



ROCK and MINERAL CLUB

P.O. Box 102

ISHPEMING, MI. 49489

THE JASPILITE

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)

From the President

Plans are well on the way for the coming year. Field trips for the summer months are being laid out. The (Swap-Shop-Show) is set for August 5, 1989 at the Ely Township Hall. For it to be a success, we need your help; don't wait to be asked, contact a chairman or me.

Two new activities were implemented this past winter--highlighting a mineral at the monthly meeting and a short presentation on minerals at the business meeting. Both have given a new dimension to the meeting. Any more new ideas are welcome. Remember this is your club; it can only grow and become what you want it to be, if you give of your time and effort.

With the silent auction only a month away, it is time to be rummaging through your basement for minerals for the auction.

Remember, all meetings are open to the public; bring a friend. Wear your name tags. Let us know what you want to happen at the meeting. Ernie Johnson

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

January: A request from a teacher in Ontario, California for rocks and minerals, and fossils to be used in a program involving troubled youth was honored when Bud Nichols sent off our club's donations. The IRMC is fortunate to have members who have a long history of involvement with youth and promotion of the joy of rockhounding. We have such a rich area of rocks, minerals and fossils on our doorstep, we are pleased to share and have young people caught up in our exciting hobbies.

Marve Starbuck, MWF endowment fund chairman sent our club a 300% certificate for our donation to the fund to date. He also said we have been credited with an additional \$65.50 from sale of minerals donated to the Silent Auction in Macomb, Illinois in 1988.

February: We have decided to submit IRON as our nomination as State Mineral. The committee appointed to work on it are Bud Nicholls, Larry Sain, Bart Bartelli, and Bruce Spike.

Bud Nicholls would like specimens and tools he could use in his youth work at local schools. Dental picks, beef bones for scrimshaw, rocks and other non-returnable items are needed.

Our August 5 annual swap will be listed as (Swap, Shop, Show).

Sunday Program Reports....Jan Ruonavaara

January 5: Olive Sain gave a presentation on Iron (Hematite and Goethite) and had an excellent display of iron minerals supplemented by specimens from other club members.

Bud Nicholls displayed many kinds of maps and explained how to read and use them in locating sites when out in the field. We need further instruction from him and hope he will return again and again to share his knowledge on this topic.

February 19: Copper was the mineral of the month. Milt Gere spoke on Copper and the members brought in a combined beautiful display of Copper including Copper skulls, crystals, sheet, float, massive, clusters, conglomerate, arborescent, chips, smelted, inclusions, etc.

Milt also gave of his expertise on the Michigan Geological Survey and cast some light on a subject of interest to all rockhounds.

Club News.....Jan Ruonavaara

Obituary: Our deepest sympathy and heartfelt prayers are extended to the families of Clem Newman and Lily Johnson, who passed away since our last newsletter.

Clem was a long time member, almost from the beginning. He was a skilled craftsman and especially noted for his inlay tables, trivets and crosses. His local church has a beautiful cross of Jaspilite; one of his last big projects.

Lilly Johnson joined the club after retirement but enjoyed many years collecting in the field. She especially liked searching for copper. She and a few other members used to walk abandoned railroad tracks of the dated nails. Lilly was also the lady in charge of the registration desk at our program meetings.

Travel news: Some lucky people get to go south or west to escape a few weeks or months of winter. Jim and Pat Proconier are visiting their son in sunny, warm Florida.

Jim and Dorothy Bowns were invited by his aunt to travel with her to Arizona with Jim helping or doing most of the driving. We have since heard from them --a happy letter!
Nelson and Marian Short went to Quartzite, Arizona for the big Pow-wow and to spend part of the winter. They have very recently returned to their home for health reasons. We hope Nelson is felling better by now.

School News: Olive Sain relates a new and very rewarding experience. She was asked by 1st grade teachers in two Parkview classrooms and 2nd grade teachers in two Fisher School classrooms to give presentations in their earth science units. Not having done this before, she was worried about keeping each class interested for the twenty minutes which continued on for double the time. They asked lots of questions, shared in the experiments, told of rocks they had collected and hoped she would come again with her pretty rocks. The teachers reported they were surprised how much the children learned and how attentive they were.

Barnes-Hecker Memorial:....Dawne Smail

The IRMC is pleased and proud to have been a part of the inclusion of the Barnes-Hecker Memorial in the Michigan Iron Industry Museum at 73 Forge Road, Negaunee, Michigan. 49866.

Several of our members are descendants of the accident victims, and feel the monument is in an appropriate setting. The Ely Township Centennial Committee dedicated the memorial in August 1972 on a site along US 41. The monument was designed by one of the committee. Transfer of the monument was accomplished last summer by the Ely Committee and the IRMC and several family members.

Rededication of the Memorial is scheduled for Sunday, June 11, from 1:00-5:00 p.m. Activities will be simple but informative. Educational programs will follow in the museum auditorium.

Descendants of the accident victims are being identified and invited to attend. We extend an invitation to you to join us as we pay our respects to those who invested so much in Michigan's iron industry.

August 4, 1989 SWAP, SHOP, SHOW Chairpersons

- Co-chairpersons.....Pat Bemis and Lowell Smail
- Site Procurement.....Dawne Smail
- Set-up.....Pat and Lowell
- Sign and Flags.....Bruce Spike
- Raffle prizes and tickets.....Bruce Spike (let him know what you are donating as
- Registration.....Jan Ruonavaara soon as you can for publicity.)
- Exhibits.....Olive Sain
- Silent Auction.....Alan Korby and Art Wiig
- Cracker Barrel Session.....Dawne Smail and Ingrid Bartelli
- Program.....Bud Nicholls
- P.A. System.....Larry Sain
- Announcers for Door Prizes.....Jim Proconier
- Traffic Control.....Len Bartelli
- Field Trip on the 5th.....Bruce Spike and Bud Nicholls
- "Michigan" Pins.....Larry Sain
- Safety.....Bob Proconier
- Raffle tickets & Door prize tickets....Jan and ladies at the Registration table
- Clean up.....EVERYONE

Every member is needed to serve on several committees to have a smooth operation!

Field Trips - 1989....Bruce Spike

About mid May rockhounds can't wait any longer to get out to some rockpile to discover even the smallest mineral specimen or crystal. Here is what we have planned.

Sunday- May 21- 9 a.m. Rain or shine we will rendezvous on Baraga Avenue by the Courthouse. Then proceed out US 41 East to an area south of the Branch Prison and west of Harvey; somewhere in Sec.1 or 2 T47N R25W where in 1896 to 1898 the Case and Wilkinson mines produced lots of excitement if nothing else.

Friday- May 26 Any time you can leave, head for Hancock City Park. This will be headquarters for the next few days as we scour the poor rock piles of the old copper mines in the Keweenaw.

Sunday- June 18- 9 a.m. We will again rendezvous on Baraga Avenue by the Courthouse. Arnold Mulzer will lead us on a merry chase to some interesting places in Dickinson County. The Steinbrecker Farm, Red Rocks, Marble, and the Barney Miller Farm.

Sunday, July 16-9 a.m. Same starting place on Baraga Avenue, Arnold will lead us out to Delta County. More collecting points: Satin Spar, Gypsum, Fossils and Fayette Park.

Sunday- Aug. 6 - 1:00 p.m. This is a local field trip designed for the pleasure of our swap visitors but we want as many IRMC club members to attend as possible. Lindberg's Quarry and other local points (time permitting). Meet at the Marquette City Tourist Park.

Sunday- Aug. 20 A club get-to-gether at the old Champion Mine on Beacon Hill. Come whenever. Picnic lunch at noon.

September 8 Another circle tour of Lake Superior. This time clockwise. Come if you can. Contact Dawne Smail for details.

Date??????? The season is not over until we have had our annual fall color tour. Last year was beautiful, we hit the colors at their peak. Where to? To combine a color tour with

a look at ancient history we will visit a (Dolmen) or trail marker left by ancient travelers in the vicinity of Goose Lake. NSW Section 13-47-30. Then back to M 95 and over to the Pesheke River and up the Dishno to wildcat canyon creek. Perhaps the moose will cooperate and pose for a few snapshots. Also if Champion Paper Co., gets the road built we will continue on for another couple of miles to view yet another (Dolmen). Bring a big lunch--this may prove to be a long day. Watch for the date in the next Jaspilite.

Additional Dates to Remember.....Arnold Mulzer

June 4 Open house at K. I. Sawyer Air Base.

June 16,17. MGAGS Seminar at Kalamazoo. Many opportunities to learn!

June 22-25. MWF Convention , Kalamazoo. Beautiful displays, Many demonstrations, excellent programs! Renew old friendships and make new friends.

Sept. 2 and 3 Field trips with ESCONI Club of Chicago. More information later.

Dec. 3. Annual dinner and Christmas party at the Northwoods Supper Club.

We are waiting on the State for our raffle ticket license and number. As soon as we get them printed they will be sent to you. I would also like to mention that in the past, each member was expected to donate a prize (lapidary or other) for the raffle. We hope to have 30 prizes again this year.

Also, we need material for the Silent Auctions; both April and August. As you do your spring cleaning sort through your surplus and set some aside for both dates. By cleaning out some of your old materials you'll be making room for this summers new collections.

January of each year is the time to send in your dues. Have you sent yours in? Check your wallet; do you have an up to date receipt (1989)? If not put this Jaspilite down, get out your check book and make out a check for your dues. A little note thanking me for reminding you would be nice. You surely don't want to be dropped from our mailing list for the Jaspilite now that it is back in full swing listing all the fun trips for 1989. If you are interested in the 1989 membership list (coming out in April) send a stamped, self addressed envelope along with your dues.

Micromounters.....Ingrid Bartelli

Picture the Central Copper Mine poor rock piles frozen deep beneath huge banks of swirling drifted snow. Over 300 inches of snow has fallen on those piles in the Keweenaw this winter. An all time (recorded) snow fall record could well be set in the 88-89 season.

That is the mine--the Central-- that a group of IRMC members have been exploring each week during the "lull months" after Christmas and before gardening time.

The cold and snow are the least of our worries as we convene to explore each crack, crevice and cavern from our Central collections in the warmth and comfort of the luxurious and spacious mineral museum/workshop of the Sains.

In addition to our hosts, Laurence and Olive Sain, our group includes Don and Jan Ruonavaara, Bruce and Sharron Spike, Lowell, Dawne and Dixie Smail and Leonard and Ingrid Bartelli.

So far we have isolated and identified 30 different minerals--many of the crystals are fantastically beautiful. In addition we have quite a number of specimens we are unable to name so they are labeled with a ?. Hopefully by spring we will have each of them preserved in the safety of a micro box.

The challenge and thrill of finding the tiny, often perfect crystals is the ultimate reward of rock hounding and helps justify the investment of a microscope. Thusly, our "hunting" season is extended from 3 to 12 months in spite of the Keweenaw snow.

Off the Beaten Path.....Bruce Spike

Upper Michigan with it's almost endless variety of rocks and minerals, has been called the Rockhounds paradise. Mining is one our leading industries, second only to the timber industry. Both had their beginning as a result of exploring and discovery.

The early government surveyors collected samples of every rock outcrop. This led to the discovery of iron ore in the Negaunee area. The Indians had known it was there for ages. They used it as war paint or whatever they decorated their bodies for. Another tell tale sign was the strong magnetic disturbance in local areas. This proved to be troublesome. So William Burt invented the solar compass. Using a solar compass, the surveyor was able to determine a true bearing very quickly without lengthy calculation. Magnetic ore (magnetite) in the area south of Ishpeming would swing the needle a full 180° from magnetic north.

The geological features of the U.P. present an irresistable challenge to all rockhounds to get out and explore. The old fault lines, the volcanic deposits of the Keweenaw, the limestone deposits with its fossils, the evidence of prehistoric mining and the unsolved mysteries of the dolmens are all invitations to get off the beaten path.

DID YOU KNOW???

That a mineral is a natural, inorganic solid constituent of the earth's crust. Most minerals also have definite crystal forms. Mineralogy is the science of Minerals.

That rocks are aggregates of natural minerals, usually large units. Sand and gravel are also considered as rocks. Petrography is the science of rocks.

That stones are the collective name for all solid constituents of the earth's crust. For the jeweler a stone is a gem; for the architect the material used for building streets and

houses. In the science of the earth, geology one does not talk of stones, but of rocks and minerals.

That "gemstones" is a collective name of all ornamental stones. There is no real demarcation between the more of the less valuable stones and it is therefore, a synonym for precious and semi-precious stones.....Via the Trilobite.

The Power of Crystals

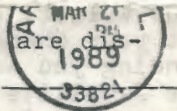
All over the United States people are using crystals in the pseudoscientific belief that they can help them in business deals, physical health, sleep, bronchitis, prayer...you name it. Called New Age thinking, it is an esoteric blend of computer age jargon and ancient religious practice.

An article in TIME discusses it at length, how they use it to make psychic predictions, pour their tonic water over crystals and drink it for a "charged" drink, some even recommending you put a cluster of "charged" crystals in the refrigerator to lower the electric bill or place a 3 inch crystal on the auto carburetor to save on gas mileage.

Spiritual healers prefer quartz, electronics engineers like quartz, quartz has ultra-precise vibrations in response to electric current. New age believers conclude that by rubbing the stone ones thoughts and emotions are amplified.

As a result, crystals of quartz, amethyst, citrine, tourmaline, topaz are becoming much more expensive. Prices nationwide run from \$2.00 for a tiny slice to \$150,000. for museum quality crystals. Large specimens have for the last few years been appearing in 'decorated' suites with increasing regularity. Since this push with healing, helping stones, even smaller ones are increasing in price.....AGATE PICKER.

(Check out the Rock Shops this summer and note how prominently Quartz crystals are played and the increased asking price. Have any to sell?)



HINT...To keep your auto windshield clean, according to the Highway Research Board in the National Observer, the best solutions is-- 4 parts rubbing alcohol, 1 part liquid detergent and 5 parts water.....FLINT CHIPS

Have you wondered how much the establishment of the Calumet National Historical Park and Preservation District will affect rock collecting. A map of the district can be seen in the office of the Village Council, Calumet, Michigan.

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE ISHPEMING ROCK & MINERAL CLUB

Published Quarterly

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Membership: Chairman- Leonard Nicholls. The club is open to anyone interested in the earth sciences.
 Initiation fee- \$1.50 Husband & wife annual-\$3.00 Adult annual-\$2.00 Jr. annual-\$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.
 By.....Bob and Marian Markert



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