

Marie C. Niebauer
174 E. Cleveland Road
South Bend, Indiana 46637

FIRST CLASS MAIL

THE ROCKFINDER

JAN 1976



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THE MICHIANA ROCK AND GEM CLUB, INC., a non-profit organization, is affiliated with the MIDWEST FEDERATION OF MINERALOGICAL & GEOLOGICAL SOCIETIES and with the AMERICAN FEDERATION OF MINERALOGICAL SOCIETIES.

REGULAR MEETINGS

TIME: 2:00 P.M.	PLACE: Nature Center
Fourth Sunday of Each Month	Rum Village Park
June - Field Trip Meeting	2626 So. Gertrude Street
July - No meeting	South Bend, Indiana
August - Annual Picnic	

DUES

Individual - \$3.00 per year Family - \$5.00 per year Junior - \$0.50 per year

ROCKFINDER STAFF

Editor.....	Fred Niebauer	174 E. Cleveland Rd. So. Bend, Ind.	46637
Asst. Editor...	Sherry Russell	27911 North St. No. Liberty, Ind.	46554
Staff Members..	Club Members		

All contributions for publication should be in the hands of the editor by the 5th of the month, of publication.

Permission is hereby granted to reprint, at any time, items published in the ROCKFINDER, provided due recognition is given.

THE ROCKFINDER

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Regular Meeting:

January 25, 1976

Time: Doors Open 1:30 PM, EST
 Meeting 2:00 PM, EST

Place: Nature Center
 Rum Village Park
 2626 S. Gertrude Street
 South Bend, Indiana

Program:

Business Meeting

Mr. Howard Shorts will
speak on "The History And
Working of Turquoise"

Hospitality:

Alby & Olive Sammons
Frank & Molly Elwell
Dewey & Nina Hassler

Educational Meetings:

Time: 7:00 PM, EST

Place: First Bank Basement
 Corner of U.S. 31 North
 & Cleveland Rd., South Bend

Program: Friday, Jan. 9, 1976
 Organization for '76. This
 is YOUR opportunity to ex-
 press YOUR wishes relative
 to the content of these
 meetings.

DUES ARE DUE!!

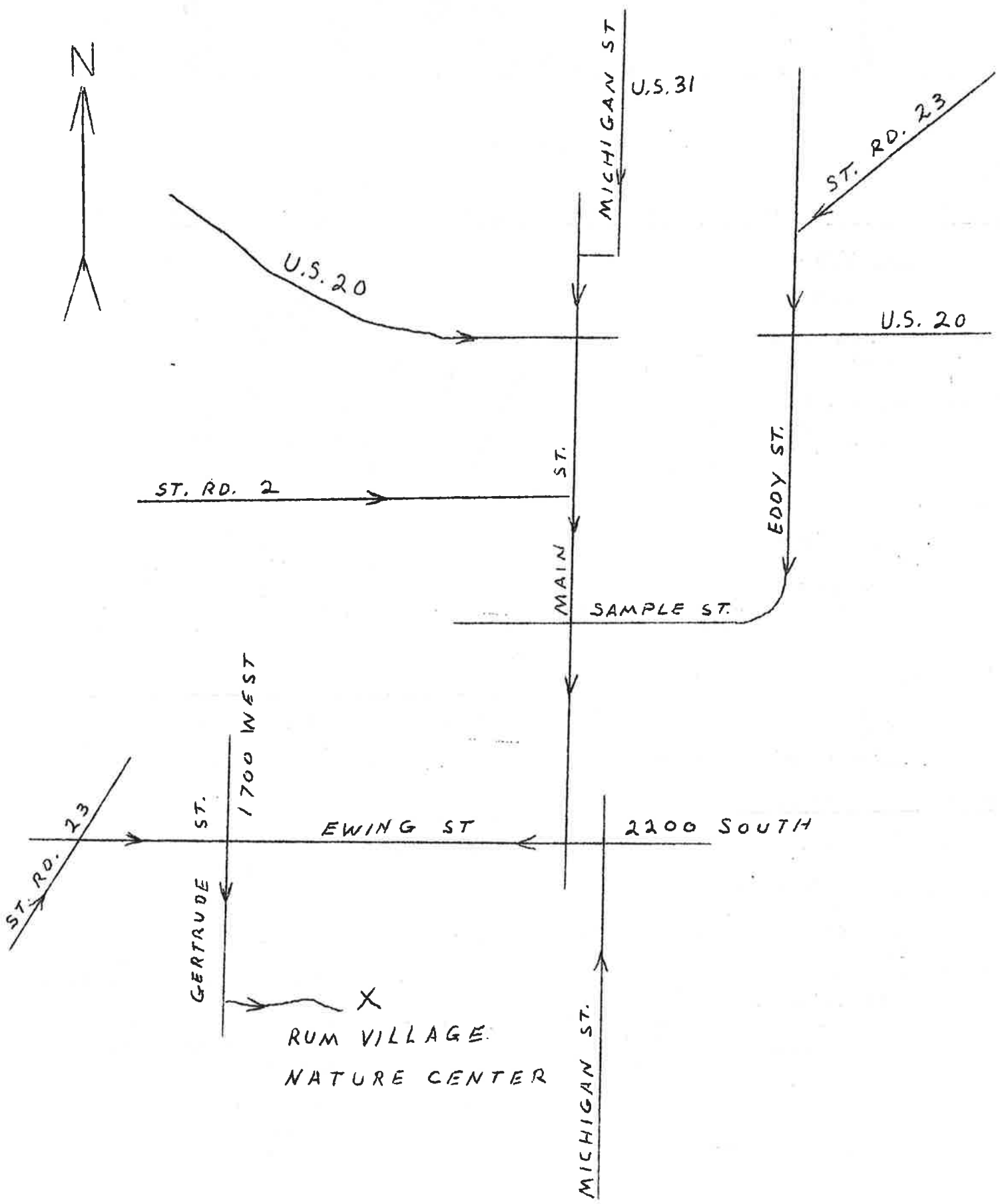


Educational Meetings (continued)

Program: Friday, Jan. 23, 1976
 Subject: As developed from
 the Jan. 9th meeting.

Calendar

- | | |
|-------------|--|
| March 13-14 | Blossomland Gem & Mineral Society show.
Stevensville, Mich. |
| March 27-28 | Des Plaines Valley Geological Society
show. Des Plains, Ill. |
| April 1-4 | Lake County Gem & Mineral Society Show.
Lake County, Illinois |
| April 3-4 | Duneland Rock Club
Show. Crown Point,
Indiana. |



President's Message

I wish to thank the members of the "Michiana Rock and Gem Club" for their vote of confidence in electing me their president for the year 1976.

At this time I also wish to express appreciation on behalf of the Club to the outgoing officers for a job well done. Theirs will be a "hard act" to follow; an increase in membership, a most successful "Rock and Gem Show", and moving into a new meeting location - the "Rum Village Nature Center". I am sure, however, that with the full cooperation of the membership we shall have an equally successful 1976.

At our December meeting I was asked if I wished to comment on programs which I might have in mind for the club during the year 1976. This I declined to do, due to the fact that any proposals at that time would have elicited conversation, which would have consumed time better used otherwise.

What I wish to present here are "goals" or objectives to be achieved by the club. "Programs" will involve people - all of us working together.

The "goals" which I propose are:

1. More active participation of all members in the activities of the club.
2. Naturally, a successful Rock and Gem Show for '76.
3. Completion at an early date of our Indiana Rock, Fossil and Minerals exhibit to be located at the Rum Village Nature Center.
4. More emphasis upon the educational aspects of "Rocks and Minerals" as a hobby at our Friday night Meetings.
5. Increased liaison between the Michiana Rock and Gem Club and other area clubs.
6. Institution of a "Junior" group of rock hounds.

President's Message continued

7. Preparation of our own slide program, covering field trips, which may be used in our yearly Rock and Gem Shows.
8. Institution at the monthly meetings of a 10-20 minute "question and answer" discussion period.

In keeping with item #1, "Active Participation----", should you have an interest in working toward one of the goals delineated above, please contact me - my telephone number is 272-4834 and my address is on the masthead.

George E. Kelsheimer

Professor Makes Exciting Find

Dr. Bruce Raemsch, an anthropologist at Hartwick College, in Oneonta, N.Y., outdid himself this time. He and his archeological team discovered this 70,000-year-old hand ax and several hundred other equally ancient hand tools at a dig near Cobleskill, N. Y.

In earlier digs in the same general area, Dr. Raemsch discovered 3,000 and 30,000-year-old hand tools. His latest find suggests man roamed the Catskill Mountain region in the same era Neanderthal Man inhabited Europe.

Submitted by Margaret Heinek
From Grit

Dues are Due

If you have not paid your dues, pay it at the next meeting or if you forget, mail your check to;

James Russell
27911 North Street
North Liberty, Ind. 46554

Jim has offered to take the dues during the time Max Cripe is away.

Minutes of the Last Meeting:

The regular December Christmas party was held December 7, 1975 at the Pinhook Park Pavilion.

A social hour was held at 12:30 P.M. and dinner at 1:30 P.M.

A motion to dispense with the minutes of the November meeting was made by Jeanette Blondia, seconded, carried. Catherine Grayckowski presented president Jess Wise with the 100 percent Scholarship Certificate.

Gifts were presented to Jess Wise, George Kelsheimer, Jim Russell and Nina Hassler on their retirement from office.

Jess Wise turned the gavel over to the new president George Kelsheimer.

After adjournment rocko was enjoyed by all present.

Respectfully submitted,
Nina Hassler, Secretary

New Members

Let's give a big welcome to Shelly Arwood and Laurie Lifke who have just joined our club.

Birth Stone For January

GARNET - There are six varieties of garnets. Two of these, the pyrope and the almandite, are considered birth stones for January and are cut as gems.

Pyrope is called precious garnet. It is a magnesium aluminum silicate mined in large quantities for use in garnet sand paper. It makes beautiful gems.

Almandite is the commonest form of garnet, but when it is a clear red color, it is cut for gems. It is an iron aluminum silicate.

Garnets are found in highly siliceous schists and gneisses as crystals in size from sand up to 4 inches. Crystals have a glassy luster and a hardness of 6 to 7.5.

Christmas Party Notes

There were 86 members and 3 guests present at our Christmas Party. The guests were Marie Bybee, Mary Mast and Elmer Mast.

Those who could not make it were missed and they missed a nice party.

Everyone enjoyed the goodies during the social hour. Either the punch was extra good or everyone was especially thirsty because the punch bowl ran dry. Jess Wise, in no time at all, came to the rescue.

It looked like some of the late arrivals would have to stand up to eat, but things were rearranged and an additional table, over and above what had been set up, was added for them.

The decorations were beautiful and the Pinhook Park Pavilion was an ideal spot for the party. The only thing missing was the mistletoe.

The ladies looked so good in their long dresses. Wasn't Katie Grayckowski a doll?

These rockhounds can cook. The food was delicious. You could tell by the well-rounded plates returning to the tables. Why is it that the last people in the line always are afraid that there won't be anything left when they get there?

What happened to Goldie Randolph's kieflies? They sure disappeared in a hurry.

There were a lot of surprises when the Rocko prizes were opened. Some of the sought-after boxes did not have anything special in them.

Jim Russell and Carlton Fletcher did a nice job at calling the Rocko numbers even though they did not always come up with the number wanted.

Thanks to the help of everyone the place was cleaned up and we cleared out at 5 o'clock as required.

After everyone was out, an electrical cord and a man's fur hat was found. Both have now been claimed.

Synthetic Opal Helps Make Jewelry "More Democratic"

French industrialist Pierre Gilson says the synthetic opal he created will allow women to wear beautiful jewelry "without ruining their husbands."

His invention has sent a chill through the opal industry of Australia which mines some 95 per cent of the world supply of the rare gem formed in ancient seabeds that dried out millions of years ago.

The Australians fear the competition from the cheaper man-made stone could ruin their opal exports, valued at \$50 million a year. They also fear dishonest dealers could pass man-made opals off as natural stones.

Gilson, who is 61 and runs a factory in France producing building ceramics, feels there is little danger of that, and he insists synthetic gems simply will help making jewelry "more democratic."

Gilson says natural opals bear distinctive marks through which they can be traced to their original location, while the comparative uniformity of the man-made opal can be recognized by the expert.

Man-made stones also have better polish and no traces of impurities. And then, he says, there are "certain gimmicks" allowing an expert to distinguish them quickly.

One of these, he says, is the difference in fluorescence between the natural and the synthetic stone that can be measured when both are exposed to the same source of light.

Gilson says man-made opal is sold with certificates bearing his name and signature in print and identifying the stone as laboratory-made.

Gilson says the man-made opal produced in his laboratories in France and Geneva sells at between \$40 per carat for white stones and \$400 per carat for black stones.

Synthetic Opal (Continued)

These are factory prices he charges, and "of course the price goes up on the way down to the customer," he says.

In Australia, Amsil Ltd. his agent, told newsmen the man-made stone will be sold at less than half the price of the natural opal that go to \$4,000 - \$6,500 per carat.

How does a factory owner making ceramics become an inventor of synthetic emeralds - the first artificial gem he developed - and then opals?

"My father left me a home hobby workshop and lab, and in there I just became obsessed," says Gilson, who lives in Switzerland.

Gilson says it took him 10 years of research to develop industrial production of opals. He says it takes one year to produce one stone.

The fiery colors of the natural opal come from the diffraction of light waves through pure silicon spheres inside the stone.

Like the natural opal, the man-made stone consists of silica and water. Both versions are identical in chemical composition and near identical in shape and other characteristics.

Being man-made, the artificial opal has more uniform hardness and density but otherwise it looks, feels, and sparkles like the natural gemstone.

From The South Bend Tribune

Speed Up Polishing

Take the lint from your clothes drier lint catcher and add it to the polishing compound for tumbling. It speeds up the polish and prevents chipping.

From Gem Time via Elrock News

Midwest Federation's NEWSLETTER



Published monthly except July and August as a service to members clubs.
All news, articles, subscription orders and requests for information concerning publication
should be sent to the Editor, Haydon Peterson, Parrot Printing, 2125 Forest, Des Moines, Ia. 50311

Issue No. 161 - January 1976

meet me in
St. Louis
in 

So that our members can make plans well in advance of the Midwest annual show and convention in St. Louis, Missouri, July 22-25, we are printing the following information. Additional information will be reported in the Newsletter in the coming months.

The site of the 1976 Midwest Federation Show and Convention is the West County Exposition Center, 9785 St. Charles Rock Road in West St. Louis County just minutes away from Lambert International Airport.

The headquarters motel is the Ramada Inn, 9636 Natural Bridge, Berkeley, Missouri 63134, telephone 314-426-4700. This motel is about 1/2 mile from the airport, 1/4 mile from Interstate 70 and is about 1 mile from the show site. The Ramada Inn will provide free transportation to and from the airport and to the show site for their guests. When writing the motel for reservations, ask for "1976 MWF Convention Special Rates". The Show Committee has reserved 200 rooms and expects them to go fast so reservations at the headquarters motel should be sent in early.

The headquarters campground is "Pinewoods Park" located 1 mile west of Wentzville on Interstate I-70 at AA exit. You may write the owners, Leonard and Ellen Grimm, Route 1, Box 314, Wentzville, Missouri 63385 or telephone 314-327-3248. This campground has fishing, recreation area, pavilion, olympic size pool and a large number of camp sites with no or full hookup. Teenagers will enjoy the "Rec" room which is complete with juke box, pin ball machines and pool table.

A complete list of recommended motels and camping facilities close to the show site will be available with the pre-registration material after January 1, 1976.

Gerald Hook, 932 St. Charles Avenue, St. Charles, Missouri 63301, telephone 314-724-5427, is the publicity chairman of the show and inquiries about the show should be directed to him.

YOUR BULLETINS RECEIVE ATTENTION

Across the desk of your editor come dozens of bulletins each month. Your editor is happy to receive these bulletins, and each one is reviewed. From them I learn much about the clubs in the federations, and from time to time find items and events that I report in the Newsletter when I feel they will be of interest to other clubs. If your club has staged an unusual event which you feel would be of interest to others, please write me and call it to my special attention so that I may report it in the Newsletter and give your club recognition.

TEMPORARILY OUT OF PRINT

Clinton I. Heckert, Director of Supplies and Information, has informed us that the following items are temporarily out of print:

- AFMS Approved reference list of classifications and common names for fossils 1974 edition
- AFMS Exhibitors Manual 1969 edition
- MWF Bibliography of Earth Science Materials 1972 edition
- MWF Program Aids Manual 1972 edition

As soon as reprints or revised editions are available, you will be notified via MWF Newsletter.

NEW PROGRAMS

Our program chairman, Donald Stinnett, announces that two more new programs are ready for booking to clubs.

"The Koster Site", 87 slides, an archeological "dig" by our own Archeological Committee, Richard Ade.

"Memories of Murdo", 46 slides, goes back to the 1969 convention in Murdo, South Dakota. Short but do allow for the laughs June Zeitner wrote into it.

Please place your order 30 days prior to your showing date and give a second and third choice to assure you of a program. Include the address where the program is to be sent and a check in the amount of \$1.00. Please do not send cash.

Send your order to Donald Stinnett, Midwest Federation Film Library, 29462 Aspen Drive, Flat Rock, Michigan 48134.

NEW APPOINTMENTS

President Howard Taylor announced the appointment of Mr. Armin H. Steinhauser, 1511 Raymond Street, St. Paul, Minnesota 55108 as State Director for Minnesota and the reappointment of Mr. Wayne Henderson, 2186 Auburn Avenue, Holt, Michigan 48842 as Chairman of the Geology Committee.

SCHOLARSHIP REPORT

According to our records, the Midwest clubs have contributed more than \$1,280.00 to the Scholarship Foundation since the Detroit council meeting. Clubs have advanced their Scholarship Status as follows:

Rosebud Geological Society	100%
White River Gem Society	600%
Heights Gem & Mineral Society	100%
Michiana Rock and Gem Club	1100%
Flint Rock and Gem Club	1000%
Wisconsin Geological Society	800%
Lakeland Gem Club	1100% & 1200%
Lawrence County Rock & Gem Club	900%
Pike County Gem & Mineral Soc.	500%
Lake County Gem & Mineral Soc.	1100%
Dallas County Rock Club	1300%
Duneland Rock Club	1100% & 1200%
Gem City Rock Club	300%

We do appreciate the wonderful support that our Midwest clubs are giving to the American Federation Scholarship Foundation.

Katharine Steinbrenner, Midwest Scholarship Chairman

WELCOME! NEW CLUB!

500 Earth Sciences Club
Mr. Don L. Foltz, President
7401 N. Layman Avenue
Indianapolis, Indiana 46250

NEW CURATOR

The Special Displays Committee has a new Curator of the Holotype Display: Dr. Maurice Pascoe, 241 West Pine Street, Lancaster, Wisconsin 53813. Phone (608) 723-4010. Please contact him if you wish the Holotype Display for your show.

Mary McNamar, Chairman of Special Displays Committee



**THIS IS YOUR LAND
KEEP IT CLEAN**

Bicentennial FEATURES

by June Zeitner



Worried about pollution? Well, don't be! According to Dr. J. McKetta of the University of Texas, a large percentage of the pollution of this earth would be here whether man was a resident or not. Many scientists agree we should take our finger off the panic button. They point out our oxygen is not disappearing, that most water pollution is reversible and that the disappearance of some species is natural and continual.

Dr. McKetta's article, as reviewed by Kathleen Bolick in "The Tarheel Rockhound" of Hickory, North Carolina, states that we are not on the verge of ecological disaster. One of his major points was that most oxygen does not come from photosynthesis. He also points out that nature is the big boss in changing the environment. Example: There is more than 10 times the concentration of sulphuric acid in the natural water of Lemonade Springs, New Mexico as might be discharged by a coal mine. Example: The Mississippi carries over two million tons of natural sediment a year into the Gulf. Example: The Paria River of Arizona carries one billion tons of sediment a year.

The late Dr. William Pecora, who was head of the U.S. Geological Survey, said that all of man's pollution of the air during his millenniums on this planet do not equal the amount of noxious gas discharged by just three volcanic eruptions, Krakatoa, Katmai and Hekla.

Dr. McKetta is a member of the Board of Directors of the National Council for Environmental Balance and chairman of the Committee on National Air Quality.

All this is not an excuse for us to be negligent in our protection of our environment, but it is the type of balanced information we need when radicals scream that we are destroying our world.

A GIFT TO THE NATION

The Austin Gem and Mineral Society of Austin, Texas has chosen as their "Gift to the Nation" a rock trail which will be set up in the Rose Garden of the Austin Area Garden Center, in Zilker Park.

The dedication of this gift will be on Sunday, June 13 in conjunction with the opening of the National Gem and Mineral Show and Convention's Gem Capers.

ASK FOR COMMEMORATIVE ISSUES

Commemorative stamps are the ones most needed in the Stamps for Food Program which the Federation endorses and urges its member clubs to participate in. When you buy stamps for your letters or your club bulletin mailings, ask your post office for commemorative issues. Those receiving the bulletins and letters are urged to save them and take them to their club member in charge of the program in their club.