

February

PROGRAM February 18

Our program for February will be presented by Mr. Lansing Gilbert, Chairman of the Rocks and Mineral Section of the 4-H Developmental Committee for Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation, and Dr. Robert George, Assistant Professor and Extension Specialist in Environmental Conservation, Department of Fisheries and Wildlife, Michigan State University. Mr. Gilbert and Dr. George will describe the programs now available to the youth of Michigan in the area of rocks and minerals, and some of their hopes for future activities in this area.

The program will start at 7:30 p.m., and the business meeting will follow.

EDUCATION

Ray Walker talked to the fifth and sixth grade science classes at North School on Jan. 12. He showed the minerals in the club school case, and some of his own.

Irene Brett spoke to the Mar-floor Garden Club on Jan. 13.

George Mitchell talked to the fourth and fifth grade science classes at the Averill School on Jan. 25.

FIELD TRIP

Bill has set up a Round Robin indoors field trip for the afternoon of Feb. 28, to visit several families and see their collections. The tour will begin at Read and Henrietta Myers', 1415 W. Ionia, Lansing (west of the Capitol), from 1-2 p.m. As you may know, the Myers' specialty is fluorite. From 2-3 p.m. we will go to Mike and Holly Chubb's, 1306 Ramblewood Drive, E. Lansing. (Turn north off M78 on Harrison, left at Tarleton, right at Winchester, and continue until you are on Ramblewood.) They have some very unique specimens collected on their trip out West last summer. We will wind up at Lloyd and Irene Conklin's, 5979 Harvey, Haslett (north off Lake Lansing Rd.), from 3-5 for fossils, crystals, coffee and conversation.

See you there!

INTRODUCTION TO IDENTIFICATION

Since there are about two thousand different minerals, the positive identification of every mineral is an impossibility for amateurs like us, but we can learn to recognize most of the ones we will find. There are simple observations and tests that can be made with little equipment.

One important thing that we would like to emphasize is that you should always write down where you find each rock and keep this information with the specimen. Locality is often a valuable clue to identity. If someone gives you a specimen, be sure to ask him if he knows where it was found.

An amateur can learn to identify many rocks and minerals simply by becoming familiar with their appearance and the way they feel in his hand. The more you look at identified pieces, the more you will learn. Museums, shows, and private collections all offer opportunities for this.

There are simple observations and tests that the rockhound can make with little equipment. The most essential things are a magnifier, a jackknife, and a good mineral book. These will help you to determine the physical properties of minerals and those are what we will be discussing in future articles. Chemical properties are more difficult to determine and require more equipment than most of us possess.

Frank and Eleanor Owens

To all CML&IS friends —

Mary Elizabeth Hodgson

and

Mr. James David Patterson

request the honour of your presence
at their marriage

Saturday, February twenty-seventh
nineteen hundred and seventy-one
at two o'clock in the afternoon

St. Stephen Lutheran Church

Delta River Road at Waverly Road
Lansing, Michigan

Reception following
in Fellowship Hall