



CENTRAL MICHIGAN ROCKHOUND NEWS

VOL. 2 February 1958 NO. 2

"AFFILIATED WITH THE MIDWEST FEDERATION"
 MEETING PLACE: EAST LANSING'S NEW HIGH SCHOOL, ROOM A132
 THIRD THURSDAY OF EACH MONTH EXCEPT JULY & AUGUST
 DUES: \$2.00 ANNUALLY. STUDENTS UNDER 18 YRS. OF AGE, \$1.00 ANNUALLY

CO-EDITORS
 LARRY KIRKBY
 JOHN FITCH

OFFICERS

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ANNUAL POT LUCK SUCCESSFUL

The Central Michigan Lapidary and Mineral Society's annual pot luck dinner held January 16, at the Walter French Junior High School, drew an attendance of more than 90 members and visitors. Officers and committee chairmen for the new year were introduced. Clarence Kirkby, last year's president, delivered his farewell address and handed over the "Rock of Authority" to incoming president, Joe Kreps. Mr. Kreps then gave his acceptance speech.

Grace Shappell, the new secretary, read the "Summary of 1957" by the absent out-going secretary, Lois Williams. Laura Kreps, the new treasurer, reported on the financial standing of the club. Later in the evening, Clarence Kirkby showed his colored slides, "Descent into Grand Canyon" and Fred Gasche showed the slides of his recent trip to Florida. Slides of field trips, taken by Mr. Kirkby, Mr. Hasche, and Doc Langham, were also shown.

GASCHE FAMILY MAKES FLORIDA TRIP

The Fred Gasche family took an enjoyable three week vacation to Florida during December. They spent most of their time, like true rockhounds, gathering rocks and meeting other rockhounds. They brought back some good specimens of petrified coral from the beaches of Florida, some ruby chips from the Cowee Ruby Mines of North Carolina, and a carload of other specimens. If you are going to be taking a trip to the Florida area, be sure to see Fred about good locations and get the addresses of the rockhounds they met.

MATERIAL NEEDED FOR CLUB BULLETIN

Do you have any news concerning the club, know of any good locations for hunting rocks, or have writing talent? Material is needed to keep the club bulletin interesting and enjoyable. If you've taken a trip lately, let the co-editors, John Fitch and Larry Kirkby know about it. Maybe you found some good locations on your last trip. If so, the other members would probably like to hear about them. If you have and writing ability, why don't you write an article or two for the paper. You could tell us how to build a tumbler, how to grind stones, about the rock formations in Michigan, or about any new tricks you've learned for doing lapidary work. Let's keep this bulletin interesting! The deadline for news is two weeks before the next meeting.

STONEHOUSE TO SHOW PICTURES

Dr. Harold Stonehouse, assistant professor of geology at M. S. U., will show a one-hour long colored movie of nickel mining at the next club meeting, February 20. Dr. Stonehouse says that this should be an interesting movie for everyone although they may not be interested in mining. After the movie he will answer questions.

Also see a two and one half inch sphere of jaspalite recently made by Roger Kirkby.

CLUB TO VISIT M. S. U.'S ROCK AND MINERAL COLLECTION

A field trip has been planned for Saturday, February 22nd, to visit the rock and mineral collection at Michigan State University. Dr. Harold Stonehouse assistant professor of geology will conduct the tour. Meet at the

main entrance to the Natural Science Building, which is the first large building north of the animal hospital, at 2:00 P.M.

FROM THE PRESIDENT'S PEN

By Joe D. Krepis

"IF WINTER COMES CAN SPRING BE FAR BEHIND?"

During these cold and frozen days I hear that some of our members have been hunting with the silver pick while others have been content to dig deeper into last summer's rock sack and have re-discovered some of the treasures that they had gathered on some long ago trip and had forgotten all about. I know that many of you have had that peculiar thrill that I have felt when you saw into an unpromising stone, gathered in haste on some hurried trip and later put into the "I wonder why I ever picked that up?" pile, and found that it had some beauty of color or form far greater than you expected.

Winter is the time, too, when we read over and over again the rock magazines and the advertisements, and plan where we'll go, come summer, just like us kids used to read through the old Sears Roebuck catalogs and write up orders for hundreds of dollars worth of stuff which we never sent for and couldn't pay for anyway. Winter could be a time to get our rock collections in order, number, and label and classify the specimens, write down where you found them or who gave them to you, or something else about the specimen you would like to remember. Names of rockhound friends are all too easily forgotten and unpaid debts of kindness can be forgotten too.

In this off-season for rock hunting, let's all try to get caught up a little on visiting our rock-club friends. From my own experience I have never called on one who did not seem delighted to have me call. I have never had one call on me who I was not delighted to see.

Oh yes! - All of us like to "sound off" once in a while. Why not write a line or a thought for the Rockhound News and send it in to Larry Kirkby?

TUMBLING

(This is the first of a series of new articles designed to familiarize the club members with the lapidary arts)

"Tumbling", as the name implies, is the tumbling of stones in a barrel-like container with silicon carbide grits and water. As the grit grinds down the rocks the grit is changed to a finer grit, and then finally to a polish. The end result is semi-precious stones with a high quality polish.

The container used is a can or small barrel with five or six sides or it may even be round. For small tumblers, glass jars are sometimes used. The container rotates on either rollers or a shaft at speeds from fifteen to thirty revolutions per minute.

The stones which are tumbled include any of the stones which may be polished. It is not a good idea, however, to tumble soft stones and hard stones together. Both roughly broken stones and pre-formed slabs are tumbled.

For rough grinding, one pound of #60 to #30 grit is used with every six to ten pounds of stone. The tumbler is filled about half full of stones which are just covered with water. It is best to check the tumbler at least

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every other day to make sure that the stones aren't sticking to the sides of the tumbler, and that they don't get ground down too much.

The length of time which the stones should stay in the grit varies a great deal depending on the hardness of the stones, and other factors. The only way to tell if they are done is to check their process. When the stones are satisfactorily rounded they are taken out of the tumbler. It is important that that they be rounded enough because the succeeding operations do not wear much off the stones.

After the stones are removed from the tumbler, they are thoroughly washed and the tumbler is cleaned out to remove all grit particles. If some of the coarse grit particles are left in the tumbler, they will scratch the stones.

Next, the stones go through a medium grind, with about #220 grit. The grit is mixed with the stones in the proportion of one pound of grit six to ten pounds of stones. When a well-sanded look is achieved they are removed, and the tumbler and stones are cleaned the same as before.

The next operation is the same as the preceding two, except that #400 to #600 grit is used. The stones are removed from the tumbler with a fine finish.

The tumbler is cleaned out and polishing powder is added in the proportion of one pound one pound of grit for each twelve to twenty pounds of stones. In this polishing run, small felt squares are sometimes added to the stones to aid in the polishing. The stones are run until they look well polished.

After the polishing operation, the stones are burnished. A detergent, such as Tide is added, one cup to every six to ten pounds of stones. Burnishing adds luster to the polish.

Tumbling is relatively inexpensive compared with other means of polishing stones. The polish obtained is one of high quality. The inexpensiveness and the high quality polish are the two main reasons why tumbling has become so very popular today.

MISCELLANEOUS ROCKS

There are several types of miscellaneous rocks that we can always look for when we are out on our rock-hunting trips. A description of some of these follow:

CLAY STONES: Of all the concretions, these are perhaps the most common. they are found in all types of clays and in many regions. They are made of lime and precipitated around some nucleus of foreign matter. Shapes vary widely, usually discs, flattened ovals or even rings. However, they are nearly always flattened.

CONCRETIONS: These differ from the surrounding rock in composition, but are usually composed of some one of its impurities, of lime in the clays or silica in limestones, or iron oxide in sandstone. They seem to have originated as a result of the solution of the minor mineral, and then its redeposition around some center or nucleus. Quite often the nucleus is found to be organic, such as a leaf, a shell, or a bone. When the concretion is split,

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in its center will be found the perfect imprint of the object. Sometimes the nucleus is inorganic like a grain of sand. Then again, no nucleus can be found.

LIME CONCRETIONS are found mostly in shales which carry a high percentage of clay as impurities, and are characteristic of the older geological formations, especially ancient sea bottoms. Lime concretions are really claystones which have been buried so long that the surrounding matrix has changed to a shale instead of remaining clay.

There are two types of SANDSTONE CONCRETIONS. Some are cemented with lime and some are cemented with iron oxide. Both types are mostly found in the arid and semiarid sections of the West.

COLITES are a granular variety of limestone made up of minute nearly spherical concretions about some minute preexisting particles. They are formed in water and are like a great mass of fish roe. This material is used for building and valued on account of the ease with which it may be worked, and its soft and pleasing color. Owing to their free-working qualities, these stones are known also as oolitic free-stones.

If concretions like the above are of a size bigger than a pea, then the rock is known a PISOLITE.

SEPTERIA are lime concretions, which, after they had formed, shrank and developed a series of cracks running through them in all sorts of directions, and the cracks filled with various minerals.

GEODES are nodules which are hollow and the cavity lined with one or more minerals. Sometimes there is a beautiful layer on layer of chalcedony of any color; sometimes a beautiful cluster of bristling crystals. A geode is usually recognized by the fact that it is far too light to be a solid rock.

There is always a chance of finding a METEORITE. There are two types of these. Some are made wholly or largely of iron with some nickel, and they look like great chunks of iron. Others resemble a granite boulder. The majority are of the stony type, but all iron meteorites have the iron in crystalline form and the surface when cut can be polished.

FOSSILS also come under the heading of miscellaneous rocks. They are usually found in sedimentary rocks, and are remains of some of the animals and plants that lived at the time the rock was forming. Marks of ripples or raindrops which have been preserved in a rock deposit are also fossils, and make very interesting specimens in any rock collection.

A special "Get Well" to Larry Kirkby who is in the college hospital with Mononeucleosis, better known as Kissing Disease----HMMMMMMMM.

LET'S GET BETTER ACQUAINTED

(This is a new series designed to acquaint the club members with each other. each month, 10 members will be introduced until we become familiar with everyone. Be sure to add this series, the list of new members, and the list of committee chairmen to your membership list. Those may be useful references.)

Howard & Nina Cotton have lapidary equipment and are old "pros" at polishing semiprecious stones. They have made several trips to the West Coast and have a fine collection of material. Nina is chairman of the education committee.

Carolyn Lee caught a bad case of rock pox and now she is trying her hand at tumbling. She has a good collection started for herself and also for all her 4th grade students at Glencairn School. On a field trip, Miss Lee would rather collect rocks than eat. (a good sign that she is a true rockhound)

Bill Hooker also has lapidary equipment and likes to polish, but he just can't find enough time. You should see his grand collection of Iowa geodes and also his Oregon nodules which are for sale.

John Fitch is a pebble-pup with a good nose for rocks. His collection is small, but growing. He is one person who wouldn't mess a field-trip. He is the printer and co-editor of "Central Michigan Rockhound News".

Herb Bodwin is another club member with lapidary equipment who has several years of experience in polishing stones. Herb is membership chairman of our club.

Marion Daniel is another "rock lovin" school teacher. She does some polishing with her lapidary equipment, but would like to know a little more about it.

Roger Kirkby is a pebble-pup who will soon become a full fledged rockhound. His mineral collection and jewelery display won him the Grand Award in the 1956 Youth Talent Exhibit. He sells his jewelery (Jewelery by Roger) at the Civic Center and also at home. If you need jewelery mountings, lapidary equipment, grits or mineral specimens, see him. He probably has what you want

Fred Gasche & Family have polishing equipment and a tumbler. They have a good collection of minerals and fossils. Fred's son, Rod, has volunteered to be the first person to be shot to the moon so he can hunt for fossils there. (That's true rockhound spirit.)

Pete Jamison (Pete's Rock Shop) has lapidary equipment and semi-precious stones for sale or for trade. Pete makes annual trips to the West. He is a good man to see for locations.

Elmer Eckhardt & Family are all rockhounds and pebble-pups with good noses for rocks. They are giving tumbling a try. Their collection of rocks and minerals has a fine start.

To qualify as a rockhound, one must track down and dig out at least a truck-load of priceless pebbles, rocks, and boulders.

A pebble-pup is a student member less than 18 years of age who goes around with his nose to the ground looking for rocks and pebbles.

SUPPLEMENT TO MEMBERSHIP LIST

NUMBER	NAME	ADDRESS	PHONE
81	*Curtiss, Luann T.	Elmwood Rd; R#1 Box 26;	IV2-6533
82	*Gibson, Susan	309 N. Ottawa; St. Johns	219R
83	Knox, Sam D.	3647 Lilac Lane; E. Lans.	ED2-0540
78	Little, Allan W.	2213 Stirling; Lansing	IV2-2149
79	*Little, Dan A.	2213 Stirling; Lansing	IV2-2149
80	Munro, Burton T.	25650 Taft Rd; Nova/ Northville	F. 92359

* Student Members

1958 COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN

PROGRAM - Leon North
FIELD-TRIP CHAIRMEN - Percy Gibbs
Arthur Kraves
Cliff Prevey

PUBLICITY - Larry Kirkby
CO-EDITORS - Larry Kirkby
John Fitch
LIBRARIAN - Jeanetta Sloan
EDUCATION - Nina Cotton
MEMBERSHIP - Herbert Bodwin
SOCIAL CHAIRMAN - Gladys Kirkby

Feel free to contact the above members if you have any information or suggestions pertaining to their committee functions.