

MICROMOUNTERS OF NEW ENGLAND NEWSLETTER

February, 2001

no. 228

The MMNE was organized on November 8, 1966, for the purpose of promoting the study of minerals that require a microscope

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Next Meeting

March 17th, Auburn, MA
Public Library

Dues are \$7.00/year and due
on January 1st, payable to
the Treasurer.

News items for the Newsletter
are welcome and should be
submitted to the Editor.
The Newsletter may be quoted if
credit is given.
The Club address is c/o Editor.

Next meeting

The next meeting of the MMNE will be held on February 17th at the Northborough, MA Public Library, from 9:30 AM until 3 PM. A slide projector has been reserved for anyone wishing to present a program with visual aids.

Future meetings

March 17th – Auburn, MA Public Library
April 21 – Sudbury, MA Public Library
May 20th – Moose Lodge, Marlborough, MA

Member news

As noted in last month's newsletter, MMNE member Forrest Fogg passed away on December 28th, 2000 after a period of illness. I have also been informed by Pat Barker that MMNE member Eugene Mechler of Brighton, ME has passed away. Our thoughts and condolences go out to their friends and families.

Club notes

Remember, the annual May meeting is not that far off. As the sales and giveaway tables are always very popular at this event, the club is actively seeking sales or free material in the form of specimens, books, magazines, reprints, etc. If anyone has minerals to donate for the sales table in May, please contact Hal Herard at (508) 755-5947. Giveaways are to be given to Gene Bearss or Bob Janules.

Dues are still due at \$7 per member. Dues should be mailed to the new membership chairman, Brian Porter:

Brian Porter
355 Walsh Ave.
Newington, CT 06111

Membership will be dropped if dues are not paid by March 31, 2001

Rochester Symposium

I received the following email from Quintin Wight, a well-known Canadian micromounter:

For the second year, the Rochester Mineralogical Symposium (RMS) will have a special room set aside for micromounters to enjoy their aspect of the hobby. Those wishing to take part in micromount activities should be aware that the hotel is making a significant charge for the room, and that the RMS committee is funding it for our benefit. We must take care, therefore, to ensure that our use of the facilities does not constitute a further burden for the RMS. Please make certain that you come equipped with everything you need, including extra power cords. Since space is limited, prospective users should get in touch with

Quintin Wight
525 Fielding Drive
Ottawa, ON
K1V 7G7
Canada

tel: (613) 526-4868
email: qwight@sympatico.ca

Calendar of upcoming events

Feb. 24-25, 2001, Meriden, CT. Mineral-Fossil-Gem Show, sponsored by the Meriden Mineral Club. Maloney High School, Gravel St., Meriden, CT. Exit 16 off I-91, west on East Main, 3rd right.
Hours: 10 AM – 5 PM.

March 17, 2001, Auburn, MA. Monthly MMNE meeting. Auburn Public Library.

March 25-25, 2001, East Windsor, CT. 15th Annual Gem & Mineral Show, sponsored by the Connecticut Valley Mineral Club. Best Western Colonial Inn, East Windsor, CT; Exit 45 off I-91.

March 30-April 1, 2001, College Park, MD. 29th Annual Micromounters Conference, sponsored by Micromounters of the National Capital Area. University of Maryland, College Park, MD.
Info: Steve Weinberger, PO Box 302, Glyndon, MD 21071-0302 <cwenber@bcpl.net>

April 19-22, 2001, Rochester, NY. 28th Rochester Mineralogical Symposium. Radisson Inn, 175 Jefferson Rd., Rochester, NY. Info: PO Box 85, Manlius, NY 13104-0085.

April 21, 2001, Sudbury, MA. Monthly MMNE meeting. Sudbury Public Library.

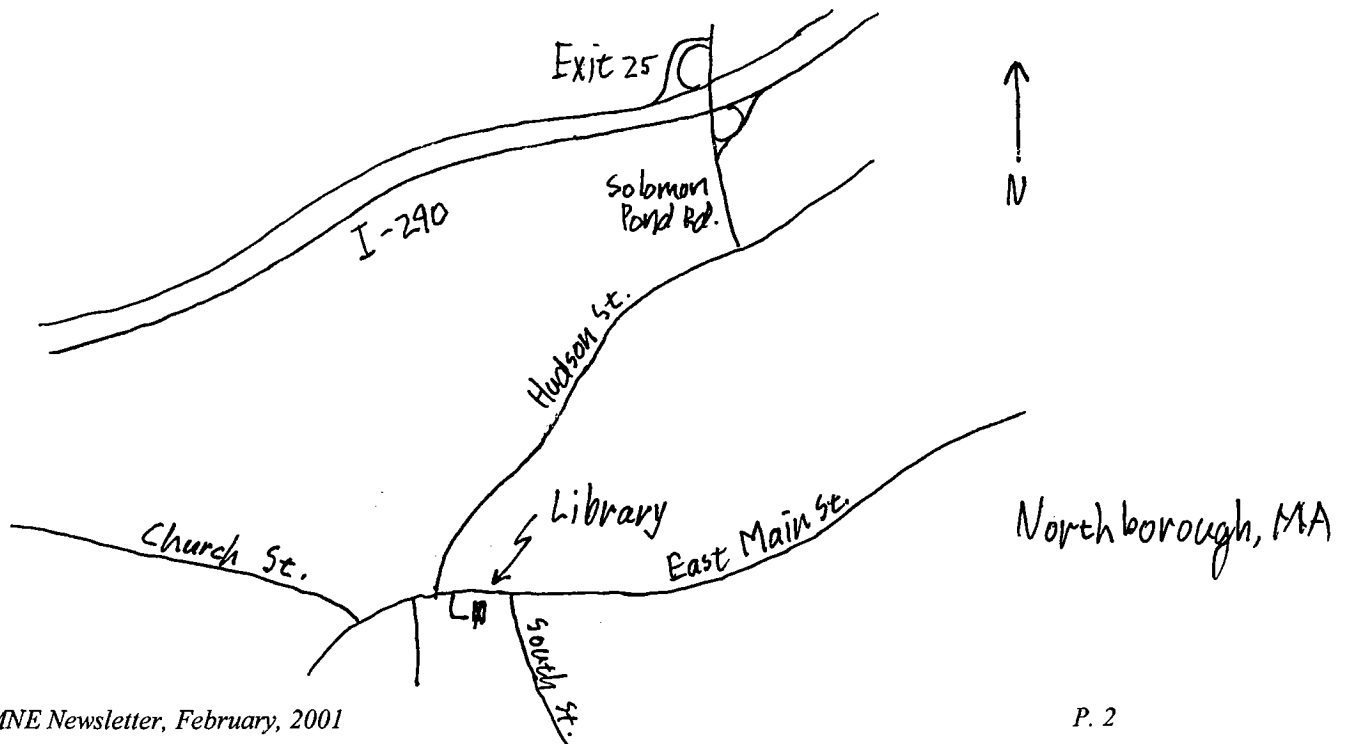
May 20 (Sunday), 2001, Marlboro, MA. MMNE Northeast Meeting. Moose Lodge, Marlboro, MA.

Harvard Museum exhibition on tourmaline

Romancing the Stone: The Many Facets of Tourmaline

The Harvard Museum of Natural History (HMNH) has announced a new exhibition devoted to tourmaline. The exhibition will showcase Harvard's extensive collection of tourmalines. Maine tourmalines are represented as both specimens and in fine jewelry. The latter includes the *Hamlin Necklace*, which contains 70 stones weighing a total of 228.1 carats. Other features of the exhibition include the mining of tourmaline and the minerals' natural history.

The exhibition will run from Saturday, February 10, 2001 until Sunday, January 20, 2002.



EUGENE A. MECHLER

The Micromounters will be saddened to learn that our member Eugene Mechler passed away at age 87 at his home in Deland, Florida on January 31, 2001.

Gene graduated with a Master's Degree from Columbia University as an electrical engineer. He worked for IBM for three years; becoming interested in the new studies about radar, a subject that would fascinate him all his life. He joined the Army Air Corps in World War II and was stationed at the Aircraft Radio Laboratory at Wright Field in Dayton, Ohio. Mrs. Mechler remembers that he was sent to Washington, DC several times to testify on the possible extended military use of radar. At first his claims were met with disbelief, but eventually he prevailed. The success of radar in World War II in bombing land targets and in the search for submarines is well known. While in the Air Corps he was assigned for 6 months at installations in Africa and Sicily, setting up radar equipment.

After Gene was discharged, he accepted a teaching post at Texas A&M for a short time, but then joined the Franklin Institute in Philadelphia for 10 years, continuing his radar research. Next he worked at RCA for 20 years working on radar studies and satellite monitoring. The last 6 years that he was connected with RCA he was "on loan" to MIT.

The Mechlers had purchased a summer cottage on Woods Pond in Bridgeton, Maine where he and his wife, Alice and three daughters enjoyed their summer vacations for the past 26 years. Several years later they were able to purchase a year-round house next door. At this family compound their relatives and friends meet for birthdays and holiday celebrations. Their close friend, Irene Palmer, recalls how Gene loved the view and the sunsets from their Woods Pond home.

In 1976, after his very distinguished career, Gene retired, and they moved to a home in Deland, Florida for the winter months.

Over the years Gene's keen interest in nature and particularly in minerals and lapidary crafts led him to join the Oxford, Maine Mineral and Gem Association, the Saco Valley Mineral Club, and the Micromounters of New England. In Florida he belonged to the Deland Gem and Mineral Club.

His many interests including stamp collecting and woodworking. Micromounters will remember the delightful wooden toys and puzzles that he used to make for the sale table at our May Reunion Meeting. These were very popular. We also will remember the big bowls of strawberries that he brought to the Fielding's potluck meetings!

Gene's quiet presence at New England mineral summer meetings and shows will be greatly missed.

Pat Berry Barker

Thanks to Alice Mechler and her friend, Irene Palmer, and to the Bridgeton News

FORREST FRANKLIN FOGG

On December 29th, 2000, the Micromounters of New England lost a much-loved member. Forrest Franklin Fogg was 80.

Forrest was a member of the New Hampshire Fish and Game Department as a game biologist for more than 30 years. He thoroughly enjoyed his work and was well known in this field. Even as a boy in Lowell, and Saugus, MA he loved the outdoors: hunting, fishing, and enjoying the natural world. He learned to tie fishing flies and became an expert at this skill.

After a stint in the Army Air Corps in World War II as an airplane mechanic, he studied for his B. S. in wildlife management at the University of Maine at Orono. It was at this time that he took a course in geology, and from that time he became as interested in mineralogy as he was in fish and game biology!

In May of 1974 Forrest and Bob Whitmore were able to purchase the mineral rights to the Palermo Mine in North Groton, NH. Their aim was to preserve this famous location for scientific study and as a place where mineral enthusiasts could collect. At this present time 134 distinct mineral species have been gathered from Palermo Mine I. Over the months Forrest Fogg and Bob Whitmore became famous for their energetic and very successful collecting of rare phosphates. In The American Mineralogist in 1975, they were honored by professors at the University of Chicago: Dr. Paul Moore, A.J. Irving, and A.R. Kampf by having two of their newly discovered "unknown phosphates" from Palermo Mine named Foggite and Whitmoreite.

Over the years Forrest Fogg has donated a suite of Palermo Minerals to Harvard University and to other college and private mineral collections all over the world.

In 1951 Forrest met his life-long partner Vera Fitt, and they both were very active in New England mineralogical clubs. Both Forrest and Vera held offices in the Capital Mineral Club and served on countless committees at the annual Sunapee Mineral and Gem Show at Sunapee State Park.

Forrest was a keen micromineralogist and an early member of the Micromounters of New England. Every year in early October, the Foggs have hosted a monthly meeting, one of the most enjoyable in the Club calendar. At peak foliage season members looked forward to visiting the Foggs at their lovely hilltop home surrounded by Forrest's beautiful flower and bountiful vegetable gardens.

Other talents Forrest developed were in the jewelry and mineral crafts. He mastered silversmithing and learned to cut and polish gem materials. Vera proudly wears the imaginative and lovely jewelry he made for her. One of his favorite materials was the beautiful deep blue scorzalite from his beloved Palermo Mine. At one time Forrest and

Vera thought they might open a little jewelry and mineral business. They even picked out a name, Vera's pet name for Forrest: "Timber Mist,"

"Timber Mist" or Forrest Fogg, we'll remember him as an admirer and student of all things in the natural world and as a very dear friend.

Pat Berry Barker

Special thanks to Bob Whitmore, and also to Quentin B. Leo (NH Fish and Game), Norm Biggart, various Rocks and Mineral articles and, of course, Vera.