

Friends of Mineralogy
Pennsylvania Chapter

Fall Edition - 1976

Election - Directors

An election will be held (by mail) to vote for 9 Directors who will hold terms of 1, 2, and 3 years. After this initial election, 3 Directors will be appointed each year for a 3 year term. It will be the responsibility of the Directors to appoint the Chapter officers - Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer. Ballots will be sent to all members in January, 1977 to vote for the candidates on the ballot or the option of writing in candidates of their choice.

The following F/M members have been nominated as candidates:

<u>One Year</u>	<u>Two Years</u>	<u>Three Years</u>
Col. Thomas Myers	Margaret Kendall	G. Rambo
Bryon Brookmyer	Dr. Ewing	D. Oswald
Martin Anne'	D. Schmerling	E. Carper

Our host for this meeting was Paula and Jay Lininger at their beautiful home near Dillsburg, Pa. Our host was most generous with snacks and a bottomless coffee pot throughout the meeting. After the meeting, Paula set a buffet that was most delicious and the peach pie (my favorite) was superb. We all thank Jay and Paula for the extra fine hospitality.

Special Note:

Juliet Reed had the good fortune to visit with Arthur Montgomery and spend some time with Arthur at the Harding mine. She reports that Arthur is in good health and spirits, relaxed and looks well. Arthur sends his best wishes to all of us.

Mineral Specimen Request:

Mother Mary Everilda, of Our Lady of Angels College, Aston, Pa. 19014 is looking for specimens to start a mineral collection at the College. Anyone wishing to contribute can send the material directly to the College. Specimens should be properly identified, have complete locality data, date collected, donor's name, clean and worthy of display.

Chapter Insignia:

How about that Chapter Insignia? Have you sent in your idea? Let's get something started and submit your idea at the Symposium. It will be a good opportunity to get everyone involved.

Membership:

This is a good time for all of us to begin looking around for a new member and start a recruiting binge. If you have someone in mind who is interested in mineralogy, request an application form from Vince Matula, Membership Chairman, Rd #4, Allentown, Pa. 18103. The Pennsylvania Chapter of F/M is open to everyone and the qualifications for membership is simple. Members shall be those persons interested in mineralogy, crystallography or related sciences and the promotion of the F/M goals. With this in mind we hope every member will try to help to add a new member to the Pennsylvania Chapter of F/M.

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Welcome New Members ;

Friends of Mineralogy, Pennsylvania Chapter, officers and members extend a hearty welcome to all the new members we are adding to the membership list. The reorganization of F/M into the Pennsylvania Chapter has been quite successful. We now have a total of 67 members in good standing.

Welcome;

Jane E. Grigger
Windsor Regency 49-18
Hightstown, N. Jersey 08520

William Yocom
27 Dean St.
West Chester, Pa. 19380

Charles Fink
R.D. #8, Box 434
York, Pa. 17403

Doris Fink
R.D. # 8, Box 434
York, Pa. 17403

P.N. Yocom
307 Shady Brook
Princeton, N. Jersey 08540

Jacob E. Dryer
3105 Schiek St.
Pittsburgh, Pa. 15227

Allen G. Snyder, III
2411 Hillock Court
Lansdale, Pa. 19446

Julia Snyder
2411 Hillock Court
Lansdale, Pa. 19446

Betty Clauser
593 New Road
Southampton, Pa. 18966

John Clauser
593 New Road
Southampton, Pa. 18966

John Work
15 Longview Road
Glen Mills, Pa. 19342

Leah Work
15 Longview Road
Glen Mills, Pa. 19342

William Yambor
R.D. #
Green Lane, Pa. 18054

Max Tietjens
1064 Wagon Road
Blue Bell, Pa. 19422

Jacinta Coleman
4701 Pine St. 9J
Philadelphia, Pa. 19143

Dorothy T. Moore
Box 244
Kennett Square, Pa. 19348

George Biggs
2050 Lititz Pike
Lancaster, Pa. 17601

Richard Lamborn
3920 Cockran St..
Erie, Pa. 16508

N. Eugene Lammey
R.D. # 2
Honey Brook, Pa. 19344

Henry Bruce Barr
Dept. of Geology
Princeton University
Princeton, N. J. 08540

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Geneva Corbett
3220 Berkshire Rd.
Baltimore, Md. 21214

Herbert Corbett
3220 Berkshire Rd.
Baltimore, Md. 21214

Mineral Notes and News:

Millerite, dickite, quartz, chlorite, galena, sphalerite and siderite. This mineral assemblage is available to collectors who want to try their luck on the spill banks above Wadesville, Pa.

To reach the spill banks, go to St. Clair, Pa. and take the road going to Wadesville, now heading in a south-westerly direction out of St. Clair. Proceed thru Wadesville up to the first stop sign out of town, turn right and go about 1 city block to where you can see the crossover road from the mine entering the spill bank area, turn left and proceed with caution, rough roads, but passable for the average car, and go to where ever you can see fresh dump material. Check the quartz seams and carefully check in the cavities for the various minerals listed. This is excellent material, have a supply of paper or packing material to hold your specimens, egg cartons make excellent containers.

A NEW OCCURRENCE OF MILLERITE -- FURTHER NOTES ON THE SULLIVAN TRAIL COAL CO. By M Allen Northup

In the January, 1937, issue of ROCKS and MINERALS, the author¹ described various minerals found at West Pittston, Pa., especially at the Sullivan Trail Coal Co. mine. He reported then that no Millerite, the mono-sulfide of nickel, was found there, although a thorough search was made. However, on revisiting the locality some months later (May, 1937), not only Millerite, but several other new minerals were found in fair abundance. This improvement in the locality was due to the presence on the culm heap of a great deal of fresh rock taken out in deepening the shaft. As this rock had not passed through the crushers and hydraulic cones in the breaker, it was in almost its original condition and the associated minerals hadn't been damaged. It also seems to have come from a different and more mineralized formation than any of the rock previously examined.

Another reason for the author's not finding any Millerite formerly may have been that he was looking for it in clay-ironstone concretions, having read that it occurs that way. This was a great mistake. The collector should look for neither concretions nor Millerite, but for veins in slate filled with Quartz or Ankerite crystals. On cracking these open, if he is lucky, he will find little tufts of pale brass-yellow Millerite fibers in spaces between the crystals.

Although fairly abundant, the tufts are small, varying from 1/16" to 1/2" in length depending on the free space available. The number of fibers in a group also varies from a few widely separated ones to close packed bunches of numerous individuals. Rarely, a tuft of short fibers branches out of the tip of a longer single one, and once in a while a specimen is found with a characteristic greenish gray tarnish. A single example of Millerite having tiny Pyrite crystals strung on the fibers like beads was found on Quartz at a nearby mine.

The Quartz and Ankerite crystals upon which the Millerite occurs are found in transverse veins in profusely faulted black coal-measures slate. They usually have a layer of small rhombic crystals of Ankerite next to the rock on both sides, with more or less Quartz in the

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openings of the wider ones. Generally there is some crystallization of the Quartz leaving angular cavities between the faces, even if the vein is filled almost completely. The best Millerite occurs here.

Since Millerite occurs either on Quartz or Ankerite, or both, and has not been found at this locality penetrating either one, the order of deposition is : Ankerite, Quartz, Millerite.

As far as the author knows this occurrence of Millerite has not been previously reported. He was only able to find one reference² to the mineral having been found anywhere in the region, and that was a questionable occurrence with Quartz in Siderite, presumably at a coal mine in Scranton, Pa., some 9 miles east of the new locality.

It is interesting to note that Howarth³ in describing Millerite from the South Wales coal fields, states that the mineral is generally found in cavities in clay-ironstone concretions. Although such nodules are abundant on the culm heap at the Sullivan Trail mine and contain similar accessory minerals to those mentioned by Howarth, no Millerite has been found in them. The reason for this has not been determined, though the evidence at hand suggests that the concretions came from a different, and probably higher, geological level than the Millerite-containing rocks, the two strata being separated by one or more coal veins. In other words, Millerite probably occurs only in the lowest levels of this mine.

The following other minerals were also found at this locality recently:

Sphalerite: Dark brown grains and tiny triangular crystals occur sparingly in cavities in clay-ironstone concretions; also in slate with Quartz and Millerite, and in Pyrophyllite. Often several minute crystals form around a grain of Chalcopyrite.

Pyrite: In abundant masses of various forms, notably as flattened concretions up to a foot or more in area in slate. Some have an oval cross section, are elongated, and have spatula shaped ends. All of them are composed of very fine granular Pyrite mixed with carbonaceous matter. Sometimes they show longitudinal cracks spreading out radially from a central axis. When very flat, they have little concentric ridges around the edges, showing that they were squeezed down from their original thickness. These last have a layer of well-formed, but tiny crystals on one side. As such slabs are always close to one or more fault lines, it looks as if not only the flattening, but crystallization as well, was brought about by intense pressure caused by movements of the rock along these faults. They make very showy specimens if one has the patience to pry the slate off and clean them up.

Barite: Translucent whitish cleavage masses, seldom more than an inch across, in clay-ironstone concretions.

Pyrophyllite: White, very fine granular masses filling narrow fault or strain cracks in slate, often running diagonally across the main cleavage of the rock; and varying in thickness from 1/4" down to a mere film. Some specimens are solid and break out cleanly from the slate, while others are gouged and grooved as though rock movements had taken place along the vein after the mineral was deposited. Due to its softness and "slip", it would make a good lubricant for such movements. The mineral has been reported⁴ from collieries at Drifton, Gowen, and Mahoney City, Pa., but as far as the author knows, not from the neighborhood of West Pittston.

Chlorite: Tiny green to brown scales in booklets attached by their

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edges to the walls of cracks or cavities in slate are probably one of the Chlorites. As a determination of optical properties would be required to establish the exact identity of the mineral, this cannot be given. One specimen of Chlorite was found included in little Quartz crystals, giving them a nice dark green color.

Literature References:-

- 1 "The Minerals of West Pittstown, Pa." by M. Allen Northup; ROCKS and MINERALS, Vol. 12, No. 1, P. 18 (Jan. 1937).
- 2 "The Mineralogy of Pennsylvania" by S. G. Gordon:-Special publication No. 1 of the Philadelphia Academy of Natural Sciences: rf. "Millerite" also, "Lackawanna County."
- 3 "Millerite" by W. E. Howarth; ROCKS and MINERALS, Vol. 5, No. 1, P. 3 (March, 1930).
- 4 See No. 2 above:- P. 127.

Twisted Millerite Crystals, Nanticoke, Penn.
A.C. Hawkins

In the anthracite coal basin at Nanticoke, Pa., the Mills coal vein is cut by narrow stringers of white quartz. In cavities which are present in the quartz, occasional aggregates of millerite crystals are found. Some of the aggregates of millerite are radiated, while others are irregular, a mass of brilliant acicular, hair-like prisms, the longest of which measures about 2 cm.

Among the most slender of the millerite crystals there are a number which show a helical twist; they appear like ribbons which have been twisted from both ends. The twist is either right or left handed in equal numbers of the crystals.

It does not appear that the twisting can have been the result of mechanical causes, since the small twisted crystals are interspersed with thicker prisms which are not twisted. The phenomenon must have been caused by a natural tendency in the growth of the crystal. Professor Newhouse of Mass. Institute of Technology has informed the writer that millerite crystals have been found in quartz veins in a number of other coal mines, and that quite frequently they are twisted. A similar condition has been noted in stibnite.

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"Do It Yourself"

A new column will begin in our next newsletter called the "Do It Yourself" with articles that will include photography, electronics and other simple devices that can help the average mineral collector to enjoy the study of minerals.

F/M National Newsletter;

Everyone in the Chapter should have a newsletter from F/M National Headquarters. The letter is self explanatory outlining the future plans of F/M. We will also receive in the near future another newsletter and a membership list. News from the National is most welcome I hope they will continue to keep us posted on a regular basis.