

CENTRAL MICHIGAN ROCKHOUND NEWS



Vol

No

Vol. III

NOVEMBER 1959

No. 9

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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VICE PRESIDENT-Rev. Luke McMillian, 742 Comfort St.
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The Club Vice President, Rev. Luke McMillian will show slides of his trip west last summer. There will be a short talk on mineral photography and he will then show slides of his mineral collection. There will also be a demonstration of ultraviolet fluorescent and phosphorescent minerals.

OPEN HOUSE - The Dravenstatt's and I invite everyone to an open house Sunday night Dec. 1 from 7:00 until 10:00. Refreshments will be served, there will be stereophonic music, and both our collections will be on display. The Dravenstatt's live at 715 N. Jennison, the first house behind Warner's Drug Store.

Rev. Luke McMillian.

* * * THE PRESIDENT'S MONTHLY GREETING * * *

Every club member who failed to take advantage of the invitation to attend the Open House at the Norman Kunkel's missed a real treat. Mrs. North, son Dennis and myself attended the first of the two Sunday evenings. There were two other couples there who are not members. The Kunkels have a very beautiful home, a very complete and orderly rock workshop, and their movies are superb.

Norman has not only done a beautiful job of photography and arranging, but has taped appropriate background music to accompany his narration which was very well done. I've never seen any professional travelogue done or narrated any better. We can't thank them enough for their invitation. Our only regret is that more members were not there. Of course it goes without saying that we all enjoyed looking over and discussing Norman's Lapidary work. His spheres and slabs are tops.

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I have enjoyed working with the club this year which will soon be over. Looking forward to next year I will be appointing a Nominating Committee at the next meeting to present a slate of officers for the next year. If you have any suggestions or comments, I'm sure they will be glad to hear from you.

Leon North, President.

ANNOUNCING

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INSIDE FIELD TRIP

Sunday, November 22 - 2 p.m.

Place: NATURAL SCIENCE BUILDING - M. S. U. Campus

Meet at the central entrance. Dr. Harold Stonehouse, one of our members, will conduct us on a tour of the rooms containing rock, mineral and fossil specimens in the M. S. U. Collection.

Our group visited the M.S.U. Natural Science Building once before in the fall of 1957. Every one reported that the trip was very instructive and entertaining. We hope that a great many of our members can attend.

SPECIAL NOTE: Also open Sunday afternoon from 1:00 to 5:00 is the M. S. U. Museum in the old library building - just across the drive from the new library. It would be well worth your while to visit it, either before or after our trip thru the Natural Science Building.

INVITATIONS FOR "OPEN HOUSE" NEEDED. We are still hoping for more invitations to visits to homes of our members during the shut-in months of Dec-Jan-Feb. You need not have a museum of rocks. If you can make good coffee and like to have friends drop in - that's all.

The Kreps are planning to hold Open House for our rock club friends an afternoon and evening between Christmas and New Year. We will announce the date in the December bulletin.

Joe Kreps - Field Trip Chairman.

COMMERCIAL!!! COMMERCIAL!!!

If you are wondering about a gift for that special rock-hound person, why not a gift subscription to the "Rock-of-the-Month-Club". \$12.00 brings a new slab of cutting material each month of the year. Or make her a nice display case to house those nicer specimens under a glass.

Address of the R.O.M. Club: Gem Cutters Guild of America
4132 Madison Ave.,
Brookfield, Ill.

We aren't being paid for this plug but we have been very well satisfied with the slabs we have been receiving. Makes Christmas last all year.

Maybe some of our own members have slabs and slabbing material they would sell. If so - speak up!

Laura Kreps.

NEW MEMBERS : We wish to welcome these new members whose applications have been accepted by the Board of Directors. (St. indicates student member)

- No. 175 Arthur Nicol (St)
- 176 Joseph Nicol - 508 Grove St., East Lansing
- 177 Mary Ann Fillis - 317 W. Street, Lansing
- 178 Majel M. Parks - 12403 Peacock Rd, Laingsburg, Mich
- 179 Irene Smith - R. 1, Okemos, Mich
- 180 James E. Lehman (St) - 712 N. Sycamore, Lansing
- 181 L. L. Kenyon
- 182 Jeff Kenyon (St) 425 Division, East Lansing
- 183 Read A. Myers
- 184 Henrietta Myers - 1020 Oakland, Lansing
- 185 John W. Moorman - 927 Seymour, Lansing

Change of Address

O. G. (Doc) Langham - 410 South Park, Mason ()R 6-5826)

NOVICE SHOW POSTPONED * * * * FROM OCT. NEWS LETTER TRI-COUNTY ROCKS & MIN.SOC.

Due to several setbacks in our plans for a fall novice show, the Board of Directors voted to postpone this undertaking until next spring when more suitable quarters will be available and there will be more time for entries and planning.

We are very sorry to disappoint our many firends in the Societies thruout the state. By delaying, we hope to give everyone a better show.

LETTER-A-MONTH . . . Something new from the Midwest Federation. Watch for this letter each month and become better informed on the lapidary hobby, and get to know the officers of our Midwest Federation of Mineralogical and Geological Societies. (First letter on next page)

MIDWEST FEDERATION'S
LETTER - A - MONTH

Greetings fellow rockhounds of the Midwest. It has been my honor to have been drawn from the rank and file, and made President of your great Midwest Federation of Mineralogical and Geological Societies, and it is with humble feelings and great pride that I introduce you to the very newest "baby" of the Midwest, The Letter-a-Month. This idea came originally as a suggest from Haydon Petersen, editor of News Nuggets - the publication of the Central Iowa Mineral Society. It was developed by Gus Brown, chairman, Membership-Publicity Committee of your Federation with the help and encouragement of many others.

We hope to bring you interesting news and useful information of many things being done for you and your hobby. These messages will come to you through the channels of your club bulletin, and as messages to be read to you by one of your officers. Each month you will receive an interesting and important message from an officer, director or committee chairman. It is hoped that through these monthly messages you will gain a clearer understanding of the importance to you, and your hobby of your Federation functions and a greater realization that you are part of your Federation.

To start this letter your way, I shall kick this off with the news that your Board of Directors has just concluded a two day session at Downers Grove discussing and acting on such matters as the following - constitutional revisions (you may expect many changes to be proposed) "Rockramas" (Invitations are enthusiastically extended to hold Rockramas in your district - contact Division Chairman, Russ Kemp), New position of Executive Chairman with Advisory Committee (This matter to be developed by a committee of Past Presidents). Creation of Convention Show Committee (this committee to be headed by Fred Renzel has promised to come up with some real good material for use in future convention shows), appointment of Dick Brush as Southwestern Regional Vice*President (look for great things from the Southwestern region). Heard reports of two hard-working Regional Vice Pres. Morilla Wilson of Central and Floyd Moretnson of Eastern. The Eastern region has really caught fire under Mr. Mortenson's expert guidance. More about these as time elapses.

Many other important matters too numerous to mention were effectively handled by the Board at this two day meeting.

Yours truly will use the rest of this page to pass on to you a hearty invitation from the Ishpeming Rock and Mineral Club for you to attend the Midwest's 20th Annual Convention (Fieldtrip) which will be held in Ishpeming July 1-2-3~~14~~ 1960, with check-in time starting on the evening of June 30, 1960. Advanced reservations must be made 10 days prior to convention time and lodging such earlier than that. Details will be published in Earth Science Magazine and the Jaspilite beginning with the February issue. Important: Reservation Blanks will be in the hands of your Laison Representative by the end of February.

Watch EARTH SCIENCE for details on 4 exciting days of collecting, and having fun, and in the meantime, good hunting....we'll see you in '60.

Bob Markert, President,
Midwest Federation

RANDOM NOTES ON THE ART OF DISPLAY.

BY Harry Sprague

The ever present problem of how best to display our minerals, fossils, flats, and cabochons is bounded only by the amount of space we have available, and the amount of capital we wish to invest in proper housing for our collections.

Have you ever noticed how the high-class jeweler will never clutter up his show windows like the pawn shop several blocks away? Have you ever found yourself in a store that has no price tags? Or tried to locate a street in a town that has no street signs? That is the way most of us feel when we look at an unlabeled collection.

Twenty-five cents worth of cover paper from the local printer will make enough labels for the average collection. If a typewriter is not handy, do a careful job of hand printing with India ink. There are four major facts to bring out on your labels:

1. Name (the correct spelling please)
2. Composition (formula or written out)
3. Location (if not the actual location at least state or country)
4. Catalogue Number (to systematically improve our collections, we must know what we have)

Make your labels all the same size. Use slotted pieces of wood or modeling clay to hold them upright.

Now that we have our signposts, let us decide what we will display. Not very many people today are fobbed for long by a vast display of quantity. They may be overawed at first but only until they have seen other collections of quality. Too often the beauty of fine minerals is lost in the jungle of tangled, nondescript, cluttered shelves. Cut - trim your exhibit - cut it to the bone. If a specimen is not up to standard, leave it off the display shelf. If it is not too good, but you feel you must keep it, then promise yourself that you will replace it with a better one at the first opportunity.

What Quality represents:

In a mineral specimen - one that has the characteristic shape, clarity of color, is free from bruises, has the minimum of gänge material or matrix.

In a fossil - one that clearly shows what it represents, and is not damaged in extraction from the surrounding matrix.

In gem stones - good lines, good polish, no dull spots or surfaces.

In polished stones or rough - a perfectly flat surface with a high polish and no wavy light lines.

Cases and Lighting:

Depending on the type and size of specimens you wish to display, you have a wide range of easy to make cases as close as your lumber mill. One of the best and easiest to procure uses a storm door glass section or a storm window. After you have the window, measure it for height and width. Figure how many shelves you want and how deep you want your case. Then off to the lumber yard. There they will cut your lumber to size so that when you get home all you have to do is assemble it, paint it, nail on the back, put on the hinges and latch, and mount the storm window to the frame. There you have an upright case. Set it on a stand or secure it to the wall.

For flat cases, just taper the sides using a 4" board in front and an 8" board in back and hinge your window to the back. Old picture frames mounted on plywood boxes make nice display cases for small specimens.

We now have the three ingredients for a presentable display but are lacking still one more - Arrangement.

What does Arrangement imply? The artful blending of background and specimen to show both to the best advantage. The use of plastic, styrofoam, wire, ceramic tile, and mounts of different heights against a background of a neutral shade will give us color contrast.

For example, if you had a small cluster of Colemanite crystals, it would be better mounted on a dark background. But suppose the background you have chosen for your case is a light buff. Take a coat hanger, cut it and bend it into the shape of a Spanish comb. Stick it in a circle of white styrofoam, take a dark material such as black velvet or plush and cover the base and comb and place your crystal group on the base. See how much better the specimen will stand out when it is highlighted against the black background. The same can be done with dark specimens against a light background.

Take stock of your collection in the near future. Do you have to blow a layer of dust an inch thick off a specimen before you can hand it to a visitor? Does the dusty article have a label? If not, then it is time to go to work. Dress up your collection and you will be rewarded by the praise of your friends and fellow rock hounds will give you. So lets go to work on these long winter nights and see what beauty can be wrought from chaos.

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TWO SUGGESTIONS FOR ROCK HOUNDING:

1. At Arkona, Canada. Arkona is 36 miles beyond the Blue Water Bridge. Glenn Falls is just north of the village of Arkona. Go north to the outskirts of the village, look for the road sign and follow it for half a mile. The place is beautiful - falls higher than a two story house.

Rocks in the narrow gorge are of the Middle Devonian period, Tye are brachiopods chiefly, but several kinds of corals.

2. Kettle's Point. This place is 14 miles beyond Arkona. From Kettle's Point to the Blue Water bridge is 36 miles. Here one finds concretions, perfectly round, four feet across and some only a few inches in size. They grow or expand outwardly for the shales in which they are found are pushed back by the expanding concretion. There is a lot of Anthraconite. Also rounded lumps of pyrite lying on the sand as large as walnuts.

I intend to return to that area after I have read several books on concretions.

Ernest A. Kelford.