

CENTRAL MICHIGAN ROCKHOUND NEWS



VOL III

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June 1959

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Affiliated with the Midwest Federation

Meeting Place: East Lansing's new High School, Room A 132

Third Thursday of each month except July and August

Dues; \$2.00 annually. Students under 18 years \$1.00 annually.

OFFICERS

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September Meeting

The Rev. Luke McMillian made a trip through the vast and interesting south western part of the United States this past summer. He made slides of his trip and also made slides of his mineral specimens. You will enjoy seeing these slides and hearing about them from some one who has lived in the area where they taken. Lets remember the date, September 17th—meeting place—East Lansing's new High School.

What have you been doing this summer?

Rich and I have done some rock hunting and most of that has not been too good. Our first trip took us to the geode country along the Mississippi River. We do our hunting in a little dry creek in Illinois between Warsaw and Hamilton. We did not find too many good ones this year, it seems th people who live near there are getting too wise and are collecting them to sell. Being true 'Rock Hounds' we do not like to buy specimens if we can find them. We had to walk almost 2 miles up stream to find places where they had not been picked over. We got three good ones, one quartz filled about 7 inches through, one with quartz and calcite about 5 inches through and one with chalcedony about 6 inches through. We found several others, some larger and some smaller, but nothing exceptional.

Our next excursion for rocks was in the upper peninsula at Whitefish Point, but there were too many other rock hunters there too. Rock hunting is getting to be a popular hobby, as I'm sure the rest of you have found out on some of your trips. Don't let me discourage you though, we aren't giving up. Next year we will be going up across the Straits agate hunting againt. Every year there are more of them washed up along the lake. And it may be us that will be lucky to find a beautiful, banded Michigan Agate.

Lila Stevens, Sec.

MEMORANDUM

The library has some interesting books that are there waiting for you to check out. There are also newspapers from other Rock Clubs. Why not check some of this material out and make use of it. It is there to help you when you want it.

SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS

| | |
|-----------------|---------|
| Frank Rickerd | Sept. 1 |
| Ben McComb | " 2 |
| Alfred Etter | " 7 |
| Ruth Eckhardt | " 10 |
| Percy Gibbs | " 10 |
| Dorothy Gibbs | " 11 |
| Nellie Langham | " 14 |
| Douglas Langham | " 14 |
| Emma Wedel | " 16 |
| Elmer Eckhardt | " 17 |
| David Service | " 19 |
| Jack Blohm | " 22 |

Sapphire is a variety of corundum. It is found in all colors of the rainbow. When red it is called ruby. The finest blue stones are found in Kashmir. Less valuable stones are found in Ceylon and Australia. Montana also has produced some fine sapphires.

This project is a large one for the Tri-County Rock and Mineral Society. Let us all show our appreciation by attending the Fair.

* * * ANNOUNCING THE 1960 CONVENTION * * *

of the

MIDWEST FEDERATION OF MINERALOGICAL SOCIETIES

The 1960 Midwest Federation Convention will be held at Ishpeming, Michigan, July 1-4, 1960. Every third year there is a field trip convention instead of a show. 1960 is the field trip convention year.

In 1961, the Midwest Federation Show will be held in Saginaw, some time in June. The show will have exhibits of club members and Societies. Space also will be provided for commercial booths of dealers.

* * * BELLEVUE MARCASITE TAKES NEW BEAUTY * * *

By Clarence Kirkby

Gladys, Roger and myself made a recent trip to the Chenney Lime Stone Quarry at Bellevue for Marcasite. We found the old quarry filled with water, and the new quarry located on the north side of the road had not been worked deep enough to turn up anything of interest as yet.

Determined not to go home empty handed, we ate our lunch like all hungry rock hounds, then set out to search along the water's edge on the south side of the old quarry for any piece of marcasite that might have been overlooked by the many visitors of the past. Each tiny piece of marcasite or calcite that came into view was picked up and examined. Each rock with any sign of interest was broken carefully, in hopes that we might find some of the marcasite and calcite that was once so plentiful in this quarry. Many stones were turned - even the one that covered a bee's nest! Gladys escaped with only three stings and the bees won out.

The more diligently we searched the greater was our reward. Among our finds were several small vugs containing the brown fluorite crystals which are so rare a find at this quarry. After digging for several hours, the findings seemed more beautiful than ever - perhaps because the specimens were now rare.

We returned home with less weight and smaller specimens but every bit as those we collected in the past. If you would like a nice outing I recommend that you try the south west corner of the old quarry. I am sure you will find some rare specimens of marcasite, calcite and perhaps fluorite.

* * * WARNING !!!!! ROCK FEVER! * * *

Very contagious to both sexes, all age groups. Makes pebble puppies of the young - rock hounds of the older.

Symptoms - Constant urge for open air and sunshine. Patient has continuous far-away look, mumbles to self. Cares only to associate with fellow addicts and exchange specimens.

Treatment: Affliction is seldom fatal but there is no known cure. Give the victim a bedding roll, pick, hammer, etc. Provide frequent opportunities to hunt rocks in mountains, beach or desert. He should reach a ripe if perverted old age.

To observe the effects of this ailment, see the members of the Central Michigan Lapidary and Mineral Society.

* * * WANT TO BE A ROCK HOUND ? * * *

What is this Club? The Central Michigan Lapidary and Mineral Society - affiliated with the American Federation of Mineralogical Societies. It is an educational hobby club dedicated to promoting interest in the field of "earth sciences" - such as mineralogy, geology, lapidary, and some archeology.

What is its Purpose? To enjoy and learn about rocks, minerals, gems, and fossils, by exchanging information, sharing experiences, and collecting specimens

What are its Activities / Club meetings are held at 7:30 p.m. on the third Thursday of each month, September through June. Place of meeting is the East Lansing Senior High School. We have lectures, field collecting trips, visits to museums, the swapping of specimens, and auction of specimens.

How many Members ? We have 150 members.

How Can I join ? Visit our club at any regular meeting. Ask for an application for membership blank from the secretary. Or call our Membership Committee Chairman - Mr. Clarence Kirkby, ED 2-6809.

What does it cost ? The annual dues are \$2.00 for adults and \$1.00 for students under 18.

The membership is composed of very fine people from all walks of life. The only requirements for membership are a good reputation and a sincere interest in the earth sciences. We have business men, school teachers, factory workers, house wives, professional people, retired people and students. All have a common interest in enjoying the underground works of beauty.

WE WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!!!!

Leon North, President.

* * * MICHIGAN STATE-WIDE GEM AND MINERAL SHOW * * *

Planned for September 13-19.

Mr. Clarence Harnden, Manager of the Saginaw Fair, the second largest county fair in the United States has announced that the "First Gem and Mineral Show" will be held Sept. 13-19. The Tri-County Rock and Mineral Society will be host. Michigan residents, societies and clubs will have displays.

A new \$30,000. building will be used to house the display. It is expected that this can become an annual affair. Four thousand square feet of area is available with eighty locked cases and eight large spaces for society displays. Three spaces for dealers in gems and minerals for commercial displays will also be provided.

There are sweepstakes ribbons in each division. The society presenting the best club display will receive an attractive permanent trophy. The Winged Victory Trophy will be given to the best individual display.

Our society will have a crystal display and some of our members will have individual displays. One of our members will have a commercial booth. Our secretary, Lila Stevens will be in charge of our Society's crystal display.