MICROMOUNTERS OF NEW ENGLAND
ANNOUNCEMENT - NEWS-LETTER
SPRING MEETING AT THE
HOME OF LEO J. WITKOWSKI
10 WICKLOW STREET, WINDSOR LOCKS, CONN.
FROM 12 M. to 6 P.M. ON SATURDAY
MAY 3, 1969

REPORT ON THE WINTER-SPRING MEETING AT CENTRAL FALLS, R.I. ON SATURDAY, MARCH 8, 1969

The last meeting of the Micromounters of New England was held at the James Stanton Post, American Legion Hall in Central Falls, R.I. on Saturday, March 8, 1969. Members were present from Mass., Rhode Island, and also some micromounters from Conn., including Neal Yedlin(Mr. Micromounter himself) and the Witkowski's (old friends, at whose home the next meeting will be held May 3, 1969).

About 20 people were present and all enjoyed viewing Neal's wonderful color slides of some of his rare minerals. Neal does a spectacular job of photographing his superb micros. The meeting ran overtime as Neal had brought a lot of slides. Time goes so fast at these meetings that other members could not get to show their slides!

A meeting will be held in July at the home of John Reiner on the 19th and a field trip to Palermo is planned for the next day. John Reiner who lives in Center Harbor, New Hampshire and writes for "Rocks & Minerals" will be the host.

Information was exchanged on new collecting sites and many micro specimens changed hands. This is a good way to get some of the rare minerals and to build up a study collection which can help you with your own identification of minerals in your collection. You will have to do a lot of studying, but having a specimen will aid in this respect. The identification of some of the unknowns that each micromounter has is always the highlight of each meeting.

Every collector of micros always ends up with many unknowns. The only way to go about getting them identified is to show them to another collector and see if he can identify them. In this way we all share our knowledge. This is why a meeting of micromounters is so useful and interesting to fellow-members.

As a group, most micromounters are more versed in mineralogy, since many more minerals occur in micros and not as larger specimens. Why not come to one of the meetings and see what it's all about?

THE Rhode Island Roadcut. -by G. George.

Route 114 Road Cut at Grant Mills, Cumberland, R.I.

In the late Fall of 1964 a portion of route 114 and the junction of route 121 at Grant Mills was reconstructed. This required blasting through an outcrop of rock near the intersection of the two roads. This rock is a portion of the Quincy Granite that occurs in the northeast section of Rhode Island. This rock has long been known to contain rare minerals as at Quincy and Rockport, Mass. Blasting revealed a pegmatite vein at the contact of the country rock. This vein is rich in the once rare mineral, Danalite, both in massive form as well in Xls. A vein of Basalt also occurs here and is probably of later age.

The minerals occuring here are: Aegerine, Anatase, Astrophyllite, Azurite, Biotite, Brookite, Calcite, Chalcopyrite, Chlorite, Chrysocolla, Cryophyllite, Copper(native), Danalite, Feldspar, Fluorite, Galena, Goethite, Greenockite, Hematite, Hornblende, Hyalite, Ilmenite, Magnetite, Malachite, Pyrite, Pyrolusite, Parisite, Quartz, Riebeckite, Siderite, Smithsonite, Sphalerite, Zinnwaldite, Zircon and probably more not noted.

The rare mineral, Danalite, occurs here in micro to 3" Xls as well as massive. Prior to being found at this location, Danalite was usually found as massive pieces or in micro Xls. The first Xl found was a 3/4" Xl in Quartz and was identified by Dr. Alonzo W. Quinn of Brown University. Single Xls to 3" (mostly crude Xls in larger sizes) have been found at this location. Danalite can still be collected at this location. It is associated with Fluorite, Ilmenite, Siderite, Sphalerite, Feldspar, Quartz and rarely Aegerine. The color at this location is usually some shade of red, mostly pink to reddish-brown. The Xls are sometimes arranged in parallel groupings. The larger Xls seem to be made up of many small Xls with inclusions of Fluorite, Ilmenite and Siderite.

Parisite is another rare mineral found here. It was found by Steve Cares of Sudbury, Mass., a real active micromounter. Parisite was found in one pocket and occured here only in micro Xls of a brownish-yellow color associated with Feldspar. The Xls are usually crude hexagonal prisms with horizontal striations like other members of the same rare earth group - Cordylite and Bastnaesite.

Brookite occurs here as micro Xls of a colorless to greenish color. These tabular Xls often show color zoning or phantom structure. Brookite is a highly reflective mineral and it usually occurs with Anatase in Feldspar The Anatase occurs in long octahedral dipyramidal Xls with horizontal striations. The color of these Xls at this location are bluish to greenish. They are also highly reflective. These were also found by Steve Cares in one pocket.

Greenockite occurs here as bright yellow earthy coatings on Quartz and Siderite. It is usually found near Sphalerite from which it probably altered No single Xls of any size have been noted from here. It was positively identified by Harvard University. It is relatively common at this road cut.

Riebeckite occurs in dark blue prismatic Xls with strong pleochroism; X-deep blue, Y-lighter blue, and Z-greenish. The color changes are only seen in small crushed fragments under high magnification as the color of the Xls is so dark as to appear black. It is common at this location, where it occurs in Quartz and Feldspar. It also occurs in the old Granite Quarries nearby on Calumet Hill, as do most of the minerals found at the road cut. At the old quarries Thetis hair stone (Riebeckite in Quartz) was used as a gem stone when the quarries were being worked. The fibrous blue variety Crocidolite also occurs at Calumet Hill but was not found at the road cut, to my knowledge.

Aegerine occurs here as green prismatic Xls with a strong pleochrism; X-dark green, Y-light green and Z-yellow. It is common at this location. It occurs associated with Quartz, Feldspar, Fluorite and rarely Danalite.

The native Copper occured on Quartz fractures where it was deposited after the alteration of Chalcopyrite. Only a few specimens were found.

The Feldspar, Fluorite and some of the Micas showed alteration. Some specimens of Galena showed alteration. Several of the minerals listed were found only in minor amounts.

Zircon occurs here in massive collections of extremely small Xls and fluoresces a dull orange color.

Fluorite occurs here usually in a dark purple color, although it also is found in a light blue to greenish hue. The purple Fluorite is not fluorescent but is phosphorescent, after being exposed to a regular light bulb.

(continued)

Many of the listed minerals can still be found both at the road cut and at the nearby Diamond Hill State Park where some of the rock was used for fill for the large parking lot. When collecting at the road cut, do not park on route 114 but please park on the nearby side street to avoid danger from passing cars.