



THE ROCKFINDER

Highlights of this issue --



ALAA - BRIGHT IDEA
BLUE TOPAZ REGULATED
THINKING OF DONATING YOUR COLLECTION?
EMERALD MINES AUCTIONED
ODE TO PAUL GOOD
CRYSTALS FROM QUECHITAS MTS., ARKANSAS
THE FLEXABLE ROCK

The Rockfinder
Michiana Gem & Mineral Society
7091 E East Park Ln
New Carlisle IN 46552-9400

MICHIANA GEM and MINERAL SOCIETY
1995 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President	----	Margaret Heinek	7091 E East Park Ln, New Carlisle IN 46552-9400
Vice Pres	---	Ed Miller	3431 East 18th B Rd, Tippecanoe IN 46570
Secretary	----	Marie Crull	17651 Bryan St, South Bend 46635
Treasurer	----	Pam Rubenstein	1316 Catherwood Dr, South Bend 46614
Liaison	----	Paul Godollei	1910 Ribourde Dr, South Bend IN 46628
Past Pres	----	James Russell	27911 North St, North Liberty IN 46554

COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS

Programs	---	Ed Miller	3431 East 18th B Rd, Tippecanoe IN 46570
Hospitality	---	Lorraine Jordan	52087 Central Ave, South Bend IN 46637
Educational	---	Gordon Dobecki	11900 Laughlin St, Mishawaka IN 46544
Librarian	---	Paul Godollei	1910 Ribourde Dr, South Bend IN 46628
Historian	---	Ed Miller	3431 East 18th B Rd, Tippecanoe IN 46570
Sunshine	---	Molly Elwell	105 N Ironwood Dr, South Bend IN 46615
Publicity	---	Tom Noe	305 Napoleon, South Bend, IN 46617
Membership	---	All Members	

The Michiana Gem & Mineral Society, a non-profit organization, and is affiliated with the Midwest Federation of Mineralogical and Geological Societies and with the American Federation of Mineralogical Societies.

Time:	2:00 PM EST	Place:	Our Redeemer Lutheran Church
General Meeting	4th Sunday of each month		805 S 29th St (29th & Wall)
June - Field Trip Meeting			South Bend, IN
July - No meeting	August - Annual Club Picnic		December - Christmas Party

Board Mtgs: 2nd Wednesday, 7:00pm, South Bend (Main) Library, Basement Level.

ROCKFINDER STAFF: Editor Larry Hess 15358 Kerlin Dr, Granger IN 46530
 Co-Editor Margaret Heinek 7091 E East Park Ln, New Carlisle IN 46552
 Staff Bob Heinek / Club Members

All contributions for publication should be in the hands of the Editor by the 10th of each month.
 Call: (219 272-5431) Permission is hereby granted to reprint, at any time, items published in the ROCKFINDER provided due recognition is given.

cut ----- **cut**
 Membership Dues are: Please send your dues and this form to
 Michiana Gem & Mineral Club
 c/o Margaret Heinek
 7091 E East Park Lane
 New Carlisle IN 46552

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

Please make address corrections to the mailing label (reverse side) and/or fill in the optional information below.
 Check your **SPECIAL INTERESTS:** List Family Members (spouse and children):

General Geology ___	Beads ___	Name _____	Birth Mo/Yr _____
Gems & Minerals ___	Silversmithing ___		will attend meetings, yes ___ no ___
Fossils ___	Artifacts ___	Name _____	Birth Mo/Yr _____
Cabochons ___	Rockhound ___		will attend meetings, yes ___ no ___
Faceting ___	Carving ___	Name _____	Birth Mo/Yr _____
Crystals ___	Micromounts ___		will attend meetings, yes ___ no ___
Other _____			

Name _____ Address _____
 City St Zip _____ Phone _____ Birth Mo/Yr _____

THE ROCKFINDER

Volume 35
Number 9

September 1995

Published by
Michiana Gem & Mineral Society

UPCOMING SHOWS:

MIDWEST FEDERATION
CONVENTION AND SHOW
October 13 - 14 - 15
Detroit, Michigan

Eddy Center Geology Arts Fair
10730 Bush Rd., Chelsea, MI.
Sat. Oct. 7, Sun Oct. 8

Three Rivers Gem and Mineral Society
October 20 - 21 - 22
Allen Co. Fairgrounds, 2726 Carrol Rd.
Fort Wayne, Indiana

Central Michigan Lapidary Society Show
Marshall Street Armory
Lansing, Michigan
Oct. 27, Oct. 28, October 29

Licking Co. Mineral Society Show
Nov. 3 - 4 - 5
Indian Mound Mall,
771 S. 30th Street, Heath, Ohio

-----NO MEETING IN SEPTEMBER-----

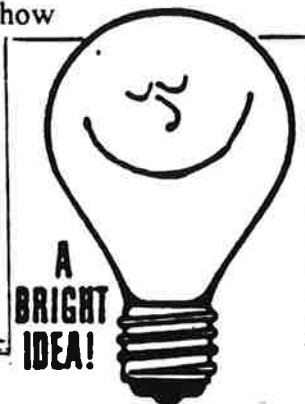
NEXT MEETING OCTOBER 22.

Happy Birthdays & Anniversary

SEPTEMBER

George Knowles
Keven Johnston
Gertrude Orrell
Janet Pellus
Marsha Miller
Tom Fields

Tom and Pat McLaughlin
Ozzie and Jo Kytta



GOOD ROCKHOUNDS EVERYWHERE

The ALAA is soliciting contributions to finance sending a representative to Washington, D.C. to lobby for passage of the "Fossil Protection Act of 1995." A large number of clubs in the NFMS have contributed amounts ranging from \$100.00 to \$500.00. Please consider making a donation either as an individual or as a club. Donations should be sent to: ALAA c/o Ed Romack, Treasurer, 655 8th Street, Idaho Falls, ID 83401.

George Loud
Chair, AFMS Conservation
and Legislation Committee
1628 Crowell Road
Vienna, VA 22182

MARGARET'S COLUMN

Now that the heat is over, and we are having cool weather, it is more comfortable. It even feels cold.

The show was successful, due to the hard work of many members. Gordon Dobecki did a wonderful job of getting some very good demonstrators. They came from Ohio, Merriville, Valpariso and Warsaw among places. Tom Noe did a fabulous job of the Silent Auction, best auction we have had for years. The Kiddies Korner, as usual, was a very popular area. What would we do without the workers on the door? They did a good job, even seeing that prospective members were given membership papers. We did get several new members, some that had been out of the club for a year or so, came back in. Add the following to your roster:

Klodzinski, Marion & Rosita, Melissa and Kevin, 741 So. 23rd St, South Bend, IN 287-1771.

Corson, Candace, George Knowles, 16641 Brick Rd, Granger, IN 46530, 273-1763. Glad to have them back.

A former member, Jacob Phend would like to sell his collection, not "piece meal", but will sell for \$1.00 per stone or \$2500.00. He has rocks, minerals, crystals, agates, findings and 2 cases. Phone 264-9427.

Ozzie Kytta has lapidary equipment for sale: 8" trim saw, with metal stand, good motor and 2 wheels for transport. A grinder polisher, double end, metal stand, good motor, drip, disc & belt and 2 wheels for transport, both for \$200.00. He has other miscellaneous grinding equipment. Call 234-4573 or contact Ozzie at 1501 N. Wellington St., South Bend. IN 46628.

The owner of the Posy Patch on N. 31-33, has a grinder for sale. He did not tell us the brand name, phone 277-1291.

The winner of the "gold coin" was an

18 yr old, senior in high school, who has been accepted in the South Dakota School of Mines in Rapid City to study geology. Has been in 4-H Geology, a member of the Faceter's Forum Society. A brother, 14 yrs old has been in 4-H Geology, and the family are members of the Duneland and Calumet Gem clubs. Bob and I have judged 4-H geology cases in Valpo. when they were younger. I had to ask them if these were the youngsters we knew years ago. Congratulations!

We have several members that have been under the weather, Paul Godollei was in the hospital last week, he is home now. Pam Rubenstein hasn't been feeling too well, must have been the heat! Bob Heinek thought he had poison ivy, but it turned out to be something else, blisters on his legs, but not ivy.

We will not have a meeting in September, as we are going on the bus trip to Brown County and ending up at the museum in Indianapolis. Our next meeting will be in October, with Al Mitterling's Meteorite as our program. Plan on being there, as will be the report of the nominating committee and the election of officers for 1996, in November. Mark your calendar and come to vote.

The Midwest Federation Convention and show will be held in Detroit, Mi. October 13, 14 and 15 at the Detroit Light Armory, 4400 East Eight Mile Road. The Armory is 2 miles east of I-75, Exit 59. Show hours Fri. 9:00 AM - 7:00 PM, Sat. 10:00 AM - 9:00 PM, Sunday 10:00 AM - 6:00 PM. Admission \$5.00, Sr. Citizen \$3.00, Children under 15 - \$2.00, under 5 free with paying adult. The Delegate meeting will be held at 9:00 AM on Friday, Oct. 13th.

Take good care of yourself, and we will see you at the Convention or at the October meeting.

Margaret

AUGUST PICNIC.....

It was a very hot day, the yellow jackets were active...Ouch! But we had 29 members in attendance.

Jess Zieger's Japanese student, Tetsuro Sugita from Tokyo, was one of our visitors. Louis Jordon's mother was another visitor. New members, Hal and Bonnie Brueske and sons were there.

It was too warm for most people, but those that braved the heat, had a good time. The juniors, and some of the older members, filled the blue plastic boxes with small stones for the Kiddie's Korner prizes.

The food was good, thanks to the Jordons who cooked the sausage. Would you believe it, we did not have one dessert! We really didn't need them. Too hot to cook.

Our next potluck meal will be at the December dinner. The date will be announced later.

* * * * *

ADD MORE NEW MEMBERS TO YOUR ROSTER

Foster, Henry, 48 Holstein, Niles, MI 49120
Kile, Stan & Jane, 3313 S. Whitcomb, South Bend, 46614

Brueske, Hal & Bonnie, 52741 Arbor Dr., South Bend, 46635

Steel, Bob, 1308 White Oak Dr, South Bend 46617

Johnston, Kevin & Kate, 57987 County Road 100, Elkhart, IN 46517

Morley, George L., 712 E. 18th St, LaPorte, IN 46350

Maxwell, Scott and Catherine, 16395 Fox Cross Dr., Granger, IN 46530

O'Tousa, Joseph E., 52227 Cloister Ct., South Bend, 46637

Jacobs, Stanley, 9307 Pahs Rd, Michigan City, 46360

* * * * *

BLUE TOPAZ NOW REGULATED

The sale of blue topaz to the public is now being more closely regulated as the result of an action taken by the Nuclear Regulatory Commission. The NRC is becoming quite strict in their efforts to regulate the importation of treated blue topaz. This is, in effect, an effort to protect the public from the danger of residual radiation of treated stones. Neutron treated stones may be imported only by agencies which are licensed by the NRC and all other stones (which have been neutron treated) will be considered contraband even if they fall within the legal radioactivity limits (0.40 nanocuries per gram). There are five such agencies with other applications being considered.

There are four methods of irradiation used to turn colorless topaz blue. Gamma rays (rarely used commercially), electron, neutron, and a combination of electron and neutron. Topaz treated only with electrons is generally lighter in hue and is referred to as Sky Blue, while material treated with neutrons is generally darker and is referred to as London, Swiss, American, Max, and Super Blue.

Only neutron irradiation (either by itself or in a combination with electrons) produces measurable levels of residual radiation. The level and the length of time it remains measurable depends on the isotopes present in the material.

The efforts of NRC are based on the belief that foreign treaters of blue topaz have been lax about safety and residual activity (some critics say they could care less if the blue topaz rots your finger off). Therefore, to legally obtain, cut, or sell neutron treated blue topaz in the U.S., gem cutters must receive stones from a licensee or be licensed to distribute the material themselves.

A brief from an article in the *American Gemcutter* 8/91 via *The Ammonite* 1/94 and *Cobb-L-Stones* 11/94

FROM: The Mountain Gem 3/95 Via Serendipity Gems

THINKING ABOUT MAKING A DONATION?

Many collectors and artisans donate all or portions of their collection to schools or museums in order that their hard work and beautiful specimens be preserved. One can also take a tax-deduction for such a gift to a non-profit institution. If you have been thinking about donating something to an institution, here are some guidelines that may help you with your decision.

1. Contact the institution you are thinking of donating to and ask the following questions:

Are you a qualified non-profit institution?

What are the goals of you institution?

Are you interested in my proposed gift?

What will you do with it?

How will it be stored, catalogued and/or displayed?

Who will have access to it?

What benefits do I get for my donation?

2. Visit the institution. See what their storage facilities are like, and met the people who will be responsible for your specimens. Do not hesitate to do this! Your collection is important to you , and you have a right to see what will happen to it. Collections should be stored securely and in a dry, cool environment. Collections my be available for teaching, display or other use to qualified persons.

3. If you want to take a tax-deduction, you must have the specimens appraised by an outside appraiser. Neither you nor the donee institution can do this. Most institutions, can provide a list of reputable appraisers for gems, specimens or artifacts.

4. Contact the institution before Dec. 31st of the year you want the gift to take place. You must express your intent to donate with the calendar year. Preferably in writing. Then the listing, moving and appraising can be done in a timely manner after the New Year.

5. You can leave your collection and/or funds to an institution in your will and reap benefits from this while you are still around to enjoy them. Most large institutions have a "deferred giving" program. You should find out how the program works, and what benefits you can collect as part of this program.

6. Do expect:

To be treated courteously and fairly.

Your collection to be treated with care and respect.

Labels and catalogs to include you name as donor.

Assistance with listing, packing, and transportation of your collection.

To get detailed receipts in writing.

7. Do not expect:

Your collection to be put on permanent display.

An institution to keep absolutely everything you give them. Many institutions acquire new specimens by trading or selling duplicates and surplus.

Your collection to be kept together. Most places do not have enough room for this.

If you have questions about donations in general call the senior collections manager for Geology, California Academy of Sciences Jean DeMouthe (415-750-7094). (Condensed from *MINERALOG*, Feb 1995 via *GEM TIMES*, May 1995)

EMERALD MINES AUCTIONED

Rist and Ellis emerald mines in Hiddenite, North Carolina, in the Brushy Mountains, was sold at "absolute" auction April 1 (no joke). The 200 acre tract was in 10 to 20 - acre parcels. This is the site of North America's largest emerald 1,686.3 carats; several other emeralds in excess of 1,000 carats have also been found there. Only 5% of the property has been mined by former owners LKA International of Gig Harbor, Washington who have mining interests in gold and diamonds worldwide. [Absolute auction means sold regardless of price, no matter how low final bid is.] The details of their new ownership follows which originated with the Associated Press:

As a child growing up in Hiddenite, Eileen Sharpe spent her days hunting for buried treasure: quartz, emeralds and aquamarine. On April 1st, Sharp, 87, paid \$648,850 at a public auction to buy nearly all of the famous Rist & Ellis Emerald Mines. Sharpe and her family want to turn the 190 acres into a state park, with a museum celebrating the mineral rich area's history. Sharpe, who beat out developers and amateur miners to capture 19 of the 21 parcels up for sale, paid \$3,415.00 an acre for the land.

(Courtesy of Ronald Ilano foust in N.C. via *Smoke Signals*, Black Hawk Gem Club).

* * * * *

" The road to success is usually under construction".

"You'll never "find" time. If you want time, you'll have to make it".

.....Jean Harris' Book of Sayings

STATISTICS YOU SHOULD KNOW!

by Richard Hill, via Fulton Co. Ill
Rock Hounders

The cement industry is the biggest user of fossil bearing rock in the United States. So

when you are confronted by idiotic statements about the loss of fossils by collectors, keep the following in mind.

One cement plant (Arizona Portland Cement) process the following:

- 2.5 million tons of fossil bearing rock per year or approximately 1 million cubic meters.
- There are about 180 such "rock crushers" in the United States.
- This works out to 450 million tons per year.
- This also works out to 6850 tons per plant or about 2740 cubicmeters (340 dump truck loads) of fossil bearing rock per day.

This is easily more than all fossil collectors (amateur, commercial and academic) collect in ten years! Collectors are not a problem, indeed, there is no problem.

* * * * *

GIRL'S DISCOVERY BEATS DINOSAUR MUSEUM PROS

Calgary Herald, March th 1995.....

EDMONTON -- Tess Owens, a 12 year old amateur fossil hunter, exploring with her father and younger brother, made an important find near Edmonton. Poking around the rocks near the site of a partial tyrannosaur skeleton, examined earlier by paleontologists from the Royal Tyrell Museum, Tess spotted a peculiar pattern of symmetrical, raised bumps on a rock surface. Her father photographed the find and contacted the museum. Technicians eventually examined the specimen, confirming that it was the skin impression of a tyrannosaur, one of the group of carnivorous dinosaurs including Tyrannosaurs and Albertosaurus. The specimen was cut out and removed to the museum for further study.

Dr. Phil Currie, of the Tyrell Museum (continued on next page)

stated that the specimen was "by far the best" of only three known specimens of tyrannosaur skin impressions. As for the find having been made by a 12 year old amateur, Curriè suggests that his crew must have overlooked it, because they had their minds set on finding bones: "Not having the same prejudice that everyone else had in terms of looking at the bones, she found the skin impression. It was one of those things that is a humbling experience for the rest of us".

* * * * *

ODE TO MY HUSBAND, PAUL

My husband is a Rockhound and he likes
all kinds of rocks.
We've brought them home for thirty years
and put them in a box,
Or on a shelf, or in a case, or even in a
pile,
Which kept our little acreage very much in
style.

With Nature all around us, a tree, a rock,
some dirt;
And in the wash sometimes I'd find rock
dust upon a shirt.
He polished some, he displayed some, he
traded even more
Until the garage was lined with rocks, with
room just on the floor.

I never thought I'd see the day, he'd give
the rocks away,
But since we're moving out of town he had
to find some way
To keep the weight down when the movers
came to load
The treasures we have gathered as we
traveled down the road.

So he began to sort and pitch and pack and
say to friends,
"Please take a rock to remember that our
friendship never ends".

Neighbors on the corner hauled yard rock
by the pounds
The University geology club took much
right off the grounds.

And rockhounds right and left were
delighted with their find.
As they chose the one just right for them,
one of another kind.
So even though the piles are less, the
boxers not so high,
He'll always like the rocks as much as he
does coconut pie.

BY: Margaret Good
Griffith, Indiana

(Paul Good served as Midwest Federation
President 1977 -78)

* * * * *

HINT: Cleaning cutting oil, the best
lapidary lubricant for cutting. Oil is the
final repository of all the particles &
suspended junk that your saw generates.
filtering works only fair. Simply mix your
used oil with water & freeze the stuff. The
oil will rise to the top of the mix and most
of the suspended junk will sink with the
water. When the water freezes, the oil can
be simply poured off and the residue
properly disposed of. If oil is heavily
loaded, mix with very hot water and stir
vigorously. The good separation will be
achieved and the oil will be surprisingly
clear. Let it settle for a couple of days and
then freeze it. Success. via Eldon Potter,
via *Rock Tablet, Tide Drift and Achaies...*

* * * * *

*Safety Tip...*Not enough fire extinguishes?
Take your empty coffee cans, fill with three
parts dry sand from river bottom with one
part baking soda, mix well, then store in
strategic places in the house, garage and
vehicles. In case of a small fire, sprinkle at
the base of the same. ALSO--if you get
stuck in snow or ice, sprinkle this mix under
tires for more traction. via *Pegmatite*.

CRYSTAL DIGGING TIME IN THE OUACHITAS

Rock Rustler's News

by Ben Bagrowski of Rogers, Arkansas

Each year thousands by the score head for the Ouachita Mountains of Arkansas to prospect in mines.

But these treasure hunts aren't looking for gold or silver; they don't need hard hats and flashlights, to enter tunnels, either. Instead, they are looking for clear quartz crystals that can be found buried in the mud clay of the local "dig-your-own" mines.

"We have a blend of people who come here," says Richard Wegner; operator of Wegner Crystal Mine at Mount Ida. "We have rockhounds, or people who are experienced and new people who first come across us."

Most of the mines are located in the area around the resort city of Hot Springs and town of Mount Ida. Whether you are a beginner digger or an old rockhound, you are sure to find a spot at the various mines well suited for you.

At some mines, there are areas where crystals are literally lying on the ground and all you have to do is pick them up. Often the only equipment needed is a screwdriver or a small garden tool to loosen the dirt and a bucket to hold the crystals. For avid rockhounds, there are also spots where experience is needed along with a crowbar or chisel. Regardless of the area you dig in, it's best to wear old clothes and shoes because you will get dirty.

The crystal mines consist of pits and exposed hillsides where backhoes and bulldozers have removed the soil and clay in search of the quartz veins that run through these ancient mountains.

Although most mines allow people to dig for crystals year round, the best time of year is during the spring and fall when the temperatures are cool. And for those who want to try their luck at winning some prize money, there's the World's Championship Quartz Crystal Dig held once a year at Mount Ida.

During the dig contestants compete for cash prizes and trophies. Best of all, they can keep all the crystals they dig during the contest.

While interest in mining crystals has surged in recent years, in part due to the growth of the New Age Movement, it is not a new activity. Families of mine operators have mined crystals for decades, and American Indians fashioned arrowheads from them long ago.

Geologists say that Arkansas and Brazil have the best quality quartz in the world and because of the high caliber of the specimens, the Arkansas mine often sell their quartz to buyers from all over the world. Many of the buyers are collectors and others own rock and mineral shops

For those who like crystals, but don't want to dig their own, there are numerous rock shops in the Ouachitas. Wares range in price from \$1 to \$10,000 for a 500 pound cluster. Visitors shouldn't miss a visit to Ocus Stanley and Son's Crystal Museum at Mount Ida which features a collection of rare specimens of quartz and other minerals. ♦

FROM: The Trilobite

**Shop Tip**

It's clear as CRYSTAL: If you have been looking for a cement to repair quartz crystals, try CRYSTAL CLEAR by DURO. It comes in a small red plastic syringe. It has the same refractive index as glass, is crystal clear, and is cured with UV light. Somewhat thick, (only a small amount is needed), the cement dries in a few seconds under bright sunlight. On broken quartz crystal the repair almost disappears. The package says it can be used to fill holes and repair glass. It should be also good for repairing translucent minerals. ♦

FROM: Rock Trails 3/95

ITACOLUMITE, THE FLEXIBLE ROCK

by Kip Hodges

Every once in a while, just when you think you have seen everything, you run across a specimen which disposes your false confidence in a puff of smoke. Here, to save some poor rockhound the shock of such an incident, I should introduce ITACOLUMITE... the flexible rock.

Itacolumite, alias limbergrit, alias flexible sandstone, is probably the only rock able to be bent about 6 inches in either direction and will even sag under its own weight.

It would be unfair to describe itacolumite as a tough rock. It is really quite delicate for a rock, and when forced beyond its limits, will readily crumble. Great care must be taken to prevent breakage, and itacolumite should always be handled with reasonable care. If such measures are taken, itacolumite can be a source of constant wonder in a collector's cabinet.

In recent years, itacolumite has been the source of discussion as to whether it is sedimentary or metamorphic in origin. A large portion of it is not thought to be quartzite, a metamorphic rock, other than sandstone, which is sedimentary.

Generally itacolumite consists of minute quartz crystals, with a sprinkling of chlorite, talc and mica. Some impurities are present, which do much to determine the color and strength of the rock. These minerals roughly interlock much like gears, and turn against each other, thus, the elasticity.

Itacolumite, in itself, has no economic value. It is, however, a source of diamonds in Brazil. Released from their original matrix by erosion, Brazilian diamonds eventually become trapped amid layers upon layers of itacolumite. Erosion again took its toll, and the diamonds were again released, only to settle in alluvial deposits where they are now mined. It would be interesting to note that, even though it is in no case the original matrix, diamonds have been found in nearly every source of itacolumite.

Itacolumite occurs in the Ural Mountains of Russia, scattered places in India, and throughout the Southern Appalachian areas.

Rock Rustler's News

Stokes County, North Carolina has long been one of the best localities in the world for this unusual stone. It occurs throughout the county in huge boulders, which weather into rather thick slabs. One of my favorite locations is the road up Sauertown Mountain to the WSJS-TV transmitting station. The roadsides and gullies along the road are littered with large pieces of itacolumite. Water running down the mountain has carved a ditch for itself out of the underlying itacolumite and bottoms of most of the gullies are lined with rock.

In appearance, itacolumite is much like sandstone. Layering is evident, about 1/2 to 3/4 inch layers are common. Using a well-placed chisel or two, the large pieces can be split into thin slabs along these zones. A dull hand saw can then be used to block the layers into elongated rectangles suited for show.

As I have stated before, the impurities in itacolumite tend to hamper its elastic properties. Pure, or as pure as can be expected, itacolumite is nearly snow white and has a very fine grain. Slabs 1/4 inch and smaller of the purest type can sometimes be bent ten inches or more. The greater the impurities, the more brown in color and coarser it is. ♦

FROM: The Mountain Gem 1/95

Dentures 3,000 Years Old

It may amaze you to learn that bridges with false teeth were made 3,000 years ago by the Etruscans, who worked with gold. Dentures, including "complete" dentures for people with no teeth, were made in early times from bone, ivory and hippopotamus teeth. Sometimes the entire bridge was carved from the material, and it was all one piece that fit in the mouth. Later, individual human or animal teeth were used, (usually sheep teeth). These were mounted on a gold or ivory base. At the end of the 18th century, teeth were made of porcelain and some individual teeth mounted on gold or platinum bases. ♦

FROM: Flint Rock & Gem Club Newsletter 6/93