

MICROMOUNTERS OF NEW ENGLANDANNOUNCEMENT - NEWS-LETTERWINTER - SPRING MEETING AT THEJAMES STANTON POST - AMERICAN LEGION HALL768 LONSDALE AVE., CENTRAL FALLS, R.I.ON SATURDAY, MARCH 8, 1969: FROM 12M TO 6:00 P.M.MAP ENCLOSED (FOR OUT-OF-STATERS)W H Y M I C R O - M O U N T I N G ?

Micro-mounting is more than a "hobby". It starts out as an adjunct to the "Rockhounding" experience. A friend, already engrossed, shows you a fascinating mount through the magic lens. This picture of perfection and beauty is what will start you as a micromounter. From then on you will never be disappointed on a field trip. These small minerals that have been overlooked and thrown aside for years will be yours for viewing and study. Your Mineral Horizons will never be reached and the knowledge and beauty of form and color to be had will be limitless. -RLC, Jr.

R.I. NEWS-FLASH - by Gilbert George.

New Find at Route 295 Road Cut in Cranston, R.I.

Most mineral collectors had thought that Rhode Island was, but for minor exceptions, devoid of unusual mineral specimens. There are only a few operating quarries in Rhode Island. However, recent finds at the new federally sponsored roads have changed all that. In 1967 a new circumferential road, Rte. 295, around Providence was started. Not much showed up until construction was started at the intersection with Phoenix Ave., Cranston. This road cut is next to one of the few operating quarries in the State. This quarry is being operated for road metal and asphalt.

Many veins of quartz occur in the rock at this location. Some of the veins had pockets of smoky quartz crystals. Many different minerals have been found here and new ones are being found continually, most of them being micro in size. In December a Quartz vein was found that had the mineral Galena as the principal sulphide. The Galena had been originally granular, so this led to its being altered more easily. Many beautiful specimens have been removed since its discovery. The Quartz vein (Feb.) continues to yield good specimens. Most of the minerals here are the same as those found at the Manhan River location in Easthampton, Mass.

The most common alteration mineral is Pyromorphite. This occurs in many colors from light green to almost an emerald green, yellow, gray, brown, pink, and almost colorless. It is usually found as a botroidal group of radiating crystals, although it occasionally occurs in straight to tapering as well as in bulging hex prisms. Many of the hex prisms have a darker colored tip of green. Many of them seem to have replaced Cerussite crystals.

The next common alteration mineral is Wulfenite, which occurs here in orange to orange-brown to rarely yellow crystals. Specimens with Wulfenite crystals on the green pyromorphite make a striking specimen. The Wulfenite here occurs in tetragonal prisms, squares, square plates, tapering prisms, dipyrimidial crystals and in hopper forms - in short, it occurs in all the forms listed in Dana's Vol. II.

The next most common secondary mineral found is Cerrusite, which can be colorless, tan, white, greenish and blackish from inclusions, and pink. It occurs here in many crystal forms, tabular to complex twins, many pseudo-hexagonal (dipyromidal), rarely twinned into a spline shape. These are well formed crystals, and are plentiful at this location.

Another secondary mineral that occurs here is Anglesite. It is found as coatings that are yellow, greenish to colorless. It occasionally occurs in small crystals. Anglesite from here fluoresces in an orange color. It is fairly common at this location.

Much of the Galena contains Silver. Quite a few specimens of both wire and crystal forms of native silver occur here in the cavities where Galena was originally. Many of the native silver specimens seem to be half breeds of Silver and native Copper. These specimens tarnish readily to a blackish color.

The primary minerals, in this vein, are Quartz, Feldspar, Galena, Muscovite, Mica, Chlorite, Pyrite, Chalcopyrite, Marcasite, Molybdenite and Apatite. Other minerals occurred as well but now only their casts are left.

Other secondary minerals that are found here are Goethite, Limonite, Wad, Pyrolusite, Chrysocolla, Montmorillonite, Leucoxene, Anatase and Rutile. In addition to these minerals, many other secondary minerals have been found, but have not as yet been positively identified.

This exposure is small in size, about 30 by 15 feet. Considering its small size, a tremendous number of specimens have been collected here by members of the "Rhode Island Mineral Hunters", "The Micromounters of New England" and the Boston Mineral Club.

This is the first News-Letter of "The Micromounters of New England. Suggestions as to further issues and also contributions of articles of interest will be gratefully accepted.

Ralph L. Carr, Jr., Corresponding Secretary.
25 Farnum Road
Warwick, R.I. 02883