

FREDERICK C. NIEBAUER
174 E. Cleveland Road
South Bend, Indiana 46637

FIRST CLASS MAIL

THE ROCKFINDER

MAR 1977



MICHIANA ROCK AND GEM CLUB, INC.
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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 each month of publication.
Permission is hereby granted to reprint, at any time, items published in the ROCKFINDER, provided due recognition is given.

THE ROCKFINDER

Volume 17

Number 3

March 1977

Published by Michiana Rock and Gem Club, Inc.

South Bend, Indiana

Regular Meeting:

Time: March 27, 1977
Doors Open 1:30 PM, EST
Meeting 2:00 PM, EST

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

Program: Business Meeting
Demonstration of wire
wrapping by Clarence Finley.
He will give talk and demon-
stration. Don't miss this
interesting program.

Hospitality:

Doris & Carlton Pletcher
Mary & Hap Mortensen
Rene & Jeanette Blondia
Jerry Lifke took the place
of the Blondias in February.

Educational Meetings:

Time: 7:00 PM, EST

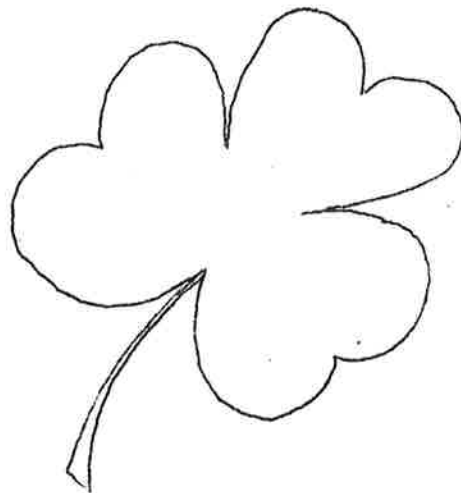
Place: First Bank Basement
Corner of U.S. 31 North &
Cleveland Rd., South Bend

Program: Friday, April 8, 1977
Good Friday - No Program

Program: Friday, April 22, 1977
How to make a cabochon.
A short movie followed by a
demonstration and discussion.

Program: Friday, March 25, 1977
Fossil program presented by
Margaret & Bob Heinek. Bring
specimens for identification.

At our February meeting we wel-
comed Adeline Johnson as a visitor.
In the near future, she will be one
of us - ask Fred Niebauer.



ST. PATRICK'S DAY MEANS
WE WILL SOON BE OUT THERE
GATHERING ROCKS

Calendar

- April 3 First Indian Artifacts
Dig by Bill Mangold.
More details at the
March 27th meeting. This
is the first of 4 digs.
- May 1 Bus trip to Chicago -
King Tut Exhibit. Leave
South Bend at 7:30 AM,
First Bank, Cleveland Rd.
& U.S. 31 No., Adults
\$3.60, Child \$2.00, bring
sack lunch, evening meal
at Bonanza. Mail checks
to Marie Bybee, 17651
Byron St., So. Bend 46635.
- April 15-17 St. Joseph Valley Rock
Hounds Show, Pierre Moran
Mall, Elkhart, Ind.
- April 16-17 Peru YMCA Rocks & Min-
eral Society Show, Peru,
Indiana

Minutes of The February Meeting

The Michiana Rock and Gem Club met on February 27, 1977, at the Rum Village Nature Center. The meeting was called to order by President Jim Russell. Minutes of the January meeting were read and approved. The treasurer's report was read and approved for audit.

Sunshine - Pauline sent a plant to Loretta Watson.

Librarian - George talked to Fran about books for the Nature Center. Fran will be purchasing about \$50.00 to \$75.00 worth of books in the future for the Center.

Program - Joe Charles would like to see the Junior Members get more involved. Joe stressed the point that some day our Junior Members will be leaders in the Club, and he believes like a lot of us do, these kids can, and said they were willing to learn. Joe is ready to help the kids any time they want help.

Field Trips - Marie Bybee made a motion, seconded by Mary Miller, that the Club pay one-third of our bus trip to Chicago, May 1, 1977. Adults \$3.60 and children \$2.00. The bus will leave the bank on U.S. 31 North at 7:30 A.M. Motion carried.

Business - The Board will pick out five of the best themes turned in at our February meeting, and at the March meeting the members will select the winner. Jim again reminded the members to PLEASE remember we do need good things for the silent auction and the kiddies booth. Catherine said polished rocks go fast for her. The Show Committee will make a decision if there is to be a change in the price of the donation to the show. The only date Merl could get for our Christmas party at Pin Hook Pavilion was December 18th. This will be a week before Christmas. Jim wants the members to think about a rock swap and we'll talk about it at a later date.

Minutes (continued)

Motion was made by Catherine McHugh to send Jim and Sherry Russell to the Mid West Federation Show this year in Dayton, Ohio, seconded by Merl Lechlitner. Motion carried.

Door prizes were won by Marie Bybee, Victor Reamer and Fred Niebauer.

Attendance 37 Members
1 Visitor

Motion was made to adjourn by George Kelsheimer, seconded by Catherine McHugh.

Secretary,
Betty Jordan

Bank Display

Our Rock and Gem Display at the First Bank was a big success.

We are invited back next year to exhibit again.

The success of the display was due to the beautiful material given by you members. If we display next year, some of you who did not participate this year may like to do so then.

In appreciation of our efforts Peggy B. Carberry for the First Bank presented us with a gift which will be given to some member that participated in the display.

For those of you who did not get down to see the display, we took some pictures and slides of the display to show at some future Club Meeting.

Thanks again for all the wonderful cooperation in making this venture something the Club can be proud of.

Fred Niebauer
Elza Brockenhamer

FROM YOUR ROCKY LEADER,

HI there to all you Irish and Un-Irish Rockhounds, and a happy St. Patricks Day to one and all.

How's your memory? Remember last month when I told you to think R O C K and the snow will go away? See how well it worked!

As you all know, my in-laws are down in the big state of Texas. Well, my Father-in-Law called me and said, "Well, I lost all my marbles, so I guess that makes me a rockhound." To tell you a little more about this reasoning of his, when he left for Texas, I asked him to bring back some rocks. Well, I guess he's bringing me back some because he claims to have a whole lot of rocks and no more marbles. You see, I gave him a big bag of marbles when he left and told him every time he picked up a stone to leave a marble and when he lost all his marbles, he was a rockhound.

He told me that some of the most helpful people he's met are rockhounds like you and me, and that all of us must have lost our marbles someplace.

Calling all Junior Club Members: Two things of importance for you. Joe Charles has offered to help you learn more about our hobby and will be more than glad to help if you ask him. Secondly, you should be figuring out how you will be handling the Snack Bar at the Show.

I hope that some of the Club Members made the Blossomland Show. Remember if you saw any displays that you felt were worth sending an invite to for our Show, please let me know. Also, I hope that you were able to make some notes on how their Club Booth worked, because I feel that we could do something like that in our Show.

Remember the contest for the theme or name of our Show? We had over 40 names submitted and what a difficult task it was for the Board to make the selection of 5 themes for the Club Members to vote on.

FROM YOUR ROCKY LEADER (CON'T)

Here they are:

1. Mother Nature's Wonders
2. The Rock Spot
3. Happiness is Rocks, Rocks, Rocks
4. Rockhound Roundup
5. Jackpot of Gems

Let's all be there to vote for our favorite.

I hope all of you will remember the famous "Secret Formula". We need the material for the Show.

PLEASE H E L P!!

Well, it's time to get the rock hunting equipment in shape for the year. Remember to clean and sharpen up your chisels, blow the dust off your hard hats, be ready for those big field trips Bill Crull is working on. Can hardly wait, how about you?

Well, Club Members, here's hoping to see you at the Friday night Education meetings as well as our Sunday Meeting March 27.

Your Rocky Leader,

Jim

ASK ME

Have I ever done anything exciting as a rockhound? Well, a couple of years ago, it all started. We were asked to go to Thunder Bay, Canada with some people from the Rock Club. Well, I'm here to tell you.

Two years ago, I sure didn't know very many people in the Club. Jim and Sherry planned to go, so I agreed to go because my husband and son wanted to go. So, very slowly I cleaned and packed up the old camper, all the time praying to get the flu or a migraine headache, but, as the week went on I felt fine and time had run out.

Now, I was to learn that Jim couldn't get off from work, and now we were to follow someone by the name of Elwell as we all left South Bend in our Convoy, the Elwell's, the McHugh's, Joe and Lee Joachim.

(continued on Page 4)

ASK ME (Continued From Page 3)

I didn't know these people, but they didn't look too bad. It started out, away we went heading through Chicago, raining like you wouldn't believe. By this time, I had a rolaid in one hand and a nerve pill in the other. Boy, was I glad to see the campground because this was to be our last stop. I had money to get a plane back to South Bend, and that's where I was about to go. So, trying hard not to cry, I told Jess and John to go on, but I had it, I was going home. Poor Jess, he told Molly and Catherine that he couldn't let me go home by myself, so he didn't know what to do, as we both needed a vacation. So, here comes Molly, Lee and Catherine to talk me into just going a little bit further and see if I liked it any better. Well, I guess I had gone about 110 miles so far and a few more miles wouldn't make much difference.

The rest of the way we did a lot of stopping, taking pictures, resting and getting to know each other. Sunday morning we woke up in a small town somewhere in Wisconsin to the sound of church bells. Since we weren't dressed to go to any church, we had our service in the park, all holding hands in a circle, praying in our own way, people of their own religions, and by now we were good friends.

The day did arrive "Grand Marais, Minn.," Lake Superior. Never in my life had I ever seen anything as pretty. The night passed, we had our supper together, everyone waiting for the next day, to go rock hunting. I knew all about rocks, after all we had them on our road. So, I got my 2 bags and a bucket plus four pockets. Away I went, across the road, and down to the lake. I watched the water wash stones up to the shore. I never saw so many different colored rocks, I didn't know which ones I wanted. There sure was a lot to choose from. I picked up one and asked Frank what it was. Well, he said "I think that is a leavearight."

A few hours later, I saw everyone going back to the campgrounds. So, I guessed I had better head up

ASK ME (continued)

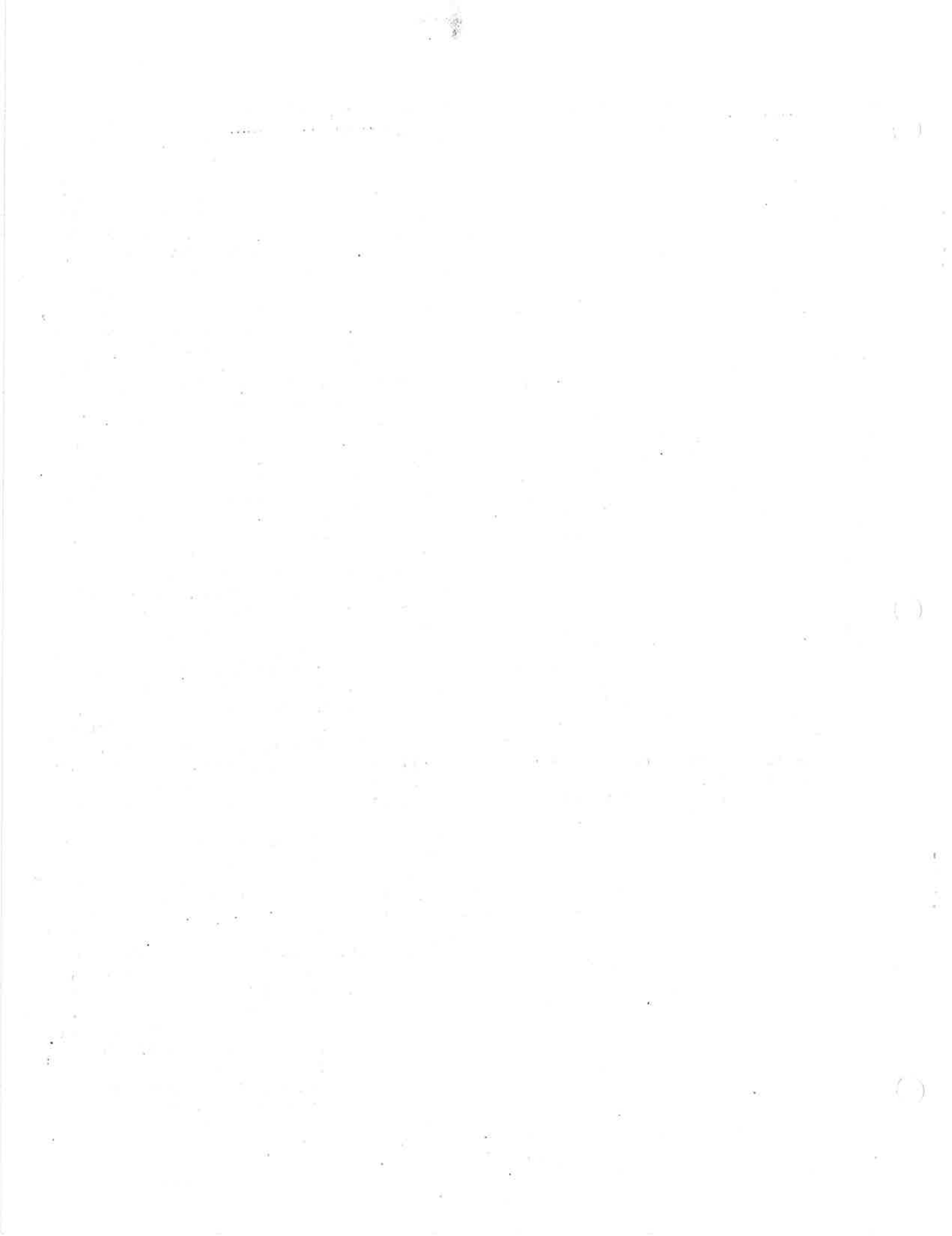
the hill, I sure was glad not to see any cars coming down the road or I wouldn't have ever made it. They might run me over. Along I walked, one bucket, 2 sacks and four pockets full of rocks. I was a pretty tired lady. When they saw me, I don't remember who it was, but they couldn't believe I had such a good day because I was all loaded down with rocks. They asked me what I had. So, with a tired but big smile, I dumped out all my leavearights. I had enough to share. Well, by this time the rocks didn't look too hot. They were dry and the color wasn't so pretty. Everyone tried hard, but they couldn't stand it any longer. Yes, they laughed!

Well, after all, this was my first time to go on a rock trip, and how was I to know. I took a deep breath and by this time the sun was starting to set. So, if I was to make my trip back across the road, I had better start moving. I dumped out my stones and then sat down on a big leavearight to watch them wash back out in the water. Did you ever see the sun set on Lake Superior? All alone, tired as I was, I had never felt so good in all my life.

The next day we left for Thunder Bay and after a day spent there, I found some pretty rocks. After lunch we had to say our good-by's as we had to start for home and everyone else had a week longer to wonder around. As we all gathered to wish each other a safe trip home, there was hugging and kissing and even a few tears (from me). I wouldn't change one thing if I had it to do over again. I may not have asked Frank anything about a rock, but I found some of the nicest people, I saw what God had created for us to enjoy, and found out what a rockhound was. Jim said it was anyone who has lost all his marbles. I wonder what happened to that sack of marbles I used to have! All I ever see around here is rocks. Oh, yes I did bring back a few leavearights, after all, I had to have something to throw at Frank.

Betty Jordan

(Nice Article, Betty - Editor)



Midwest Federations NEWSLETTER



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March 1977 - Issue No. 173

Dayton sets theme for July convention and show

Theme of the 1977 Midwest Federation show and convention is "Education . . . An Adventure in the Artistry of Lapidary and Earth Sciences." It will be held in Dayton, Ohio, Thursday through Saturday, July 21-24 at the Dayton Convention Center.

The area is serviced by many hotels and motels but show chairman, Ted Cadeau, suggests reservations be made as early as possible to ensure the accommodation you wish as the National Air Show is scheduled for this same time period.

Campers can use the Montgomery County Fairgrounds which is just a short distance from the Convention Center. These grounds are on a main bus route and will be serviced by shuttle bus also. There will be electricity and water hook-ups for 320 units. There are a total of 800 spaces.

Stouffers Hotel is the convention headquarters and it is joined to the Convention Center and a parking ramp by covered walkways. All meetings and events will be held in either the hotel or convention center.

All exhibits will be one one floor with the exception of the "Hall of States" which will be in the walkway between the hotel and the Convention Center.

We will be giving you more information and details about the show in coming issues of this Newsletter.

MERIT AWARD JUDGES ANNOUNCED

The Lee Kirby's of Drayton Plains, Michigan, and Melvin Berry's of Mt. Clemens, Michigan, will be the co-chairmen judges for the 1977 Merit Awards. They will be assisted in this big and important job of selecting AFMS All American and Midwest Merit Award winners by the Art Meinerts and the Russell Reimans. All judges are active members of the award winning Michigan Mineralogical Society. They have been officers of this club and had important major jobs in the successful federation show at Detroit and other annual Detroit shows. Lee is a past president of the Midwest Federation. The Berry's and Kirby's and Mr. Reiman are currently on the Executive Committee of the federation.

We are fortunate to have such well qualified judges. Midwest entries are to be mailed to June Zeitner, Mission, S.D. by Mar. 31.

SIXTH ASSISTANT NAMED FOR INDIANA

Charles Walker, State Director for Indiana and Kentucky has named Harold Flood, Ft. Wayne, Indiana as an Assistant State Director. This brings the total to six assistants. Walker advises that his assistants are strategically situated for full coverage of Indiana and Kentucky and this will help for full contact with the clubs in these states.

Spring meeting

The Spring meeting of the Executive Committee of the Midwest Federation of Mineralogical and Geological Societies will be held on Saturday, April 30, 1977. Our meetings will be held in the Ambassador Motel, 175 S. Main, Decatur, Ill. 62525. The telephone number of the motel is Area Code 217/428-8611 for those wishing to make reservations.

Of particular interest to us in the Decatur area will be the 25th consecutive show of the Central Illinois Gem & Mineral Club. It will be held at the Macon County Fairgrounds, Rt. 121 Northwest, Decatur, Ill. on April 29, 30, and May 1. April 29 hours for the public will be from 5:00 PM to 9:00 PM. Let's help them celebrate this 25th anniversary by attending their show while we are in Decatur.

ATTENTION COMPETITIVE EXHIBITORS

Becoming a judge of competitive exhibits is not an overnight happening! The Midwest Federation encourages those persons interested in learning how to be a judge. At the Dayton Show "apprentice judges" will be used. Each apprentice judge will be assigned to a regular judging team with the opportunity to participate in the discussion with the judges, fill out his own judge's sheets and join in the post-judging discussion with judges and exhibitors but the apprentice judge's scores will not be used. In order to apply - prior competitive exhibiting experience required and prior clerking experience, in addition, preferred. Write to MWF Uniform Rules Chairman, Calvin George, 5 S. 144 Webster St., Naperville, Illinois 60540, not later than May 1st and give a resume of your experience and fields of interest.

YOU'VE GOT A DATE IN DAYTON (Ohio) JULY 21-24, 1977 - MWF SHOW AND CONVENTION

Should You Have A Show?

by June Zeitner

Whether to have a show or not is often a puzzle to new clubs, and often clubs who have had successful shows become discouraged and wonder if an annual show is a good idea. Just how important is an annual show? What are the pros and cons?

Of course, there is more than one kind of show, and every club should have some kind of show, even if it is just an exhibit of the members' work for a meeting, but this article considers "show" to mean the club sponsored show with dealers and open to the public.

It is not a good idea to have a show if there are many shows in an area. In this case, it is better for a number of clubs to band together and put on one excellent large show. A dozen smaller shows are more work and the results are usually less successful by far. The Chicagoland clubs have united to put on a single large show next May, and the clubs in the Greater Detroit area help the Michigan Mineralogical Society in its highly rated annual show. Small shows which do not have enough workers, or adequate facilities, or enough publicity are usually not fair to the dealers, or to the public. That is not to say a small show cannot be successful. If there are not lots of nearby shows, and if all the members help, and if there are only a few selected dealers, and if the show is properly promoted a small show can be an important event for the club and its community.

If club members are too widely scattered, too ill or old, perhaps if they think "too small," a show is not a good idea. (However, many successful shows have been put on by Senior Citizens.)

The cooperation of the community is important in deciding whether to put on a show. In some places the press is not cooperative. This can be overcome if there is a trained journalist or public relations person in the club, or if the club is willing to spend large amounts of money on advertising. Otherwise, it is a serious detriment to the success of a show. Communities with a high proportion of elderly people, or with lots of traffic and parking problems, or with a high crime rate, may not yield a big enough turnout for a successful show.

Profit in the club treasury is not a good reason for putting on a show. While a well planned and carried out show will have a profit, the only motive for a hobby club, should be to promote the hobbies of earth science and lapidary art in the best possible way.

Putting on a show just because the other clubs in the area do is not an adequate reason either. Unless the club members all show real enthusiasm for the project, the ones who favor a show might be better off helping their neighbors.

One of the main arguments for an annual show is that it gives purpose, and direction to the club. Clubs which have an annual show get more members. They have better attendance. The members learn to know and appreciate each other more. The community is better acquainted with the goals and accomplishments of the clubs and their members.

A show inspires members to better work. An example of this is that if the club sponsors a competitive show, some of its members will undoubtedly go on to become trophy winners and perhaps judges. This serves the whole federation and the whole hobby, besides enriching the club. It

New soil exposed at diamond crater

There's good news for diamond hunting visitors to Crater of Diamonds State Park near Murfreesboro. Recently, the staff at the Crater rented a TD 24 bulldozer from the Pike County Maintenance Shop and dug the field of diamond-bearing kimberlite soil deeper than at any time since the Crater has been a state park.

"We worked about 10 days," says Park Superintendent Jim Cannon, "moving one to two feet of the top off the best parts of the mine. Since the bulldozer we have used in the past will only plow 12 to 16 inches deep, we have now plowed fresh material on the one-half to two-thirds of the mine we have been over."

He says, "We have the portion of the Crater that we have been able to work in excellent shape in my opinion. We are now down to fresh diamond-bearing material that has not been plowed previously, and we should begin to see results in finds in the near future."

The Crater of Diamonds State Park is a unique attraction, the only known occurrence of diamonds in their natural matrix on the North American continent. The park comprises 867 acres, of which 78 acres form the volcanic core containing the precious stones.

For a \$2 fee for adults, \$1 for children 6 to 15, visitors are welcome to search from 8 AM to 5 PM (8:30 AM to 4:30 PM in winter), and what they find is theirs to keep. Facilities at the park include a cafe (closed in winter), picnic area, and a visitors information center. The center offers a gift shop, small museum and an audio-visual room that provides a brief orientation for visitors. It teaches them how to identify the precious gems, gives tips for finding the diamonds, and reviews the geologic and historic background of the Crater.

For additional information, contact the Arkansas Department of Parks and Tourism, 149 State Capitol, Little Rock, Arkansas, 72201. (501) 371-1511.

is selfish for those who do not want to compete to bar competition from their shows. They are denying basic rights to the members who do wish to compete. A competitive show does not mean every one has to compete. Those who do not wish to compete have the right to enter the non-competitive section just as the others should have the right to compete. A competitive show usually looks better and draws a bigger crowd. A show needs to have good displays and lots of them to interest the general public in the many branches of a hobby it knows so little about.

A show will keep a club on its toes. Some clubs tend to become more interested in entertainment and sociability than in doing something constructive. If the members have to look for displays and programs for a show, get their own lapidary work and minerals properly labeled and looking their best, and then remind all their neighbors and business acquaintances about the show, they are more richly involved, and will enjoy such activities more than hours of coffee sipping.

Each club should analyze all the reasons for putting on a show, and for not putting on a show, and come to its own decision. And if the decision is to go ahead, all should help to make the show the very best possible.