

Northwest Micro-Mineral Study Group

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Micro Probe

MINUTES OF THE JULY 1, 1974, MEETING AT THE HEILMAN HOME, RAYMOND, WASH.

The meeting was called to order by President Norman Steele at 4:00 p.m. Norm called upon Rudy Tschernich to outline plans for the field trip to Kosmos, Washington, on Sunday, June 2. Rudy enumerated some of the minerals to be found at the Kosmos locality; mostly of the zeolite group. The distance from Interstate 5 (about 35 miles) and tools needed was mentioned.

It was decided that the group making the trip would take off from the Heilman home at 7:00 a.m. (they did not know at the time that the morning would greet them with a steady but not-too-cold drizzle of rain, which Stan Heilman told us would bring the rainfall for the Raymond area to 60 inches to date.) A call for a show of hands of those planning to go on the trip indicated that 12 hardy collectors would make it: Rudy; Norm Steele; Wilsons (2); O'Donnel (2); Dunn; Boggs (3)

After firming up the plans for the trip on Sunday, Rudy proposed a later trip (tentatively set for July 13, 1974) to Stevenson, Washington, for (especially) those beautiful, easy to collect - but not so easy to preserve in the field - mordenite specimens. A bulletin will be sent out well ahead of the proposed trip date to confirm the plans. It is suggested that we all meet in Stevenson at about 8:00 a.m. - this, too, will be confirmed. The one item of equipment/tools that was mentioned was that a small trimmer would be very useful; the mordenite occurs in very small vugs in the basalt and will quite often fall out of the vug when you work on the rock. The trimmer can save a lot of very good specimens; and the situation explained above also indicated the need for small containers - capsules, pill-boxes, etc., in which to transport the delicate specimens.

Next was a quite lengthy discussion of the proposed (now confirmed) "Micro-Booth to be manned by our members at the NWFMS Convention/Show in Forest Grove, Oregon, on August 9 - 10 - 11, 1974.

In addition to the conventional booth with 'scopes and members to explain the micro-minerals, we will have one of the "automatic slide projectors" with a decided-upon 100 selected slides of micro minerals and, possibly, outstanding micro-collecting localities..

The special projector was brought to the meeting by Don Kendall and some of the selected slides were shown to give us an idea as to what the thing would look like. A considerable number of slides were "previewed" for quality and possible inclusion in the program. Members were asked to contribute selected slides for the program and were assured by Norm Steele that slides to be used would be duplicated; that the members original slides would not be used.

Norman Steele will duplicate,, caption and set up the slides for the program. Norm will ask for volunteers to 'man' our booth at the show and it is assumed that a "watch list" will be set up so that the booth will always be manned and that those willing and able to work at the booth can plan their free time accordingly. Don Kendall tells us that the booth will be in a very favorable spot on the show floor. Any later information/instructions will be sent out in a bulletin in time for the show.

Rudy Tschernich described and discussed a new locality for the rare zeolite, brewsterite. The locality is on Yellow Lake in British Columbia. Rudy drew a simplified sketch map of the blackboard so members will have a general idea of the locality but a detailed map will not be published for obvious reasons; more definite directions will be available to our members who wish to visit the spot.

Russ Boggs reported on x-ray identification of chabazite from Rock Island Dam (Washington) and - of special interest to those who have collected at the Kamloops, B.C. ferrierite locality - said that he had found that the strange and unknown crystals found on the etched- ut-of-calcite ferrierite crystals are an iron protocarbonate (siderite) formed by the reaction of HCl used to etch out the ferrierite. (This is a nam-made compound - not siderite)

Ford Wilson discussed the talk on ferrierite and dachardite given by Rudy T. at the 1973 Forest Grove meeting . He also described a new mineral from the Soviet Union which shows tetragonal striations on the cube face!! Ford has descriptive papers on pentagonite and cavansite from the Owyhee Dam locality. It was stated that the rare mineral pentagonite is of a lighter blue color than cavansite. (I will write to Ford for more details. BH)

The question of making up lists of localities was discussed. It was agreed that general localities will be described and a listing of minerals to be found will accompany the list but no detailed map will be distributed; more on this at a later date.

A number of U.S. Government publications now available at a nominal cost were discussed. Rudy T. will try to recap the publications for publication later.

Lee Kendall says that the facility at the University in Forest Grove will again be available for our fall meet. Detailed information will be distributed later

Norman Steele asks that any programs proposed for the Fall meeting be discussed with him as early as possible.

The secretary was asked about the proposed bulletin (The Micro Probe). The only answer is that if the membership wants a bulletin they must be willing to help write it. Anything which YOU think may be of help to your fellow Micro-mounters is acceptable. You do not need to be an expert writer - we are not "expert readers" so do your best and the editor will help when needed. SEND IT IN!!!

The meeting was adjourned at 5:00 p.m. in time for a "stretch" before dinner.

A count of noses (Ford said it should be 'mouth', not 'nose') and a glance at the bill for the ham (presented by Lee Kendall - who kindly took charge of the eatin' plans) showed that we could eat for a very modest 50¢ per 'mouth' - and a bigger 50 cents worth would be hard to find- for 'mouth or nose!! After the eatin' we all settled down to view a most interesting set of slides of the very productive zeolite localities of the Deccan basalt flows of India, presented by Rudy Tschernich. After which ended another enjoyable get-together.

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REPORT ON THE FIELD TRIP TO KOSMOS, WASHINGTON, JUNE 2, 1974 R. Tschernich

With half-rainy weather, 12 members turned out for the trip to Kosmos for zeolites. After a side trip to the Pe Ell Quarry which is now in operation, we arrived at the Kosmos locality. The cable was down and the road newly graded, so we had no difficulty parking along the cliff that contains the material we were looking for. Zeolites, including stilbite, heulandite and chabazite were abundant but the rare epistilbite was much harder to find. Russ Boggs pried loose a few boulders from the cliff which provided some epistilbite specimens for everyone; so all were satisfied and the trip ended in success. Many of the roads in the Kosmos area need much more scouting and careful examination of the very small crystals in the small vugs, unusual material will surely turn up.

PLANS FOR THE FIELD TRIP TO STEVENSON, WASHINGTON - Saturday, July 13, 1974

A one day trip to Stevenson, just east of Vancouver, WA, on the Columbia River is planned. Members will meet at 7:00 a.m. (the Minutes had it 8:00 but make it 7:00 instead - a better time) along the main street in Stevenson. From there we will leave for the locality on Rock Creek, just a few miles north of Stevenson. IF YOU PLAN TO ATTEND THE TRIP, DROP ME (Rudy Tschernich, 532 Avenue "A", Snohomish, WA 98290) A LINE SO THAT WE WILL NOT LEAVE WITHOUT YOU; but be there on time.

The trip will be over about 3 miles of fair to poor dirt road. All vehicles should be able to make it but I do not advise bringing large trailers for the parking area where we collect is not large; plenty of areas to drop off trailers on the way to the locality are available.

EVEN IF YOU KNOW WHERE THE LOCALITY IS, PLEASE MEET IN STEVENSON SO WE CAN GO TOGETHER.

The area is known for very fine mordenite in the form of beautiful white needle sprays setting on pink to red heulandite. The greenish-black mineral, clinocllore, often makes the specimens attractive. The material occurs in vugs varying from 1/4" to several inches across and is very abundant. Collecting is at several places - one near a waterfall, others along the road. Spots along the road should be collected in the morning or the evening for they are very hot if the sun is out. The creek is an excellent place to cool off; good deep pools are present for swimming or just getting wet and the waterfall is a good place for a shower! This is a good locality for material and a fine place to enjoy some hot weather - - I hope! No plans are made for Sunday.

COLLECTING LOCALITY NEWS:

Some very fine material is being found at the Port Ludlow Quarry near Mats Mats Bay on Hoods Canal, Washington. The quarry is one of the largest in the Northwest and one of the most active. Zeolites are present: laumontite, analcime, thomsonite, natrolite; plus calcite. But the unusual occurrence is the presence of several copper-bearing minerals. Native copper, both in analcime and free-growing is present. Very fine chalcocite (twinned) crystals, often coated with tarnished (blue, red, purple colors) chalcopyrite is present as small crystals on the zeolites. Other copper minerals, not yet identified, are present. Because the quarry is very active permission to collect is a problem.

ERRATA:

Rechecking the writeup of the Minutes of the June 1 meeting at the Heilman home in Raymond, Washington revealed that I had neglected to record the number of persons attending the meeting so to correct the omission:

Total attendance, counting the young ones, etc., was 30. Not a too-large attendance but considering the very real likelihood of gasoline shortages, etc., which faced all of us at the time the meeting date was finalized, the attendance was not all that small.

Bob Hagglund, Sec.

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In recent years we have continually heard reports on the closure of an ever-increasing number of acres of Public Lands thru the efforts of the ultra-conservationists; the pressure seems to grow greater with each passing day.

It seems appropriate to mention here that this is a situation which concerns each of us. There is a certain amount of argument that we, as strictly mineral collectors, are not much concerned with these closures. I believe that anyone who carefully reviews the closures made to date and the concepts under which the closure advocates work will realize that it does indeed concern us!

2 Most of us (if not all) belong to societies which are affiliated with the AFMS, either through the Northwest Federation (most of us), the California Federation, or (a few) the British Columbia or other Canadian organizations. But no matter with what organization we affiliate, we are all collectors of both private and public lands and, so, are certainly concerned with any activities which tend to deny these collecting areas to us.

We hear entirely too much cussing and discussing the Sierra Club, the Friends of Earth, and other like organizations. This is not the answer - we do not have to agree with their views but we certainly will not solve our problems by calling names! We need to take much more positive action.

A start would be to use our influence within our own home clubs to get the membership to give full support to Federation activities; and it does not matter too much whether or not these activities are directly connected with the public lands legislative problems - - ANY ACTIVITY WHICH IS SPONSORED BY OUR FEDERATIONS AND WHICH OUR MEMBERSHIP MAKES SUCCESSFUL ADDS STRENGTH AND STATURE TO THE FEDERATION INVOLVED, THEREBY MAKING THEIR RECOMMENDATIONS ON OTHER ACTIONS CARRY MUCH MORE WEIGHT. - - - - - TRY IT - - - YOU'LL LIKE IT! ! ! ! ! !

Northwest Micro-Mineral Study Group

"the MICRO PROBE"

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(Our Mineral Stamp)

