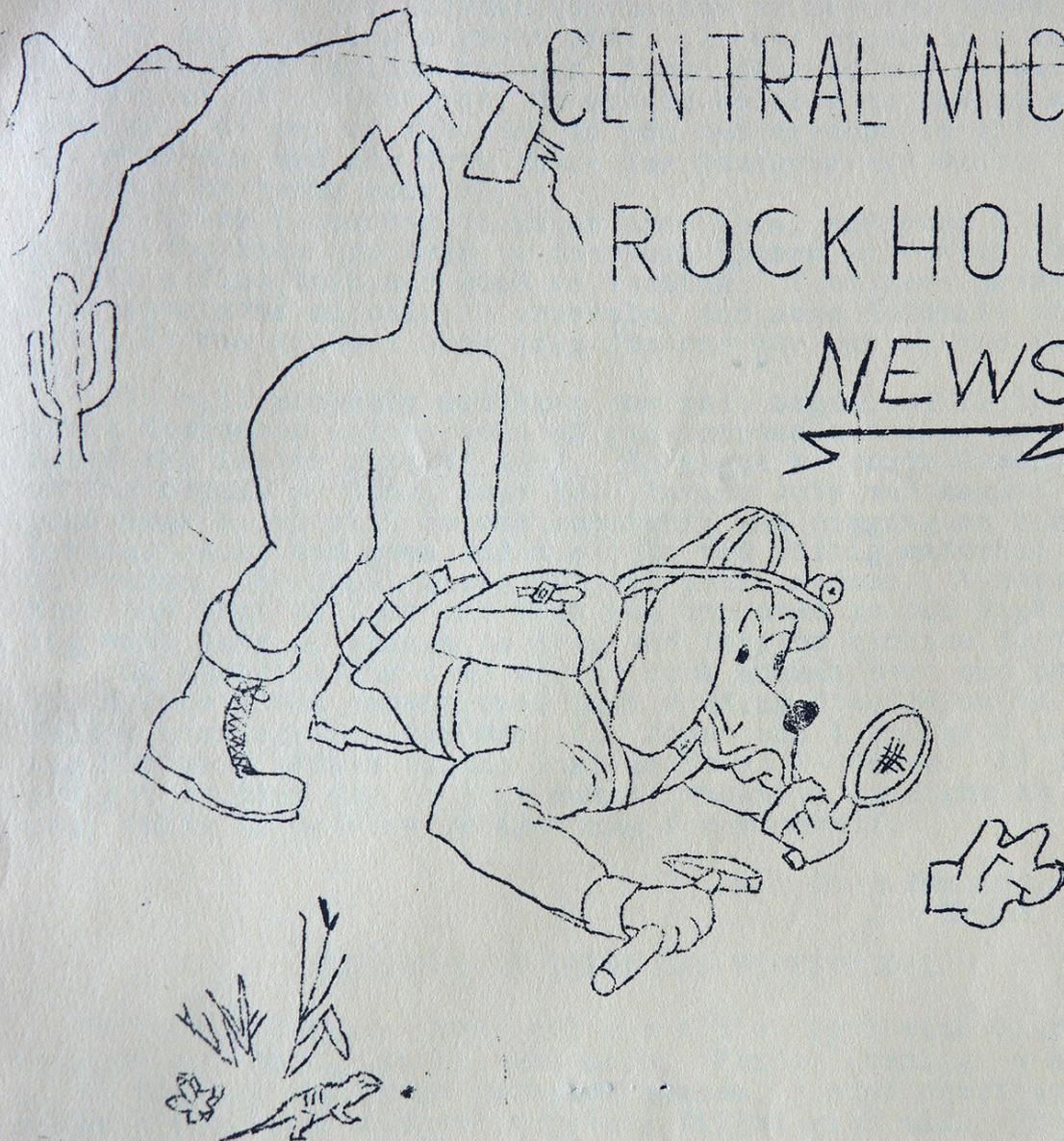


CENTRAL MICHIGAN ROCKHOUND

NEWS



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CENTRAL MICHIGAN LAPIDARY & MINERAL SOCIETY
"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 17 YRS. OF AGE, \$1.00 annually

CO-EDITORS: LARRY KIRZBY AND JOHN FITCH

OFFICERS

PRESIDENT - - - Joe Kreps, 2605 Delta River Drive - - - IV 5-6947
VICE-PRESIDENT - - - Len North, 861 Greenburg Rd., Holt - - - OX 4-8367
SECRETARY - - - Grace Shappell, 219 Bailey St. E.L. - - - ED 2-3885
TREASURER - - - Laura Kreps, 2605 Delta River Drive - - - IV 5-6947

June 19 will be our last meeting until after the summer vacation. Our program is to be a talk and slides by Ed Hayes, on diamonds, their faceting and cutting. I am sure this will prove to be both interesting and instructive. I am sorry that I will have to miss it, but by that time the Kreps' and the Kirkby's will be down at the Midwest Convention at Downers Grove, Illinois, and, we hope, having a great time. I have received a lot of nice specimens from various members of our club to put in our club display at the Convention. We should be able to put in a good display. If any of the rest of you can arrange to get away for the week-end and get down there for Saturday and Sunday I am sure it would be worth your while.

I think I counted eight or nine cars, and some 27 to 30 people who made the trip to the Pugh quarry at Weston, Ohio. We had a fine trip and good collecting. I believe everyone got fine specimens of calcite crystals, and some dolomite and celestite. It was quite a long trip for one day but it was well worth it.

We will probably not have any more organized field trips until September unless some of you express a desire to have another the latter part of June. It might be worth discussing this at the coming meeting, June 19. During July and August every good rock hound will be out scratchin and digging on his own, finding rocks and gems and minerals and cuttig material, and, of course, the usual quota of just plain stones. I hope you all have the best of luck and that you can come to our September meeting with lots of things to swap and lots of stories to tell.

On Memorial day some of the rock hounds were out prospecting. The Kirkby's had exceptional luck finding fossils up at Mystery Valley near Alpena, and Mrs. K., Joyce and I had good luck finding Petoskey stones on the lake shore at Petoskey. If any of you get up that way on your summer vacation it might be worth your while to do some prospecting for yourself.

Good Hunting,
Joe Kreps

KIRKBY'S MEMORIAL DAY WEEKEND TRIP

We left Thursday night and spent the night with Clarence's brother and family at Higgins Lake. Friday morning we all went up to Norwood and found petoskey stones, banded chert and anthraconite which is in slender crystals filled with oil. When struck a sharp blow you can smell the crude oil. We took the dirt road south from Norwood about a half mile and found chert and petoskey stones all along the beach. There were cliffs of shale with oil running out of them. We cracked some of the large boulders on the beach and found them to be anthraconite. We cooked dinner at a park and then went on to Petoskey.

At Petoskey the beach stones were covered with moss at the waters edge. We found many petoskey stones higher on the beach, though they are harder to see when dry. Larry's eagle eye could spot them quickly. We roasted hot dogs at the park for our supper.

We parted with Brother Bill's family at Gaylord and continued on toward Alpena. We went to visit a cousin who lives 15 ml.

ed all one in the sink hole area. The had collected five coral fossils for us just two miles from their home. The next day, with our relation, we collected a few stones in the gravel pits and looked at four sink holes.

Our main interest was to see Mystery Valley. We learned about the valley through an article in the State Journal. According to the paper there is a sinked lake in one half of the valley, which was formed off in 1900, to keep the water out of the front half of the valley. The lake used to cover the entire valley and in summer would disappear down the large sink hole near the road, in a whirlpool. It is believed that limestone has collapsed into caverns underneath made by underground rivers.

Arthur Poe, a real estate operator is turning the valley into a tourists attraction. He thinks there are caverns underneath which will rival Mammoth Cave.

Upon arriving at the area, we found that the valley hadn't been commercially opened yet and that the owner was gone for the weekend so we obtained permission from an adjacent farm to drive down near the valley on the farm property. The valley, much lower than the surrounding countryside, was about three eights of a mile wide and a mile long. At one end of the valley were two sink-holes, one of which had been partially blasted out in an attempt to expose the sub-terranean cavity below.

The other sink hole, over 90 feet deep and 200 ft. around, was in a very strange formation, composed of limestone with several inches of loose material sandwiched in between each layer of limestone. Numerous fossils were to be found throughout the limestone and especially in the loose material which greatly aided in removing the fossils intact. Crinoid stems, crinoid heads (rarely found fossilized), brachiopods, coral and an extremely rare blastoid head (similar to the crinoids), were among the finds of the day.

We made one stop on the way home the next day. We went to Alabaster (it was rightly named as peices of alabaster or gypsum were all over the town), and asked permission to collect in the quarry. Permission was not granted as it was too dangerous, but we were told we could pick up pieces around the freight car and dock. We found plenty of colorful pieces but not much of the crystalized variety. Although it was Sunday, the mine was operating. The gypsum was being carried out to the end of the dock by hoppers running on a cable. A boat was to come for the load of gypsum the next day.

After getting the gypsum we were loaded so we headed non-stop for home.

EXCUSE THE SIZE OF THIS BULLETIN

Due to school exams, your editors were unable to compile any more material for the bulletin.

Please send in an account of your summer rockhound trips so we can get some of them in our Sept. bulletin and later bulletins.

Have a nice summer and we will see you in Sept.

Your editors,

Larry Kirkby
John Fitch