

May

FIELD TRIP - On the way to Alpena May 18 we met Glen and Rose Whidden, Sally Barber, Florence Hill, and Lola Pearson at the National City Gypsum Quarry. We all gathered some real nice alabaster for carving and for the children's table. In Alpena we all had a wonderful time, thanks to Calvin Loomis. We had a large turnout, with several clubs joining ours. It was great -- even if the Hillis' trailer was flooded!

ALPENA 1973 - by Bessie Rogers

Well, here we go again on a field trip to Alpena, Michigan.

Red was not sure he would be able to go as he was supposed to work. But he asked and they let him have Saturday off. So we went. We left home around six and stopped to eat supper up around Merrill. Left there and found out we had no trailer lights, so we went back to the restaurant and a man there helped Red find the trouble. We had checked the lights before we left home and all were O. Then on our way, by then it was getting dark. Red drove all the way and it was around twelve when we got to the Alpena Fairgrounds. Most of the people were in bed already. There were other people in the camp who had come for some bowling. Red found a spot he could pull right into and we went to bed.

We were up early and had breakfast. Then Father looked for a spot to park the trailer over by some of our people. Then we got ready to start on the trip.

By then Cal Loomis was there and the cars started to line up. At 8:30 we started out and went to a new quarry at Stoneport that has never let rockhounds in before.

There were 31 cars in the line so you can guess how good Red felt. It was four years ago on Easter that we went up to Oscoda and Cal came down there and they set up this for once a year.

While at this quarry I found a good sized Stromatoporoid. We also found an outcrop of Bell shale and a lot of Brachiopods, horn corals, Bryozoans, and Crinoid stems.

We left there around noon and went to Rockport Road to look for Favosites. The water was high but some very good material was found. Then we went over on the hill to look for fossils.

Then it was back to camp to get cleaned up, and then over to Bud Nicholls' motel room for a get-together. Lee Kirby was also there. We sat around and talked and met some new people. Then we went back to camp and led some of our folks down to the Senior Citizens' place for a meeting.

Nine different clubs were represented at the meeting. Bud Nicholls, our State Director, showed slides of the large new mine to be operated in the Upper Peninsula. It makes you wonder what it will look like 50 years from now. Coffee and cake were served before we went back to camp. When we got there I made some coffee and served some cake to a few people from the club.

It was up Sunday morning and out to Rockport Road again. We went further into the quarry to hunt fossils. We were out before noon to go to the Senior Citizens' place for dinner. And, By! Was it good! Those who did not go don't know what they missed. That goes for the meeting, too.

After the dinner we went over to the Museum for a while and then to camp to hook up the trailer and start home. We stopped in Oscoda at Lafferty's for a while and then on home safe, tired, but happy. Those who don't go on a trip like this don't know what they are missing.