



CENTRAL MICHIGAN ROCKHOUND NEWS

VOL. II

OCTOBER '58'

NO. VIII

"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

PRESIDENT - - - Joe Kreps, 2605 Delta River Drive - - - IV 5-6947
VICE-PRESIDENT - - Leon North, 861 Grovenburg 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

From the President's Rock Sack

Our membership is now 128. I am pleased by our continued and steady growth in membership and by our good attendance at the monthly meetings. I hope that we can continue to provide programs and field trips that will be interesting and attractive to all of us. I am sure it would be helpful if each of our members would make suggestions as to the kind of program they would like. How many of you have given serious thought to what you might do to help improve our club, to make the meetings better, to make club membership more desirable and to improve our associations with other members? Have you -

1. Visited at least one club member in his home this last month
2. Offered a suggestion for a program, or a field trip, or other activity of the club?
3. Attended meetings regularly, and brought guests?
4. Introduced guests to the club members?
5. Offered to help with a program or with some other work?
6. Accepted an office or worked on a committee?
7. Encouraged a youth, or an adult, to become interested in rocks and minerals?
8. Invited Rock Hound members to your home?
9. Offered 'Open House' to the club membership?
10. Met our new members and welcomed them to our club?

IF NOT, IT STILL ISN'T TOO LATE.

Program For the October 16, Meeting

TALK on the topic "Some Interesting Mineral Occurrences in the Upper Peninsula" by Dr. Justin Zinn of M.S.U.

AUCTION SALE of rock and mineral specimens donated by members. Each member is asked to bring one or more specimens of rocks or minerals to donate for the auction. You should know the name and the place of origin of the specimen and place an approximate, low value on it. Identification slips for the specimens will be available at the meeting.

(It will be helpful if you can take your specimens to one of the officers or board members of the club by Wednesday evening so they can be tagged and labelled ahead of time. If this is too inconvenient, then bring the specimens to the meeting when you come)

Oh Yes! Don't forget to bring a pocket full of change to bid up the rocks you will want to buy.

REFRESHMENTS

Pre-season Halloween refreshments will be served. Come dressed in your rock-hound clothes.

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We recommend for your reading and entertainment a subscription to "Earth Science" The Rock Hounds' National Magazine and the Official Organ of the Mid-West Federation of Mineralogical societies address Earth Science Box 1357, Chicago 90, Ill.
The subscription price is still only \$2.00 per year.

OPEN HOUSE

DOE'T FORGET, Mr. and Mrs. Norman Kunkel, of 435 Durand St, East Lansing, are holding open house for our adult and high school age members on Sunday evening Oct, 19. at 7:00 P.M. They can accomodate only about 25 persons at a time so they are asking that those who plan to come please call and make reservations by Friday evening Oct, 17. Their telephone is ED 7-9338.

If there is an overflow for Sunday the 19th, They will hold another open house the following Sunday, Oct. 26. for those they can not accommodate on the 19th, lake your reservations early by calling Mr. and Mrs. Kunkel

FIELD TRIP TO GYPSUM MINE A SUCCESS

On Sunday, Sept 28, about 45 members assembled at the Grand Rapid Rapids Plaster Co. mine. There were about 16 members of the Elkhart club there also and we were taken into the mine in two groups. The mine is in a bed of exceptionally pure gypsum, there are 60 miles of tunnel, the excavation extends back under the hill some 7,000 feet, and varies from 120 ft. to 150 ft. below the surface. The mine has been in operation for over 100 years and there is more gypsum left than has been taken out, even though recovery is only about 60%.

Mr. Charles E. Johnson, mine sup't, was most hospitable, and arranged for us to ride the ore cars into the mine to and from the collecting and working area. We were allowed to bring out all the specimens we could carry, mostly crystals of pencil ore and massive gypsum which can be carved and polished.

GIVE A THOUGHT -

Would you like, at each meeting, a 10 to 15 minute talk by a club member on some topic of his own choice concerning our hobby? _____

What subject could you talk on? _____

Would you like a "rock Quiz" or "Rock Identification" night? _____

Would you like a "Swap table" at each meeting? _____

Do you like a special display by one or two members at each meeting? _____

Would you like to help with a "bee" once a month to help get out the "Rockhound news"? (it gets to be a chore) _____

Have you a suggestion as to a program you would like? _____

Have you slides of a trip you have made that would interest our members? _____

Have you specimens suitable for a special display at our club meeting? _____

Have you other suggestions for programs, field trips, or for improving our club? _____

Please fill this out, sign it, tear it off and hand it to our Secretary or program chairman.

This 'Nodule' was picked up by Mrs. Kreps in Wyoming last summer

The Rock-hound's Lament

by H. E. Freson
Sundance, Wyoming

Gather round me, hear my story, I'm a rockhound in distress,
I'm a rockhound bathed in trouble, I'm an outcast more or less

I have fossils in the kitchen I have crystals in the hall,
I have minerals in the bathtub, I have relics on the wall.

There's Tin Oxide on the carpet, there is oil upon the floor,
I have blacklight in the parlor, I have bones behind the door.

Attic rooms are fairly sagging, Darnics pave the cellar floor,
Pockets bulge with gemmy pieces, all of this and millions more

Wifey thinks I'm crazy goofy. I don't know, she may be right,
She insists I've silicosis or some contagious form of "ite".

Says my head is lined with agate, a freak replacement of the bone
Says my brain is just a nodule, that my heart has turned to
stone.

Threatens me with separation, Storms about our rock-bound home,
Says life, to me is just a geode or a hunk of mammoth bone.

Are you rated as a fossil? Are you obliged to live alone?
How can one maintain a hobby, and still retain a happy home?

When a sanding disc or belt seems to be worn smooth it can often be revitalized by holding a piece of sponge rubber against it while it is in motion. The best rubber is the kind that is used for shoe soles, the firm kind. Application of the rubber tends to quickly remove the stone dust from between the particles of carbide grit which still adheres to the paper.

In sawing thin rocks attach the rock to the end of a short length of 2x4 with a liberal amount of dop cement. Hold the 2x4 in the vise and proceed.

One of the characteristics of those engaged in our hobby should be the willingness to share any information we may have or any knowledge we may acquire with our fellow rock-hounds.

A solid piece of chert, sliced, makes a fine whet-stone for sharpening knives. - try it.

HEY!. DON'T FORGET THOSE SPECIMENS FOR THE AUCTION

following upon the Cortez expedition were bands of Franciscan padres who converted the pagan Indians to Christianity. It reflects man's ever increasing search for mineral wealth and the harvest which lies just below the earth's surface. And so, in one sense, the expedition was successful beyond the wildest dreams of the Spaniards. Without it, the history of our West may have been far different. Without it, the steady march of progress would have been delayed. Without progress there can be no civilization. And without civilization there can be no hope for mankind.

OFFICIAL FEDERATION MAGAZINES

The Earth Science Rockhound Magazine is an official publication of our own Midwest Federation. It is bi-monthly and available through our club at \$1.75 a year. The magazine is only as good as we make it. Anyone from our club who has gone on a rock hunting trip or have any other information on lapidary should send in an article to Larry Kirkby, Editor for the magazine. We should all support our magazine by subscribing to it and sending in articles.

The Gem and Minerals Magazine is also a Federation magazine. It is monthly and available through the club at a reduced rate of \$2. per year. It is the official publication of the American Federation, California and Texas Federations. It is a very good magazine.

NEW MEMBERS

We extend a hearty welcome to our new members:

Robert G Titus, 2614 w. Berry Rd. Lansing, Mich. - Phone IV2-3740
Gay Titus, Student " "
Norma Stuck, 3011 N Cedar - Phone IV 9-0451
Raymond C Brown, 2116 Quentin, Lansing, Mich. -IV 2-6728
Reva M. Brown " "
Elaine Rae Brown, Student " "
John C. Mc Dougall, 442 M.A.C. Ave, E. Lansing - Phone ED 2-3273
Thelma G. McDougall " "
Rev. Luke Mc Millian, Holy Cross Church, 742 Comfort St
Phone IV 2-4030
Melvin E, Davenstatt, 715 N. Jenison, Lansing - Phone IV 4-9811
Agatha Davenstatt " "
Dr. James A. Cook, 6057 Harkson, East Lansing - Phone ED 7-0686
Mrs. Harriet G. Cook " "
Mr. William J. Gross, 819 Cross St., E. Lansing* Phone IV 5-2593
Mrs. Ruth Ann Gross " "

CAR EMBLEMS

We now have the car emblems we had ordered so long. They will be available at the next meeting at 50¢ each. We also have more specimen cards at 1¢ each.

THE MYSTERIOUS SEVEN CITIES OF CIBOLA

by

Rev. Luke McMillian

It was a blistering hot day. Waves of heat from the brilliant sun reflected off the snow-white alkali and dry wind-blown sand and hung oppressively in the hot dry air, blinding eyes of man and beast alike. The year was 1540. Members of the Coronado de Cortez expedition, one of the most amazing in all of history, were in search of the fabulous Seven Cities of Cibola. These were supposed to be seven cities of solid gold which rumor reported lay to the north of Mexico. As the Conquistadores before them, these Spanish soldiers were spurred by desire for wealth. They had crossed the Rio Grande River into Nuevo Mexico, the "New Mexico". Arriving at the Zuni Pueblos, which had been discovered by Fray Marcos de Niza in 1536, they conquered the little Indian village and then pushed on north, ever in search of the Seven Cities of Cibola. Across the burning sands of northern New Mexico they marched. Here and there a solitary Yucca plant pushed its sharply pointed leaves towards the deep blue sky. Lizards and snakes slithered out of the way. Overhead, huge black buzzards circled slowly to remind the group that death in the desert had its own unique end.

The members of the expedition spent the winter of 1540-1541 at what is now Bernilio, New Mexico. Exploratory parties pushed west as far as Kansas; another discovered the amazing Grand Canyon. But the Seven Cities of Cibola, the purpose of the expedition, they did not find. Disgruntled, tired, burned black by sand and wind, the group returned wearily to Mexico. They had not found the wealth they had come to seek. Little did they know that the very ground over which they slowly marched contained untold millions in mineral wealth. Who could tell them that just to the west of where they tread lay an extremely rich copper deposit where today, at Silver City, the largest open pit copper mine in the world is located? That near the Pecos River the world's largest potash deposit would some day be discovered? That the rocks which hurt feet and cut hands contained the ore from which hundreds of years later uranium would be extracted? They could not have known. They were seeking one kind of wealth and they were not aware of the potentialities that did exist. How often does man spend his entire life in a fruitless search for one kind of treasure and ignores the things that lie close at hand that can really give him happiness?

And the Seven Cities of Cibola? Did they actually exist, or were they merely the figment of someone's wild imagination? Some historians feel that there actually were seven cities of gold whose location has been lost in the dusty passage of time. Others think that the Indians merely told the Spanish army this to keep them moving, to get rid of them. Still others believe that the setting sun reflecting off the brown walls of the pueblos bathing them in a golden color. We will never know. All that we do know is that because of this search one of the most remarkable expeditions in all of history was organized, an expedition that was to have far reaching influences. It paved the way for the conquest of this new country for Spain, and eventually for the United States. It instigated missionary activity for