

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE CENTRAL MICHIGAN LAPIDARY & MINERAL SOCIETY MICHIGAN LANSING

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Appiliated With Midwest Federation of Mineralogical & Geological

American Federation of Mineralogical Societies

Meetings

Walter French Junior High School Cafeteria Third Thursday monthly except July and August

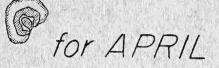
Editor: William A. Russell, 5911 Rolfe Road, Lansing



The President requests that the following members and families bring a display of specimens for the April meeting:

Mrs. Zoa Bennett Edson Brower Mrs. Mildred Brown Raymond C. Brown Ford S. Ceasar Floyd E. Castelein

> Edward Kirkby President



William Hiser of Ann Arbor, Michigan will speak to us on the Formation of Lake Superior Agate. He will bring display specimens and allow time after his talk for questions on agates....and other rock fields, too, we hear.

The Hiser's are leaving the state., so this will be a good time for their friends to wish them well also.

Howard Randolph. Vice President

The moving binger writes' In Review



Thomas Manly talked on "Continental Drift and Glaciation" at the March meeting. He spoke of the "Ring of Fire" around the Pacific Ocean. If all the volcanos in this "Ring" were to erupt at the same time, result could be a shift, possible 300 mile per hour winds, immense amounts of snowfall, and living animals freezing in their tracks. Brrr.

Wegerer verified theory of continental drift by measuring magnetism of the continents. This was

done by measuring the magnetic field of older ores, which is different from that of the present time. It was discovered that India has moved north...North America has moved 3000 miles west, etc...

We had some interesting specimens to view at the meeting...William Arend brought some Jelly Opal, Fire Agates, and Brazilian Agates all polished and beautiful...Ruth Eckhardt had an interesting Thomsonite tree shaped pin that she had made....Joe Kreps demonstrated his prowess on his new slab saw with many interesting slabbed specimens...as did William Coleman...Douglas Stolk brought some golden calcite crystal Septeria (Fluorescent) from Kanab, Utah...Mrs. Wilson was wearing three narrow bracelets set with little tumbled stones, giving the effect of a wider one.

April 1963

MEMBERS NEW

Mrs. Mildred McLarty, 5983 E. Lake Drive, Haslett, Michigan

Lorne A McLarty, 5983 E. Lake Drive, Haslett, Michigan

Clark McMains, 1210 Barnes Avenue, Lansing 10, Michigan #336

OPEN HOUSF Past

We wish to thank Rich and Lila Stevens for their hospitality in showing their fine collection of rocks and minerals at their open house. Many members were present to learn more about our interesting hobby.

Anyone wishing to have open house in the future please contact Tom

Malkin...FE 9-8110.

DON'T and DO

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 areas. Watch out for quarry trucks and equipment...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 any other member...this is one of the greatest forms of danger.

Do obey the time limits of your visit.

Do not litter collecting area with rubbish. Take it to the nearest disposal or take it with you.

> Tom Malkin Field Trip Chairman

The State Line Gem & Mineral Society is host to a Rock Swap at Onsted, Michigan on June 1st and 2nd. All rockhounds welcome to swap rocks with the neighbors in the Midwest. No charge to Federation members ... small fee to others. For more information write:

Mrs. Don Bruce RFD 2

Blissfield, Michigan We have several copies of a map if anyone would be going and need one.

Watch for details of our Annual May picnic in the May issue of Rockhound News.

GUESSING GAME-answers

- 1. Alexandrite
- 6. Tourmaline
- 2. Quartz
- 7. Morganite
- 3. Emerald
- 8. Turquoise 9. Pearl
- 4. Topaz 5. Malachite
- 10. Jade

 $<\div x + x \div >$

Strange is our situation here on earth. Each of us comes for a short visit, not knowing why, yet sometimes seeming to divine a purpose. Albert Einstein

from Ideals Magazine

Trip Problems

Many problems face your field trip chalman such as where can we get permission to collect, as many good collectile and have took closed to rock clubs. What shall we collect: fresils? Trystals? minerals? or from a glacial drift of water-worn mixture of every Kind of rock that the glacier has passed over? We all have our favorites... all are interesting and educational. Some areas are safe for the whole family including the pebble pups...other areas are restricted to the rockhounds. We try to please all of you. Field trirs enable us to understand and appreciate our fascinating hobby. No amount of reading about different rocks will substitute for collecting them in person. Sometimes we have good luck and find just the specimen we're looking for. Other times we're disappointed. Oh, well, most of us have more rocks kicking around the house than we know what to do with anyhow. What better way is there to spend the day than to be out with our friends to trade a few rockhound stories and hope to find that perfect specimen. We have been to several quarries this spring and found poor collecting. We were notified by most operators that due to the long winter, work has been delayed. It will be a few weeks before collecting is worthwhile. Bear with us as we do have some good possibilities for a later date. Please read and remember the courtesy and safety rules. The reputation we build now means the future of our club.

Tom Malkin, Field Trip Chairman

Lila Stevens recently gave a talk on rocks to the 4th and 5th grades at Merle Colt School. She has also been asked to lecture at a Girl Scout Camp this summer.

Lansing Public Library has some books of interest to us:

Industrial Minerals & Rocks, published by the American Institute of Mining & Metallurgical Engineers

Economic Mineral Deposits by Alan M. Bateman, John Wiley & Sons, Publishers.

Excellent reading material on deposits, mining and processing methods and uses of rocks and minerals.

> Fred Gasche Education Chairman

As of October 6, 1962 each state in the Midwest Federation now has a Vice President. Ours is Mr. Marion Gingery of Flint. The assistant Vice President is Russell Greer of Muskegon.

We have received a list of books or Geology of the Midwest and elsewhere for Children, Reginners, and Interested Adults. The list will be available at our April 18th meeting, as the list is too length to reprint in the bulletin WAR

> If you would lift me you must he on higher ground. Emerson

Ice Age Chill Cools Alpena "Sinks"

Scientists crawled to the bottom of a sink hole near Alpena recently and discovered the one place in Michigan that hasn't fully warmed up since the last of the Ice Age 10,000 years ago.

In the deep pit they came across evidence: Ferns and other plant life found only in much cooler regions. Their conclusion: That when the ice cap began to recede 100 centuries ago, Lower Michigan became too warm for the plants and they died out...everywhere except in a hitherto unsuspected spot, the sink holes.

Located 15 miles northwest of Alpena near the Presque Isle County line the sinks are becoming the State's answer as a tourist magnet to Kentucky's caves.

One of the largest pits is 150 feet across and drops 100 feet almost straight down into the earth. At the bottom is a jungle of timber which has fallen into the hole...white pine logs three feet thick.

Science hopes to come up with the full answer to something that has long puzzled those who live near the sinks: Why didn't water ever fill the holes as usually happens in a pit? They noted that rain and melting snow pouring into the sink holes disappeared.

Partly because of weird folk tales told about the sinks, few dared to clamber down into the forbidding depths. Then boosters in Alpena began to talk them up as a tourist lure. Eventually the holes came under State ownership. Today, a growing trickle of visitors is finding the path to the most spectacular sink hole, one mile west of M-65 on the road to Fletcher Park.

First exploring party into the pits consisted of Dr. Marion T. Hall and Walter P. Nickell, of Cranbrook Institute of Science, and Peter Hill graduate student in science at the University of Michigan. A veteran mountain climber and cave explorer, Nickell led the group down the precipice on ropes. At the bottom the scientists scrambled under and over the centuries-old logs. Growing among boulders was a thick carpet of vegetation, including the tell-tale ferns. Altho it was a hot day up above, the explorers began to shiver. Checking a thermometer, they found it was 20 degrees cooler. Day and night the reading didn't vary more than a few degrees. Looking about for animal life, the party spotted a half-grown woodchuck, a porcupine and a variety of young frogs. All looked half starved. "Obviously all had fallen into the hole, for I doubt if animals survive over winter in the pit," Nickell said. It was so chilly in the bottom, he said that insects which chanced down that far became numbed and silent. Nickell explained that the sink holes were formed in the same manner as caves ... minus a roof. Wherever there is an outcropping of limestone rock, as near Alpena, rain water will run down through a vertical crack in the rock. Carbonic acid in the water dissolves the calcium carbonate rock. Thus it "eats" out holes forming either caves or sinks.

Alpens sinks continued ...

Nickell said it is possible that underground the dissolving action may spread along the horizontal cracks creating caves, such as Kentucky's famous Mammoth Cave.

The scientists plan eventually to dump water colored with dye into the upper holes and then spot by airplane where it comes out. They believe water that goes into the sinks drains thru tunnels into Thunder Bay River.

The above appeared in the September 26, 1954 Detroit Free Press. Our thanks to The Rockfinder of the Michiana Rock and Gem Club, March 1963 for the article that brought our attention to this interesting phenomenon. We will continue with another slant of the same subject next month.

Round About

Bob and Mildred Powers send their regards from Mexico...they are having a grand time on the beach. Clarence Kirkby tells us that if any members get to Frankford, Mich. to look him up...he has a lovely display & lapidary equipment there.

The Werles send greetings from New Orleans to all Rockhounds. They mislaid their addresses, so cannot write to their friends. "Weather is pleasantly warm and eating is excellent there."

Previews-

Peru, Indiana YMCA Rock & Mineral club show. Peru Armory, Mrs. R. Zellers, RFD 2, Box 57, Star City, Indiana.

Kalamazoo, Michigan... (See pink flyer included in this issue.)

Hibbing, Minnesota...1963 Field Trip Convention for the Midwest. July 18th thru 21st. We hope to have a flyer for our next issue.

Thank you...the stamps are coming in nicely. We still have room for more. Send or bring, we'll be glad to pass them on..........WAR

-beyond the Jasper Wall

We wish to extend our sympathy to the family and friends of Burton L. Munro who passed away the first of March.

"God's finger touched him, and he slept."..Tennyson-In Memoriam

PYGMY ELEPHANT FOSSILS FOUND IN ROME

The Italian Institute for Geological studies said Thursday skeleton remains of an extinct pygmy elephant had been found in a grotto near Siracusa, Sicily. It was described as about three feet tall.

Pygmy elephants living today in the Congo are twice as tall. The geologists said the Sicilian Pygmy elephants lived in the Pleistocene epoch...Detroit Free Press.4.5.63

Read <u>Earth Science</u> for more complete listings of Club Shows.

"Mein Freunde und Bursche Felshunde"

12 March 1963

(My friends and fellow rockhounds,)

This is being written in Luxembourg! Judy and I (without the children) are on a short vacation for two. My reason for writing now is to tell you about Idar-Overstein, where we stayed last night. I think you would all find interest in the gem-cutting center of Germany.

Idar-Oberstein is in far western Germany. It stretches along the deep valley of the Idar river for several miles but isn't really very large. Every other building seems to be an "Edelstein Schleiferei" (gem polishing works). There is a lovely small museum with polished stone from all over the world. I took several interior flash pictures with my new camera and I hope they turn out.

Carved agate is a specialty here. Earlier, say 100-200 years ago, they worked with agate found in the Idar valley. Now this source is practically mined out and most of their rough stone is imported from Brazil. (We did see Mexican agate and some from the U.S. but most of the agate is Brazilian.) An interesting exhibit showed copies (in quartz crystal) of the famous large diamonds of the world.

After seeing the museum, we visited the largest factory in town. A private guided tour (!) had been arranged and we were shown everything. First we saw the rough stone after it had been graded for quality. This was interesting but not unlike material to be seen in any rock shop. Then we went back to the "Schleiferei" proper. Here in a small room sit the experts...only 7 of them. They facet and polish about 200-300 grans of stone per week. Some of you lapidary people may be interested to know that the chief of this group does the rough grinding only! The proper choice of angle of cutting, form of the finished stone, etc., in order to obtain the best color, refraction and strength of jewel is the most important single task in lapidary work, they tell us. Hence, the "Meister" does this work. His assistants do the faceting and polishing, all by hand. That is, they do not use a faceting head at all. Dopsticks and a small vertical block full of positioning holes, a little diamond bort paste and a lap, that's it!

Our tour ended with the goldsmiths. Here in a large room about 60 people, including apprentices, prepare the settings for the work of the gem polishers two floors below. The activities here were quite familiar, of course, but to watch real experts at work was a treat we won't forget. We did notice the benches at which they work. I'll build one when I get home!

As a view into the past, Judy and I visited an agate polishing factory in the old style. It's maintained partly as a museum open to the public but operating at full capacity. A waterwheel is used to drive large sandstone grinding wheels. These wheels, three of them, are eight feet in diameter and two feet thick, running on a horizontal shaft which itself is about a foot in diameter. You must picture this shaft

Letter from Professor John Hocking continued ...

in your mind as being just below floor level. To grind agate now, you lie down on a special bench, shaped to fit, on your stomach with your feet braced against cleats on the floor. The rest is muscle and skill! Of course, there are other machines as well, all driven by flapping overhead belts. It looks, and probably is, quite dangerous, but the quality of the work done is very high. We were told, though, that the life expectancy of the poor fellows who used to do this work was 35-40 years. They succumbed to TB, of course, with all that stone dust. A word to the wise lapidary should be sufficient. Stone dust is not for breathing!

We left Idar-Oberstein and drove to Trier which is reputedly the oldest city in Germany. Lots of Roman ruins but nothing quite so well preserved as we saw in the Rhone valley at Christmas time. We hurried on to Luxembourg only to be able to say we have been here.

We certainly miss the club activities and all of you nice people, too. There is no rock club in our part of Germany and rockhounds seem to be unknown. Of course, anything worthwhile collecting has been long ago collected.

Next week we take the family to Vienna for a few days. The opera season is in full swing now. Then around the first of April we leave for a month in England, primarily to visit relatives. There is another semester's teaching ahead of me from May thru July and we won't have much time for travelling then. At best we'll make a boat trip on the Rhine and perhaps a week in Italy. Finally we catch our ship home on August 20, leaving Liverpool and arriving in Montreal on the 27th. A few days in Vermont and we'll be back in East Lansing, I hope, on September 4th, exactly one year to the day from the date we left on our biggest adventure.

Regards to all of you,

Editor's Note...Since this letter was received by Fred Gasche, we received a call from Ethel Rathke with the word that her more recent letter reported that Gib Hocking had broken an ankle and that the England trip would not now be possible....WAR

The display case in the Capitol Building was changed last month. Please avail yourself of the opportunity to see some of our finer specimens there.

> O. G. Langham Display Chairman

The lines of cleavage are in every crystal, but you don't see them until the crystal breaks......Sigmund Freud

from "It's Tough to be a Teenager"...March Reader's Digest.

Last Minute News Plans are being made for an April Field Trip. Further details at April meeting. Those interested participants not at meeting, call Tom Malkin...FE 9-8110

Rockhound Verse of Though Henry invited us o'er to sup He's riding his hobby and won't let

We've viewed his minerals (Each with its label).

Spread on our laps and on the dining room table.

We droop and we wilt while Henry assorts

His mica, his granite, his very best quartz.

And even our hunger dims our affection,

'Till we're ready to eat his entire collection.

How we yearn for a host who hasn't a stock

Of shale from Nevada, of rock from Bancock,

Which he forces on guests in shoals and in showers

For hours and hours and hours and...

Author and source unknown.

Our thanks to Laura Kreps for this poem from her collection.

Snow which fills crevasses and wells during the winter often melts out from below, leaving thin snowbridges in the early part of summer. These constitute real hazards to travel on glaciers...the thinner ones cannot support a man's weight. Thus one should always have a guide if going onto the surface of a glacier. From Special Bulletin No. 2 of the Glacier Natural History Association.

Rate Minetal Chrysocolla Chrysocolla isn't what we thought it was. the New Mexico Institute of Mining and Technology has tested and worked with more than 5,000 specimens of so-called "Chrysocolla" from all parts of the world to find a better way of extracting copper, and thru their research it has been determined that Chrysocolla is a very rare and almost non-existent mineral.

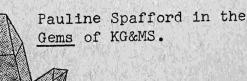
The specimens were subjected to electronic microscope examination, X-ray diffraction analysis, and out of more than 5,000 specimens, only 21 were found to contain chrysocolla in even minute quantities. The material that has been called Chrysocolla is primarily a silica that contains any one of six or more copper minerals.

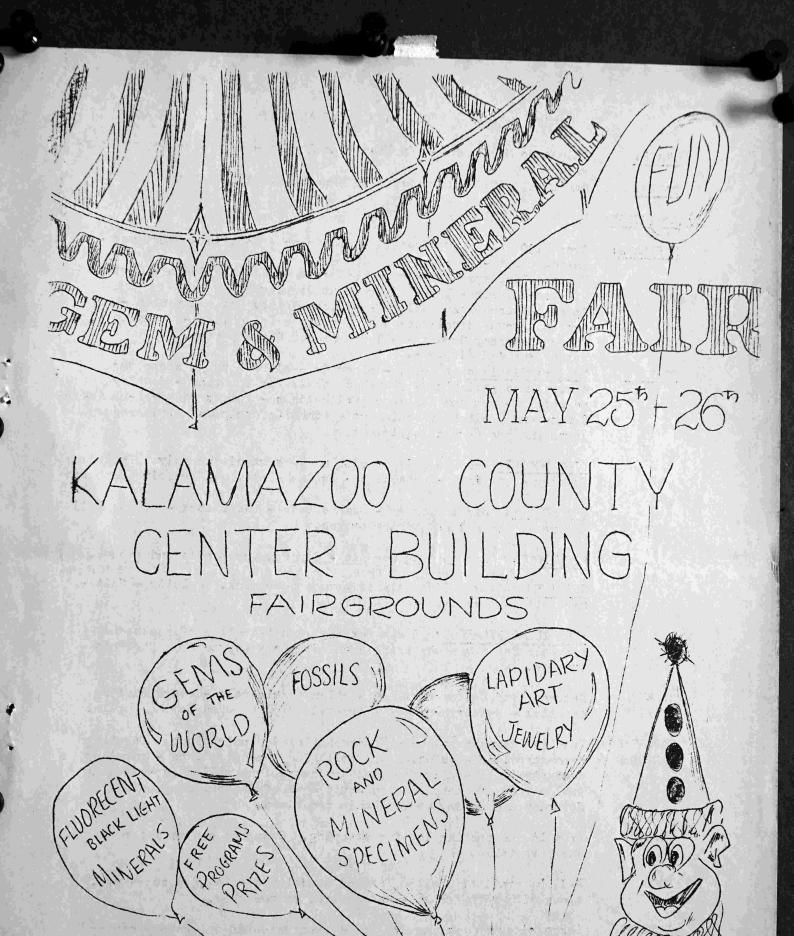
Thru the principals of ore genesis, this material will probably be renamed at some time in the near future.

Kathleen Fahrmeyer in The Triangle Tumbler via Gems of KG&MS.

PREHISTORIC LIQUIDS

Tiny droplets of liquid, millions of years old, are found in many rocks and minerals that have crystalized in past ages. Most of these liquid deposits also include a bubble of gas. The deposits are easily visible in clear quartz crystals.





WELCOME ADMISSION FREE 1963 Kalamazoo "GEM AND MINERAL FAIR"

Kalamazoo Michigan - On East Lake Street - Kalamazoo County Fair-PLACE: grounds.

May 25th. 10:00 AM to 9:00 PM May 26th. 10:00 AM to 6:00 PM. DATES:

ADMISSION; FREE to all.

DISPLAYS: Over 100 cases of Minerals - Specimens - Fossils - Gemstones -Lapidary Art - Jewelry -Working Displays - Micromounters booth - Faceting Booth - Sawing-Spectroanalysis - Large Fluorescent Display. Special Attraction Displays - Antique Whitby Jet - Autenite -Indian Arrowhead collection - Fluorite - Trilobites - Selenite -Carved Petoskey Stones - All Clubmember Display case.

Junior and 4-H displays.

Dealers displays of Gems, - minerals - slabs - rough stone for cutting and polishing - finished stones for mounting - jewelry mountings - gem and lapidary publications - guides for reck-hunters-Sawing and ppolishing equipment - tumbling equipment - fluorescent lamps and prospecting equipment.

> CLUB BOOTH! For the sale of club members handiwork only. Includes jewelry - carvings - cabachons - tables - etc. made by club members.

> FUN BOOTHS: Wishing tree - stone toss - dart toss - string pull for rock, mineral or jewelry prizes.

FISH POMD: For the younger set - dipping for pearls and stones.

SPECIMEN TABLE: Club sale of common specimens. Calcite - Salt marc site - fossils.

ROCK IDENTIFICATION: Booth for the identification of rocks and minerals for those who bring such materials to the show for this purpose.

Saturday and Sunday a silent auction of minerals - rough cutting SILENT material - jewelry - slabs - crystals will be open to the public. AUCTION

EDUCATEDNAL Tumbling demonstrations - Micromounting demonstrations - faceting demonstrations - grinding and polishing demonstrations - mounting PROGRAMS demonstrations - silverworking demonstrations will be open to the public free of charge in the South Room of the building both Saturday and Sunday at the indicated times.

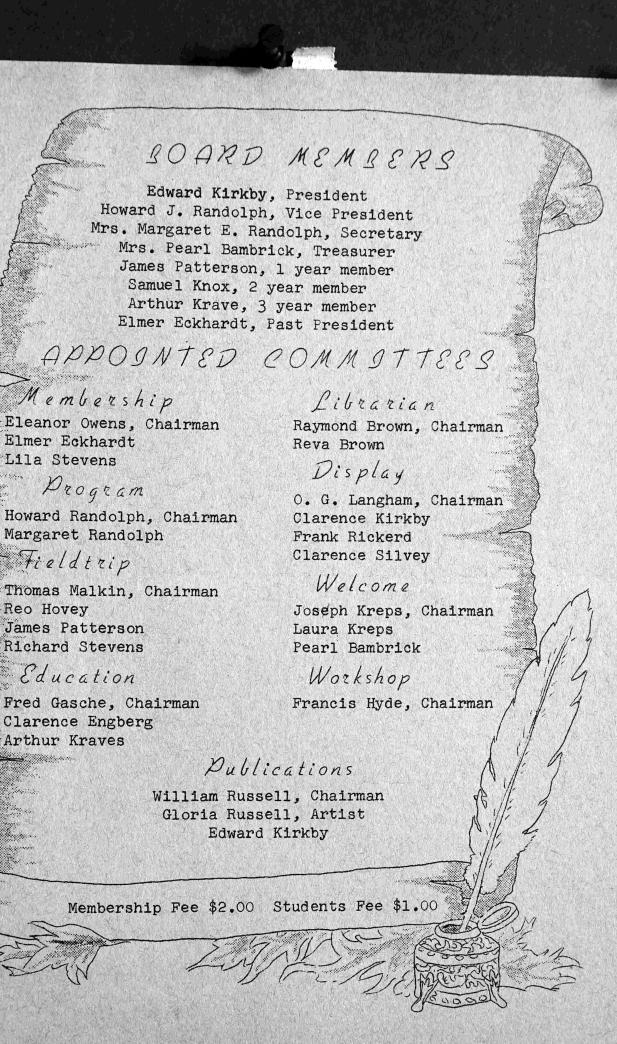
Area in the parking lot for wwapping. Swappers can register at the TRADING swappers table.

Will be available in the form of sandwiches - baked beans - etc. FOOD along with soft drinks - coffee etc. at the show.

Large blacktop parking lot on the west side of the county center PARKING building will provide ample parking.

* Carrival of Dems and Midway of Jun. "Something to See in 63"

BOOTHS:





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Watch next month for way to improve Brazilian Agate.

Please send EXCHANGE BULLETINS to:

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