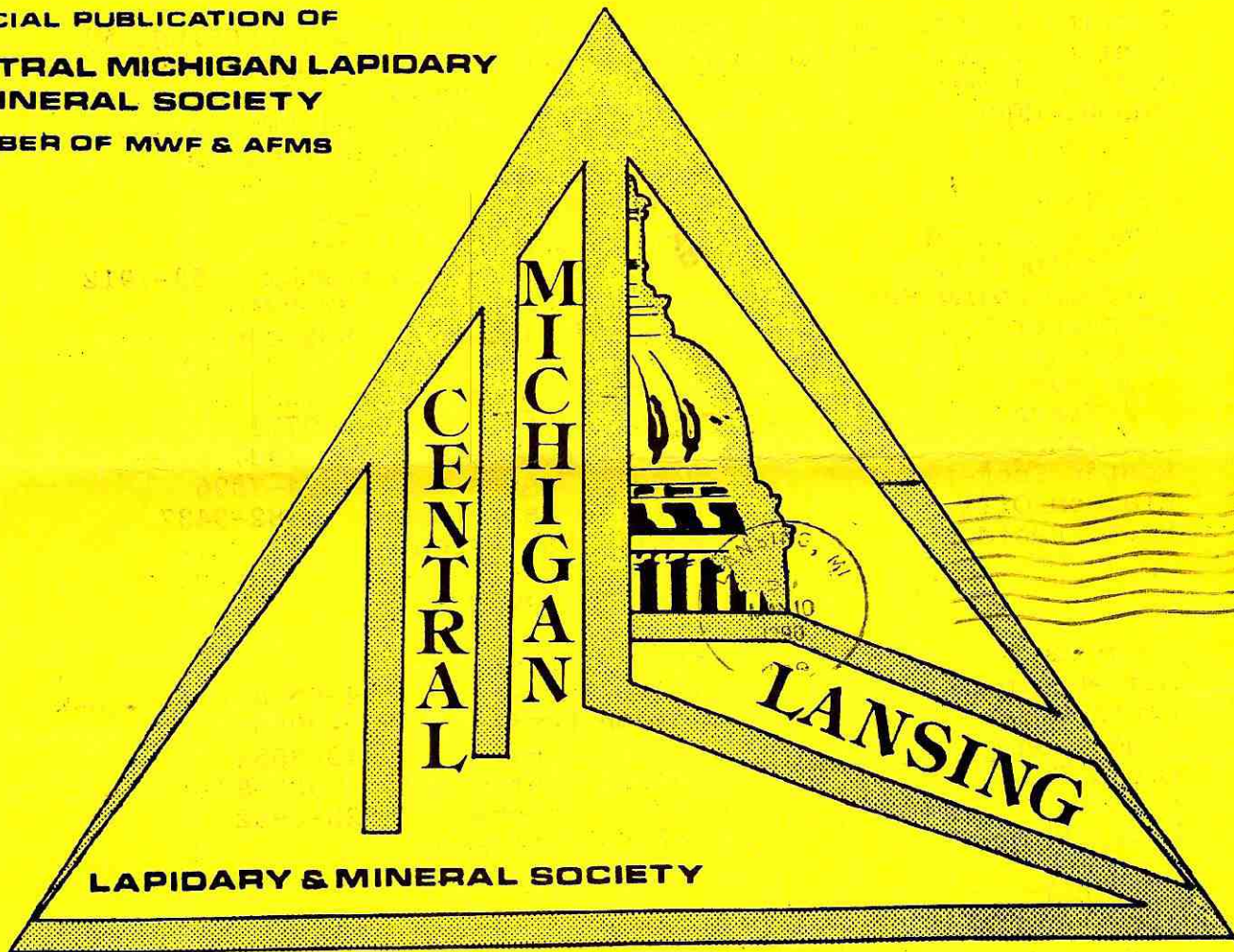


ROCKHOUND NEWS

MAY 1990

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



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ROCKHOUND NEWS

This bulletin is the official publication of the Central Michigan Lapidary and Mineral Society of Greater Lansing, Michigan. It is published the second week of each month except July and August.

The Central Michigan Lapidary and Mineral Society is a non-profit organization, meeting to promote interest and increased knowledge in the fields of mineralogy, geology, paleontology and the lapidary arts. It was organized in May, 1957.

Meeting place: North School, 333 E. Miller Rd., Lansing, MI
Meeting date: Third Thursday, except in July and August
Meeting time: 7:30 p.m. Doors are open at 7:00 p.m.
Annual dues: Adults \$3.00 Students \$1.00

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NEIL'S NOTES

I've always been fascinated by museums. When I was a small child, I wanted to have my own museum and set about collecting all kinds of things toward that day. Parental advice, moves, siblings and other forces took care of most of those early collections! However, I still have a penchant for collecting and visit museums whenever possible. Last month I revisited the Houston Museum with its outstanding mineral and shell collections.

As have many of you, I've been through MSU Museum on many occasions. And while fate did not direct my occupational activities into the museum field, the opportunity exists to be involved in this museum in significant ways. Last week I attended a luncheon at the MSU Museum with about a dozen other people. Dr. Dewhurst reviewed the plans for expansion. The MSU Museum enrichment endowment is a part of the capital campaign "MSU 2000: Access to Opportunity" which seeks to raise \$160 million. This endowment is to be used for exhibits, collection development and management for museum programs. In other words: operating funds for a new museum.

Planning is being done for a new facility. It is hoped that the new one will have 100,000 square feet of exhibit space and improved research areas. The present building has about 30,000 square feet of space. Only about four percent of the holdings can be displayed. An Earth Science/Geological Science area is anticipated. Of course much needs to be done. It will be several years before all this can be accomplished. It takes time and money. But I'm excited about the prospects. We can have input about our interests and make donations collectively as a club and as individuals. I'll try to keep you posted as things develop.

Gordon and Marie Lewis joined Connie and me as club representatives at the Indian Mounds club 25th Anniversary Banquet. It was a very fine evening. Thanks to Indian Mounds for inviting us.

I hope all of you are coming to the banquet. The committee has been working hard. I know you'll enjoy it.

Somewone asked when I got back from Texas -- 15 minutes before I arrived at the Planetarium for the April meeting..

Until next time, best wishes to all.

Neil

Corresponding Secretary Report

Only two get well cards were sent this month. One went to Milo Hillis who is at home recovering from broncho-pneumonia. The other card was sent to Florence Hill who accidentally broke her nose. We wish them both the very best and pray that they have a speedy recovery. I'm sorry I missed the meeting at the Planetarium but I was zapped by an errant virus and was laid low for a couple days. I'm fine now and have my banquet tickets. I'm looking forward to greeting old friends and meeting new ones. If you would like an evening with pleasant companions and good food, our banquet can't be beat. I Hope to see you there.

Respectfully,

Don Lohrer

Field Trips - George Heaton Jr.

April Field Trip to Hungry Hollow - April 28

The field trip to Hungry Hollow near Arkona, Ontario attracted 8 of our members and their guests. Present were Neil and Connie Snapp, Dave and Jean Ann Piatrowski, Joyce Kahres and her sister and grandson. George Heaton was also there. The weather was dry and very nice but the fossil collecting did not seem as productive as in previous years. I did not see any noteworthy specimens collected and no one claimed to have found anything special. Maybe we are all becoming more and more fussy as the years pass. Lots of trilobite pieces, heads and tails were found but no complete, or near complete, specimens were collected.

May Field Trip - Bowmanville, Ontario

On Sunday, May 27th there will be a field trip to the St. Mary's Cement C. Quarry at Bowmanville, Ontario. This quarry is famous for its Ordovician fossils, especially trilobites. This is Memorial Day weekend which will allow most of us to travel there on Saturday, visit the quarry on Sunday and return home on Monday.

This will be a joint field trip with our club and the Scarborough, Ontario club. The Scarborough club has made all the arrangements for us to enter the quarry. We are to meet at the quarry gate at 9:30 A.M. and can stay until about 3:30 P.M. They have also planned a barbecue and pot-luck supper for us at a community center in Scarborough. We are not required to bring any food. They said they would provide the food. Their clubs carving group will be meeting at the barbecue and will be demonstrating their carving. They have some very talented carvers of soap

Field trips cont.

stone and alabaster. Blair Campbell, the club president will show slides of some of their collecting trips and George Heaton may also have some slides of our collecting trips. I hope enough of our members will be willing to make this trip to make all this effort by the Scarborough club worthwhile.

Bowmanville is about $\frac{1}{2}$ hour drive beyond Toronto on Rt. 401 so allow about 7 hours driving time from Lansing. To get to the quarry take Rt. 401 eastbound past Toronto about $\frac{1}{2}$ hour. Exit at Waverly Rd. at Bowmanville. Go south on Waverly, over RR tracks and turn right at the quarry.

Equipment needed should include the usual assortment of chisels, crack hammers and possibly a sledge hammer and definitely safety dress such as hard hat, hard toed boots and safety glasses or goggles.

Camping facilities may be available at the Darlington Provincial Park about 3 miles East of Bowmanville, south on Courtice Rd. Mailing address is RR 2, Bowmanville, Ont. LIC 3K3 and Telephone is (416) 436-2036.

A list of some motels is as follows:

1. Fifth Wheel Truck Stop, Box 337, Bowmanville, Ont. LIC 301. Telephone (416) 623-3604. About \$59.00 Canadian. This motel is on Waverly Rd., just south of the highway 401 and just north of the quarry.
2. Flying Dutchman Hotel, 143 Duke St., Bowmanville, Ont. LIC 2W4. Telephone (416) 623-3373. About \$72.00-83.00 Canadian.
3. Port Darlington Marina and Motel, RR 2, Bowmanville, Ont. LIC 3K3. Telephone (416) 623-4925. I could find no room rate listed.

There are lots of motels along Kingston Rd. on south edge of Scarborough. Many of these are relatively inexpensive, ranging between \$35.00 and \$50.00 Canadian. Staying at one of these will put you further from the quarry on Sunday morning but you would be a lot closer to your lodging after the Sunday afternoon party. A few of These are as follows:

1. Avon Motel, 2800 Kingston Rd., Toronto, Ont. MIM IM7. Telephone (416) 267-0339. \$35.00-49.00
2. Manor Motel, 2740 Kingston Rd., Toronto, Ont. MIM IM7. Telephone (416) 261-7184. \$35.00-50.00.
3. Royal Motel, 2746 Kingston Rd., Toronto, Ont. MIM IM7. Telephone (416) 267-1851. \$35.00-49.00

Field trips cont.

I may stay at the Avon. It is not fancy, but adequate and relatively cheap. I have stayed there several times before while visiting the annual mineral show in September. I will try to have maps and other information available at the May meeting.

Club Picnic - June 3rd at Rogers' has been cancelled due to Bessie's back condition.

June Field Trip - Bloomington, Indiana June 22-24
The June Field Trip will include the Bedford Rock Swap, Now held at the Monroe County 4H Fairgrounds in Bloomington, Indiana and geode collecting at the road cut at Harrodsburg, Indiana Exit on Rt. 37, June 22-24. To get to the rock swap at the 4H Fairgrounds you go south on Rt. 37 to the intersection of Rt. 37 and Rt. 45. You turn right on Rt. 45 and go southwest on Rt. 45 about 1 2/10 miles then turn right and go 7/10 mile on Airport Road.

This is a very large and interesting rock swap which attracts swappers from surrounding states and Ontario, Can.. Camping is allowed on the Fairgrounds at \$8.00/night and motels are located in Bloomington. The geodes from Harrodsburg are beautiful and may contain several minerals including quartz, calcite, dolomite, millerite, barite, pyrite and sphalerite. To get to Bloomington, go south on I-69 to Indianapolis, then I-465 south to Rt 37. Go south on Rt 37 to Bloomington.

August Picnic - A date has been set for the August Picnic at Richard and Lila Stevens' summer place on Morrison Lake. It will be on Saturday, August 11th. More on this will be in the June Newsletter.

Education - Florence Hill

The mineral of this month's study is cassiterite, a tin oxide. There will be no talk at the banquet but you will find an article on this interesting mineral elsewhere in the News.

The Randolphs are back home and in action again locally. Margaret entertained a troop of Cub Scouts April 11 at their home. Of course that included a talk on rocks and minerals and a showing of specimens.

Now comes another big, big thank you to three very busy people who gave up their precious Saturday afternoon April 21st. They helped to put on the "Let's Go Prospecting" part of the "Bubbles and Bugs" Family Activities Day at the MSU Museum.

Thanks cont.

Over two hundred children with their parents came to this event. The helpers were Cheryl and Lisa Powers and Bettie Patterson. Your assistance was greatly appreciated, girls.

Children's Table

Keep sorting out your surplus and bringing it to George Heaton or others of the committee. Your generosity makes the table a success -- and a lot of children happy! Keep collecting pretty pebbles wherever you go. And look especially for some magnetic sand. Kids look for it at the Show.

Mineral of the Month - David Piotrowski

Cassiterite is a tin dioxide (SnO_2). Its color is brown, black and gray with a luster that varies from dull to adamantine. Streak is white to light brown. Cassiterite has distinct cleavage, fairly high hardness (6-7), and a high specific gravity (?). Crystals are tetragonal, commonly occurring as short twinned prisms.

Cassiterite can be found with tourmaline, molybdenite, and bismuthinite in hypothermal veins. Minerals commonly confused with cassiterite include tourmaline, rutile and magnetite, however it can be distinguished by its high density and hardness, and its light streak.

Cassiterite whose name is derived from the Greek "kassiteros" meaning "tin" is aptly the principle ore of tin.

PUMPELLYITE

by Ingrid Bartelli

Shortly after the beginning of time, Mother Nature was busy baking the crust of the earth. One day when she was working on the Keweenaw Peninsula, she felt like creating something particularly beautiful. Her specific task was to fill up all the little gas holes in the amygdaloidal basalt. She filled some with agates, thomsonite, calcite, quartz etc. She wanted to create something green, not the yellow-green of epidote crystals, but a soft blue-green.

So she opened her cupboard to select from the ten or more elements stored there. She was starting from scratch. Just as flour is the basic ingredient used when we bake bread, Mother Nature used silicon generously when she baked the earth's crust; in fact, most of the igneous rocks contain silicon.

For her lovely blue-green creation she chose, in addition to silicon, some calcium aluminum, oxygen and hydrogen (some times adding a dash of manganese or a sprinkling of iron). She mixed it all with water. The result was as gorgeous

Pumpellyite cont.

as she had hoped. Some of the opaque blue-green crystals looked like jack straws. Sometimes they lay flat in vugs; other times they were piled in star-like aggregates to look like miniature castles--particularly lovely when in company with pink or white feldspar minerals.

More often they were in the form of a fibrous, green, moss-like turf lining the walls of the tiny cavities. Frequently tiny crystals of other minerals such as copper, calcite, quartz, even silver, etc. decorated the green turf. Sometimes the vugs were packed solidly with the fibrous, green radiating sprays. A job well done!

Eons later, a man by the name of Marguci found some of these crystals in the Carpathian Mountains which he called lotrite. About the same time copper was sois overed in the Keweenaw. A geologist studying the area by the name of Palache discovered the same mineral in abundance in the copper ores. He called it kearsargite. A fellow geologist, Butler, didn't like the name so Palache crossed it out and wrote pumpellyite after another famous geologist - at one time geologist for the state of Michigan.

In 1940 Griffiths from the U of M proved that the solid form, which had been called chlorastrolite, was actually a form of pumpellyite. This truly beautiful mineral was named the gemstone for Michigan in 1972 by the seventy-sixth state legislature. It is to be known officially as pumpellyite, variety chlorastrolite--the gem we commonly call the Michigan greenstone. With the major world source the Keweenaw land and Isle Royale, Mother Nature was most kind to us.

The Jaspilite (3-10-90)

FOR SALE - Call Eileen Owen 323-7192 evenings.

Lapidary equipment - diamond slab saw

Grinding wheels

Polisher

Also a show case

ANNUAL BANQUET - Thursday, May 17

Place: First Christian Church (same as last year)

Ticket deadline: Saturday, May 12 (none sold at door)

Speaker: Dr. John Halsey, State Archeologist

Contact: Marie Lewis 349-2263

NEW MEMBERS

Two new members were approved at the April board meeting - Isaac and Debbie Schankler. We hope they will be at the banquet.

GOLDEN WEDDING BELLS RING

John and Wilma Hopkins invite you to share in the celebration of their 50th wedding anniversary. There will be an open house from 2:00 - 5:00 pm, on Saturday, June 2, at the Colonial Village Bapstist Church, 2010 Boston Blvd.

SHOW DATES

May 18-20

Dearborn Gem & Mineral Show: Dearborn
Civic Center, Michigan and Greenfield:
F- 5-10pm S- 10am-8pm S- 11am-5:30 pm
adults \$2.50 Seniors 2.00 Teens 1.00

May 19-20

Cleveland Area Gem & Min. Show: Cuyahoga
Co. Fairgrounds, Eastland Rd., Berea, OH

June 2-3

State Line Show & Swap; Fulton Co.
Fairgrounds, Wauseon OH FREE
Sat. 9:30am-4pm Sun. 9#0-noon

June 22-24

Bedford (Bloomington) IN SWAP

June 23-24

MGAGS Rockhound Weekend (seminar)
Traverse City, MI

July 14-17

MWF Federation Show/Convention
Green Convention Cntr., Evansville, IN
Thurs.-Sat. 10 am-8pm Sun. 10am-5pm

August 4-5

Ishpeming Swap & Field Trip
Ishpeming Town Hall, US 41 West

August 12

Rock-O-Rama, Copper Country Rock &
Mineral Club; Kauppi's Osceola Mobil
Station, US 41, Calumet

Labor Day Wknd. MGAGS SWAP, Alpena

CLUB CALENDAR

May 17

Banquet

June 7

Board Meeting, Okemos Bank

June 21

Club Meeting, Planetarium

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