

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

FIRST CLASS MAIL

THE ROCKFINDER

NOV 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., Michawaka, 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 Number 9 November, 1978
Published by Michiana Rock and Gem Club, Inc. South Bend, Indiana

Regular Meeting:

November 26, 1978

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

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

Program:

Business Meeting

Schrimpsaw carving
By Mr. Edward Stump

This is one phase of our hobby that has created much interest of late. Be sure you don't miss this chance to see how it is done.

Hospitality:

Betty & Jesse Jordan
Marie & Bill Crull
Shirley Schryver
June Hernesmaa

Educational Meetings:

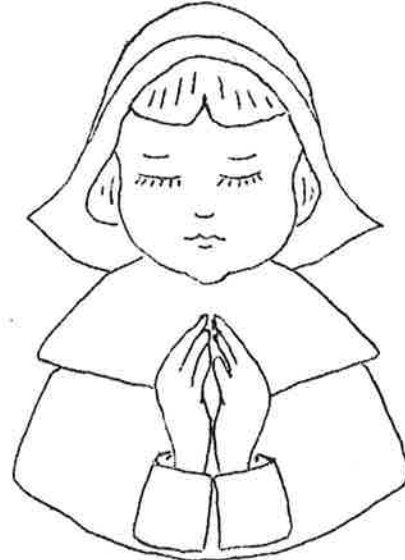
Time: 7:30 PM, EST

Place: Newman Recreational Center
 727 South Eddy Street
 South Bend, Indiana

Program: Friday, November 24, 1978
 Friday, December 8, 1978

Cutting & polishing Rocks

Friday, December 22, 1978
Cancelled, Christmas week



HAPPY THANKSGIVING

Calendar of Events:

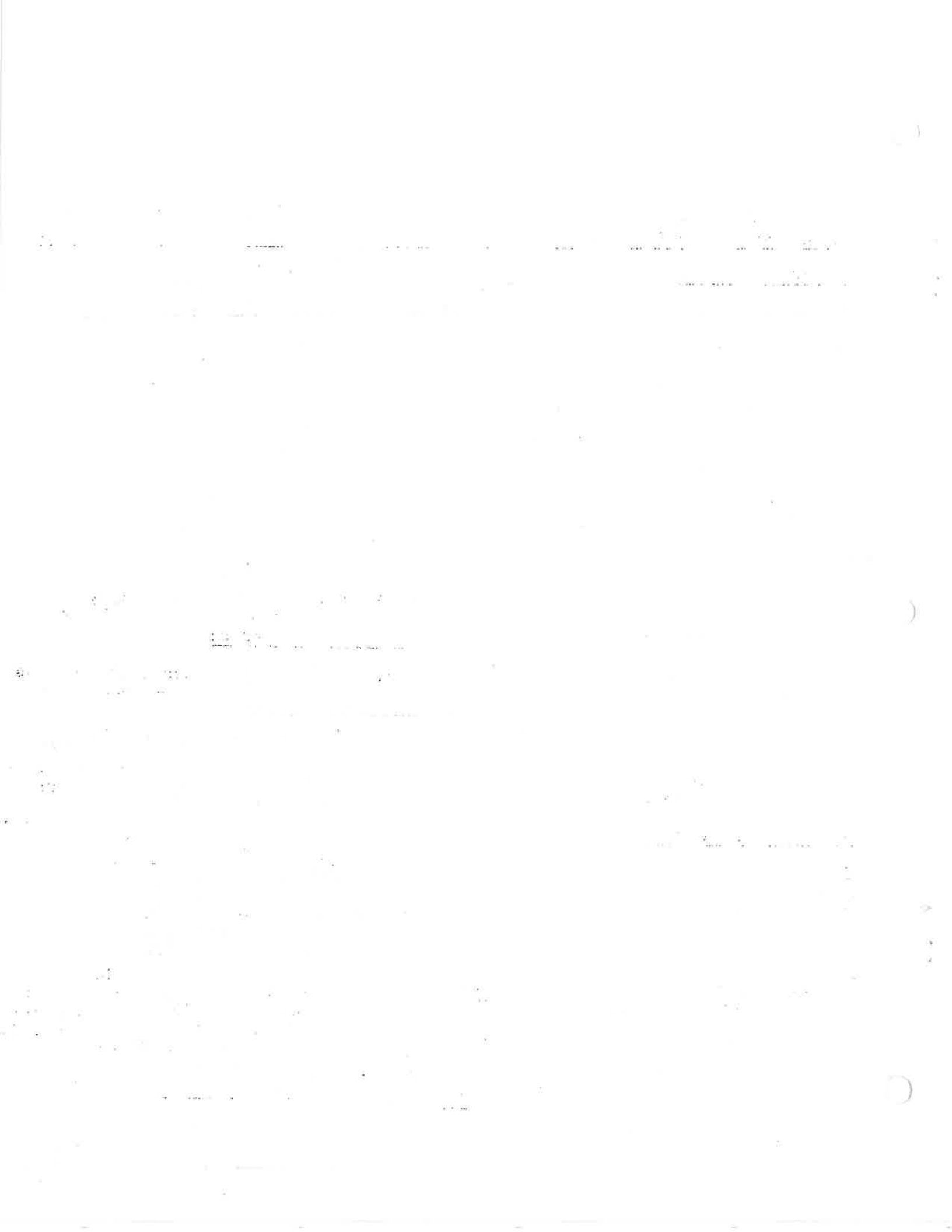
Dec. 10 Club Christmas Party Potluck
 at Pinhook Park Pavillion,
 South Bend, Ind. Bring one
 Rocko prize per person, one
 passing dish for each 2
 people and table service.
 Happy hour at 12:30, dinner
 at 1:30 PM, EST.

Reservations must be made in advance:

289-7446	277-3227
255-6153	272-4834
232-6849	256-0704

Our treasurer, Christine Shoemaker, will be at the Christmas Party to take your dues for 1979 and also your subscriptions for magazines. If you joined our club after Sept. 1, 1978, your 1979 dues are already paid.

DUES ARE DUE



FROM YOUR ROCKY LEADER,

Hello to all you turkey-eaten rockhounds. Happy Thanksgiving to one and all.

I must say that we had a great meeting last month even though the turnout was small. The opinions that were expressed on various things were greatly appreciated by yours truly. It would be great to have a meeting like this with 100% attendance and everyone speaking out in favor of something or against it. By having the type of participation by the membership as we had this time, helps the leader do a better job.

I must tell all of you that I will remember to bring my gavel next time. My hand got a little tired and when I whistled, I was in fact out of order; will try not to let that happen in the future.

To Bob and Kathy Miller, your slide program was just great. The display that you had was great, too, as was the displays of the other members.

Even though this will not be the last message of the year, I would like to look back over things that have happened to the club, both good and bad. We really have had a great year, with a growth in membership, a great show and some really good field trips. It's true that the, and I hate to use this word, "snow" fowled us up on a meeting and then there was the power cut backs, but all in all everything worked out well. The support that I have received from the membership has been more than anyone could have asked for. We have taken a giant step forward in being able to use the lapidary equipment at Newman Center. We have also gained much with a chance to learn by being selected as Host for the 1981 MWF Show and Convention. I know that this will be a great show with much success. With the move to the ACC, we will be improving our own Shows, too. There are many, many things that we will make improvements on in 1979. I will write more on the goals for 1979 in the future.

Just a reminder that our annual

From Your Rocky Leader, (Con't)

Christmas party is coming up on December 10th at the Pinhook Park Pavilion. For those of you who were not at the last meeting, I offered a suggestion that I would like to have some consideration given to, as well as hear some opinions about. For as long as I can remember, we have always had beef and ham for our meat at the party. I would like to see this changed, if it is OK with the membership. This year I would like to see us have chicken and polish sausage. It might cost a little more, but I feel that it's time for a change in the main course. Think about it and let me know at our next meeting. Also we will have a sign-up sheet for those who wish to attend the Christmas Party at this meeting. If you are not able to be at this meeting, a board member will call you for your reservation. As always, one food dish per two people, being salad, vegetable or dessert. Also, remember that for every family membership you may bring 2 guests or for a single adult membership the same. Same rules apply for the food dish for a guest, if it be one or two people. For everyone attending, a wrapped Rocko Prize per person is needed. This should be something connected with rocks and the lapidary hobby. We will have door prizes, some special awards and a whole lot of fun for everyone. HAPPY HOUR will be from 12:30 PM to 1:30 PM, with dinner from 1:30 PM to 2:30 PM, a snort meeting and then it's Rocko Time for one and all. Dues will be due at the meeting, also we will take magazine subscriptions at the same time.

Well it looks like I did it again. Got carried away in my writing and filled a whole page. Bye for now.

See you at the meeting on the 26th.

Your Rocky Leader,
Jim

Diamond Identification

Synthetic diamonds will stick to a magnet, natural ones won't.
From Skagit Gems via Peso - Odical

Minutes of the October Meeting:

The Michiana Rock and Gem Club met October 22, 1978, at the Rum Village Nature Center, South Bend, Ind. Motion was made by Carlton Pletcher to dispense with the September minutes, seconded by Frank Elwell. Motion carried. Treasurer's report was read and approved for audit.

Old Business - President Russell is keeping members posted on our 1981 snow. He has received a letter from the Duneland Rock Club offering their help.

New Business - There were several good ideas on getting publicity across to the public for our next shows in 1979 and 1980. Jim is sure some of them will be used. Catherine McHugh was named chairman of the public relations for our club. The members are really excited about being able to use Newman Center for our Friday night educational meetings. Bring your rocks or whatever you have to work on. Someone will be glad to help you learn.

Nominating chairman Max Cripe, Catherine and Larry McHugh announced the nominees running for office for the year 1979. Nominees are as follows:

President	James Russell
Vice President	Frank Elwell
Secretary	Kathy Miller
Treasurer	Christine Shoemaker
Liaison	Margaret Heinek

Now, it's time to think Christmas. Make note December 10th, also at our November meeting we will be taking a vote to serve chicken and sausage for a change this year.

Program - Bob Miller showed slides they took on their family vacation in Oregon. Larry McHugh and Elza Brockenhamer brought in rocks for the display table.

Prizes - were won by Ossie Kytta, Mary Miller and Sherry Russell.

We welcomed two new members, Betty and Jim Walls, and two guests, Raymond and Ruth Carlson.

Minutes of the October Meeting
(Continued)

Motion to close the meeting was made by Molly Elwell, seconded by Lori Russell.

Attendance 38 members, 2 visitors.
Secretary,
Betty Jordan

Rubies and Emeralds

Ruby and emerald are the most valuable of all gems. A large essentially flawless, deep red ruby weighing more than ten to fifteen carats might cost more than \$30,000 per carat.

Small gems of lesser color might cost as little as \$100 per carat.

Corundum with traces of other oxides as impurities make up these gems. The red color of ruby is due to a trace of chromium. The blue of sapphire is due to the presence of iron and titanium.

In part from Gems & Jewelry

Collecting Rocks

I think that there shall never be
An ignoramus just like me,
Who roams the hills through the day
To pick up rocks that do not pay;
For there's one thing I've been told
I take the rocks and leave the gold,
O'er desert wild or mountains blue
I search for rocks of varied hue
A hundred pounds or more I pack
With blistered feet and aching back
And after this is said and done
I cannot name a single one
I pick up rocks where e'er I go,
The reason why I do not know,
For rocks are found by fools like me
Where God intended them to be.

Author Unknown
Submitted by Doris Fletcher

Dues are due! You can pay them at the November meeting.

Rockin' With My Rocks

Actually I was sitting in the midst of my rock garden, placing the new leaverites here and there, so the sun could catch the sparkle and glitter of the pyrite and calcite.

As I picked up a fossil it reminded me of the trip to France Stone Quarry. It was hotter than blue blazes and after three hours Happ called a halt. I did find a nice specimen but it was more luck than sense.

Now this chunk of flint was part of a bonanza we found scattered over the ground at Flint Ridge. As beginners we didn't realize that surface flint is fractured. Oh well, we live and learn.

My prize possession is this amethyst I almost broke my back over. I went "bananas" making up my mind which to pick, as there was so much to pick from.

On that same unforgettable trip are the thompsonites from Lake Superior, Petosky Stones from Lake Michigan and many beautiful leaverites. I got dunked everyday and brr was the water cold.

Hmm this gypsum from Grand Rapids I could easily forgo. Frankly, I'm not too happy underground. I want OUT!

The calcite in this corner from Rensselaer was the day I was a real stick in the mud.

The weather for the final field trip to Bellevue Quarry was made to order. The leaves were a blaze of color, it was beautiful. Frank parked in the middle of the quarry and we were the only ones there. There was some daylight left and we did some looking. Molly's homemade vegetable soup hit the spot. The sky was so clear and the big dipper was close enough to touch. It was so quiet, just a dog barking in the distance - really eerie. After a hot game of cards - into cold beds. We were happy to see more club members arrive on Sunday. Good specimens were hard to come by. After admonishing Todd to "watch your Step", guess who broke two toes? Me, that's who!!!

Catherine McHugh

Gemstone Dyeing

You can dye your own easily at home with powdered Rit. Pick the color you wish, red, blue or green, and mix a small pack of Rit with a couple of ounces of wood alcohol. Let your stones, polished or tumbled, soak in this solution in a small jar until the desired shade has been reached. This may take from thirty minutes to overnight. If too much color has been absorbed, soaking in clear wood alcohol will remove the excess.

After dyeing, wash the stones in clear water, apply a good wax, and polish with a soft cloth.

Crazy lace, banded Brazilian agate and other agate can easily be dyed a more pleasing color.

From: The Drift

Sanding Discs

Instead of throwing away worn out sanding discs, try this; Mix in small container - $\frac{1}{2}$ teaspoon of any size grit you want, pour on top $\frac{1}{2}$ teaspoon of waterglass (sodium silicate) mixed with $\frac{1}{2}$ teaspoon of water. Mix and apply to used sanding disc and let dry for two hours. Discs will be as good as new.

From Peso - Odical

Handy Hint

The monument maker uses a weak solution of oxalic acid to acquire the glossy shine on the granite. It is used as a polishing aid.

Dissolve a little oxalic acid in water and work into your felt buff or add to your polishing paste and try on agates. It works wonders.

A piece of corduroy glued to soft rubber makes fine, inexpensive polishing material.

From The Geode

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

November 1978 - Issue No. 189

Meet your new Midwest Federation officers

Here are your new Midwest Federation officers, elected at Cedar Rapids last August during the annual show and convention, to serve the Federation during 1979. They assume their duties November 1. From left, Jean Reynolds, Clarendon Hills, Ill., Secretary; Otto Ensminger, Lombard, Ill., Treasurer; Bernice McCloskey, Elm Grove, Wis., First Vice President; and Betty Crawford, Mansfield, Ohio, President. Mel Sharp, Fairview Park, Ohio, Second Vice President was not available when this picture was taken.



MIDWEST SELECTS NANCY NEWBERRY TO RECEIVE AMERICAN SCHOLARSHIP

Nancy Graham Newberry has been chosen by Prof. Donald Peacor as the scholar to receive the stipend of the American Federation of Mineralogical Societies in the Midwest Federation. Nancy is from Coldwater, Mich., and has done her undergraduate work at the University of Michigan, where she won the Branstrom Freshman Prize, and was honored by being chosen by Prof. Peacor to work on a project with him.

Miss Newberry, 22, will be working toward her master's degree in geology and will be assisting in teaching mineralogy. She has a wide range of outside interests, such as spinning, dyeing and handweaving. She is at present restoring an antique loom for her hobby. She takes part in 30-mile bicycle rides, enjoys sailing and swimming, and is an officer of her sorority, Delta Gamma.

She has also promised to keep the federation informed of her progress at the University.

SPECIAL STAMP CANCELLATIONS AT CEDAR RAPIDS SHOW



During the Midwest Federation Show and Convention in Cedar Rapids, Iowa, last August the U.S. Postal Service cancelled attendees stamped envelopes, to be sent through the mails or to be held as keepsakes... collectors items in either case... with a special cancellation.

In keeping with the shows 1978 theme "In the Beginning" artist Jane Machak of Grayslake, Ill. rendered the original drawing from which the U.S. Postal Services cancellation was made, to depict according to a time clock "That in the beginning was Earth, followed by the formation of mountains, plants, animals, footprints of man, and today, rockhounds".

Postal officials report 948 of the cancellations were placed on envelopes.

CONTESTS

Annually the American Federation sponsors three contests which they encourage all clubs to enter. With our October issue we included information about the 12th annual AFMS Bulletin Editors Contest and with this issue we include complete information about the All American Awards Contest and the Slide Program Contest. Check this information about these contests and get your club entered in as many as you

can.

If you should need additional information about any of the contests, write to these people.

Bulletin Contest: Mrs. Elza Slatery, 133 Lynda Drive, Chattanooga, Tenn. 37405; All American Awards Contest: Mrs. LaDocia Ellis, 1350 Bidwell Ave., Chico, Calif. 95926; and Slide Program Contest: Mrs. Kay Jensen, 199 East Brook Road, Pittsford, N.Y. 14534.

COLUMBUS CALLING... MIDWEST SHOW AND CONVENTION... AUG. 2-5, 1979 ... COLUMBUS, OHIO

Meet Ellis Courter: Your new AFMS President



Ellis W. Courter

Ellis W. Courter, the new president of the AFMS, has always had a keen interest in community affairs. He is a past president of the Optimist Club of Northwest Detroit of which he has been a member for the last twenty-eight years. For many years he worked with the Boy Scouts of America as the Advisor of an Explorer Post. He also served the District and the Detroit Area Council in many capacities, including several years as District Cabinet Advisor. During this time, he received the high honor of the Silver Beaver Award.

He became interested in minerals when his son as a Boy Scout was studying for his rocks and minerals merit badge and as a result, in 1951 he joined the Michigan Mineralogical Society. Later he became its president for two years.

Since then he has traveled extensively in the United States, Mexico, and Canada to further his interests in geology, mineralogy, and the collecting of crystallized mineral specimens. His current specialties are thumbnails and micromounts.

For ten years he was the editor of the Conglomerate, the official publication of the Michigan Mineralogical Society, and during this time, he gained some note as a writer, contributing many articles for the benefit of the hobby, not only for the Conglomerate, but also the Lapidary Journal and the Earth Science Magazine.

In 1960, he became active in the affairs of the Midwest Federation and after serving the Midwest in several capacities, he was elected as its president in 1968. At the conclusion of this term, he was named the Treasurer of the AFMS Scholarship Foundation, a position which he has filled for the past ten years.

In 1974, he became a Regional Vice President of the American Federation and since has progressed through the chairs of this organization. With his current election as president of the AFMS, he automatically becomes the Vice President of the AFMS Scholarship Foundation with Dan McLennan of the Rocky Mountain Federation succeeding him as treasurer of the Foundation.

Mr. Courter is also a member of the Friends of Mineralogy and currently is the treasurer of the Southeastern Michigan Chapter of Friends of Mineralogy. Although now retired from the business world, for many years he was the Treasurer-Controller of the Michigan Northern Division of Electrographic Corporation.

A FEW WORDS FROM THE NEW AFMS PRESIDENT

There are many in this world of ours who fail to find or take the time to develop a hobby of some kind, and because of this, they are being denied the many benefits and pleasures which can come from such an endeavor. And so to the more than 66,000 official members of the Regional Federations of the AFMS, my congratulations for being a part of the throng of organized gem and mineral enthusiasts that are spread so profusely about our country. Indeed you are fortunate, for to you comes the opportunity of working with and making friends with some of the best people in the world, along with the opportunity of gaining an educational insight into the fascinating world of rocks and minerals.

It is my hope that in the year ahead the AFMS may be instrumental in bringing you an even greater amount of

AFMS EXECUTIVE SECRETARY NAMED

At the AFMS annual meeting of the Board of Directors at Pleasanton, Calif. last July, it was voted to hire an Executive Secretary. Don Langston, AFMS President during 1978 was directed to make the appointment.

He has appointed Mignon Wagner, 611 Clifford Drive, Austin, Texas 78745

Mrs. Wagner has served as Executive Secretary of the South Central Federation for several years and is well qualified for this position.

SAFETY MANUALS

Mailed to each MWF club with this issue of the Newsletter is a copy of the AFMS Safety Manual.

This is an excellent booklet on safety and we urge it be shown to the membership of each club.

Individual copies are available. Ask the supply officer in your club to contact Clinton Heckert, 725 Stewart Ave., Elgin, Ill. 60120 the Midwest Director of Supplies, for prices.

FALL MEETING

The annual fall Executive Committee of the Midwest Federation held in Lansing, Michigan on Saturday, Oct. 28 will be reported in the December issue.

pleasure from this association, not only in the way of more collecting fun, but also in educational benefits which are so much a part of this hobby. It is to this end that the officers and committee personnel of the AFMS are dedicated as they look ahead not only to the blessings but also the obstacles they will face during the coming year. And indeed, there are both.

There are some unshakable obstacles that must be considered because many of our favorite collecting areas are constantly being threatened. Private owners continue to close quarries and mines to collectors because of increased insurance company demands, while the government still pursues its endeavor to create new wilderness areas that could isolate or make many public collecting areas inaccessible. Suffice it to say that no matter how hard we work, such obstacles cannot be completely eliminated, yet be assured that the AFMS through its committee personnel along with that of the Regional Federations will be working hard to help the situation.