

THE ROCKFINDER

VOLUME 30

NUMBER 8

NOVEMBER 1990

PUBLISHED BY: MICHIANA GEM AND MINERAL SOCIETY, INC.

SOUTH BEND, IN.

REGULAR MEETING:

SUNDAY NOVEMBER 25, 1990

TIME: DOORS OPEN 1:30
MEETING 2:00

PLACE: WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
1501 W. CLEVELAND ROAD
WEST OF THE ST. JOSEPH RIVER
SOUTH BEND, IN.

PROGRAM: BUSINESS MEETING

For our program this month we will be viewing a slide show titled "Carvings and Craftsmen of Idar-Oberstein, Germany."

HOSPITALITY:

KATHY MILLER
CATHERINE McHUGH
JOYCE LARSON

SHOW SCHEDULE:

Dec. 14 - 16, Chicago, Ill. - International Gem and Jewelry Show, Inc., Show. O'Hare Expo Center, Chicago, Ill.

1991:

March 8 - 10, Richmond, Ind. - Eastern Indiana Gem and Geological Society, 18th Annual Show. Wayne County Fairgrounds, N. Salisbury Rd., Richmond, Ind. Hours: 8th and 9th, 9 A.M. - 8 P.M.; 10th, Noon - 5 P.M.

March 9 - 10, Macomb, Ill. - Geodeland Earth Science Clubs, Inc., 11th Annual Gem and Mineral Show. Western Illinois University Student Union Ballroom, Murray Street, Macomb, Ill. Hours: 9th, 10 A.M. - 8 P.M.; 10th, 11 A.M. - 5 P.M.

April 6 - 7, Canton, Ill. - Fulton County Rockhounds, 31st Annual Gem and Mineral Show. Wallace Park Recreation Bldg., 250 S. Ave. D, Canton, Ill. Hours: 6th, 10 A.M. - 7 P.M.; 7th, 10 A.M. - 5 P.M.

April 6 - 7, DesPlaines, Ill. - DesPlaines Valley Geological Society, 26th Annual Gem, Mineral and Jewelry Show. Rand Park Field House, 2025 Miner St., DesPlaines, Ill. Hours: 6th, 10 A.M. - 7 P.M.; 7th, 10 A.M. - 5 P.M.

I DIDN'T THINK I'D
EVER GET THIS
NOVEMBER ROCKFINDER
DONE !!!!



MINUTES OF THE NOVEMBER 25, 1990
MICHIANA GEM & MINERAL SOCIETY.

President Heinek opened the meeting at 2:05 P.M. President Heinek read the minutes from the bus trip to Cleveland. Catherine McHugh accepted, seconded by Mary Miller.

December 9th is our annual Christmas Party to be held at the church. We will eat at 1:00 P.M. Please bring a dish for each two people to pass, your own table service and a wrapped gift to exchange. The gift should be a \$4.00-\$5.00 value and marked man, woman or child.

Treasurers report was read by Sister Jeanne and will be filed for audit.

Hostesses for November were Catherine McHugh, Joyce Larson and Kathy Miller. A big thank you to these ladies for the nice treats.

Bob Miller showed slides for our program, Great job, Bob.

A book was put in the club library "Sleuthing Fossiles" in memory of Vivian Finley who passed away in October.

Bill Crull report Jess Wise is ill and has been in the hospital, but now resting at home. Our wishes for better health go out to Jess.

Displays were brought in by Bob and Margaret Heinek. Petrified wood from Oregon and west Wyoming.

Pat McLaughlin put info in newspaper. Nice job Pat. You have done a great job this year.

Ervin and Doris Purucker are new club members this month. Welcome aboard.

Ed Miller is giving up editors job. Thanks Ed for a great job done. Club members will take over now.

Bill Crull read letters from Lentz and Geodon from the 1990 show, thanking us for a nice show we held here.

Kathy Miller made a motion to make up the difference for 800% for our endowment fund, seconded by Molly Elwell.

Spring Midwest Federation meeting will be held at Century Center on April 20, 1991. Anyone who would like to attend let Margaret know. A motion by Marie Crull to accept the proposal by Century Center, seconded by Bob Miller.

We will be making goody bags in January for our 1991 show.

Jim Russell has agates for sale. Please contact Jim for further information at 289-7446.

Bill Crull reported that our Annual club picnic will be held at Lakeville Conservation Club on August 4, 1991. Mark your calendar now.

Election of Officers for 1991 was held:

President	Margaret Heinek
Vice Pres.	Bob Miller
Secretary	Marie Crull
	Sister Georgia Costin
Treasurer	Sister Jeanne Finske
Liaison	Paul Godollei

Mary Miller made a motion for the secretary to cast one unanimous ballot, seconded by Joe Kossack.

Dawn Cytacki will be our new publicity chairman.

Door prizes went to Mary Miller, Paul Godollei, Tom McLaughlin, Kevin Klodzinski and Alec Rubenstein.

30 members, 2 junior members and 1 guest were present.

Respectfully Submitted,
Marie Crull, Secretary

We were fortunate again this month to receive a letter from Marilyn Meier!

THAT MAGICAL MINERAL MICA

My first introduction to the mineral mica was at age four. I was at a lake in Indiana and found what I thought was a diamond rock. Mind you, I had never seen a diamond but had heard bits and pieces about them from grown-up talk. I carried that stone around with me for two days and then tragically lost it. It was years later that I realized what I had found, a piece of sheet mica glittering in a rock.

During the Christmas season, when I was young, you could buy boxes of fine flake mica. Sprinkled over the tree and nativity scene it gave them the illusion of being covered with sparkling snow. I would spend hours gazing at the magical wonderland the mica created.

Then, when I was about twelve I was visiting an old lady who had a wood burning stove in her home. I was fascinated with the windows in it and she told me that they were made of isinglass. By this time I was knowledgeable about mica and realized that this isinglass was nothing more than large flakes of book mica.

I have to admit that by the time I was an adult, mica had lost some of it's power to entrance me. My father and I were continually telling my mother that it was not gold in the bottom of her gold pan, just biotite or muscovite mica. The shiny rocks she picked up to cart home were just common mica schists. Then I ran across a type of mica schist that brought all the old wonder back to me, mica schist impregnated with jewelry grade garnets! I found beautiful samples of it on a geology field trip to Mexico. Even more gorgeous were the pieces of mica lepidolite I found in a small landslide at the Pala Mine in California. The glittering chunks of lepidolite were pale lilac and studded with slender crystals of red and pink tourmaline. I gathered up pounds of it to bring home for display. These finds rejuvenated my old interest in mica and led me to doing some research on the mineral.

So what is mica? Well, it is a complex aluminum silicate with potassium, hydroxyl and often containing varying amounts of magnesium, iron, lithium and other elements. The name mica is derived from the Latin "micare" meaning to shine. It is abundant in many kinds of granitic rocks and siliceous metamorphic rocks. Micas all occur in six-sided forms and their most prominent feature is their excellent cleavage in one direction. This cleavage is so highly developed that you can actually split off sheets 5/100 of an inch in thickness. The sheets are very elastic and will bend, springing back to their natural position when released. Micas are usually very soft, hardness being 2 to 4, lepidolite sometimes harder.

Muscovite is one of the four most important mica minerals. The name came from the old name for Russia, as large sheets of it were mined from pegmatites in the Ural Mountains and then used for windows as they were transparent or translucent. Muscovite colors range from rich browns to pale yellow, greenish or reddish-brown and can be a rare pink shade. It is usually in tabular crystal form, but some types of mica can be granular or scaly. Muscovite can commonly contain inclusions such as garnets, green-blue spinels, magnetite, quartz, rutile and

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other minerals. The World Record for size comes from a single crystal mined in India. It was over 15 feet in length and 10 feet in diameter, and delivered 85 tons of muscovite. The uses of muscovite are varied. In North Carolina, where I am now living, mica is being mined in five counties. It is used in the electronic and electrical industries as clear muscovite free from cracks and impurities is essential for use in electronic tubes and capacitors. Lower quality muscovite is used in electric irons, toasters, insulating materials, roofing, wallpaper, paints and lubricants. As for specimen muscovite, to interest the rockhound, I hear that the beautiful "book" mica of brown crystals is a rare and valuable find in this state. The varied uses of muscovite mica have certainly become myriad since it was first used as "Moscovy glass."

Biotite is a common mica, usually dark brown to black or dark green. It has small crystals that give off a splendid luster. It is abundant in granitic rocks and siliceous metamorphic rocks as gneisses and schists. It has no practical use in industry, but most rockhounds have collected bits and pieces of it because of the wonderful shimmer it gives off in "rockpile collections."

Phlogopite or "amber mica" has well formed crystals that can taper toward both ends, resembling faceted cigars. It has a cleavage like muscovite but not as perfect and is usually red-brown to brown or yellow-brown in color, with a duller luster than biotite. It can be found in marble, peridotites and metamorphosed limestones. The World Record single crystal came from a mine in Ontario, Canada. It weighed 90 tons, was 33 feet in length and 14 feet in diameter. This mica is valuable for it's many electrical uses and mined extensively.

The mica mineral lepidolite got it's name from the Greek word, lepidos, meaning scale. This is because of the mineral's scaly aggregate characteristic. It is usually found in granitic pegmatite cavities where it forms small "books" with rough sides. These sheets can be easily cleaved and are transparent. It can also be in fine granular masses and stubby or tabular crystals. The colors can range from pale lilac to rose, also yellow, gray or colorless. Lepidolite is found with colored tourmaline, morganite, beryl and spodumene. The Pala Mine in San Diego County, California, sometimes has fine grained masses that weigh many tons and are full of slender crystals of red and pink tourmaline. Lepidolite is one of the more important sources of lithium and rubidium. These minerals are very essential in thermonuclear energy and also in the fuels that are used to propel rockets. Tons of lithium compounds are used to remove moisture in refrigeration units and it also plays a major role in glass making.

I have learned that mica minerals play a large role in our lives, certainly much more than I realized before my research into them. As a rockhound now living in North Carolina, they are beginning to have an important impact in my collecting. While visiting Hiddenite, a town 30 miles from me, I saw a pocket of "book" muscovite surrounding beautiful emeralds interspersed with rutile quartz and smoky quartz. I was told

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when searching for emeralds you should find an area of ground that has traces of mica bleeding out of it and "start digging" as the emeralds are usually found in a mica pocket. Down the road from me near the small town of Lincolnton, I ran across some beautiful mica sands and was told by friends in the local rock club that it was a fine place to look for sapphires. Also, I now sport a new doorstep. It is a 15 pound granite rock covered with mica schist and studded with two and three inch fractured garnets--a real beauty. Mica has once again become my "magical mineral."

EDITOR'S NOTE.....

It's the old cliché about "I have good news and I have bad news" The good news is the ROCKFINDER did real well this year in bulletin editors contest. A couple of our club members did well also.

The ROCKFINDER placed second in the small bulletin category of the Midwest Federation contest. We received a very nice plaque, a certificate, and an emblem that is displayed on the cover of the bulletin. The ROCKFINDER also achieved an honorable mention certificate from the American Federation.

Paul Godollei received an 8th place for his article "The Devonian Period part 1." Marilyn Meier achieved 9th place with her article entitled "A Rockhound's Dilemma." I also picked up a 6th place finish for my poem "From Where It Came."

Congratulations to the winners and a big "Thank You" to everyone who contributed articles for the newsletter. You are the people who have made it a success.

The bad news, at least for me is I am going to step down as editor of the ROCKFINDER as of December 31st. I have really enjoyed the job for these past 3 years. As most of you know I just got married in August and so I am still in the process of reorganizing my lifestyle. I still plan on staying active in the club because we have a big summer coming up in 1991.

Thanks again.....

Ed Miller



WITH ALL OF THIS TALK ABOUT EARTHQUAKES.... ANCHORAGE KNOWS! (1964)

BEDROCK GEOLOGIC MAP OF INDIANA



DO YOU SHOW EITHER COMPETITIVE OR

NON-COMPETATIVE AT THE SHOWS AROUND YOU?

The above question is one I feel we all must address if the shows are to continue to be a success, as the cases displayed are what make the show.

I know that gas has gone up and motels are higher, but are they so high that you've quit going to the shows to see and buy. If you still do this then why not take a case. Maybe you could take your case and the case of another member. Then that person could go over the next day and take down the cases and bring them home.

What about your own club show? You are right there so why don't you put in a case? Your club could do like the club I belong to is doing this year. A special ribbon for those that have never shown, nor want to show competitively.

The shows are a good place to renew old friends and to make new ones.

Another point is that if you support other club shows then they will reciprocate by coming and bringing cases to your show.


Remember that the show is a good place to show what you have done, to show people what they can find, and to show people the beauty of the hobby - that they may become interested enough to want to join the club, that they might learn.

While the Dealers are a good and necessary thing at the shows, the displays are the cream that interest the people.

The next time you are asked to put in a case/display, I hope you will. That is a way to teach by showing.


Gene Powell,


VIVIAN FINLEY has passed away recently....our hearts go out CLARENCE.

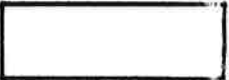

PENNSYLVANIAN
SHALE, SANDSTONE,
LIMESTONE & COAL

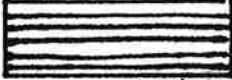

DEVONIAN
LIMESTONE - SOUTH
MOSTLY DOLOMITE
& LIMESTONE - NORTH


MISSISSIPPIAN
LIMESTONE, SHALE
& SANDSTONE


SILURIAN
MOSTLY DOLOMITE
& LIMESTONE


MISSISSIPPIAN
MOSTLY SILTSTONE,
SHALE IN THE
NORTHERN PART


ORDOVICIAN
SHALE AND
LIMESTONE


MISSISSIPPIAN &
DEVONIAN SHALE

1990

THE ROCKFINDER

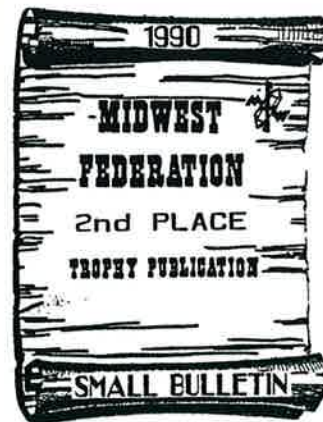


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MICHIANA GEM & MINERAL SOCIETY
SOUTH BEND, INDIANA

NOVEMBER MEETING-

The regular November meeting will be held on Sunday Nov. 25 th. at the Presbyterian Church, with a slide program on CARVINGS & CRAFTSMEN OF IDAR-OBERSTEIN, GERMANY. The program we had planned had to be cancelled. I am sure you will enjoy the slides.

The Christmas party will be held Dec. 9th at the Church. We will eat at 1 oclock, so come prepared for a good dinner. As usual we ask you to bring your own dishes and silverware. The club will furnish the meat, rolls, coffee and punch. You are asked to bring a dish for each 2 people in your family, to share. It can be either a salad, dessert or a vegetable dish. We have a lot of good cooks in the club, so come prepared to eat.

We were sadden to hear of the passing of our member, Vivian Finley on October 15th in Niles Michigan. Vivian had been ill for quite a while. Our sincere sympathy goes to Clarence.

Several of our members have been or are in the hospital. Paul Godolli will be going back to the hospital for back surgery. Clifford Fowler has been in the hospital, but reports to be some better. Gertrude Orell is recovering from back surgery. Clarence reports she is feeling much better, and is walking! Gertrude has been ill for a while, and the Dr. finally discovered she had a pinched nerve, like Paul. Just received word that Stan Kile has had a bout with the pneumonia, Hope he is on the mend. What is happening with the club members? So many have been ill... I am finally using a cane to help me walk, I will use it until about the middle of Jan. PLEASE watch the ice this winter, and don't fall! Of course I did not fall on the ice, but I will be extra careful so as not to lose my footing.

How about some good news? Pat Kelleher, our member, took 1st place in the Big Sky, Montana, faceting contest. Congratulations!! I also heard he had a stone judged, tied with 3rd place with a 99.8 score. WOW!

Looking forward to seeing you at the Nov. meeting and also the Dec. Christmas party.

Remember your dues are due so you may plan on having your name in the roster.

Have a good Thanksgiving, and eat lots!!!

Margaret

SAFETY HAZARD

DO NOT mix Alkaline and Carbon Zinc batteries in any use. An explosion could result. The hazard occurs from the combination of carbon zinc and alkaline batteries in an explosion proof flashlight, creating pressure and thereby causing an explosion, which split and blew the end cap completely off the flashlight.

Some but not all battery brands carry a warning label. It appears as though all major manufacturers are converting from carbon zinc to alkaline, which has increased the hazard of mixing battery types.

Via The Rock Rattler, and others.
Copy adapted.

GEM CITY ROCK NEWS

*The club was given a tumbler
Some polished agates and a
few findings by a former
member, to use in any
way we want to use it -
Auction, raffle or ??*



Grote Deutsch permission received....

Katy Reed gave the club newspaper an article "Vintage Rock" from the Magazine LifeToday. We wrote to them seeking permission to reprint the article.

We have received the following letter:

Dear Ms. King,
Thanks for your letter requesting the right to reprint "Vintage Rock" from the September 1990 Life Today.

The Toledo Gem & Rockhound Club and any of their exchange bulletins have our permission to reprint the piece. Please credit it: "reprinted from Life Today, a magazine provided free of charge to Society Bank Prime Partners."

We'd appreciate it if you could send us a few tear sheets when it's published (in one of your newspapers).

Sincerely,
Rebecca Tavernini, Assistant Editor
LIFE TODAY

The following article is "reprinted from Life Today, a magazine provided free of charge to Society Bank Prime Partners."

VINTAGE ROCK

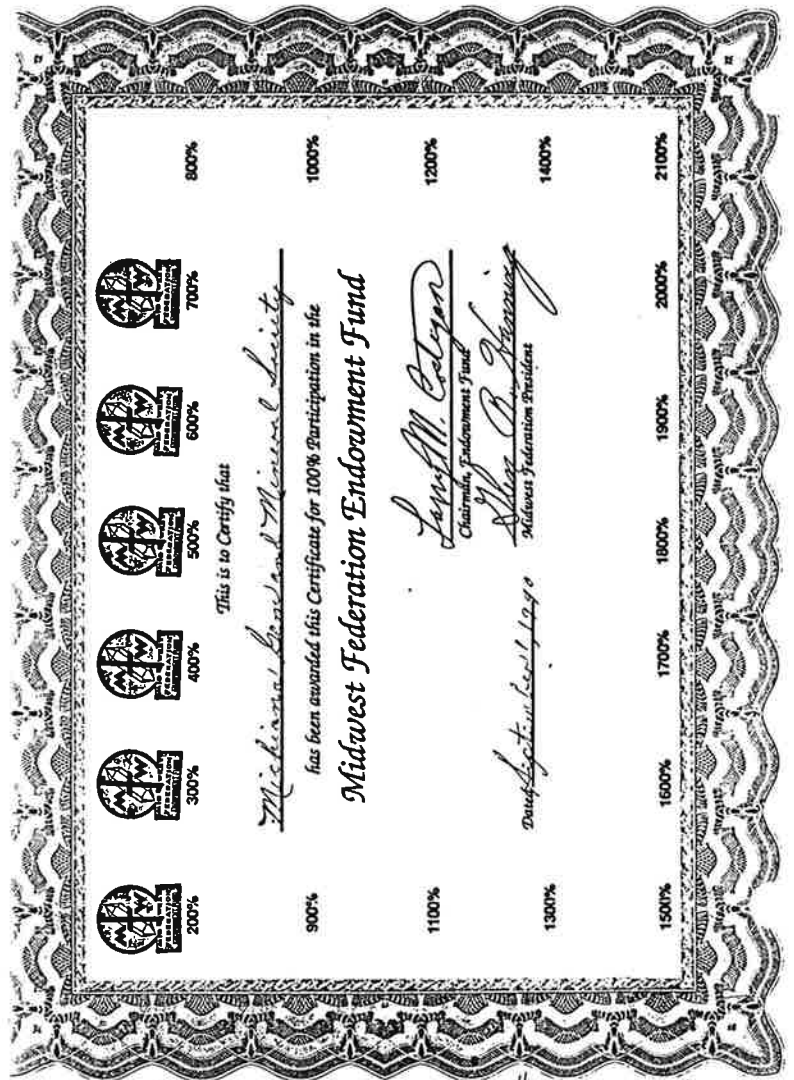
No, we don't mean the Rolling Stones, but another stone that's really gathered some moss-the oldest rock ever found.

Rock samples collected during geologic mapping research in Canada's Northwest Territories have been determined to be 3.96 billion years old-200 million years older than previous specimens-and formed about half a billion years after the birth of our solar system. The rocks were collected in 1983, but only recently analyzed by SHIMP (the Sensitive High-Mass Resolution ION Microprobe) that dated tiny crystals (zircon grains) extracted from the stones. The samples should shed some light on earth's earliest history.

Samuel Bowring, the Washington University scientist who collected the geologic gems, hasn't taken his findings for granite. He'll be rock hunting in Canada again. "Unless I was exceedingly lucky," he says, "and the first rock I picked up was the oldest in the world, I suspect we'll find even older ones."

September 1990/LIFE TODAY

THE ROCKY READER



We have a credit of \$40.75 toward the next 100%.

