals coated with pyrite and some with inclusions. We needed more than a hand lens to adequately appreciate the crystals.

These meetings are for all members; only about 2 hours on the first Friday evening of each month. Need specimens identified? Questions answered? They can be taken care of before and after the business is taken care of.

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AFMS Scholarship Foundation

The 1987 Honorary Award Winner for the MWF was Jean Peterman Kemp who selected the following students: Michelle M. Groven and Deborah A. Schueller, students at Michigan Technological University working on their Masters Degrees. The two 1986 winners Timothy C. Cowman and Toda Salat are continuing their studies as these grants are for two years; \$1,500 per year per student. (Through club donations to the Scholarship Foundation, we can all share in helping worthy students gain an education that will help to make this a better world.)

## THE ONTONAGON BOULDER

"Wonder of the Northwestern world," "a remarkable mass of copper!" "fabled rock," upon which "chisels broke like glass,"--these are but a few of the dramatic phrases used to describe the mass of copper labeled in fact, folklore, and fiction as the Ontonagon Boulder.

Glacial action of the "ice age" deposited the Ontonagon Boulder along the west branch of the river for which it is named. The rock was wrested from the site in 1843, transported the nation's capitol, and lodged in the national museum there as a natural phenomenon.

In 1987 it made a journey home to help celebrate Michigan's Sesquicentennial. It was on display in the Seaman Museum until the end of September except for the Labor Day celebration in Ontonagon where it was the focal point of the festivities. This was less than fifteen miles from the place it was found.

How long had the copper boulder been laying near the Ontonagon River? It is anyone's guess, but the Indians of Prehistoric time surely knew about it. The many scars on the boulder are evidence that early people, before it was seen by white men, had attempted to cut pieces from it with crude tools.

The French missionaries were possibly the first white men to see the boulder in the late 1600's. In 1730 the French tried to start a mine near there but soon abandoned it. In 1766, Alexander Henry, a fur trader hacked off about a one hundred pound piece of copper. The area passed to the Americans in 1812 and in 1820 Lewis Cass, Michigan's territorial governor led an expedition to the upper lakes along with H.R. Schoolcraft, a mineralogist, and others to view the boulder and to explore the "copper country."

In 1840, Douglas Houghton led the survey party that resulted in his famed fourth annual report which helped trigger the copper rush to the Keweenaw. During the outing, Houghton journeyed up the river to check out the condition of the Boulder and secured a 25 pound specimen for further study.

After much effort, exchange of money and ownerships it was finally claimed by the government and deposited in the National Museum, and in time became part of the permanent display at the Smithsonian Institution.

Where are the two sizable pieces hacked off the Boulder? Are they in someone's personal collection with proper identification? Wouldn't it be fascinating to have these pieces found and returned to reside with the Boulder? And think of all the stories that might accompany each piece in their journey through the years.

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OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE ISHPEMING ROCK & MINERAL CLUB, INC. PUBLISHED QUARTERLY  
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MEMBERSHIP: The IRMC, Inc. is open to anyone interested in the earth sciences.

Iniation 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 & Marian Markert

FIRST CLASS MAIL



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