

NEWSLETTER

of the **MIDWEST CHAPTER, FRIENDS OF MINERALOGY, INC.**

Volume VII: No. 6

December 1993

PRESPROSE:

SEASON'S GREETINGS TO ONE AND ALL, MEMBERS AND FRIENDS! This has been a year of colorful lectures, successful collecting and stimulating Gem & Mineral Shows. I'm sure that we all look forward to another enjoyable year in 1994.

Al Sicree has already started in his new job as Vice President for Programs; as you will see in the meeting announcement below. Terry Huizing is a long-standing member of this organization with many productive years collecting and curating mineral specimens, especially in the Midwest.

PLEASE NOTE! If bad weather forces us to cancel the meeting I will notify several officers. You may phone them, or me, if you have any doubt. Hal (317/284-7929), Nelson Shaffer (812/339-6623), Al or Sylvia Sicree (513/236-1320). Hope we can all make it!

Going off on another tangent, I thought I'd bring to your attention an interesting article on "How Did Life Begin", which appeared in TIME Magazine, Oct 11, 1993. The reason for mentioning this is that the article identified Pyrite and Clay Minerals as providing crystalline surfaces on which the distribution of electrical charges can control the shapes of organic molecules that come in contact with the crystals. The linking together of organic molecules on the crystals creates more complex molecules of the kind that make up parts of DNA and RNA, and may have defined the fundamental biological units that have in the meantime (the last 3,500,000,000 years or so) combined in the various patterns that distinguish different forms of life. WOW! Maybe our love of crystals is genetic! I'll never look at a pyrite crystal in quite the same way again.... Is that you, Gramma?

If you come across a newspaper or magazine article or cartoon, or an announcement of a mineralogical/geological/environmental meeting or political action that could affect or be of interest to **FRIENDS of MINERALOGY** or its members, please feel that your contribution would be welcome.

Cheers!

Hal Roepke, Pres.

MEETING
MIDWEST CHAPTER -
FRIENDS OF MINERALOGY
12:30PM January 9th, 1994

Speaker
TERRY HUIZING

"MINERALS OF THE MIDWEST"
Indiana State Museum
Alabama at Ohio, Indianapolis

Purposes of the Midwest Chapter:

1. To promote interest in and knowledge of mineralogy.
2. To advance mineralogical education.
3. To protect and preserve mineral specimens and promote conservation of mineral localities.
4. To further cooperation between amateur and professional and encourage collection of minerals for educational value.
5. To support publications about mineralogy and about the programs of kindred organizations.

Dave Rush, author of a detailed booklet on geode collecting in Indiana, was the speaker of the day. Many of us stared with great interest at his slides of sites familiar to us, seeing that sometimes we had overlooked the best spots by just a few feet. We all left with a great determination to try again!

At the short business meeting afterwards, the minutes of the September meeting were accepted as printed in the NEWSLETTER. Our Treasurer, Sylvia Sicree, reported a balance of \$527.72. Discussion on spending some of the balance for support of educational activities was tabled until the January meeting.

Officers for 1994 were elected. They will be:

- President: Hal Roepke
- VP-Field Trips: Mike Davis
- VP-Programs: Al Sicree
- Secretary/Treasurer: Sylvia Sicree

Dues for 1994 will remain unchanged and are payable now. Nelson Shaffer will notify National Friends of Mineralogy of our name change.

A discussion of field trips brought out the notice that a new section is open at the Corydon Quarry and that the operators of Duff's Quarry have opened another quarry nearby.

Please bring Midwest GEODES (that you are willing to lend for our club display) to the January meeting or send to one of the officers. We want to have the display ready for the Cincinnati Show.

Meeting adjourned at 2:30pm. Sylvia Sicree, Secretary/Treasurer

CALENDAR OF EVENTS - 1994

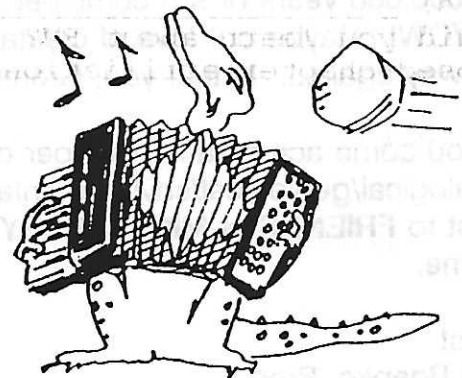
JANUARY 9, 1994, 12:30pm: MEETING, FRIENDS OF MINERALOGY - MIDWEST. TERRY HUIZING: "Minerals of the Midwest". Indiana State Museum, Alabama at Ohio, Indianapolis

MARCH 12, 1994, 4:00pm: MEETING, FRIENDS OF MINERALOGY - MIDWEST. HAL ROEPKE: "Using the Vreeland Spectroscope in Mineral Identification: a Demonstration". Eastern Indiana Gem & Mineral Show, Richmond, Indiana.

MARCH 12-13, 1994: EASTERN INDIANA GEM & MINERAL SHOW, 4-H FAIRGROUND, RICHMOND, INDIANA

APRIL 30, 1994, 3:00pm: MEETING, FRIENDS OF MINERALOGY - MIDWEST. DR. TERRY WALLACE "Earth quakes! When Is The Next Big One?" Cincinnati Gem & Mineral Show. A brief business meeting will follow.

APRIL 30 - MAY 1, 1994: CINCINNATI GEM & MINERAL SHOW, CINCINNATI GARDENS, CINCINNATI, OHIO



GRADUALLY, THE ACCORDIOSAURS VANISHED, SOON TO BE FOLLOWED BY THE TUBASAURS AND THE OTHER GREAT LIZARDS.