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.

PRESIDENT

Robert Clements
51 Main Street
Brattleboro, VT 05301

VICE-PRESIDENT

Margaret Stewart
244 Mill Street
Burlington, MA 01803

SECRETARY

Patricia Barker
P.O. Box 810
Campton, NH 03223

TREASURER

Janet Cares
18 Singletary Lane
Sudbury, MA 01776

EDITOR

Shelley N. Monaghan
12 Conant Drive
Brockton, MA 02401

Dues are $4.00 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.

NEXT MONTH

The next meeting of the MMNE will be at the Harvard Forest in Petersham, MA, on Saturday, November 19, 1988.

October 1988 Newsletter #126

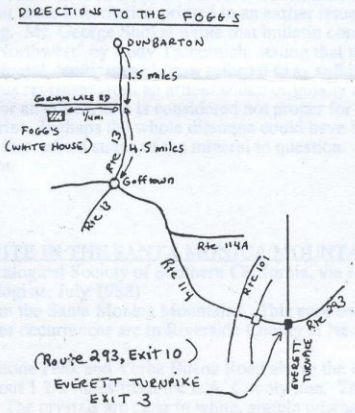
There will be two meetings this month for the Micromounters of New England. The first will take place on Saturday, October 1, 1988, at the home of Forrest and Vera Fogg, in Goffstown, NH. This should be about peak time for foliage viewing, so this meeting promises to be interesting in both the micro and the macro sense.

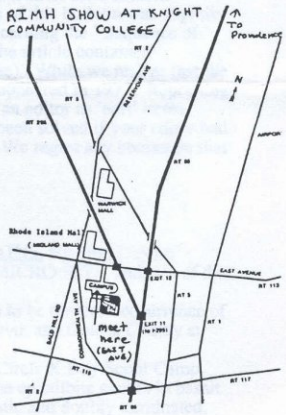
The second meeting for this month will be Saturday and Sunday, October 29 and 30, at the Rhode Island Mineral Hunters' Show, at the Community College--Knight Campus, Warwick, RI. As this is also a Federation Show, it promises to be an interesting two-day event. We hope that the Micromounters can have members at the show for both Saturday and Sunday. (Our Club was listed on the show flyers this year.)

Speaking of Rhode Island, our club would like to extend a hearty thank-you to member Marilyn Dodge for her contribution of all those delicious sandwiches which she brought to our July meeting at John Reiner's home. I'm told that they were complimented nicely by the goodies our other members brought. (Wish I could have made it to that meeting!)

IMPORTANT NOTICE: Next meeting will feature an important discussion concerning increasing the club dues. Raising the dues must be considered in the face of the increase in postage costs this year. We hope that many members will attend the meeting so that a decision can be reached in regard to next year's dues.

(cont. page 2...)





++

WELCOME THE FOLLOWING NEW MEMBERS:

Tom Mortimer
3 Roberts Road
Amherst, NH 03031

Mrs. Beulah Murphy
2308 S.E. 130th Ave.
Portland, OR 97233

CALENDAR OF MICROMOUNTERS' EVENTS:

November 19, 1988
Third Annual Micro-Mineral Symposium by the New Jersey Earth Science Association, Inc. Location: Polish Cultural Foundation, 177 Broadway, Clark New Jersey. Hours: 9am to 4pm. Features: workshop, swapping, giveaways, refreshments, door prizes, auction. Speaker: Bill Shelton, "NEPHELINE SYENITE MINERALS". For further information contact Roger Cormier, 64 Shady Brook Drive, Middleton, NJ 07748. 1-201-671-8782.

February 3, 4, 5, 1989
24th Annual Pacific Micromount Conference sponsored by the Southern California Micromineralogists, Inc. Location: San Bernadino County Museum, Redlands, CA. For further information contact Juanita Curtis, 609 W. 36th Street, Long Beach, CA. 90806. 1-213-427-0657

March 31, April 1, 2, 1989
17th Annual Atlantic Micromounters Conference sponsored by the Micromounters of the National Capital Area. Location: Adult Education Center, University of Maryland, College Park, MD. For further information contact Fred Schaefermeyer, P. O. Box 10119, Alexandria, VA 22310-0119. 1-703-971-3080.

May 13, 1989
8th Annual Northeast Meeting sponsored by the Micromounters of New England. Location: 4-H Conference Center, Ashland, MA. Hours: 9am to 4pm. For further information contact Janet Cares, 18 Singletary Lane, Sudbury, MA 01776. 1-508-443-9180.

EDITOR'S NOTE: It has come to our attention from the MICRO-BITS, the bulletin of the Southern California Micromineralogists, that some information printed in an earlier issue of this bulletin was slightly, though unintentionally, misleading. Mr. George Shokal wrote that bulletin concerning the "Sequence of Crystallization of Zeolites of the Northwest" by Rudy Tschernich, stating that the article contained information about a discredited mineral, 'epidesmine' (now referred to as stilbite). While we realize that the information was not accurate, it was reprinted from an article which originally appeared in 1971. Reprinting an article often poses a dilemma for an editor, as it is considered not proper for an editor to 'edit' items which have already appeared in print. Perhaps the whole dilemma could have been solved if your editor had tacked on a footnote denoting the discredited status of the mineral in question. We regret any confusion that may have resulted from this reprint.

OCCURRENCE OF EPISTILBITE IN THE SANTA MONICA MOUNTAINS, By Fred DeVito

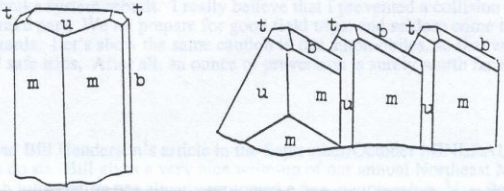
(from the Bulletin of the Mineralogical Society of Southern California, via MICRO-BITS, Bulletin of the Southern California Micromineralogists, July 1988)

Epistilbite was found recently in the Santa Monica Mountains. This appears to be the third occurrence of this zeolite in California. The other occurrences are in Riverside County at Neuvo, and Colusa County at Wilbur Springs.

The new find is between Sandstone Peak and Yerba Buena Road above the Circle X Boy Scout Camp. This area is in Ventura County about 1 1/2 miles from the L,A. County line. The epistilbite occurs in basalt just below the sandstone summit. The crystals are clear to white, simple prismatic and doubly terminated, although many are in groups of twinned crystals to 1/2" approaching fan-like aggregates showing parallel growth. The (u) & (m) faces are very conspicuous and the smaller (t) & (b) being very reflective are also

found with little difficulty. The association is heulandite to 1" with minor quartz and mordenite. The epistilbite can be easily overlooked among the heulandite which has the same color and luster. However, the epistilbite is smaller, sharper and has no cleavage unlike the heulandite with its brilliant pearly cleavage.

The epistilbite was tentatively identified by its morphology and later confirmed by x-ray diffraction at U.C. Santa Barbara.



EPISTILBITE CRYSTALS IN PARALLEL GROWTH
SANTA MONICA MOUNTAINS

A SAFE TRIP, By member Dana Morong

Most of us are aware of proper safety rules to follow while on a field trip at a mineral collecting site, as it is simple to recognize obvious hazards. But there are also some unexpected hazards that we may not notice, particularly on our trips to and from the sites, when our minds may be partly taken up by either anticipation, or appreciation of treasures found that day.

Driving an automobile is said to be one of our most hazardous activities. However, our life-style demands it, and despite the hazards (and careful practices) many manage to enjoy many driving years with no mishaps. Few field trips can be made without the aid of an automobile, however, and this is where unexpected hazards come in.

Recently having taken a defensive driving course, I learned about traffic, weather, and conditions of the road, car, and the driver, to mention just a few. This was sort of a refresher course, and I found it educational, stimulating, and enjoyable--far better than I'd expected (it was also inexpensive and lasted only three evenings, but was well worth it). But a new point to me was the application of one of Newton's Laws of Physics: namely, that a body once moving tends to keep moving. Also, as Force = mass times acceleration, the heavier the body is, the more it tends to keep moving. This was to illustrate (along with some startling films) how unfastened objects can shift about (to the driver's perspective) in a braking car. Actually, the car and driver (if he has seat-belts fastened) stops, while the object keeps moving. If this object be a microscope in its case, or a rock, the collision, when the car finally stops, can throw the rock or the microscope a distance, and throw it out of adjustment as well. Sometimes it can also throw the driver out of adjustment, as in the following example:

I was talking to a collector here in Maine of how I planned to tie down my microscope, and he told me of a long-distance mineral collecting vacation he had taken some time ago. Having found a particularly nice specimen (though too large to use the microscope on!), he place it just inside the hatchback of his car, it being rather heavy. All went well until the lady in the car in front of him had to stop suddenly to avoid hitting a pedestrian. He jammed on the brakes, and narrowly avoided a collision himself. The next thing he knew, however, was that a policeman was waking him up and telling him that although there was quite a bit of blood about, nobody was seriously hurt. The windshield had a big hole smashed in it, the specimen was on the pavement in front of the car, and he had the beginnings of a rather large bump and headache. Fortunately, the rock had just clipped him on the side of the head as it took its journey, and no serious injury resulted. He didn't mention if his specimen was all right; it probably wasn't, but at that point, I'm sure that he really didn't care about the specimen any more.

I tried to figure the force that a rock has when travelling at a speed of only 20 mph, and could only compare it to dropping it off a 30-foot high quarry wall (I wouldn't want to be beneath!). At higher speeds it would be considerably more, as the rock would pick up speed, same with acceleration as with gravity.

Finding shifting objects in the car to be irritating at the least, I bought one of those half-sized plastic milk crates to put my microscope case into, as I like to put it on the rear seat (rather than the floor) to reduce

vibration. The seat belt runs through a hole I made in the crate, out another hole, and, as this is about an inch or two above the center of gravity, it should hold in case of a quick stop. I figured that a $3 crate is good insurance for a microscope whose replacement value is more than what I paid for my car. I also moved the rear seat-belt over (drilled a new hole in the body for the bolt) so that I can store this box where I want it. It might also be a good idea to tie the spare tire down as well.

In addition to tying down loose objects, or by placing heavy ones where they can't shift forward, it is good to have the entire brake system rebuilt. I really believe that I prevented a collision this way, a week after I'd fixed the last brake part. We all prepare for good field trips, and seldom come to grief due to avoidance of known hazards. Let's show the same caution in our automobiles, so that we all have enjoyable, relaxing, and safe trips, After all, an ounce of prevention is surely worth far more than a pound of cure.

DID YOU SEE.....

I you haven't already read Bill Henderson's article in the September/October MINERALOGICAL RECORD, I urge you to do so. Bill gives a very nice write-up of our annual Northeast Meeting as well as the club in general. Such information has already prompted a new membership, Mrs. Beulah Murphy (see page 2). Mrs. Murphy is interested in Saint-Hilaire minerals and has many zeolites from the Northwest to swap, including gismondine, which is rarely found in North America. Thank you again Bill, for the article.

LAST TRIP OF THE SEASON: The last trip into Mont Saint-Hilaire will be October 9, 1988.

(Editor's Note: the following list of minerals appeared in the April 1988 issue of the MINERAL MITE, the bulletin of the Micromineralogists of the National Capital Area. The Hunting Hill Quarry is a locality which is currently producing minerals collected by many micromounters.)

LIST OF MINERALS OF HUNTING HILL QUARRY, ROCKVILLE, MARYLAND

* ACTINOLITE
* ALBITE
* ANTHOPHYLLITE
* ARAGONITE
* AZURITE
* BIOTITE
* BROCHANTITE
* BRUCITE
* CALCITE
* CHALCOPYRITE
* CHLORITE
* CHROMITE
* CHRYSOCOLLA
* CHRYSOTILE
* CLINOCHRYSOTILE
* CLINOCHLORE
* CLINOZOISITE
* COALINGITE
# DESAUTELSITE
% DEWEYLITE
* DIOPSIDE
* DOLOMITE
# GOETHITE
* GROSSULAR
* HEMATITE
* HUNTITE
* HYDROMAGNESITE
* HYDROGROSSULAR
* IDOCRASE=VESUVIANITE
* LIMONITE
* LIZARDITE
* MAGNESITE
* MAGNETITE
# McGUINNESSITE
* MANGANESE OXIDE DENDRITES
# MILLERITE
# MOLYBDENITE
* OLIVINE
* OPAL
* PENNINITE
* PLATINUM (trace)
* PALLADIUM (trace)
# POKROVSKITE
* PREHNITE
* PYRITE
* PYRRHOTITE
* QUARTZ
# ROSASITE ?
# RUTILE ?
* TALC
* TOURMALINE
* TREMOLITE
* ZOISITE

* Minerals reported and listed in Minerals of the Washington, DC Area by Lawrence R. Bernstein, 1980
% A mixture of serpentine minerals and a talc-like mineral
# Reported after publication of Bernstein's book. Some have been written up, others have not.