

THE ROCKHOUND NEWS

Official Publication

of the

CENTRAL MICHIGAN LAPIDARY AND MINERAL
SOCIETY

Lansing, Michigan

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Affiliated with the Midwest Federation

OFFICERS FOR 1962

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Vice President - Program Chairman: Allen K. Philbrick, 520 Butterfield Dr. - E. Lansing
Secretary: Marie Fisher, 619 Community St. - - - - - Lansing
Treasurer: Norma Stuck, 3311 N. Cedar - - - - - Lansing
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BULLETIN

Bulletin Publisher: Mary F. Maier, 409 Seymour Ave. - - - - - Lansing
Editor: Theodore Werle, 4205 Meridian Rd. - - - - - Okemos

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Sam Knox, Henrietta and Read Myers, Leon W. North,
Ethel W. Rathke

Meeting Place: Walter French Junior High School Cafeteria
Meeting Time: Third Thursday, Monthly except July and August
Dues: Annually, \$2.00 Students under 18, \$1.00

PROGRAM

Club Meeting for Thursday, March 15, 1962

Time: 7:30 P.M. Place: Walter French Cafeteria

A T R I P T O A L A S K A

Joe and Laura Kreps with slides

We, of the Central Michigan Lapidary and Mineral Society, know them as Joe and Laura; but we -- most of us club members -- really know little about these two delightful people. For that reason your editor called on Joe for an interview at his headquarters. We found him in Room 144 at the Otto junior high school where he has taught science and mathematics for the last six years. Mr. Kreps got his teacher training and a Master's degree in science at the University of Western Michigan in Kalamazoo. On graduation he went to Kent City, Michigan, where he taught for 14 years. For an interim of 11 years he left teaching, but six years ago returned to his favorite field and has been in Lansing ever since. Traverse City was his native city. He is a charter member of our club, as is his wife, Laura. He was the second president while Laura was the secretary of the new little group. They have three children: two married sons and a daughter. Joyce, who like her mother is also a second grade teacher, is unmarried.

The Kreps family -- Joe, Laura, and Joyce, the daughter -- have acquired much experience and knowledge in our field of interest during the six years they have been hounds. Each summer they have been on at least one major collecting trip. Their first trip of one month duration took them to the west coast. They toured Washington, Oregon, and California. In the next year they did the Dakotas, Wyoming, and Colorado for six weeks. Then came choice spots in Ontario. In the fourth year they were in the area of the fluorite mines and leaf fossils of the state of Illinois. Their fifth trip saw them in the East -- North Carolina, New Jersey, and New York -- for Herkimer diamonds. And last summer came the big two months bust to Alaska.

We can look forward to a pleasant evening when Joe and Laura come with their slides to tell us of that trek to the far North. Your editor sat fascinated as Joe told of the story of that adventure. We shall not try to steal his thunder here; but we assure you we shall be there to hear them and see their pictures. This is something no club member will wish to miss.

--T.J.W.

OPALS

by

Ethel A. W. Rathke

Opals have become popular again, for the superstition that they are unlucky seems to have vanished. But they are not plentiful, as diamonds are -- so that sale of them is limited to a certain number each year to keep the price up! -- and are in danger of being exhausted, except in a few localities.

To me, aside from their beauty, the most interesting fact is that they are not crystals, but a sort of jelly of silica which forms many cracks in drying out; and these cracks refract light and give them the wonderful colors we see. The high degree of refraction is apparently due to the cracks filling with materials of a different water content and density, and the light is refracted as from soap bubbles.

Opals are most plentiful in Australia in a section where the heat in summer reaches 120° at times, but goes below freezing in winter. The diggers live there in caves and holes in the ground, with tables, benches and beds made from the sandstone of the region, and are cool in summer and warm in winter. Fossil enthusiasts would like to know that these men found many opalized fossils from clams and sea lilies to an entire sea serpent skeleton, a reptile that often grew to 40 feet long called a plesiosaurus. Some of the skeleton had changed to "flashing opal" and those bones were sent to the British Museum in London. Twelve of the largest and most famous opals came from Australia. The latest big find, in 1946, was given to the Queen of England on her visit in 1954.

The two main kinds of opal are found in the United States: common opal in many places, such as petrified (opalized) wood and the sinter of Yellowstone Hot Springs; precious opal associated with a mineral called "isopyre" in the neighborhood of Dover, New Jersey; as nodules in limestone in Nebraska; moss opal in Colorado; milk opal in Texas; hyalite opal in Montana; and precious opal on the boundary between Idaho and Washington. The loveliest of our stones comes from the Friday Ranch in Oregon, the Virgin Valley in Nevada, and occasionally in California rhyolite. There seems to be only the one locality in the eastern half of the States where precious ones can be found.

STUDY THE ANNOUNCEMENT PAGE OF THE AMERICAN AND MIDWEST FEDERATION CONVENTIONS AND NATIONAL GEM AND MINERAL EXPOSITION FOUND IN THIS ISSUE OF THE BULLETIN. PLAN YOUR VACATION ACCORDINGLY.

ROCKHOUNDS AND ROAD CONSTRUCTION

By Read Myers

Excavation for a paved non-stop highway 41,000 miles long, and in some cases over 1,500 feet wide, with a depth graded to a maximum of 4 per cent is being cut through this country of ours. At no time in history has such a diversified amount of the Earth's crust been disturbed in so short a time.

This huge highway construction program, when completed, will benefit the Lapidary and Mineral Clubs of this nation in many ways. It will open hundreds of new areas for exploring. With this new excitement new friends will be found. Contact with other club members can be more frequent for the resultant exchange of specimens and experiences. The new roads will speed us to our destinations in two thirds of the previously required time. More distant spots will come within our reach, and there'll be less rush than on our old locations. And, as any rockhound knows, a good highway home means more specimens per trip, saving us express charges for luggage sent home while we transport our precious specimens in the car.

Why can't we follow such construction, taking advantage of it to dig our specimens and add to our collections? Are there any reasons why this would not be a wise thing to do? Would it be permitted? Let's examine the facts, as they occur in the state of Michigan, as a concrete example (not to be facetious). Here are a few bits of information pertaining to the building of such roads. After a job has been awarded to a contractor, he must complete the project within a specified period of time or pay a ruinous indemnity for each day of delay. He will have no time for social amenities, such as acting as host to rockhounds.

The contractor is governed by federal, state and local insurance laws covering the hours he may and may not work and who may be on the Right of Way (that portion of the land purchased for the highway). If a contractor has posted a "No Trespassing" sign or has denied you access to the area, don't blame him. He will be penalized if he violates his contract. He is liable for all persons connected with his project, and so he has no choice but to deny you access whether he is operating at the time or not.

The next time you pass a road construction site, notice the heavy graders traveling at speeds of 28 miles per hour loaded and about 50 miles per hour when empty. This is the most dangerous area of a project, and it most certainly is the part of sound wisdom to stay away from there, especially with children. Some of these monsters ingest and disgorge enough earth at one bite to fill a bus -- certainly no place for a child, and no rockhound should expect permission for access to the area.

Occasionally the crew and the huge shovels unearth what appear to be historical relics, Indian artifacts, or a very odd formation of rock containing fossils or minerals. The men call the contractor's attention to

this and he notifies the nearest museum or college, which soon has groups ready to go to the road areas. In these instances the contractor clears the area of all equipment and employees. Because of this delay, additional time is granted the contractor for completion of his contract. The professionals from the museums or colleges take over at their own risk. Thus the Cranbrook Museum, the University of Michigan, Michigan State University, the College of Mines, etc., to name a few, have so many fine specimens.

If you are thinking "they don't work on the weekends," please remember men have to maintain, test, and repair this heavy equipment on these days; therefore, watchmen are posted to keep the area free of trespassers.

Here in Michigan our freeway system is nearing completion in the rural areas, placing the Mackinac Bridge within four hours' driving time from Lansing. Marquette, Negaunee, and the Iron River mines are seven hours' driving time, and Houghton and Calumet are only nine or ten hours away.

This year the Michigan State Highway Department, for the first time, has approved the use of mine wastes for aggregate. Where there is an excavation, a more liberal attitude toward specimen hunting is taken, and waste areas are generally open to us in our Upper Peninsula.

The mine dumps or waste areas as well as operating mines and abandoned ones are listed on county maps which may be purchased from the Michigan Conservation Department for 25¢ each.

* * * * *

The membership roster for 1962 will be a part of the publication for April. It will include only the names of people whose dues are paid up. Keep your name on the roster. "It pays to belong!"

* * * * *

The Lansing Community College is adding to its curriculum a course that will be of interest to many rockhounds in this area. It is listed in the catalog as "Geology 204" and will deal with various aspects of gems and ores. Mr. Manley, the college's geologist, will be the instructor. The course will begin with the spring term, if the equipment on order arrives in time, and will meet at 7:00 p.m. on Tuesdays and Thursdays.

* * * * *

CHECK THE OPEN HOUSE ANNOUNCEMENT IN "MEMBERS' DOINGS" . . .
MARCH 25 AT THE WILLIAM J. HOOKER HOME, 310 OXFORD ROAD, EAST LANSING

* * * * *

Next month's bulletin will carry a list of the neighboring clubs. Lack of space prevents publishing now.

MEMBERS' DOINGS

Leila and Burton Munro are in Rio Hondo, Texas, looking for rocks and things. They report fairly good fortune in their search, and they send good wishes to all the club members. They also visited Mexico City and "want to go back and see it again."

Tom Malkin last week visited the Grand Rapids Museum where the Grand Rapids Mineral Society will hold its 3rd Annual Gem and Mineral Show from March 3 to April 1. He was enthusiastic about the arrangements in the museum. The entire first floor, he says, will be given over to this purpose. The show will be open on week days from 10 A.M. to 5 P.M., on Sundays and holidays from 2 to 5 P.M. Tom says, "Let's Go!"

William J. Hooker and Tom Malkin had their heads together the other evening and came up with an open house invitation for members of our club. It's to be held on Sunday, March 25, at the Hooker home, from 2 to 5 in the afternoon and from 7 to 9 in the evening. The address is 310 Oxford Road, East Lansing, and the unlisted phone number is ED-26058. The Hookers ask that club members expecting to call on them, please telephone ahead. Their capacity is limited, and they wish to be able to plan the refreshments according to the number of guests. Bill has a fine collection of the stuff hounds look for and a shop to work it.

Secretary, Marie Fisher, received a pleasant "thank you" note from the four Muskegon Club members who attended our annual meet. They were: Helen and Russ Greer, and Elaine and Fred Anderson.

Gladys Kirkby and Ed Kirkby were guest speakers at a meeting of the Beta Phi women. Their subject was "Creative Beauty from Michigan Rocks." We all know they would do a bang-up job on that subject. And in so doing they bring credit on our club for educational effort in the community.

New members welcomed at the February meeting whose names were not listed in the last "Rockhound News":

#287 - Mrs. Ellen Lord and

#288 - John Bruce Lord, both of 1700 Illinois Avenue, Lansing

"Earth Science" reports that the Harlingen, Texas, Rockhound Association sponsored a Tourist Fiesta on February 17 and 18. Your publisher, while visiting relatives in Harlingen, attended one of their meetings. Harlingen is near the mouth of the Rio Grande River -- good rock hunting. Their president, Ramon C. Church, graduated from Lansing Sexton High School. When they go on field trips they carry snake-bite kits. Any of our members had any experience? Should we be alerted to this danger when we go into territory inhabited by poisonous reptiles?

SHOWS FOR 1962 FOR YOUR VACATION PLANS

In Michigan

- Through the month of March -- Grand Rapids Mineral Society - Annual Spring Show. Place: Grand Rapids Public Museum --from "Glacial Drifter"
- *September 15 -- Fourth Annual Gem and Mineral Show
Place: Saginaw County Fair Grounds
- *October 6-7 -- Rockarama - Muskegon
- *November 8-9-10 -- Craft and Hobby Show (tentative)
Place: Civic Center, Lansing
Central Michigan Lapidary and Mineral Society's display
- *Year-round display case -- Central Michigan Lapidary and Mineral Society
Place: Lower level of Capitol Building, Lansing

Regional Out-of-State Federation Shows

- June 8-9-10 -- Rockarama Gem and Mineral Fair
Place: Shrine Temple - Rockford, Illinois
- *July 27-31 -- National Gem and Mineral Exposition
Theme: "America the Beautiful"
Place: Des Moines, Iowa
This is the Midwest joint with the American Regional Convention.
- June 28 -
July 1 -- Eastern Federation Show
Place: Raleigh-Durham, North Carolina
- July 21-23 -- California Federation Show
Place: Del Mar, California
- Labor Day weekend -- Northwest Federation Show
Place: Spokane, Washington

* SHOWS WE MAY ENTER DISPLAYS IN.

--Ruth Eckhardt, Display Chairman

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Have you seen the club's display in the State Capitol Building? It's fascinating. Beautifully arranged. Much credit is due the Display Committee for their effort. The exhibit is opposite the library near the elevator. You also will be interested in the historical displays in the rotunda. --TJW

SITE OF THE 1962 NATIONAL GEM and MINERAL EXPOSITION

AMERICAN AND MIDWEST FEDERATION CONVENTIONS

FRIDAY, SATURDAY, SUNDAY, MONDAY and TUESDAY

JULY 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 1962

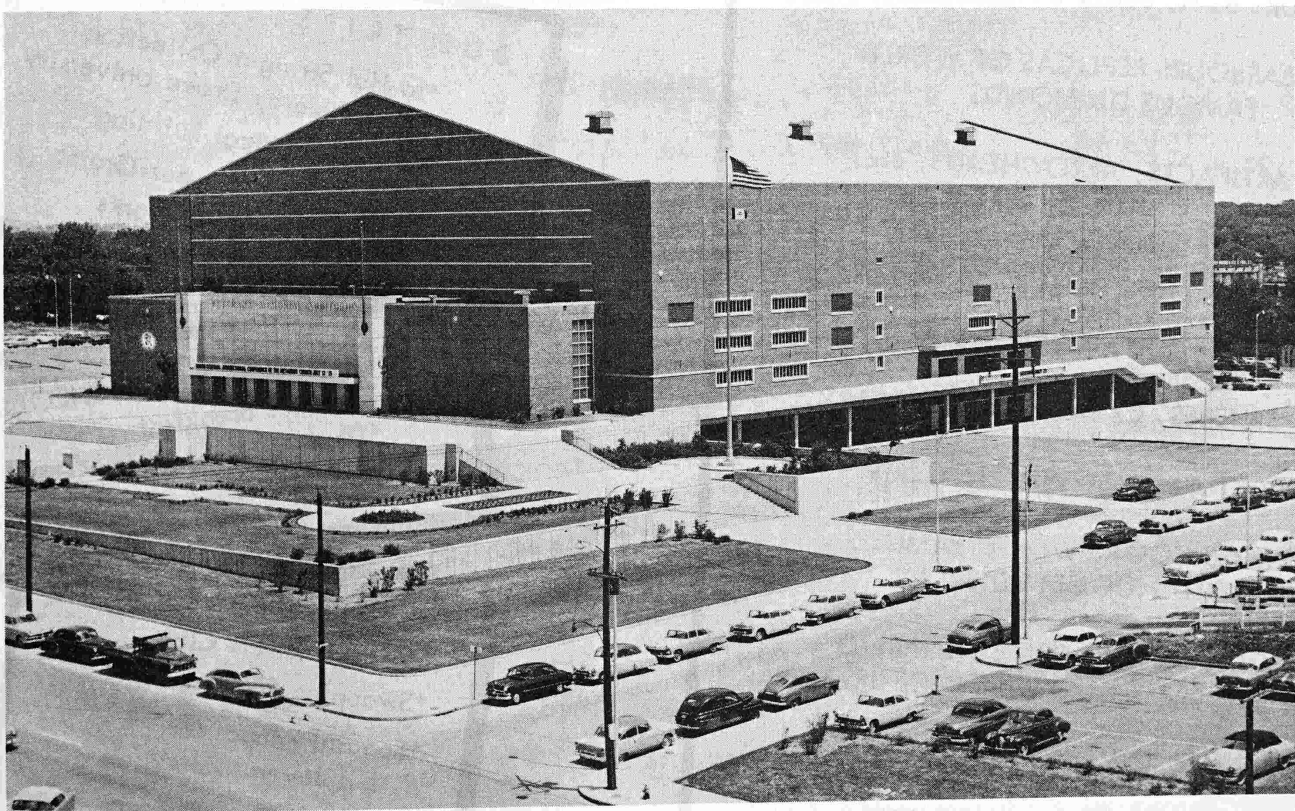
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You'll Want to SEE and DO at the NATIONAL GEM and MINERAL EXPOSITION

VETERANS AUDITORIUM - DES MOINES, IOWA

JULY 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 1962

- *CROWN OF ANDES
- *AARON'S BREAST PLATE
- *SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTE DISPLAY
(125 to 150 crystals)
- *40 FOOT FLUORESCENT DISPLAY
- *LIZZADRO MUSEUM JADE CARVINGS
- *DR. B. H. BEAN'S FAMOUS FOSSILS
- *BARBOURS REPLICAS OF WORLD
FAMOUS DIAMONDS
- *ARTIFACTS, ARROWHEADS, etc.
- *RICE'S "WOODRUFF TROPHY"
WINNING DISPLAY
- *MAZIE GILCHRIST'S STONE FLOWERS
- *SPHERES, CABACHONS, JEWELRY,
- *PICTURES, CARVINGS, GEMS
- *ROSS COOKS WORLD FAMOUS
GOLD NUGGETT DISPLAY
- *DORIS KEMP'S PRIZE WINNING
V-LOCK AND WIRE LACE JEWELRY
- *LARGE IOWA DISPLAY
- *18 INCH AMATHYST CRYSTAL
- *LARGE AMATHYST GEODE
- *and.... MORE... MORE... MORE

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- *MOVIES

BUS TRIPS...

- *to Hal Straight Collection
at Nearby Drake University
- *Iowa Historical Building
- *West Bend's Famous Grotto
- *Rowat Cut Stone Works

BANQUETS AND LUNCHEONS

- *Editor's Breakfast
- *Dealer's Breakfast
- *Official Banquet

*Camping and Trailer Display

- *Ye Old Timers Club
- *Swapping Room
- *Special School for
Displayers & Judging

CAMPING SITE AVAILABLE
WITHIN EASY REACH OF AUDITORIUM

BOARD MEMBERS - 1962

Elmer Eckhardt	IV 52457	Allen Philbrick	ED 28330
Harvey Eustrom	FE 92300	Cliff Prevy	IV 44964
Marie Fisher	IV 44081	Norma Stuck	IV 90451
Sam Knox	ED 20540	Harold Stuck	IV 90451

APPOINTED COMMITTEES

EDUCATION

Fred Gasche, Chmn.	IV 43281	John Hocking	ED 22603
George Winsor	355 0868	Judy Hocking	ED 22603

DISPLAY

Ruth Eckhardt, Chmn.	IV 52457	Cliff Prevy	IV 44964
Ed Kirkby	IV 50481	Howard Randolph	NA 72462
Gladys Kirkby	ED 26809	Margaret Randolph	NA 72462
Roger Kirkby	ED 26809	Lila Stevens	IV 72662

FIELD TRIPS

Tom Malkin, Chmn.	FE 98110	Jim Patterson	IV 51460
Reo Hovey	IV 47293	Richard Stevens	IV 72662

MEMBERSHIP

Eleanor Owens, Chmn.	IV 57965	Grace Shappell	ED 23885
Cliff Prevy	IV 44964		

PROGRAM

Allen Philbrick, Chmn.	ED 28330	Frank Owens	IV 57965
Norman Kunkel	ED 79338		

PUBLICATIONS

Theodore Werle, Chmn.	ED 23981	Henrietta Myers	IV 56686
Sam Knox	ED 20540	Leon North	OX 48367
Mary Maier	IV 27120	Mildred North	OX 48367
Read Myers	IV 56686	Ethel Rathke	ED 21809

WORKSHOP

Joe Kreps, Chmn.	IV 56947	Frank Rickerd	NO 92793
Norma Stuck	IV 90451	Ila Rickerd	NO 92793

WELCOME

Ray Brown, Chmn.	IV 26728	Fred Bambrick	NI 62685
Reva Brown	IV 26728	Pearl Bambrick	NI 62685

LIBRARIAN -- Harold Stuck

PERMANENT MAILING ADDRESS:

Gladys Kirkby
1401 Greenview, East Lansing