

FROM THE PRESIDENT

The first thing I want to bring to your attention is the date of our next meeting. It has been set a week ahead to October 14, as I am sure all of you will be busy the regular week of our meeting with preparations for our Show October 22, 23 and 24. Keep these dates open.

Walt Davis can use more help -- do not hesitate to call him or any of the other committee chairmen volunteering your help. I hope all of the recently admitted new members will take this opportunity to get more acquainted with activities and members by taking an active part in our Show. Also, how about those displays? Are they ready? Are you signed up to exhibit? If not, contact Lola Pearson or Nancy Smith. You Junior members, I am hoping to see an exhibit from every one of you. If you don't feel you can do it alone, ask for help or join with another Junior member for a display. Let us all give Florence Hill a hand with those flyers. There is still time to distribute them in the places where they will be noticed-- discount stores, bulletin boards, motels, offices, etc. Florence will have some at the meeting for you to pick up. This is our opportunity to present to the public the joys and wonders of our hobby -- collecting, preserving and exhibiting nature's wonders in rocks, minerals and fossils.

Hope to see all of you enjoying yourself at the Show!

Eva Whipple

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PROGRAM -- Wes Manley

The program for October 14 will be given by John Ansted and Jon Reed, our scholarship winners at MSU. Their topic will be "Geologists' Wanderings in northern Michigan and Wisconsin." They will show slides of their field studies.

The Show and Tell meeting of September 16 brought out the unusual tall tales of summer, embellished with "Brought 'em Back Alive" displays. Wayne Henderson, Bonna and Carol Roberts,

Scott Cornelius, "Mac" McMahon, Walter and Irene Brett, and Florence Hill displayed some of the tangible results of the MWF Geology Tour in the Keweenaw and around Lake Superior this past summer. Dave Gibbs showed an impressive collection of chlorastrolite and prehnite from his camping trip to Isle Royale. Alberta Manina spoke for the Manina-Powers family on their search for sapphires and rubies in North Carolina. Henry Worrall told of the collecting in the Southwest which he and his wife enjoyed this year, with the Quartzite Pow-wow a highlight

of their winter. Ken Kurtz described the trip he and Thea Mae took to Montana and North Dakota, collecting as they went. Harold Martin's family spent some time collecting in the Traverse area, and are digging up some very exciting rocks as they excavate around their new home. (They live near Ionia, in the interlobate moraine left by the glaciers, so they might find anything!) Martin Sotala had remarkable success in his summer hunt for copper and mohawkite in the Keweenaw. Irwin Turner showed a beautifully formed Petoskey stone from Antrim County. Walt Davis reported on their trips to the Tri-State area and to Corydon, Indiana. And Read Myers puzzled everyone with an unidentified specimen obtained at the Muskegon Swap.

Present to hear this "bragging" were visitors:

Ronald E. Powers
Eugene and Lenabelle Tenkey
Gladys Benson
Gordon and Marie Lewis
Ernest J. Oliver
Ottie Call
Mr. and Mrs. Karl Gilson
Mr. and Mrs. Al McCort

* * *

FIELD TRIPS - Sharon Davis

The September field trip to the Wallace Stone Plant at Bayport was attended by twelve members of our club. The weather was very pleasant for camping and collecting -- cool, clear and sunny. Members collected fossils, brown calcite, some with clear to white secondary calcite and some with selenite. The crystals were not in the abundance expected but everyone enjoyed the outing and the children's table benefited quite nicely. Several members found the much-sought millerite. It is found in tiny quartz-lined pockets 1/8" to 2 1/2" in diameter. The largest specimen was found by Lola Pearson. After leaving the quarry everyone stopped at the roadside picnic table

on M25 to enjoy melons and each other's company. The field trip was one of the last of the year. However, the October one is the biggest of the year.

The October field trip will be the eleventh annual Gem and Mineral Show at the Michigan National Guard Armory, 2500 S. Washington Avenue, Lansing, Mich. It is held on the 22nd, 23rd, and 24th of October. We hope that everyone will participate and enjoy all the displays and special displays. A lot of work goes into them. Please come.

* * *

MEMBERSHIP - Ruth Hillis

Applications for membership were approved by the Board for these people:

- 911 Oliver, Ernest J.
5010 Ora St.
Lansing, Mi 48910
882-3830
- 912 Call, Ottie
607 N. Tabernacle Circle
Eaton Rapids, Mi 48827
663-4908
- 913 McCort, Albert W.
- 914 " Patricia A.
2424 Leon Ave.
Mi 48906
484-8132
- 915 Powers, Ronald E.
425 Ryder Road
Lansing, Mi 48917
627-3806

Will these people and any other new members who have not received their rock bags and directories please identify themselves at the Welcome table as they come in to the next meeting? Thanks.

Corrections for your directories:

Janet McNease, 1521 W. Ottawa, Lansing.
John Anster, 731 Burcham, Apt. 104, E. L.
Jon Reed, 1523 H, Spartan Village, E. L.

SAFETY - Errol Alvey

Lapidary and Mineral Poisons

Why must we always wash up after doing any lapidary work? It may seem to those of us who snack or smoke while working that there could be little harm in a little rock dust.

But many substances we use can be hazardous. For example, emerald, aquamarine, and other varieties of beryl, plus chrysoberyl, all contain beryllium. The Federal maximum exposure guideline for this material is set at less than one-millionth of an ounce of airborne material per cubic foot of air in a work area.

Many other minerals, such as asbestos and those containing mercury (cinnabar), arsenic (realgar, orpiment), selenium, copper (chalcocite), uranium (uraninite, autunite, pitchblende, carnotite), and boron, are hazardous if you get dust or mineral fragments from them into your mouth and lungs.

Also, many polishing compounds contain oxalic acid, the same poison found in rhubarb leaves.

Finally, the dust from dry polishing quartz or any silicate can cause silicosis if one incautiously inhales enough.

But, if we keep our work areas clean and free of dust, we'll enjoy our hobby in good health.

* * *

CORRESPONDING SECRETARY - Eleanor Owens

Mrs. Janet McNease, William Lay and Tony Slusser have all spent time in the hospital recently and are now recovering at home. Wayne Henderson is still at Ford Hospital, Detroit, following surgery. All of these will appreciate hearing from you club members.

We extend sympathy to Jim and Bettie Patterson in the death of his brother.

Please keep me informed of illnesses or happy events. Or call Sally Barber.

LIBRARY - Preston Whipple

We have one new book to present this month and I am sure it is one everyone will enjoy reading. And if not reading, looking at the outstanding pictures of minerals.

Minerals, Nature's Fabulous Jewels,
by Arthur Court and Ian Campbell

It is a general introduction to minerals, dealing with such topics as man's use of minerals, and properties of various types. This section is followed by a splendid "gallery of minerals" -- a selection of more than one hundred minerals, superbly illustrated and discussed in detailed commentaries. Specific descriptive data are given, as well as information about where each mineral is found, the conditions under which it was formed, its use in industry and its value to the lapidarist and collector. Supplementary technical and scientific information is provided by diagrams and drawings, an appendix of the chemical elements, and a selected bibliography.

About the authors: Arthur Court is a noted West Coast dealer, decorator and designer, and one of the prime forces in the current renewal of interest in natural objects. Ian Campbell is Professor Emeritus of Geology at the California Academy of Science, and author of numerous publications. The magnificent photographs, which fully capture the exquisite beauty of each mineral and clearly reveal its special characteristics, are by M. Halberstadt. This book may be ordered through your library at a substantial saving.

* * *

EDUCATION - William Gardiner

If you are interested in silver-smithing, call "Mac" McMahon; if in crystal study, call Read Myers.

Be thinking what study groups you would like to have organized this year, and we will work on setting them up.

A WEEK IN THE KEWEENAW COPPER COUNTRY ON THE 1976 MWF GEOLOGY TOUR

- Irene Brett

The first week of the Midwest Geology Tour began on beautiful Keweenaw Peninsula. We arrived in Copper Harbor about six o'clock on Sunday afternoon, August 25, registered at Fort Wilkins State Park, and set up our trailer in the west section of the park where our entire party was located.

We took our chairs and hurried to our first evening meeting with Don Clark. These evening meetings were tremendously interesting, as Don told us the history of the mines we were to see the next day, and they always closed with a lively question and answer session.

We met each morning at the loop just east of the park. Florence checked each car and her list of people until everyone was accounted for. We went in caravan the first day as the territory was not familiar to many of us.

We spent our first day at the Copper Falls Mine. Digging in the rock piles, Walter found a piece of copper shaped like a weird looking animal. Around the ruins of old buildings we found a few artifacts -- square nails, old tools, etc. -- ghostly reminders of a mining community that once had been a thriving business. Men from faraway places had come here with their families to make a living in this new country across the sea.

Where the old stamp mill had stood was a huge pile of stamp sand covering several acres. The mining company had built a dam to form a reservoir that supplied the water needed in their operation. Mine cars were loaded with ore at the upper shafts in the mine near the dam. As the loaded cars ran down the tunnel, empty cars were pulled up by the energy generated by the moving cars. A heavy rain caused the dam to break. The force of the rushing water pushed the loaded cars down the track, out the adit, and headlong into the stamp mill, destroying it completely. Much of this little community was destroyed.

We left this area about 11:30 to go to the pretty little Copper Falls Park, where we ate lunch.

After lunch we went to the upper shafts of the Copper Falls Mine to look for crystals. Some of the crystals found were analcite, adularia, natrolite and prehnite. We left there in mid-afternoon and started back to Fort Wilkins.

It had been a warm sunny afternoon, so we stopped for ice cream cones in Eagle Harbor. Then, seeing a garage sale sign we decided to see what was offered for sale. We found some interesting antiques at not-so-interesting prices.

The old Eagle Harbor cemetery was down the road a little way. We opened the iron gate and went in. Many lots were fenced with iron fence, as was the whole cemetery. Some tombstones were dated long before the Civil War. There were many burials of children, making us realize that times were hard for these pioneer people.

The next day we went to the Cliff Mine. This was one of the largest mines, so there was quite an area to walk over. Here we were looking mainly for copper. Sheet copper and sheet silver were once found here. We could hear the metal detectors singing

all around. Chisel chips were the lucky finds. The Cliff Mine once employed four hundred people, and quite a village was built there. We enjoyed roaming around the old brick foundations, and the partially filled adit, trying to visualize what it was like a century or more ago. We were warned not to try to drive to the upper level of the mine unless we had 4-wheel drive. One adventurous individual tried it and got stuck, making his day's trip a bit expensive.

Wednesday dawned with some clouds in the sky, so we took our rain wear along. Each car started out as soon as they were checked out. We were last in line, and much to our surprise and delight, a black bear crossed the road a short distance in front of us.

Our first stop was on the gravel road between the Delaware Mine and Eagle Harbor. We walked up a small hill and dug thomsonites until around eleven o'clock. Then we went on to the Delaware Mine to look for chlorastrolite. We ate our lunch before starting to hunt. Soon after lunch it began to rain quite hard, so back to the cars we scurried and started for the Mandan Mine to look for prehnite crystals. One woman found a beautiful cluster on an otherwise plain looking rock. She asked her husband to break the rock so she could take just the cluster. It came apart in at least three pieces. The entire rock proved to be a vug of beautiful prehnite crystals.

We left Mandan to go to a bog where we could see pitcher plants. After driving as far as we could, we walked a trail a quarter of a mile or so, then up a steep bank and over a ridge into the more open swampy area. This was part of an old lake which had become a bog. The leaves of the pitcher plants are curved, so they form the shape of a pitcher which catches rain water. Flies are attracted to them, and crawl down into the pitcher, but they can't get out. They are digested and absorbed by the plant. The flower grows separate and stands tall by the pitcher.

In our group we had several people who knew the birds, trees and flowers. They shared their knowledge with us, adding much to the pleasure of our trip. I remember one of the flowers which was new to me, the princess pine, a very dainty beautiful flower.

Trips to Manganese Lake and the Clark Mine concluded our tour. A whole village once stood on the shores of Manganese Lake, complete with mill and flowered borders, but nothing is there now. We broke up big, beautiful pieces of white calcite veined with black manganese at Manganese Creek. At the Clark Mine, the artist in the group painted a lovely water color picture of the old smokestack and powder house. Datolite had been found there. I found a few tiny nodules which showed how they were formed.

Our week in Keweenaw closed with a weiner roast. Other dishes were brought potluck. I overheard one man say, "I love potlucks. Every woman tries to outdo the others in showing her culinary skills!"

The people in the Tour felt most fortunate to have Don Clarke, with all his knowledge of the Copper Country, as a guide and lecturer. Central Michigan Lapidary and Mineral Society is very proud to claim him as a member.

(The second week of the Midwest Tour was the Circle Route around Lake Superior with Wayne Henderson, MWF Geology Chairman, as leader. You may expect to read about that next month.)

DISPLAY - Nancy Smith

CML&MS will put on a display at LCC October 16 for the Michigan Earth Science Teachers' Association.

All members are urged to have a display ready for our Show October 21.

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NOMINATING COMMITTEE - President Eva Whipple has appointed a nominating committee consisting of I.J. Brett, Nancy Smith and Ken Kurtz. If this committee ask permission to place your name on the slate for a club office, please say yes. The duties are not onerous, the rewards are great (though not financially so). And our club needs good officers always.

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New Government publications of interest to rockhounds are:

Lithium - Nature's Lightest Metal, free upon request from the U.S. Geological Survey's Branch of Distribution, 1200 South Eads Street, Arlington, Va. 22202.

Mining and Mineral Operations in the Pacific States: A Visitor Guide, can be purchased for \$2.15 a copy from the Superintendent of Documents, Government Printing Office, Washington, D.C. 20402. (GPO Stock Number 024-004-01872-1)

Thanks to our good friends in the Liaison office of the U.S. Bureau of Mines for this information. Complete information on the contents of these publications will be available at the next meeting.

From the same source comes this news.

"A 'Rockhound's Map of Nevada' has been published for collectors of the state's rocks and minerals. More than 200 mineral localities are pinpointed on the map. In addition, spots where different types of rocks can be found are shown, as are places where one can pan for gold.

Send \$3 to the Nevada Bureau of Mines and Geology, University of Nevada, Reno, NV 89507 for their Special Publication No. 1.

FROM THE AFMS NEWSLETTER, OCTOBER 1976

Slide Program Contest

A second article on the making of a slide program appears this month. Be sure to inquire about it.

Coin jewelry is still a hot fashion. It is perfectly legal to pierce and carve coins, to plate them, embed them in plastic and even hinge them for pill boxes.. ..as long as there is no intent to defraud.

Prehistoric Indian trade routes may soon be accurately traced by the use of atom smashers in analyzing obsidian, thus giving the precise location for the source of each ancient obsidian artifact. A Provo, Utah research team at Brigham Young University explains that no two locations for obsidian anywhere in the world have exactly identical trace element composition. Computers are used to match the readings of an obsidian artifact with all possible locations. Similar research is being carried out in California, Nevada, Ohio, Oregon, and Texas, and all groups are exchanging information.

Kenneth Zahn writes at length in his column on The Washington Scene about some of the pending legislation which will affect rockhounds. Most of this is buried in committees while the election campaigns are running. He points out how the wilderness bills are closing many areas to everyone except backpackers. He urges more thought in maintaining our National Parks, as to purpose and design.

Among the many problems he touches, he says:

"While we are thinking of draining our wetlands, reflect a moment on the problem that in the southern Plains states over 3.8 million acres of land were damaged from wind erosion due to winter and fall droughts last year."

SHOW 1976

Have you signed up to help at the Show? If you haven't, please call either Walt Davis or any of the different committee chairmen below.

Remember, the success of the Show is up to each one of us. We have had excellent shows in the past. With your help we will have another fine one this year.

Walt Davis, Show Chairman

Committee Chairmen to call

Decorations - Larry and Lorna Tripp
Publicity - Florence Hill
School Tours - Wesley Manley
Children's Table - I.J. Brett
Sharon Davis
Swap - Read Myers
Hospitality - Irene Brett
Angie Godfrey
Silent Auction - Dave Martin
Demonstrations - Preston Whipple

HELPERS NEEDED URGENTLY for

Transportation, Thursday morning and Sunday evening. Call Walt.
Decorations, Thursday afternoon, with tools and determination.
School Tours, Friday morning, with tact and a firm smile. Our tours for schools always go well if we have lots of people on hand to keep the youngsters interested and busy.
Educational exhibits. If you can bring a special exhibit for the School Tours Friday morning, call Wes and describe it, telling him what space you will need. These will have to be taken out fast to clear the space for the dealers.

Light Refreshments for Show visitors will be available in the Armory, in charge of the MSU Geology Club.

NO camping will be allowed at the Armory this year, because of the new liability laws. Sorry. The KOA camp is not far away.

Timetable of Show Operations

Oct. 4-20. Set up your display at home, Pack it to bring to the Show.
Oct. 4-24. Keep flyers posted at every market, library, laundromat, bulletin board, and all the places where people gather.
Oct. 11. Drafts of all material to be printed for the Show must be in the hands of Florence Hill.
Oct. 21, morning. Transportation crew will get exact directions later.
Oct. 21, 1:00 p.m. Hall setup and decoration. Bring heavy extension cords, shears, staplers, glass cleaner, paper towels, and anything else you might need.
Oct. 21, 7-10 p.m. Display setup.
Oct. 22, 8:30 a.m. School tour helpers be on hand. Tours, 9-12:30.
Oct. 22, 12:30-5:00 p.m. Dealer setup. They can use some help.
Oct. 22, 5:00 p.m. Show opens to the public. All five o'clock help, be early.
Oct. 23, 10 to 10. Show hours.
Oct. 24, 10 to 6. Show hours.
6:00 p.m. Displays may be removed. All hands on deck for tearing down and general cleanup.
Oct. 24, 12 midnight, R-E-L-A-X.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Oct. 14...Regular Meeting, 7:30 p.m., Everett H.S. Cafeteria, Lansing, Mich. One week early.
Oct. 21...Setup for Show.
Oct. 22, 23, 24...CML&MS 1976 Gem and Mineral Show, "Minerals on the Move," Lansing Armory.
Nov. 4....Board Meeting, 7:30 p.m., at the Gardiners, 4518 Sandstone Dr., Williamston.

OTHER SHOWS AND SWAPS

Oct. 8-9 Mio, Mich., American Legion Hall, Jack Pine Club Show.
Oct. 15-17, Detroit, Mich., Light Guard Armory. Michigan Mineralogical Society Show.
Oct. 16-17, Benton Harbor, Mich., Camp Warren, US 33 at Pier Road. Blossomland Swap.
Oct. 22-24, Lansing, Mich., Armory, 2500 S. Washington, CML&MS Show.
Nov. 6, Grand Rapids, Mich., Gaines Township Hall. Indian Mounds Club Swap.
Nov. 6-7, Bay City, Mich., Bay County Community Center. Tri-County Club Show.
This is their first show. Let's support them wholeheartedly.
Nov. 12-14, Ft. Wayne, Ind., Southtown Mall. Ft. Wayne Lapidary Club Show.
Nov. 13-14, Marion, Ind., 4-H Fairgrounds. Grant Geological Society Show.

ROCKHOUND NEWS
Central Michigan Lapidary & Mineral Society
14933 Brown Road
Lansing, Michigan 48906



TIME VALUE

Ernest J. Fulton
615 West Street
Eaton Rapids, Mi 48827