

INDIAN MOUNDS
ROCK & MINERAL CLUB
WYOMING, MICHIGAN
A RROWHEAD
NEWS

SEPTEMBER IS
**Grand Rapids
Underworld**
See page 4 for details
SEPT. 15 AT 7:00 PM

CLUB MEMBERS PREPARE FOR B.O.Y.



IMAGE BY KREIGH TOMASZEWSKI

THIS FAMILY VOTED IN THE BEST OF THE YEAR COMPETITION.
I WONDER HOW EVERYONE DID. I HEAR EVERYONE WAS A WINNER!

VOLUME 46 #5
September 2009

*The Indian Mounds Rock and Mineral Club
is a nonprofit organization, incorporated under the laws of the State of Michigan.*

*This club's objective is to develop and encourage interest in, and to further the study of minerals, gems,
fossils, rocks, lapidary arts, and earth science.*



AFFILIATED WITH THE MIDWEST AND AMERICAN FEDERATIONS OF MINERALOGICAL SOCIETIES

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Welcome to the *ARROWHEAD NEWS*, official publication of the Indian Mounds Rock & Mineral Club of Wyoming, Michigan.



Visitors are welcome at all Meetings!

WHEN & WHERE

Club Meetings are held at 7:00 PM on the 3rd Tuesday, September through May, in the fellowship hall located in the basement of the Wesley Park United Methodist Church. The church is on the corner of Michael and 32nd Street, south of 28th Street, in Wyoming.

At 6:30 PM, on the 3rd Tuesday, June through August, our club has a **picnic** at Pinery Park in Wyoming, which is on DeHoop just north of 28th Street. Our usual spot is behind the north parking lot on the west side of DeHoop. Bring a dish to share, your own drinks, and table service.

Board Meetings are held right after the club meeting, or by special announcement on the 4th Tuesday of the month.

Club Membership dues are \$15 per family, \$10 per individual and \$5 per junior. Payment is due by the 3rd Tuesday of September and is for the following January – December. **New** members that join at or after the annual show, pay only one-half of the yearly dues. Membership includes 9 issues of the Arrowhead News.

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The **subscription rate** for the **Arrowhead News** is \$8.00 per year. *Emailing is encouraged - just ask!* Article submission is due to the Editor **before** the 1st of the month.

The Arroehad News is also available on our website. Send **exchange newsletters** to the Editor.

All articles without a byline have been written by the Editor.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE SEPTEMBER 09

By Jim Elliott, President

Here it is, the beautiful month of September already. Where did the summer go? Summer is almost over, the kids are heading back to school and it's time to get back into the swing of regular meetings again.

I hope everyone had a wonderful summer with lots of collecting or other club related activities. I know I did. We spent the first week of August in the Keweenaw Peninsula during the Copper Country Mineral Retreat. What a beautiful state we have! This was the highlight of our summer. We took long scenic drives, visited waterfalls and did some hiking through Copper Country. We also visited Lake Superior's beaches, did some collecting, visited mine dumps and went down **inside** the Caledonia Mine for the entire day collecting copper and datolite specimens, with the occasional piece of silver or half-breed being found.

If you have never been to our wonderful Upper Peninsula, and in particular Copper Country, you are missing out on some of the most beautiful sights and scenery in Michigan. Not to forget the fact that the largest copper deposits and associated mineralogy in the world are still there. Truly a collector's paradise! And the Seaman Museum at Michigan Technological University has undoubtedly the most extensive, complete and unsurpassed collection of copper, datolite and silver specimens ever assembled. And they all came from the Keweenaw Copper Country area. They also have other wonderful examples of minerals from throughout the world. We learned a lot about the Upper Peninsula, the geology of the area and the historical aspects and conditions of copper mining.

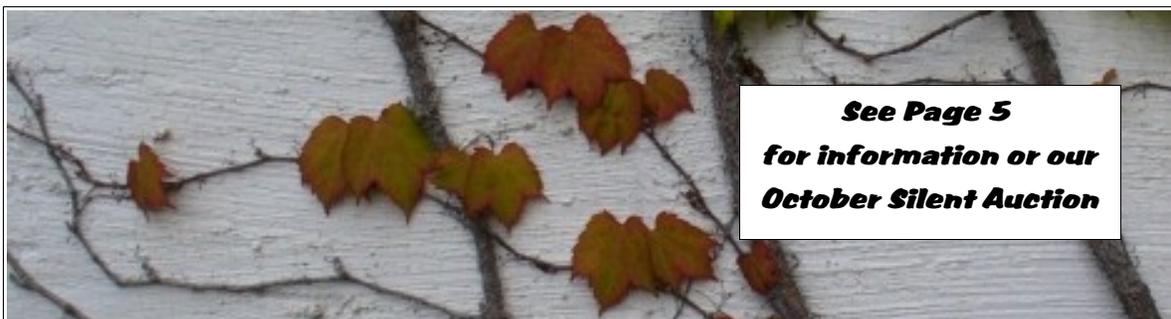
Speaking of learning... One of our members is working out the details of starting an informal study group where those that are interested can get together and study about a particular mineral once a month or so. Being a big advocate of education and learning you can probably guess that I can't wait to get started and look forward to the first meeting. Look for details in the Arrowhead News and discussions at one of the next meetings once the details have come together.

The next big club event is in October and it's our Silent Auction. This is a great time to add to or subtract from your collection. Watch for a description of this event and for the rules for this event in the Arrowhead News. This is a great opportunity to clear out some of the excess items you may have in your collection or items that you are tired of and think someone else might have a good home for.

I look forward to seeing you all at the next meeting.

Stay safe and have fun,

Jim



IMRMC EVENTS

- September 15 **IMRMC MEETING** (see page 5)
Wesley Park United Methodist Church
Tuesday - 7 PM - 9 PM
Program: "Grand Rapids Underworld" presented by Mary Jane Dockeray
- October 20 **IMRMC SILENT AUCTION**
Wesley Park United Methodist Church
Tuesday - 7 PM - 9 PM
- November 17 **IMRMC MEETING**
Wesley Park United Methodist Church
Tuesday - 7 PM - 9 PM
Program: "The Beauty of Fossils" presented by Bobby and Terry House
- December 15 **IMRMC MEETING**
Wesley Park United Methodist Church
Tuesday - 6:15 PM - 9 PM
Christmas Party
- January 19 **IMRMC MEETING**
Wesley Park United Methodist Church
Tuesday - 7 PM - 9 PM
Program: "Beadwork, Wirework and Gems" presented by Doris Koehn

OTHER THINGS TO DO

- September 18-20 **40TH ANNUAL SHOW - "RETURN OF TREX"**
Tulip City Gem & Mineral Club; Holland Civic Center, 150 W. 8th St.;
Holland, MI
Adults \$2/ Students \$0.50. Fri., 9-8 pm; Sat., 9-7 pm; Sun., Noon -5
pm. Dealers, demonstrations, silent auction, kids games, door prizes.
Contact: chfalstad@ameritech.net
- October 6
(the 1st Tuesday) MWF Mineral Study Group (see page 10)
The home of Kreigh Tomaszewski
53 Burton St. S.E., Grand Rapids, MI 49507
Tuesday - 7 PM - 9 PM



Image by Kreigh Tomaszewski

THE KEWEENAW PENNINSULA

June 1 – June 13, 2009

By Rance and Anne Westover

As always the days before a planned trip are the longest of the year. Our two-week trip started June 1, 2009. We left at 5:30 am headed towards Ironwood, Michigan. Upon arriving we checked into a motel for \$39.95 per night. (Spring and fall rates are worth checking into if your planning a trip to the Keweenaw Peninsula.)

Our first destination was Little Girl's Point on Lake Superior. We found unakites plentiful and many colorful rock formations, but the agates were hiding. The same results were found at Misery Bay, no agates. Continuing north we drove through all the construction sites at Houghton and Hancock, Michigan.

Located just 4 1/2 miles north of Hancock, we stayed at the Arcadian Motel. Room #15 was our lucky number; with double beds, refrigerator and microwave oven. 3 1/2 miles away at Dollar Bay we found a good place to eat called Quincy's and a Marathon Gas station just a short distance away from where we ate. At this location many points of interest



*Superior shore line near Copper Harbor
Image by Rance and Anne Westover*

can be reached by day trips. We now began to alternate between searching a beach or metal detecting on the mine dumps. Although we checked the Calumet Waterworks Park, and the Tamarack Water Works Beach, our best location we found was the Gratiot River Beach. Here we found our best prehnite and thomsonite stones.

We checked mine dumps including the Wolverines, (Seneca #2, now private) Seneca #4, Ojibway and the Mohawk mines where we picked up mohawkite. Green stone was plentiful at many mine dumps. If you're interested in checking mine dumps the book titled "Red Gold & Tarnished Silver" (available at the Keweenaw Gem and Gift shop in Houghton, Michigan) is a must.

When in the Mohawk area, the restaurant of choice is Slim's. They have great breakfast and dinners along with bake goods for sale, especially large peanut butter cookies. Also be sure to stop at the Prospector Paradise Headquarters just south of Mohawk.

When traveling between Eagle River and Eagle Harbor, be sure to stop at the Jampot. The gold-domed monastery across the street is a well-known landmark in the area. The drive between Eagle Harbor and Copper Harbor is truly God's country.

PROGRAM REVIEW AND PREVIEW

By Nancy Spalenka, V.P./Program Chair

Many nice specimens were submitted for our Best of the Year program in May. These included a good number of entries by our youth. Thanks to all who submitted entries. 51 people were in attendance to vote for their favorites.

Mary Jane Dockeray, naturalist and environmentalist, will be our speaker for our September 15 meeting. Her topic will be "Grand Rapids Underworld", in which she will discuss the natural resources of the area—limestone, oil, sand and gypsum. Dockeray, who is now retired, has had a varied career, which included teaching classes in geology and science methods for Michigan State University 1958-1979, writing a book, "Let's Go Exploring"; (she is a member of the National Audubon Society, and well-known for her work in spearheading the building of Blandford Nature Center.

OUR OCTOBER 2009 SILENT AUCTION

PART 1: WE NEED YOU TO SELL ITEMS!

By Ed Krzeminski, Auction Chairman

This is the first of a two-part series about the Indian Mounds Club's Silent Auction Sale on Tuesday October 20, 2009. This month we focus on **how to sell your stuff** at our Auction. We really do need you to bring items to sell that evening. And we also need you to volunteer to help out at the Sale!

Do you have a few more – or a lot more – rocks than you really need? Do you have some extra specimens from quarries or collecting sites that are now closed? Maybe your garage or basement holds buckets of decent rocks that, realistically, will never again see the light of day? Could one of your spare "dust collectors" become that special prized specimen for a beginning collector? Wouldn't you rather make a few bucks from your unused lapidary equipment than to have it just end up in the scrap yard someday? I thought so!

On Tuesday, October 20th, the Indian Mounds monthly meeting will buzz with non-stop rockhound shopping activity during our huge Silent Auction Sale, with a dozen or more sales tables constantly opening, closing, and refilling throughout the entire evening. **The Auction Sale runs from 7:00 pm to 9:00 pm.** In next month's bulletin, we'll get into some of the Auction details, talk about how to buy stuff at the Auction, and, as always, continue to plead for your volunteer help. This month, we explain just how simple it is to sell your items at our Auction. You can bring in a single item to sell, or you can bring several boxes full of stuff! Whether a collecting veteran with museum quality material, or someone who just wants to make a little room on their collection shelf or workbench, you can make a few extra dollars by bringing your rock-related items to sell at our Auction Sale.

After receiving some helpful suggestions from last year's participants, we've tweaked the rules a bit in order to improve the sale by getting a better distribution of material from all Sellers out onto the tables, and keeping the Sale moving. As always, your constructive suggestions are welcomed!

OUR OCTOBER 2009 SILENT AUCTION continued on page 6

OUR OCTOBER 2009 SILENT AUCTION

Continued from page 5

Listed below are the basics of How To Sell at the Indian Mounds Silent Auction:

- Anyone may sell items in the Silent Auction, including Club members, visitors, or someone who just found Grampa's old rock hammers up in the attic. Items should be hobby-related, or else approved by the Auction Chairman or Club President. New this year: all non-member Sellers must pay the minimum \$10 Club membership fee in order to sell their items. If not pre-paid, then the \$10 fee will be automatically deducted from the sales commission check by the Club Treasurer.
- Commission Fee: 20% of your total sales automatically go to the Indian Mounds Rock & Mineral Club, and all sales money will be collected at the Auction by the Cashiers and Club Treasurer.
- Payment to you for your sold items will be calculated by the Club Treasurer the week after the Auction, minus the 20% commission and any fees, and then a check will be mailed to you afterwards.
- Indian Mounds Club members do not have to pre-register to sell items in the Silent Auction. Just show up with your items! Any non-members selling items must register at the Auction with the Club Treasurer, and leave your name, address, and phone number, if you want to receive payment.
- Every item for sale must have an approved Bid Slip with it. Only the current version of the Bid Slip may be used. We cannot guarantee payment to you if an older version is used.
- Blank Bid Slips are available online to print from the Club's website at: www.indianmoundsrockclub.com. Bid Slips will also be available at the September meeting, and at the Auction.
- Valid Bid Slips must have an item description, plus a minimum bid price, and the Seller's name filled in. If an item's Bid Slip does not have a legible Seller name, it is considered to be 100% donated to the Club.
- New this year: Unless you are part of the official Set Up Crew, please don't come before 6:30 pm. **Between 6:30 and 6:45 pm ONLY**, Sellers may place up to two (2) items along with their Bid Slips directly onto each Sales table, if there is sufficient space. All other sale items, along with completed Bid Slips, must be dropped off in the Sale Staging Area for placement by Auction workers. This policy allows Sellers an opportunity to get their higher priority items onto the sales tables.
- New this year: ONLY authorized auction workers are allowed to stay in the Sale Staging Area and to re-stock sales tables. Sellers are not allowed to move their own items onto sales tables during the Auction. We are trying to be fair to everyone who brings material to sell.
- Security: Although the Club does take some security measures during the sale, if you have an item of special security concern (for example, a small faceted gem), you are urged to keep an eye on your own such items, or to make special arrangements with the Auction Chairman.

OUR OCTOBER 2009 SILENT AUCTION continued on page 9

FIELD TRIP TO THE ALABASTINE GYPSUM MINE

(Michigan Natural Storage Co.) 1200 Judd S.W., Grand Rapids, MI

Saturday, October 24, 2009, 10:00 am to 4:00 pm

By Kreigh Tomaszewski

- I have made arrangements with Professor Kevin Cole at GVSU to make another collecting trip into the former Alabastine Mine that is now owned by Grand Rapids Natural Storage. There is a wide variety of specimens to be collected here. 'Pencil' selenite and alabaster gypsum are abundant, both white and honey colored. You may find clear selenite or satin spar gypsum. Fossil collectors may find shark coprolites, teeth, or spines, and plant and wood fragments, near and in the ceiling. Mineral collectors may enjoy seeing epsomite hairs hanging from the ceilings, but should only collect those that have fallen.
- Cost: There is a \$2.00 fee per person for entering the mine. You may pay in advance, or when you arrive. You will not be allowed entry if you have not paid the fee. If paying by check, please make it out to Grand Valley State University.
- Equipment: Hard hats are required. If you have extra hard hats, please bring them along (at least one participant has indicated they do not have hard hats, and there may be others.) Safety glasses are not required, but are always a good idea.
- You must have at least two light sources. The mine tunnels we will be collecting in are not lighted. Make sure you start with new batteries, and have extras in your pocket. It is not possible to have too much light.
- You must bring two pairs of shoes. One pair will be worn for travel in and out of the clean part of the mine that has cement floors. The second pair will be worn in the very muddy part of the mine where collecting will take place. It is strongly recommended that your second pair be boots for collecting in the drifts. It is very important to the mine owners that the finished parts of the mine remain clean because of the foods they store. We want to be able to return again, so this is a requirement.
- The mine is a constant 50-52 degrees. It is very muddy. Clearance in many tunnels is 4 feet so you will be crawling. Please dress for the conditions. Expect to get very dirty.
- Tools: Rock pick, 2-5 lb sledge, chisels. Make sure you have a bucket or collecting bag to carry out specimens. You may want some wrapping material (newspaper) for protecting your best specimens. You may want to consider a pry bar.
- Food: Mining is hard work. Bring a sack lunch and snacks. Everything you bring into the mine must be carried out. There are rest room facilities on the surface.
- Safety: Everyone must sign in when entering the mine. Everyone must sign out when leaving the mine. The safety list will be in the mine next to the elevator. No exceptions.
- Elevator: If you use the elevator you must leave the doors closed so it can be recalled from the surface or the mine. None of us want to be forced to use the stairs.
- Insurance: You must be a club member to attend the trip.
- Directions: 131 to Burton Street West. Right on Clyde Park, Left on Chicago Drive, Right on Judd. 196 to Chicago Drive (exit 72), Right to Burlingame, then Left onto Chicago Drive, Right on Marquette, Left on Judd. Back parking lot on the right. Please try to arrive 15 minutes early to sign in and pay your fee. Use Google Maps or Mapquest if you have doubts about the directions.
- Do not hesitate to ask questions. Primary contact (IMRMC) is Kreigh Tomaszewski at 616-243-5851 (home) or 616-787-7955 (work), or Kreigh@Tomaszewski.net (email). Secondary contact for questions (Tulip city) is Jon Mull at 616-510-4139 or solace@chartermi.net.
- The first 75 people who confirm reservations to Kreigh will be able to attend this trip (25 IMRMC, 25 TC, 25 KGMS). Children are welcome, but we ask that they be at least 10 years old. We will keep a waiting list if your club's reservations fill up.

COURTESY CORNER

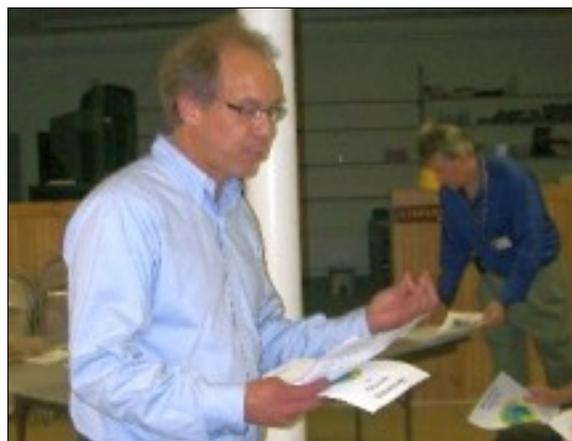
**KITCHEN HOSTS FOR SEPTEMBER
KRIS QUINT AND NANCY WOLFF**

**KITCHEN HOSTS FOR OCTOBER
EVERYONE!
BRING SOMETHING FOR THE SILENT AUCTION**

**KITCHEN HOSTS FOR NOVEMBER
JUDY BARBER AND MAUREEN GREGORY**

**KITCHEN HOSTS FOR DECEMBER'S CHRISTMAS PARTY
EVERYONE!
BRING A HOT AND COLD DISH TO PASS AND YOUR TABLE SERVICE.
PUNCHBOWL STARTS AT 6:15. MEAT AND BEVERAGES PROVIDED BY THE CLUB.**

**no
MEETING
MINUTES
or
TREASURER'S
REPORT**



*(Evidence, I think, of our Treasurer giving his report)
Image courtesy of Kreigh Tomaszewski
Thank you Kreigh :o)*

OUR OCTOBER 2009 SILENT AUCTION

Continued from page 6

- Sellers, please take your unsold items home with you immediately after the Auction. We will try to save any unsold material, but we cannot guarantee that it will not get lost, damaged, or donated. Any leftover items are considered abandoned, and may become property of the Club, for disposal.

Any bidding or selling disputes are settled immediately by the Auction Chairman.

Here are a few selling tips for improving your chances of a successful sale: Get your sales items sorted out well before the sale. Give them a good cleaning or dusting, so that they look their best. For slabs and lapidary rough, rubbing with a bit of mineral oil or baby oil really brings out the colors. Fill out your Bid Slips at home, so that you don't miss out on precious sales time during the Auction. Having a detailed item description, including its source, greatly increases its value. Price your items reasonably; a low starting price often sparks interest and competitive bidding, resulting in a higher sale price. Get to the Auction early to get your items quickly ready to sell. Volunteer to help out wherever needed, because more help means a smoother Auction -- and happy bidders! Happy bidders mean happy Sellers!

Yes, you can be a successful Seller. Tidy up your collection or workshop, sell off some unneeded hobby items, and make some easy cash in the process. It's that simple! Start preparing now. The Silent Auction Sale will be widely advertised locally; so, with gobs of anxious buyers coming, all we need are you -- and your items to sell.

THE CLUB NEEDS YOUR HELP! Auction volunteers are badly needed to help with room set-up (around 6:15), then with clean-up, as cashiers and table refillers, and with refreshments, signage, and security. Whether for the entire evening or just a half-hour, your help is greatly appreciated. There will be a volunteer sign-up sheet at the September meeting, so please make sure that your name shows up somewhere on that list! If you can't sign up at the meeting, just give me a call (616-530-9571 evenings), and I'll find a volunteer spot for you. See you there!



Image by Kreigh Tomaszewski

MWF MINERAL STUDY GROUP

by Kreigh Tomaszewski

The Midwest Federation has contacted me about starting a West Michigan Mineral Study Group and I have agreed to make it happen. Mineral Study Groups are a new initiative to have better educated rockhounds that can reach out to the public in support our common goal of educating the public about the Earth Sciences. I hope all local rockhounds are interested in learning more about the minerals they collect.

The successful format I am hoping to emulate is a quarterly meeting (or maybe every other month) at some member's home. I am willing to host the first few meetings. The group will decide on which mineral will be discussed at the next meeting. Each member will be expected to bring some research on the topic mineral, and a specimen, to share with the group. If you have seen 50 different specimens of gypsum it is much easier to identify a 51st when it is presented as an unknown. We will learn from each other.

A typical meeting will allow just over an hour for all the members to have a few minutes each to present their example specimen and/or research. This will be followed by a short Q&A discussion on the mineral. The group will then decide on the next mineral to be studied, and where/when the next meeting will be held. Members will have an opportunity to present unknown specimens for identification, and the host will have an opportunity to show off their personal collection. One member (or more) will be expected to write up a summary of the meeting and submit it to member club bulletins.

The first mineral study group will meet on Tuesday, October 6, 2009, from 7 to 9pm at my home - 653 Burton St. S.E., Grand Rapids, MI 49507. In honor of our local mines, the first meeting topic will be Gypsum. The meeting will start and end on time (please do not arrive more than 15 minutes early.)

AN EMAIL FROM KREIGH TO

imrmc@googlegroups.com

Condensed by the Editor

Hey Club,

I am pleased to be able to pass on an invitation from Kevin Cole, of the Geo Department, at GVSU.

You are all invited again to the Geo-picnic (Oct 4). (2 pm to eat, 1 pm to help)

Some of you have have attended with me in past years. The Club is invited again. Meat is provided, but a dish to pass is expected for this potluck (extra credit for a side dish plus desert). You need to let Kevin know how many will be attending so he can plan the meat. I hope to see many of you at the picnic. I will be there.

This is a really great chance to meet with the local geology community; local geology professors, geology students, and local rock club members (from several clubs). I hope you will be able to join me at Kevin's party. Please confirm to Kevin.

This really is an event to look forward to. Hope to see you there.

Kreigh

(confirm with Kevin colek@gvsu.edu)

(directions were provided with the email. Contact Kevin, Kreigh - kreigh@Tomaszewski.net, or the editor - brenick@gmail.com for a copy)

JUDY BARBER GOES TO AGATE DAYS

By Judy Barber

This was taken at the Moose Lake, MN Agate Days at the Stampede. The Stampede occurs when a gravel truck dumps a load of agates and quarters down one block of main street. Unfortunately they ran out of agates about half way down the block so we did not collect any. Tip: anyone taking part in this activity should be at the beginning of the block rather than near the middle or end.



Image by Judy Barber

THESE ARE *SOME* ROCKS!

These are just a few of the submissions for the Best Of the Year contest that was held at May's club meeting. Perfect for Halloween, don't you think?



Images by Kriegh Tomaszewski

THE KEWEENAW PENNINSULA

Continued from page 4

We found the turn around spot where Hwy 41 starts and continues south until you reach Florida, just one of the interesting points of interest in the historic town of Copper Harbor. Along the beach just west of Copper Harbor we found a few agates by using waders and scopes and at the Clark mine dump we found our first float copper among the millions of black flies and mosquitoes. Being pushed for time we didn't do the Delaware mine tour, but would like to venture down in the mine if we return someday. They are friendly folk who allowed us to pet their skunk, Oreo.

We agree when mine dumps are being cleared for road construction, that is the best time for metal detecting. We have now heard that the Central Exploration site and the Phoenix are now being used for roadwork. We had some luck at the Minnesota dump because it is now being cleared.

As we began traveling south again, other mine dumps were checked out. The Kearsarge, Trimountain, Baltic, Champion and the Minnesota. Silver was scarce, but we ended up with several pieces of small float copper and several with copper wire.

After a night at Mass, Michigan we headed for Bond Falls. Bond Falls is one of the most well known falls in the U.P. and especially pretty when an eagle flies over as we watched the falls. After a quick trip to Agate Falls it was on to the Mt Shasta Restaurant near Michigamme. We enjoyed pie and coffee as we reviewed their pictures of the film "Anatomy of a Murder" that was filmed there in 1959. The next stop was Marquette where we enjoyed dinner with friends. After dinner they drove us out to Presque Isle Point, a very popular park during the summer for the locals who enjoy all the deer grazing beside the road. The bucks just ignored you twenty feet away from your car. Take the drive if you're ever in Marquette.

Before leaving Marquette be sure to stop at the Lindberg Quarry just south of town. They will weigh your vehicle in and again when you drive out. We hand picked 140 lbs of Kona Dolomite and it cost me 78 cents.

After a donation at the casino in Christmas, Michigan and a nights stay in the moose capital in Newberry, Michigan we returned home for a well-deserved rest.

As always, if you are going to travel in this area and you have questions, please ask.

VARISCITE, OLDER THAN I THOUGHT

*By Dr. Timothy Baker in the GemCutters News - 09/08
via The Rockhounder - 10/08 and theHound's Howl 11/08*

Many of you will have worked with this beautiful green phosphate gemstone, sometimes known as green turquoise. It has a long and interesting history. There were articles in the magazine Rocks and Minerals in the 1950s about the gun battles fought over the variscite nodule mines near Fairfield, Utah. (Skiers take note, Fairfield is south of the famous Alta Gold mines now converted to a ski resort).

It wasn't until I was visiting my daughter in Catalonia, Spain however, that I found out how old variscite mining really was. In the development of a suburb 10 miles south of Barcelona the excavators discovered a series of tunnels. These tunnels dated back to the Neolithic period and are the oldest gallery mines discovered in Europe up to this time. It has been established that the mines were worked for variscite for several centuries. The mines were 6,000 years old (a thousand years before the pyramids). There are many openings. Some of the tunnels were 100 feet in length. There is evidence that the variscite was traded throughout Spain.

The next time you cut a specimen of variscite, realize that you are following an ancient tradition.



PICTURE PAGES



MAY 2009 BEST OF THE YEAR



IMAGES
BY KREIGH TOMASZEWSKI



**KREIGH GOES
TO THE
MCINTYRE MINE**



**FIND
TO THE
HOOPER
MINE**

