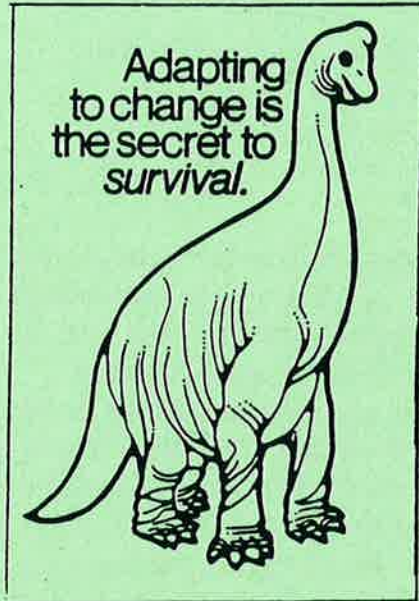


# THE ROCKFINDER

Michiana Gem & Mineral Society  
Tom Noe, Editor  
305 Napoleon Blvd.  
South Bend, IN 46617



Paleo Newsletter



# THE ROCKFINDER

September, 1997

# MICHIANA GEM & MINERAL SOCIETY

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The purpose of the Michiana Gem & Mineral Society is to promote interest in and study of the earth sciences and the lapidary arts, and the sharing of knowledge and techniques.

General meetings are held the fourth Sunday of each month, 2:00 PM, EST, at Our Redeemer Lutheran Church, 805 S. 29th St., South Bend, IN. Exceptions include field trip meetings, May (third Sunday), June (field trip), July (no meeting), August (club picnic) and December (Christmas party).

Board meetings are held the second Wednesday of each month at 7:00 PM, St. Joseph County Public Library, basement level.

The annual club show is Labor Day weekend.

The Michiana Gem & Mineral Society, a not-for-profit organization, is affiliated with the Midwest Federation of Mineralogical Societies and with the American Federation of Mineralogical Societies.

*The Rockfinder* is published monthly except July and August. Staff: Editor, Tom Noe, 305 Napoleon Blvd., South Bend, IN 46617. Co-editor, Herb Luckert, 221 Marquette Ave., South Bend, IN 46617. Reporters, Bob Heinek, Herb Luckert, club members.

All contributions for publication should be in the hands of the editor by the 10th of each month. Call 289-2028 or 282-1354. Permission is hereby granted to reprint any original *Rockfinder* articles, as long as due recognition is given along with the reprint.

### Yearly Membership Dues (Payable by January 1)

\_\_\_\_\_ Individual \$6.50 per year  
 \_\_\_\_\_ Family \$10.00 per year  
 \_\_\_\_\_ Junior \$2.00 per year

Please send your dues and this form to  
 Michiana Gem & Mineral Society  
 c/o Margaret Heinek

7091 E. East Park Lane, New Carlisle, IN 46552

Please indicate areas of special interest.

General Geology\_\_\_ Beads\_\_\_  
 Gems & Minerals\_\_\_ Silversmithing\_\_\_  
 Fossils\_\_\_ Artifacts\_\_\_  
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Name\_\_\_\_\_

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City, St., Zip\_\_\_\_\_

Name\_\_\_\_\_ Birth Mo/Date\_\_\_\_\_  
 will attend meetings, yes\_\_\_no\_\_\_

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 will attend meetings, yes\_\_\_no\_\_\_

Wedding Anniversary Mo/Date\_\_\_\_\_

Phone\_\_\_\_\_

# THE ROCKFINDER

Newsletter of the Michiana Gem & Mineral Society

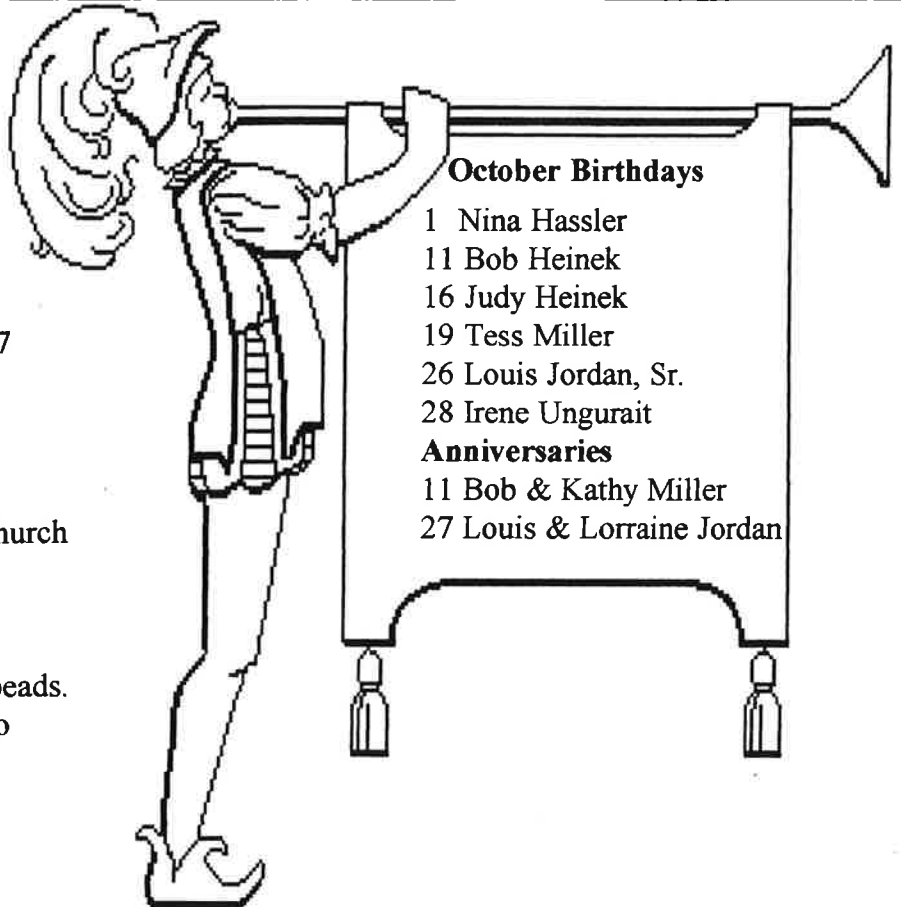
Volume 37, Number 7

September, 1997

**Meeting:** Sunday, September 28, 1997  
Doors open at 1:30 p.m.  
Meeting at 2:00 p.m.  
Guests are welcome.

**Place:** Our Redeemer Lutheran Church  
805 S. 29<sup>th</sup> (29<sup>th</sup> & Wall)  
South Bend, IN

**Program:** Edie Simons - Lampwork beads.  
(A demonstration of how to  
make glass beads.)



## October Birthdays

1 Nina Hassler  
11 Bob Heinek  
16 Judy Heinek  
19 Tess Miller  
26 Louis Jordan, Sr.  
28 Irene Ungurait

## Anniversaries

11 Bob & Kathy Miller  
27 Louis & Lorraine Jordan

## UP AND COMING

**September 19-21--Michiana Club field trip to Corydon, IN, area and the 1997 Falls Fossil Festival.**

September 20-21--Falls Fossil Festival, Falls of the Ohio State Park, Jeffersonville, IN (Swap & sale, hikes, tours, workshops, etc.).

September 27-28--6th annual show, Eastern Indiana Gem Club, Wayne County Fairgrounds, Richmond, IN.

October 4-5--Eddy Center Geology Arts Fair, Chelsea, MI.

October 10-12--Greater Detroit Show, 4400 East Eight Mile Road.

October 17-18--Three Rivers Gem & Mineral Show, Allen County Fairgrounds, Ft. Wayne, IN.

October 17-19--Combined Eastern Federation and American Federation Show and Convention, Jackson, MS.

October 18-19--29th annual show, Earth Science Club of Park Forest. 197th & Halstead, Chicago Heights, IL. (South side of Chicago.)

October 24-26--Gem & Mineral Show, Lansing, MI.

October 24-26--Midwest Federation Show and Convention, Davenport, IA.

November 7-9--Show sponsored by Midwest Faceters Guild, Dearborn Civic Center, Dearborn, MI.

## MARGARET'S COLUMN



Another show is over and it was a good one, I think. I would like to thank all who worked, especially Herb Luckert and Bill Nelson for picking up the supplies from the storage shed. Several members came on Thursday evening to help Bob and Bill Crull mark the floor for the booth setup. After the show closed, Herb returned the games, leftover rock, table covers and other items to the shed. There is less now than there was before the silent auction was held. Looks good to have so much gone. Tom Noe, Bill Crull and others really worked hard in the auction area.

Bob Miller did a wonderful job in getting demonstrators. Thanks to all who worked there: Edie Simons and her lampwork beads; David Peltz for flint-knapping; Joan Gardner polishing star rubies and sapphires; Greg Street with hand flat-lapping; Bob Miller showing carving; and Stan Jacobs, Virginia Steel, Clarence Orell and Tom Fields were our faceting demonstrators (members of Northwest Indiana Faceters); Lu Ellen Brown explained wire-wrapping and Jim Russell demonstrated wire trees.

Marie Crull was in charge of the door, and all of the members who worked there did an excellent job. The Kiddies' Korner was busy, and members took turns taking care of the youngsters. This is one of the favorites at our show.

We had some very good displays! Thanks to Tom McLaughlin and all who brought in cases with their collections. Many visitors remarked on how nice our displays were. Thanks to Kay and Jim Sharp, who brought 3 displays all the way from Elyria, Ohio. I am not going to try to name all who worked, or displayed, as I know I would leave someone out. It takes many hours of work to put on a good show, and we have a good one. THANKS TO EVERYONE!

The next time we will get together will be our weekend bus trip to Corydon on September 19. Kathy Miller has done an excellent job in planning this trip. We will be hunting at a quarry on Saturday and return to South Bend on Sunday evening, Sept.

21. We may have to take some warm clothes, the way the weather has cooled off.

Our September meeting will be held on the 28th and we should have several new members with us who joined at the show.

We will not have an October meeting, because many of our members will be at the Midwest Federation Convention/Show in Davenport, Iowa. The Millers and Bob and I will be at the AFMS convention in Mississippi one week earlier, so October will be a busy month for us.

See those of you who are going on the bus trip. All others, at the September meeting on Sunday the 28th.

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### *People Say the Darndest Things*

ABOUT FAIRBURN AGATE: *Did you use colored ink on this stone to show how it is made?*

A GROUP OF QUARTZ CRYSTALS: *What did you carve these with?*

A CASE OF POLISHED SLABS: *Excuse me, but would you tell me what kind of soap you use to get these rocks so shiny?*

FROM A TOUR BUS DRIVER AT MT. RUSHMORE: *How did they know where to dig to find those faces?*

FROM RICHLY DRESSED LADY: *I am not interested in stones, all I like is diamonds, opals, jade, and the real stuff.*

FROM A MAN TO HIS CHILDREN IN A FOSSIL ROOM: *They are petrified things that used to be real. That means they were scared to death.*

ABOUT AN AMETHYST CRYSTAL GROUP: *Oh, look at the frozen grape Koolaid.*

COMMENT FROM A LADY ON A LIMESTONE SLAB SHOWING AN IMPRINT OF A FOSSIL FISH: *I wonder how the fish got in the rock? Her companion replied, "Oh, don't be silly. The Indians used to cook on hot rocks, and this one was left there to burn to a crisp."*

ABOUT A SCENIC AGATE-FILLED THUNDEREGG: *How do they reproduce photographs on rocks?*

—From various sources, via G.I. Nugget, 12/96



## MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD AT THE AUGUST 17, 1997, PICNIC

President Heinek opened the picnic at 12:30 P.M. at Clay Park.

Herb Luckert will pick up rocks and cases at the storage shed on Thursday before the show.

The new entrance to the show will be off the corridor as you come in from the parking lot.

Channel 16 and Channel 22 will show advertisements and the show will be announced in the list of upcoming events on Saturday morning. Ads have been placed in the *South Bend Tribune* for Thursday, Friday and Saturday.

There will be displays and working demonstrations for all.

President Heinek asked who would be going to the Midwest Federation Convention in October. Pat McLaughlin made a motion for Marie Crull to be our delegate at the meeting, seconded by all present.

President Heinek appointed a nominating committee to present a slate of officers for consideration at the club elections in October: Tom Noe, Irene Ungurait and Pat McLaughlin.

There were 21 adults and 3 juniors present.

Respectfully submitted,  
Marie Crull, Secretary

## NEW DNR REGULATIONS

DNR tightens restrictions on plant, animal removal. Larry Macklin, Director of the Indiana Department of Natural Resources, said the state agency is tightening restrictions on the collection and removal of plants, animals, rocks and fossils from DNR properties. "To protect and preserve these valuable resources, the DNR will strictly enforce a policy that requires a written permit to remove plants, animals, rocks and fossils from any DNR state park, nature preserve, forest, reservoir or fish and wildlife area."

*ISP Newsletter (Sept. 1997)*



RiverCenter  
Adler Theatre

## MIDWEST FEDERATION CONVENTION AND SHOW

Davenport Iowa Rivercenter  
32000 square feet of dealers and displays

**Friday, Saturday, Sunday  
October 24th, 25th and 26th 1997**

On the web at: <http://hegel.ed.uiuc.edu/mineral/>

• All programs and meetings will be held on site, in the Rivercenter. The Black Hawk Hotel and the Radisson Plaza Hotel are connected by an enclosed walkway to the Rivercenter. Best Western Riverview Inn is only two blocks away.

*Special Rates will be in effect for the show.*

• Camping is located nearby at West Lake Park and on the Miss. River at Corp. of Engineers sites.

### Programs on:

- Dinosaurs
- Lake Superior Agates
- Lizzadro Museum of Lapidary Arts
- Minerals of Linwood Underground Mine  
*by Dr. Paul Garvin, Cornell College*
- Cave Paleontology & Cats  
*by Dr. Richard Toomey III, Geologist IL State Museum*
- Rockhounding in the Midwest  
*by June Culp Zeitner, author from South Dakota*



See: World Class displays of gems, minerals, fossils, scrimshaw and lapidary work.

- Illinois State Museum: *Moon Rocks!*
- Live interactive web site for rockhounds
- Iowa Geological Society & Ia. Geo. Survey
- National Coal Museum

### Guided Field Trips for minerals & fossils

*Special Pictorial Cancellation by the U.S. Post Office!*

*Hosted by the*

BLACK HAWK GEM & MINERAL CLUB, INC.  
OF ROCK ISLAND, ILLINOIS

P.O. Box 6014 Rock Island, IL. 61204

Show Chairman: Floyd Dopler Jr.  
Box 511, Andalusia, IL 61232  
309-798-5367 E mail : Fdopler@aol.com

ALAA NEWS

(The American Lands Access Association is a lobbying group for the American Federation of Gem & Mineral Societies.)

New BLM regulations have closed the Kofa National Wildlife Refuge to collecting, with the exception of Crystal Hill (no tools allowed, and surface collecting by hand must not degrade the landscape). Crystal Hill had been a favorite site for field trips near Quartzsite. The New Waters Mountain Wilderness is now closed to collecting other than by "hand methods that do not cause surface disturbances."

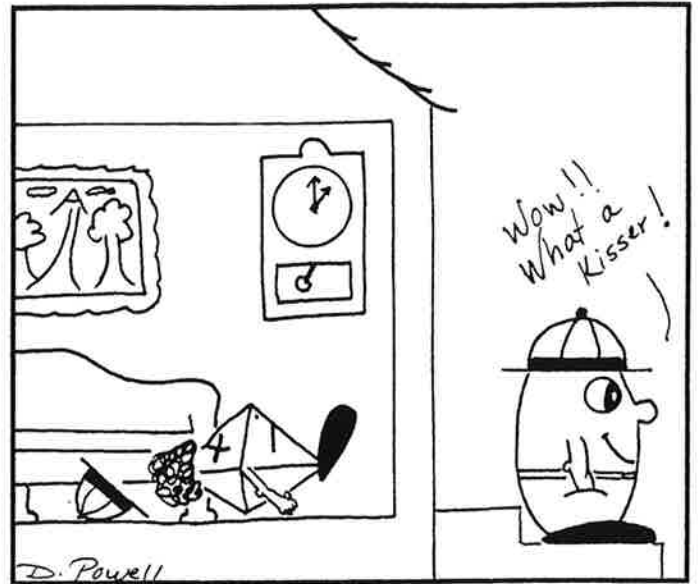
Senator Hatch of Utah has challenged the legality of a memo by Interior Secretary Babbitt, which redefined the word "highway" in a federal law. The issue is the closing of roads on public lands. Congress had said that no new roads were to be established; the new definition was being used to force the closing of existing roads.

Last November, the BLM proposed new guidelines to make some land use violations into felonies. After considerable criticism, the BLM withdrew the proposal on April 21, 1997. Other proposed changes in rules (such as making surface collecting allowable only by permit) are in limbo, apparently, until a new head of BLM is appointed.

A lobbyist will go to Washington shortly to push for reintroduction of the Fossil Preservation Act and the introduction of the (much revised) Rock and Mineral Collection Act.

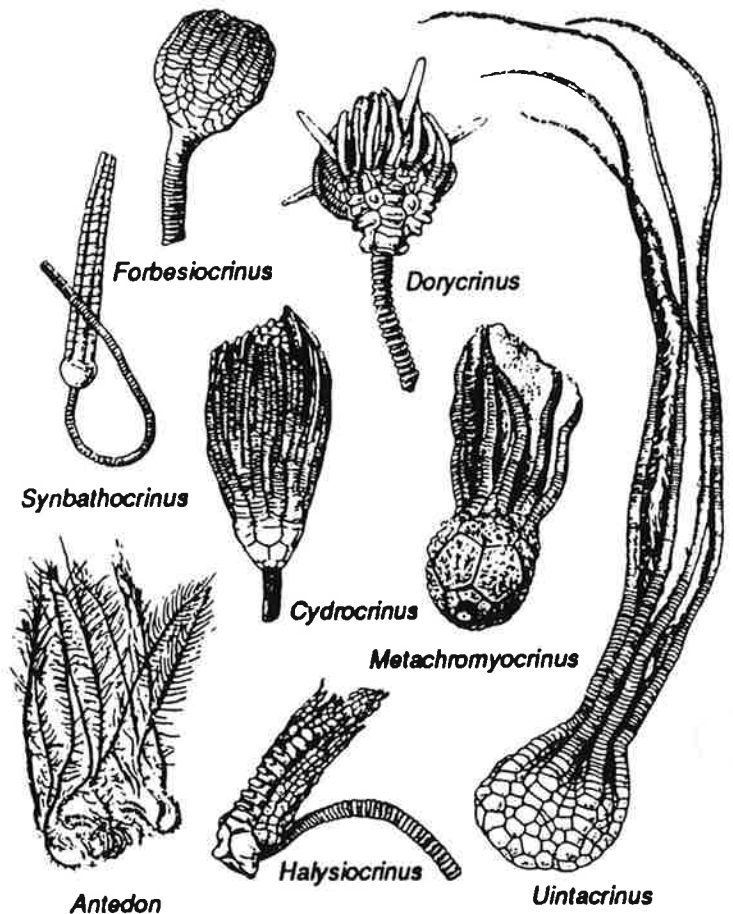
(Summarized from an August, 1997 report by George Loud, Chair, Conservation and Legislation Committee, AFMS.)

Crystal Faces by Darryl Powell



Ten girlfriends later and Arnie Arsenic still hasn't figured out why his dates never call back.

CRINOID FORMS



## BIG CEDAR RIDGE FOSSILS

By Tom Noe

As soon as I read the article about a "plant Pompeii" in northern Wyoming, I knew I had to get there. This site is unique, because whole communities of plants have been preserved, some in three dimensions, with leaves and fronds still attached to stems. Evidently, ashfalls from volcanoes farther west covered and encased the plants growing on the surface, sifting in around the leaves and preserving them. The ash came down so gently that some slender stalks are still standing upright in the layer of clay they are preserved in. Other large leaves and fronds have been packed down, but can still be found with their three-dimensional shapes (folds in palm leaves, for example).

The site is called Big Cedar Ridge, and it lies on public land managed by the BLM. No written authorization or permission is required for non-commercial individuals collecting for their personal use. Sometime soon, the BLM will have information available on the types of fossil plants which can be found there. This is an area of continuing research, and collectors should expect to be asked to cooperate with researchers (for example, by not disturbing marked locations). If you plan on visiting and want this information (it wasn't ready yet in April when I wrote), contact Chuck Wilkie at the BLM Worland District Office, P. O. Box 119, Worland, WY 82401-0119. I also strongly recommend reading the letter by Wing, Hickey and Swisher in *Nature* (May 27, 1993) and the article by Lynne Clos in *Fossil News--Journal of Amateur Paleontology* (Feb., 1996). I have these, if you'd like to borrow them.

The fossil plants lie in a nearly horizontal, thick clayey layer which outcrops along the east side of Big Cedar Ridge, located between Worland and Tensleep, WY. Roughly 16 miles east of Worland on Highway 16 is Blue Bank Road, heading south. Drive one mile south, then jog east about 200 yards. Follow the sign for Blue Bank Road and continue south again on graded road for about 13 miles. You will see the ridge on your right, paralleling the road. Drive south along the ridge until you get about halfway down, where a small spur on the ridge comes right down to the road. Do not attempt to go off-road

in the rain. Blue Bank Road is maintained; if it starts to rain, get back on the road. (Actually, you could park on the graded surface and walk to the ridge. Many exposures are just a few hundred feet from the road.) On the spur you'll notice some hummocky, gray mounds, bare of vegetation. These mounds contain fossil layers, but since they are clay the top surface will be weathered, cracked like mud flats, and show nothing. You have to dig down a few feet below the weathered surface to expose the intact layers. This doesn't take long, because the surface is soft. When you get to undisturbed clay, start splitting layers carefully to expose leaves and fronds. You'll also find ashes, gritty layers, coal-like layers, plant fragments and the other things you'd expect to see at the bottom of an ashbed.

Some layers have nice plant fossils and some don't, so keep looking and splitting. These are clay layers, not rock. Do not try to wash off your specimens, or you will wash off your specimens. Wrap the ones you are keeping in soft paper and pack them carefully.

Once you identify the right layers, you can search other areas of the ridge, especially the south end, for more outcrops. The types of plants vary all along the length of the ridge.

The bentonitic clay is part of the Meeteetse Formation, 71 to 72 million years old. More than 100 species of ferns, conifers, cycads and angiosperms have been found here. The plants are preserved as rust-orange, black or gray films in the clay. When splitting layers, you can often get out entire leaves or fronds, if they are small. Partial leaves are everywhere. Sometimes conifer branches will be preserved as they intertwined and overlapped in life. You can uncover lower layers simply by removing the soft clay layers on top, going down until you get an imprint that you like.

I was there in May and the weather was great, after the rain quit. I'd recommend this site for all plant collectors. The variety is extraordinary (you'll also find pieces of carbonized twigs and small woody fragments), the preservation is very detailed, and the plants often emerge in three-dimensional glory. The BLM is managing the site as a site for plant fossil collecting, and amateurs can help in further researches and discoveries.

## TURQUOISE

From the web page of the U.S. Geological Survey

Turquoise, the robin's egg blue gemstone worn by pharaohs and Aztec kings, is probably one of the oldest gemstones known. Yet, only its prized blue color, a color so distinctive that its name is used to describe any color that resembles it, results in its being used as a gemstone. Turquoise has been, since about 200 B.C., extensively used by both southwestern U.S. native Americans and by many of the Indian tribes in Mexico. The native American jewelry or "Indian style" jewelry with turquoise mounted in or with silver is relatively new. Some believe this style of jewelry was unknown prior to about 1880, when a white trader persuaded a Navajo craftsman to make turquoise and silver jewelry using coin silver. Prior to this time, the native Americans had made solid turquoise beads, carvings and inlaid mosaics. Recently, turquoise has found wide acceptance among people of all walks of life and from many different ethnic groups.

The name "turquoise" may have come from the word *Turquie*, French for Turkey, because of the early belief that the mineral came from that country (the turquoise most likely came from Alimersai Mountain in Persia (now Iran) or the Sinai Peninsula in Egypt, two of the world's oldest known turquoise mining areas.) Another possibility could be the name came from the French description of the gemstone, "*pietre turquin*" meaning "dark blue stone."

Chemically a hydrated phosphate of copper and aluminum, turquoise is formed by the percolation of meteoric or groundwater through aluminous rock in the presence of copper. For this reason, it is often associated with copper deposits as a secondary mineral, most often in copper deposits in arid, semiarid or desert environments.

For thousands of years the finest intense blue turquoise in the world was found in Persia, and the term "Persian turquoise" became synonymous with the finest quality. This changed during the late 1800's and early 1900's when modern miners discovered or rediscovered significant deposits of high-quality turquoise in the western and southwestern United States. Material from many of these deposits was just as fine as the finest Persian. Today,

the term "Persian turquoise" is more often a definition of quality than a statement of origin, and the majority of the world's finest-quality turquoise comes from the United States, the largest producer of turquoise.

The increased acceptance of turquoise resulted in higher prices, some of the most desirable materials going for as much as \$2,200 per kilogram. The increased demand could not be met through production of acceptable mine-run materials. Therefore, an industry emerged--the business of turquoise stabilization, reconstitution and the manufacture of synthetic and simulated turquoise. In most instances, the stabilization and reconstitution of turquoise involve the use of earthy or highly porous types of turquoise which are pressure-impregnated with hot acrylic resins. The resins improve the color, hardness and durability of the material to a point that inexpensive porous, poorly colored or nearly colorless materials become suitable for use in jewelry. As long as the materials are represented as treated, stabilized or reconstituted, the marketplace can accept or reject the materials based on decisions that are purely business or economic.

**Arizona.** In Arizona turquoise ranks first in terms of value of production and is also the best known of its gem materials. As stated earlier, nearly all important deposits of turquoise are located near copper occurrences or in copper deposits in arid desert regions of the world. Thus, the world-famous turquoise deposits associated with certain of the large Arizona copper deposits are to be expected. Turquoise is or has been mined from a number of these copper mines as a byproduct, usually by outside contractors.

The financial and operating terms of the collecting contracts vary from mine to mine. Some of the operations are little more than the efforts of individual commercial collectors. Some are essentially full-scale mining operations that are simultaneous with, but separate from, the regular mining operations; and still others operate on an on-call basis as turquoise is uncovered by the regular copper mining operation. Regardless of the size or the sophistication of the initial mining or recovery operation, the turquoise is recovered by careful extraction using hand methods.



**California.** The production of turquoise from deposits in California can be traced back to pre-Columbian native Americans. Prehistoric mining tools have been found in some of the old workings of the turquoise mines in San Bernardino County.

Over the years, the state's deposits have produced a substantial amount of turquoise. Deposits are located in San Bernardino, Imperial and Inyo Counties. The material occurs as nodules and as vein filling. Most of the nodules are small in size, about the size of the end of your thumb, and the vein material is about 4 millimeters thick. In the better grade materials, the color varies from a pale to a dark blue; poorer grade materials are greenish-blue and green in color. Some of the material has yellow-brown limonite spiderwebbing.

In the past, a number of turquoise mines operated in the state, several or more mines in each of the counties. Today, only a single mine, the Apache Canyon Mine, is commercially producing turquoise. Material from the mine is a fine blue color, hard, and takes a good polish.

**Colorado.** Turquoise is produced from several locations in Colorado. Currently the only commercial production is near Mamassa, Conejos County. Other production was from Leadville, Lake County; near Colorado Springs, El Paso County; and near Villa Grove, Saguache County.

**New Mexico.** Until the 1920's, New Mexico was the United States' largest producer of turquoise. However, since then Arizona and Nevada have surpassed it in terms of both annual and total production.

Production of turquoise from deposits in the Cerrillos Hills, Santa Fe County; the Burro Mountains and Little Hachita Mountains, Grant County; the Jarilla Hills, Otero County; and the Guadalupe Mountains, Eddy County, can be traced to prehistoric Indians. Several different mines operate or have operated at each of the New Mexico locations mentioned, producing seam and nugget turquoise. Many of the more famous and higher-quality deposits are economically depleted. Turquoise from these deposits was as good as that from any deposit in the world and was the first to displace true Persian turquoise in the U.S. market. Color varied from light

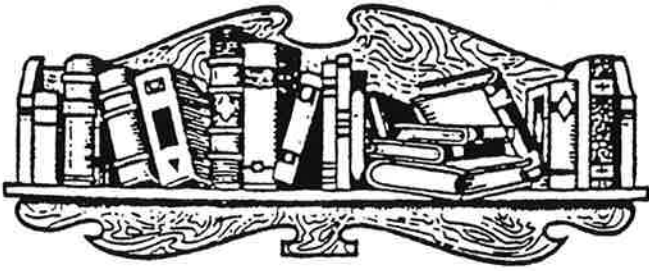
to dark green, greenish-blue, bluish-green, paler blue shades and fine skyblue. Much of the material was spiderwebbed with thin veinlets of limonite.

Currently, with the exception of byproduct material from copper mines, production of turquoise from deposits in New Mexico, for all practical purposes, has stopped. Turquoise still can be found in New Mexico, but production in any significant quantity is a question of economics and the determination of the individuals involved.

**Nevada.** Nevada has been a major producer of turquoise since the 1930's, and until the early 1980's the state was the largest producer in the United States. It is estimated that, over the years, 75 to 100 different mines/prospects produced sizable quantities of turquoise. Production varied from a few thousand dollars worth of material at some of the properties to more than a million dollars at others. To date, total production of rough turquoise is estimated to be in the range of \$40 to \$50 million.

Turquoise from Nevada comes in various shades of blue, blue-green, green-blue and green. Some of the turquoise may contain iron. If it does, its color is pale green to yellow-green to yellow. The material can be solid-colored or spiderwebbed with either brown or black webbing; the spiderwebbing may occur in any of the different colors or shades. Some of the blue material is represented as the finest pure blue turquoise produced. It can occur in thin veins or seams or as nodules, with single nodules reported as large as 150 pounds. The quality varies from hard solid material that takes a good polish, to soft porous material that can only be used as feed stock for treatment, enhancement or stabilization processes.

Associated with some of the turquoise deposits are two other gem materials that can resemble certain colors and shades of turquoise, but are separate mineral species. The first is variscite, and the other is faustite. Both have been mistaken for and marketed as turquoise. Attractive gemstones can be cut from both variscite and faustite, and therefore would be noteworthy as gem materials on their own.



### FOR FURTHER READING....

The life-on-Mars debate continues. The original announcement indicated that magnetite and iron sulfide grains inside a Martian meteorite strongly resembled magnetosome particles produced by terrestrial bacteria, and also that organic compounds called polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons existed inside the meteorite. On the other side, geochemists at Case Western Reserve have observed that the magnetite, rather than forming chains of crystals (characteristic of bacteria) instead formed elongated single crystals (a shape totally unknown in living organisms, but known to be deposited by some volcanic gases). Scientists at the Scripps Institution of Oceanography report that the hydrocarbons in the meteorite could have come from contamination after the meteorite fell to earth. Stay tuned.

*New York Times* (Dec. 22, 1996)

*Science News* (Dec. 14, 1996)

*New Scientist* (21/28 Dec., 1996)

An unusual *T. Rex* bone apparently contains original red blood cells. Mary Schweitzer of Montana State University in Bozeman was inspired to look for organic compounds in an exceptionally well-preserved skeleton. Parts of the bone showed no evidence of mineral infilling, and a pathologist looked at a thin slice of the bone and saw red blood cells. (The sandstone matrix of the skeleton contained no organic compounds.) For the first time, some genuine dinosaur molecules may have been found. Few scientists think that any intact dino DNA has yet been found, but many observers are cautiously optimistic about this find of blood cells.

*New Scientist* (June 21, 1997)

We are familiar with insects being preserved in ancient amber, but the American Museum of Natural History in New York has found the partial backbone and ribs of an 18-million-year-old mammal. The amber may even preserve some strips of ligament.

*New York Times* (Apr. 16, 1996)

### CLUB SHOW BRINGS ROCKHOUNDS TOGETHER

By Tom Noe

"I'm grateful that we had so much participation from the club members," said Margaret Heinek after the Labor Day show. "The show runs so much better when people help out and work together."

Numbers were down from last year's show, but most of the dealers said they were very satisfied with their sales. One fellow said it was the best show he's had this summer; on the other hand, another dealer mentioned that he hadn't done very well. The customers seemed to be buying well, even though they were fewer in number.

The silent auction and sales table brought in over \$1,000: 100% of the sales price of donated items and 15% of the price of consigned items will go to the club treasury. Many volunteers helped out at the tables, and we made some petrified wood collectors very happy with material donated by Leo and Elma from their trips out west. Greg Korte donated some geodized crinoid heads which he picked up earlier this year near Monroe Reservoir, and David Peltz brought in some limestone fossils which he specifically earmarked to give away to teachers. At least four teachers received bags of the fossils, and one remarked, "Be sure to thank the donor very much for these!

As always, the youth activities were a hit with the younger set, and the demonstrators always seemed to have little moppets and moppettes around them, learning about faceting, glass-bead making and so forth.

The show is our major fund-raiser for the year. It supports our field trips, subsidizes our federation dues and provides for operating expenses. Here's looking forward to another successful show in 1998!