



MICROMOUNTERS OF NEW ENGLAND

The MMNE was organized on November 5 1966 for the purpose of promoting the study of minerals that require a microscope

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Dues are \$6.00 per year and are due on January 1st, payable to the Treasurer.

Contributions of news items for the Bulletin are welcome and should be sent to the Editor

This bulletin may be quoted if credit is given. Club address is c/o Editor.

NEXT MONTH:

There will be no December meeting. Our next meeting will be on Sunday, January 9th, at the Boston Univ. Geology Dept..

November 1993

Newsletter #172

Our next regular meeting of the MMNE will take place on **Saturday, November 20, 1993**, at the Auburn Public Library (available after 9 a.m.). Our monthly program will feature Marcelle Weber who will have a slide presentation concerning Mont Saint-Hilaire. She will be including some of the newer species in this presentation. Also scheduled is our flea market/swap.

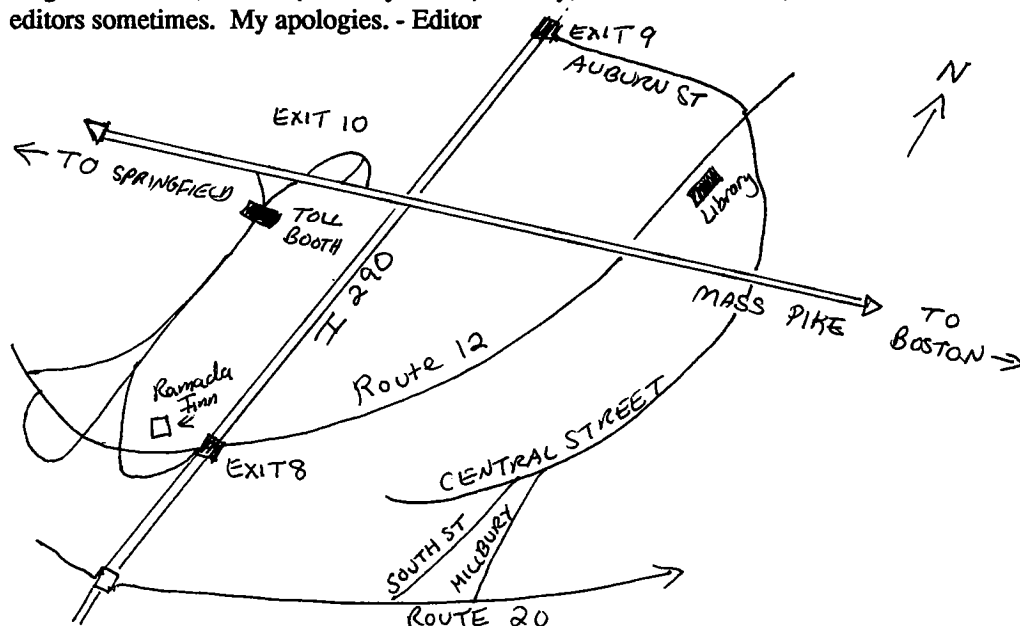
The weekend of the 20-21 is a busy one, hobby-wise. The Worcester Mineral Club is holding their show just up the road from our meeting place at the Ramada Inn, 624 Southbridge Street, (Route 12) Auburn, Mass (Hours for the Worcester Club show are 10- 6 on Saturday, and 10-5 on Sunday.) Also scheduled is the International Gem and Mineral Show at the Royal Plaza Trade Center, 181 Boston Post Road West, Marlborough, Mass. (Hours for the Gem show are: 12 noon-7 on Friday; 10-7 on Saturday; and 11-5 on Sunday.)

Please note:

A reminder to members that there is no meeting in December. Dues will be due on January 1, 1994, so Treasurer Janet Cares will be anticipating taking dues from those members who wish to pay while they have the chance to see her at the November meeting. Those unable to attend may mail their dues to her address. Checks should be made out to Micromounters of New England. At this time I want to wish the members a happy holiday season!

OOPS Department:

In the last issue of the bulletin, I wrote an article concerning mineral localities and the ways in which people can hunt for elusive sites. Well, wouldn't you know it, my thinking cap was on a little too tight because I wrote that the Red Cloud is in Schulz (now Tiger) when I actually meant the Mammoth-St. Anthony Mine. The Red Cloud is, of course, in the Silver district, Trigo Mountains, La Paz (formerly Yuma) County, Arizona. Oh well, even editors need editors sometimes. My apologies. - Editor



In memorium

Word has reached us that two former members of the MMNE passed away recently, Ed Piela (date unknown), and Earl Melendy (on October 30, 1993). Our sympathies are extended to their families and friends.

Looking Back

In the late Neal Yedlin's column, Micromounters (June 1948), he offers advice to traders (or those with give-aways). He stated:

While we're on the subject of exchanges, may we voice a long needed bit of advice. Please don't send junk around. Bear in mind that a duplicate is not a discard - something not good enough. It should be what its name implies, a duplicate, a good specimen, one too many for your own collection. Too often a battered and bruised piece of nothing is shipped, postage is paid, and a bitter taste is left all around. The recipient resents the junk and the sender gripes because he isn't appreciated. Let's guide ourselves accordingly.

More browsing through old issues of Rocks & Minerals reveals that at the third Baltimore Symposium, one Michael Swanson won second prize for micros (see Rocks & Minerals, December 1959, page 515), and in the following year he took second place at the Eastern Federation Show in Ashville, North Carolina (see Rocks & Minerals, November/December 1960, pages 576-577). We suspect that competition at these shows would have been keen.

From **Mining Magazine**, 1st Series, Vol #2 (1854)

Art. V. - NORTHAMPTON DISTRICT -- THE WILLISTON LEAD AND COPPER MINE

--By C. S. Richardson, Civil and Mining Engineer

The survey of the mineral lands of this district, which has been going on during the present winter, has led to the development of a large mass of valuable mineral property, and there is every reason to believe that this is a mere tithe of what will be found in this part of Massachusetts in a very short period of time. Indeed, it is already known that valuable lodes of zinc, lead, and copper exist, which, from their surface indication, offer every promise of productiveness. The mine which forms the subject of this article, was discovered a few months since, or we should rather say, its qualities were re-discovered and made known to the present generation. It will be remembered that in the description given of the Loudville Mine, the lode is said to be known to run for several miles in almost a direct line. In tracing this lode through the woods, some ancient shade or mine pits were found; the attle heaps near them were examined, when it was discovered they contained very rich stores of silver lead ore, as well as copper; one of the old pits was than cleaned out and the debris removed from the place where the ancient miners appear to have left off. Here a small leader of solid lead was found in the lode, which was hollow, down as far as the men could go for the water. At this stage of the proceedings nothing further was done for a time; subsequently leases for a large tract of land on the course of the lode were purchased, some tackle put up over one of the pits, and the result was as follows:--

THE LODGE

This lode is nothing more than a continuation of the Great Loudville lode, heaved a little from its course by a counter copper lode that intersects it at the old shaft, on the road leading to Southampton. Its apparent bearing is 30° north-east, or 10° more easterly than the lode in the other mines. It is 20 feet thick, and is composed of friable quartz, gneiss-capel alternating in veins of unequal thickness; throughout this is disseminated spots of yellow copper and blende, green and blue carbonate of copper and silver lead ore. The leader or pith of the lode, is not in its centre, but nearly on the foot wall. It is a vein of about 2 feet 6 inches thick, in a compact capel; it appears, at 6 feet from the surface, 2 inches thick; at 10 feet deep it is 5 inches; at 20 feet 9 inches and at the lowest part, viz., 30 feet, it appears to be 14 inches thick. This is nearly solid silver lead ore. I am of the opinion the ore will continue to widen until it fills the entire width of the vein, after which the other veins in the lode, of which I believe there are several, will unite with it, and the whole go down together. The lode itself becomes contracted in size, and the minerals concentrated in one vein. It holds out at present very promising features of productiveness, and I must say, enticing to the mining adventurer, for, apart from any expensive mine works, there can at the present time, with half a dozen men, be 3 toms of ore, worth from \$85 to \$100 per ton, raised monthly, and if an engine was erected and a shaft put down on the course of the lode, I think 10 tons per month could be very easily returned above the 10 inch level. The country in which this lode is embedded is granite. The set is three-quarters of a mile in length on the course of the lode. The county road runs through the property, and is within 2 miles of the new Canal Railroad; it is partly in the township of Westhampton, and partly in Southampton. The mine at present belongs to some private local parties who purchased the mineral rights for ever; consequently there are neither rents or royalties to encumber the property. I am informed that a regular Mining Company is in course of organization at New York, whose object is to develop the mine in a spirited manner. There is an old story current that in sinking the old Loudville shaft, a course of ore was opened on 2 feet solid. This discovery at Williston goes far to prove the accuracy of this tale, for the lead at the latter mine has just the same appearance, excepting that it contains much more silver. Several assays have been made of the ore, and it is found to give an average of 72 percent for lead, and 19 ounces of silver to the ton. My next article will give some account of the Northampton Mines at Northampton, of which tow have been opened, and one is in the course of working.---(Continued next issue)