

# **PACIFIC NORTHWEST CHAPTER**



# ***NEWSLETTER***

## **WINTER 1997**

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### President's Message:

It is with great sadness that I report the passing of two of our longtime members within the last few days.

Norman W. Steele Jr. passed away on January 31, and was laid to rest at Washelli on the 8th of February. Norm ran the audio-video equipment at the symposium for as long as I have been a member. He also worked with the micromounter workshops and contributed to the mineral photography sessions. Norm was a superb faceter and collected and photographed micromounts. Norm also was a long time member of the Boeing Rock and Gem Club. He would give freely of his time and expertise to anyone that showed an interest in minerals or photography. He also lectured widely and had written several publications related to faceting and minerals. Our condolences go to Norm's family and friends.

Helen Rice also passed away on February 4, 1997. Most of us knew her as the gracious hostess of the Rice residence when we attended meetings there and viewed the Rice's mineral collection. Helen started mineral collecting in 1938 with her husband Richard. Helen was involved with the Oregon Agate and Mineral Society, and held the offices of Secretary, Vice President, and President. She also was involved with the AFMS as chairman and was President of the AFMS in 1959 and 1960. Helen and Richard were charter members of the Tualatin Valley Gem Club. Helen and Richard founded the Rice Northwest Museum of Rocks and Minerals in their home in Hillsboro, Oregon, and donated their personal collection to the museum. The museum will continue to be operated by the Rice family. Our thoughts are with Richard, Sharleen, and the Rice family at this time.

Also, I wish to extend my sympathy to Keith Ikerd and his family at the passing of his mother-in-law in January.

### The Winter Meeting:

The Winter meeting was held at WWU in Bellingham on January the 18th, with 13 members attending. Mark Mauthner was introduced as the 1997 Symposium chairman and Pegmatites were selected as the theme. We reviewed the surveys on the symposium location and cost. Discussions were held on the symposium auction length and specimens. It was agreed that all specimens with a value of \$10. or less would be part of an ongoing silent auction, and that specimens with a minimum value of \$25. would be presented at the evening event. Upcoming shows and meetings were announced. George Gerhold will work on developing a student rate for future symposiums as well as ways to contact students. We also discussed various ways to advertise and increase business for our dealers.

After the meeting George Mustoe, the staff geologist, demonstrated the use of various equipment used for mineral identification. Several of the members were able to personally use the equipment. George and Elaine Mustoe also supplied the drinks and cookies for the meeting. Thanks to the Mustoes.

### Trips and Shows:

Be sure to mark your calendar for 1997 for the annual Washington Pass trip which is always on the second weekend in August. This will be August 8, 9, and 10. Also mark the fourth weekend in September for the Symposium which will be the 26th, 27th, and 28th. at the Days Inn in Tacoma.

The Second Annual Northwest Mineral Swap Meet will be held in Longview on March 22. Rudy says that he still has some spaces available. See the descriptive flier in this bulletin.

The next meeting will be held at the Longview Swap Meet, about 8:30 AM and will just consist of a short symposium committee if anyone has any information about a location or cost savings. A full business meeting will be held in June at the Rice Museum in Hillsboro, Oregon. Details will appear in the spring bulletin.

### The Symposium Committee:

We are still receiving the mailers from members and will have more information after the spring meeting, where hopefully all of the committee members will be in attendance. So far the consensus seems to be in favor of retaining the Seattle-Tacoma area as a middle ground. Cost is still the most important factor, and hopefully we can continue to hold the costs down close to the present level. It is conceivable that the symposium fee could double if we have to pay for the hall as well as the food concession.

### The 1997 Symposium:

The chairman of the 1997 Symposium is Mark Mauthner. Mark is presently in Tucson lining up some speakers, and the theme will be Pegmatites.

### From off the Beaten Path John Cornish

Welcome all of you to this issue's column from off the beaten path. Today we'll be backstepping a bit and tying in this issue's column with our last installment, back in June 1996. That topic of socks and boots dealt primarily with the things we can do to care for and prolong their usage. In this issue's column we'll discuss our feet and their care. This should prove to be a very relevant addition to our column especially if not heeding the information found in our last installment!

Discomforts on the trail are an expected part of the collection experience for many and whether it is a 100 pound pack that feels sloppy and loose or rain gear that never quite keeps the weather out, it's always something. When it comes to our feet and the trail, it's all too often our feet which pay the price. Provided one's feet are in good shape to begin with (more on this later), the biggest problem most will encounter is the blister.

A blister is usually first noticed in it's formative stages as an irritating sore red hot spot on one's foot. In its worst stages a blister can become a sticky, possibly even bloody mess prone to infection. Blisters can form in places where our skin is relatively thick. A sheering action can develop in these areas when our looser outer skin is pulled and separates from our stabler deeper skin layers. This usually happens when our boot goes one way and the bones of our foot go another. A red sore spot announces it's presence before the blister has actually formed. It's at this point that a person wants to stop and deal with the situation. If left unchecked, a typically clear lymph fluid will begin to fill the newly created open space. If the sheer is deep enough, blood can also leak into the void and the painful bubble of a fully developed blister forms.

The care and treatment of a blister, whether in the hot spot, bubbled or broken bubbled phase, all begins with the same first steps, and that is to wash and dry your foot thoroughly using soap and water or an alcohol pad. If the blister bubble is still in place pierce it and gently massage out all of the fluids carefully. The loose skin of the blister dome should then be left in place rather than cut away. This creates a more germ free environment which potentially will allow for quieter healing than would otherwise be possible if the skin had been cut away. If the blister has torn, take your scissors out from your wonderfully overstocked med-kit and cut the loose skin away. Wash and dry the foot again at this point.

From your med-kit now draw out an antibiotic ointment to cover and work into the blister site. Depending on how truly wonderfully overstocked your med-kit actually is several options present themselves. The first and certainly the most widely known aid for blisters is Moleskin. Moleskin is a soft cotton flannel with an adhesive on it's back. A relatively easy material to work with, Moleskin should be changed at least daily while being used with an antibiotic ointment.

Although less well known, many skin repair wonder products have been developed and introduced into the outdoor market over the last several years. Well stocked hiking and outdoor stores will have examples of these types of excellent skin repair products available. These products can protect the blistered area and are often moisture absorbing and can even be cool and soothing.

As you check on your blister watch it for signs of infection. Look for cloudy fluids or pus draining from the wound. Watch the skin around the blister for signs of it's growing red

and becoming more painful and swollen, or for red streaks which would grow from the wound towards your ankle or up your leg. If any of these symptoms develops infection has set in and a person needs to get off of their feet immediately. Soak the foot in disinfected hot water every four hours and keep the foot elevated above the level of your heart. If the infection does not improve after 24 to 36 hours a physician should be consulted.

Earlier on we mentioned that blisters can be the healthy foot's biggest threat while on the trail, however they are certainly not to be considered as being our feet's only threat. If hiking with less than perfect feet to begin with several other problems may exist which may cause us discomfort. These are corns, calluses and bunions.

Corns and calluses will often develop on people whose footwear does not fit them properly. Corns begin their lives in areas where the skin has been rubbed away, usually between or on the toes themselves. Where the skin is rubbed away a pit forms which is in turn filled by dead cells and can be soft or hard depending on their location on the foot, and are usually rather small. Corn pads or Moleskin can help to alleviate the discomforts of hard corns, while cotton balls and the same can be used for soft corns between the toes.

Calluses tend to be larger and thicker than corns and will form at pressure points usually on the heel and or the balls of one's feet. By soaking the feet in hot water for half an hour the callus will become soft enough that a callus file or other tool can be used to scrape away the built up dead skin layers. Some people who suffer from constant heel callus problems may find some relief by purchasing a heel cup and slipping it into their boot, thus providing a more snug and secure fit.

Bunions can pose special problems for the hiker. A bunion forms as a knob at the base of a person's big toe. The bone of the toe grows inward and the front of the foot widens. Surgery is usually the only permanent way of dealing with the special condition. When on the trail try using a pad between your big and second toe, an arch support, and a wider boot.

Sometimes even the best of feet get sore and tired. A golf ball and a large thick rubber band are two of my favorite miracle workers during these special times. Take your golf ball and place it upon the ground. Now take your bare foot and put it upon the ball with pressure and roll the ball against the arch of your foot. Along with a great massage you'll also alleviate the discomforts caused from foot cramps, arch strain and heel pains. Using the rubber band we'll work out our toe cramps. Place the rubber band around your toes and spread them outwards, flexing them against the rubber band, and hold this for five seconds. Repeat this move ten times. This exercise will be especially beneficial for persons suffering from bunions.

So that's it for this issue's column. Our trivia question last asked "What is the origin of the expression "What the Sam Hill?"". The answer is that Samuel W. Hill was a superintendent of the Quincy Mine of Hancock, Michigan and was known to be so profane in his conversations that his name became popular in "What the Sam Hill". The source for this question was found within the book Gem and Crystal Treasures, by Peter Bancroft.

This issue's trivia question is, "What is the origin of the name Coober Pedy?"

# SECOND ANNUAL NORTHWEST MINERAL SWAP MEET

LONGVIEW, WASHINGTON  
MARCH 22, 1997  
9 AM TO 4 PM

## CRYSTALS AND RELATED ITEMS

(books, microscopes, trimmers, boxes) FOR SALE OR TRADE

NO JEWELRY, LAPIDARY ITEMS OR FOSSILS to be sold in the building

Tailgating outside the building can include the above items.

Bring the crystals you have stored away and trade, sell, or give them away.

Bring your mineral collecting friends and spend the day having a good time.

See fine specimens of zeolites, quartz, calcite, fluorite, and rare minerals from the northwest and the world that have not seen daylight since they were collected.

Specimens will be available by the piece, flat, or lot, clean or uncleaned.

Bargain prices and discounts are encouraged.

Microscopes will be available by some participants for viewing microminerals.

All private mineral collectors and dealers are welcome to participate.

The general public will be invited.

## Free admission

Food will be available next door at the AM-PM MINI MART, at nearby takeouts, or bring your own

**Location:** AWPPW UNION HALL, 724 15th, Longview, Washington

next to the AM-PM MINI MART at the junction of Oregon Way and Highway 432 (see map on other side)

For the best route take I-5 exit 36 (south Longview exit), proceed 3.4 miles to the forth stop light, turn right on to 15th Ave.

Second building on your right, next to AM-PM MINI MART. Park in rear. Use rear door to enter.

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## RESERVATIONS:

**Space is limited. Make your reservation now.** Advanced reservation with prepayment is required to reserve space.

Tables will be provided inside the building at \$10.00 per table (6 feet ), maximum of 2 tables.

Participants are expected to be set up by 9:00 AM and stay until closing.

To reserve space contact: **Rudy W. Tschernich, 526 Avenue A, Snohomish, WA 98290**  
telephone 360-568-2857, 9 am to 2 pm weekdays or anytime weekends

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Please reserve \_\_\_\_\_ tables in the building.

Enclosed is a check for the Amount \_\_\_\_\_. Payable to Rudy W. Tschernich

Tailgating area outside building for \$5.00. Bring your own tables. Reservations are required  
Contact Gloria Cook 360-425-4016



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