

April

PROGRAM -- April 15

The program for our April meeting will feature a member of our own Central Michigan Lapidary and Mineral Society, Alan Overdorff. His subject will be "Glass," with slides to help us understand his talk.

There are many forms of glass -- plain, Cathedral, leaded, stained, colorful slag and obsidian. With the NOW look in apparel for men and women, most of the jewelry worn today is made of colorful stained leaded glass, or plastics simulating gems. Colorful, decorative glass is our speaker's business, therefore the evening should be most enjoyable.

I think we could make the subject even more interesting if each of us would bring any specimens of the above, for display, and thus feel a part of the program.

Read A. Myers, Program Chairman

EDUCATION -- George Mitchell visited Averill School February 1 and talked to the fourth and fifth grade science class on rocks and minerals and their uses. He also used the club case while there.

Dave Toman had his case on display at the Central Methodist Church February 7 for the day.

The Windemere Park School of the Waverly District was visited by four of our members on the four Wednesdays of March. Ray Walker talked on rocks and minerals and how to tumble them. He also took the Club case and talked on each specimen in it. The case was left for the rest of the month. Virginia Sterrett talked on rocks and minerals and how to use them to make various things for display at hobby show or club. Bessie Rogers displayed fossils. She explained each of them to the boys and gave each boy six little goodies to take home as their own.

Lila Stevens' subject was rocks and crystals -- how they are formed, how they grow, where they can be found, and how each has its own crystal shape. She also suggested what to do with them once they are gotten home. Each of us had a ball at this school as everyone was so wonderful and we had the best of cooperation from the principal all the way to the janitor.

FIELD TRIP to Sylvania, Ohio, April 25.
Medusa Portland Cement Company Quarry,
Silica, Ohio.
This is for fossils.

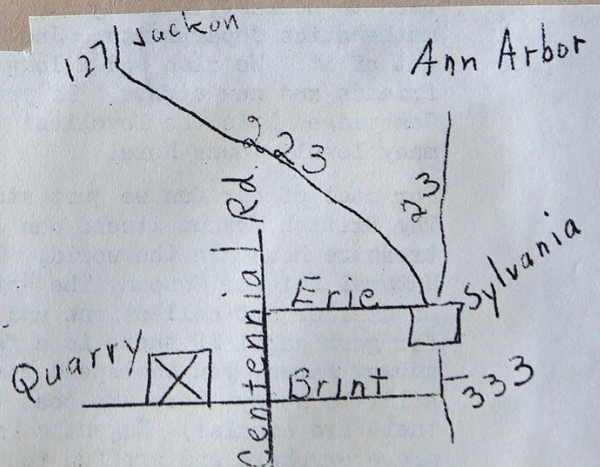
We will be there at the gate from 10:00 to 11:00 so you can sign the release. Be sure and sign before you go in.

There will be a display at the next meeting to show you what you can find there.

It may be muddy, so I would suggest that you wear boots.

The field trip to Grand Rapids was enjoyed by about 18 people. We were not able to go at the last minute because Red had to work. Oscar Puryear acted as chairman that day. Thanks, Oscar.

William Rogers, Safety and Field trip chairman



The Board of Directors accepted and adopted the report of the Budget Committee.

April (cont)

IDENTIFICATION -- TRANSPARENCY

The second characteristic of a mineral that concerns the contact of light with a specimen is sometimes referred to as "transparency" and sometimes as "translucency." Both are terms that are given to a phase of this characteristic which deals with how much light passes through a specimen.

If a piece of mineral is clear enough that an object on the other side of it can be seen through it, it is said to be transparent. This word is derived from two Latin

words meaning "appear through." Rock crystal quartz is one of the best examples of a transparent mineral.

If some light can be seen through a mineral but it is not clear enough to see an object behind it, then it is said to be translucent. This term comes from Latin words meaning "shine through." A good example of a translucent mineral is chalcedony, another form of quartz.

A specimen is said to be opaque when it transmits no light at all. This word is also derived from a Latin word that means "darkened." Jasper, from the quartz family, is one of the opaque minerals.

Frank and Eleanor Owens

WHAT DO YOU WANT FROM YOUR HOBBY?

This question was brought out in conversation with several people. A summary of their opinions may explain the fascination which rockhounding has for us.

First -- THE QUEST: Getting out into the open country, the mountains, deserts, etc., with a definite objective, namely -- hunting minerals, fossils, what have you. Many professional men, caught in the rapid tempo of modern life, find their greatest relief and recreation in forgetting to appear smart, well-dressed and efficient, and instead digging in the dirt, eating a little sand with their food, and enjoying wind and sun, and a far horizon.

Second -- THE FINDING: The thrill of receiving direct from the hand of the Creator a bit of agate, a fragment of petrified wood, a gemmy crystal. The lure of the buried treasure, the uncertainty of success, add excitement to the discovery of your specimen.

Third -- CRAFTSMANSHIP: The exercise of skill, artistic ability and patience in creating a thing of beauty from intractable material, gives satisfaction to the creative instinct.

Fourth -- COMPETITION: The fun of selecting what you think is your very best, and matching it to what your fellow hobbyist has, serves as an excellent means for most of us to study minerals of a kind of quality not otherwise available.

Fifth -- LEARNING: The job of adding, bit by bit, to one's store of knowledge of the natural world. Every time a new mineral form is studied, the frontiers of experience are extended by just that much. Every sunrise, moonrise, cloud formation, adds to our store of memory pictures. Every happy day spent with congenial companions makes ^{us} wiser and kinder, for it has often been brought to our attention that it is the most experienced collectors, the most serious students of mineralogy, who are the most generous and understanding in their dealings with their fellow-hobbyists.

Sixth -- SERVICE: Through helping others to learn, through accepting responsibilities requiring long hours of bookkeeping, letter writing, telephoning, serving of foods, leading field trips and all those other jobs which keep a society functioning, you help others to fulfillment in the field of Searching, Finding, Doing, Comparing, Learning, and Serving.

An impressive list of values, isn't it? Surely there is something here for every one of. What do YOU want from your hobby/

(From the Oregon Agate and Mineral Society via The Puddin' Stone News.)