



January 12, 1988

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 Meetings: 3rd Sunday of Month. 2PM at Ishpeming Senior Center, Pine
& Division St., Ishpeming, Mich. (Field Trips-May-October)

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

Hi, Fellow Rockhounds,

Well, here it is another year, 1987 is history and 1988 is just getting started. I would like to take this time to wish each and everyone of you a Very Happy New Year! This past year was a busy one for some of you folk. A big "THANKS" goes out to the field trip leaders who did such a good job.

I have had a very good time in the past year, and hope it has been a good year for all of you too. I want to thank all of you folks that did such a good job to make the past year a good one. Here is hoping that it will be a better one in 1988 for each and every one of you.

Thank you,
Pat Bemis, president

.....From the Secretary's Minutes....Dawne Small

October 9, A cookout and business meeting at Markerts.

November 6, Continued discussion of plans for possible use of Ishpeming Chamber of Commerce building on US 41 as a display area for IRMC Mineral Collection and meeting place. CCI currently houses the C. Hawes collection but proposed plans include the possibility of housing it with the IRMC collection. President Pat Bemis appointed Bart, Dawne, Bob Proconier and himself as a committee to follow up on Bob Markert's plans while he winters in Florida. Both the Kiwanis and Ishpeming C of C are enthusiastic for plans for the site. The estimated cost to make the basement area usable were \$2,500 to \$3,000. Proposed letter to CCI re: incorporating Hawes collection was read by Bob Markert with copies to be sent to the interested organizations and individuals.

Contract made with the Ishpeming Senior Center of use of same for our program meetings.

Date for 1988 Rock Swap was set for August 6, the 7th for field trip. Proposed site was the Ishpeming Township Hall.

November 8, program meeting. Letter to CCI read and accepted on motion of Jim Proconier and Larry Sain. Bruce Spike and Fred Rydholm discussed "Dolmens" in regards to pictures shown of rock groupings. The program was a slide show by Ron Thomas.

December 4, letter read from Bob and Marian re: club rock/mineral collection and use and display of same in C of C. Pat Bemis was given 2 lists of inventory of club minerals. Bob Vanderberg has rock cutting and polishing equipment for sale. Call Larry Sain for information.

The invitation to host the MWF 1989 Convention was declined.

The nominating committee's slate of officers for 1988 was a continuation of 1987.

December 6, Christmas Party at the Northwoods from 1-4 P.M. Snow scene table favors made by Dawne/Lowell Small. Iron pellet figurines with copper hats and a pine cone tree were set in baby food jars. The liquid contained white flakes so by tipping the jar you could view a snow scene. Very pretty and greatly admired and appreciated by the members.

Reelection of the current slate of officers passed unanimously.

Wee wee Slate book ends were presented to the Arsenaults in appreciation for the privilege of collecting. They were made by Pat Bemis.

Gift exchanges were fun and there were many door prizes.

January 8, discussion of the 1988 swap site. Members were urged to make a commitment for raffle prizes. Discussed the possibility of a silent auction in April.

Arnold reminds members to send in their dues for 1988; beat the April deadline so you don't miss out on your newsletter. No club dues cheaper than those of the IRMC!

Dawne and Lowell made contact with the ESCOMO club of Missouri and said some of them plan on a trip to our area next summer.

Lunches and Door Prizes; Meetings

Jim and Dorothy Bowns take care of the lunches for all of our meetings but are assisted at the business meetings by a member donating a cake or some other dessert. We thank you!

January 8 (Bus. M) Pat Proconier, lunch. January 17 (Prog. M) Bemis, door prizes.

February 5 (Bus. M) Theresa Bemis, lunch. February 21 (Prog. M.) Bowns, door prizes.

March 4 (Bus. M) Bowns, lunch. March 20 (Prog. M) Small, door prizes.

April 1 (Bus. M) Allan Korby, lunch. April 17 (Prog. M), _____ door prizes.

"Patience is the ability to let your light shine after your fuse has blown!"

"If you've ever wanted a good definition of an ultimatum, consider the farmer, pail in hand, who looked at his cow and said, "Well, bossy, what'll it be-- milk or hamburger?"

"One big trouble with doing nothing....you can't stop and rest."

"The man who really wants to do something finds a way, the other finds an excuse."

BITS and PIECES.....Arnold Mulzer

Amen to a good collecting area! Let me go back to 1865 when the North Deer Lake Charcoal Furnace was founded. The furnace was built on the Carp River north of Ishpeming using a 25 foot water fall for power. Iron ore and hardwood for charcoal were near by. The waste and slag of the plant were dumped in a swamp adjacent to the furnace. The furnace closed in 1890. In 1912 the mining company (CCI) built a dam on the Carp River creating Deer Lake, a body of water of several thousand acres to hold water for their Hydroelectric plants. In doing so the slag of all colors, shapes and sizes was buried by from 10 to 40 feet of water until 1986 when the state DNR ordered the lake drained to clear up a mercury contamination. What a rockhounds paradise was opened up! I led several field trips to the area including the Esconi Club out of Chicago. We made a great haul and should have taken more while the lake was dry.

In the spring of 1987, the DNR ordered that the lake could be refilled and today it is back to normal. The site is gone and the colorful slag can be used as a breeding ground for the fish that have been planted there.

If you think that news is bad read on. While the lake was dry, John Gorto of Ishpeming discovered a prehistoric Indian site a couple of miles east of the slag area. Realizing the importance of the find he got in contact with Jim Paquette of Negaunee an amateur historian and archeologist. They in turn got in touch with Marla Buckmaster and Anthropologist at Northern Michigan University. A dig was organized and working against time a six inch spear point and over 80 points and fragments were found.

According to Buckmaster what makes this 7,000 year site so important was that it had been used primarily for cremation burials and the artifacts were buried with the body. She also said they didn't have much time and literally worked as the water lapped at the edge of the site. I don't want to see the lake polluted again and have it drained, but if it is ever drained again there will be a lot of activities on the two sites.

An article describing the site co-authored by Paquette and Buckmaster will be published in the Wisconsin Archeologist this coming spring. I am waiting to purchase a copy.

(Some facts and information taken from the Marquette Historical Society and Action Shopper)

Ron Thomas's Program on Collecting Minerals in Germany

In November at our program meeting we enjoyed an outstanding presentation by member Ron Thomas on collecting minerals in Germany. Ron lived in Germany for several years. He took us all on an imaginary collecting trip via beautiful slides of mineral specimens and scenery. He also distributed maps of the collecting sites he visited. The following are excerpts from his talk:

German collectors are a serious group. They are knowledgeable about mineralogy and meticulous in their collecting.

Collecting sites around working mines and quarries are more open than American sites of the same nature. The German's believe that the individual is responsible for his own safety. Consequently, there is less danger to the property owners.

Every week end between September and June, there will be several mineral and fossil shows across Germany. The major show is of course the one in Munich in October soon after the Oktoberfest.

In spite of the high population density in Germany, there are still many collecting sites available to the mineral collector. The Eifel Region, the Clara Mine, Alten Mitlav, several Black Forest sites, Romsbeck, Rotlaufchen, and many others.

Minerals from many ancient mining sites are still available for the collector to purchase, such as from the Erzgebirge, the Hurtz mountains, and the Ems area.

Our Christmas Trip.....Dawne Smail

Our Christmas visit to St. Louis, Missouri was especially enjoyable this year when we made personal contact with members of ESCOMO. We had been pleasantly surprised to discover by their newsletter that they had members and meetings within blocks of our daughter's home in Warson Woods, Mo.

Marge Politte, Secy., lives several blocks from our daughter Melody, and we visited with her twice. She has a lovely collection of fossils and minerals and we exchanged specimens.

She wrote "In our area we have lead mines, barite mines, geodes and fossil sites. On the Mississippi where it meets the Missouri we find teeth of prehistoric animals, potsherds, arrowheads, petrified bones and other interesting articles." A planned field trip for geodes at a construction site had to be cancelled and also a trip to a lead mine set up because we had to leave for home.

We met the new secretary, Roseann Scotty and Kevin Conroy, field trip chairman and a geologist and obtained some specimens. Jim Bowns wanted to swap for some arrowheads, however, we found no one ready to part with any. But we made some new friends and our next trip South will find us better prepared to swap/sell and meet more of the group.

Marge and George Pilotte plan a trip North this summer and want to visit sites in our U.P. on their way to Minneapolis. We're sure we can WOW them with our beautiful country and friendly club as well as satisfy their rock hunting appetites.

We came home with lovely micromount material as well as fossils and look forward to the opportunity to search along a river sandbar for whatever is washed down or freed from the riverbanks of the Mighty Mississippi.

Copper is found in blood cells. It helps the body utilize iron. Without copper you would lose coordination. Cobalt is found in Vitamin B-12. It may speed blood regeneration. Zinc is absolutely necessary for growth and functioning of the red blood cells, kidney and liver, our body growth, and normal metabolism.

Micromounters Study Ohio Mine Minerals....Ingrid Bartelli

After we celebrate the closing of our rock hounding year with a delightful Christmas party until the snow leaves in the spring of the new year, there are a few months when those of us interested in micro-minerals find it most convenient to work on our collections.

It is fun to collect rocks with holes in them hoping that the cavities might have mineral crystals growing in them. It takes a lot of time to break down those rocks, get the little specimens perched on pegs and mounted in boxes no larger than one inch square. The mineral crystals are so small they must be viewed with a microscope to be seen. Then it takes more time and study to try to identify the mineral.

The rewards are great! The unimaginable beauty of perfectly shaped crystals in vivid colors is spellbinding.

When (and if) you finish the job, your collection has been reduced from the 'tons' of rocks you hauled home to fit into a couple of shoe boxes. Your collection will have value, not only to you, but also for barter and trade. Just check the prices charged for mineral specimens.

This year the IRMC micromounters continue to work on the minerals from the Ohio mine in Baraga County, concentrating on getting as many as possible mounted, boxed and identified. Join us if you are interested in micro minerals. Do you know the differences between Marcasite, Pyrrhotite, Chalcopyrite, Pyrite, and Arsenopyrite? We're trying to figure it out!

Club News

We welcome two families to our club membership for 1988. We hope the local couple will join in all of our meetings and activities and the Illinois family try to be with us on a field trip and take part in putting on our swap. Add to your membership list:

Peter & Rose Berton
514 County Rd.
Negaunee, Mi. 49866
Tel. 475-6710

Tom & Evelyn Peterson
406 Ridge Ave.
Clarendon Hills, Il. 60514

The Aulers did not get up to our area this past summer because Dorothy had knee surgery several times. We look forward to seeing them this summer.

The Bulats visited in Europe during the summer. Jackie returned again to spend Christmas with her family in France. Jackie and Chester, we hope you can join in some of our club's summer activities.

Member, Leon Anderson, had a book dedicated to him. His 96 year old mother Louise Catherine Anderson's book, After the Sun Has Set, in which she relates memories of 1898 arrived at the book store, from the publishers in late summer. (Beautifully written, Mrs. Anderson.) Congratulations. Mrs. Anderson has more books in the process of publication. She is also a professional artist, having oil paintings being shown in an art gallery in Alabama.

Kona Dolomite in Philadelphia

A few years back we heard about a massive piece of Jaspilite from Jasper Knob being brought by rail to reside at the Smithsonian. Now we have another claim to fame.

A 2.7 ton chunk of Kona Dolomite from Marquette County was sent to Philadelphia where it is being used with rocks from the other 49 states, to build a wall commemorating the Bicentennial of our Constitution. The wall stands on Independence Mall near Independence Hall.

This dolomite was chosen because of its attractive pink color and its scarcity in Michigan quarries.

White Pine Mine to Display Copper

A 5,950 pound slab of nearly pure native copper found by two local fishermen is to be displayed at the White Pine Mine owned by the Copper Range Company.

The 82 by 64 by 6 inch slab was discovered September 26. The specimen is 99% pure and at the 1987 prices could be worth more than \$6,000.

Bill and Erick Yrjana found the copper while fishing near a ravine on western Upper Peninsula land owned by the Copper Range, according to Bob Seasor, Director of Geology at the Copper Range Mine. The men were paid \$500 for directing company officials to the site.

Michigan's Upper Peninsula is one of the few areas in the world where native copper, termed float copper by geologist, is found. A specimen weighing 9,000 pounds is on display in Calumet. The Ontonagon boulder weighing about 3,750 pounds is another such piece.

Glaciers probably carried the Ontonagon boulder and the Yrjanas' find to their respective resting places about 10,000 years ago, according to Seasor. Glacial action also has carried copper as far south as Illinois.

Gold Deposit found in Champion Township

The likely presence of gold in the area of Rocking Chair Lakes has delayed a decision on whether to designate the site as a state-protected natural area.

NRC commissioner David Olson of Marquette said the commission wanted more information on the area before making a decision. The main concern is a geological study by Michigan Technological University that shows gold deposits in the area.

"Rocking Chair Lakes is located at the west side of the study area, and preliminary evaluation shows extremely high deposits of gold on the 240 acre site," Olson said.

Exploratory work is under way on and around the proposed natural area, Olson said, with six companies interested in the deposits. Mineral extraction would be prohibited under the proposed natural area designation.

The possibility of horizontal "tunnel" mining to the deposits under the proposed natural area needs to be studied. The lakes are nestled atop the Mulligan Cliff, a 100-200 foot escarpment that provides a magnificent view of the surrounding woodlands. The cliff is also home to

a threatened plant specie--the grass *Draba arabisans*. (Mining Journal, Jan. 1988)

Local residents will be watching the news for further information as development of a new mine would boost the economy of the surrounding areas. Rockhounds lured by the prospects of this yellow metal will be studying the maps of the area and plotting trips to search the streams and rocky exposures for possible traces of gold or gold bearing minerals.

RADON as a Healing Agent?

For the last 20 years, Meetow Singh Manhas of Duncan B.C., has suffered from rheumatoid arthritis in almost all his joints gave up last year on pain relievers and physical therapy and made the pilgrimage to the Free Enterprise Radon Health Mine in tiny Boulder, Montana, to rest and breathe in the supposedly therapeutic vapors from the mine's rich uranium lode.

A retired school teacher from Grand Rapids, MI., drives to Montana every other year to benefit from the air in the mine. She says, "I hurt a lot when I get here, but there's not one bit of ache by the time I get home." "You don't have to believe that it will work; it's not psychosomatic. It actually does work. Just ask my body."

Soviet scientists have shown that arthritis patients have reduced pain after Radon treatments. In Bad Gastien, Austria, patients sit for hours in a radon mine. Researchers here theorize that a little low level radiation can improve the body's circulatory system and stimulate the production of certain pain-killing hormones.

The Montana Health Department--which doesn't officially endorse radon therapy--monitors the Free Enterprise's radon and radon daughter levels to make sure they don't surpass so-called "safe" limits set by the EPA.

The Enterprise is one of five such mines in the area. Guests are allowed to sit in the tunnels for 80 minutes at a time and recommend not more than three daily visits. A total of 32 visits in a 10 day period is allowed.

A new mine scheduled to open will have special equipment to filter out almost all the radon daughters, while letting in higher concentrations of the gas.

DID YOU KNOW THAT Tigereye mined in Southwest Africa has different names for the different colors? The yellowish material is tigereye; the grayish green is hawk's eye; the bluish to grayish yellow is cat's eye; the yellow and green is zebra, and the colorless material is referred to as quartz.

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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



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