

# ROCKHOUND NEWS

VOLUME VIII

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Jan 1964



AFFILIATED WITH MIDWEST FEDERATION OF MINERALOGICAL  
AND GEOLOGICAL SOCIETIES  
AND

AMERICAN FEDERATION OF MINERALOGIST SOCIETIES

LETTER FROM OUR 1964 PRESIDENT:

This is my last letter to you as your president. I face the prospect of becoming an Ex-president with mixed emotions. It has been a very pleasant job with only a few problems. With the help of the very able and conscientious officers and committee chairmen, I really didn't work very hard. So my heartfelt thanks to everyone of you wonderful people!

The Annual banquet is next on our agenda. You shall be contacted about supplying food, and perhaps some assistance, very soon (if you haven't already heard). Everyone should come, it promises to be the usual success. (My long-suffering wife has taken on the job of banquet chairlady, another of the very long list of reasons why she is my very favorite person!)

I hope you will all give your support and cooperation to our new President, Howard Randolph, and to his board. The success of the Club depends upon all of us. Attend the meetings! Join in the fun!

Good luck and keep happy!

(Signed) John G. Hocking.

THANKS

We want to thank the following members who furnished the delicious cookies for the Christmas party: Zoa Bennett, Lila Stevens, Ruby McCrumb, Eleanor McCrumb, Ann Baker, Alberta Manina, Hermine Stolk, Irene Conklin, Mary Werle, Ellen Lord, Wilma Hopkins and Judy Hocking.

Also, many thanks to the helping hands who gave us a quick clean-up after the party.

The Welcome Committee  
Millie Malkin, Acting Chairman

## MIDWEST FEDERATION'S "LETTER-A-MONTH"

A Message from the President - Merton Young.

Since the Convention in Muskegon all of our Societies have elected officers. We congratulate them on having had the services of this excellent group of retiring servants, and we congratulate the incoming officers upon the opportunity to serve the various societies and their dedicated members.

It has been asked, "What can the Federation do for me?" The answer is, "very little", but if you will change the question to "What can the Federation do WITH me", then the answer is "very much".

It was reported at the Executive Council Meeting in Detroit, that certain Liaison officers decided arbitrarily what Letters-A-Month to bring before their Society and that certain Editors failed to either print, or read before the meetings, these communications.

Now that we have a New Year and new officers, let us break this bottle-neck. Let us work WITH one another for the benefit of all.

As an important part of the service offered, chairmen of various divisions of the Earth Sciences have been established. They are capable and competent people. If you have any questions or need any information regarding any of these subjects, write the following:

Geology, Dr. Willard Parsons, 9295 Outer Drive, Detroit 19, Michigan

Mineralogy, Dr. Benjamin Moulton, Science Dept., Indiana State College,  
Terre Haute, Indiana

Paleontology, Jay Wollin, 8917 Austin, Morton Grove, Illinois

Archaeology, John Phipps, 316 Grandview, Des Moines, Iowa

Lapidary, Mrs. Doris Kemp, 16410 University Ave., South Holland, Illinois

Education, Roy Clifton, 3100 Terrace Drive, Kokomo, Indiana

Programs, Mrs. Cecilia Duluk, 6700 Amboy, Dearborn Heights, Michigan

Rules (exhibits), Tolson Radloff, 625 Winchester, Lincoln Park, Michigan  
In event your problem does not fall within any of these categories,  
write the president of the Federation....Merton Young, Michigantown, Ind.

PROGRAM

ANNUAL BANQUET MEETING

C. W. Otto Junior High School Cafeteria

Thursday, 6:30 p.m.

January 21, 1965

SEE

"Animals of the ancient seas"

ENJOY

A slide program presented by Mrs. Cecilia Duluk, author and collector from Dearborn Heights. Illustrations used are actual fossil specimens in the author's collection along with charts and dioramic reconstructions from the Chicago Natural History Museum and the University of Michigan Exhibit Museum. Mrs. Duluk will also bring some fossils from her collection for display.

A mobile unit from the Michigan Historical Society will be parked near the entrance to the cafeteria. This will be open from 6:00 to 6:30 for us to visit. Miss Helen Martin will give guided tours.

Each family or family group (family and friends) attending should bring their own dishes, cups, glass, silverware and "Braggin Stone" or other rock-type center piece to decorate their table. Please bring one dish to pass for each two people who are attending in your family group. Each dish should contain ten servings. Rolls, coffee or milk will be furnished. Door prizes will be given.

To reach the C. W. Otto Jr. High School go north on North Larch Street (U.S. 27) past North Grand River Avenue, and over the overpass past the Motor Wheel plant. Immediately north of this plant and directly across the street from the McDonald Hamburg Drive-In is the entrance into the East Parking Lot of the C. W. Otto Jr. High School. We are asked to use this parking area.

DOOR PRIZES

SEE YOU THERE

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WELCOME -- New Members

Al Purtill, 902 W. Mt. Hope Avenue, Lansing

Cleora Purtill, 902 W. Mt. Hope Avenue, Lansing.

Membership Chairman  
Zelma Taft



HOW THE CENTRAL MICHIGAN LAPIDARY AND MINERAL SOCIETY  
WAS STARTED.

By the Kirkby's

The rock fever was in the air after the Clarence Kirkby family made a trip to California to visit brother Sam, Ruth and their son, Noel. They had been mineral collectors and gem-makers for several years. Their jewelry caught the eye of our son, Roger who was 15 years old at that time. He said, "I am going to make jewelry too". Roger looked over the machinery and watched as Noel cut, polished and mounted a cabachon. Roger insisted on buying the necessary material to make his own lapidary equipment -- to which his Dad reluctantly agreed.

~~The trip was one of those never-to-be-forgotten trips filled with excitement, adventure and education because our guides were the well-known team of Sam and Ruth Kirkby -- Ruth being a paleontologist and Earth Science lecturer. After traveling, the 7 of us together including our son Larry, for ten days we covered the Knott's Berry Farm, Zion National Park, Bryce National Park and walked down into the Grand Canyon for 15 miles to the Phantom Ranch and out the next day. The rest of the time we toured four states and collected minerals. Little did we realize the hobby which we were about to pursue soon would become one of the country's fastest growing hobbies.~~

After arriving home, the wheels of the car had hardly stopped turning when Roger had his home-made tumbler running, and soon followed with a gem saw and grinding and sanding wheels. The days were just not long enough for one boy to do all the things he wanted to do in his new-found hobby, along with his school work and sports. But he did find time to prepare an attractive display of his minerals, lapidary work and pictures of his home-made equipment in the 1956 Youth Talent Exhibit. The reward for his efforts was the "Grand Award" for boys and a 3-day trip to Washington, D. C.

It was this display, the first public lapidary display to be shown in the Lansing area, that aroused the interest of nature-loving people and caused them to call Roger so they might learn more about the hobby.

By this time, the Kirkby's had contracted the "Rock Fever" to the extent that there was no cure. By the fall of 1956, Roger's tumblers, despite some breakdowns, had turned out many pounds of sparkling baroques, and his hand polisher had produced many pieces of jewelry. This phase of the hobby, as you know, can grow and grow and grow until your personal use has been saturated and still there are more mountings and stones to be used.

At this point, we became willing to join the local Hobby and Craft Guild so we could display Roger's Youth Talent cases and also have an outlet for the many pieces of beautiful jewelry that were stockpiling. It was at the November, 1956 and March, 1957 Shows that a guest book was used to sign up the people who were the most interested. Because we had not posted the "Beware of Rock Pox" sign they became <sup>afflicted</sup> ~~inflicted~~ and we got more inquiries, "Where did you get the stones?", "Are they Michigan stones", and "Can we learn more about the hobby" and "Are there any gem cutting classes available"? Joe and Laura Kreps were among the first people to be interested. We can just remember the look in Joe's eyes as he was handed a polished Sweetwater agate that we had collected in Wyoming and we remarked, "Let that be the beginning of your rock collection". (You should see Joe's collection today, it is among the best, and the Sweetwater agate has a place of honor.)

By this time, with 50 names in our guest book, there seemed to be no turning back. Clarence had accumulated notes and information of clubs and club activities from members of the Gem and Mineral Society of Jackson. They were the third club in Michigan affiliated with the Midwest Federation of Mineralogical Societies. Jerry Hudechek was then the Regional Vice President and furnished organizational materials for the beginning of the mineralogical society and offered to help with the details when we were ready.

In April, 1957, Sam and Ruth were planning a trip to Michigan and said that Ruth would give an Earth Science Lecture if we would put a public announcement in the local newspaper and arrange for a meeting place. This was arranged for at the Natural Science building on the Michigan State University campus. Cards were mailed to 50 of our newly-made rock-loving friends. The attendance at the lecture was more than 70.

After the lecture, Jerry Hudecheck talked on details of organizing a club and encouraged fast action on the election of officers, adoption of a Constitution and By-laws that a charter might be issued and this would enable us to become affiliated with the Midwest Federation at the Annual Convention in July. The meeting place for our first meeting <sup>was</sup> had been arranged for at the new East Lansing High School and a date in May was announced.

At the first meeting 27 members signed up. At the second meeting, 20 more signed up, making a total of 47 charter members. ~~After that, the Club grew and grew and grew.~~

The Kirkby's

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New Labeling device for Club Members:

The Club has purchased a Dymo labeler for use by members of the organization. Our Secretary, Bettie Hodgson, has this piece of equipment and a good supply of rolls of tape which may be used in it. There is no charge for the labeler, but each roll costs 50¢. There are several colors available.

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News for the Rockhound News must be in the hands of the editor by the First Thursday of each month. Won't you please help keep the news rolling?

Thanks.

DUES . . . . . HAVE YOU PAID YOURS? . . . . . DUES

**DON'T FORGET:** The Annual Banquet at the C. W. Otto Junior High School Cafeteria at 6:30 P.M. January 21, 1965. Bring food to pass, dishes, cups, silverware and your Braggin' stone.

Judy Hocking is Chairman for the Banquet and Gladys Kirkby is taking over the decorations. Mrs. Duluk from Dearborn Heights will present her slide lecture and there will be door prizes and fun for all. Bring your appetite.

**DUES ARE DUE!**

Wm. Arend  
R. F. D.  
13100 Melody Lane  
Grand Ledge, Mich.



**THIRD CLASS**

Mrs. Zoa Bennett  
3421 Hagan St.  
Lansing, Michigan

THIS IS THE LAST COPY OF THE NEWSLETTER  
PLEASE RETURN TO THE EDITOR