

CENTRAL MICHIGAN ROCKHOUND NEWS



~~VOL~~ III

DECEMBER 1959

NO. 10

Affiliated with the Midwest Federation
Meeting place: WALTER FRENCH JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL CAFETERIA.
Third Thursday of each month except July and August.
Dues: \$2.00 annually. Students under 18 years \$1.00 annually

OFFICERS

PRESIDENT—Leon North, 816 Grovenburg Rd.
VICE-PRESIDENT—Rev. Luke McMillian, 742 Comfort St.
SECRETARY—Lila Ann Stevens, 5889 W. State Road
TREASURER—Mary Coleman, 2419 Delta River Dr.
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CO-EDITOR—Norman Kunkel, 435 Durand
LIASON OFFICER—Clarence Kirkby, 1415 Groenview

OK 4-8367
IV 2-4030
IV 7-2662
IV 9-3525
IV 2-1921
ED 7-9338
ED 2-6809

PROGRAM FOR DECEMBER

Dr. Stonehouse will talk about minerals and mineral identification. He will discuss the difference between minerals and metals. If you have a specimen to be identified, bring it along to the meeting.

Please bring along a good specimen to exchange as a gift as this will be a Christmas Party. This article can be a rock, crystals, lapidary, etc. It should be worth at least 50 cents. And of such quality that you yourself would be proud to own it. Have it properly gift wrapped to be placed under the Christmas Tree. If you bring a guest, have them bring a similar gift, or you bring a gift for them.

IMPORTANT NOTICE

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CHANGE OF MEETING PLACE.

NEW MEETING PLACE: WALTER FRENCH JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL CAFETERIA.

Corner of Mt. Hope Ave. and South Cedar.

IMPORTANT NOTICE

IMPORTANT NOTICE.

Park in the Parking Lot south of the school, entrance off South Cedar. Enter the school through the south entrance and go to the Cafeteria on the left hand side of the hall. There will be lots of chairs and tables and room to spread out.

PROGRAM FOR DECEMBER
WELCOME * NEW MEMBERS

We wish to welcome the following new members whose applications have been accepted by the Board of Directors:

- No. 186 - Merlin James Green, 852 N. Cedar St., Mason (OH 7, 8701)
- No. 187 - Rex Lee Hovey, 115 Cottage Ave., Lansing (IV 4, 255)

"THE LITTLE MORE " BY Ethel Wheeler Rathke

I believe that the rock club can increase its usefulness and interest by devoting a part, even though small, to a consideration of some of the difficult points in the field of rock study.

It might be well to begin with a few questions to be printed in an issue of the Rock Hound News such as: What is an atom? A molecule? What holds the two atoms of oxygen to the one atom of silicon making up a molecule of quartz? What shape is the molecule? Are all molecules the same shape?

The discussion of these questions at the following club meeting need not take more than 15 minutes. But if a series of well-planned quizzes followed at subsequent meetings, it is probable that many members would take a more definite and a more lasting interest in the meetings of the club.

The Nominating Committee is at work. They will have a slate of officers to present to the membership at the December meeting.

MIDWEST FEDERATION'S LETTER-A-MONTH - DECEMBER

Dear Fellow Rockhounds of the Midwest Federation - "Greetings and very best wishes at this Holiday Season". December, as we know, brings us to the close of another calendar year, causing us to pause and reflect more or less seriously upon a number of things. The Holiday Season brings us all closer together, whether it be as a family group or some other form of organization. It also affords us the opportunity to look back upon our many blessings and our accomplishments, and perhaps also to invoice and take stock of our several obligations and responsibilities, both those fulfilled and unfulfilled. Just what have we done, or what are we doing for our Hobby Club or Society?

Christmas and New Year are undoubtedly two of the most important Holidays of the entire year. The former gives us the opportunity to remember our friends, or to do something for others which will make them better off or happier. The practice of giving gifts is as old as civilization itself, and at no time of the year will they be better understood or appreciated. How easy it would be for one to look over his collection, or perhaps his good surplus material and select some nice specimens which he could spare and share. Or perhaps one might prefer to give a good mineral book, or a magazine subscription, either of which might prove very welcome.

At the beginning of the New Year we should all look forward with the view of planning or organizing our own personal affairs with respect to our club activities so that we may actually assist in promoting the "good of the cause", and here our proper attitude should be, what or how much can I do for my club, rather than how much can the club do for me, then both the club and the individual will prosper together.

As Historian of the Midwest Federation, we might easily write a goodly volume upon the story of its many past successes and accomplishments. It is quite true that they have all been very fine, but these now are events of the past and are perhaps only of the greatest value in affording us inspiration to go forward to do even greater things in the future. To do this most efficiently it becomes necessary for us to realize just what our major objectives are, - what we are striving for, and then to evaluate the various and best methods by which these ends are to be accomplished.

Just what are these subjects of interest? One need only to pursue our Federation and local Club Constitutions further to learn that these objectives are many and varied. Some are of a general nature while others are more precisely stated. For instance our Federation constitution says that the Federation is created for educational and scientific purposes with the object of assisting individuals, associations and other groups in promoting these objectives, with special emphasis upon the cultural values of such subjects as may fall within the category of the Earth Sciences and Lapidary Arts. For this reason, Divisions have been set up with capable leaders who are devoted to their subjects, viz: Geology, Mineralogy, Paleontology, Lapidary Arts, Archeology and others.

With this I will close, and trust that you will take seriously the task of promoting our hobby, and thereby make this a much better world in which to live.

Rockhoundingly your

Ben H. Wilson, Historian,
Midwest Federation of Mineralogical
and Geological Societies.

CLASSIFICATION OF ROCKS

By Nina Cotton

Rocks, an essential part of the earth's crust, include loose material like sand and mud, as well as compact and solid masses like sandstone or granite.

Rocks are classified according to their mode of origin. There are three great groups of rocks: sedimentary, igneous, and metamorphic.

SEDIMENTARY ROCKS: Rocks are constantly being altered in character by the various processes of nature. Those exposed on the surface are weathered to pieces. Rock and mineral matter which has been eroded and carried by wind, water, or ice becomes sediment.

The sedimentary rocks are made up of these grains or fragments of rocks, or of vegetable or animal deposits, which have been consolidated by pressure, or heat coming from the interior of the earth, or by water penetrating the earth's crust, carrying with it various minerals in solution. So long as the material has not been altered from what it was when it was originally laid down as loose sediment, the rock is termed sedimentary.

One characteristic of sedimentary rocks is the rounded nature of fragments and particles which compose them. The sharp edges are usually worn off as they are carried along by water, wind or ice.

In the oldest of the sedimentary rocks, one finds fossils, which are the remains or impressions of animals and plants. These occur in vast numbers.

One of the most common characteristics of sedimentary rocks is stratification. A profile will show a collection of successive beds with the coarse material at the bottom and the fine at the top.

Samples of sedimentary rocks of inorganic origin are: sandstone, shale, breccia, and conglomerate. Samples of sedimentary rocks of organic origin are: most limestones, including chalk, peat, lignite, and coal. Some deposition (or precipitation) of mineral matter from solution. For instance, salt and gypsum are precipitated from salt lakes or other bodies of water where there has been excessive evaporation.

Next Month - Igneous Rocks.

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OPEN HOUSE AT THE GEOLOGY ROOMS OF M.S.U.

On November 22, more than 30 members viewed the University's collection of rocks and its facilities for studying them. The display is near the main entrance to the Natural Science Building.

The numerous cases of specimens attracted the interest of all who attended. An entire afternoon might well have been spent to gain a clear idea of the scope of the collection. I "saw" really, only the rocks on the middle shelves of each case, and wasn't yet ready to look at the fossils when it was time to take the elevator to see to see the marvelous visions shown by the polaroid microscopes.

Our group appreciated the hospitality of the department as refreshments were served. Specimens of various rocks such as albite, rutile and micaceous hematite were offered.

The members who for various reasons could not attend the open house may be interested in knowing that the room containing the cases of specimens is open every day from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. A visit during these hours could prove very profitable and make up for what you missed by not attending the open house.

.....Ethel Wheeler Rathke.

RENEWAL OR MEMBERSHIP

Dear Member:

The blank below should be filled in to renew your membership in the Central Michigan Lapidary and Mineral Society. Please fill out the blank in as great detail as possible. If you have a zone mailing number, please indicate it - the Post Office requests it and it makes it easier to get your news letter to you. Other materials will be used for the issuance of the annual membership directory

The Renewal Form below, with your Membership Fee of \$2.00 (\$1.00 for students) should be sent to

Mrs. Lila Stevens, Secy.
5889 State Road,
Lansing, Mich.

The new membership card will be issued to you after January 1, or at the January meeting. Dues may be paid at the December meeting or at the January meeting. Mrs. Stevens will have a table set up for the collection of dues, and an adequate staff.

REMEMBER!!!!'

Annual Dues \$2.00 per person
Student Membership \$1.00 per person.

Please tear off and return to the Secretary

(One blank per member)

Name _____

Street or Rural Address _____

Zone Number _____ City or Town _____

Interest in Geology or Rocks or Gems _____

Collections in that area _____

Number of specimens _____

Type of Material _____

Is Collection open to visitation by members of the club? _____

Do you have trading stock? _____ What? _____

Additional Membership Blanks may be picked up at the next meeting from the Membership Committee.

Ruth Eckhardt
Harold Stuck
Clarence Kirkby

OPEN*HOUSE

The date for the Kreps' open house is Dec. 29, Tuesday afternoon 2:00 to 5:00 and evening after 7:30. If convenient let us know by Sunday evening when and whether you will be coming.

Laura and Joe Kreps.

TOPAZ IS FOR TRUE FRIENDS.....

There is only one birthstone for November, Topaz. It occurs in crystals mostly. Topaz may be colorless, but more often is some shade of yellow, at times brown or even blue. Its hardness is characteristic, there being but few minerals as hard. The crystals are orthorhombic prisms, with the edges of the prism beveled and often striated. Several yellow stones are called topaz, as the "Oriental Topaz" which is corundum and more valuable than topaz itself; and several varieties of yellow quartz, which go under the names as "Saxon", "Sooth", "Spanish" and "Smoky topaz"

Colorless topaz is found in Siberia, the Ural Mountains, and in the state of Minas Geraes, Brazil. Brazil is today the chief source of gem quality topaz.

Ordinary topaz is found in this country at Trumbull, Conn., Crowder's Mt. N.C., Thomas Mts., Utah; in Colorado, Missouri and California.

November Birthdays:

Clarence Kirkby	Nov. 29	Coral Bussell	Nov. 5
Laura Kreps	" 4	Lannette Little	" 2
Fred Gasche	" 4	John McDougall	" 26
David Eckhardt	" 20	Joan McComb	" 24
Fred Bambrick	" 4	Louis Figueras	" 13
Cliff Prevey	" 10	Marguerite Paulson	" 14
William Hooker	" 30		

The Birthstones for December are Turquoise and Lapis Lazuli. Turquoise is for success and prosperity and Lapis Lazuli for friendship. In this country this complex composite of phosphate of Aluminum and copper is found in streaks and patches in volcanic rocks. It has been found in several points in the United States, as in Los Cerrillos and Burro Mts. N. M., Mohave Co., Ariz., San Bernardino Co. Cal., in Nevada and Colorado.

Lapis Lazuli is a deep blue, opaque semi-precious stone. It is made up chiefly of aluminum, sodium, silica, and sulfur. The mineral is found both in masses of fine grains and in crystals. Most of these deposits are in beds of limestone. The best specimens of lapis lazuli come from Afghanistan.

December Birthdays:

Jeanetta Sloan	Dec....	Norma Stuck	Dec. 29
Rebecca Morris	" 31	Harvey Eustrom	" 7
Edson Brower	" 15	Saleem Horaney	" 1
Georgia Botke	" 1	L. L. Kenyon	" 23
Ernest Blohm	" 12	Henrietta Myers	" 6
Walter Pomeroy	" 12		

.....Lila Stevens