MICROMOUNTERS OF NEW ENGLAND

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NEWSLETTER #40 JANUARY 2, 1978

The next regular meeting of the Club will be at the home of John and Sue Anderson, in Walpole, Mass., Saturday January 14, 1978. In case of bad weather, the meeting will be rescheduled to January 21, 1978. If there is any doubt about weather conditions, call the Anderson's at 617-668-2008.

postponed to

The enclosed map shows the route to the Anderson's from Walpole (intersection of routes 27 and 1A).

Hopefully, we will have more information on the part we can play in adding to Harvard's micromount collection. Also, the micromounters group from the Nassau (Long Island) Club has written a letter thanking us for our cooperation, when we met at Harvard, in November. I would like to ask everyone planning to attend the January meeting to bring 10 or 15 labelled micromounts to be sent to their group as part of a swap. Each specimen should be in an envelope, box or glued to something suitable for packaging. They will send us a return package at a later date. For this first package, lets send something from New England or adjacent Canada, and from a locality not often frequented by the outside collector.

FRANCON QUARRY

Strontianite $SrCO_3$ in Francon Quarry has a great variety of form, it is most often seen in limestone as radiating tufts or balls of white acicular crystals but at Francon this form is unusual. Francon crystals are usually much stouter and less delicate.

One form is a radiating cluster composed of crystals having a base to length ratio of 1:3. Individuals from these clusters may be up to 5mm in length. The cross section is roughly circular, the whole being cone shaped.

Singles of the above crystaline cluster are quite often seen on their side, when they have the appearance of double cones joined at the base. Some of these have acicular projections extending from the ends parallel to the length.

The forms described above are sometimes more massive. These will sometimes terminate in a flat surface or a wedge shape.

Probably the most unusual is the "worm"shape. These are curving cylinders with hemispherical ends,composed of crystalites radiating from the center. They are up to a centimeter in length and have a cross section of about 2mm. The surface is irregular being mainly composed of rough terminations. A broken cross section shows the radiating crystalites solidly filling the interior. In nearly every case the center has dark inclusions, probably sulphides.

Strontiodresserite and hydrodresserite, two minerals from Francon Quarry have recently been described and nemed in the Canadian Minera logist Vol. 15 part 3.

Dresserite	$BaAl_2(CO_3)_2OH_4 \cdot H_2O$
Strontiodresserite	$SrAl_2(CO_3)_2OH_4 \cdot H_2O$
Hydrodresserite	$BaAl_2(CO_3)_2OH_4 \cdot H_2O$

The hydrodresserite is distinctive and can be easily recognized under the microscope. You may have some in your Francon material. Both Strontiodresserite and Dresserite are orthorhombic but Hydrodresserite is triclinic. Dresserite usually occurs in spheres up

NOTE: Francon and Black Hills information taken from the Canadian Micromounters Bulletin via Cleves Dodge.

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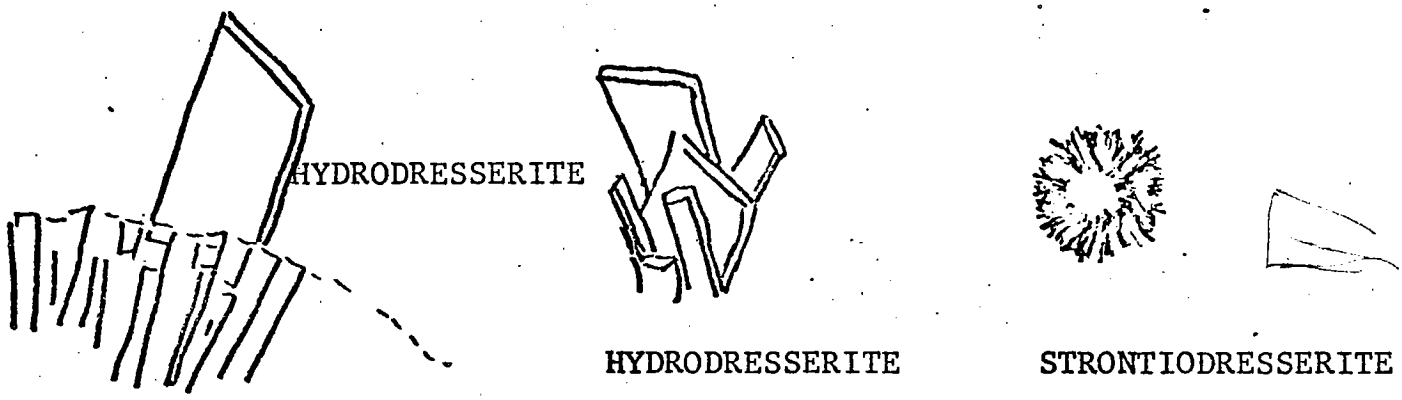
FRANCON QUARRY (cont)

to 2mm in diameter which when broken disclose a silky fibrous radiating structure. The terminations seem flat at the circumference of the sphere. Hydrodresserite will often form a loose clump of crystals which might be mistaken for Dresserite but the Hydrodresserite crystals have an angular termination. They are clear to cloudy rather than silky. The Hydrodresserite will often be found growing on the Dresserite balls, taking its orientation from the Dresserite. The Hydrodresserite can nearly always be seen as individual crystals.

Strontiodresserite is described as vitreous to silky white coatings some of which are atoll shaped.



NEW MINERALS DISCOVERED IN BLACK HILLS OF SOUTH DAKOTA (Dec. 1976)

William Roberts, curator of mineralogy at the S.Dakota Museum of Mines and Technology, has discovered three totally new minerals. They have been named Robertsite, Segelerite and Jahnsite. All were found in the Tip-Top mine near Custer, South Dakota.

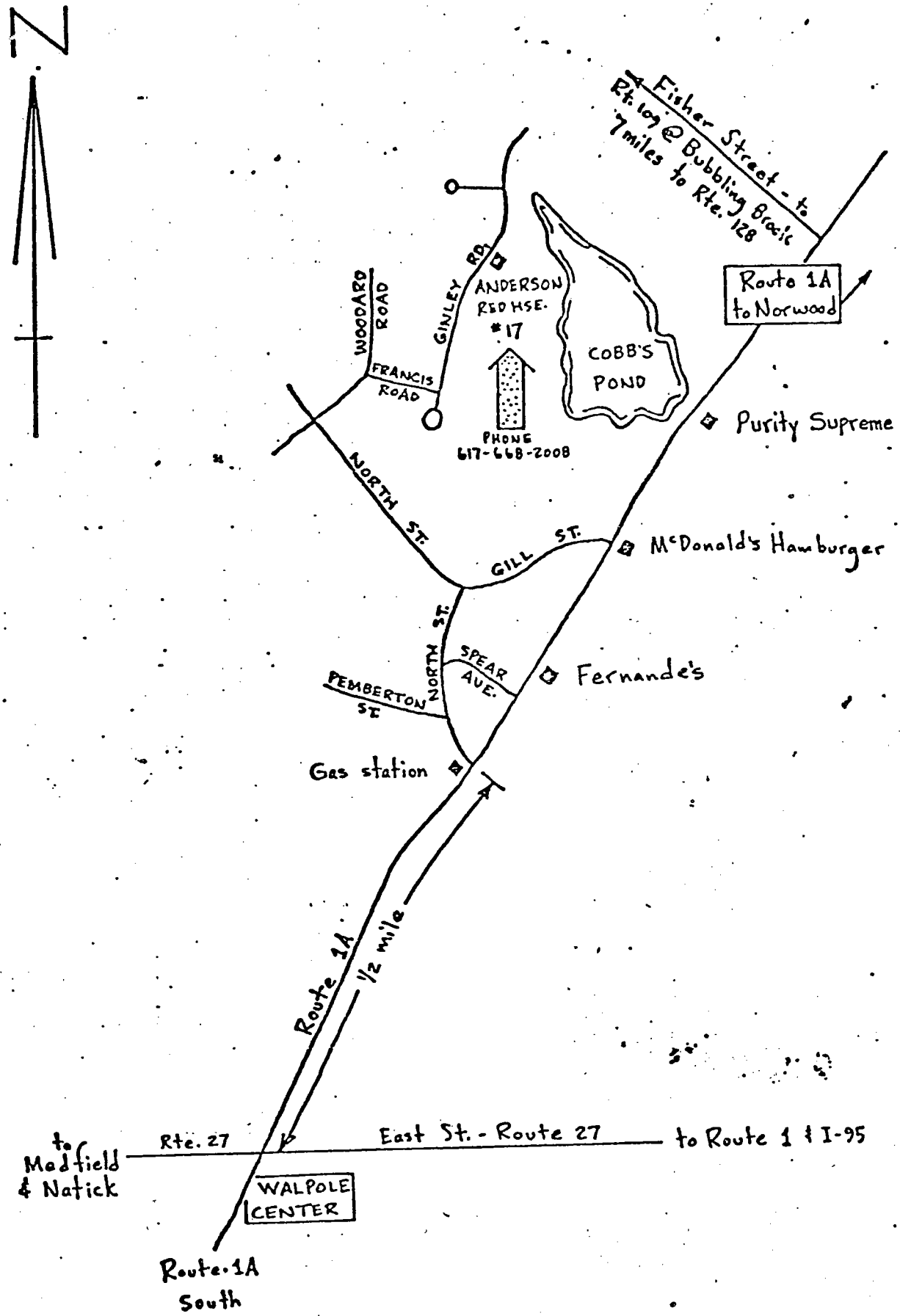
The minerals were X-rayed, chemically analysed at the Tech Experimental Station, and the data mailed to Dr. Paul D. Moore of the University of Chicago for further research. The findings have been sent to members of the International Committee on Minerals and and New Mineral Names in several countries.

The International Committee has approved the description and names of the new minerals as follows:

JAHNSITE - minute crystals(under one quarter inch size) of nut brown, yellow-orange, or greenish -yellow colors. Named for Professor Richard H. Jahns, Dean of Earth Science, Stanford University.

SEGELERITE - Microscopic crystals, pale yellow to chartreuse to colorless. Named for Curt Segeler, an amateur mineralogist of Broadland, New York. Mr. Segeler has done extensive work with micromounts.

ROBERTSITE - Crystals of up to one quarter inches across,which cover areas as large as three to four inches in size. Named for finder, Mr. Roberts, Curator of Mineralogy at South Dakota Museum of Geology.


N
Fisher Street - to Rt. 109 @ Bubbling Brook 7 miles to Rte. 128
Route 1A to Norwood
ANDERSON RED HSE. #17
GINLEY RD.
WOODARD ROAD
FRANCIS ROAD
COBB'S POND
PHONE 617-668-2008
Purity Supreme
NORTH ST.
GILL ST.
McDonald's Hamburger
NORTH ST.
SPEAR AVE.
Fernande's
PEMBERTON ST.
Gas station
Route 1A
1/2 mile
to Medfield & Natick
Rte. 27
East St. - Route 27
to Route 1 & I-95
WALPOLE CENTER
Route 1A South

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NOTICE OF JANUARY MEETING:

NEXT SCHEDULED MEETING - SATURDAY, FEB. 4, 1978

STORM DATE - SAT., FEB. 11, 1978

LOCATION: THE ANDERSON'S 617-668-2008

DON'T FORGET TO BRING 10 OR 15 MICROS FOR OUR EXCHANGE PACKAGE

MICROMOUNTERS HOLD SPRING ROUNDUP

The Micro Mineralogists of the National Capital Area are sponsoring their Seventh (7th) Spring Roundup for Micromounters on April 1 and 2, 1978. It will be held at the Adult Education Center—Maryland University, Adelphi Road, University Boulevard and Campus Drive, College Park, Maryland. The Center has lodging and dining facilities. An excellent cross-section of speakers, mineral photographers and dealers have been invited to participate.

Maryland University is located at the doorstep of the Nation's Capital and springtime in Washington has many offerings. Why not take a few extra days and see some of them. Just a few: the cherry blossoms may be in bloom; no mineralogist or micomounter would think of leaving the area without a visit to the Smithsonian Institution; the Hirshhorn Museum and Sculpture Garden is another attraction; then there is Mount Vernon just across the river in Virginia; along with many other historical and beautiful sights. To be put on the mailing list for further information write: Ruth Cole Wertz, Roundup Chairman, 9707 Sutherland Road, Silver Spring, Maryland 20901. ⊕