



MIDWEST CHAPTER, FRIENDS OF MINERALOGY, INC.

137 AUDUBON DR. CARMEL, IN 46032-1835

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Tucson AZ February 9, 1996

We have 59 members listed, with the majority from 4 states, Indiana, Ohio, Illinois and Kentucky. A scattered few from other areas are mainly corresponding members.

Meeting attendance is usually small due to the driving distances, with the maximum number coming from Indiana or Ohio.

Six meetings are held each year in various locations in Indiana and Ohio, including those at Gem and Mineral Shows in these same states.

Several collecting trips are held where membership attendance is again small. Distances and short collecting hours allowed by quarry management, make these trips an expensive outing. Sometimes necessitating overnight accommodations. There is a growing reluctance by quarries to permit collecting due to the possibility of lawsuits from injuries which might be incurred by visitors - not necessarily club members. We carry insurance on members which is still not valid to some quarry managers.

To attract new members seems almost futile in spite of exposure to our meetings at shows, public meetings, good program speakers and newspaper coverage. Young people do not seem to join clubs these days.

It is even difficult to obtain officers. This is the reason I am President - a retired manufacturing engineer with a minimum knowledge of minerals. My interest is due to my affiliation with the Indiana State Museum where some of our meetings are held.

I hope my participation at this convention will develop some ideas I can take back to our membership. This may encourage more people to become active in our club.

Respectfully submitted

F. W. Lewis

President