

March

MARCH PROGRAM -- The speaker for the March 16 meeting will be Kenneth Wilson, a member of the Upper Grand Valley Chapter of the Michigan Archaeological Society. Mr. Wilson has done a great deal of field work in archaeology. He will tell how to locate and recognize archaeological sites, and describe three sites in the Grand River Valley which have been excavated. He will illustrate his talk with a display of some of the artifacts he has found. An opportunity will be given for questions.

Mr. Wilson is also a member of Central Michigan Lapidary and Mineral Society.

MARCH FIELD TRIP -- This month's field trip will be on Saturday, March 25, 1972 to the Cranbrook Institute, 500 Long Pine Road, Bloomfield Hills, Michigan. This is a fine science museum with many fabulous gem and mineral exhibits. The Institute is open 9:00 a.m.--12:00 p.m., closed 12:00 --1:00 p.m. and re-opened 1:00 p.m.--5:00 p.m. Rock club members are admitted during the morning hours for \$.25 if the club pays a fee of \$3.00 for each group of 35 people or less. During the afternoon and on Sunday 1.00 - 5.00 the regular admission rate is charged -- \$1.25 per adult and \$.50 per child. Please sign up at the March 16 meeting if you are planning to go, or call Bill Rogers so that we can get an idea about the club fee. If you need transportation Holly Chubb will be happy to help you if she knows in advance. If you are going to take advantage of the club rate, plan to arrive by 9:00 a.m., because at noon the Institute closes and there is SO MUCH TO SEE! A map is given below to help you find the place.

Royal Olson, Field Trip Chairman

IDENTIFICATION -- FELDSPAR

Some authorities view feldspar as a group of closely related minerals, while others consider it as one mineral with many varieties. If the latter view is accepted, then feldspar is the most common mineral of all -- five times more plentiful than quartz. Feldspar is found in almost all of the igneous rocks and in many of the sedimentary and metamorphic ones.

Chemically, the feldspars are aluminum silicates with varying amounts of potassium, sodium, and calcium. All of the feldspars have common physical properties. They have good cleavage in two directions at right angles or nearly so. The luster is usually smooth and glassy or pearly. With a hardness of No. 6 on the Mohs scale, they are fairly hard and cannot be scratched with a knife.

There are two main subdivisions of the minerals-- the potash and the plagioclase feldspars. The principal potash feldspars are orthoclase and microcline, which are usually white or pink, and are found in granites, pegmatites, porphyries, and gneisses. Amazonite is a green variety of microcline that is used as a gemstone. In the plagioclase group are such varieties as albite, anorthite, moonstone, sunstone, and labradorite. They are usually white or gray and have striations, or fine parallel lines on their faces that help one to identify them. Moonstone and labradorite have bluish or greenish flashes that make them attractive as gemstones. Sunstone is a golden-red type with a sparkling sheen due to minute crystals of hematite or goethite in it.

Feldspars are widely used in the manufacturing of porcelain and ceramics. They ultimately decompose to leave the aluminum ore bauxite or kaolin and other clay minerals.

The best distinguishing features of feldspar are its cleavage, shiny luster, and hardness.

Frank and Eleanor Owens, Identification