



THE JASPILITE

SPRING 2016 ISSUE

FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK...

Our Purpose:

*To enjoy, to learn, to
teach and conserve*

*The rocks, the gems, the
fossils and ores,*

*To collect, to admire, to
brag and to show*

*The material we've
found, we'll trade for
yours.*

*-Bob & Marian Markert
(founding members)*

INSIDE:

Eighth Wonder of the
World!

Upcoming Events

Cliffs Shaft

Mystery at the
Museum - Solved

First Annual Show
Revisited

The Ishpeming Rock and Mineral Club lost a long-time member and supporter in 2015 with the passing of Olive Sain. To honor Olive and her husband Lawrence, the club has decided to name its annual award to a Northern Michigan University Earth Science student **The Olive and Lawrence Sain Earth Science Award**.

Born in Bruce Crossing on March 23, 1917 to Frank and Mary (Laviolette) Kuehnl, Olive was raised in Bruce Crossing and graduated from the Ewen High School. She attended Ontonagon County Normal and, following graduation, attended Northern Michigan University where she received her Bachelor of Science degree Magna Cum Laude. While at Northern she was a member of Kappa Delta Pi. She later received a Master of Science degree from Michigan State University. For seven years, Olive taught in Ontonagon County before beginning a 13 year career as home economist with the Michigan State University Extension in Marquette County.

Olive and Lawrence were long-time members of the Ishpeming Rock and Mineral Club - in fact, nobody is left

who can remember when they joined! Olive served the club in many capacities, including president and secretary, and for many years was the editor of THE JASPILITE, for which she was inducted into the Midwest Federation of Mineralogical and Geological Societies Editors Hall of Fame.

Olive was a familiar face at the Club's annual show, often staffing the mineral identification table, the children's area and the micromineral table. Micromounts were one of her passions, and she was an exacting teacher of the art. She was also a skilled lapidary and enjoyed making jewelry.

The Ishpeming Rock and Mineral Club makes an annual financial award to one earth science student from Northern Michigan University and one from Michigan Technological University. The award to a Tech student has been named **The Robert and Marion Markert Earth Science Award** for the club's founders. We will bring you a biography of Bob and Marion in the summer issue of THE JASPILITE.

HURRY, HURRY, HURRY!

STEP RIGHT UP LADIES AND GENTLEMEN.

SEE THE EIGHTH WONDER OF THE MODERN WORLD!

(A REPORT FROM P.T. BARNUM [AKA CHARLIE RICHARDSON])

Ok, so maybe it's not the Eighth Wonder, but it is the 41st Annual Ishpeming Rock and Mineral Club's Gem and Mineral, Show and it's coming to the Ishpeming Elk's Club on Saturday, August 6, 2016. The fun begins at 9:30 A.M. and continues unabated throughout the day.

You will be amazed at the bountiful assortment of earthly treasures we have scoured the world to bring to you, well maybe not the world but we sure as heck looked all around the Midwest. From finely crafted jewelry that rivals the likes of Tiffany; (you know, that girl named Tiffany from Michigamme) to cabinet sized collector quality mineral specimens to rival the collections of the world's greatest museums. There will be a wide array of treasures including examples of exquisite works of the lapidary arts and gems fit for a king.

Wide eyed visitors will be astounded at the treasures to be found on our silent auction tables. Only the finest offerings will be presented to a discerning audience. Here's is a rare opportunity to obtain previously unobtainable mineral specimens for your cabinet or yard depending on the size of your estate. All the while your young heirs to the family fortune can add to their personal collections at the kids table.

In the evening we will feature a Cracker Barrel speaker who will divulge hitherto unknown secrets of the natural world intended for the ears of only the most sophisticated listeners. The evening's reveries will also include a drawing for rare and unusual raffle prizes for which we have spared no expense.

Don't be the only one on your block to miss this once in a lifetime event. For more information, you can visit our Emporium of Wonders on our website at www.ishpemingrosks.org.

UPCOMING EVENTS

JUNE 24, 2016

Field Trip
Tilden & Empire Mines

JULY 22, 2016

Field Trip
Lundin Mining's Humboldt Mill

AUGUST 5, 2016

Gem & Mineral Show Field Trip
Republic Mine

AUGUST 6, 2016

41st Annual Gem & Mineral Show

AUGUST 7, 2016

Gem & Mineral Show Field Trip
Lindberg Quarry

AUGUST 8, 2016

Special Gem & Mineral Show Field Trip
Michigan Gold Mine

AUGUST 20, 2016

Field Trip
Location to be determined

SEPTEMBER 17, 2016

Field Trip
Location to be determined

(The following was adapted from an article by club member Suzie Saari and Greg Peterson in the July, 2002 Marquette Monthly)

CLIFFS SHAFT PROJECT OFFERS NEW CHALLENGE FOR SEASONED ROCK HOUNDS

Rockhound Brad Waters of Ishpeming never will forget finding a "rock" that reshaped Michigan history. He found it while camping with his wife and his sons, Warren and Bradley, about twenty years ago on the Silver Lake Basin, north of Ishpeming. "I just thought it was a funny looking rock," recalls Waters, president of the Cliffs Shaft Theme Park board of directors and member of the Ishpeming Rock and Mineral Club. The "neat rock" turned out to be a valuable ancient spear point left by Paleo Indians many, many, many moons ago. At the time, it was the oldest known artifact found in Michigan, Waters said, adding that until that find, historians didn't know the tribes had traveled this far north.

Waters credits local historian Fred Rydholm with identifying the spearhead that "sat in a junk drawer for several years." "Where did you get this?" Waters remembers the wide-eyed Rydholm asking after inspecting a few of the hundreds of rocks that Waters had collected.

Another thirty-year rock collector and rock club president, Ernie Johnson, says there are two things he likes best: Rock hunting and teaching kids. "I really like piquing the interest of children and getting them involved in minerals," Johnson said while putting the final shine on the Club's new home in the Cliffs Shaft. "I like letting them touch the rocks and then making them aware it's not just a piece of rock," said Johnson, who is a director of the theme park.

Children are amazed to learn that sand is used to make glass, and enjoy learning about the different minerals found in Marquette County's iron ore mines, where many of them have parents, relatives or friends working. "Sand is really quartz," Johnson said, adding that he's put on rock and mineral presentations for hundreds of children from Michigan to Montana.

Dazzled by the history, shape and color of rocks,

Johnson enjoys finding minerals he's never seen before.

The Ishpeming Rock and Mineral Club celebrated its forty-ninth birthday in 2002 by moving into the recently renovated Cliffs Shaft Theme Park in Ishpeming.

"The Cliffs Shaft Mine in Ishpeming in Michigan's Upper Peninsula has an important place in the history of the Lake Superior and national iron mining industries and the mine site survives as the best preserved, most complete example of an underground iron mining site on the Marquette Iron Range and in the entire Upper Peninsula," wrote William H. Mulligan Jr., who served as theme park project coordinator for the Marquette County Economic Development Corporation (in a paper titled "The Cliff Shaft Mine, Ishpeming Michigan: A Case Study in the History of American Mining, 1844-1967," that he presented in June, 1994 at the third International Mining History Conference and Symposium on the Preservation of Historic Mine Sites in Golden, Colorado). "It was the largest and longest-operating underground, direct-shipping, hard ore mine in the Lake Superior Region and the United States," Mulligan said, adding the mine produced nearly twenty nine million tons of ore from 1848 to 1967.

On September 17, 1998, the Marquette Range Iron Mining Heritage Theme Park Inc. took ownership of the historic Cliffs Shaft Mine, after CCI donated the property, structure and some artifacts. The purpose of the non-profit group is to preserve the heritage of the Marquette Iron Range. The park was the dream of two men who just wouldn't give up: Longtime Ishpeming resident, retired CCI chief geologist and historian Burt Boyum and the late Bob Markert, founder of the Ishpeming Rock and Mineral Club. Others began to share the dream including the park's board of directors and volunteers. They wanted others to learn mining heritage by recreating the past and reliving what miners did so many years ago.

Local residents and visitors are familiar with the two concrete obelisks and the tall rectangular steel building that mark the Cliffs Shaft mine's three shafts. The towering headframes and surrounding structures have survived many a severe U.P. winter and now are being renovated into a theme park that

tells the story of the Marquette Iron Range.

The park will house books, artifacts, photos, machinery and other memorabilia representing local mines. Volunteers have toiled to make the park interesting to tourists, those who love mining history, and rockhounds. Their intentions are to return nine historic buildings to productive use as quickly as possible with a goal to boost tourism tremendously over the next few years.

The project includes the "Dry House," attached rooms, and underground tunnels leading to the shafts. Miners began and ended their shift in the "dry", where they changed from clean clothes into mining clothes. The room was equipped with showers and sinks for after-work clean-up. After picking up their "brass check" identification tags, miners would be lowered down one of the shafts, with the deepest point 1,250 feet underground. The renovation and restoration project at the Cliffs Shaft started with the dry building, which was built in 1903, providing new office, display and library space for the theme park as well as for the Ishpeming Rock and Mineral Club.

Plans include tours of the "dry" and shafts. The tours eventually will extend to all nine buildings, with a gift shop, displays of artifacts, photos, a restaurant and period costumes. Other plans include restoration of original machinery and equipment for public viewing, programs by local historians and presenters and eventually a database to include every miner who worked on the Marquette range helping to create a great industry. The archives already are being worked on and truly will connect the past to the present. Organizers plan to share this valuable information with other mining museums.

A scale model of the entire Cliffs Shaft mine in its operating days has been set up in the dry building. The rock and mineral club will display its extensive collection there also. Burt Boyum has donated numerous mining-related items that are being cataloged and will be displayed.

Volunteers are working just about every day at the shaft and are glad to see people who are interested in their efforts. Organizers thank the many volunteers whose dedication is the reason the project will succeed. Along with Brad Waters and Ernie Johnson,

younger long-time volunteers include Dan Uhl, Andrew Kinnunen and Bruce Engstrom. These young men have put in many hours. They always are ready to help, wear their hard hats and Cliffs Shaft emblem with pride, give tours and ride in the Fourth of July Parade.

The Ishpeming Rock and Mineral Club was organized in January 1953 with 27 members along with Bob Markert, founder and first president. Original members include several miners, rockhounds and others with a fascination for the variety of minerals found in mines.

Some of those miners would quickly eat their lunch (often a pasty) in the mine and then fill the empty lunch box with rock specimens to take home. After comparing notes and samples, they formed a group and started taking field trips. A snowstorm greeted those attending the first club meeting at the Ishpeming Winter Sports Club. After that, they met in members' homes, the old Ski Hall of Fame and various other locations before finding a home at the Cliffs Shaft.

The Ishpeming Rock and Mineral Club's annual Rock and Gem Show is held every August at the Ishpeming Elks Club, near the theme park. The first show was held in June 1959 at the old Ski Hall of Fame.

Club members say rock collecting is the best hobby in the world. "You can never stop learning," said club member Olive Sain about her "non-stop hobby. "The more you talk with others and share with others, the more you learn," Sain said, adding children make the best rock hunters because of their size and good eyes. "Parents need to back their children up when they are interested in a hobby. The children gain a little knowledge at school, but they need their parents to nurture that interest. It is an inexpensive and wonderful hobby."

Club member Dawn Smail said she has made many good friends while rock hunting, a hobby that's enriched her life.

"The field trips have given us memories we treasure as much as the bags of rocks we carried home," Smail said. "Years later we still can envision the times we spent collecting and the camaraderie around

campfires discussing the day and planning the next day's sites. Old rockhounds gather memories as rocks do moss."

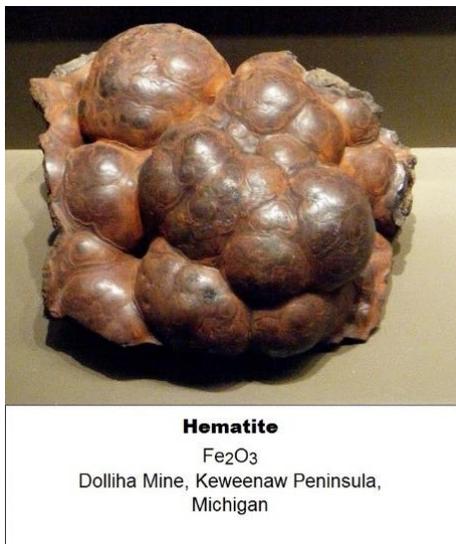
Being a club member also has greatly enriched the life of Jim "Hoolie" DeCaire, who started searching for rocks and minerals at age twelve while a member of the 4-H rock and mineral club. "The 4-H rock club was started by some of the senior members of the Ishpeming Rock and Mineral Club," said DeCaire, a member of the famed band "Da Yoopers". "The club is one of the more active clubs in the nation. I am proud to be a member."

The club has hosted two Midwest Federation conventions, in 1960 and in 1972. Meetings are held once a month and usually include a special presentation or program. Silent auctions and field trips are a long-standing club tradition. The first issue of the club's newsletter, "THE JASPILITE," was dated October, 1954.

A MYSTERY AT THE MUSEUM – SOLVED!

Below is a picture of a specimen in the Gem and Mineral Collection of the Smithsonian's Museum of Natural History.

Although some specimens of hematite have been found in the Keweenaw, a showy botryoidal specimen like this more likely came from the Dalliba Mine near Champion in Marquette County.



(The following photos and caption are from a 1968 issue of the **Cliffs News**)

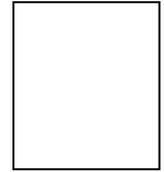


Minerals Show

The first annual Upper Peninsula Gem and Mineral Show sponsored by the Ishpeming Rock and Mineral Club, Inc., was recently held in Ishpeming. Among the various exhibitors were Mr. and Mrs. Audubon Jenkins. Jenkins is a retired Cliffs employee who was employed at the Cliffs Shaft Mine for 31 years retiring in 1966. Mr. and Mrs. Jenkins are shown in the upper photograph with their display of various specimens of iron bearing rocks of the local area. The backdrop for their display is a painting of the Cliffs Shaft Mine. The artist is Mrs. Marie Marjama, wife of Onnie Marjama,, coordinator of safety education. Onnie was superintendent of the Cliffs Shaft Mine for 17 years.

The other photograph shows a portion of the display area at the Gem and Mineral Show.

Ishpeming Rock and Mineral Club
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ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

The Ishpeming Rock and Mineral Club

www.ishpemingrocks.org

President	Dan Fountain
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	John Crady
	Beverly Trynoski

The club meets at the Cliffs Shaft Mine Museum in Ishpeming at 1:30 p.m. on the third Sunday of the month, September through November and January through May. During the summer business meetings are held at 7:00 p.m. on the third Monday of the month.



The famous Jackson Stump, where iron ore was discovered, leading to the opening of the Jackson Mine.