

Whitmoreite



# MICROMOUNTERS OF NEW ENGLAND

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NEWSLETTER # 71

April 16, 1982

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Our next event is the long awaited meeting at the Science Museum, in Springfield, Mass., on May 1. In addition to the events listed below we will also have a 16 page program booklet with about ten articles of current interest. We will have some extra copies printed which will be sold to anyone interested for \$2. Everyone attending will receive a copy free as well as be treated to the catered lunch. What more could you ask for only \$7?

## PROGRAM

9:30 - 10:00  
10:00 - 12:00  
12:00 - 1:00  
1:00 - 2:00

Registration  
Work session  
Lunch  
Talk & slide presentation  
Non-Pegmatite Phosphate  
Minerals by  
Dr. William (Bill) Henderso  
Work session

2:00 - 4:00

At about 3PM we will have the doorprize drawings.

The next scheduled meeting will be on Saturday, July 17, 1982, at the Reiner's followed by a day of collecting at Palermo on the 18th.

We would like to welcome the following new members.

Mr. James W. Grandy  
524 Brooksvale Avenue  
Hampden, CT 06518

Mr. & Mrs. Domenic Bramante  
878 West Street  
Attleboro, MA 02703

Congratulations to Vi and Ross Anderson, of Toronto, on their 50th wedding anniversary, to be celebrated on April 23rd.

Apparently interest in Phosphate minerals is not limited to North America. Recent correspondence from a micro mineral contact in Nauru, Australia (Collin Price) indicates that there is currently considerable activity there with respect to the phosphates as well. Culled from his correspondence and excellent material are the following notes.

The area of chief interest is the hematite quarries of the Iron Knob area, in South Australia on the western side of Spencer's Gulf. These are immense modern quarrying operations and consist primarily of two properties, the Iron Monarch and the Iron Prince. The information here pertains primarily to the Iron Monarch Mine.

There are 18 species of phosphates (some rare) and a number of other assorted species as listed below;

<u>Phosphates</u> - Woodhouseite	Kleemanite	Cyrilovite	Strengite
Dufrenite	Turquoise	Wardite	Laueite?
Kidwellite	Wavellite	Millisite	Mitridatite?
Montgomeryite	Crandallite	Apatite	
Paravauxite	Gorceixite	Variscite	
<u>Other Species</u> - Hematite	Hausmannite	Siderite	
Quartz	Jacobsite	Goethite	
Barite	Franklinite	Psilomelane	
Pyrolusite	Alunite	Haeterolite	
Manganite	Calcite	Lepidocrocite	
Malachite	Gypsum	Ramsdellite pseudo after Grouitit	
		Native copper and silver from deep drill cores.	

This is an impressive list, but so are the descriptions he offers of some of these species.

"Some few years ago there was a standing wall in the quarry some fifty feet long and about twelve feet high that was a mass of yellowish material. Nobody bothered to look at it much; in fact there were no mineral collectors among any of the staff, and of course no interest was shown except to keep a few slabs of it 'just for fun'. This turned out to be cyrilovite and cyrilovite pseudo after strengite, exceedingly rare species. Now that the whole bloody wall has gone through the furnaces we find out about it,"

Fortunately as he points out there is still some small amount of this material about in the form of minute yellow bow-ties associated with kidwellite and green rockbridgeite.

Another controversial species which forms beautiful raspberry red crystals is something referred to as ferroan variscite. This should make it Strengite but apparently there is good evidence that it is still variscite.

Kleemanite is the rarest of the species from the deposit, being known in only three specimens.

Jacobsite forms brilliant black modified octahedrons but is very hard to collect as it occurs in small round hard lumps in masses of powdery manganese. That ought to be pretty hard on the clothing.

Other items I have received include excellent flat tabular crystals of strengite, fine sprays of hydroxylapatite on hematite, and white chalky crandallite grading into minute transparent platy crystals.

All of the material from the mine appears to be quite small and some is poorly crystallized but, for the species listed, offers a very good array of items.