MICROMOUNTERS OF NEW ENGLAND

PRESIDENT AND BULLETIN EDITOR — John Anderson, 17 Ginley Road, Walpole, MA 02081, 617-668-2008

VICE PRESIDENT — Norman Biggart, 4 Baron Park Lane, Burlington, MA 01803, 617-272-1537

TREASURER AND SECRETARY — Ralph Carr, Jr., 25 Farnum Road, Warwick, RI 02888, 401-467-3823

NEWSLETTER #37

JULY 9 and 10, 1977 Weekend.

Bring your scopes, chairs, folding tables and lunch to John and Martha Reiner's for an enjoyable day on the shores of Lake Winnipesaukee. Arrive around 10 and leave when you're ready - no rush. The Palermo Mine is only open on Sundays this year so our usual weekend schedulewill be in reverse. Collecting at the Palermo will be from 9AM until late afternoon. The debris from the floor of the big pit was bulldozed last year so there will be new material to dig through.

Our last meeting was very sparsely attended due to other activities the same weekend. Please come this time and bring some of those goodies you collected at St. Hilaire or Francon in May.

The Boston Mineral Club is planning a trip to St. Hilaire the weekend of July 16 and 17 - keep your eyes open if you are interested in going and are not a member.

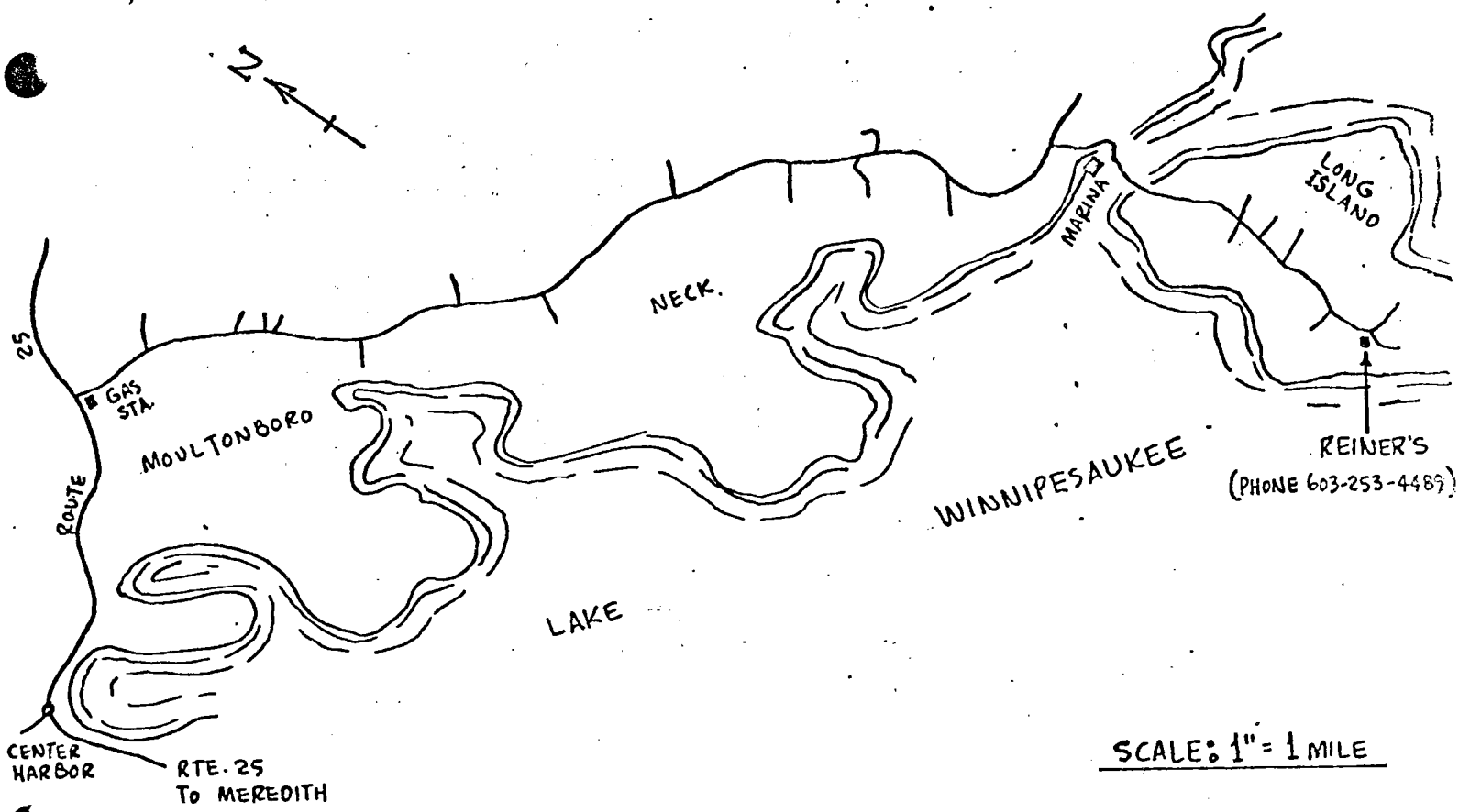
I have noticed new road construction on the New Hampshire Toll road (Route 3?) near Manchester. Perhaps our New Hampshire friends can tell us what is being found, if anything.

See you in New Hampshire on July 9 and 10.

#37

SATURDAY - JULY 9, 1977

JOHN & MARTHA REINER

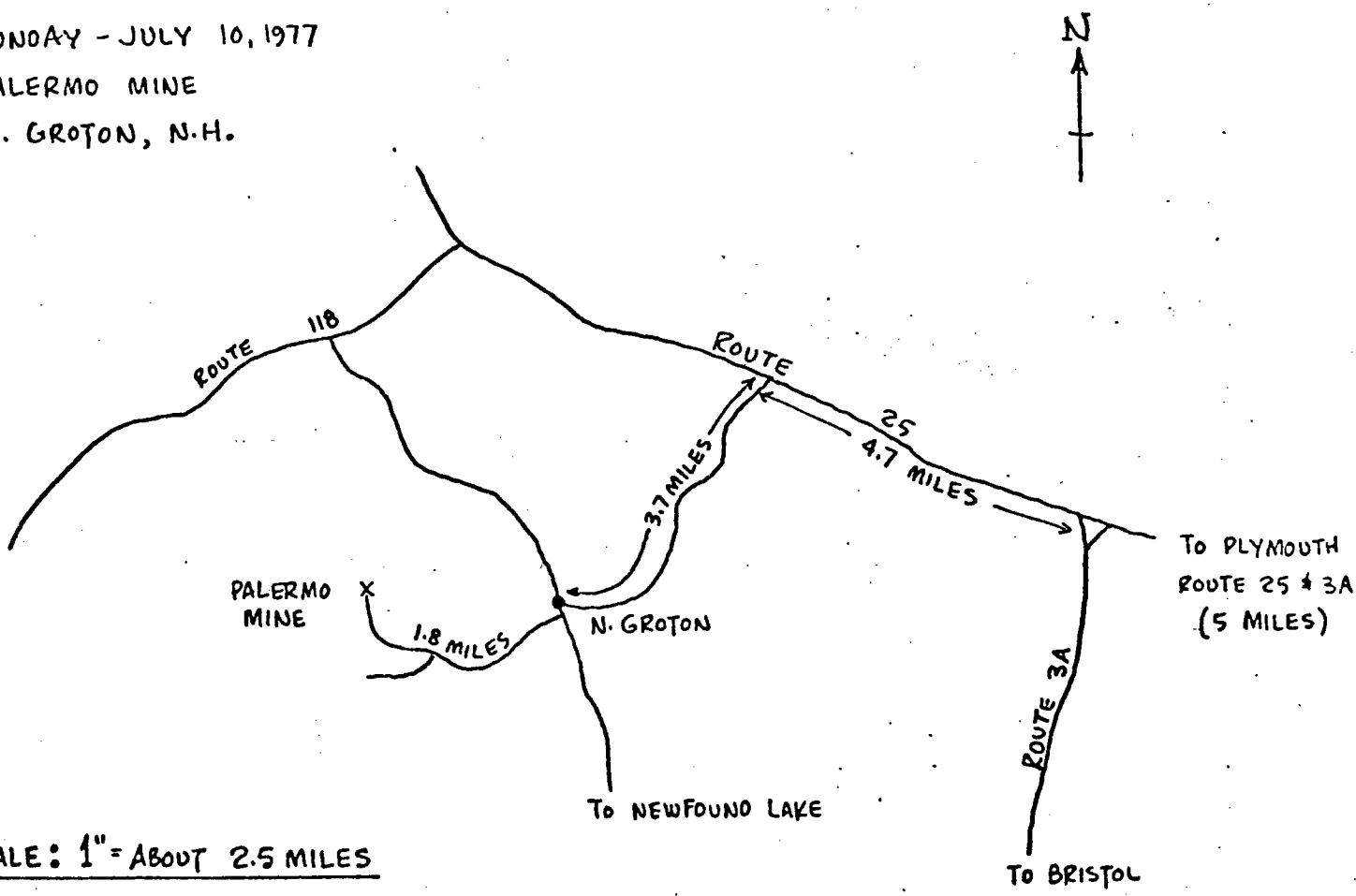


SCALE: 1" = 1 MILE

SUNDAY - JULY 10, 1977

PALERMO MINE

N. GROTON, N.H.



SCALE: 1" = ABOUT 2.5 MILES

SCHOONERITE - A NEW ZINC-MANGANESE-IRON PHOSPHATE MINERAL

The following information is taken from the American Mineralogist, Volume 62, pages 246-249, 1977; in an article of publication by Paul B. Moore and Anthony R. Kampf.

ABSTRACT

Schoonerite, $Zn\ Mn^{2+}Fe_2^{2+}Fe^{3+}\ (OH)_2\ (H_2O)_7(PO_4)_3\ 2H_2O$, Orthorombic, hardness about 4, cleavage [010] micaceous and [001] good, specific gravity 2.87-2.92.

The mineral occurs as rosetts, mats, scales, and laths up to 2mm in length, thin-tabular parallel to [010] and elongated parallel to [100], brown to reddish-brown in color, passing into coppery tones in oxidized material. It is a late stage low temperature mineral and occurs associated with siderite, mitridatite, jahnsite, whitmoreite, laueite, etc., in oxidized masses of ludlamite, messelite, and vivianite derived from parent triphylite.

OCCURENCE AND PARAGENESIS

Schoonerite is a very sparse but widely distributed phase at Palermo, occuring locally in minute quantities. It is clearly the latest product in the assemblage. Associated phases include mitridatite, laueite, strunzite, whitmoreite and Fe-Mn oxyhydroxides. It has been noted as local patches and mats coating thin fracture surfaces cutting whitlockite-apatite rock. Usually upon a thin black base of the oxides. It also occurs as scattered to bunched thin friable laths in small open cavities in siderite, ludlamite, and messelite, and in solution cavities in vivianite, which schoonerite replaces. The new mineral is interpreted as a product of low temperture hydrothermal attack, weathering, and oxidation of more reduced phases such as triphylite, ludlamite, vivanite. and sphalerite, all of which occur as common constituents of the pods.

PHYSICAL PROPERTIES

Schoonerite occurs as thin laths whose average ratio in dimensions (along a,b,c) is about 20:1:5. Free-standing laths are are elongated parallel to (100) and thin tabular parallel to (010). Crystal aggregates occur as rosetts, laminae (parallel to 010), sprays and mats, and individuals rarely exceed 1 mm in gratest dimension. The color is pale tan to brown, reddish-brown to bronzy on exposed, oxidized sur faces, much resembling switzerite with which it is easily confounded. Confusion with beraunite (the oxidized variiety), rockbridgeite (oxidized),

strunzite, and cacoxenite is also possible. The streak is pale brown. Forms observed are (001), (010) and (100). The mineral is transparent along (010) although most crystals are translucent and turbid. Good single crystals are exceedingly are, most individuals being curved and crinkled.

NAME

Both species and name have been approved by the International Commission on New Minerals and New Mineral Names. The type specimen (NMNH 135934) is preserved in the collection of types at the U.S. National Museum, Smithsonian Institution. About 100 specimens are presently known, but it is anticipated that more will be found during continued collecting activity at the Palermo pegmatite.

It is with great pleasure we honor Mr. Richard Schooner of Woodstock, Connecticut, lifelong collector and student of New England minerals and minerology.