

# THE ROCKFINDER

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



# THE ROCKFINDER

JUNE, 1999

# MICHIANA GEM & MINERAL SOCIETY

## 1999 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President Margaret Heinek 654-3673  
 Vice-Pres. Ed Miller 498-6513  
 Secretary Gladys Pacholke 233-6818  
 Treasurer Bob Heinek 654-3673  
 Liaison Michael Slattery 273-9532  
 Past Pres. Jim Russell 289-7446

## HEADS OF COMMITTEES

Programs Ed Miller 498-6513  
 Hospitality Pat McLaughlin 259-1501  
 Educational Emily Johnson  
 Librarian Diane Gram  
 Historian Ed Miller 498-6513  
 Sunshine Sally Peltz (616) 683-4088  
 Publicity Phyllis Luckert 282-1354  
 Field Trips Kathy Miller 291-0332  
 Membership All Members

The purpose of the Michiana Gem & Mineral Society is to promote the study and enjoyment of the earth sciences and the lapidary arts, and to share lapidary 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. Regular exceptions include May (third Sunday), June (field trip), July (no meeting), August (club picnic) and December (Christmas party). Board meetings are held before the general meetings. 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 (ph. 289-2028). Co-editor, Herb Luckert, 221 Marquette Ave., South Bend, IN 46617 (ph. 282-1354). Reporters, Bob Heinek, Herb Luckert, club members.

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 \$10.00 per year  
 \_\_\_\_\_ Family \$15.00 per year  
 \_\_\_\_\_ Junior \$1.00 per year  
 \_\_\_\_\_ Subscriber \$7.50 per year

(One-half these amounts after July 1)

Please indicate areas of special interest.

General Geology\_\_\_\_ Beads\_\_\_\_  
 Gems & Minerals\_\_\_\_ Fossils\_\_\_\_  
 Cabochons\_\_\_\_ Field Trips\_\_\_\_  
 Faceting\_\_\_\_ Crystals\_\_\_\_  
 Carving\_\_\_\_ Micromounts\_\_\_\_  
 Other\_\_\_\_\_ Jewelry Making\_\_\_\_\_

Name\_\_\_\_\_

Street\_\_\_\_\_

City,ST.,Zip\_\_\_\_\_

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

### Additional names:

Name\_\_\_\_\_

Birthday\_\_\_\_\_

Name\_\_\_\_\_

Birthday\_\_\_\_\_

Name\_\_\_\_\_

Birthday\_\_\_\_\_

Name\_\_\_\_\_

Birthday\_\_\_\_\_

Date of Wedding Anniversary \_\_\_\_\_

Phone\_\_\_\_\_

### PLEASE READ AND SIGN THIS SECTION:

With my signature I hereby release the Michiana Gem and Mineral Society, Inc., and its individual members and the owners of any premises upon which I enter under permit granted to the society, absolutely free of any liability whatsoever, to my person or my property, and further I will respect the equipment and property of the aforesaid owners.

Signed\_\_\_\_\_Date\_\_\_\_\_

# THE ROCKFINDER

Newsletter of the Michiana Gem & Mineral Society

Volume 39, Number 6

June, 1999

## FIELD TRIP, JUNE 27

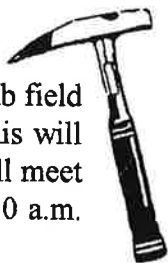
On Sunday, June 27, there will be a club field trip to a gravel pit north of Sturgis, MI. This will replace the club meeting for that date. We will meet at the gravel pit at 11 a.m. Michigan time, 10 a.m. South Bend time.

To find the pit go to Sturgis and from the intersection of U.S. 12 and M 66 (downtown Sturgis) go north on M 66 about 4 miles until you see a tombstone manufacturer. Continue on to the first (white) house north. Don Church will put up signs to direct you.

We will be looking for fossils here. The area has never been collected before. The owner will bulldoze an area for us before our arrival.

After our collecting, we will go to Don Church's home for a cookout. Don will have hamburgers, hot dogs, various kinds of drinks etc. Everyone bring their own dishes and silverware. If anyone wants to bring a salad, it would be welcome.

This trip and cookout are rain or shine. Don has a shelter building for the cookout. His phone number is 616-651-7616. His address is 65036 N. M 66.



**BRING YOUR FRIENDS TO  
THE CLUB SHOW!**

Century Center

**LABOR DAY WEEKEND**

**SEPTEMBER 3 - 5**

Dealers, displays, kids' activities.

Jewelry, fossils, beads, mineral specimens, crystals, meteorites, lapidary equipment, carvings.

Silent auction.

Fun for all!



## UP AND COMING

June 25-27--Lawrence County Rock Club 34<sup>th</sup> annual show, Monroe County Fairgrounds, Bloomington, IN.

July 9-10--Combined SE Federation and American Federation convention and show, Nashville, TN.

Aug. 8-13--Red Metal Retreat, Houghton, MI.

Aug. 22--Gala club picnic at Clay Township Park. More details will follow.

Sept. 3-5--**Michiana Gem & Mineral Society show, Century Center, 120 S. St. Joseph St., South Bend, IN.**

Sept. 10-12--Toledo Gem & Rockhound Club show.

Sept. 17-18--Tulip City Gem & Mineral Show, Holland Civic Center, 150 W. 8<sup>th</sup> St., Holland, MI.

Oct. 8-10--Greater Detroit Gem & Mineral Show, Macomb Community College, Warren, MI.

Oct. 15-17--Three Rivers Gem & Mineral Show, Allen County Fairgrounds, Ft. Wayne, IN.

## MARGARET'S COLUMN



Well, it's time to get serious about the Labor Day show. Think about your schedule for working at the Kiddies Korner, silent auction, door, demonstrating (let Bob Miller know if you will demonstrate) and your display. Bob has the plans for the dealers' spaces, and on Thursday evening the floor must be marked for the booth set-up early on Friday, so the plans are set. Bob will need help in marking the floor that night, so please tell him you will help. I will take care of the items that Century Center will provide in the way of draping the door tables, coffee for the dealers, the microphones, and ordering the tables needed for everything.

Our next get-together will be on June 27 at the gravel pit in Michigan, and a picnic after the hunt. Make sure you read the directions on the first page of this *Rockfinder* on where this will be held and note the invitation that is extended by the Churches to have a cookout. It is so nice of these members to host us, and thanks to Don for making the arrangements for this hunt and get-together. If you would like to bring something to share, do so. A salad, cake or cookies, your own paper plates and silverware--you know what is needed. Don and Yvonne will have tea, coffee and punch along with the hot dogs, hamburgers, buns and condiments. They have plenty of chairs, unless there are more than 30 of us there. It sounds real good.

Be sure to let Michael Slattery know the names of your donations of small minerals, fossils or any items that he can use for the egg cartons. Mike wants to make labels for each of them. This way, the youngsters will know what they have and they can identify them when they get home.

The August picnic will be our last get-together before the show, so plan on being at the Clay Township Park on August 8. PLEASE PLAN ON ATTENDING, so we can make final plans for the show. As you know, this is our money-making project that allows us to take our bus trip. And remember, you must be members of the club to go on our trips, due to insurance regulations. See you on

June 27 in Michigan and August 8 at the picnic. Oh yes, make sure you bring a hat, sunglasses, long-sleeved jacket, and sun-blocker. We certainly don't want any sunburn. Don said to come rain or shine. He has a shelter. Thanks again, Don and Yvonne.

## JULY BIRTHDAYS

12 Louis Jordan, Jr.  
18 Nick Pellus  
19 Dewey Hassler  
23 Scott Zeiger  
24 Elma Heynsenns  
25 Bob Harmon  
28 Pat McLaughlin  
29 Matt Brueseke

## ANNIVERSARIES

1 John & Maggie Hawkins  
6 Jim & Barbara McHugh  
20 Dewey & Nina Hassler  
31 Leroy & Mary Castle  
31 Bob & Margaret Heinek

## AUGUST BIRTHDAYS

1 Sherrie Russell  
10 Don Church  
13 Todd Miller  
16 William Clark  
17 Betty Stout

21 Larry Hess  
23 David Peltz  
24 Rebecca Parker  
26 Sr. Georgia Costin  
27 Phyllis Smallwood

## ANNIVERSARIES

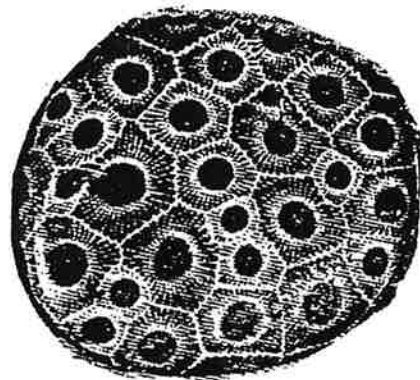
4 Ed & Marsha Miller  
12 Hal & Bonnie Brueseke  
26 Jim & Sherrie Russell

## SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS

7 Janet Pellus  
17 Ruth Amos  
21 Marsha Miller  
21 Tom Fields  
28 Lana Wright

## ANNIVERSARIES

1 Tom & Pat McLaughlin  
9 Herb & Phyllis Luckert



## MINUTES OF THE MAY 23 MEETING

President Margaret Heinek called the meeting to order at 2:00 p.m. In attendance were 21 adults and one guest.

Spring is here, as evidenced by the decorations on the hospitality table. Margaret Schultz, Sr. Jeanne and Sr. Georgia served vegetable snacks and home-made bar cookies.

David Peltz made a motion to accept the April minutes as printed in the *Rockfinder*. The motion was seconded and passed.

Kathy Miller reported that a couple of motel rooms are still available for club members who wish to go on the September field trip to Ohio. Please call Kathy (291-0332) if you find that you will be able to go. She noted that other options will be available if inclement weather makes field collecting impossible.

Bob Heinek gave the treasurer's report, which will be filed for audit.

New business:

Skin cancers can be deadly! Please be careful when collecting and take proper precautions when you are out in the sun for any length of time.

We discussed whether we should have a June meeting, a one-day field trip for collecting, or another type of event. The results of the discussion were not conclusive, so Margaret will notify us about what's happening.

The September club show:

If you are planning to bring a display, let the display chairman know well in advance. Tables have to be ordered to hold displays, so it would help to know the size of the space you will be using. Some of the display tables will have electricity available. Tom Noe will run the silent auction, and he welcomes any assistance from club members. Kathy Miller will be in charge of the door and also asks for help from the members. She will have a sign-up sheet and will be contacting members about volunteering.

Two certificates for entries in the last bulletin contest were handed out at the meeting: they were overlooked last month when the plaques were handed out.

Door prizes went to Margaret Heinek, Pam Rubenstein, Herb Luckert, Pat McLaughlin, Don Church and Sr. Jeanne.

Janus Horrall, a former club member and a teacher of earth science at Riley High School, presented the program, which was a change from the one announced in the *Rockfinder* last time. Janus showed a videotape and illustrated a time chart of the geologic ages.

She noted that the geologic ages were first defined according to the changes observed in the fossils found within the various formations. By comparing fossils from different strata, early observers noted that evolutionary changes had occurred, progressing from earlier layers (lower down) to later layers (farther up). This July, Janus plans to continue her field work looking for dinosaur bones, but in later strata, the Cretaceous rather than the Jurassic. When she returns she'll let us know about what she found.

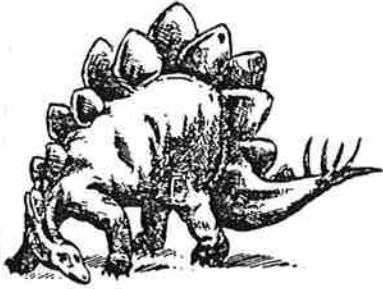
## SILENT AUCTION AT THE LABOR DAY SHOW

Contact Tom Noe (289-2028) if you want to donate items for the auction: lapidary machines, fossils, specimens, jewelry, etc. The proceeds will go to the club treasury.

You can also consign items for sale, with a percentage of the selling price going to the club treasury and the rest going to your own treasury. NOTE: because the club already has plenty of less expensive material (under \$5), please keep your consignments toward the higher end--\$5 and above. This will save space and perhaps help to make more money. If you have smaller items, consider putting several together in one lot to sell for over \$5. This may or may not work, but we can try it for the Labor Day show and see what happens.

Call Tom for details and to arrange for getting your donations or consignments to the show. Also, call Tom if you would like to help staff the auction booth for several hours sometime during the show.





## NEW DINO TRACKS

A new dinosaur track site in Bolivia is already the largest ever found, and includes bones from several different animals. The surface is in an active quarry of the National Cement Factory near Cal Orcko. The wall of limestone where the tracks are located is inclined at an angle of 70 degrees, so climbing equipment is needed to examine it.

The track level dates from the late Cretaceous and forms part of the El Molino Formation; the estimated age is about 68 million years. More than 250 trackways have been registered, formed by six different types of dinosaurs. The most spectacular trackways are those of quadrupedal titanosaurs (herbivores with a size between 15 and 25 meters). Footprints of bipedal carnivorous dinosaurs are very common. They were made by animals ranging from 1.2 meters up to 6 meters in height. Some of these trackways show that the animal was limping; others indicate a speed of more than 30 kilometers per hour. One trackway of a theropod dinosaur can be followed for more than 350 meters and represents the longest ever recorded. Trackways of ornithopod dinosaurs are less common but nevertheless demonstrate the presence of bipedal herbivores that reached a height of about 4 meters. The scientifically most important tracks are those of ankylosaurs, four-legged animals with a heavy dermal armor. Some indicate a regular walking gait; others show that the animals were running with a speed of more than 11 km/h. This is the first record of ankylosaur tracks on the South American continent and the most important worldwide.

The quarry shows seven different levels with tracks. The main level is a siliceous limestone that was deposited in a freshwater lake.

Compiled from a press release by Christian Meyer, the Swiss paleontologist who worked at the site last summer.

## A WEALTH OF DIFFERENCE



Gold Filled: A layer of gold backed with another metal such as chrome, nickel, copper or silver.

Gold Plate: The process of placing a base metal, such as copper, in a bath and sealing the two metals through electroplating.

Gold Leaf: A sheet of gold varying between four or five millionths of an inch thick used for gilding and other purposes.

Liquid Gold: Finely divided gold suspended in a vegetable oil for gilding ceramics.

Vermeil: One-karat gold overlaid on sterling silver.

Sterling Silver: Silver of a purity of 925 parts per 1000. The content is 92.5 percent silver and 7.5 percent of another metal, usually copper.

Silver Plate: Silver that has been coated over a base metal such as copper, nickel-silver or brass in a dipping process that includes sealing the two metals through electroplating.

*Gem City News (Oct., 1998)*

## CRYSTAL PROBLEMS

By Cornelius S. Hurlbut, Jr.

When first I studied crystal,  
I didn't have the knack  
Of three-dimensional thinking:  
This skill I seemed to lack.

I'd turn and twist the crystal round  
In hope that I could see  
At least one axis or a plane  
Of crystal symmetry.

The prism, pinacoid and dome,  
The rhombic pyramid  
All looked the very same to me,  
No matter what I did.

But now I've studied long and hard,  
And think I'm somewhat wise,  
For in no length of time at all  
The cube I recognize.

*From Stoney Statements*

**COWBOY'S GUIDE TO LIFE**

Don't squat with your spurs on.

Don't never interfere with something that ain't botherin' you none.

There's more ways to skin a cat than stickin' his head in a boot jack and jerkin' on his tail.

Some ranchers raise pigs and some will even admit it. Either way, they're raisin' pigs.

Never kick a fresh turd on a hot day.

The easiest way to eat crow is while it's still warm. The colder it gets, the harder it is to swaller.

If you find yourself in a hole, the first thing to do is to stop diggin'.

Never smack a man who's chewin' tobacco.

If it don't seem like it's worth the effort, it probably ain't.

It don't take a genius to spot a goat in a flock of sheep.

The biggest liar you'll ever have to deal with probably watches you shave his face in the mirror every morning.

Never ask a barber if he thinks you need a haircut.

If you get to thinkin' you're a person of some influence, try orderin' somebody else's dog around.

Don't worry about bitin' off more'n you can chew. Your mouth is probably a whole lot bigger'n you think.

Always drink upstream from the herd.

Generally, you ain't learnin' nothin' when your mouth is a-jawin'.

Tellin' a man to go to hell and makin' him do it are two entirely different propositions.

Generally speakin', fancy titles and nightshirts are a waste of time.

Trust everybody in the game, but always cut the cards.

If you're ridin' ahead of the herd, take a look back every now and then to make sure it's still there.

If you're gonna go...go like hell. If your mind's not make up, don't use your spurs.

Some things ain't funny. You ain't one of hem.

No author. *Blue Ribbon Magazine* (Feb., 1998)

**SYNTHETIC DIAMONDS FOR HIP REPLACEMENT**

Scottish doctors have produced synthetic diamonds with a new technique and used them in replacing hip joints that should last years longer than present replacements. Dr. Phillip John of Heriot-Watt University said his team produced sheets of synthetic diamonds using plasma techniques and simple chemicals.

The diamond sheets were used to cover the ball-and-socket hip joint replacements, providing protection and reduced wear, John told the Edinburgh International Science Festival. Hip replacements are one of the most common surgical operations in the West because the joint easily gets worn out or affected by arthritis.

*Earth Science News* (Dec., 1996)



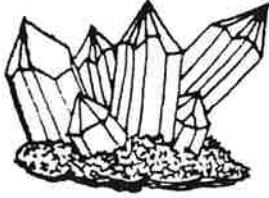
**NOTE:** Remember the club picnic on August 22. A flyer will be sent out to remind you and to pass along directions, etc. The next club meeting will be in September. *The Rockfinder* will not be published again until September, so we wish everyone happy hunting over the summer!

Be sure to volunteer to help out somehow during the club show at Century Center over Labor Day weekend. See Margaret's column for more information.

## WISCONSIN QUARTZ CRYSTALS

-by Gene LaBerge, MWF Geology Committee

(From *Midwest Federation of Mineralogical and Geological Societies Reports*, Freeport, Illinois, March 30, 1996, as reprinted in the *MWF Newsletter* 05/96)



Quartz is one of the most common minerals in nature, where it is the chief constituent of sandstones and quartzites and comprises 20-30 percent of many granites and rhyolites. Yet despite its common widespread occurrence in so many kinds of rocks, well-formed crystals of quartz are really not especially common. Three localities in Wisconsin are widely known for their quartz crystals; two localities are in Precambrian quartzite and the third is in a granite.

Perhaps the best known locality in Wisconsin is the site in the northwoods of Forest County several miles north of Townsend in the Nicolet National Forest. Here, quartz crystals and clusters occur in a zone of fault breccia, that cut diagonally across the McCaslin Quartzite in a northwesterly direction. Angular blocks of quartzite are partially cemented together by quartz crystals ranging from less than 1/4 inch to several inches long. Some open fractures contain plates at least a foot long of abundant, intergrown crystals. Typically the crystals are somewhat red to yellow-brown from iron staining. Much of the iron is included within the quartz, indicating that the hematite or goethite was present in the fluids from which the quartz grew. Many of the crystals are broken, but have crystal faces developed on the broken surfaces. This suggests that the quartz crystal grew from super-heated water, perhaps 250°C (480°F) with periodic violent boiling breaking many of the crystals. Continued crystal growth developed crystal faces on the broken surfaces. The environment may have been somewhat like a geyser in Yellowstone Park, where periodic boiling caused the geyser to erupt. This type of environment is also similar to hot springs in parts of Nevada, in which opal and sometimes gold may be precipitated.

A rather similar occurrence of quartz crystals is present in southern Wisconsin, where a brecciated zone in the Baraboo Quartzite at Rock Springs, about 7 miles west of Baraboo, also yields fine quartz crystals and clusters. Quartz crystals from Rock Springs tend to be smaller than those from Townsend, but like those from northeastern Wisconsin, they are typically iron-stained. Crystals from the Baraboo area commonly also have associated clay minerals.

Smoky quartz crystals up to 18 inches long and several inches in diameter have been recovered from "pockets" in granitic pegmatites within the Ninemile Pluton, just south of Rib Mountain near Wausau. These crystals are typically associated with crystals of microcline feldspar. The "pockets" (or cavities - which range from fist-sized openings to over 6 feet across - are encountered periodically during quarrying operations in the large "rotten granite" pits. The Ninemile Pluton is a relatively small granite body about 6 by 8 miles across. It is very distinctive in that, over much of the exposed pluton, the quartz and feldspars can be broken apart very easily. In fact, the minerals in the granite break apart so easily that it can be removed with front end loaders, and is extensively used for fill and road "gravel." The "rotten granite" extends to depths of nearly 100 feet. The reason for the crumbly nature of the granite is not readily apparent, nor is the cause agreed upon.



**THE DAY YOU DID WITHOUT COPPER**

By Anna Domitrovic

These are some of the things you did without the day you did without copper. You had:

No lights      No shower      No toaster  
 No telephone      No refrigerator      No cooling  
 No television      No paper      No car  
 No radio      No doorknob

But the doorknob didn't matter. You had no door keys, either, because this is the day you did without copper. Every single one of those things is made with the eternal metal, or relies heavily on it, or won't work without it. It's one nonprecious metal we'd have a hard time replacing.

For one thing, almost everything that runs on electricity relies on copper. Water pipes get their long lives from copper. The rivets on your jeans are rustless copper. Copper is sandwiched into our coins. The sturdiest keys and locks--made to last--come from brass, a stout copper alloy. But copper's a bashful servant. It keeps pretty much behind the scenes. Yet even though you don't see too much of it, you can't do much without it. In fact, it's a safe bet you're using some right now. Wherever you are: here, or landing on the moon or Mars. Copper! It's man's eternal metal. Man's most versatile metal.

*Arasco, via Rockhound Gazette (Mar., 1998)*

**LARGEST SKULL REDISCOVERED IN UNIVERSITY STORAGE**

The largest skull of any land animal will soon (when the museum opens in 2000) be on display at the Sam Noble Oklahoma Museum of Natural History. The skull was found by J. W. Stovall and two of his students in New Mexico back in 1941. They carefully wrapped the skull and skeleton in plaster jackets and brought them to the University of Oklahoma, where they have been stored in various places: the stadium, the geology building, some of the old dormitories. Scientists did not realize what they had until they began removing rock from the skeleton and skull after the specimen was rediscovered in the mid-'90s.

The specimen is actually a 75-million-year-old pentaceratops, a five-horned cousin of the triceratops. The skull is 10 feet long and over 12 feet high, on a skeleton of almost 23 feet. It is about 15% larger than the torosaurus at Yale University, which previously had the largest land vertebrate skull. The O.U. specimen has about 50 percent of the complete skull--a professional sculptor is filling in the gaps where bone is missing.

Cleaning and assembling the dinosaur is no mean task--one volunteer alone has spent over 3,000 hours scraping matrix from the bones.

Summarized from *The Daily Oklahoman* (Nov. 12, 1998) by Jon Slankard (*T-Town Rockhound* Feb., 1999)

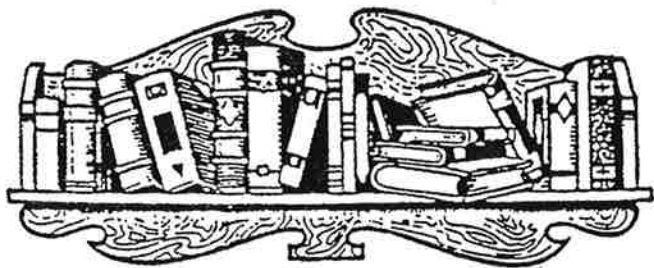
\*\*\*\*\*

**World Class Diamond Mine In North America**

On October 14, 1998, seven years after the initial discovery, the Ekati Mine started diamond production. The mine, located near the Arctic Circle in the Northwest Territories of Canada, is expected to produce \$7 billion dollars in high-quality diamonds in the next 25 years, about 5% of the world's production.

The diamond area was discovered in 1991 by a geologist from British Columbia, Charles Fipke, as he followed the path of the Ice Age glaciers northward to the tundra of Canada looking for the source of the diamonds that have been sporadically found in glacial till in Canada and the United States. A second diamond mine is also planned in the vicinity.

*The Rockcollector* 2/99, adapted from a *St. Louis Post Dispatch* article 10/15/98 from *SIES Club News* 1/99



### FOR FURTHER READING....

Care to suggest a name for a new continent? Geologists have found that a large section of the Indian Ocean floor was once above water--in fact, it was above water several times. The newly found landmass formed after the breaking apart of Gondwanaland, a process which started about 130 million years ago and gave rise to India, Antarctica and Australia . . . plus the new one. In drill cores, scientists found fossils of plants, wood and charcoal from depths of about 2,000 meters below the Indian Ocean.

*New Scientist* (Feb. 20, 1999)

Amaze your friends with this interesting fact. Everyone knows what the speed of light is in a vacuum: 186,000 miles per second. What is the speed of light in glass? (122,000 miles per second) In a special kind of sodium vapor? (Well, you could outrun it on a bicycle)

A small diamond has been turned into a metal, say scientists at the Lawrence Livermore lab. They used a laser light to send pressure shock waves through a diamond and change it into a form whose surface reflects light--probably a metallic state. It may be similar to matter at the heart of dense stars such as white dwarfs.

*New Scientist* (Apr. 3, 1999)

New reports of stone toolmaking in Africa have been published, indicating very sophisticated knapping (20 pieces struck from the same core) during a time about 2.34 million years ago. This level of skill has never before been documented from such antiquity.

*Nature* (May, 1999)

Is the dinosaur demise a done deal? The controversy goes on whether they were the victims of an asteroid impact on the earth. While some say the evidence is overwhelming, others caution that much of the evidence can be read in other ways. For a good rundown of the various arguments, pro but mostly con, read *The Great Dinosaur Extinction Controversy*, by Charles Officer and Jake Page (Helix Books, 1996). It's already a bit dated, but you'll see that it's still proper to refer to the "probable" but not "proven" theory that an asteroid impact caused the dinosaur extinctions.

Stick this web address in your "Worth Surfing" list if you like dinosaurs: Dino Russ's Lair ([www.isgs.uiuc.edu/isgsroot/dinos/dinos\\_home.html](http://www.isgs.uiuc.edu/isgsroot/dinos/dinos_home.html)). This is an up-to-date directory with scads of links.

UCLA chemist Frank Kyte has found a piece of an asteroid that hit the earth and possibly ended the Cretaceous period. While examining sediment cores taken from the ocean floor off Hawaii, Kyte spotted something unusual--a small fragment of an asteroid. The context of the find indicates that it might have come from the very asteroid that may have wiped out the dinosaurs.

*Discover* (Mar., 1999)

### IRON IN MY EGGS?

Why do yolks sometimes turn a greenish-gray when you boil eggs? The color is the result of ferrous sulfide, a harmless iron compound that forms when eggs are overcooked. During cooking, sulfur is released and joins with hydrogen molecules to form a gas. It is this gas which lends a characteristic odor to cooked eggs. As the gas forms, it combines with iron on the surface of the yolk, resulting in a greenish-gray color. The reaction is particularly common in eggs that are less-than-fresh. To avoid the green color, cook for no more than 15 minutes, then immediately plunge into cold water to pull the gas away from the yolk.

*Environmental Nutrition* (Mar., 1995)