



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

P.O. Box 102

ISHPEMING, MI. 49489

It doesn't seem possible that another Christmas has come and gone, and we are into a new year. Time sure goes fast when you are having fun and enjoying life; which I hope you all are. Now is the time to slow down and enjoy our finds of the last summer and make those plans for next summer.

I thank all those club members who stepped forward and took on a job/responsibility, offered to help in some way to make IRMC the great organization it is. Without you and your willingness IRMC could not continually be one of the best in the midwest. "This I believe." May the new year bring you joy and happiness.

Your president, Ernie Johnson

.....FROM THE SECRETARY'S MINUTES....D. Smail & B. Spike

The Aug. 30 SWAP was a huge success. Silent auction had good quality materials and the bidding was excellent. The Cracker Barrel speaker was Burton Boyum, club member and retired CCI mining retired executive, who spoke on the history of our mines in the U.P. The field trip to the Lindberg Quarry for Kona Dolomite was well attended. Access to the quarry has changed; a fee must be charged to pay the man in charge on site wages.

Two scholarships of \$300.00 were awarded for the fall semester of '91 to an MTU and NMU student.

Bob Markert reported that the Negaunee School display is nearer completion. There will be 2 cases, one of which will be for 'show and tell'. Four tubs of minerals were donated from the Fred Benzie collection containing copper and iron minerals along with two boxes of sea shells. Markerts added 50 of their minerals. Linda Buck typed out the labels which the Markerts had provided. As soon as the cases are ready, Ernie Johnson will appoint a committee to set up the display.

Olive Sain with the help of club members has organized a set of 12 rocks (Igneous, Sedimentary, and Metamorphic) and 12 minerals in egg cartons with numbers on the specimens and the numbers and names on the cover. These are starter sets for youths and proved popular with teachers who purchased them to use in their Earth Science classes. A teacher from Oklahoma purchased 36 sets and ordered 34 more.

The October meeting brought out many beautiful specimens for many to brag about. Datolite, Copper in several forms, Ropes Gold Mine ore with Silver crystals, a Hammerhead of Jade whose origin was perhaps by glacial deposit or by a migrating native, and a Copper skull that was "lost" while being packed for return home from a show. Information that the specimen was easily recognised as the property of our club member resulted in prompt return in a few days.

Ropes Gold Mine is now closed. Drill cores from an "incomplete hole" will be discarded and available to interested persons. Several of our members will collect some to have at future summer swaps.

At the November meeting a slate of officers was presented. The only change being Dave Olson for 1st V.P.

A lovely Christmas party was held at the Northwoods Supper Club. Dawne Smail provided the place favors which were miniature wreaths made of a dried slice of unpeeled apple and decorated with tiny cones and red ribbon bow. Ingrid Bartelli provided a door prize for every one from her kitchen--raspberry jelly and blueberry jam. We thank them for adding so much to the festivities. A gift exchange and much visiting rounded out our annual Christmas get together.

An election of officers for 1992 was held at the January meeting. They were: Ernie Johnson-president, Dave Olson-1st vice president, Lowell Smail-2nd vice president, Dawne Smail-secretary, and Bruce Spike-treasurer.

A list of hostesses and door prize donors was set up for the next 5 months as follows:

HOSTESSES	DOOR PRIZES
Jan 3.....Gere's	Jan 19.....Gere's
Feb. 7.....Smail's	Feb. 6.....Smail's
Mar. 6.....Johnson's	Mar. 15.....Sain's
April 3.....Bartelli's	April 26.....Procunier's
May 1.....Ruonavaara's	

The club roster for 1992 will be available this month for 1992. If you would like one send a self addressed and stamped envelope to Bruce Spike. Or if you haven't mailed in your 1992 dues be sure to do so in order for your name to remain on the membership list and for you to continue to receive the Jaspilite.

EMPIRE PIT REVEALS NEW CLUES TO LIFE ORIGINS.....Dale Hemmila

The December 1991 issue of Cliffs News has an article of a fossil find starting in 1974, again in 1984, and culminating 1990 with a similar specimen still in the formation.. With Mr. Hemmila's permission excerpts of his article follow.

Fossils found in the pit of the Empire Mine in Michigan are leading the world's scientific community to believe complex life on Earth began as many as a billion years earlier than previously proven.

Cleveland-Cliffs' Senior Research Scientist Tsu-Ming Han receives most of the credit for recognizing that graceful, curling lines in a slab of iron ore are new clues to the past.

"Complex" life refers to forms of early algae or other marine plant life from some ancient sea. It contrasts to "simple" life like bacteria.

Evidence for the new claim, and what has scientists and paleontologists excited enough to visit Empire, is the fossil remains of algae found in an iron formation of the Early Proterozoic Period dating back to 2.1 billion years. Until recently, complex life was believed to have begun 1.4 billion years ago, in the geologic period known as the Middle Proterozoic.

Dr. Bruce Runnegar of the University of California of Los Angeles recently visited the telltale iron formation at the Empire pit that indicates history books must be rewritten. Dr. Runnegar said, "This is the oldest evidence of complex life on Earth, pushing back the whole frontier. The iron formation was formed between two and 2.1 billion years ago--the halfway point in the history of Earth. Now we know complex life existed at that time."

NATIVE MICHIGAN BUILDING STONE.....Walt Vogtmann, Rockpile editor

Were it not for economic disincentive of distance from quarry to market, Michigan could be a major source of building and ornamental stone for the construction industry. But because most of such stone in Michigan is in the upper peninsula, distant from major population centers, no significant quarrying effort ever began.

What is available? In 1973, Dr. Allan M. Johnson, a research engineer for the Institute of Mineral Research at Michigan Technological University, compiled the following list of available Michigan building and ornamental stone:

Granite (4 shades), Kona-dolomite (2 shades), Randville dolomite, Granodiorite, Amphibolite, Marble, Verde antique, Limestone, Gabbro, Granite gneiss, Black jaspilite, Jaspilite, Felsite, Metadiabase, Pegmatite, Basalt, Sandstone, Rhyolite porphyry, Quartzite, and Conglomerate.

REFERENCE: Exhibit of the above stone materials at the Seaman Mineral Museum at Michigan Technological University, Houghton, Michigan.

(Of these 21 kinds of stones, how many do you have in your collection? I can count over half but I would still be interested in the others; and I may have seen them but not recognized them. Looking at the reference exhibit the next time MTU will be a top priority.)

MINERAL PRODUCTS CRITICAL TO NORTH AMERICAN LIFESTYLE.....Prospectors and Developers Association of Canada.

Each year, according to the United States Bureau of Mines, the average American needs 40,000 pounds of new minerals. During its lifetime, the average newborn infant will need:

* 795 pounds of lead, primarily to hold together all those electrical appliances that this person will use.

* 757 pounds of zinc to alloy with copper for various decorative brass coatings and as a necessary component of rubber and paint.

* 1,500 pounds of copper, used mostly in electric motors that power household appliances, automobiles, communications and transportation vehicles, and a myriad of other "necessities."

* 3,590 pounds of aluminum for beverage cans, lawn furniture, and thousands of other light weight products.

* 32,700 pounds of iron for kitchen utensils and appliances, automobiles, ships, buildings, toys, and recreation vehicles.

* 26,500 pounds of clay to make bricks, paper, paint, glass, and pottery.

* 28,200 pounds of salt for cooking, manufacturing plastics and detergents, and de-icing roads and highways.

* 1,238,100 pounds of stone, sand, gravel, and cement for roads, homes, schools, hospitals, offices, stores, patios, and other essential structures.

Altogether, these non-fuel minerals contribute more than \$26 billion per year in raw materials in the American economy. Later, they are processed into \$250 billion worth of consumer goods.

1993 Midwest federation convention progress report

According to the 10-1991 MWF Newsletter the time and place have been confirmed and progress made on the agenda. August 8-15, 1993, a field trip convention in the Copper Country of the Upper Peninsula of Michigan.

This is only a little over 1½ years away and if you are a member of the employed class, you often have to pick your vacations from one half to a year ahead. If you can have a two week vacation, you will surely want to take in our SWAP and some field trips in this area in addition to those in the copper country.

DISHWASHER DETERGENT WORKS MIRACLES: Indelible ink on a slab? Want it off? Try the new liquid dishwasher detergents. Pour a little over the area and let stand for a few minutes. A few seconds of rubbing and the marking should be gone. If it persists, rub briskly with a steel wool pad. These new detergents also work great removing stains from formica surfaces and from color fast materials. (Osage Hills Gems) Via- Tri-County Rocks and Minerals Society.

Possible Field Trips in 1992.....Bruce Spike

- It may be only the first week of January but the field trip season will be here before we know it. Where to go? Several suggestions were made at our January 3 meeting.
- No. 1., Explore the possibility of a visit to the Empire Open pit. We were permitted to make several visits to the Republic pit in years past so the Empire is not exactly a dream idea.
 - No. 2., The Champion mine is still a good spot to search for the '50 plus' minerals known to exist in those poor rock piles.
 - No. 3., Someone suggested a revisit to the Phenocryst pluton north of Negaunee. Only a short walk, less than 'a quarter mile'.
 - No. 4., An outcrop near the Negaunee City limits was also suggested; the mineral we would be looking for is Soapstone.
 - No. 5., Dolomite nodules are said to be found in a gravel pit west of Sagola.
 - No. 6., Then there is an old Mica outcrop west of M-95 near the old RR grade.
 - No. 7., Another possibility which we haven't explored for several years is the Kimberlite just west of Channing.

Perhaps these last three sites could be included in one full day's trip. We'll be adding more suggestions as they are offered; some we have been to and some yet to be explored. A trip to the copper country is also a must. Rumor has it that a Canadian company has leased 80,000 acres for exploration and development. This may change our past access to many of those rock piles.

Anti-mining sentiment in Wisconsin is such that their D.N.R. is even closing State Lands to mineral collecting. Badger Lapidary and Geological Society collected specimens from the Florence County Rubellite Pegmatite and were accused of theft of State property. My informant states, "the rationale is that if no one is allowed to explore and discover new mineral deposits in Northern Wisconsin, then the mining companies will have no reason to have an interest in the area."

Also, another note about the Wild River Refuge act. Environmental groups have pushed through a reclassification of the Florence site as such and D.N.R. employees indicated that a partial goal was to close that area to any collecting.

We may find ourselves faced with like problems with the Wild Rivers act in the U.P.

.....Club News.....

New club members since the September Jaspilite are heartily welcomed to become active, working members of the club. Come to the meetings, visit at club member homes, ask questions. The listing of hostesses is for the business meetings held at 7:30 p m at the Jacobetti Veterans Facility in Marquette; call an officer for directions to the meeting room as it will be a different one for the month of February. The listing of door prize donors is for the program meetings at 2 p m at the Marquette Township Hall. If you don't know where it is call one of the officers listed on page 4 of this bulletin.

Joining in August were Norman Jarvi, P.O. Box 125, Michagaumee, Mi. Tele-323-6247; Warren Crone, P.O. Box 207, 308 Oak St., Ishpeming, Mi. Tele-485-1581; Wesley Wiggins, N 4909 Bass Lake Road, Iron Mountain, Mi. Tele-774-4909; Robert E. DeBoer, 1003 W. Ridge Apt. 9, Marquette, Mi. Tele-228-6229; Gene Smary, 2934 Woodcliff Circle S.E., Grand Rapids, Mi. 49506. Tele- (616)-459-6121.

Joining in September was James T. and Mary M. Bess, 1219 Grant Ave., Marquette, Mi. Tele-226-3044. Clara Braden, 1215 Sherman, Marquette, Mi., Tele- 226-7686 joined in December. Address changes are: Tammi Olson, 144 E. Sands St., Gwinn, Mi.

Al Murray, 2115 Ludington, Escanaba Mi., 49829.

Mary West, 5818 Halifax Ave, North, Brooklyn Center, Mn. 55444.

Carl Berger, 8350 Able St., N.E., Spring Lake Park, Mn. 55432.

Dorothy Bowns, 5068 E. Nestle Rd., St. Helen, Mi. 48656.

We extend to Dorothy Bowns and her family our deepest sympathy in the loss of her husband, Jim. He was hospitalized at Marquette General Hospital in Marquette for most of December and then transferred to St. Helens where his aunt lives. Dorothy will be staying there for the rest of the winter. Jim will be cremated and Dorothy will bring his ashes north in the spring. Jim was a talented silversmith, a willing worker on club projects, a friend to visiting rock hounds wanting directions on collecting sites, and always willing to share his skills. We will miss him but will always have fond memories of the times we were together.

MEGA-CRYSTAL....from the Petrified Digest, Via The Conglomerate

Possibly the largest doubly-terminated crystal yet known was found in the African territory of Namibia recently by a Tucson, Arizona-based wholesale gem dealer.

Zee Haag, who travels the world seeking rare gems for his business, uncovered a 17,622 pound 6 foot long quartz crystal about 35 feet underground, surrounded by smaller crystals. He rescued the gem from quartz miners about to blow it up, and moved it with a crane brought in through 50 miles of bush country. He named it "Ovombo," after a nearby tribe.

Both positive and negative charges come off each point of doubly-terminated crystals, so they are called generators. This one is so huge that if anybody can figure out how to tap its energy, it might possibly be the most powerful crystal on earth Haag said.

DISCUSSION IS AN EXCHANGE OF INTELLIGENCE, ARGUMENT IS AN EXCHANGE OF IGNORANCE. Anon. via The Petoskey Stone.

The word "trousers" is an uncommon noun. Why? Because its singular at the top and plural at the bottom. Via- The Trilobite.

COLORING SAND--OR ANOTHER USE FOR YOUR TUMBLER.....June King, via- Rocky Reader

(if you don't have colored sands available to make 'sand bottles' you can improvise by coloring the sand.) At an MGAGS seminar, Florence Hill shared her instructions for coloring sand. Stir acrylic paint or food coloring into the sand, laying it out to dry and stirring it often so it did not cake. This took a very long time when large amounts were needed.

Then our group was given a suggestion by a ceramic engineer who first asked if we had tumblers. He suggested we try adding water to the acrylic paint and adding it to stones and sand in plastic jars.

We use 1 quart of sand, two tablespoons of paint, and one of water. Mix the paint and water before adding, then add some large stones to help with the mix. We tumble ours about 20 min. It still needs to be laid out on trays and stirred occasionally, but it saves a lot of time and energy. (This is a fun thing to do with youth groups (making sand bottles).

PYRITE SUNS FROM ILLINOIS.....The Trilobite

Pyrite suns are found in the coal mines near Sparta, Illinois at the 300 foot level. They are in a very narrow seam on top of the coal vein. Miners bring them out in lunch buckets, otherwise they would be destroyed in normal mine operations. Originally, they were thought to be of marcasite, but researchers at the Smithsonian found them to be pyrite and therefore very durable. They are surrounded by shale and coal and it is difficult to reveal their beauty. They have been dated at 35 million years. It is theorized that they are a pyritized fossil lily pad.

COPPER BRACELETS.....Deming Rock Chips, via The Rocky Reader

Is it true that copper bracelets relieve arthritis? This folk remedy has been in dispute for many years, but now researchers have discovered there may be something to it. Copper, they found, reacts with the skin chemicals to produce an anesthetic called "Ethylene" which can be absorbed into the body.

" HOW TO " from MGAGS

CLEANING JEWELRY: an excellent homemade cleaner is.....1 tablespoon or 1 capful of household washing ammonia added to 1 cup hot water mixed with a squirt of good grease-cutting detergent such as Ajax Lemon Liquid. Soak the jewelry for as long as necessary and brush dry with a soft toothbrush. Rinse clean with hot water and wipe dry.

Omit the ammonia when cleaning porous gemstone jewelry such as turquoise, pearls, opal, ivory, coral and jet. They may be discolored or damaged. (Erin D'Ettorre).

NATIVE SILVER will tarnish if a paper label is placed inside a box with it. Paper is made with sulfurous chemicals, so stick the label outside the box. A camphor stick will help to keep the silver clean. (Serendipity Gems)

**OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE ISHPEMING ROCK & MINERAL CLUB
IRMC OFFICERS FOR 1991**

Published
Quarterly

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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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