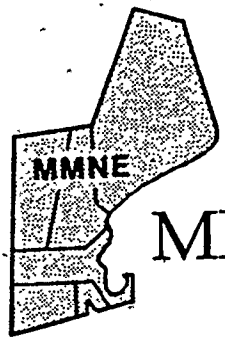
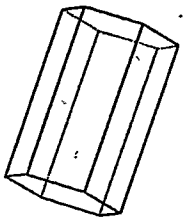
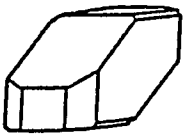
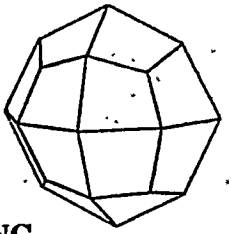


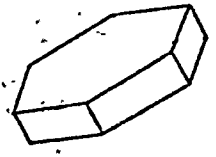
MICROMOUNTERS
OF NEW ENGLAND







NORTHEAST MEETING
May 9, 1992

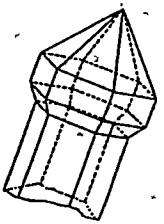


4-H Conference Center
Ashland, MA

PROGRAM:

9:00	Registration and Informal Session
12:00	Lunch
1:00	Presentation

THE MINERALOGY OF URANIUM
by
Abraham Rosenzweig



2:00	Doorprize Drawings
4:00	Departure

President - Ralph Carr	Vice Pres.- Frances Morrison
Recording Sec'y - Patricia Barker	Treasurer - Janet Cares
Corresponding Sec'y and Newsletter Editor - Shelley Monaghan	

Additional information----------
Mrs. Janet Cares, 18 Singletary Lane, Sudbury, MA 01776 (508) 443-9180

GUEST SPEAKER: Abraham Rosenzweig
P. O. Box 16187
Tampa, Florida 33687-6187

Our speaker is a native of Pennsylvania but in the tradition of many geologists he has moved about a good deal. He received his bachelor's degree in chemistry from the University of Pennsylvania and his doctorate in geology and chemistry from Bryn Mawr. During these years his summers were spent working for the Foote Mineral Company and the Pennsylvania Geologic and Topographic Survey.

His teaching and research career involved appointments at the University of Minnesota, the University of New Mexico, Oberlin College, National Taiwan University, and the University of South Florida. At present he is Director of Microscopy Services at Thornton Laboratories in Tampa and is self-employed as a consulting mineralogist.

His involvement with uranium began in 1950 when he worked for the Raw Materials division of the Atomic Energy Commission. Since that time he has continued that interest with a focus on the crystallography of the actinides (natural and artificially produced radioactive elements or compounds), and has published a number of crystal structures for uranium minerals.

"Abe" has a great interest in the educational end of the mineral sciences, and received the Eastern Federation's scholarship award in 1983. He has served as an associate editor of the Mineralogical Record and in February of this year was elected President of that corporation. Under the guidance of Paul Seel he mounted his first micro over forty years ago, and though he has mounted no more than a few hundred since, he has a plentiful supply of "to-be-mounteds", all of which have been thoroughly studied. He regards the microscope, despite all later "high tech" developments as the mineralogist's indispensible tool.

His wife, Daphne, is an authority on Chinese painting, and works as an appraiser of and consultant on Oriental art in general.

COVER ILLUSTRATIONS - New England State Minerals. Clockwise from left: beryl, New Hampshire; babingtonite, Massachusetts; garnet, Connecticut; tourmaline, Maine; talc, Vermont; and amethyst, which has been suggested as the Rhode Island state gem, and is used here in place of the state mineral, bowenite, which has not been found as crystals.

MICROMOUNTERS OF NEW ENGLAND
1967 - 1992

In 1992, the year of this publication, we are observing the 25th anniversary of our founding. The notice below, reprinted in part (by permission) and entitled "A Micromounters Club for New England" was written by Gilbert George to announce the formative meeting and appeared in Rocks & Minerals, August, 1966.

"A group of micromounters here in the New England area would like to start a club devoted to the study of minerals. This club would meet once a month somewhere in the Boston area, which is located in the geographic center of New England. The reason for the monthly meetings rather than a once a year affair, would be to enable more members to attend at their convenience when the press of commitments allowed."

The meeting was reported in the January issue under the title "New England Micromounters" and this is reprinted below in its entirety, also by permission of the editors of Rocks & Minerals. The January meeting was held, as announced here, officers were elected, and a constitution ratified with change from the name used here to the "Micromounters of New England"

"The charter meeting of the "New England Micromounters" was held at the Eliot Church of Newton, Mass. at 1 P.M. on Saturday, Nov. 5, 1966. An interesting meeting was held with members coming from Maine, New Hampshire, Massachusetts, and Rhode Island. Micromounts of the rare minerals from the Quarries at Mount St. Hilaire proved to hold the most interest, as members had been there recently or had bought or traded for them. These quarries are being cut in nephelite-syenite rock and therefore many rare minerals are being collected, such as serandite, wohlerite, lavenite, eudialyte, elpidite, catapleiite, leucophanite, helvite, genthelvite, and many more.

"A committee was appointed to draft a constitution to be voted on at the next meeting, which will be held at 1 P.M. on Saturday, January 14, 1967 at the same location. Why not come to the next meeting? Bring your microscope and light if you have one. If you do not have a microscope, come anyway to see slides and take part in the next meeting. Hope to see you there. For further information write to: Gilbert G. George, 82 Chapin Ave., Providence, R. I. 02909."

In his column, "Thumbnails", member John Reiner told of an early meeting which was to become a tradition. The following paragraph, reprinted by permission, appeared in Rocks & Minerals, September/October, 1969, p. 695.

"The summer meeting of the Micromounters of New England was at my home on Saturday, July 19th. There were nineteen present along with ten microscopes. Some brought lunch and my good wife had things ready for those who like to chew on a sandwich and chat over a microscope. This provided a great chance for identifying new finds and swapping."

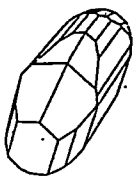
1992 also marks the 10th anniversary of our first Northeast Meeting, which was held May 1, 1982 at the Springfield Museum of Science, and which inaugurated the first of our Program Books. This year's book presents a complete index to all previous issues, as well as selections from some of our best-known mineral publications, written by some of our best-known micromounters, all reprinted or quoted by permission of the editors of the publications cited. Many of our members have made contributions to the Program Book as well, which may be located in the index.

"FIFTY YEARS OF MINERAL COLLECTING"
Gunnar Bjareby

A series of eignt articles with the above title was written for Rocks & Minerals by the late Gunnar Bjareby, our first vice-president. The following excerpts are taken from Part V (November/December 1962, page 565), and give an account of his introduction to micromounting.

"To anyone who collects minerals the organized field trips are, of course, the most important of the club's activities. In the field one soon learns 'who is who' and I met paragons among mineral colectors...I have had the pleasure to dig side by side with all of them and it did not take me long to learn their various techniques. But, being what one could term an'Inter Continental' I was influenced more than anyone else by the then British consul in Boston, Hugh A. Ford, now in New York City. He had one of the finest World-Wide collections. Like all advanced collectors he had a microscope and introduced me to micromounts. Shortly afterwards I was in Portland (up Maine that is) and saw a microscope in a second hand store. I bought this brassy Parisian made antique which had belonged to a 'bug-chasing' M.D. and a number of smeared glass slides came with it. While in that city I met McKay who was one of the pioneers in micromounts in Maine. He too had an antique microscope which seemed to incorporate the main functions of a telescope, goniometer and microscope. Working in metal is one of my hobbies and I made a few improvements on the old 'mike' but it was not too well suited for micromounts.

"My principal reason for collecting micromounts is that roughly one thousand or about half of the known species have crystals ranging in size from less than a tenth of a millimeter to a few millimeters. The only means to distinguish such crystals from a mere smear of color is the microscope."



"BUY AND USE A GOOD MINERAL BOOK"
Neal Yedlin

The first significant regular column for micromounters was written by Neal Yedlin, "Mr. Micromounter" which he regularly closed with the advice given in the above title. The words were first used in his column "The Micromounter" in Rocks & Minerals, March/April, 1959, page 138. The paragraphs reprinted here were appended to that column as a separate article. Neal continued to use them when he transferred his column to the Mineralogical Record under the title "Yedlin on Micromounting". The minerals yedlinite and nealite are named for him. He has attended our meetings and spoken informally to our club.

"There are thousands of mineral collectors today who profess an intense interest in the hobby and are active in going into the field and collecting, but who do not own a good mineral reference book. We have encountered members of the clan on rock piles, mine adits, at dealers, and at conventions. Occasionally some enthuse over a particular specimen, noting its unusual form, association, etc. We glow with satisfaction when we encounter this for it indicates that the collector has done research. He has looked it up in a mineral book.

"But too many of the hobby's participants are not true collectors. They are "gatherers", for many are indiscriminate in their choice of material until someone comes along and names it. They do not own and use a good mineral book.

"In the absence of mineral courses and mineral identification programs on television it behooves the earth science hobbyist to begin reading again. Any good reference book on minerals, and there are many available.

"We suggest that you get one above your normal reading range rather than one below. The book is not for casual reading. It is a reference work. It should have tables for identification based primarily on mineral characteristics which can be determined visually, such as hardness, cleavage, lustre, crystallisation, color, etc., tho not necessarily in that order. Refractive index, specific gravity, wet tests, etc. are not "field tests" and should be the end members of the series, altho these are most important in final determinations. We personally rely on Dana's System, and while about half of the data recorded is not readily understood, nevertheless the voluminous and complete information derived from the half we do understand is usually sufficient to clue us to the species identification.

"The experience of the members of the Baltimore Mineral Society as stated in the column of the Micromounter in this issue will illustrate the force of our observation herein. It holds good in sports. It holds good in mineralogy. "You can't tell the players without a scorecard!"

"Hammers, sledges, chisels, magnifying glasses and soap and water are all tools essential to good collecting. But more important as a basic tool is a good mineral reference book.

"And so we set up a crusade. Buy and USE a good mineral book."

"MICROMINERALS"
Violet Anderson

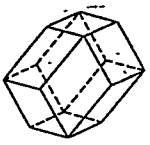
When Neal Yedlin suffered a serious stroke which ultimately led to his death in 1977, Violet Anderson, previously known as a photographer of micromounts, took over his column and retitled it "Microminerals". The following paragraphs are excerpted from that column which appeared in the Mineralogical Record, January/February, 1979, page 41. Vi was the speaker at our second Northeast Meeting in Springfield in 1983. Her passing in 1991 was a great loss to the hobby of micromounting.

"Being a micromounter, enjoyable though it may be, is becoming more difficult. Most of the new minerals are scarce enough to be expensive (if available at all), and many of them are far from attractive. A little piece of crust mounted on a pedestal cannot be compared to a crystal of cuprite set in its own small spot of matrix, though the cost may be similar.

"By and large, the micromounter must willy-nilly become a species collector, at some expense, and often with more attention to rarity than to attractiveness. One is hardly likely to go on mounting better and better crystals of cuprite forever.

"If you are just beginning in this game, the world is your oyster. To choose at random, there are all those crystals of azurite, dioptase, quartz, and garnets; there are sprigs of silver, copper, and gold; there are sprays of mixite, aurichalcite, and artinite; and a bonanza in the rich variety of habits in calcite, rhodochrosite, and smithsonite.

"For the collector in the field, be his hard hat old or new, there are additional resources, since such collecting is not only useful to the collector but is the basis for trading. IF you can find a quarry open to you. I do not want to overstate my case. Each one of us has probably a quarry or mine, not too distant from his home base, where some degree of collecting is possible. Certain arrangements are being made. For example, the Palermo #1 pegmatite, North Groton, New Hampshire, is being made available to collectors on a fee basis through the good offices of Robert Whitmore and Forrest Fogg, and little marvels from there continue to appear. The Friends of Mineralogy have been keeping watch over available collecting localities and ...have written up short descriptions of these, what the conditions of entry are, and what you might expect to find."



"MICROMINERALS"
Bill Henderson

Bill Henderson, our present columnist had written several columns as a guest of Vi Anderson before assuming full authorship in 1982. In the Mineralogical Record (September/October, 1988) he wrote of our 1987 Northeast Meeting. Many changes have taken place since that time. Our membership now approaches 100 with about 25 usually attending, so we seldom meet in private homes, our dues have risen to $6.00, and Joe Mandarino's book, coauthored by Vi Anderson, has been published under the title "Monteregian Treasures". Bill's description of the Northeast Meeting however, remains valid, and an abridged version appears below. Bill was the speaker at our first Northeast Meeting in 1982. The mineral willhendersonite is named for him.

"Last May, my wife, Audrey, and I attended a meeting of the Micromounters of New England. With about 50 members, they meet eight times a year, seven of those being at members' houses. These are really hands-on meetings, with swapping, identifyng, looking at and talking about minerals being the business of the day. Microscopes and lights are everywhere.

"The meeting we attended, however, was their annual [Northeast Meeting]. Besides the above activities, they had a guest speaker - Joe Mandarino, who spoke about computer drawing of crystals, and about Mont St-Hilaire minerals and the book about Mont St-Hilaire minerals on which he is working. Additionally there were many microminerals which could be purchased, and enormous numbers of giveaways. The latter are surprisingly good, and would do very well in any collection.

"A few of the specimens we were given or swapped for are shown in the first few figures of this column. The first is one of several excellent specimens of the very rare hexagonal calcium aluminum phosphate, perhamite. These were collected by Gene Bearss at the Emmons mine, Greenwood, Maine. These are by no means the first fine micros obtained from Gene, as he is a very industrious and knowledgeable field collector.

"Also at the show was Mike Swanson who had for exchange a number of rare and well crystallized goodies. First of these were transparent, honey-brown crystals of eulytite, a bismuth silicate, from Schneeberg, Saxony. He also had for trade brownish-red crystals of hancockite from Franklin, New Jersey; gray-black meneghinite from the Cottino mine, Luca, Italy; and sharp, yellow-green crystals of liebigite from Jefferson County, Colorado.

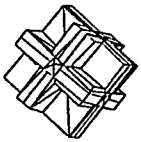
"Mildred and Wally Watson of Clay, NY, had a number of species from Mont St-Hilaire. One of the best is clear, colorless, hexagonal plates of gmelinite perched on pyrrhotite, and the two are found in hornfels. Interestingly, the same association of gmelinite and pyrrhotite is found at Boron, California, in basalts associated with boron mineralization. The latter is not too surprising, considering that gmelinite is frequently found in basalts, and pyrrhotite is most frequently found in basic and ultrabasic rocks. However why the two minerals should

be associated in hornfels is another question.

"Marcelle and Charlie Weber also had Mont St-Hilaire species at the meeting. [A] jet-black equant crystal of anatase was obtained from them. This, too is found in the hornfels, and is associated with bright apple-green dolomite. Much rarer is cubic, raspberry-red villiaumite. [This] is usually found in miarolitic cavities in nepheline syenite, and it is in small vugs and stringers in this type of rock that it is found at Mont St-Hilaire, associated with aegirine, feldspar, and eudialyte. Since villiaumite, NaF, is water-soluble it must be collected soon after exposure, before the next rain. The Webers also have really fine behoite in radiating, colorless crystals with brown tips, as well as columnar, brown crystals of kupletskite, the Mn end-member of a series with astrophyllite.

"Still another mineral found in the hornfels, especially in association with the black anatase, is bright apple-green dolomite in rhombohedrons.

"Anyone wishing to join this small but very active group with members from most of the northeastern states can do so by writing Janet Cares (18 Singletary Lane, Sudbury, MA 01776). Dues are only $4.00 a year."



"THROUGH THE 'SCOPE"

Tom Rosemeyer

In the March/April, 1989 issue of Rocks & Minerals, pages 140-145, a new column with the above name made its appearance. To introduce it Tom wrote the following paragraph, reprinted by permission. We look forward to many more columns from him.

"Welcome to "Through the 'Scope", a column devoted to news and happenings in the micromount field. Included in the column will be information on personalities, collections, techniques, equipment, symposia and meetings, and material at shows and in the field.

"I welcome suggestions and comments on what type of articles and topics you would like to see featured. I also invite you to send details on special events for the micromounter. An important part of the column will be a calendar of such activities.

"By way of introduction, I have been engaged in exploration and mining in the San Juan Mountains of southwestern Colorado for the past twenty years. During this time I have been associated with a number of active mines and was able to collect a wide variety of microminerals. The following is a brief look at some of these locales and the interesting minerals they have yielded."

RADIOACTIVE MINERALS
(Species containing uranium or thorium)

A few naturally occurring radioisotopes include carbon-14 and potassium-40 which are in the air we breathe or the food we eat, however uranium and thorium are the only significant radioactive elements in minerals. Some species such as fergusonite and allanite commonly have thorium or uranium as impurities and are sometimes classed as radioactive.

Abernathyite
Aeschynite-(Ce)
Aeschynite-(Y)
Agrinierite
Albrechtschraufite
Althupite
Andersonite
Arsenuranospathite
Arsenuranylite
Ashanite
Asselbornite
Astrocyanite-(Ce)
Autunite

Bassetite
Bauranoite
Bayleyite
Becquerelite
Bergenite
Betafite
Bijovetite-(Y)
Billietite
Boltwoodite
Brabantite
Brannerite
Brockite

Calciouranoite
Calcurmolite
Carnotite
Cerianite-(Ce)
Cheralite
Chernikovite
Chevkinite
Clarkeite
Cliffordite
Cobalt-zippeite
Coconinoite
Coffinite
Compreignacite
Cousinite
Cuprosklodowskite
Curienite
Curite

Davidite-(Ce)
Davidite-(La)
Demesmaekerite
Derriksite
Dewindtite
Dumontite

Ekanite
Euxenite-(Y)
Eylettersite

Fourmarierite
Francevillite
Francoisite-(Nd)
Fritzscheite
Furongite

Grayite
Grimselite
Guilleminite

Haiweeite
Hallimondite
Heinrichite
Hugelite
Huttonite

Ianthinite
Iraqite-(La)
Iriginite
Ishikawaite

Johannite
Joliotite

Kahlerite
Kamitugaite
Kamotoite-(Y)
Karnasutite-(Ce)
Kasolite
Kivuite
Kobeite-(Y)

Lehnerite
Lepersonnite-(Gd)
Lermontovite
Liandratite
Liebigite

Magnesium-zippeite
Margaritasite
Marthozite
Masuyite
Mckelveyite-(Y)
Meta-ankoleite
Meta-autunite
Metacalciouranoite
Metahaiweeite
Metaheinrichite
Metakahlerite
Metakirchheimerite
Metalodevite
Metanovacekite
Metaschoepite
Metastudtite
Metatorbernite
Metatyuyamunite
Meta-uranocircite
Meta-uranopilite
Meta-uranospinite
Metavandendriesscheite
Metananmeerssheite
Metavanuralite
Metazellerite
Moctezumite
Moluranite
Monazite-(Ce)
Moreauite
Mourite
Mundite

Nickel-zippeite
Ningyoite
Niloboaeschynite-(Ce)
Novacekite

Orthobrannerite
Oursinite

Paraschoepite
Parsonsite
Perrierite
Petschekite
Phosphuranylite
Phuralumite
Phurcalcite
Plumbobetafite
Plumbomicrolite
Plumbopyrochlore
Polycrase-(Y)
Polymignite
Protasite
Przhevalskite
Pseudo-autunite

Rabbittite
Rameauite
Ranunculite
Rauvite
Richetite
Roubaltite
Rutherfordine

Sabugalite
Saleeite
Samarskite-(Y)
Saryarkite-(Y)
Sayrite
Schmitterite
Schoepite
Schrockingerite
Sedovite
Sengierite
Shabaite-(Nd)
Sharpite
Sklodowskite
Soddyite
Sodium autunite
Sodium boltwoodite
Sodium uranospinite
Sodium-zippeite
Steacyite
Steenstrupine-(Ce)
Strelkinite
Studtite
Swamboite
Swartzite

Tengchongite
Thorbastnaesite
Thorianite
Thorite
Thornasite
Thorogummite
Thorosteenstrupine
Thorutite
Threadgoldite
Torbernite
Triangulite
Tristramite
Tritomote-(Ce)
Trogerite
Tyuyamunite

Ulrichite
Umbozerite
Umohoite
Upalite
Uramphite
Urancalcarite
Uraninite
Uranmicrolite
Uranocircite
Uranophane
Uranophane-beta
Uranopilite
Uranosilite
Uranospathite
Uranospinite
Uranotungstite
Uranpyrochlore
Uvanite

Vandenbrandeite
Vandendriesscheite
Vanmeerscheite
Vanuralite
Vanuranylite
Vochtenite
Voglite
Vyacheslavite

Walpurgite
Weeksite
Widenmannite
Wolsendorfite
Wyartite

Xiangjianite

Yttrialite-(Y)
Yttrobetafite-(Y)
Yttrocolumbite-(Y)
Yttrocrasite-(Y)
Yttropyrochlore-(Y)
Yttrotantalite-(Y)

Zellerite
Zeunerite
Zinc-zippeite
Zippeite
Zirkelite

Several radioactive minerals were named for the famous Curie family. Sklodowskite and cuprosklodowskite were named for Madame Marie Sklodowska Curie, who discovered radium with her husband Pierre, for whom curite was named. Joliotite honored their daughter Irene and her husband Jean-Frederic Joliot who first discovered the principle of artificially-produced radioisotopes. Other radioactive minerals are generally named for localities, mine operators, geologists, chemical makeup, etc.

PERLOFF AND YEDLIN - THEIR EARLY YEARS

Lou Perloff's account of the friendship of two young boys and their growing up with minerals to become leaders in the micromount field gives a unique look at collecting in the 1930's. It is reprinted by permission from "Neal Yedlin - A Memorial," written by Ron Bentley and "a few of Neal's many friends", published in the Mineralogical Record, 10:231-233, 1979. Lou was our Northeast Meeting speaker in 1988.

"When I was about five years old, my family moved from the east side of Manhattan to Howard Avenue in Brooklyn. Having assured myself that my own treasures had survived the shipping intact, I headed for the street to see what the neighborhood had in the way of kids my own age. I didn't have to go far. Right outside the door was a fellow who lived a few doors down the street - that was Neal.

"In the age-old manner of boys at first encounter, we made a wary appraisal of each other, asked the first few questions and exchanged names. He showed me where he lived and we decided we could get along together. That simplified things for our mothers because finding two kids was easier than finding one. From that time on we attended school together and were virtually inseparable.

"Why we both developed an interest in minerals simultaneously I can't say. Perhaps it was just because we had grown so accustomed to doing everything together. We knew nothing about minerals at that time. We only knew that there were pretty things to be found in the hillsides, and we squirreled them away in boxes and drawers. We had no conception of crystals and had never found anything but glacially polished pebbles of quartz in all shapes and colors, plus the occasional stray pebble of hematite, pyrite, or other "exotic" minerals which became treasured bragging pieces.

"We first began to learn about minerals whien we discovered the Brooklyn Children's Museum around the age of 12. We were well along in Public School No. 144 and had taken some science courses by the time someone told us about the museum. And imagine, it was only about a mile from where we lived! We ran there that afternoon, after school let out (kids walk only when forced out on errands). The museum was in an old mansion in a block-square park. There were many wonders inside the door, but most of them had to wait until later; we homed in on the mineral room. For the first time in our lives we knew the enchantment of a real mineral collection. It was quite a good one, filling glass and wooden cases which lined the wall of one room. As we learned later, many of the specimens came from the Brooklyn Museum when it had removed minerals to make room for other things that were to become its specialties.

"A game was in progress in the mineral room when we entered. A handsome lady, Mrs. Seldner, was handing out cards with questions typed on them. You took a card and scurried around the room until you located a specimen and label that provided the answer, then you rushed back and called out your answer (earning

a check mark by your name), and took another card. It was a day of triumph for both of us; we beat the regulars who lived nearby and had played the game before. As prizes I received a chunk of pumice and Neal received something more colorful (but I've forgotten what it was).

"That first sight of a room full of minerals, most of them well crystallized, was an eye-opener for us both and we were hooked from that day on. We went to the museum anytime we didn't have errands at home or a heavy load of homework. Saturdays were the best of all. We were usually there before the doors opened, prepared to spend the whole day among the mineral wonders. The museum contained a good deal more than the exhibit rooms; the real treasures were in storage in the basement. Down there were drawers full of minerals that we could handle, and break, and scratch, and weigh. There were hammers and streak plates, magnets and balance, and, best of all, there was Jack Boyle.

"Jack came to the museum a year or two after we discovered it. We had been learning about minerals (and trees, shells, butterflies, etc.) from a group of wonderfully dedicated women who were wise enough to introduce us to knowledge as if we were adults, not kids. Jack was a Philadelphia Irishman whose knowledge and wit were, to us at least, dazzling. Learning about minerals from him and being gloriously entertained at the same time was an experience to be treasured forever. There was so much sheer fun in having him for a teacher that we sopped up knowledge at a rate that would have staggered our teachers back at P.S. 144 and later at Boy's High School. (Neal and I attended both schools, in the same classes most of the time, and got our law degrees from Brooklyn Law School in the same year).

"Before meeting Jack we had gone on occasional field trips to places like the Palisades or the limestone caves of upper Manhattan. But with Jack we really began to hit the collecting localities around New York. We had a copy of Manchester's "Minerals of New York and its Environs" (1931) which contained a map showing the localities within a 50 mile radius of the Battery of Manhattan (that map is reproduced in the Record, vol. 9, page 157). Neal and I collected at every locality indicated on the map, many of them dozens of times in the years before and after the war. In New York there were Valhalla, Tilly Foster, Mahopac, the Kinkel and Baylis quarries at Bedford, Glen Cove and Staten Island. In New Jersey there were the Arlington copper mine, the traprock quarries of Paterson, Snake Hill, Bound Brook, Great Notch, Summit and Somerville, as well as limestones of the Franklin-Sterling area. In Connecticut there were Haddam, Portland, Trumbull, Roxbury, Redding and Danbury, and as we grew older, the upper New England localities.

"One of Jack Boyle's maxims was 'never take no for an answer'. Of course those were simpler times and there were fewer collectors to drive quarry operators crazy. But there were rules and restrictions on collecting even then. Many such restrictions were in force at the Lower New Street quarry, the source of more zeolites of spectacular quality than have ever been found in any other American quarry. Individual collecting was forbidden at New Street. Periodically there were group visits by the New York

and Newark mineral clubs, but those always brought out mobs to rival those in the notions department at Macy's just before Christmas; not the best of collecting conditions. Neal and I were in our late teens when we decided to test the rules at New Street. We set out for the quarry one Saturday afternoon in the fall. Bob Mercer, the quarry manager, was alone in his office at the roadside listening to a football game on the radio. We had come prepared to be turned down, and Mercer said the expected words: 'Sorry fellows, I'd like to say yes. But if I let you in today I'd have half of New York here by next Saturday'. We looked a little disappointed, said nothing. Neal, who knew a good deal about football, both as a player and a fan, sensed that the football game on the radio might be the key. Lowering our eyes bashfully and scraping one foot behind the other, we asked Mercer if he minded if we stayed around and listened to the game. He said he was glad to have us. It took only a few plays, with Neal's correct guesses about what would happen next, to impress Mercer. (I limited myself to noncommittal comments that wouldn't reveal my ignorance, such as 'Wow' and 'Whee!'). Before the game was over we were in solid! It was dusk by then and there was no time for collecting that day, but Bob opened up drawers in his desk that were filled with choice pieces and invited us to take what we wanted. Even better, the two of us could come and collect whenever we wanted as long as we didn't tell anybody! It was a privilege we had until the quarry ceased operations well into the 1930's. The surrounding area had become too thickly settled and blasting was finally outlawed. But during those years, even when Neal and I were serving our clerkships in the same law office in Manhattan, Bob would sometimes call Neal to tell him about a blast that was going to be set off. Many times we would grab some legal envelopes in which to put specimens (Bob had the tools) and set off for New Street.

"Franklin, New Jersey was a tougher nut to crack. There were no club trips to the picking table where all the ore of the mine was hoisted to and laid out. You had to be a Very Important Person or a close friend of the chief chemist, Bauer, in order to have a whiff of a chance of getting an invitation to visit the picking table. For several years Neal had been head counselor at a camp near Bear Mountain Park, not far from Franklin. One day he composed a letter to the Franklin mine manager that, for lucid persuasiveness, Metternichian guile and consummate chutzpah would have done credit to Henry Kissinger! Neal laid great stress on how such a visit to the fabled mine would assist him in imparting to his charges the great mining history of the region. We discussed the phrasing in detail, fearful that some of it might sound a bit fulsome. But the letter worked! Very shortly after sending the letter we received an invitation. As Neal's colleague I was, of course, to accompany him. Not wanting to be hogs, we invited Jack Boyle, Ivan Lee, and Mary Whelleck. There was one sticky moment at the gate when it seemed that someone objected to letting a woman into the mine, but then the gates opened and the picking table was before us.

"In the early 1930's Neal and I became members of the New York Mineralogical Club. In those years the club had an awesome

membership composed of some of the best amateur and professional mineralogists in the country. Their mineralogical knowledge was deep, their opinions strong, and all were fiercely disputatious. Neal and I eagerly looked forward to the monthly meetings, for each meeting was certain to see its share of verbal fireworks. We soon realized that these mineralogical Donnybrooks had an almost ritual quality in which the contestants welcomed the verbal testing of themselves and each other. Over the years we became friends with many of them.

"Neal moved to Maine in the late 1930's and we didn't meet again until after the war. Both of us were out of uniform at the end of 1945 and Neal had returned to New York. His stored mineral collection had been left in Maine at the home of a friend. At once we were gripped by the fever to get out into the field again and see the old collecting sites. The fever, as we found out, was pandemic among mineralogists and collectors after the war. The crowds at club trips were enormous. It was at this time that our interest in micromounts began to develop. Jack Boyle had introduced us to the microscope many years earlier, and we had seen some of John Grenzig's mounts in his home. But it was during the post-war sessions with a microscope in Ivan Lee's home in Jersey City that we were sold on micromounting as the True Faith. We had never seen anything to match Ivan's suite of uranium minerals from Shinkolobwe. We began to think seriously of converting entirely to micromounting.

"Around this time we met a young priest who lived in a room behind a church in Times Square. In his small room there was a large grand piano for his work with sacred music, a work bench where he worked on stained glass window panels, and a table for his microscope and micromount collection. Hs collection, which seemed enormous to us, was in about 1000 rakestraw boxes. Loose micromount material overflowed the space below the table and every odd corner of the room. A small cot occupied one side, so that one had to move sideways to get through. It was evident that something would have to go. Reluctantly our friend decided that it would have to be the minerals in order to leave room for his more vital religious activities. When he told us of his decision I bought his microscope. Neal, who already had a microscope, bought the boxed micromounts which were to form the nucleus of his collection. We happily hauled away and shared the mounds of loose micromount material from the room. We were in the micromount business at last."

MICROMOUNTERS OF NEW ENGLAND

NORTHEAST MEETING PROGRAM BOOK

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1982 - May 1, Wm. A. Henderson, Jr.: Non-Pegmatite Phosphates. (Springfield Museum Of Science, Springfield, MA)
1983 -May 14, Violet Anserson: Microminerals of the Francon Quarry. (Springfield Museum of Science, Springfield, MA)
1984 - May 19, Vandall King: Identification of Common Silicates in New England Pegmatites. (Greenfield Community College, Greenfield, MA)
1985 - May 11, John L. Baum: Microminerals of Franklin and Sterling Hill, NJ. (4-H Center, Ashland, MA)
1986 - May 10, Curt G. Segeler: Introduction to the Zeolites. (4-H Center, Ashland, MA)
1987 - May 2, Joseph A. Mandarino: The Mineralogy of Mont St-Hilaire. (4-H Center, Ashland, MA)
1988 - May 14, Louis Perloff: Microminerals of the Black Hills of South Dakota. (4-H Center, Ashland, MA)
1989 - May 13, George Robinson: Microminerals of the Lac Nicolet Antimony Mine, Ham Sud, Quebec. (4-H Center, Ashland, MA)
1990 - May 12, Steven Chamberlain: Microminerals of Upstate New York. (4-H Center, Ashland, MA)
1991 - May 11, John S. White, Jr.: Microminerals of the Foote Mine, Kings Mt. NC. (4-H Center, Ashland, MA)
1992 - May 9, Abraham Rosenzweig: Mineralogy of Uranium. (4-H Center, Ashland, MA)

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