ROCKHOUND NEWS

VOLUME VIII

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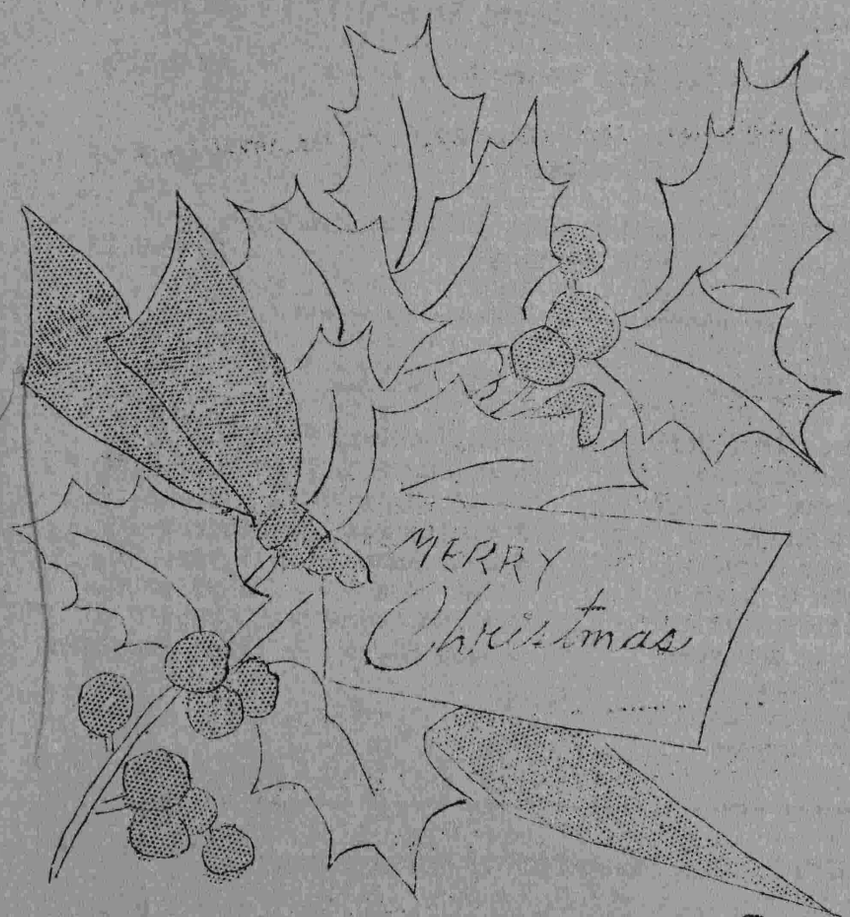

CENTRAL MICHIGAN LAPIDARY AND MINERAL SOCIETY
Affiliated with Midwest Federation of
Mineralogical and Geological Societies

and

American Federation of Mineralogist
Societies.

May the
meaning of
Christmas be deeper
Its friendships stronger
and its hopes brighter
As it comes to you
this Year.

OFFICERS FOR 1964

PRESIDENT: John Hocking, 356 Oakhill, East Lansing ED 2-2603

VICE PRESIDENT: Lila Stevens, 5889 W. State Rd., Lansing IV 9-7444

SECRETARY: Bettie Hodgson, 3421 Hagan, Lansing 17 IV 4-2210

TREASURER: Florence Hill, 3135 Okemos Rd., Mason ED 7-1005

LIAISON OFFICER: Clarence Kirkby, 1401 Greenview Dr., East Lansing ED 2-6809

PERMANENT MAILING ADDRESS: Gladys Kirkby, 1401 Greenview Dr. East Lansing ED 2-6809

APPOINTED COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN

Membership -	Mrs. Steve Taft
Program -	Lila Stevens
Field Trip -	Howard Randolph
Education -	Joe Kreps
Display -	Oscar Puryear
Library -	John B. Lord
Workshop -	Francis Hyde
Welcome -	Marie & Gordon Fisher
Publications -	William Arend & Nel Langham

BOARD MEMBERS

John Hocking, President
Lila Stevens, Vice President
Bettie Hodgson, Secretary
Florence Hill, Treasurer
Samuel Knox - 1 year
Arthur Krave - 2 year
William Arend - 3 year
Edward Kirkby - Past President

AFFILIATED WITH MIDWEST FEDERATION OF MINERALOGICAL AND GEOLOGICAL SOCIETIES

AMERICAN FEDERATION OF MINERALOGIST SOCIETIES

MEETINGS: Walter French Junior High School cafeteria third Thursday monthly, except July and August - 7:30 p.m.

MEMBERSHIP FEE: Adults - $2.00 Students - $1.00

LETTER FROM OUR PRESIDENT:

Dear Fellow Rockhounds:

Well, the Christmas season is upon us and that brings our annual Christmas meeting. This time Lila Stevens has planned a party mostly for the children. However, there will be an exchange of gifts as usual. So bring a gift if you want to get one. Remember the 75-cent limit on the cost of a gift. Santa Claus will pay us a visit to help distribute the gifts. And the Christmas tree with its decorations will be a door prize for some lucky child. So, it looks as if we'll have fun.

Now, that the roads are slippery, I have an excuse for carrying all those rocks in the back of the VW bus. The extra weight is good for traction, they tell me. I know that rockhounds are careful drivers but please be extra careful on bad roads, won't you? A hospital bed is a poor place to spend the holidays and it's even worse as a place to collect rocks.

My tenure as your President is nearing completion. The nominating committee will be presenting a slate of new officers and I hope the new board has as much pleasure from the job as I have had. It is fun, you know, to be in on the workings of the club. When you are called for committee work, friends, you make a mistake if you do not jump at the chance.

Merry Christmas to all.

Yours in the hobby,

(Signed) John G. Hocking.

Dues are due and payable any time now. We would very much appreciate having you take care of these so we will be sure to have your name in the directory. $2.00 per year for adults and $1.00 for students.

ANNUAL CHRISTMAS PARTY MEETING - December 17.

The December meeting will feature our annual Christmas party. There will be a tree (donated by Oscar Puryear), trimmings, gifts, refreshments, and SANTA CLAUS will be there to distribute the gifts.

The trimmings which will be good to eat are being supplied by some of the ladies. The tree will be awarded as a door prize to some lucky child at the meeting.

There will be a gift exchange. Everyone is urged to participate. Bring a gift worth 75¢ to put under the tree. You will receive a number entitling you to select a gift in return.

This meeting is for the children and they will contribute to the festivities by bringing their various gem, mineral and fossil exhibits for everyone to enjoy.

Two speakers will round out the program. Mrs. Bettie Hodgson will present a reading "This is the Christmas" and Bill Arend will talk on "Greenstones". Also to make the program more like Christmas, our President's two daughters will furnish music on the piano and cello for our listening pleasure.

This all adds up to a very enjoyable evening, so plan to attend and bring a friend along.

The Club wishes to express their sincere appreciation to Norman and Dolly Kunkel for holding the two Sunday evenings open for the members to have the opportunity to see the pictures on their trips. These pictures are so interesting and what lovely host and hostess they are. Thanks again.

BIRTHSTONE FOR DECEMBER -- TURQUOISE

This mineral is used extensively as gem and ornamental stones for people of all countries. It has been very well known since 3400 B.C. It was obtained from the Sinai Peninsula, Egypt, in what probably was the world's first important hard rock mining operation. Material of excellent color later was mined in Persia and brought to Europe through Turkey. This probably accounts for the mineral name (Turquoise means Turkish).

Turquoise is a complex phosphate of aluminum and copper with the general formula $CuAl_6(PO_4)_4(OH)_8 \cdot 4H_2O$. Iron commonly substitute for a little of the aluminum and an excess of water is present in some varieties. The mineral ordinarily occurs as dense criptocrystalline to finely granular nodules, seams and incrustations. Its hardness is 5 to 6, its specific gravity 2.6 to 2.8.

The color of turquoise ranges from blue through various shades of green to greenish- and yellowish-gray. A delicate sky-blue, which provides an attractive contrast with precious metals, is most valued for gem purposes. The mineral is opaque, except in the thinnest splinters, takes a fair to good polish and has a feeble waxy polish. The luster tends to become glassy and the color more greenish and grayish in the presence of perspiration and some acids, also with long term exposure to sunlight, heat or dry air.

Encyclopedia Brittannica.

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EDUCATIONAL COMMITTEE:

Plans are forging ahead to complete cases of rocks and minerals for schools in the areas. It takes time and species, so won't you please let the Committee know what you have to spare for these cases? Remember -- this is an educational club as well as a hobby to serve our own purposes, so please help out. We need Michigan stones as well as those listed in the last publication.

Thank You.

DON'T FORGET -- DECEMBER 17. CHRISTMAS PARTY AT C. W. OTTO Cafeteria Please use the East Lot for Parking. Go out US 27 and turn into the lot from this highway.

M E R R Y C H R I S T M A S A N D

H A P P Y N E W Y E A R

Please send return bulletins to:
William Arend
13100 Melody Lane, Rt. 2
Grand Ledge, Michigan

THIRD CLASS

Mr. & Mrs. John Hocking
356 Oakhill
East Lansing, Mich.