

THE ROCKHOUND NEWS

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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

APRIL PROGRAM

"THE COPPER COUNTRY OF MICHIGAN"

By Dr. Justin Zinn, Professor of Geology at M.S.U.

The theme of our April meeting has been chosen to be "Copper." Program director Philbrick therefore asks all members to take advantage of this opportunity to show copper collections, to bring specimens for identification if found in the Copper Country and identity is uncertain.

CRYSTALS IN INFINITY

One of the incomprehensible mysteries of the crystal world has always been the infinite variety of snowflake patterns. How can Nature provide such variation of design that no person has ever found two identical snowflakes?

Science Service of Washington, D. C., has reported that molecular vibration may be the secret of how each arm of a snowflake crystal builds symmetry, cally with near duplication of pattern on each radius.

S. Tolansky of Royal Holloway College, Surrey, England, has explained the remarkable symmetry of the six-ray-star-shaped snowflake as the result of each flake vibrating mechanically as a flat plate. Water vapor molecules are constantly bombarding a snowflake and are less likely to stick to surfaces that are in violent agitation. Where the molecules of water do adhere, they exert a damping effect on the vibrations, slowing them down, and more molecules then tend to collect in the same spot.

Each arm of the snowflake receives the damping effect simultaneously. Thus it seems to be indicated that growth is symmetrical since water molecules are deposited on each spoke in nearly identical places.

--Sam Knox

GUESTS AT MARCH MEETING

Mrs. Milo Langworthy, Lansing; Barbara Price, Eaton Rapids; Mrs. Riardon and son Mike.

FIELD TRIP APRIL 29

A wonderful field trip is being planned for Sunday, April 29, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. to collect plant fossils in Shiawassee County. Further details will be given at the April meeting. Anyone interested in going on this trip will have to sign a waiver ahead of time. Tom Malkin will have one at the meeting. Be sure to take a lunch and drinking water for yourself and family. If you can give someone a ride or if you need a ride, get in touch with Dick Stevens.

A MESSAGE ON FIELD TRIP PROBLEMS

Many good collecting areas have been closed to Rock clubs. We have written at least a dozen letters and made personal visits to collecting areas. We learned that they no longer allow groups such as ours on their properties. Many of our letters remain unanswered. We are afraid there will be more and more refusals. In time, field trips will be a thing of the past, unless we can build a good reputation for our club. We believe that lack of consideration of other people's property and not obeying rules of collecting are the number one menaces causing places to be closed. Most of the areas in the midwest are on private property. When we are granted privileges to collect, we should enter in an orderly manner and act accordingly. After all, we are guests for that day and hours stated, and we should treat our host as if we were invited out for Sunday dinner. In the future, let's all put on our best Rockhound manners. Only then will we get an invitation to come back.

COURTESY AND SAFETY RULES FOR COLLECTORS

Wear safety goggles - eyes are precious.
Wear sturdy shoes - rocks are hard to walk on.
Watch your children at all times.
Do not trespass on private property without permission.
Park in designated area.
Watch out for quarry trucks and give them the right of way.
Stay away from buildings and equipment.
Don't drive over air hoses.
Do stay away from posted and dangerous areas.
Do not throw debris down drill holes which have been prepared for blasting.
Stay away from areas wired for blasting.
Avoid overhanging rocks.
Avoid working above or below another member - this is one of the greatest forms of danger.
Do obey the time limits of your visit.

--Field Trip Committee

BOOK REPORT

"GEMSTONES AND MINERALS" by John Sinkankas, D. Van Nostrend (1961) - \$8.95

This book is sub-titled, "How and Where to Find Them," and truly deserves this sub-title. In my opinion, John Sinkankas has here the best book of its kind on the market. The chapters are as follows:

1. Prospecting and Collecting Trips - A general discussion of most of the problems in organizing a trip is given here. Perhaps the most impressive section is that on the use of maps. The author has condensed map-reading very neatly.
2. Tools and How to Use Them - A complete description of the most commonly used tools with very important tips on their most effective use. One fact new to me is the great superiority of a gad over a chisel in rock work. A well-written section on the use of dynamite made it seem that I can go right out and start blasting.
3. Rock Classes and How to Recognize Them - This chapter offered the least new information to me, but its organization and presentation is so well done that I found it a pleasure to read.
4. How Mineral Deposits Form - Again much of this chapter will be familiar to the club members. I did learn some important information about pegmatites, however, and the writing is very clear.
5. Field Features of Mineral Deposits - This chapter is a must for every collector. Only the real old-timer in the business would fail to learn a great deal by studying this material. Had I known then what I do now, last summer's trip to Maine would have been much more productive!
6. Collecting Practice - Another must! Again I wish I had studied this before the Maine trip. It would have made a great difference. The author's hints on collecting from mine dumps would themselves have helped me immensely.
7. Preparation of Specimens
8. Storage and Exhibit
9. Marketing Mineral Specimens and Gemstones

The last three chapters contain many useful hints, but perhaps most of us know these already. Still, it is a delight to see the information so well codified. The appendices include an invaluable table of mineral solubilities and a table of those minerals which require protection from the atmosphere, sunlight, etc., as well as lists of addresses, libraries and reference material.

--John G. Hocking

Off to Europe: On September 9, Dr. John Hocking leaves for Tübingen University in Germany where he will teach for the next year. Dr. Hocking has developed a distinguished career as a mathematician, and it is in that capacity that he will teach under a Fulbright grant. His recent book on Topology is now widely accepted as an advanced text in that mathematical specialty.

MIDWEST FEDERATION'S
L E T T E R - A - M O N T H
for April 1962

Subject: Rockramas 1962
By: Russ Kemp, Rockrama Director

Without a doubt, this will prove to be the finest year enjoyed by members of the Federation. Every member and every society of the Midwest Federation will find there is a show close to home for enjoyment, visit and display.

Our most important show will be the National Gem and Mineral Exposition, the combined American and Midwest Federation shows to be held the last 5 days of July, hosted by the Des Moines Lapidary Society in Des Moines, Iowa.

In addition to this major show, there can each year be three Rockramas, one in each of the regions not holding our Convention. This year we have a full compliment of Rockramas in the planning stages.

For the Central Region, hosted by the Rock River Valley Gem and Mineral Society a Rockrama will be held in the Rockford, Illinois, Shrine Temple, June 8-9-10. For information, contact the General Show Chairman, Mr. Dick Bolander, 3620 Guilford Road, Rockford, Illinois.

For the Eastern Region, hosted by the Muskegon County Rock and Mineral Ass'n, a Rockrama will be held in the Walker Sports Arena, Muskegon, Michigan, October 6-7. For information contact Mr. Russ Greer, 1554 Pine Street, Muskegon, Mich.

For the Northern Region, hosted by the Rib Mountain Gem and Mineral Society, a Rockrama will be held in Wausau, Wisconsin. The place and dates will be announced later. For information contact Mr. Ronald Hoffman, Secretary, Rib Mountain Gem and Mineral, 933 S. 5th Avenue, Wausau, Wisconsin.

Besides these fine shows many clubs and societies are planning local shows. You can learn about these from the bulletins, magazines and the Midwest Calendar of Events.

Each of the above listed Rockramas will feature special displays, programs of interest to all rockhounds, demonstrations, swap tables and the chance to purchase cutting material and specimens from reputable dealers displaying there.

The clubs and societies that put on these shows do so for the benefit of all rockhounds. To make a show successful they need not just many visitors but interesting displays from individuals as well as societies. Have fun in your hobby, visit and display at as many shows as you can this year!

Rockramally yours,
Russ Kemp

NEWS NOTES AND COMMENTS

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

There may be times when each of us wonders just what this hobby of ours does for us other than satisfy an inherent curiosity about the world around us. This morning while attending a meeting, my attention wandered from the program presented to the walls of the building, where in neat symmetrical rows the bricks were cemented together. This hobby of ours told me immediately that the cement was a limestone mixture of minerals which had been ground, heated and mixed with sand to form a hard adherent mass. (Incidentally, this diversion of attention was of short duration.)

Later when driving home we passed other buildings made of stone, some of them locally cut stone, others of imported varieties. To us it is much fun to identify and attempt to place the origin of the various stones used in buildings.

As we use some of the parks in this area, we find we are able to identify various types of stones which to us not too many years ago were just "rocks." This hobby of ours imparts a greater sense of enjoyment for us from our surroundings. Warmest greetings to all our members. --E.E.

NEW MEMBERS WELCOMED AT THE MARCH MEETING

#289	Mrs. Esther M. Hendrix	308 Michigan Ave.	East Lansing
#290	Gerald G. Hendrix	" " "	" "
#291	John B. Munro	25550 Taft	Novi
#292	Mrs. Emma H. Rogers	148 Orchard	East Lansing
#293	Oliver C. Rogers	" "	" "
#294	Edward Sterrett	2520 Dillingham	Lansing
#295	Mrs. Virginia Sterrett	" "	"
#296	Mrs. Florence B. Hill	3135 Okemos Road	Mason
#297	Raymond G. Love	4254 Braden	Byron
#298	Thurmon L. Finfrock	421 Lexington	East Lansing

AUTO ACCIDENT -- After driving all the way to Central Alaska and back without mishap, Joe and Laura Kreps were slightly injured (Laura painfully) in an auto smash-up a few blocks from home. They are both back on their teaching posts as this is written.

LEILA AND BURTON MUNRO -- Visited in Texas, Mexico and crossed west to California. We think they are back, and we hope to be given an opportunity to view their rich bags of loot.

(Continued on next page)

NEWS NOTES AND COMMENTS (Continued)

PEKIN, ILLINOIS -- If you are in the area, peek in on the fourth annual rockrama of this hospitable Illinois city. Dates: May 12 and 13. Place: Hymbaugh Chevrolet Display Room - Route 29.

ASHTABULA, OHIO -- June 30 and July 1 are the dates for their rock festival. This is the first open air show sponsored by the Ashtabula Rock and Gem Club. Place: Behind the Museum of Rocks and Minerals in Rock Creek, Ohio. There will be space for campers. Write Irene Shore, Station Street, Rock Creek, Ohio.

OUR LIBRARY -- Two books placed in the rock club library as memorial gifts for Mrs. Hildegard Werle and Mr. Harry Bennett are already being used by members of the Club. One of the books is Dana's "Dictionary of Rocks," Mrs. Werle's memorial, useful for rock identification. The other, Gleason's book on "Rocks Under the Ultraviolet Light," Mr. Bennett's memorial, has, beside the text, a large number of photographs of rocks under the shortwave light and is a book that will be of particular interest to those who collect specimens of this kind.

GEMS AND ORES -- Members of our club attending the geology class at Lansing Community College are Leila Stevens, James Patterson, Francis Hyde, Frank and Eleanor Owens.

BOY SCOUTS -- Club members appear before Boy Scout round tables. The May scouting program is to be built around rocks and minerals. The education committee sent two speakers to district meetings before Scout Masters and Leaders to discuss and answer questions regarding this most interesting subject. Well received were John Hocking at Grand River School, District No. 2, and Edward Kirkby at University Lutheran Church, District No. 1.

CLUB DISPLAY -- Plans are being made to change the Capitol display. The plan is to make the change in time for "Michigan Week" in May. This is our case and it is our opportunity to help our club by loaning our Michigan specimens. There are many good specimens among our members and we would like to request that you contact the display committee. Refer to display committee telephone numbers on last page of the bulletin.

THE GRAND RAPIDS SHOW -- Thanks to the courtesy of Mr. and Mrs. F. A. Reed, your publisher and editor very much enjoyed a personally conducted after-hours tour of the museum display put on by the Grand Rapids Mineral Society during last March. It was an excellent show. We were much impressed.

COLLECTING INFORMATION FOR THAT 1962 VACATION TRIP

Compiled by Education Committee

JOE KREPS: Herkimer diamonds, New York; fluorescents, New Jersey.

JOHN HOCKING: Tourmaline, beryl, quartzes; Maine and New Hampshire.

WILL WOOD (ED 2-4769 - Okemos): Pegmatites; Maine.

CLARENCE KIRKBY: Bancroft, Ontario.

THE BAMBRICKS: Arkansas diamond mine. Bull Shoals area for crystals.

MRS. HARRY BENNETT: Howlite; Tick Canyon, California.

BILL HOOKER: Scenic; South Dakota.

FRED GASCHE: Agate camp ground on Lake Superior. Cowee Valley, North Carolina.

JIM PATTERSON: Pacific Northwest.

THE ECKHARDT'S: Iron Country; Ishpeming area.

THOMAS MALKIN (FE 9-8110): Field trip chairman knows location of Indiana Geodes, Calcite and flint from Flint Ridge, Ohio.

BURTON MONRO: Lake Superior Agates - plus recent trip to Texas and New Mexico for agates, etc.

JIM PATTERSON (IV 5-1460): Local and out of state.

CLIFF PREVEY (IV 4-4964): Local and out of state.

READ MYERS (IV 5-6686): Sphalerite from Oklahoma, Mississippi and Kentucky.

LEON NORTH (OX 4-8367): Petoskey stones.

FRANK MORTIMER: Has excellent arrowhead collection - a field trip in itself out to Morrice.

FRANK OWENS (IV 5-7965): Sandwich chalcedony from Bad Lands of South Dakota as well as mica and feldspar.

HOWARD RANDOLPH (NA 7-2462): Good polishing quality granite from Grand Ledge.

FRANK RICKERD (NO 9-2793): Excellent Thompsonite hunting in Grand Marais, Minn.

RICHARD STEVENS (IV 7-2662): Geodes, calcite, Michigan stones.

HAROLD STUCK (IV 9-0451): Herkimer diamonds from N.Y. Agate from the West.