MICROMOUNTERS OF NEW ENGLAND
ANNOUNCEMENT - NEWS-LETTER
SUMMER MEETING
& FIELD TRIP
PLACE: HOME OF JOHN REINER
CENTER HARBOR, N. H. 03226
SATURDAY - 7/19/69 FROM 12 M.-6 P.M.
SUNDAY - FIELD TRIP TO PALERMO QUARRY,
NORTH GROTON, N. H.
7/20/69.

On Saturday, July 19, 1969 a meeting of the Micromounters of New England will be held at the home of Mr. John Reiner. The meeting will begin at 12 Noon and last until 6 P.M. Slides will be shown. Bring Minerals from the Palermo Mine to show. This is a good way to have some of the Phosphates identified.

At each meeting the latest in Micro-Mineral finds will be shown. This is a good way to keep up on new locations and to obtain specimens. Bring duplicates for trading to fellow Micromounters.

After the meeting is over we will have a picnic lunch. Bring your bathing suit as John's home is on the water and we can go swimming if we desire. There are many motels and campsites in the area, so plan to stay for the weekend. On Sunday, July 20th, a Field Trip will be held at the famous Palermo Quarry in North Groton, New Hampshire. The alteration of the Primary Phosphate Mineral "TRYPHILLITE" has produced many rare Phosphate Minerals.

For the Micromounter, Palermo has in the past, and will continue, to produce many specimens. In situ specimens as well as specimens from the dumps can be collected. I have been there many times and each trip has produced many Micro specimens of the Phosphates. This mine is about an hour's drive from John Reiner's home.

The Minerals present are:

Opened about 1900, operated for Mica (by G.E. among others) and to a minor extent for Feldspar. Most of the Phosphates came from the Quartz-Perthite core of the body. These include Triphylite (olive green cleavable masses and immense, barrel-shaped xls), Wolfeite (orange, resinous spots in Triphylite), Graftonite (pale lamellae in Triphylite, yielding a zebra effect), Ferrisicklerite (tobacco-brown masses), Heterosite (purple on fresh surface, associated with Ferrisicklerite), Ludlamite (green, platy), Vivianite (small blue xls in Ludlamite), Lazulite (blue stains, masses, and small xls near Triphylite), Dufrenite (small green balls), Laueite (small yellow blades in pockets in Siderite), Strunzite (white fibers, often with Laueite), and many other rare secondary Minerals. Also found are Beryl (some gem gragments), nice Pyrite xls, Zircon, and several Uranium Minerals.

THE MINERAL DISEASE. *by G. George.

A collector of Minerals first starts out gathering rocks, being amazed by any rocks containing simple Milky Quarts, Mica, or Feldspar Xls. A lot of time is spent reading about Minerals, usually from handbooks, then books from the library, then your own.

Then a beginner starts collecting and he brings home tons of worthless specimens. All is not in vain however, as he learns to distinguish one mineral from another by handling them. Usually about this time, he gets another collector who talks him into joining a Mineral Club. Here he meets kindred souls fascinated by some of the facets of the Hobby.

He discovers that good hand specimens are hard to find and that they take up a lot of room. His previously empty cellar begins to bulge with boxes of specimens collected here and there. Every once in a while, he will go over this material and create a Rock Garden with specimens not good enough to show and too good to throw away.

Then he buys some good specimens at a local mineral dealer. In this way he improves his collection, but also discovers that if he is to have a good collection it will run into considerable money. Then he is faced with having to make display cabinets in order to show them properly. Usually, he will make shelves to exhibit them to his friends and relatives. When he discovers that they get so dirty on the shelves, he is ready for the next step. These cabinets will have to have glass doors and lights. By this time he has bought an ultraviolet light and needs a special cabinet with ultraviolet light to show fluorescent specimens.

Even though he thought that he was making the cabinets big enough to hold all his specimens, he soon finds that he has to put two or three times as many specimens to a shelf. Usually, he will then decide to collect only Thumbnail specimens and he will slowly change the few large specimens for the smaller specimens.

By this time, he has started to trade some of his duplicates for Minerals that he didn't have or at least from another location. He finds that with a Thumbnail collection it still takes up more room than he has in his cabinets.

He also discovers that he has a hundred or more specimens of Quartz, fifty of Calcite, etc., but that he only has several hundred different species. All those specimens and yet how few really different! Of course you could spend a lifetime collecting one mineral only- say, in all the varieties of Quartz!

On checking into the collecting situation he soon discovers that in order to collect other species, he will have to gather Micros. He finds that a good stereo Microscope is a necessity and will cost $150.00 for the cheapest good one that will not strain his eyes, but it will last him his lifetime, and will give good viewing.

Besides buying Micros, he finds that many fellow-collectors will give or trade Micro specimens so that he is now faced with mounting and labelling his Micros. He also has to set up a system so that he can show a particular specimen to his fellow-Micromounter. This means another cabinet. He must buy more books to help him identify. He decides to keep his extra good hand specimens and his Thumbnail collection.

Then he really looks at the specimens he has in his cabinets and discovers that many of his specimens have other Minerals on them--many Micro, and he learns how dumb he is about most minerals. He sets out to identify some of these by showing them to fellow-Micromounters and by starting a reference collection.

About this time he goes over his rock garden and rockpile of discarded specimens and carts half of them back into the cellar for breaking up. He then finds that many of the local locations yield minerals not listed by ologists or mineralogists.

By following road construction at road cuts he discovers more minerals not previously noted from his area. He finds that he must continusally check the removal of rock in order not to miss too much. He learns to read the colors that lead to veins and pockets. What a thrill to find a pocket for yourself! With completely terminated Xls as well as Xls protruding from the walls. Some of these pockets will be small, then sometimes the size of a basketball and some ten feet long. It is in these pockets that a Micro collector will have fun. Sometimes a pocket the size of a basketball will have twenty to thirty different minerals in it, although usually only about a half-dozen is found.

His time is now spent collecting, cleaning, viewing, breaking up and putting Micro specimens in plastic boxes. He just puts a tape on each box with the mineral names and location and defers the mounting to some time later when he can find the time! In due time, boxes fill his cellar and he has so much in his garage he can hardly put his car in!

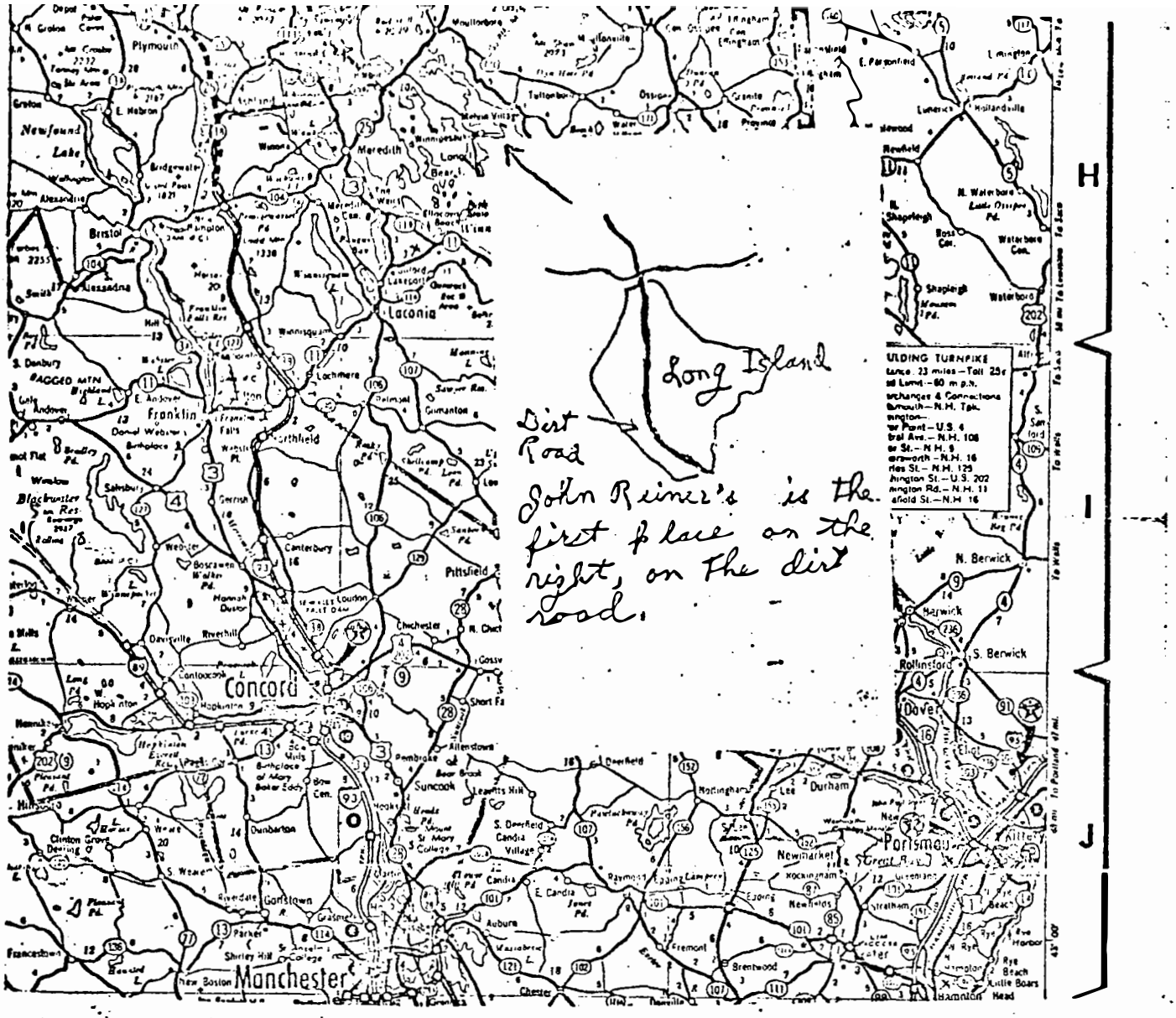
Along the way, he probably has bought a cab-making machine or faceting equipment. He cuts a few stones and is pleased with them, but cannot find enough time to do much in the lapidary line. In the beginning, he probably did some specific gravity and flame or maybe bead tests. He also does simple chemical tests.

But with all this he finds that he has more unknowns in his collection than when he first bought his stereo Microscope. He decides to study Crystallography, more to see if this will help. He finds that, while it helps, he still cannot identify many of his unknowns.

He gets a Polarizing Microscope and then breaks his Micros into Mini-Micros and discovers that many of his so-called knowns exhibit optical properties not previously reported in the literature. While he can positively identify more of his unknowns, he is faced with the need for more and sophisticated equipment, and if he did get an X-Ray machine, he would undoubtedly find more unknowns of his knowns(?) Where does it all end?

If this hobby of Mineral collecting does not make you humble, then what could? You start by knowing a few minerals like Quartz, Mica, and Feldspar, and end up by knowing that there is not enough time in a life-time to learn all there is to know about <u>any</u> Mineral.

Most Mineral collectors will have to stop and draw the line somewhere and maybe do lapidary work and gem mounting. Some will collect only one mineral, or gather only fluorescent minerals, or fossils, or Thumbnails or hand-sized specimens and some will collect Micros, or photograph Mineral specimens, or study various aspects of geology, or join all sorts of organizations affiliated with the Hobby for the social aspects, or collect books. Whichever direction you take, the hobby of Minerals can be very absorbing and a lifetime of fun. Decide in the beginning, which direction you want to go and just how far--then stick to it--I dare you!



Directions-

"I live on Long Island in Lake Winnipesaukee, Moultonboro, N.H. The telephone and mailing address are under Center Harbor. To get to Long Island it is necessary to go down the Moultonboro Neck Rd. which is halfway between Center Harbor & Moultonboro on Route 25. Long Island is connected with the Neck Rd. by a bridge. The road to my house is about 2 miles from Bridge." My telephone No. is 603-253-4489."

Quotation from Mr. Reiner's letter of 6/19/69.

Motels: The Edwards' Motel, Center Harbor, N.H. 03226(1/4 Mile off Route 25).
Phone: 603-253-6244.

Susse Chalet Motor Lodge, Route 25, Moultonboro, N.H.
Phone: 603-253-4312. RESERVATIONS ADVISED.