



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 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

It doesn't seem possible that winter is just about over and we can get out side and enjoy ourselves. (Wishfully thinking), but we are getting there.

Under the leadership of Jim Procnier and Carl Berger, the SWAP planning is in full swing. Now would be the time, while you can't fully enjoy the outside (for rock hunting) to start looking through your specimens for items for the APRIL SILENT AUCTION and the AUGUST SWAP. Also needed are door prizes and raffle prizes. Also be thinking of ways you can help at the SWAP and let the co-chairmen know what they are.

We need help with ideas and suggestions for future programs in the fall and winter. What would you like to see or hear about?

Arnold, thank you for your years of service as treasurer (17 years) to IRMC. Just because you're no longer an officer, it's not time to relax and set back. You have too much knowledge and talents for the club to lose. Enjoy yourself, the great outdoors and live every day to the fullest.

Ernest Johnson, president

Hi-lites of the Jan.- March meetings...Dawne Smail

Jim Procnier and neighbor Stan Lindberg finished and set up a display case of minerals for the Ishpeming Chamber of Commerce. (Jim made and painted the case) This case will be filled with approximately 40 egg sized specimens donated by members (or loaned) with labels stating identification and collection site. This will complete a long awaited display of our U.P. and State minerals for the traveling public to view and enjoy. We still await the opportunity to display the IRMC collection and look forward to the spring when more will be known about the proposal for the Cliffs Museum in Ishpeming.

Micromounters begin to meet again for the cold weather rock-hunts in the vugs of rocks collected in the summer. Each Tuesday at 7:00 pm a half dozen micromounters smack some rocks and peer through their scopes at the incredibly beautiful sights. We don't mind being called "crumb grabbers" since the bottom of our trays yield some exquisite specimens. Then we enjoy some of Ingrid's hospitality and finish our evenings with plans for the summer.

1991 officers elected at the January meeting were: President--Ernest Johnson, 1st VP.--Milton Gere, 2nd VP.-- Lowell Smail, Recording Secretary--Dawne Smail, and Treasurer--Bruce Spike.

Chairmen of the 1991 Swap are Jim Procnier and Carl Berger.

The January mineral of the month was Petrified Wood. Pat Bemis gave a talk and showed his many choice specimens. Club members also displayed samples of various woods.

Mary West gave a talk and slide presentation on the Soils of Marquette County. She also explained the process of testing and map making. The compilation of this information is available and used by agencies, companies and individuals. She was also involved in the selection of Kalkaska Soil being chosen as our Michigan Soil.

Olive Sain learned from June Zeitner that a couple of other states have a dual gem stone and saw no reason why we shouldn't pursue our suggestion of having Hematite and Copper named as dual minerals of Michigan. The Copper Country club and Stan Dyle of the Seaman Museum support the motion.

The display case at the Ishpeming Chamber of Commerce will have a beautiful piece of Iron Lace Agate from the Republic Mine, owned by Arnold Mulzer and set in a copper bolo done by Nelson Short; set beside a piece of the rough ore. Ron Wattson of the IRMC and owner of Wattson and Wattson Jewels donated a plaque for the case.

David Bridgens of the Michigan Iron Industry Museum asks our help in teaching and leading a group of 12 youths who have formed a Junior Historians Group at the Museum. They would like to learn of fossils in our area and would like a field trip to hunt fossils. These are youths selected by teachers and principals for their interest.

The mineral for the month in February was Galena. Olive Sain gave some of the history of the uses of Galena dating back to biblical times and up to the present time. Associated minerals were given and major locations for mining Galena. Locations in Marquette country were listed, too. She exhibited some incredibly beautiful specimens.

Fred Rydholm spoke to us on a cave location that is still rather secret, except for a select few friends of the founder, and which holds some provocative artifacts. Carved rocks with inscriptions and symbols have been challenged as to authenticity, and further exploration of the cave with its myriad passageways will be undertaken to verify or deny the genuineness of the contents. We look forward to hearing and reading the results.

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Through an error or misunderstanding by Ely Township officers, the IRMC's swap date reservation was given to another party. Our name hadn't been put on the calendar. And to say we were disappointed is an understatement! Because we have liked the facilities so well we now have the following weekend definitely confirmed. Aug. 10 is the SWAP and the 11th is the field trip.

* WE NEED YOUR HELP TO PUBLICIZE THE CHANGE IN DATE. WOULD YOU PLEASE TELL YOUR CLUB MEMBERS AND INCLUDE THE CHANGE IN YOUR CLUB BULLETIN. IRMC SWAP--ELY TOWNSHIP HALL-- AUGUST 10--SWAP and AUGUST 11--FIELD TRIP. THANK YOU! *

The Marquette Public Schools are having a Super Saturday event for grades 1-8. Our club was asked to do a presentation at two different hours on the rock hound hobby. Many other interests for youth will be presented during the day. Al Murray and Carl Berger have taken on this opportunity and challenge. We know they will do a great job.

The IRMC Christmas party will be held at the Northwoods Supper Club in December. We are asking for the first Sunday, if possible.

A certificate of appreciation was presented to Arnold Mulzer by Ernest Johnson from the IRMC members. In Arnold's acceptance speech he advises people to begin at an early age to collect. He regrets having overlooked many valuable specimens because he didn't know they had value.

The March program meeting will feature Gypsum by Dawne Smail. Everyone having microscopes are asked to bring them. The public is given the opportunity to bring in their "unknown" or unnamed rocks for identification.

"STAR SIDING".....Dan Fountain

There are some good stories back of upper peninsula place names, states the Escanaba Press. Take Star Siding, in Alger county. Many years ago a small lumbering community called Petrel was located a mile or so north of the South Shore railroad and the highway at this point now called M-28. About 4:30 o'clock one morning an early riser couldn't believe his eyes and ears when the dawn suddenly brightened to mid-day radiance with a crashing roar. An immense shooting star--at least it seemed immense-- zoomed through the sky, throwing sparks like a sky-rocket and the swamp quivered and shook when the fiery visitor hit the earth near by.

The bombardment awoke all hands, and when the sun came up a search was made for the monster. It was found not far from the Petrel sawmill, deeply imbedded in the marsh, and smoke and steam were issuing from the hole. When the meteor had thoroughly cooled, several days later, it was dug out with difficulty, and was found to have the shape, roughly, of a cart-wheel about five feet in diameter. Eventually it was placed beside the highway and a local gas station, where it is seen by uncounted travelers yearly.

Analyses made at Michigan Tech, Houghton, Michigan University, Ann Arbor, show that the celestial visitor is composed largely of iron, magnesium and calcium, and that it contains no ingredient whatsoever which is not found in the earth's crust. The same is true of all meteors wherever found throughout the globe, thus indicating that the universe is really a unit, as the name itself affirms. And so Star Siding and Star Creek are well and fittingly named in honor of the wanderer from the skies.

--Excerpted from "Upper Peninsula Place Names" Iron Ore, Ishpeming, Mi., Jan.2,1937.

FIELD TRIPS--1991-----Bruce Spike

The field trip season is coming even though this March weather indicates otherwise. This winter/spring won't last.

April showers will soon be here followed by Mayflowers and the bugs. Yuk! What would a field trip be without those little pests!

Where to go? There have been a number of suggestions. Goose Lake area for quartz Xls, Copper Country, Dickinson County with Arnold, old iron mines, Lindbergs quarry, an invitation to join a Canadian group for a tour of northern Ontario and Quebec, and our color tour, Grand Marais east to Tahquamenon Falls.

Fitting these into a schedule, to please the greatest number of club members is what it's all about. I have come up with the following:

May 17-21--Copper Country trip. Stay at Hancock City Park. Jan Ruonavaara will check to see if reservations are necessary.

June 16--Dickinson County with Arnold Mulzer.

July 21--Look for those quartz crystals near Goose Lake.

Aug. 11--Swap field trip, Lindbergs Quarry.

Mid-August-- Canadian tour available for those who are equipped to travel extended trip for two weeks.

Labor Day weekend-- undecided, watch for next issue of the Jaspilite.

Sept. 6--How about a Hobo cook-out at Markerts? Hope that Bob and Marian are willing and able.

Sept.29 or Oct 6.-- One or the other are possible dates for the color tour. Details later. This will be a one day trip. Don't expect to get back home before dark.

TREASURER'S REPORT-- You have a new treasurer, but that doesn't change a thing.

Dues are due. If you are unable to attend the monthly meetings, mail your check to--
IRMC P.O. Box 102, Ishpeming, Mi. 49849.

Although there are other types of conglomerates, jasper conglomerate, is unique in that it originates north of Georgian Bay and is technically called Huronian Supergroup oligomictic pebble conglomerate. It is scattered about in Michigan and Ontario and few rocks in Michigan have been the subject of such widespread interest. Jasper conglomerate is found in gravel pits, fields, streambeds and along lake shores from the Algoma Region of Ontario to the Ohio River in western Ohio and eastern Indiana and even across the Mississippi River in southeastern Iowa.

This rock is in demand by both tourists and collectors for souvenirs or as ornaments. As a result, supplies in some areas have been depleted. Intermittently, small-scale quarrying has been tried near Echo Lake, Ontario; but it seems that the conglomerate is either highly fractured or coated with alteration products.

As early as 1859 the geology of the Sault Ste Marie area had been deciphered and mapped. This area is dominated by Pre-Cambrian rocks. The area is historic because it includes the "original Huronian area" where the first division of the Pre-Cambrian rocks in Canada was achieved. The jasper conglomerate was unique then, and it has maintained its identity through subsequent reclassifications and divisions.

In Michigan, jasper conglomerate, which is found in the glacial drift, is usually more or less rounded. The size ranges from bean size to immense boulders weighing tons. In addition to the red, brown and/or purple jasper, the conglomerate carries pebbles of white, pink and/or green quartz or quartzite and black, grey and/or peach chert. Some pebbles show banding of jasper and hematite. Typically, the colored pebbles are separated by a light matrix. This makes an attractive durable stone.

The origin of this rock goes back to the Huronian Period of the Proterozoic Era (for Pre-Cambrian X here in the States). That is over 1.5 billion years ago! During this period, extensive sediments were deposited in or adjacent to bodies of water called epicontinental seas. These seas were shallow and the level apparently fluctuated greatly. Much of the material, which became the conglomerates, was derived by erosion from even older rocks. These sediments were in the form of fine sand and small rounded pebbles of gray and white quartz. The colored pebbles were deposited only in some parts of the area. These pebbles are usually at an angle to the bedding of the sand. For this reason it can be called a poorly-sorted conglomerate.

Sands, free of pebbles, later became sandstone. The individual sand grains became cemented by silica and iron-bearing waters. The mixture of sand pebbles became conglomerates by similar processes. Later this area was affected by volcanic activity. The resulting heat and pressure, transformed these rocks into their metamorphic counterparts. The sandstone became quartzite and the conglomerate became metaconglomerate.

Well over one billion years of weathering and erosion uncovered some of these rocks. Loose fragments in great masses were gathered or plucked from the bedrock, then moved by the Pleistocene (only 1 million years ago) continental ice sheets. The current outcrop area is restricted to the area around Sault Ste Marie. The erosional boundary to the south is essentially St. Joseph's Island.

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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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DIVER DISCOVERS SUPERIOR NUGGET; BUT THAT'S NOT THE HALF OF IT!

Prepare to rewrite the books on archaeology and man's pre-history in the Michigan area! You have probably heard of the 9,000 pound hunk of float copper brought to the surface of Lake Superior by a young Michigan school teacher-scuba diver. He brought that little piece to the Detroit show--but the really interesting developments have happened after he had recovered the copper when he decided to make one more dive of exploration before summer's end.

The young man, Brian Schulze, was a speaker at the Detroit show and a group of us showed up to hear about finding and retrieving this massive piece of "float". We got much more than we bargained for.

It is too early for full details, but Brian had a video camera with him as he swam below the surface of Lake Superior, following the underwater ridges, many of which are almost solid copper. He reported finding one vertical cliff (underwater, of course) with a drop of some 50 or 80 feet--and apparently solid copper. After following ridge after ridge of untouched copper outcrops, he found one that was totally different.

The ridge was sharp! The top edge was almost knife-like (I'm not at all sure how long a distance the "knife" ran). Nothing in Brian's experience could explain this. But as he swam along he began to notice--and the camera photographed--markings, more and more of them, until he could only conclude that the "knife-edge" was what was left by "chiselling"! But there is still more. Somewhere along the base of the ridge he found a very odd, somewhat spool-shaped rock. The ends of the spool were round-cornered triangles and the core of the spool was perfectly round and only a fraction of the diameter of the whole spool. It could only be man-made.

Other finds included an 8 x 4 inch piece of smooth flat copper with sharpened edges; smoothness and edges which could only have come from being worked by man. He found copper which was completely blackened by a coat which appeared to be soot. Scrapings of the soot have been collected and are being submitted to carbon-dating tests at the present time.

What does it all mean? Brian is convinced that man was working that copper deposit before Lake Superior existed. That means before the last glacial advance began. At least, this must mean that the history of man and Michigan copper mining can be extended back in time at least 10 or 15 thousand years beyond the four or five thousand years that have previously been accepted.

Brian is keeping exact locations secret until such time as more extensive explorations and careful recovery and documentation of archaeological specimens can be made.

It is safe to say that the Keweenaw area is going to be a very exciting area over the next few years as he and others follow through on his discoveries.

-----Ed Benjamin, Editor Arrowhead News 11/90.

GEOLOGIC AGES.....Rocky Trails via Mineralog via Oregon Rockhound

PRE-CAMBRIAN.....	Dark age of geology
CAMBRIAN.....	The time of the Trilobite
ORDOVICIAN.....	The beginning of the backbone
SILURIAN.....	Beachhead
DEVONIAN.....	The fish that walked
MISSISSIPPIAN.....	The day of the waddling beasts
PENNSYLVANIAN.....	Coal and cockroaches
PERMIAN.....	Day of judgment
TRIASSIC.....	Dawn of the reptile world
CRETACEOUS.....	Time of dying
CENozoIC.....	Age of mammals
THE ICE AGE.....	The world grows cold
MAN.....	The triumph of intelligence

DID YA KNOW?

That one way to distinguish a rock from a mineral is that a mineral has a definite chemical formula while a rock doesn't. The next time you pick up a rock, look on the back side--if you see a chemical formula written there--than it is not a rock.....Pegmatite 3/90

If it is a rock more than 10 inches in diameter, it's called a BOULDER.

If it is a rock less than 2 inches in diameter, it's called a PEBBLE.

If its a rock between 2 and 10 inches, it's called a COBBLE.

If you stub your toe on it, it's called SOMETHING ELSE!!! ...Rock Pickings

HOW TO PRESERVE A NEWSPAPER CLIPPING----Dissolve a milk of magnesia tablet in a quart of club soda. Pour into a pan large enough to accomodate the flattened newspaper. Soak clipping for an hour, remove and pat dry. Estimated life---200 years.....Conglomerate.

FOSSIL PRESERVING---After proper cleaning, fossils can be preserved by painting with half water and half Elmer's glue. It dries fast and makes the fossil look sharp and clean. It can be washed off, if necessary, with no trouble.....The mountain Gem

JASPER CONGLOMERATE OR "PUDDING STONE"

(Excerpts from an article by MMS member Steve Wilson Of the Mi. Dept. of Natural Resources via the Crystal Gazer.)

Conglomerate is a rock composed of rounded waterworn pebbles, usually of quartz, cemented by the mass of finer material filling the space between. Often there is a contrast between the color of the pebbles and that of the matrix, which makes appropriate, the nickname "pudding-stone".