

## FROM YOUR PRESIDENT

On May 29, 1957, Central Michigan Lapidary and Mineral Society was organized with twenty three charter members. It has been a tradition to celebrate this founding at our May meeting, this year being no exception. Wesley Manley has a very interesting program arranged with guest speakers Rod Cranson and Jack Arent, and of course a birthday celebration is not complete without a birthday cake, so refreshments will be served.

I want to extend a special invitation to all past presidents and officers, and all of you long standing members as well as all of the new members, come help us celebrate. Let us all make a special effort to extend the hand of friendship to all present.

Eva Whipple

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## PROGRAM -- Wes Manley

Our speakers for the May 20 meeting will be Rod Cranson of the Lansing Community College Earth Science Department staff and Jack Arent, a student in that department. They will describe the LCC geology field trip into Mexico during the Christmas vacation this past winter. Their talk will be illustrated with slides. A most interesting evening is in prospect.

Winners of the Youth Talent CML&MS Award will be presented with their awards at this meeting.

Since this is our anniversary celebration we are making an urgent plea to all Life Members whom we have not seen or heard from recently, that you make a special effort to attend this meeting. If you can't possibly come, write to Roster Secretary Sally Barber, 3215 Karen, Lansing, MI 48910, and let us know how things are going with you. We want to keep in touch.

New life members will be honored.

## APRIL MEETING

The "Rockhounding Trails" program of April 15 was thoroughly enjoyed by members and visitors alike. Members "Mac" McMahon and Hazel Morgan showed beautiful slides to picture the Southwest and the Northwest sections of the U.S.A. They delighted the audience with their comments on collecting and touring generally in those parts. Ninety nine per cent of their listeners promptly went home and got out their maps to trace out their own prospective routes this summer.

Sorry, Al Fox, that illness kept you from taking part. We'll look forward to hearing from you at another time.

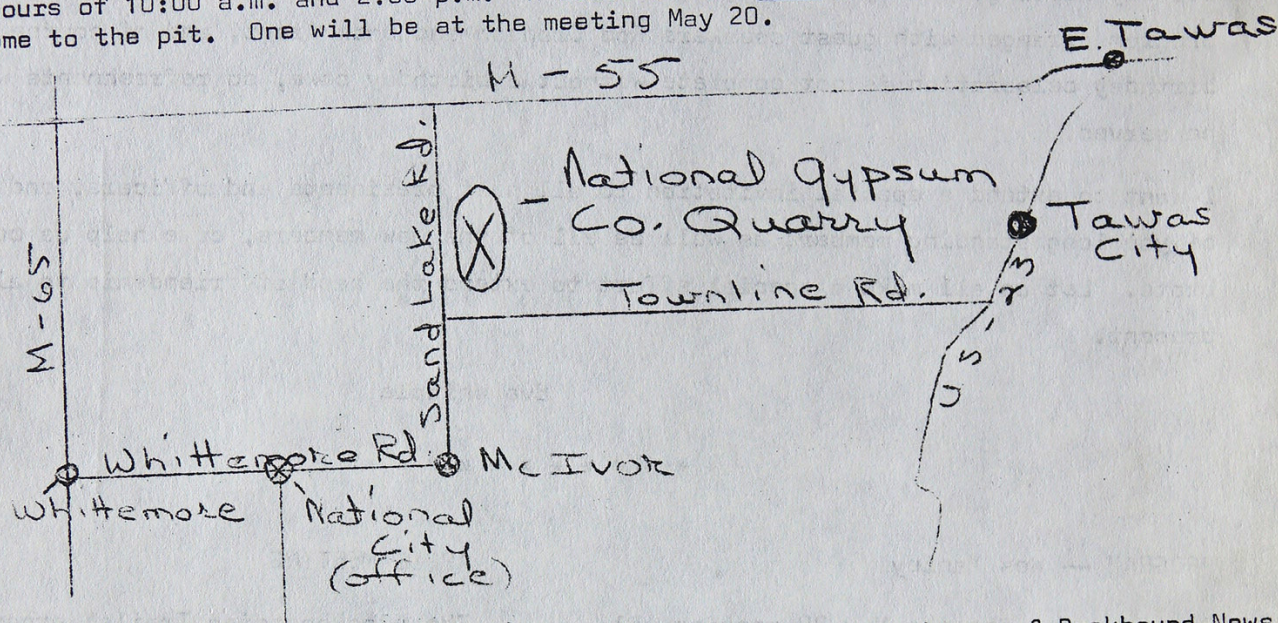
Visitors at the meeting were: George Olds and George Olds, Jr., Harold and Janis Munger, Vicki Allen, and Archy, Ken and Charles Ammerman.

To Our Good Cooks!! Ruth Hillis says--  
Please bring a cake to our anniversary party May 20!

## FIELD TRIPS (And HOW!) -- Sharon Davis

May 21 -- To the Gold Bond Building Products, Division of National Gypsum Company, National City Plant.

We may collect carving alabaster and look for selenite roses in the overburden between the hours of 10:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m. A release form must be signed by all who plan to come to the pit. One will be at the meeting May 20.



May 22 and 23. Alpena All-Michigan Field Trip. See the April issue of Rockhound News for details about this annual fun weekend.

May 29, 30, 31 Field Trip to Flint Ridge, Ohio. There are two places where collecting is possible. One collecting place offers the flint at a flat rate of 5¢ a pound. The same place has camping available for \$2.75 a night with electric hookup (limited number) available for 25¢. Toilets, showers, and drinking water are available. The other collecting area charges \$2.00 a day to collect and 25¢ a pound for all over 20 lbs. There is no camping available at this location. There will be a swap held in the evenings. Rockhounds will be coming from as far as Pennsylvania and West Virginia. Saturday evening there will be a potluck supper.

Take Highway 75 south of Toledo to Findlay. In Findlay take 15 East, which becomes 23 to Delaware. Take 37 E. to Newark, 16 E. several miles and you will see a sign for Flint Ridge on 668 to the museum. The campground is  $\frac{1}{2}$  mile east of the museum on 312. The museum is at the corner of 668 and 312.

### Happy Hunting!

May 29. For those staying in Lansing, there will be a field trip to Grand Ledge Clay Products Company in Grand Ledge. We will all meet at the home of Walter and Irene Brett on Grand Ledge Highway at 12:00 and go to the pit from there. The trip will be cancelled if it rains because the clay will be slippery. Plan to walk one half to three quarters of a mile from where the cars are parked. Bring a lunch, if you do not eat before you come. Plant fossils can be found, and possibly iron concretions.

Please don't fool Mother Nature, so we can have good weather for hunting.

## MORE ABOUT FIELD TRIPS!

June 5. There will be a trip to Jeffrey Limestone Quarry in Parma, Michigan. Take 127 to Jackson and 94 west to the Parma Road exit. Turn right and take the first road to the right (County Farm Road). The Quarry is on the right about a mile from the turnoff.

Sorry about that April field trip to Bellevue. Did anyone take their boots and go? We'll try that one again. It was much dryer and very interesting in the Meridian Mall that day.

## SAFETY -- Errol Alvey

For those of us who are sleeping-bag campers, this warning is given as you get your gear ready for this year's outings. If you have had your sleeping bag cleaned, be sure to give it a good airing before you use it again. The Good Outdoors Manners Association reports that a 16 year old boy died after sleeping in a bag that had been cleaned with per chlorethylene (a common dry cleaning fluid) in a coin-operated unit.

Also, several cases of severe chemical burns and rashes have been reported due to use of home-applied waterproofing compounds.

## EXXON RENTS GRAND CANYON

On Sept. 10 the federal government quietly granted the Exxon Corp. three leases which permit Exxon to begin searching for possible uranium mine sites in the Grand Canyon. The sites lie within an area recommended for permanent inclusion in the National Park. No reason was given for the fact that the leases were granted despite the fact that a year ago the National Park Service rejected one of the uranium sites as unacceptable.

THE LANSING STAR  
submitted by E. Coleridge  
from The Conglomerate

## LIBRARY -- Preston Whipple

Let's get in there and take advantage of all the material in the library. I have noted we have quite a few new members and want to take this opportunity to emphasize that the library is there for them to enjoy and membership in the society entitles them to borrow books and other material, and of course, the more books borrowed at the meetings, the less I have to take home.

## New Material:

We have acquired three volumes of "Systems of Mineralogy" by Dana. Reference books of facts and figures collected and assembled from widely dispersed sources, all of the formulas, tables, data, test and processes which are most useful to the rockhound, practical mineral or gemstone collector, professional jeweler, student, or mineralogist. Volume I covers Mineralogy of Sulfides and Sulfosalts. Volume III covers Silica Minerals. These are the most highly recognized Mineral Data books and a very good addition to our library.

"Make Your Own Jewelry", a book purchased in memory of Jack Smith. No doubt one of the most complete books on jewelry making available. All techniques are shown step by step, which allows the reader to follow along and create the project in the book. Profusely illustrated with photos and drawings.

## CLOSING COLLECTING AREAS TO ROCKHOUNDS

Collecting areas are being closed daily. Why? To permit oil drilling, geothermal drilling, to increase wilderness areas and many other good reasons.

What can you do?

Write your Congressman!

Write your State Representative!

Circulate a petition!

Bureau of Land Management invites your comments. Let them know!

May 1976

SHOW - Walt Davis

Now that it is almost vacation time, it is a good opportunity to clear out some of the rocks which have been stacking up. We sure could use them on the children's table. Last year we sold almost everything which came from out of state. The children especially like specimens which are colorful.

The first of the new display cases will be at the club meeting. We have altered the size a little to prevent having to cut all of the glass fronts. If you are interested in a case of this type, there will be a sign up sheet by the case.

We are going to try to build pony cases later this summer, so if you are interested in one don't give up hope. There will be a list for them also.

#### BLIND SCHOOL ROCK and MINERAL DISPLAY

On the 27th of May, our club has been asked to put on a special display at the Michigan State School for the Blind. The display is to last from 10:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. We will be able to begin set up at 8:00 a.m. The theme of the displays will be "America Our Yesteryears" There will be other displays in addition to our clubs area. We are going to need some workers as well as some materials.

This is an excellent opportunity for our club to show something of our fascinating hobby to others who may have never had the opportunity to experience before.

If you have any materials for use, please don't hesitate to give me a call. If you can work either part of all of the day, also give me a call.

Walt Davis  
393-3020

The fellow who thinks he knows it all is especially annoying to those of us who really do!

The following applicants for membership were approved by the Board.

Charles Collins L-Min  
23985 E. LeBosh  
Novi, Michigan 48050  
313-476-2596

George M. Olds Min-6  
3401 Glasgow Dr.  
Lansing, Michigan 48910  
882-4255

#### Youth Talent Award Winners

Kenneth Ammormann  
276 E. Elm  
Mason, Michigan 48854

Timothy Rose  
Listed in Directory

#### Youth Talent Honorable Mention

Kris Wheeler  
415 S. Rogers  
Mason, Michigan 48854  
676-4734

Carl Donakowski  
4573 Keweenaw Dr.  
Okemos, Michigan 48864  
349-2005

#### Membership Renewal

Mrs. Ronald Hodgson (Sue)  
1611 Colusa Ave.  
Davis, California 95616

#### Change of telephone number

Stoney's Rock Shop  
Freemen and Luella Stone  
7501 S. Williams Rd. R#5  
St. Johns, Michigan 48879  
669-5406

Make these changes and additions to your directory.

# FINE ARTS FESTIVAL

The three day stand by the CML&MS at the Bi-Centennial Fine Arts Festival, April 23, 24 and 25, at the Meridian Mall proved highly successful and created a lot of interest among mall visitors. And the success of the display was due to the hard work of a number of members who gave of their time and talent.

Members who exhibited cases at the show included:

Preston and Eva Whipple  
Read Myers  
Slim and Sally Barber  
Mac and Mary McMahon  
Walter and Sharon Davis  
John and Wilma Hopkins  
Cyndy Fast  
Lola Pearson  
Florence Hill  
Nancy Smith  
Ken and Thea Mae Kurtz  
George and Glee Wescott  
Dana Whipple

Demonstrators were:

Silversmithing - Mac McMahon  
Micromounts - Walt and Sharon Davis  
Cabachons - Slim Barber  
Carving - John Hopkins  
Carving - Ken Kurtz

In addition to the above, those who also helped were:

Debbie and Deana Schmidt  
Wes Manley  
Milton and Leila Peterson  
Gilbert Millard  
Richard Nichols  
Errol and Sue Alvey  
Larry and Lorna Tripp  
Milt Adams  
Jeff Gardiner  
Larry Lyman

Many thanks to all of these people  
Bill Gardiner  
Education Chairman

## MEMORIAL

We have acquired a specimen in memory of Orla Bailey.

Our choice was blue celestite from Maybee, Michigan. The name comes from the Latin word, celestis, meaning, "of the sky" referring to it's blue color. Although it can be colorless, also reddish, greenish or brownish, but it's streak is white. It has a vitreous luster. The formula is  $\text{SrSO}_4$ , which is strontium sulfate. Barium substitutes extensively for strontium and a complete series extends from barite to celestite.

The crystal system is Orthorhombic and they are usually thin to thick tabular shape. It is very brittle.

We are very fortunate to obtain this nice specimen as it is hard to find good ones anymore.

Sally Barber  
Nancy Smith  
Memorial Committee

May is the month for tree frogs, spring peepers, dandelions, dogwood and lilacs. It is time for thunder and lightening storms, young lovers and the sound of a rockhound's hammer at work.

## MICHIGAN WEEK OBSERVANCE

May 15 - 22 1976

Which is a reminder, if you haven't already done so, to write to the

Michigan Senate Committee on State Affairs  
Capitol Building  
Lansing, Michigan 48902

and let them know how you feel about selecting copper as our state mineral.

## MARK YOUR CALENDAR

May 20...Regular Meeting, 7:30 p.m., Everett H. S. Cafeteria, Lansing  
May 21...Field Trip to National City Gypsum Quarry 10a.m. - 2p.m.  
May 22...Alpena Field Trip, All Michigan  
May 22...MGAGS Annual Meeting Banquet, Ramada Inn, Midland Mi,  
May 27...Board Meeting, Nancy Smith, 3435 Dietz Rd., Williamston, 7:30 p.m.(note change)  
May 29...Field Trip, Grand Ledge, Meet at 12 noon at Bretts, Grand Ledge Hwy  
May 29-31...Field Trip to Flint Ridge, Ohio  
June 5... Field Trip, Parma Mi, Jeffrey Limestone Quarry  
June 10...Regular Meeting, 7:30 p.m., Everett H.S. Cafeteria, Lansing, (Note date change)

## SHOWS and SWAPS

May 15-16..Midwest Min.& Lap. Soc., Dearborn Youth Center, Dearborn, Mi.  
May 15-16..Fairview Park Lapidary Soc. Show, Fairgrounds, Berea, Ohio  
June 5-6...State Line Gem & Min. Soc. Swap, Fulton Co. Fairgrounds, Wauseon, Ohio  
June 12-13..West Central Ohio Rock Club Show, Allen Fairgrounds, Lima, Ohio  
June 17-20..AFMS and SCF Convention and Show, Austin, Texas  
July 9-11..Stonehead Lap.& Min. Club, Mineral River Plaza, White Pine, Mi.  
July 11....Lapeer Co. Gem & Min. Soc. Swap, Crampton Park, Lapeer, Mi.  
July 22-25..Midwest Federation Convention and Show, West Co. Exposition Center, St.Louis  
Aug. 6-8...Ishpeming Club Show, Lakeview Arena, Marquette, Mi.  
Aug. 6-8...Swap, Bedford, Indiana, 4-H Fairgrounds

## ROCKHOUND NEWS

Central Michigan Lapidary & Mineral Society  
14933 Brown Rd.  
Lansing, Michigan 48906

## TIME VALUE



J. Alan Holman now has a big clean-up job ahead

Staff Photo by GINGER SHARP

## Ancient beasts uncovered

Scratch and dig around the surface of Michigan's Lower Peninsula and what do you get?

Bony fingers, that's what — of the mammoth and mastadon variety.

Those were the yield of summer diggings for a Williamston man and a Lansing man.

**CLOICE MEAD**, 2200 Howell Road, Williamston, who sells fishing bait, was digging a minnow pond in May when he found the bones of a mammoth.

And this Tuesday, while bulldozing a water pond for his cows on his Fowlerville farm, Charles Adams of 1303 Puloski, Lansing, has barely scratched the surface when he discovered the mastadon bones with grass growing from them.

Both men have donated the bones to Michigan State University's museum, where the cleaning, arranging and examining is under way.

**J. ALAN** Holman of the MSU Museum, who wrote "Michigan's Fossil Vertebrates" in 1975, tells about the

early animals in his booklet.

"Although the American mastadon was a formidable animal, it is thought it had its own specialized enemies. Some scientists believe the sabre-toothed cats might have been the greatest killers of the mastadons . . . I have a strong suspicion that rather than being an intelligent animal like the modern animal, the American mastadon might have been a rather slow-witted animal.

"In Michigan, many mastadons apparently died after having blundered out onto the surface of quaking bogs covered by a thin layer of vegetation . . . became too tired to swim, and finally slipped down into the muck to become preserved as fossils."

**HOLMAN, WHO** will take two graduate students with him to explore the sites, guesses the mastadon might have only been a few thousand years old, being so close to the surface. But a carbon test will be run to get a closer fix on age.

As for Mead's find, the mammoth bones — only the Jefferson Mammoth

has been recorded from Michigan. Holman's booklet said the teeth of mammoths are the most reliable fossils for identification, with the tooth being about eight or nine inches long.

However, the tooth in the newest bone collection from near Williamston is 13 inches long and weighs 25 pounds. A tiny fragment of the tusk measures six inches in diameter and weighs 35 pounds.

**FIRST GUESS** at age is about eight to nine thousand years old, but Ron Kapp of Alma College will give the bones a Pollan Spectrum test to judge the age.

The bones of the mammoth, which was a grass-eater that live in open areas, are the first found in Ingham County.

Holman's "fellow explorers" at the Fowlerville site will be Michael Benton of Aberdeen, Scotland, and James Harding, an instructor at Lansing Community College.

Dr. Holman said the bones are very fragile and must be cleaned and pieced together carefully. That will take a while.

# Return of the Legendary Ontanagon Boulder

BY LOUIS COOK  
Free Press Editorial Writer

THE LEGENDARY Ontanagon Boulder is finally coming back to Michigan for a brief showing, although the sponsors of the affair are a little nervous lest zealous residents of the Upper Peninsula try to kidnap it, as they have been thinking about since 1843.



Cook

Stories about the boulder filtered out of the timber more than a century-and-a-half ago, a mysterious copper nugget believed by the Indians to possess miraculous powers. The Schoolcraft expedition of 1820 looked for it as proof of the presence of copper in the Upper Peninsula, and, sure enough, there it was in the Porcupine Mountains country.

At that time it probably weighed around three tons, 99-percent pure copper scooped up by a glacier from the bed of Lake Superior. How the massive object was ever brought to Detroit is not known, but it must have been quite a task.

Souvenir-hunters have since reduced the boulder to 3,338 pounds, according to Mildred Hurt, the education director for the Michigan Mineralogical Society. The society is bringing it back from Washington, D.C., for the Greater Detroit Gem and Mineral Show Oct. 15 at the Light Guard Armory.

It was brought to Detroit early in 1843 and was displayed to much oohing and aahing at the old Exhibition Hall that once stood in downtown Detroit, near the site of the old Pontchartrain Hotel.

After a month, however, the government became interested in it to prove that there was



*Ontanagon Boulder: 3,338 pounds of near-pure copper*

copper in Michigan, and bought it for \$5,664.98. The U.S. Navy cutter Erie was dispatched here to take it to Washington.

Once having looked at it, the feds didn't know what to do with it. It lay in a War Department yard until 1855, was adopted by the U.S. Patent Office for a time, and then wound up in a basement storage room until 1971.

Then it was mounted in a Smithsonian Institution collection of minerals and fossils, where it has been a popular attraction, finally.

The boulder is a constant aggravation for State

Rep. Dominic Jacobetti, D-Negaunee, who feels that the rightful place for the historic hunk of copper is the UP, and has been agitating for its return in recent years.

Ms. Hurt, however, feels it is probably attracting more attention at the Smithsonian than it would in Michigan, treasonous as the idea may appear to Rep. Jacobetti.

Anyhow, the government bought the thing and owns it, and if anybody tries to hijack it, Mrs. Hurt will resist fiercely. Once the society signs it out, it's got to go back.

By DONALD SANDERS

WASHINGTON (AP) — What experts describe as one of the century's largest and most flawless cut diamonds is on display at the Smithsonian Institution prior to its delivery to a private buyer.

The diamond is a tear-drop shape of startling brilliance without a trace of color to the naked eye. In one more salute to the Bicentennial, it has been named "The Star of Independence."

RONALD WINSTON, son of New York diamond dealer Harry Winston, said Wednesday he chose the name for two reasons:

"It was born — that is, the cutting was completed — just short of July 4th, and it turned out to be just short of 76 carats. It would have been nice if it had been 76 exactly, but it didn't come out that way."

The stone weighs 75.52 carats. By comparison, the famed Hope Diamond, which Winston donated to the Smithsonian, weighs about 45.5 carats.

THE STAR has been mounted as a pendant on a necklace of 75 similarly-shaped diamonds whose aggregate weight is between 80 and 90 carats.

Both the identity of the buyer and the price remain secrets.

Ronald Winston said it is worth from \$3 million

## Big gem shown in Capital