

Cordierite

MICROMOUNTERS OF NEW ENGLAND

NEWSLETTER #70

March 17, 1982

PRESIDENT

Raymond Denicourt
1837 Pebble Beach Blvd.
Sun City Center, FL 33570

VICE PRESIDENT

Gerry Lindeyer
24 Laurel Drive
Granby, CT 06035

SECRETARY

Ralph Carr, Jr.
25 Farnum Road
Warwick, RI 02888

TREASURER

Janet Cares
18 Singletary Lane
Sudbury, MA 01776

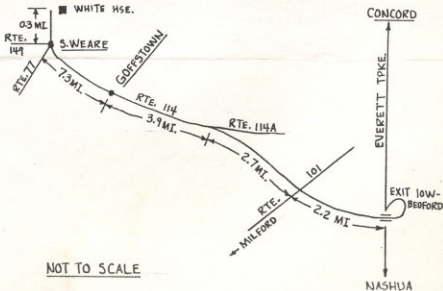
BULLETIN EDITOR

John Anderson
17 Ginley Road
Walpole, MA 02081

The next regular meeting will be held at the Whitmore's home, in New Hampshire, on Sunday March 28, 1982, from 10AM to 4PM (see map).

Please check your name and address on the enclosed 1982 membership list. If your name does not appear you have not paid your dues and should send a check for \$3.00 to Janet Cares if you wish to be included. Any other corrections should be brought to the attention of John Anderson.

Once again we would like to remind you that prompt receipt of your \$7.00 (sent to Ralph Carr) will insure you of a place at our May 1, 1982 Micromounters Meeting in Springfield, MA. There will be about 75 other mounters from the northeast in attendance. Our special guest speaker will be Bill Henderson, who many of us have met or have read his interesting articles in the Mineralogical Record. Bill will be talking on "Non-Pegmatite Phosphate Minerals". Also planned, is a program booklet containing about 10 micromount articles and other bits of info. This book is free to everyone attending - register NOW! There will also be suites of micromounts for doorprizes.



MASSACHUSETTS MINERALS: 1. A PROPOSAL

The recent bibliography of state mineralogies published in the "Mineralogical Record" (V. 10, p. 13-28) pointed up something that many of us have known for a long time. Massachusetts lacks a single, comprehensive volume describing its minerals.

Pennsylvania minerals, by comparison, are very well documented. Samuel Gordon published his classic "Mineralogy of Pennsylvania" in 1922. The demand of contemporary collectors to own and use "Gordon" has caused it to be reprinted twice! A supplement by Arthur Montgomery entitled "Pennsylvania Minerals 1922-1966" was published by the Mineralogical Society of Pennsylvania in 1966. More recently, Juliet Reed's "Annotated Bibliography of Pennsylvania Minerals 1966-1974" and Robert Smith's "Pennsylvania Minerals 1966-1975" have been published by the Pennsylvania Chapter of the Friends of Mineralogy. These volumes document the mineral occurrences of Pennsylvania in remarkable detail and result from an active and continuing collaboration between the amateur and professional mineralogical communities.

There is no reason why Massachusetts minerals, which have been studied for at least 180 years, cannot be equally well documented. It has been my intention for some time now to undertake the preparation of a Massachusetts mineralogy. In fact, I've already begun a review of the literature which is an essential task if the book is to be truly comprehensive. I have also begun to assemble at the Museum a separate, special collection of Massachusetts minerals. It is a species collection and for convenience is arranged alphabetically rather than in the Dana System. The object is to bring together for study purposes at least one specimen of every species known from the Commonwealth. Although some may be attractive enough for display, most are not. They range from hand samples to micromounts, but ideally, the larger the better so as to have enough for destructive analyses. Some have been crushed for optical and x-ray studies.

I propose to use this column to report results of current studies and discuss various aspects of Massachusetts mineralogy. The next column will be the first list of Massachusetts minerals. I hope that it will exceed 100 species. The third column will be devoted to babingtonite, the new state mineral.

The success of this column and, indeed, the entire endeavor depends on the enthusiasm and active participation of collectors. Do you have unidentified minerals from Massachusetts localities, information or questions about Massachusetts mineral occurrences? Please send them to me at the Harvard Mineralogical Museum, 24 Oxford Street, Cambridge, MA 02138.

(Carl A. Francis)

This article was stolen from the Boston Mineral Club Newsletter.