

THE JASPIRITE

Affiliated with the Midwest Federation of Mineralogical & Geological Societies

Business Meetings: 1st Fri. of Month. 7 PM--Jacobetti Veterans Facility
425 Fisher Street, Marquette, Michigan

Program & Activity: 3rd Sun. of Month. 2 PM Marquette Township Hall, West of
Marquette, Michigan



ROCK and MINERAL CLUB

P.O. Box 102

ISHPEMING, MI. 49489

With the Holiday Season upon us I wish each and everyone of you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

That the New Year provides you the time to renew old friendships and make new ones. To enjoy the wonders around us and the time to share your knowledge and experiences with others.

A thank you to all the individuals who willingly stepped forward to make the past year a successful and prosperous year for the IRMC.

Happy Holidays,
Ernest Johnson, president

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

No further news on the choice of Hematite as State Mineral.

Ely Twsp Hall is reserved for August 3 and 4 for the 1991 Swap and Show.

Arnold Mulzer commented on the color tour this year as being the best ever. Points of interest were: Beaver Basin, 12 mile beach, Devil's Slide (old log slide to Lake Superior for log rafting), Meteorite? at Star Siding. Arnold and Nelson Short collected Marquette Jasper in the RR yard and rock-cut on Hiway 41. This is a dangerous site and not for amateurs.

Lapidary equipment has been returned to IRMC by the Bothwell School. This was equipment given to the school by the club and several members when they offered a lapidary class. The use of the equipment by the club will be discussed at a later date.

Oct. 5, was the program meeting at the Marquette Twsp Hall. Chuck Manto of the Economic Development Corporation of the County of Marquette invites the IRMC to a meeting at the Michigan Iron Mining Museum in Negaunee on October 29 at 7 p.m. This is in nomination of the Cliffs Shaft Mine Site for a grant from the National Park Service through the Historic Preservations Office, Bureau of History, Michigan Department of State. IRMC is very interested in this project as we hope it may result in a display area for our collection, and the CCI. display. The IRMC would expect that displays we may ultimately exhibit would be covered under a legal document protecting our ownership in the event the project would close its doors.

Nov. 11 program meeting. Calcite was the mineral highlighted by Al Murray. He gave a good presentation and demonstrated how to identify the crystal forms. He had many reference forms to explain his talk. Club members added many interesting specimens to the display. The program speaker was William H. Mulligan, Jr. who spoke on the work involved in getting the grant and registry of the Cliffs Shaft Mine Site on the State and National Registry. The Cliffs Shaft Houses are the only remaining Shaft houses standing in Marquette County, where countless mine shafts had been sunk and operated during the past one hundred plus years.

The mineral highlighted in October was Quartz. A tremendous display was enjoyed by all. Bob Markert had some Goose Lake crystals collected with his grandchildren this summer. We hope he leads the club there next summer. A microscope was on hand so the wee ones could be seen.

At the Dec. business meeting, the following officers were elected for 1991:
President--Ernest Johnson, 1st V. P.-- Milt Gere, 2nd V.P. Lowell Smail, Secretary-- Dawne Smail and Treasurer-- Bruce Spike.

Appointments for other positions will be announced in the March newsletter.

Our long time treasurer, Arnold Mulzer, with the longest tenure in the history of the club felt he could no longer continue for many reasons. He was a conscientious and diligent keeper of our financial records. Thank you for these many years of faithful service. We know you will still be our P.R. man and a good worker in all of the clubs projects.

Olive Sain was asked to write to June Culp Zeitner for a list of state minerals, fossils, gems, etc for all 50 states.

IRMC Christmas Party

Thirty-seven or so club members and guests attended the Christmas party and dinner held at the Northwoods Supper Club, December 2nd.

Added to the festive decorations were place cards made of birch bark and a sprig of cedar tied with a red bow made by Ingrid Bartelli and Jan Ruonavaara. Special favors were made by Theresa and Pat Bemis's grandchildren (from the state of Washington) while they were here during the summer) They were cute rock people, many of them wearing acorn caps. Such imagination and creativity!

A festive afternoon was had visiting over punch and munchies, then enjoying heaps of delicious food followed by a gift exchange, Door prizes, etc. Thanks Ingrid for a well planned party.

Committee volunteers for 1991

Hostesses for business meetings: Jan. 4-- Olive Sain, Feb 1-- Dawne Smail, Mar 1-- ?
Apr. 5-- Theresa Bemis, and May 3-- Art Wiig.

Door prizes for program meetings: Jan. 20-- Pat Bemis, Feb. 17--Lowell Smail, Mar 17--
Leonard Bartelli, and Apr. 21-- Jim Proconier.

Mineral Highlights: a short presentation on a selected mineral by a club member with a display be all members.

Jan 20-- Petrified Wood--Pat Bemis

Feb. 17--Galena--Olive Sain

Mar. 17-- Gypsum--Dawne Smail

April 21-- Orientite & McFallite--Ingrid Bartelli

Club News

Donald and Janice Ruonavaara are the proud grandparents of granddaughter Jenny Tyler Ede, born October 21, 1990.

The L. Bartellis had a surprise and welcome visit from Grandson Jeff Salinger who is doing research studies and working on Kodiak Island off Alaska. He is also an accomplished photographer and we are all looking forward to seeing more spectacular pictures of the animals and scenery on the island.

Chester and Jackie Bulat were the club members who traveled the greatest distance to attend the clubs Christmas party. What a nice surprise!

The Smails are spending the holidays with their grandchildren in Iowa while the daughter from Iowa and the one from California are on a special archeological excursion in Egypt.

DUES ARE NOW DUE FOR 1991. If you haven't paid your dues to Arnold as of this date, please send them to Bruce Spike 197 Midway Drive, Negaunee, Mi. 49866.

Mary Berger, USDA--SCS Soil Scientist will speak to the club at the January program meeting. She and three other scientist have just completed their second sampling of soils in Marquette County. Don't miss this one. We can surely learn a lot from her.

Field Trips in Review....Bruce Spike

Field trips are a major summer activity of rockhounds from May to October here in Upper Michigan. We have field trips in areas for collecting rock and mineral specimens and field trips which are primarily sight seeing and picture taking excursions.

Over the years we have had many outstanding trips. Each trip is an adventure. The copper country is always a big attraction. It offers many scenic vistas and although somewhat depleted, the poor-rock piles continue to yield worthwhile specimens. Now and then a datolite or chlorastrolite (pumpellyite) or a small silver crystal and what a thrill to discover something rare like chalcotrichite.

Here in the iron range we have some outstanding collection sites; The Ohio Mine, the Champion Mine, and, Lindberg's Quarry to name a few. Then there are also many old prospects, early mining ventures for silver, lead, gold and copper, tucked away but not inaccessible. The old copper prospect just south of Marquette Prison proved very interesting. Specimens of Chalcocite were found among the dozen or so pits. What appeared to be a shaft was completely full of water. Had we hiked another mile west to the vicinity of Buschell Lake we would have been looking for chalcopyrite.

The Kreig, Capt. Daniels, and Holyoke mines are other examples of early prospecting for precious metals. We also have a fair share of beautiful vistas and interesting historical sites. How about the Dolmen, a huge 40 ton rock, slightly pointed, perched on a rocky ridge, oriented to point due north and hidden away in the remote hills south of Goose Lake in Republic township. We have another of these ancient trail markers north of Wildcat canyon. When logging roads are completed in that area we will make a visit to that Dolmen also. We might get lucky and see some moose. too.

Going south to the Felch area and Dickinson, Delta and Menominee counties land formations are entirely different. Many fossils are to be found in the limestone beds of Cedar river and the Garden peninsula as well as early U.P. history in Fayette State Park.

The eastern part of the Upper Peninsula also has a rich history and many scenic spots. Our color tour last fall, through the Pictured Rocks Park was one of the highlights of the season. The unsettled weather only added to the adventure. A follow up tour is planned for fall of 1991 to go even further and see Tahquamenon Falls, Paradise and the Seney Wildlife refuge.

Field trips are for everyone, they are pleasure trips, not strenuous hiking excursions. Most are drive in or to, sit in the car, get out and bask in the sun, enjoy yourself deals. Do it on crutches or in a wheelchair. Try it, you'll like it.

As for places to go, we have only scratched the surface. Make your preferences known. Even if it is someplace you have only heard about or read about, we will attempt to locate it. During the coming winter months I will be expecting suggestions for new and exciting field trips for next summer.

COUNTY SOIL SURVEY IN FULL SWING....Mary Berger

The Marquette County soil survey crew has just completed their second year mapping the soils of the county. The soil survey crew members are Chuck Schwenner, Project Leader; Bill Anzalone, Mary Berger, and Jamie Antoniewicz. All the crew members are USDA-SCS Soil Scientists.

A typical work day during the past field season for each scientist involved an acre-by-acre examination of the Marquette County landscape, using aerial photos, augers, and spades to examine the soil to a depth of 5 feet. The soil scientists examine soil colors, drainage, textures, slopes, and depth to bedrock or hardpan layers in their soil identification process. After comparing a series of auger holes in an area, the scientists then delineate out the soil type on aerial photos. The soil survey crew members routinely attempt to contact landowners prior to making any soil investigations on privately owned land.

There are many uses for the information available from the soil survey. Each soil type in the county has different characteristics affecting forest production, crop production, building limitations, septic field limitations, and wildlife habitat, to name a few.

Marquette County's soil survey is part of the State of Michigan's accelerated soil survey program. There are 10 ongoing soil surveys in Michigan, 3 of which are located in the Upper Peninsula. Marquette's soil survey is a cooperative effort involving the USDA Soil Conservation District, Michigan Department of Agriculture, Marquette County Board of Commissioners, and Michigan Technological University.

This past field season, the soil scientists concentrated their mapping efforts to the Michigamme River Watershed, approximately 150,000 acres located in the western and southwestern portions of the county. Over the past two years the soils crew have mapped 168,000 acres. With over 1,000,000 acres remaining to be mapped, the survey crew expects to be working in the county for the next six years.

Further information about the soil survey can be obtained from the Soil Survey Office at 475-4603 or the Marquette Soil Conservation Service/Soil and Water Conservation District Office at 226-9460.

Minerals Needed for Rock Case at Ishpeming Chamber of Commerce.....J. Procnier

Jim has the case built to space accommodations; it is varnished on the outside and painted on the inside. Specimens will be protected by a fastened down glass cover.

Specimens should be 3 inches or a little smaller. Give them to Jim Procnier along with the place of origin and date, if possible. Attach your name to each specimen so that any excess specimens can be returned to the owner.

The following is a list of rocks and minerals found in Marquette and Baraga counties.

1. Amethyst, 2. Asbestos, 3. Calcite, 4. Feldspar, 5. Fulgurite, 6. Galena, 7. Goethite, 8. Gold, 9. Graphite, 10. Grunerite, 11. Hematite and associated minerals---Specularite, Micaceous, Grape ore, Kidney ore, Pencil ore, Needle ore, Velvet ore, Rainbow ore, Stalactic, Limonite, Bornite, Martite, Magnetite, Slaty Hematite, 12. Kona Dolomite, 13. Manganite, 14. Muscovite-Mica, 15. Phenocryst, 16. Picrolite, 17. Pseudogarnet, 18. Psilomelane, 19. Pyrite, 20. Pyrolusite, 21. Quartz-crystal, drusy and chalcedony, 22. Selenite, 23. Serpentine, 24. Siderite, 25. Staurolite, 26. Talc, 27. Verde Antique, and 28. Wewee Slate.

From the Copper Range counties samples of Copper, Silver, Half-breed, Chlorastrolite and Thomsonite.

A Visit from German Exchange Students

Teacher--Fritz Sperring. A High School in Celle, West Germany. West of the Elbe River and near the confluence of many rivers which empty into the Elbe a distance away. This is primarily flatland with mountains on the far distant horizon.

Herr Sperring and twelve of his students were guests of the Marquette High School German class and Herr Ahler for two weeks in November. It was a delightful experience for the Sains.

The local high school German teacher made arrangements for housing, school experiences, business visits, cultural events, scenic tours, etc. We were asked if they might visit our home to see our rock collection and equipment and to learn a little about the geology of the Upper Peninsula. They hoped we might spare some rocks and minerals that they could put on display in their school library and as an aid in their description of the Upper Peninsula.

The teacher spoke very good English and the students did well also. It was a pleasure to see their interest in the rocks and minerals and to answer their questions about mines, quarries, etc. And of course our interests-- collecting, lapidary work and identifying micro crystals. What they saw under the microscope they exclaimed about in German.

The trays of polished agates appealed to the students and more so when they were offered the opportunity to pick out any number of the ones they liked. They asked how they became so shiny.

When asked if they had space and weight restrictions on rock samples to take on board the plane, Herr Sperring said he had 24 willing hands to carry them on board. This made it easy to put together quite a large collection.

Al Murray was interested in the project and was generous with cataloguing many of his specimens and along with those I catalogued we had around 100 which was difficult to fit in 12 fair sized boxes. The German group were surprised at the quantity and couldn't thank us enough for our generosity and friendliness. They said everyone in Marquette had been friendly and made them welcome. Also included in a box was a 1972 Field trip booklet and a map of the U.P. mineral sites.

Since their return home we have received a letter saying all hand carried boxes had arrived safely and once more expressing their thanks and appreciation.

Winter months gives us time to do some indoor work on our collections. Maybe choosing some select pieces of rock to slab for jewelry, clocks or pen sets. Maybe you have too much of one kind and can spare a slab for the April Silent Auction or August Swap. Keep these two events in mind.

DO YOU KNOW?

If someone should ask you, "What are fossils used for?", what would your answer be? Possibly you would mention fossil fuel, such as petroleum or coal, but could you name the many other ways fossils are useful to man?

Fossils tell us where there were seas in the past and where there was land. They show whether these seas were shallow or deep and the nature of the water. Besides acting as guides in geological chronology, they show changes in the climate and the former distribution of plants and animals and their routes of migration.

Index or guide fossils help identify strata and to date rocks containing similar fossils. Rings of growth in fossil trees indicate seasonal changes. Fossils show how today's living plants and animals have merged gradually from those of the geological past by the process of evolution.

The tiny diatoms are used for testing the quality of microscope lenses; for filtering liquids; in the refining of sugar and in the manufacture of paint and varnish to distribute the oil. Oil geologists make use of foraminifers to help locate possible oil bearing strata. Phosphate made from fossil-bones is used in agriculture.

The pyramids are made from limestone which contains large forams (fossiliferous limestone). Some other building stones are coral rocks which are used a lot in Florida, and another is coquina which contains large masses of fossil shells.

Radiolarians, as most rock hounds know, give us tripoli powder for polishing. And let us not forget the fossil amber, coral, petrified wood, jet (from fossil coal), and turritella used for making jewelry.

The ancient Chinese used ground fossil bones as medicine to cure many ills. And of course what would we do without the modern day plastics which are a by-product of fossil petroleum.

By Doris Smith, from Breccia

*When using "soap" and water to clean specimens, use dishwashing detergent--it does not contain bleach that laundry detergent often has; and use distilled water for rinsing.

*Native silver will tarnish if a paper label is placed inside a box with a specimen. Paper is made with sulfur-based chemicals. So, stick the label on the outside of the box. A camphor stick will help keep the silver clean.

*Re-du by Amway is an excellent way to take rust from quartz.

*Lime-away can dissolve unwanted calcite matrix.

*Shaklee's oven cleaner is an excellent cleaner for pyrite.

*Galena can be cleaned with a denture cleaner--use it sparingly as it is a mild abrasive.

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IRMC OFFICERS FOR 1991

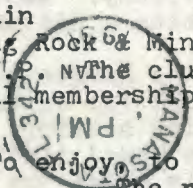
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Membership Chairman--2nd V.P. The club is open to anyone interested in the Earth Sciences.

Initiation fee-\$1.50. Annual membership dues: Husband & Wife-\$3.00, Adult-\$2.00, Jr.-\$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



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