

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

FIRST CLASS MAIL

THE ROCKFINDER

OCT 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 8 October 1977
Published by Michiana Rock and Gem Club, Inc. South Bend, Indiana

Regular Meeting:

October 23, 1977

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

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

Program:

Business Meeting

"Hawaiian Trails"

A film on the volcano eruptions of prior years similar to the recent eruptions. Don't miss this beautiful picture.

Hospitality:

Jesse & Betty Jordan
Merl & Rose Lechlitner
Jack & Marjorie Moreland

Educational Meetings:

Time: 7:00 PM, EST

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

Program:

Friday, October 28, 1977
To be announced

Program:

Friday, November 11, 1977
To be announced



Calendar:

Dec. 18, 1977 Our Christmas party
at the Pinhook Park
Pavillion in South Bend
at 1:00 PM to 5:00 PM

Oct. 21-23 Central Michigan Lapidary
and Mineral Society Show.
Lansing, Michigan

Nov. 5-6 Evansville Lapidary So-
ciety Show, Evansville,
Indiana

Nov. 11-13 Fort Wayne Lapidary Guild
Show. Fort Wayne, Ind.

The birth stone for October is the opal. Of all the quartz gems precious opal is the most valuable.

FROM YOUR ROCKY LEADER,

Hello, Fellow Rockhounds! Here we are in October, shorter days, colder days and longer nights. Along with all that stuff comes Trick or Treat night. Candies and apples and other goodies to be had by our Junior members. Oh yes, a little bit of advice for the Junior members who go out on that night:

1. Wear clothing that is bright enough so you can be seen well.
2. Go to people's homes that you know.
3. Take all your goodies home and let mom and dad check them over.
4. Most important of all, be extra careful!

Hope all of you enjoyed the show in Chicago. Without any question, it was one of the finest shows I've ever seen, next to ours. If you were looking for something special, you most likely were able to find it there. How many of you panned for gold? I know that some of the Junior members did, some even had help from their moms. It was just plain interesting to me to watch and learn how it was done.

If you will recall in my last message, I mentioned that we would have nominations for office at the September meeting. This was a mistake on my part, as the bylaws state it must be done in October, and elections in November. So this month the nominating committee will present the names of our members they have selected for the various offices.

If you will recall, I mentioned to you about our Club hosting a Midwest Federation Show. I feel in my own mind that we could do it. I have been doing some checking with the Midwest Federation and have learned much about it. I would like to discuss this with the Club at our Sunday meeting.

Did you know that after our meeting there are 63 days left till Christmas. I hope all of you have started making your "rock and gem" Christmas gifts early. Don't forget
(Continued in next column)

FROM YOUR ROCKY LEADER (CONTINUED)

about our big party on December 18th. Happy Trick or Treating. See all of you Sunday.

Your Rocky Leader,
Jim

FOLLOW THAT ROCK HOUND

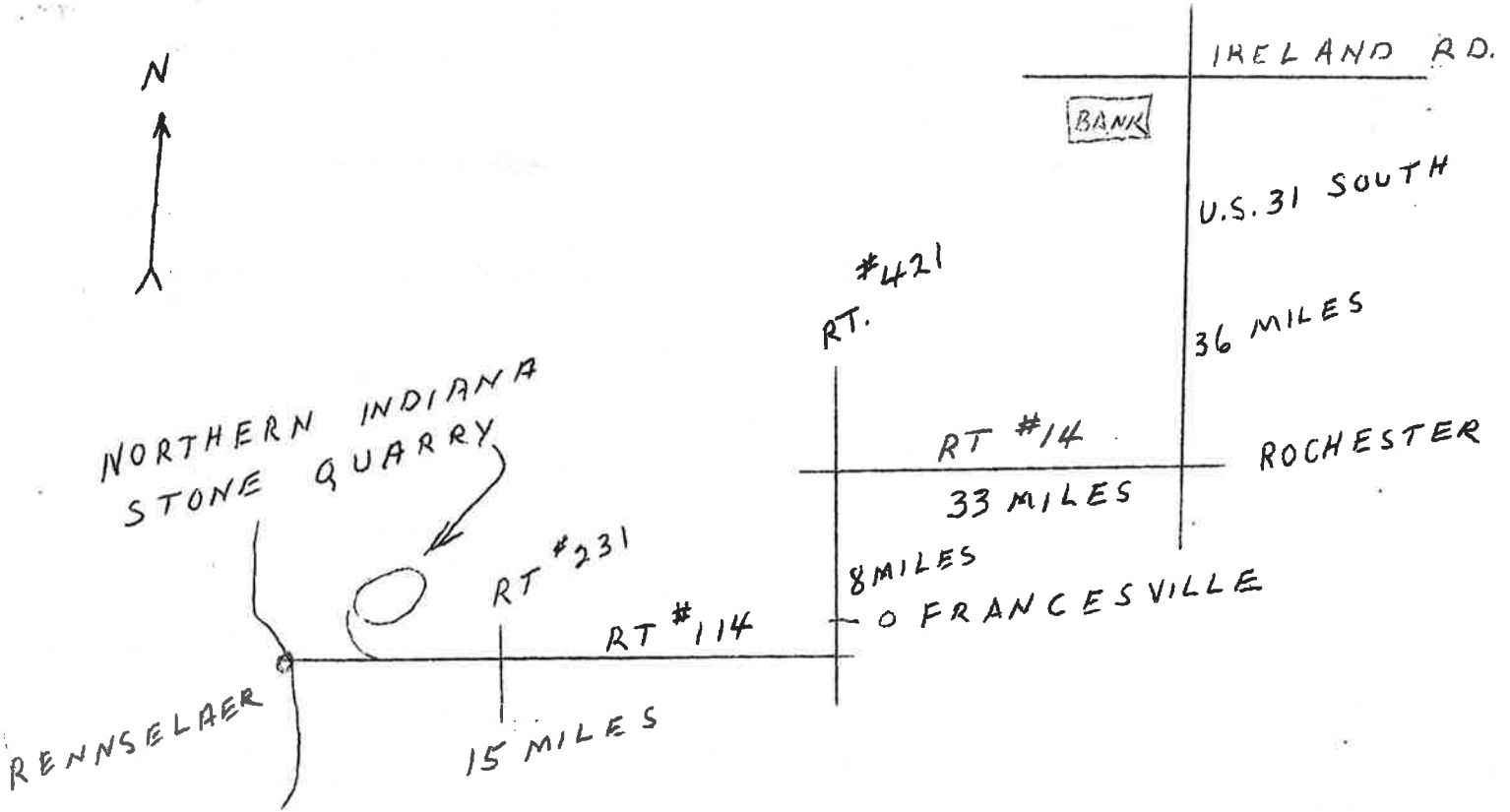
I was cleaning up some rocks that were laying around in my wash room and found some pyrite that we found at Cheney Quarry a few years ago.

This was my first field trip. Jess and John got everything we needed ready while I packed a lunch. Soon after we met the rest of the rockhounds at the bank on U.S. 31 North. Soon we were off to Michigan. When we arrived there, everyone started hurrying to get down in the quarry. While I was closing my car door and taking a second look around, I saw what looked to be Jess and John disappear behind a mound of rocks. Quote - "OH no not again", Unquote, I didn't know a piece of pyrite from a lump of coal. I couldn't just stand there, so I took my sack and like "Joe Cool" I put my master plan in action.

I looked around until I saw this attractive gray-headed rockhound. I was staying 3 feet behind him, until I could see whatever he was picking up. Well, for a while I thought he just came along for the walk. Then he stopped and started to dig. He was picking up something. So, I knew every rockhound likes to brag, so I asked to see some of his rocks and he showed me. He even took the time to tell me of them, and also showed me a place to start digging them. "I had a ball" I felt like I had hit real gold.

I told my story to Max Cripe and he told me of a nice little book that I could buy to help me to identify what rocks I was looking for.

The moral of my story is, use the rock library this winter if you
(Continued on Page 4)



RENNSELAER. FIELD TRIP

FOLLOW THAT ROCK HOUND (CONTINUED)

are a new member. Or do as I often do, find a nice looking rockhound and stay on his heels. Don't stay away from the field trips just because you may not know what you are looking for. I still go and I always find something.

It is as good as Jess's and John's sometimes. "They wonder how I do it."

Betty Jordan

GUIDE TO MINING SITES ON PACIFIC COAST NOW AVAILABLE

Ghost towns, abandoned mining camps and mines of the past and present in the Pacific Coast States are described in a sightseer's guidebook recently published by the Interior Department's Bureau of Mines.

The colorful, illustrated booklet identifies many historic and modern sites associated with minerals or mineral production in California, Oregon, Washington, Alaska and Hawaii. Since most touring today is by automobile, the Bureau said, the booklet lists those mines and mineral-related points of interest that can be seen, or are readily accessible from public roads, noting which sites can be viewed from the road and which can, with company permission, be visited. Points of interest are shown on road maps that are included for all Pacific States.

The 70-page booklet is the first in a series of six regional guidebooks that will replace a popular 1967 publication, which covered the whole Nation in a single, 90-page volume. Planned for release in the near future, the other regional booklets will cover the New England and Mid-Atlantic States, the South Atlantic States, the North-Central States, the Rocky Mountain States, and the South-Central States. The series was prepared by the Bureau's State Liaison Officers.

The new series will also be an aid to State and local officials, Chambers of Commerce, and mining

(Continued on Next Column)

GUIDE TO MINING SITES ON PACIFIC COAST NOW AVAILABLE (CONTINUED)

firms in answering some of the questions of tourists and students, the Bureau said. In addition, each State chapter concludes with a list of places to write or visit for more information, and a list selected references (books, maps and brochures) that would be of interest to the more serious student of an area.

"Mining and Mineral Operations in the Pacific States: A visitors Guide" can be purchased for \$2.15 a copy from the Superintendent of Documents, Government Printing Office, Washington, D.C. 20402 (GPO Stock Number 024-004-01872-1). The Guidebook is not sold by the Bureau of Mines.

From Feb. 1977 AFMS Newsletter

RENNSELAER FIELD TRIP

The Rockfinder did not go to press soon enough for the October 16th field trip. For those who did not go, here are the directions.

Take U.S. 31 South to Rochester, go west approximately 33 miles on Route 14 to Route 421. Go south on Route 421 8 miles to Route 114, turn west for approximately 15 miles to Northern Indiana Stone Quarry. Quarry is on north side of the road just out side of the city limits of Rennselaer. See map on page three.

LARGEST BLACK OPAL

The World's largest black opal, weighing an astonishing 145 pounds, was recently found at Andamooka, Australia. Professional lapidary, Bill Moriarty, will soon cut the opal into about 30,000 pieces. The stones could bring over three and a half million dollars on the market according to an officer of the Australian Jeweler's Association.

The king-sized gem was found by a miner and sold to John Roberts and Yoshe Goldberg who named it Koninderle, the Aborigine word for rainbow.

From: AFMS Newsletter

MINUTES OF THE SEPTEMBER MEETING

The Michiana Rock and Gem Club met September 25th, 1977, at the Rum Village Nature Center. President Jim Russell called the meeting to order. Minutes of the August meeting were read and approved after a minor correction of using the full name of Frank Elwell. Treasurer's report was read by Merl Lechlitner and approved for audit.

Business - President Russell thanked everyone for their help at the rock show. Jim asked if we would like to have a show in 1978. Frank Elwell made a motion, seconded by Tess Miller to have a show in 1978. The place where the show is to be held will be announced at a later date. Jess Wise made a motion that the club nominate a committee to work on finding a place. Fred Niebauer was elected as chairman. Volunteers were selected to help Fred. Jim would like to see more club cases at our next show. Fred would like the club members to write about adventures they have had as a rockhound. It makes a nice story to put in the Rockfinder.

Field Trips - Bill Crull will be working on a trip to take in October to Rennselaer, Indiana, to look for pyrite. There will be more of this in the Rockfinder in October.

A motion was made by Tess Miller to buy a new coffee pot as the old one works no longer. Motion carried.

Program - Joe Charles brought some slides that he took on his trip to England this past spring. Also we had some nice rocks that the members brought in to show.

Door Prizes - Door prizes were won by Hap Mortensen, Jess Wise, Irene Ungurait, Linda Schryver. Motion was made to adjourn by Mary Miller, seconded by Tess Miller.

Attendance 48 members.

Secretary,

Betty Jordan

PERCE ROCK

One of the high lights of my July tour of eastern Canada, Gaspe and Nova Scotia was a rock formation 280 feet high 1600 feet long and 300 feet wide. The name of it was PERCE and it was next to the peninsula Gaspe in Canada.

It contains hundreds of fossils. I struggled to the summit of some steep hill so that I had an impressive view. I can understand why its the most photographed rock on the Atlantic Coast.

It used to be the most important fishing port and could harbor up to 500 cod smacks. Some venturesome souls were on the sand bar below getting a close-up view, while the tide was out.

Lucy Miller

PEGGY'S COVE

Rocks, rocks, rocks, all I saw, but beautiful sight here at Peggy's Cove in Nova Scotia. Grey and rounded and smooth and a light house topping some.

The first light house in Canada to have a Post Office located in it. Stones are shaped and named Devil's Area, Whale's Back, Halibut Rock, Horseshoe, Seal Rock, Black Rock, Petrified Bear, etc.

Found out the rocks here are glacial deposits. Tourists are warned to use caution when walking as they are treacherous and one could end up in the churning waters below.

Artists love this spot and I got a color slide of one at work below me.

Lucy Miller

SHOP HINT

Never use ammonia, soap or detergent on turquoise. A good test for genuine material is apply a spot of ammonia to the back of a piece. If genuine, it will turn white.

Via Peru YMCA Rocks and Minerals Club Newsletter and others

Midwest Federations NEWSLETTER



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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

October 1977 - Issue No. 178

Ken Zahn: "It has been an eventful year"

by Ken Zahn, AFMS President

This has been an eventful year for the American Federation. The Show Chairman of the Rocky Mountain Federation, Mrs. R. Anderson, persuaded 19 of the Past Presidents to be present to commemorate the 30th Anniversary of the founding of the AFMS in Salt Lake City in June 1947. It was an event which will be long remembered by all the Past Presidents who were able to attend.

Mr. Obie Goss has been appointed as Show Consultant. His primary duties will be: 1.) Serve as the expert on all questions which arise concerning a Convention, Regional Federation or Club Show. 2.) Be a clearing house for all show manuals, contracts, correspondence concerning shows. 3.) Be prepared to discuss with Show Chairpersons any problems they may encounter in setting up a show. 4.) He will be responsible for adding suggestions and changes to keep a Show Manual up-to-date. 5.) Work with the Show Coordinator to assure there are no conflicts with show dates. 6.) Establishes methods to stimulate exhibiting and prepares lists of good judges in collaboration with the Rules Committee. 7.) Resolves conflicts in choosing show sites. 8.) And any other related duties that may be assigned.

Both Obie and Barbara have had a great deal of experience and Barbara will be an advancing officer for several years. Judging from the number of problems this past year this position should fill a needed vacancy in the AFMS and provide clubs with a real service.

The International Relations Committee has started to collect information on foreign localities, museums and places of interest to collectors which will be made available in a pamphlet as soon as sufficient information is collected. I am sure more information will be made by the Chairman of that Committee.

A good deal of thought has been given to reorganization of the AFMS. Discussions were held with organizations with similar problems such as the Mineralogical Society of America, the Geological Society of America, Directors, Officers and individuals such as Paul Desautels, Dave Jensen and many others. The result has been a number of suggestions to establish an Executive Secretary or career Secretary-Treasurer position to provide continuity in the organization. In addition a suggestion was proposed which has great merits, to select the President and Vice President for one year terms and elect successors from the Federations by a vote of the Directors.

Zahn... please turn to page 2

National show exceptional in every respect

by June Culp Zeitner

The 1977 "EMPIRE OF GEMS" National Gem & Mineral Show, hosted by the Golden Spike Gem & Mineral Society of Ogden, Utah, for the Northwest Federation of Mineralogical Societies in August, was an exceptional show in every respect. With hundreds of superb displays, beautiful facilities against a backdrop of inspiring mountain scenery, and swapping, auctions, programs and special events going on every minute, the show was enjoyed by thousands of hobbyists who traveled to Utah from all over the United States.

All meetings were well attended. Norman Steele, Uniform Rules Chairman, reports that the UR meeting went very well, being streamlined, carefully organized, and accomplishing many goals. The AFMS Cracker Barrel session, presided over by President Ken Zahn was lively and informative and turned out to have more than "crackers" at the delicious snack table laid out by the ever present "red-bandanaed" engineers of the Golden Spike Club.

Thursday opened with a judges and clerks breakfast at the beautiful Skyroom of the Student Union Building. This was followed by an impressive "ribbon cutting" at which Utah Governor Matheson struck a blow at a geode to open the show. The evening was devoted to fun . . . food, refreshments, music, dancing and entertainment . . . a very special event called "Ogden Night."

Following the annual AFMS meeting on Thursday (reports will appear in the Newsletter) there was a meeting of the AFMS Scholarship Foundation. The AFMS luncheon was at the Ramada Inn.

Friday started with the Past President's breakfast and continued with the Northwest Federation meetings, presided over by Don Kendall, President.

The Editor's breakfast on Saturday at Hilary House was probably the all time record. Elaine Wilponen, Northwest Federation Newsletter Editor, Loyal Gooch, Golden Spike Editor, and Elza Slatery, AFMS Club Publications Chairman, presided at the program which honored bulletin editors, and friends, from all regions.

Attendance at the annual Awards Banquet at the Elks Lodge banquet room, was over 400. Dr. & Mrs. Leonard Glismann were in charge of arrangements and show hospitality. Robert Wallace was installed as next year's President of Northwest Federation and Don Langston was installed

Show... please turn to page 2

Zahn... from page 1

This would provide greater flexibility in elections and a good supply of candidates with competition for offices, rather than an assured position after going through a six year (and possibly more) chain. No candidate would be assured of an office and fresh new ideas would be constantly percolating up the line.

In any event the AFMS has need of a central office with continuity and a clearing house for all administration matters.

We thought we had a new idea for stimulating exhibiting but apparently the California Federation has been experimenting with it for some time. Whether it worked or not California Shows have had a number of outstanding exhibits. It was our idea to encourage exhibiting by establishing awards for unusual or outstanding lapidary items, carvings, one-of-a-kind mineral specimens or fossils. Accordingly we are offering a special award, to be called the President's Award. If it is successful, it will be suggested for future Federation Shows. In addition to the Show Consultant I am appointing a Special Committee to study the problem and make recommendations for stimulating exhibiting. A report will be made in six months and sent to all officers and Directors, and the Long Range Planning Committee for implementation of any good ideas.

Boundary problems have been cropping up all over the country. In my opinion the AFMS should not be the arbitrator of boundary disputes. The real problem seems to be at the grass roots level. If so the boundary should be settled by club members in the gray areas where two Federations overlap, in a democratic matter with votes and then negotiations. Apparently the gentlemen's agreement made in 1971 and again in 1975 in Denver does not seem to be the answer. The AFMS may have to set rigid boundaries and any violations will be settled in an arbitrary manner. In my opinion this is not the best solution and we may have to accept this as the best or only solution. States, governments, government agencies and many corporations establish rigid boundaries for their field offices and nobody steps over these boundaries. I have asked our Boundary Committee to prepare a staff paper and this will be furnished to all Directors.

Our Committees have been working hard to provide the best service to the clubs. The Slide Program Contest is off to a good start, we have new Rules Books, the Newsletter is excellent and Les Darling has been doing a top job trying to protect our collecting areas. I will let them tell their story.

A third of my regime is still available to continue to initiate programs or put into effect any that the Officers and Directors feel are worthwhile. I have had splendid cooperation from all the staff and have received many good suggestions to improve the AFMS. I hope that we can continue to grow and improve our service to the clubs.

DIANE DARE WINS TROPHY

Diane Dare, our Midwest Junior Activities chairman, was awarded First Trophy at the AFMS show and convention in Ogden, Utah last August for Individual Articles. This category was one of those included in the Bulletin Editor's Contest. Diane's winning article was titled "Using Maps As A Collecting Tool". Diane lives in Salem, Illinois.

MARGE COLLINS WINS IN SLIDE CONTEST

Marge Collins of the Plymouth Rock and Mineral Society, Plymouth, Mich. won \$100 for her entry in Class 3 of the AFMS slide program contest. It is titled "Making Constructed Silver Jewelry". Mrs. Collins is an instructor at Madonna College in Livonia, Mich. where she has developed a course of instruction which closely follows her winning program.

MRS. CECIL (PHYLLIS) MELCHER

Phyllis Melcher died Sunday, August 7 in the hospital in Platte, South Dakota. Phyllis was one of the founders of the Missouri Valley Gem & Mineral Society and was Protocol and Social Courtesy Chairman for the Midwest for several years. Phyllis was also hospitality chairman for the Federation Banquet in Murdo. She also helped with the All South Dakota Swap during the years it was held in Platte.

Show... from page 1

as the new President of AFMS. Joe Bybee, Past President of Northwest Federation and assistant show chairman, was Master of Ceremonies, introducing Golden Spike president Devoe Mayhue for the Welcome. Dr. Ruth Hopson Keen, Northwest Federation honorary award recipient of the Scholarship Foundation gave a short talk. La Docia Ellis AFMS all American Chairman, presented the All American Club of the year award to Central Michigan Lapidary & Mineral Society of Lansing, Michigan. Georgia Hedin presented certificates and trophies to Northwest All American Clubs and participants. Kay Jensen, AFMS Slide Program Chairman, presented checks for winning programs to Oregon Agate & Mineral Society, Portland, and Marge Collins, Plymouth (Michigan) Rock & Mineral Club.

AFMS and NWFMS presented trophies for winners in competitive display classes. Bulletin trophy winners were named. A new feature was the presentation by Ken Zahn of the "President's Trophy" for the outstanding non-competitive exhibit. Florence Anderson, Potlatch Diggers Club, was the winner with an exhibit of official State Rocks, Minerals, Gem & Fossils, which filled two large cases.

At the show itself there were an unusual number of special displays under the direction of Emil & Clara Rosenau. There were also a wonderful variety of superb displays by Golden Spike members. Demonstrations, mostly by Northwest and Golden Spike members, were both educational and entertaining, with big crowds watching most of the time. Outstanding were chainmaking, R. McOmber, filigree, M. & M. Sutton, scrimshaw, Steve Allured, and silversmithing, Chris Sladek. In addition to bringing a display of Japanese "chrysanthemum stones," Sigeki Hosono of Gifu Prefecture, Japan, brought ten trophies for displays he thought were particularly beautiful by standards of his country.

Ivan Rudd, Show Chairman, and Liz Rudd, Registration Chairman, seemed to be everywhere helping run things smoothly. Other show committee officers not previously named are Erol Benson, legal affairs, Mary Bybee, Secretary, Lucille Maybee, Treasurer, Charles Sladek, Properties, and Mel Reeves, Special Services.

Bonnie Glissman was in charge of the programs and lectures which were continuous and ranged from local geology to the Hope Diamond. Weber College, site of the show, was most cooperative in all aspects of the show, and furnished several excellent programs.

One of the most exciting areas of the show as the Scholarship Auction of the Northwest Federation. Another area with plenty of activity was the Breezeway where swappers set up their tempting wares.

The Golden Spike Club worked for several years planning this show, and all the hard work has paid off, because they produced an AFMS show that is unforgettable.