



ROCK and MINERAL CLUB

P.O. Box 102

ISHPEMING, MI. 49489

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

1990, a new year, a new decade; it does not seem possible that we have not only gotten through another year, another Christmas but another decade, but we did.

Time now to plan for the coming year and the future. Where do we want to be in the next year and by year 2000?

It's difficult to plan when it is in the middle of January, with 18 plus inches of snow on the ground and cold. But our up and coming programs will let you think about how it will be in a few months, when the sun is shining and the sky is blue and the ground is covered with a rainbow of colors.

We are moving ahead with plans for the year, but need your input and help. Field trips are being planned for the summer months, and the SWAP is set for the first weekend of August.

Remember, the program meetings are held at the Marquette Township Hall and when you come bring a friend and introduce him to this fascinating hobby.

Have fun, enjoy life and we'll be seeing you at the program and business meetings.

President, Ernie Johnson

FIELD TRIPS.....Bruce Spike

The U.P. has been called, The Rockhounds Paradise. What makes the U.P. such an attraction for rockhounds? We have beautiful scenery, forested landscapes, clear blue lakes and a rugged yet inviting climate. We also have mineral deposits which man has searched and fought over for centuries.

Mining in the U.P. dates back to prehistoric time. Deposits of native copper were found and exploited by ancient miners of unknown origin. They left only open pits and rock hammers as relics of that ancient age. The mystery is still unsolved. Who were they? Where did they come from? Where did they dispose of a half million tons of copper?

The mining activities of the last two hundred years have really enhanced the hobby of rock-hounding. Spoil piles from the copper mines are scattered from the tip of the Keweenaw to the Porcupine mountains. Iron mines in Marquette county and along the Wisconsin-Michigan border also produced piles of poor rock. Then we have many silver, lead and gold prospects as well as quarries of sandstone, limestone, verde antique marble and other stone products.

As we search and explore these limitless possibilities, the primary mineral that was mined may not be of most interest, the associated minerals are many and occur in fascinating forms.

Have we explored all our possibilities? I think not. Have all the mineral deposits been discovered? No, not yet. Prospecting is still going on, but in a more scientific manner. Aero-magnetic surveys followed by diamond drilling produce sample rock cores from deep deposits which can be assayed to determine their mineral content.

The working mines of today will be the rockhounds treasure tomorrow. In the meantime, let's get off the beaten path and discover more of the treasures of yesteryear.

DATES OF IRMC MEETINGS, etc.

Business meetings are at 7 P.M. at the Jacobetti Veterans Facility as follows: (Host/
February 2---Ernie Johnson, March 2---Ingrid Bartelli, and April 6---Jan Ruonavaara. Hostess)

Program meetings begin promptly a 2 P.M. at the Marquette Township Hall as follows:

January 21--Ernie Johnson will talk on agates and show slides. Everyone is asked to bring some of their prize agates for the display table.

February 18-- Dan Fountain will present his research on Gold Mines of Marquette County. If you have samples of gold ore or ores from which gold is extracted by chemicals; bring them.

March 18--Sally Ahrndt will present a program on stringing beads. This will include tools, supplies and examples of various processes.

Our show and tell table will feature Magnetite with a short talk by Laurence Sain.

April 25 (note the change in date. This is the 4th Sunday due to Easter falling on our regular third Sunday.) This is our annual SILENT AUCTION so everyone bring your goodies to load up the auction tables. Have your bidding slips made out if possible.

Jim Proconier will talk on Fluorite. Bring specimens of Fluorite for the show and tell portion of the afternoon's program.

Jan Ruonavaara would like to thank everyone for the cards, prayers and get well thoughts during her stay at Marquette General Hospital where she underwent surgery.

Please note, your December issue of the Jaspilite was postponed to January. This will not affect you getting your March issue.

BITS AND PIECES...Arnold Mulzer

The New Year is well underway, but I would like to reflect on some of our accomplishments of 1989. The Swap and Show last August was a real success financially and otherwise. The summer field trips were well attended and new areas searched. Several members helped out with the two out of Chicago that spent several days in the Upper Peninsula on return field trips. We gained a few new members but could stand a lot more. Our winter programs were well attended and very interesting. But the greatest accomplishment to my way of thinking was the moving of the Barnes & Hecker mine disaster marker from Ely Township to the Michigan Iron Museum (Carp River Forge). Pat Procnier brought this up at one of our meetings in 1988. With the IRMC and the Ely Township officials, we got the ball moving. In June of last year a rededication was held at the museum site. The large marble marker contains the names of 51 miners who lost their lives November 3, 1926 in the disaster.

The marker fits well with the other exhibits of the museum. It is part of the history of the area. Incidentally, Pat has two uncles who lost their lives in the cave in. Also our club secretary, Dawne Smail's father was also a victim on his first day on the job. A small booklet can be obtained at the museum giving all of the details of that fateful day.

I am reminding you that its time to pay your 1990 dues. Send a check if you are out of town and if you want your card mailed send a stamped self addressed envelope.

When planning your trips for this summer, keep in mind those of the IRMC which are the 3rd Sunday of the month during the summer. Call or write to any of the officers for details.

The 16th Annual Rockhound Weekend will be held at Traverse City June 23 and 24 and is sponsored by MGAGS.

The Midwest Federation Golden Jubilee will be held in Evanston, Indiana July 14-22.

August 4 is the IRMC Rock Swap and Show at the Ely Township Hall

August 5 is the IRMCs annual field trip to the Kona Pits.

IRMC LAKE SUPERIOR/CANADA/MINNESOTA TRIP

Had you happened to drive by the Ishpeming Armory just before 9:00 A.M. on September 8, 1989, you'd have seen six miscellaneous rigs lined up ready to head west for Duluth and the north shore of Lake Superior.

First in line was leader of the pack Bruce Spike and daughter Sharron in their travel-tested motor home followed by Leon Anderson and mother Louise (would you believe 98 years young!) in their spiffy rented motor home.

Then came the smiling Pat and Theresa Bemis in their comfortable, compact it-can-go-anywhere, pick-up truck camper reminding one of the kid's poem, "The snail has an economical knack of traveling around with his house on it's back".

Next were the Smails, Lowell and Dawne. Don't travel without them. They think through the travel plan and know where they are going. Sharing the end-of-the-line were the Ruonavaaras, Don and Jan, pulling a fifth wheeler with their pickup. You can always depend on Don to have a complete line of emergency equipment, spare parts, tools, and supplies (including firewood) tucked into his load. Bart and Ingrid in their Jeep, pulling a trailer, made the 6th and last rig. To bad more of our club members were unable to make this trip.

This was the second adventure this gang has been on. The previous year, 1988, we traveled around Lake Superior entering Canada at the Soo. It had been such a wonderful experience that we decided to do it again.

Our travel plan? Very simple. Have a general idea where our ultimate destination will be--this year it was the Stillwater campground near Nipigon. We had so enjoyed our stay there in '88 that we figured we'd head straight for that destination and then play it by ear as we worked our way back home. Flexible as a rubber band. It works fine if the group is eager, congenial and thoughtful of the wishes of others. Anyone interested in sidetrips was free to go as long as there were two rigs together.

Our '89 plans were to go directly to Nipigon (a 2 day haul) with a leisurely return. We planned to leave soon after Labor Day to avoid heavy traffic and still enjoy good weather. "Beaching" took priority.

September 8th we left with hopes of staying in one of the several state parks north of Duluth. Stopped to stretch at roadside park just west of Ewen, wound our way through detours at Ironwood, lunched at a hilltop wayside near Saxon, Wisconsin. No snags until Superior, then miles of torn up roads and detours. Then Duluth which is always a nightmare to drive through. Reached Gooseberry Park--no vacancy, Split Rock park--same story. Had to gas up at Beaver Bay and keep heading north for a place to stay which turned out to be the KOA at Silver Bay after 6:00 P.M.--a long drive!

The next day, September 9th, after a good sleep and clean up in the exceptionally clean bathrooms, we left at 9:00. Stopped in Grand Marais for groceries and gas. Lunched and beached in Grand Portage State Forest. On to Nipigon, with no problems, to Stillwater Campground, home for 3 days. Nice people, nice campground, lovely shop specializing in exquisite amethyst.

While there we investigated the mind-boggling engineering accomplished by a crew installing a pipe line in the area which would eventually reach from Alberta to Montreal. Miles of huge tubing snaking in, thru, over and around the mountains. We went north to Beardsmere east to Pays Platte, south to the Sibley peninsula and west to the amethyst mines. Now we have seen most of them--lovely stuff. Celebrated birthday with Sharron on the 11th.

September 12, our destination was Grand Marais Municipal Park. Spike and Bemis left early to see Kakabecka Falls. We'd meet at beach near Grand Marais. The last rigs left at 9 for the beautiful Minnesota beaches on Lake Superior enroute to Grand Marais. Trouble! Broken alternator belt on Ruonavaar truck. Everyone helped--Lowell's mechanical expertise, Don's spare parts, Leon's taxi service--got it fixed in no time. Bemis and Spike were surprised to catch up with us just over the border. Spent the night at Grand Marais Park. 170 camp sites with a living zoo--mother bear and cubs at garbage dump and robber bears in all garbage cans throughout the night. So nice we decided to stay an extra day to roam nearby beaches.

On September 14 we took off for the much improved Moose Lake city park. Made it thru Duluth again to spend 3 gorgeous days "agating" at gravel pits.

September 17 the crew broke up. Leon and Louise joined their Minnesota families for a reunion. Pat and Theresa stayed an extra day in agate country and then explored western Wisconsin. 4 rigs headed for home. No problem getting though Duluth from south and west. Stopped at the spacious wayside rest stop just east of Superior to check rigs after going through the Superior construction zones.

On the road again but not too far. Flat tire on Don's trailer. The choke on the Spike vehicle continued to act up. Sometimes the RV would start and other times it needed pampering. Spare on, all 4 cars running so off again to roadside park west of Ewen for last rendezvous. Smalls sailed off for home. Spike left to visit neice in Bruce Crossing. Only 2 rigs left--Don's and Bart's. We'd be home by 4 o'clock--so we thought.

A second flat tire for Don near Nestoria. He had used his spare when he had the first flat. He and Bart drove to Ishpeming for tires. On the road again to Michigamme where Bart had to stop for gas. When Don tried to stop he had no brakes. With some engine medicine purchased at the gas station and on's skillful driving he nursed his rig along to arrive home at 10 P.M. Shortly after, tail ender Bartelli got home to Marquette.

A wonderful, wonderful, exciting, inspiring, fun filled 10 day trip. Did we get rocks? Lots of them. Enjoy scenery? Ask Bemis to see his waterfall pictures. Will we go again? Hopefully this fall. Want to come along?

Jan., Feb., and March---Ugh! Most people would say--the worst time of the year. "not so", say the IRMC micromounters.

These three months are the best time of the year! The garden is asleep, the canning and harvesting are done, the winter wood is cut, hunting season is behind us and the holidays are over. In our 12 months, this is the first time we have to explore and enjoy our micro minerals. Hooray for Jan., Feb., and March!

WHAT DOES THE MIDWEST FEDERATION DO FOR US?

Each club receives the MWF and AFMS Newsletters and a Directory. These go to the president and bulletin editor and not to each member. These communications keep the clubs abreast of news within the federations, and regional and legislative issues regarding the hobby. The Directory should be in your library and contains the names of clubs and show and swap dates.

DID YOU ALSO KNOW THAT YOUR FEDERATION PROVIDES

- * Through the scholarship fund, you support two students in their studies for a Masters or Doctors degree in the earth sciences for two years.
- * Provides a large library of slide films to assist your club to present informative programs. Each year new programs are added from contest winners. A few video programs, too.
- * A bulletin editor's contest as an incentive for editors to upgrade their bulletins.
- * An "education thru sharing" award to recognize a club member who volunteers considerable time to teaching students and members of his knowledge of our hobby.
- * An annual convention where members can see exemplary displays and purchase materials from nationwide dealers. An opportunity for competition and recognition for workmanship. Your delegate has a voice in the business of federation operations.
- * There are the state directors and their assistants to help your clubs and provide literature and supplies on "how to run a show" to "how to exhibit".
- * There are other knowledgeable resource people to help your club in more specialized areas of interest: Junior Activities; Micromounts; Uniform Rules; Senior Activities; Safety & Field Trips; Director of Supplies and Information; Lapidary Arts; Paleontology; Holotype Displays; Archaeology; Convention & Show; and Special Show Display.
- * And there are also people on administrative committees who help keep the federation functioning smoothly.

Have your club president attend a council meeting; discuss club concerns with other club presidents and meet with chairpersons of the above committees. These people await your letters.

If your club members have lamented about "what does the Midwest Federation do for us", then perhaps the club should ask why they are not using all of those wonderful services available to them! (Excerpts from an article by J. Boland, Legislative Committee.)

EARTHQUAKES, FAULT ZONES

(Ed. notes that many bulletins have articles on earthquakes since the last one in San Francisco. Record size earthquakes have been felt in the mid-continent and are forecast by the end of the century. Tremors felt in the western U.P. in or about 1920 are being used as one of the valid reasons for rejecting a proposed low level nuclear waste dump in Ontonagon County. People in the Detroit area, on the north fringe of the New Madrid Fault, are going to be more careful

of building codes. This month we'll look at the New Madrid Fault Zone and in March we'll read an article by Mike Williams on what a big tremblor would do to Michigan.)

In the winter of 1811-1812, three massive earthquakes occurred in the area of the present "boot heel" of Missouri, near New Madrid. Considered as the largest earthquake in American history, each was estimated to be some 20 times more powerful than the 1906 San Francisco earthquake (Richter Scale 8.25). The Mississippi changed course and the landscape changed for hundreds of miles. Reelfoot Lake, in northwest Tennessee is the only present evidence of the quake.

Starting about 600 million years ago, a major rift was formed in central North America and was reactivated several times later with intrusive and fault activity. Today, increasing east-west compression may reopen this ancient rift zone. From 1974 to 1983, over 2,000 earthquakes were registered in the region. The New Madrid rift complex is a subsurface failed-arm rift that extends from the Ouachita Mountains in Oklahoma and trends northwest into the crater of the southern midcontinent. In southern Illinois, the rift split in three. At this split is where the most dangerous earthquakes have occurred.

These quakes are considered dangerous because the compressive stress is in the deep granitic basement layer where great force is required to break the rock. The stress buildup is already great. It is concentrated near the cracks and the fault planes that exist. Thrust faulting is also occurring in the Ouachita Mountains. Geologists expect New Madrid to break again, most estimating by 2000 AD, and to be more destructive than an San Andreas fault quake.

Via MMS Conglomerate

FOUR FLAGS OVER THE U.P.

Marquette Real Estate agent Glen Rigdon figures to cash in on the vast acreage of the Upper Peninsula. Rigdon's ERA Realty office is advertising Upper Peninsula property in an international real estate guide that targets Japanese investors. The Japanese language advertisement promises beautiful properties near "the largest, deepest and cleanest of the Great Lakes", at \$100 to \$300 an acre.

"You have a great space here, a feeling of space will allow a freedom of mind. It is so refreshing" said Katsuyuki, a Japanese resident visiting Marquette. Via-MMS Conglomerate, The Detroit Free Press, 10-27-1989.

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE ISHPEMING ROCK & MINERAL CLUB
IRMC OFFICERS FOR 1990

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Quarterly

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Membership: Chairman--2nd V.P. The club is open to anyone interested in Earth Sciences.
Initiation: \$1.50 Membership annual fees: 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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