

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

FIRST CLASS MAIL

THE ROCKFINDER

APR 1978



MICHIANA ROCK AND GEM CLUB, INC.
1978 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President....	James F. Russell	27911 North St., No. Liberty, Ind. 46554
Vice Pres....	Merl Lechlitner	1433 L.W.E., Mishawaka, Ind. 46544
Secretary....	Betty Jordan	16705 Eisenhower St., Mishawaka, Ind. 46544
Treasurer....	Christine Shoemaker	17650 Briarcliff Ct., So. Bend, Ind. 46635
Liaison.....	Molly Elwell	105 No. Ironwood Dr., So. Bend, Ind. 46615
Past Pres....	George E. Kelsheimer	19137 Dresden Dr., So. Bend, Ind. 46637

COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN

Program.....	Merl Lechlitner	1433 L.W.E., Mishawaka, Ind. 46544
Hospitality..	Kathy Miller	1106 Clayton Dr., So. Bend, Ind. 46614
	Catherine & Larry McHugh	130 So. Holiday Dr., So. Bend, Ind. 46615
Education....	Margaret & Bob Heinek	Box 152, New Carlisle, Ind. 46552
Librarian....	George Kelsheimer	19137 Dresden Drive, So. Bend, Ind. 46637
Historian....	Bess Wise	1513 Clarendon Ave., Niles, Mich. 49120
Field Trips..	Dewey Hassler	R. R. #3, Plymouth, Ind. 46563
Safety.....	Clifford Schryver	201 Indiana Ave., Mishawaka, Ind. 46544
Sunshine....	Pauline Kelsheimer	19137 Dresden Dr., So. Bend, Ind. 46637
Scholarship..	Catherine Grayckowski	1111 No. Huey St., So. Bend, Ind. 46628
Displays.....	Bob Miller	1106 Clayton Dr., So. Bend, Ind. 46614
Publicity....	Sherry Russell	27911 North Street, No. Liberty, Ind. 46554
Membership...	Jesse Jordan	16705 Eisenhower St., Mishawaka, Ind. 46544
Junior Activities...	Joe Charles	26863 New Road, North Liberty, Ind. 465
	Germaine Lifke	620 E. Marion St., Mishawaka, Ind. 46544

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 Street, 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 18
Published by Michiana Rock and Gem Club, Inc.

Number 4

April 1978
South Bend, Indiana

Regular Meeting:

April 23, 1978

Time: 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

"Adventures of Europe and
Greece" by The Pletchers

Hospitality:

Jim & Sherry Russell
Carol Lacy
Stanley & Jane Kile
Nicholas & Theresa Mester

Educational Meetings:

Time: 7:30 PM, EST

Program: Friday, April 28, 1978

Making Wedgewood-type Cameos
and copper enameling. Mat-
erials will be furnished.

Place: Heinek Studio, New Carlisle

How to get there:

Take Lincoln Highway - US 20
West from South Bend thru
New Carlisle. It is the
second building on the
south side of the road on
your left past the Hooks
Drug Store. It is a dark



SPRING



Educational Meetings (Continued)

green building under the
big power lines and is
across the road from the
car wash.

Program: Friday, May 12, 1978

Pot-ology - Bring a small
or medium size clay pot, a
spatula, old can or some-
thing to turn your pot up-
side down on, tumbled stones
or shells to cover the pot.
Adhesive will be furnished.

Place: First Bank basement,
corner of U. S. 31 North
and Cleveland Road
South Bend, Indiana

FROM YOUR ROCKY LEADER,

Here we are in April. Just think, the snow's finally gone, the coal strike is over, the power shortage is over, and now with a little luck, we can get back to normal.

Good news! Dewey has got our field trips lined up and I know you are all going to enjoy them. The first trip will be this month. For information, see the article on field trips on this page.

If you will recall in my last message, I told you we were going to get our Show flyers out in April. Well, I've got a little story to tell. The flyer was drawn up in its rough form. It was shown to one of our club members and his reply was, "Let me have that, we'll print it up at the office." Well, Jerry Shoemaker, the members and myself say Thank You for the fine job!

I'm still waiting for some new ideas for the Club Booth. At recent shows that we have gone to, I've noted that the club booths have had items from the club membership. Some of us tried this last year, and the Board feels that it is a good idea. So now's your chance to make a buck or two and also help the Club. More on this at our club meeting.

After our April meeting, we've only got 4 months left before Show time. Merl is getting ready to start on the new display cases. If you are in need of one, give him a call. He could also use volunteers to help build the cases. The price will be quoted later. Now is the time to start planning your displays for our Show. The plea goes out for material for silent auction, grab bags and the Kiddies Corner. We need good material, so please help!

Well folks, that's all for now. We haven't seen each other for a long time, so let's have a 100% turnout this month. See you April 23rd.

Jim

1978 FIELD TRIPS

Listed below are the field trips that have been planned for this year. We've put a variety in the trips hopefully covering everyone's interest. There may be some changes, but we hope not. Some of the trips will be two-day trips, with a lot of fun involved.

- | | |
|--------------------|--|
| April 29 | Grand Rapids - Alabaster and gypsum |
| May 20 & 21 | Morgan Monroe State Forest, fossils, geodes and gold panning. |
| June 11 | Rensselaer - Club Picnic Meeting - pyrite, crystals and lots of fun. |
| Aug. 10,11, 12, 13 | Cedar Rapids, Iowa Midwest Federation Show |
| Aug. 20 | Open Date - trip to be planned |
| Aug. 27 | Annual Club Picnic Bourissa Park, New Carlisle |
| Sept. 17 | Pugh Quarry, Ohio Dogtooth Calcite, Brown Fluorite & Blue Celestite |
| Oct. 7 & 8 | Flint Ridge, Ohio for flint |
| Oct. 29 | Morris, Illinois - fossils |
| Nov. 18 & 19 | Muscatine, Iowa Lake Superior Agates |

Make your plans to make these trips as you will find them a lot of fun and also educational.

Field Trip Chairman,
Dewey Hassler

After a field trip, take your rocks to a car wash and spread them on the floor. You can wash them clean in just a few minutes.

Calendar Of Events:

- April 21-23 St. Joe Valley Rock-
Hounds Show, Pierre
Moran Mall, Elkhart, Ind.
- May 13-14 Kalamazoo Gem & Mineral
Society Show, Kalamazoo,
Michigan
- June 3-4 State Line Gem & Mineral
Society Rock Swap,
Wauseon, Ohio
- June 24-25 Michigan Geology & Gem-
Craft Society Educational
Seminar, Harrison, Mich.
- Aug. 10-13 MWF Show & Convention
Cedar Rapids, Iowa
- Sept. 9-10 Michiana Rock & Gem Club
Show, 4H Fairgrounds,
South Bend, Indiana

FIELD TRIP * FIELD TRIP * FIELD TRIP

When: Saturday, April 29, 1978

Where: Michigan Natural Storage Co.
Grand Rapids, Michigan

Time: Leave at 8:00 AM, EST

Place: First Bank Parking lot, U.S.
31 No. & Cleveland Road

Collecting time will be from
11:00 AM to 4:00 PM. The fee to
enter is \$1.50 per person.

The temperature in the mine is
50 degrees - dress accordingly.

We will be collecting gypsum,
alabaster and selenite. You will
need the following equipment:

Lights - Coleman lanterns,
heavy-duty flashlights.

Hammer & chisels

Collecting Bags

Folding ladder

Child's wagon is helpful

Your lunch and drink

Hard hats are not required, but
are recommended as well as safety
glasses. SEE MAP ON PAGE 4 for
route to mine.

Our Texas Field Trip

The Winter Texans were invited
by the Magic Valley Gem & Mineral
Society to go with them on their
February 5th field trip. Sixty mem-
bers and guests, (four from The
Michiana Rock and Gem Club, Fred &
Adeline Niebauer and Jess & Bess
Wise,) met at the little oil town of
Sullivan City at 9:00 AM. We started
off on a paved road but soon turned
off on to a back dirt road. These
roads are like pavement when dry as
they are made of stone and clay.
When they are wet they are awful
muddy. The clay sticks to your car
and feet like glue.

After a short time we came to a
wide spot that had a lot of gravel
to park on. This was the collecting
site. In this area there are many
gravel pits and the over burden has
been dumped to one side. It was this
over burden full of low scrubby trees
and shrubs that we set out to hunt
for the treasures of the day.

We spent many hours hunting
chalcedony, agate, petrified wood
and jasper. Everyone found some-
thing to fill their bag. One lady,
I met returning to her camper, had a
piece of palm wood about four inches
in diameter and about twelve inches
long - a nice find.

The sun was hot - I got a little
sun burn - but the breeze was cool.
About the middle of the afternoon
we decided that we had our quota for
the day and thanked our hosts for a
nice time and returned to Motel
tired but glad that we as Winter
Texans were asked to share in the fun.

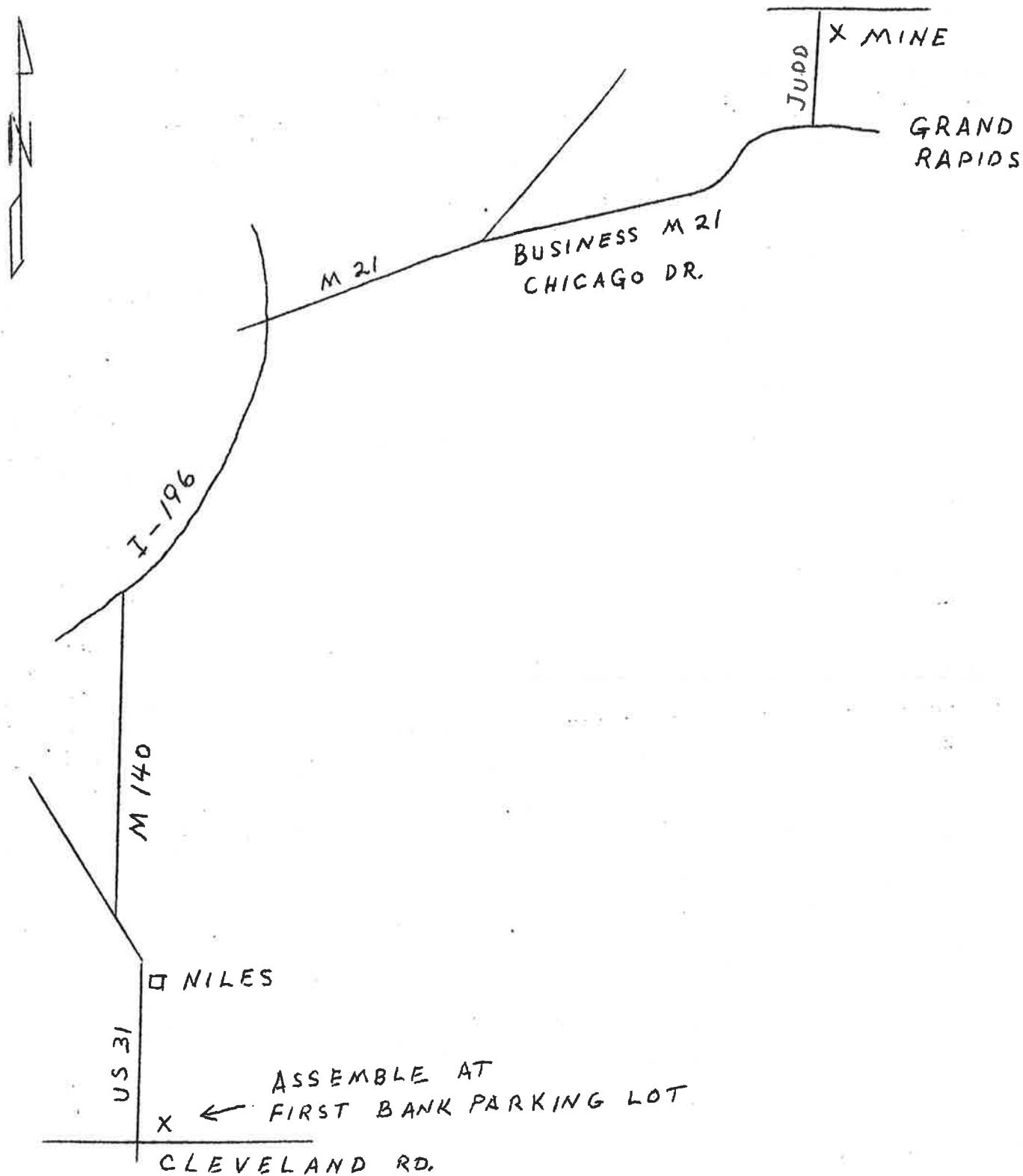
Fred Niebauer

New Member

We would like to welcome
A. Marian Fiege to our Club.

I found her membership appli-
cation and check in my mail when I
returned from the south.

Fred Niebauer



FIELD TRIP
MICHIGAN NATURAL STORAGE CO.
GRAND RAPIDS, MICH.

Squeezing Diamonds Clears
Scientists' Path

Research by scientists squeezing diamonds to the consistency of soft butter may pave the way for experimental simulating conditions at the center of the earth.

Scientists at the Carnegie Institutions' Geophysical Laboratory say that by squeezing two diamonds together, they achieved pressure greater than 25.2 million pounds per square inch. That is three times higher than any other steady pressure exerted experimentally, and the equivalent of 700 times the pressure exerted on the earth by Mount Everest.

From The South Bend Tribune

Submitted by Catherine McHugh

Vacation Is Over

Your editor is back on the job after a most enjoyable winter in the south away from the snow and cold.

Many thanks to Jim and Sherry Russell for filling in for me while I was away. They did a very good job turning out the Rockfinder for three months.

Your club directories are being worked on and will be ready for you at the May meeting.

Fred Niebauer

Minutes of March Meeting

There are no minutes for a March meeting of the Club. It was not held because our regular meeting place was not available and a substitute location could not be found on such short notice.

Borax, sodium borate with ten parts of water, is used in making glass and enamels and in chemical industries.

HELP FOR MARCASITE

Got some marcasite that's going to pieces? You're not alone, as this mineral is very unstable. Here are some hints for preserving it, according to Mr. Charles Knowlton.

Mix one heaping tablespoon baking soda in one quart of water. Let it effervesce and wash marcasite in it. Rinse well in clear water and dry. Then dip marcasite in medium weight mineral oil and drain well.

Check the boxes in which marcasite specimens are stored, as they form sulphuric acid and can eat through their containers. We have heard, too that they should not be stored in white paper because of agents used in the paper-making process.

Via Flint Rock & Gem Newsletter
and Exchangite

Universal Ground-Air Emergency
Code Signals

- 3 fires at night
- 3 smoke signals by day
- 3 shots - all mean HELP

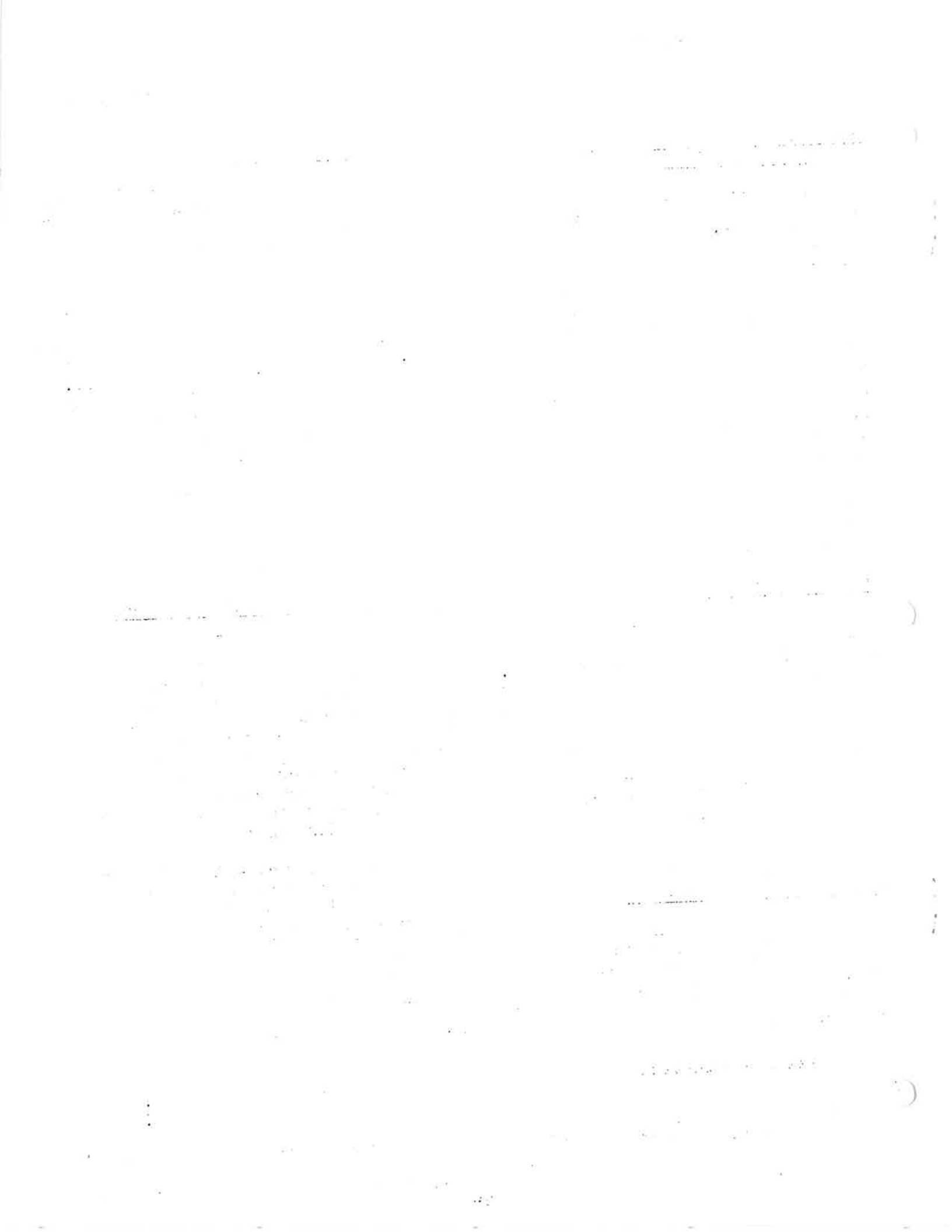
Following ground symbols, at least 10 feet long, scratched in sand, tramped in snow, outlined with branches or rocks or clothing (in contrast to background), have the following meaning to DESERT SEARCH and RESCUE PATROLS:

- I Serious injury - Need Doctor
- II Require medical supplies
- X Unable to proceed
- F Food and water needed
- L Need fuel and oil
- N No
- Y Yes
- LL All well
- JL Not understood
- Went that way
- K Which way

Put This In Your Wallet!
It might save your life!

From Rolling Rock Club News Letter

Submitted by Catherine Graykowski



Midwest Federations 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 Ave., Des Moines, Iowa 50311

April 1978 - Issue No. 184

Spring meeting set

The Spring MWF Executive Meeting will be held on April 29, 1978 in Highland, Indiana. A room has been provided for the meeting to be held in the Highland High School, 9135 Erie St., Highland, Indiana (One block east of Kennedy Avenue).

The Calumet Gem and Mineral Society will host this meeting in connection with their annual show. Free admission will be provided to the MWF Executive Committee members to their Show. The club will also provide coffee and sweet rolls for the meeting.

Motel Reservations may be made at the following motels:

Holiday Inn, Bernice & Torrence, Lansing, Illinois, 312-474-6300, (about 4 miles west of Kennedy Ave);

Holiday Inn, 3840 - 179th St., Hammond, Indiana, 219-844-2140, (about 2 miles east of Kennedy Ave);

Howard Johnson Motor Lodge, 7813 Indianapolis Blvd., Hammond, Indiana, 219-844-7780, (One mile west of Kennedy Ave).

More information and maps will be mailed to all executive committee members shortly.

Plan to continue 'Hall of States'

Last year at the Midwest Federation convention and show in Dayton, Ohio a "Hall of States" display was inaugurated.

The popular response to this feature has prompted The Cedar Valley Rocks and Mineral Society to plan for continuing this feature at the Midwest Convention and show in Cedar Rapids, Iowa, August 10-13.

Midwest Federation State Directors are being asked by Truman Ramsel, State Director for Iowa and member of the host club, Cedar Valley Rocks and Mineral Society and coordinator of the feature to contact clubs in their state to insure a display from their state. Clubs in each state are being asked to work with their State Director in this show feature.

There were a few states missing from the 1977 show and it is hoped that 100% representation can be achieved this year.

1978 MIDWEST SHOW AND CONVENTION
CEDAR RAPIDS, IOWA - AUG. 11-13

Three new programs

Program Chairman Donald Stinnett announces the addition of three new slide programs to the library, all by members of the Midwest Mineralogical and Lapidary Society of Dearborn (Michigan).

"Artistry in Wire" describes wire-wrap procedure by Ralph Goniea, Dearborn, Mich. a teacher of this work.

"Alpena County Fossils" by Bob and Pat Ruthowski, Taylor, Mich. Alpena County in Upper Michigan is well known for its fossils and Pat presents them beautifully and Bob's photography is excellent.

"Close-up Photography" by Norm Hanshu, Canton, Mich. Norm works in photography and has photographed his wife's minerals. Our library has had a need for a program on photography and we now have a fine one.

All of these programs are ready for immediate booking and clubs should order them from Donald Stinnett, Midwest Federation Film Library, 29462 Aspen Drive, Flat Rock, Mich. 48134. Be sure to include the name of your club, the exact name and address of the person to whom the program is to be shipped. Tell us the exact date the program is to be used, and include the \$2.00 service charge with your request for each program ordered.

Keep in mind the Midwest is always anxious to have new programs to add to its library. If your club would like to furnish a program contact Donald Stinnett.

Fossil club forming

The desire to form a strictly fossil club for the region prompted an invitation by Paleontology Chairman, Don Good, to attend a meeting at Augustana College in Rock Island, Saturday, February 4th at 2:00 o'clock.

The results were most gratifying. Eighteen adults belonging to 7 different clubs in 3 states attended (in spite of poor driving conditions). Decisions reached included: 1) To form a Midwest Paleontology Club, 2) To affiliate the club with the MWF, 3) To set up bi-laws for such a club, and 4) To have a second meeting, Saturday, March 4th at 2:00 o'clock in the Geology Building at Augustana College in Rock Island, Illinois.

Persons desiring additional information may contact Don by writing him at 410 N.W. 3rd Street, Aledo, Illinois 61231 or by calling AC 309- 582-5232.

Welcome new members

GREATER OAK LAWN DIGGERS
Mrs. Sandra Wallock, President
4637 W. 105th Place
Oak Lawn, Illinois 60453
joined 2-19-78

FLAMBEAU GEM AND MINERAL SOCIETY
Marting J. Tomczak, President
Rt. 1 - Box 1
Ladysmith, Wisconsin 54848
Joined 2-8-1978

ST. CROIX ROCKHOUNDS
Ray Damkaer, President
422 Pine Tree Trail
Stillwater, Minnesota 55082
joined 2-19-78

Explore need for group field insurance

Group Field insurance for those wishing to hunt has become a topic of much concern among rock clubs throughout the country. In the Eastern Federation News Digest the Eastern President, Wm. Maloney, writes "It is fast becoming apparent in this hobby that if clubs expect to continue to dig on private property and quarries they are going to have to carry insurance to protect the owner in case of damage to property or personnel. This is no more than fair. You should be willing to pay the premium in exchange for the privilege of collecting. Eastern has for several years had an Insurance

Committee. This committee advises that an insurance policy is going to be available to all Eastern clubs if enough participation is found. It is not know the number of Eastern clubs that already have some type of coverage. Perhaps your club has never felt the need and this may come as a surprise to you."

"The Insurance Committee indicates if enough participation can be secured a premium of between \$100 and \$200 per club per year depending upon club membership would provide \$500,000 bodily injury and \$100,000 property damage."

UNUSUAL FIELD TRIP PLANNED FOR NATIONAL SHOW

Castro Valley Mineral and Gem Society has planned an unusual field trip for a limited number of fortunate (that means early bird respondees) guests at the National Show and Convention in Pleasanton, California July 27-30.

As the host club, the Castro Valley show committee has made arrangements with Pacific Gas and Electric Company to visit The Geysers, its geothermal plant. Said to be the largest installation of its kind in the world, it is the only commercially operating geothermal plant in the United States.

PG&E is sending buses to the show site to pick up guests for the trip to the fields located 90 miles north of San Francisco. The date is July 31, the day following the close of the show. Since company rules permit only a limited number of visitors at The Geysers at one time, PG&E has scheduled a wine tasting tour as part of the outing. While one group is at the plant another will be entertained at one of Sonoma County's wineries which produces some of California's highly acclaimed wines.

The amount of steam now producing electricity at the geothermal plant has been estimated as the equivalent of 200 big, old-time steam engine locomotives operating in tandem 24 hours per day. Ultimately, the power company expects at least two million kilowatts of capacity will be available at The Geysers.

Actually, spokesmen point out, they are not "geysers," but fumaroles; the difference being that geysers send up jets of hot water and steam at intervals. Fumaroles are fissures which allow steam to be emitted steadily.

There is no cost for this outstanding trip. Jack Burris, field trip chairman, said however, that due to the expected demand for reservations, they must be made no later than

May 1.

The excursion will require most of the day, with guests being returned to the show site, Alameda County Fairgrounds in Pleasanton, in late afternoon.

AGATE TO BE KENTUCKY STATE ROCK?

From Frankfort, Kentucky comes word that the semi-precious Kentucky agate will become the official state rock if a bill introduced in the Kentucky House by Rep. Joe Clarke, D-Danville, is adopted by the General Assembly.

His bill notes the stone's similarity to the Commonwealth and states the stone "combines marvelous versatility and beauty, and that the agate has been known to millions of boys and girls in Kentucky and elsewhere as the highly regarded 'aggie', indispensable to the compleat marble shooter.

Kentucky could become the 34th state to have a state stone if the bill passes this session.

CHICAGOLAND GEMS AND MINERALS ANNOUNCE SIX PROGRAMS FOR ANNUAL SHOW

The Chicagoland Gems and Minerals Association have announced six programs scheduled for their Second Annual Show, Memorial Day weekend, May 27-29, DuPage County Fairgrounds, Wheaton, Illinois.

The six are: "Volcanos Building A New Island", by Irene Joyce; "The History and How To of Gemstone Engraving" by Ute Bernhardt; "Midwest Minerals, and the Legend and Lore of Gems" by June Zeitner; "Micromounting" by Don Behnke; "Intarsias and Mosaic Art Works" by Rus Kemp; and "Petrified Woods" by Doris Kemp.