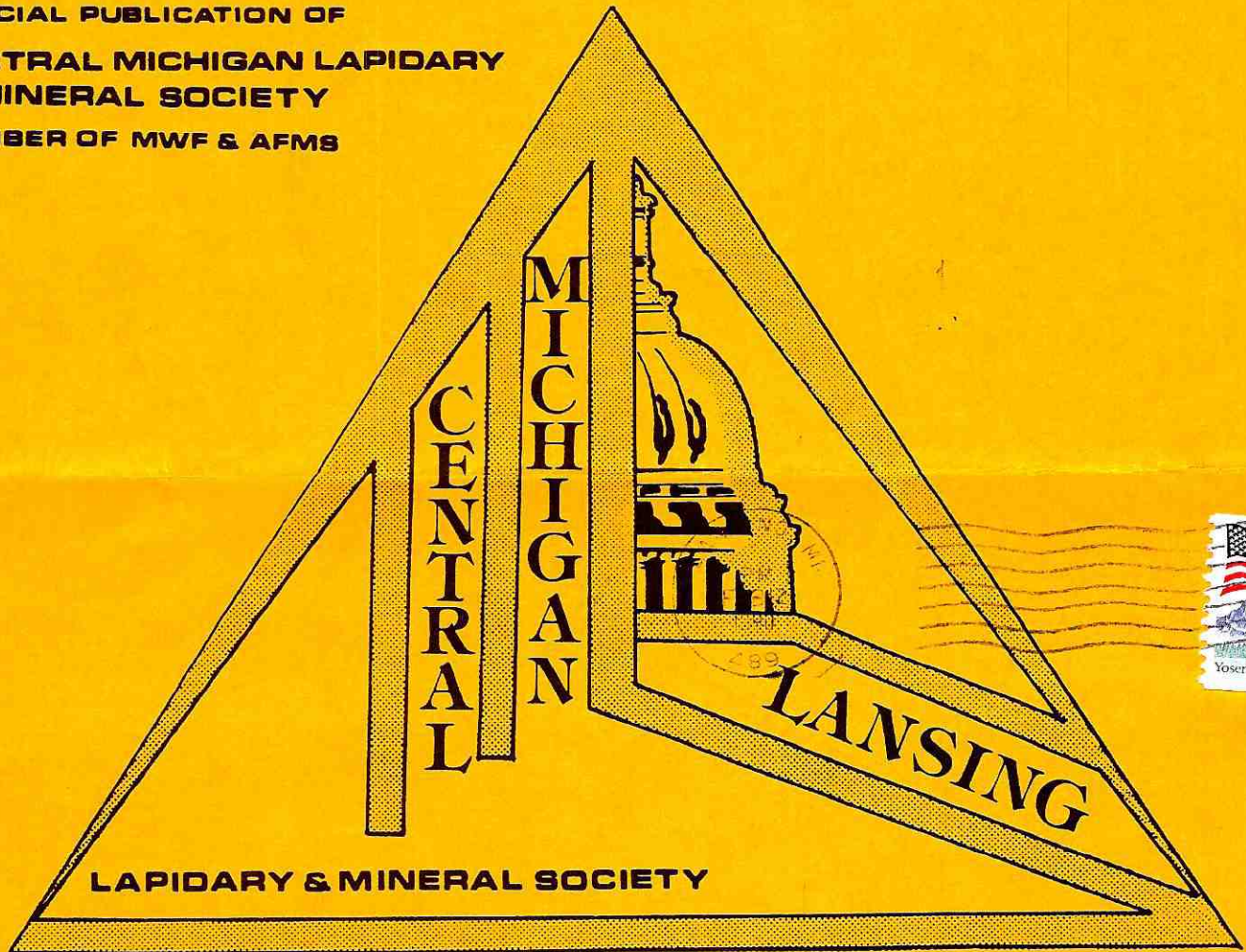


# ROCKHOUND NEWS

FEB 1990

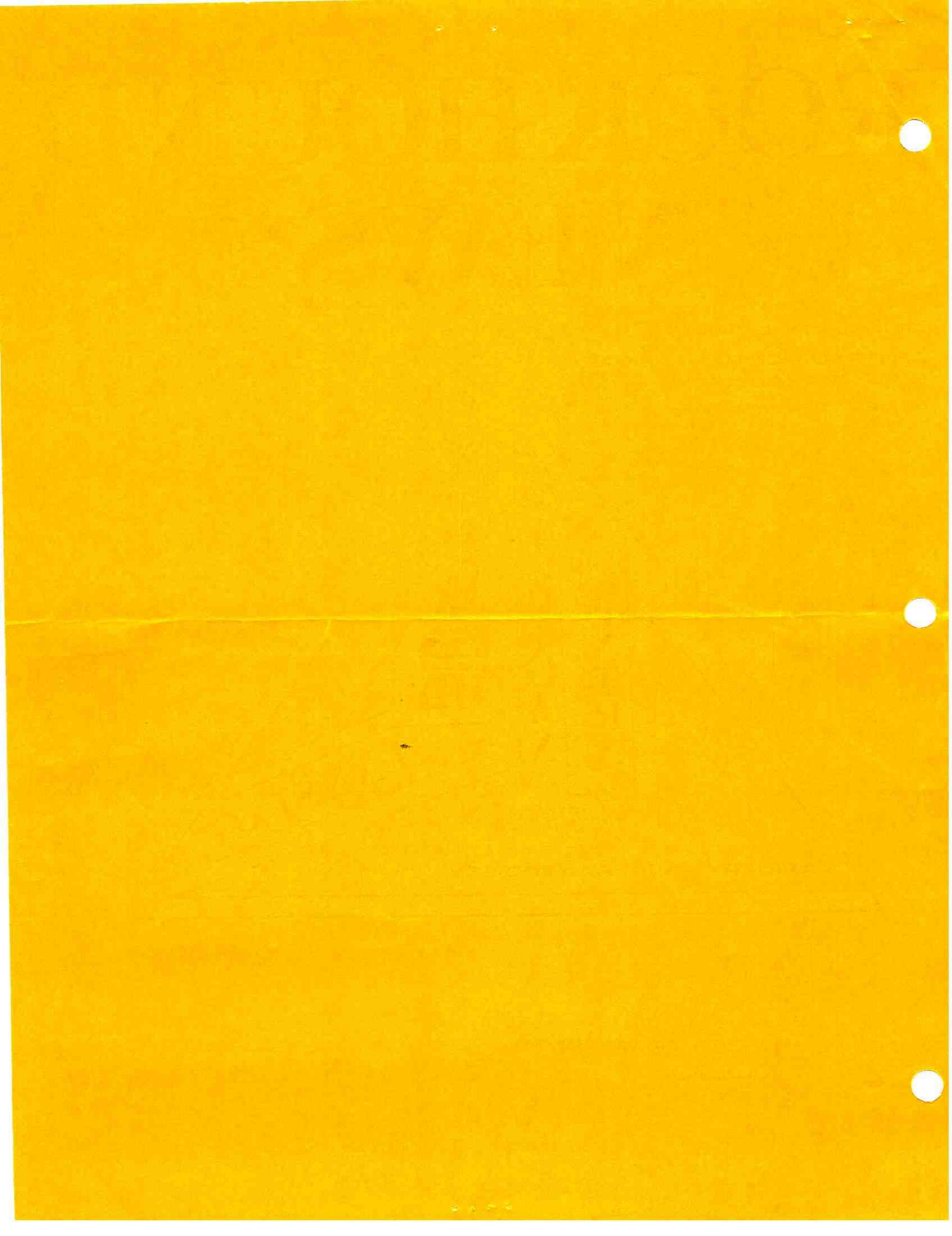
OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF  
CENTRAL MICHIGAN LAPIDARY  
& MINERAL SOCIETY  
MEMBER OF MWF & AFMS



RETURN TO:  
C.M.L. & M.S.  
15785 Park Lake Road  
East Lansing, Michigan 48823

FIRST CLASS

TIME VALUE



\*\*\*\*\*IMPORTANT IMPORTANT IMPORTANT\*\*\*\*\*  
 The location of our February meeting / demonstration night has been changed to Wardcliff School. See the last page of the Rockhound News for a map!

#### NEIL'S NOTES

Greetings to all from sunny Florida! The sun has just risen and the temperature is above 70°. Sorry I missed the annual meeting, but the doctor said to stay home for at least 12 hours. Thanks to Grit for filling in. The exam went well; biopsies were negative. As a result I've been driving my parents around Florida, visiting friends and relatives. The weather has been quite warm — above 80° nearly every day. I've done some beach combing and shelling. No great results.

I hope plans are well in place for the demonstration night. I plan to be back in time for that meeting. Until then, best wishes....

Neil

#### DEMONSTRATION NIGHT, FEBRUARY 15

Plans are going forward very well for another FUN night for club members and visitors. Along with the demonstration night, we will hold a brief business meeting. To date, we have twenty five demonstrations-displays signed up. That's wonderful! The Okemos Community Education office is giving us some publicity. We should do all we can to spread the word too.

As noted earlier in the news, we have another change of location. The Scouts were holding their big annual dinner at Hiawatha School February 15, so we could not ask them to move out for us. Instead, we are going to Wardcliff Elementary School in the Brookfield area, between Okemos and East Lansing. (Don't worry, this is officially signed and sealed!)

Come to the entrance door farthest north (beside the dumpster.) There will be three dollies there available for our use.

Bring your own electrical cords as needed. If your demonstration will scatter dust or oil, or scratch a table, bring a cloth or paper to protect the table surface. You may want to bring a cloth background for your exhibit.

The overhead lighting is good, better than at North School. Tables will be mostly rectangular, cafeteria style, with benches attached. A few round ones will be available. The event is scheduled from 7:30 - 9:00 pm. Be set up before 7:30 if possible.

If you have not signed up yet, but think of something you would like to show, bring it. Better call Neil (339-2863) or Florence (349-3554), especially if you will need electricity, so you will be sure of a place near an outlet.

In the event of bad weather, use your best judgment. Listen to the radio and TV for cancellations. We'll hope for good weather!

#### DIRECTIONS:

Wardcliff School is about a mile south of Haslett Rd, two blocks west of Park Lake Road. FROM GRAND RIVER AVE (M43) just west of Okemos, go north on Park Lake Road three blocks to Greycliff, west two blocks to Wardcliff, and north to the school entrance.

FROM HAGADORN ROAD, take Roseland seven blocks to Wardcliff (don't get lost on the curves), then south to the school. Roseland also goes through Park Lake Road.

AGAIN, THERE IS A MAP DRAWN ON THE LAST PAGE OF THE NEWSLETTER!

#### SILENT AUCTION

Don't forget that the program at our March meeting will be the club's annual silent auction. To save time the night of the auction, you may pick up bid sheets at the February demonstration night, and fill them out in advance. Remember, the club keeps the "minimum bid", and anything above that goes to the seller. Or, you may wish to donate your profits to the club. This is always a lively event! See Gordon Lewis for more information and bid slips.

#### EDUCATION AND COMMUNITY SERVICE -- Florence Hill

The mineral to be studied this month is an iron-titanium oxide, ilmenite. Owing to the nature of the Feb. 15 meeting, there will be no five minute talk. Instead, Dave has included an article in this issue of the "News."

CML&MS has been invited to have a display at the Michigan Science Teachers Convention at L.C.C. on February 17. We will have room 477A or B, same as last year. Hours are from 8:30 am to about 2:30 pm. If you can take part, call me at 349-3554.

\*\*\*\*\*

On January 9, Grit Turner gave a talk on rocks and minerals to the Columbia Creek Cloverleaf 4-H club at North Aurelius School.

Clarence and Gladys Kirkby gave a talk on the hobby to the Jackson Club.

Bill and Bessie Rogers gave a talk at the Blue Water Club Banquet.

How have the rest of you been letting your light shine? Let us know!

## CORRESPONDING SECRETARY -- Don Lohrer

The Society sent belated get well wishes to Bruce Brockway who had surgery in December, and to Oleta Brockway who was ill at home during the same period. We also extend get well wishes to Mary McMahon who is down with a virus.

I've been rather quiet for a few days. I felt tired and listless and ached all over. Believe me, that's a lot to ache too! I'm OK now, and I'm looking forward to our meeting at the Wardcliff School. It's a good chance to acquaint people with our hobby and make some new friends. Don't be shy, just remember a stranger is only a friend you haven't met yet!!

Take care now, and I'll see you at the Wardcliff School.

Respectfully submitted,  
Donald Lohrer

## MINERAL OF THE MONTH: ILMENITE -- David Piotrowski

This month's "five minute talk" is on the oxide mineral ilmenite ( $\text{FeTiO}_3$ ). Information on its physical characteristics is given below:

Color: Iron-black, brown-black  
Luster: Metallic-Submetallic  
Streak: iron-black to brownish-black  
Hardness: 5-6  
Cleavage: None  
Specific Gravity: 4.5-4.7  
Crystal Group: Hexagonal

Ilmenite is usually found in the rock gabbro in plutons. (Gabbro is a coarsely crystalline, dark colored rock which forms at high temperature, about  $900^\circ\text{C}$ .) (A pluton is a large mass of molten material which cools slowly beneath the surface to form coarsely crystalline igneous rock.) It is associated with magnetite, hornblende, and labradorite. Ilmenite can be confused with hematite and magnetite. However, hematite has a much redder streak. Ilmenite and magnetite are found together and may be more difficult to distinguish. Both are magnetic, but magnetite is more so.

Ilmenite is mined to obtain the metal titanium, which is light and strong; perfect for use in high speed aircraft. Ilmenite is named after the Ilmen mountains in the USSR where it was found.

NEWS FROM BESSIE:  
DUES ARE DUE.  
SEND THE MONEY,  
P.D.Q.!

FEBRUARY FIELD TRIP -- Winter is officially over!!!!

The February field trip will be to the Michigan Natural Storage Co. gypsum mine in Grand Rapids. It is scheduled for Saturday, February 24. This is a week later than our normal field trip date so it will not conflict with the Science Teachers' Convention at LCC. Many of our members may want to display at the convention.

We will meet on Saturday, Feb. 24 at the Michigan Natural Storage Office at 10:00 am. The Storage Co. charges \$2.00 per person and also will require each visitor to sign a liability release form. Bring flashlights, lanterns and spare batteries since the mine tunnels are DARK. You will need hammers, sharp chisels and buckets or boxes to carry tools and rocks. If you collect selenite crystals, you will need tissue paper to wrap them. Take care not to over-pack yourself as there is a good distance of walking over rough terrain inside of the mine.

Material to be collected includes massive gypsum in the form of "pencil ore", alabaster for carving material, and the gypsum crystals called selenite.

To get there, take I-96 West to the 28th Street exit at Grand Rapids. Go west on 28th St. to Clyde Park Avenue. Turn right (North) on Clyde Park and continue to Grandville Ave, and turn left (west.) Grandville Ave becomes Chicago Drive just west of Clyde Park. Take Chicago Drive to Judd Avenue and turn right (north.) Take Judd Ave to the Michigan Natural Storage Co. on the right, just before the RR tracks. Allow about 1 1/2 hours driving time from Lansing. A few maps will be available at the February meeting for those people who have never been to the Michigan Natural Storage Co. and feel they need more than written instructions.

#### CLUB BADGES

The triangular club badges with name plates will once again be available!!!! The cost will be \$5.25 each. If you would like to order a badge, please call Alice Turner after March 2. (Even if you signed the list a year or so ago, please reconfirm with Alice.)

## LIBRARY NEWS

Hello to all my rockhounding friends who are cabin-bound. May I suggest checking out one of our club's magazines? I highly recommend the Jan/Feb issue of Archaeology. It's chuck full of wonderful articles. MY FAVORITE IS: "Surprise Shellmound." Those of you who have a curiosity for our Native American past will love it.

"Surprise Shellmound" is an article written on the Yerba Buena Shellmound, an extensive and remarkably well preserved village and cemetery dating back between 500-1000 years ago. The top of the mound was only 15-18 feet below the present street level of the city of San Francisco, and considering the continual development of the city in the 19th and 20th centuries, it remained one of the best kept secrets of the city.

The excavation yielded more than 30,000 cultural objects; and, several well preserved architectural features including what appeared to be the floor of a sweathouse. The most spectacular finds accompanied the discovery of a cemetery. Eleven burials were excavated -- ages 6 months to 55 years. This age range indicates a very healthy community. All were accompanied by extensive grave offerings. One adult male was buried with 5,000-10,000 olivella disc beads, hundreds of perforated mica ornaments, several quartz crystals and more than a dozen carefully shaped bird and mammal bone whistles or tubes.

A wonderful, wonderful find. It almost makes me feel as if I were there, running my fingers through the sand, experiencing the excitement of the find.

"KEEP ON READING" until next time....

Your librarian,  
Vickie Jacobs

MAKE PLANS NOW FOR THE ~~BEDFORD~~- BLOOMINGTON ROCK SWAP

The 25th Annual Lawrence County Rock Club Show and Swap has been moved from Bedford to Bloomington, Indiana. Traditionally, CML&MS members have attended the swap and collected geodes as our June field trip. According to the clubs announcement, the Lawrence County 4-H fair grounds were not available. The weekend was also changed, from the second weekend to the fourth.

So, the swap will be held June 22, 23, 24, 1990 at the the Monroe County 4-H Fairgrounds, Bloomington, Indiana. This is a great place to visit with fellow rockhounds, and find some bargains! If you wish to sell your wares, there is a \$1.00 per front foot space charge, bring your own tables.

More details will appear in the Rockhound News as the date draws near. (If you can't wait, see George Heaton or Dave Piotrowski -- they have copies of the flier.

WELCOME

We extend a welcome to the following new members who were accepted at the February board meeting:

Ronald Wilson  
4701 Palmer St.  
Lansing, MI 48910 887-2291

Diane Baclawski  
4597 Chippewa Dr.  
Okemos, MI 48864 353-7988  
(Diane is the MSU Geology Librarian; we welcome her expertise.)

Jenny Rotier  
1433-C Spartan Village  
East Lansing, MI 48823 355-0194

Please add these new members to your directory, and make an effort to greet them at meetings!

CLUB CALENDAR

- February 15 Demonstration Night/Meeting  
7:30 - 9:00 pm  
Wardcliff Elementary School
- 17 Michigan Science Teachers' Convention  
8:30 am - 2:30 pm, L.C.C.
- 24 Field trip to Michigan Natural Storage  
10:00 am, Grand Rapids, MI
- March 1 CML&MS Board Meeting  
7:30 pm, Capitol Savings & Loan, Okemos
- 15 Regular Meeting and Silent Auction  
7:30 pm, North School
- April 21 Family Day, MSU Museum; Florence will need help with displays, etc.

Not to scale  
W  
\* = the school!

