

September

PROGRAM

The September meeting will be our annual Braggin' session. All you good folk who came back from summer trips with finds to swell your collection, bring some of your treasures for display and some of your stories to tell. We know you have both.

Bill Rogers' report on the progress of Show plans will be a featured part of the meeting. You will want that information firsthand.

IDENTIFICATION - GYPSUM

Large sedimentary beds of the mineral gypsum are found in many sections of the country where it was precipitated out of evaporating seas.

In composition, gypsum is a hydrous calcium sulfate. Being only Number 2 on Mohs Scale, it is soft enough to be scratched with a fingernail. Gypsum is normally colorless or white, but may be tinted other colors by impurities such as iron. Its luster is glassy or silky. It can be distinguished from calcite because it does not effervesce in cold hydrochloric acid. However, it will dissolve in hot acid. The three most common forms of gypsum are alabaster, selenite, and satin spar.

Alabaster is compact, massive, and fine-grained. It is usually white or pink in color. There are large beds of it in Michigan and also in New York, Texas, Iowa, and California.

Selenite occurs as transparent, colorless, tabular crystals and is usually found in caves or limestone cavities. Some crystals grow to several feet in length, and are twinned or curved. Ohio, Maryland, Utah, and Texas are some of the U.S. localities. A cave in Utah has probably provided the largest ones. Very beautiful crystals come from the sulfur beds in Sicily.

Satin spar is fibrous and silky in appearance and generally occurs in veins. Nevada is one of the principal regions for its occurrence.

Gypsum has been known and used by man for many centuries. The Greeks gave it its name which means "burned" mineral. When it is heated and the water removed, it can be ground into a white powder known as plaster of Paris. Gypsum is a commercially important mineral today, being mined for use in agriculture and in making construction materials such as plaster and plasterboard. Alabaster is also used for carving statuary, lamp bases, and other decorative items.

Frank and Eleanor Owens



Work
food
a
fun
at
the
Pearsons



getting ready for the silent auction.

ALL AMERICAN MERIT AWARDS ANNOUNCED BY AFMS

The Central Michigan Lapidary and Mineral Society was awarded an Honorable Certificate at the AFMS Convention in Anaheim. Other Michigan clubs winning this certificate were Michigan Gem & Mineral Society of Jackson, the Flint Rock and Gem Club, State Line Gem and Mineral Society of Tecumseh, Kalamazoo Geological & Mineralogical Society, and The Roarin' Club of Livonia. The Midwest Mineralogical & Lapidary Society of Dearborn won a Trophy and Outstanding Award.



Certificate of Participation

RECOGNITION IS EXTENDED TO

Central Michigan Lapidary & Mineral Society

FOR PARTICIPATION IN

All American Federation Club Award

Honorable Mention—1972

Donald D. Par
Federation President
Alvin K. Peterson
Committee Member

J. D. Immel
A.F.M.S. President
Mignon Wagner
A.F.M.S. Education Chairman