

Minutes of the 4/16/02 Westside Board Meeting

Dave Sander opened the meeting at 7:30PM

Kathy gave the treasurer's report

Minutes were accepted as printed in the Council Reporter

Wagonmaster's report:

The field trip to Racehorse Creek is this weekend (4/20)

Ed is out of map books. He'll print more as time permits

Vi Jones reported that Bill Williams spoke to the BLM about Saddle Mt. Apparently the road has been graded and is very passable

There are still sensitive plant areas on the eastside

No changes to the status of Manashtash Ridge. Collecting is still allowed

No changes to the rules relating the collecting of invertebrate fossils for personal use

Bruce Himko reported that the trip to Kalama is shaping up real well

Signup cards with rules printed on the back will be distributed prior to collecting

The spot that was dug last year is not available this year. New sites with good material have been identified for this year's trip

Old business:

The Rockhound Rules of Conduct need to be reinstated into the map books

The case of materials for the eastside was well received. The case is still short on "worked" samples. Ed did receive some donations of material

New business:

Dave Molsee, one of the charter members of the Mineral Council passed away on 4/12 after a long illness

Vi Jones will talk to Vern Tovrea about presenting a program about the geology on the west side at the November meeting

Meeting adjourned,

submitted by Glenn Morita

Petosky Stone (The Michigan state stone)

Petosky stone is fossilized colony coral. Paleontologists identify this fossilized coral *Prismatophyllum* of the *Hexagonaria* family of the *Tetracoralla* and as part of a very large family of colony corals called *Anthozoa*. It is found in Devonian reef limestone.

Say That Again?

Anthozoa corals were lining marine life that built their structures by extracting calcium carbonate from sea water in which they lived millions of years ago. Sometimes this marine life is found to live alone and then it is called coralites. However, the majority is found congested into colonies or apartments that are called corallum.

The corallum colony is a complex hollow structure with a network of calcareous plates and partitions dividing the structure into a series of compartments. These were deposited as inward folds that radiated from a central axis like spokes of a wheel. These were extended upward as the structure grew in height. The different arrangements of partitions and compartments, along with the size, shape, and relation of the coralites, provide the chief features by which the families and subspecies have been established and identified.

The *Hexagonaria* coral colonies are tightly clustered prismatic units that usually are in close contact with one another and of the same diameter throughout their entire length. The most prominent feature is that they appear as rough six-sided outer wall structures, and when grouped together in a colony create a pattern resembling a series of hexagonal tile all fitted together. This gives the Petosky Stone its distinctive appearance.

Location

The Devonian reefs, where Petosky Stones are found, surfaces in Michigan at the extreme top of the lower peninsula. This area covers portions of Charlevoix, Emmet, Cheboygan, Presque Isle, and Alpena counties. Collecting can be done on the beaches of Little Traverse Bay, from the city of Petosky all the way to Charlevoix.

History

The name is taken from an 18th century legend. This legend is of a man by the name of Antoine Carre, who came to the then western country to become a fur trader. He was employed by the John Jacob Astor Fur Company. While working for them, he met and married an Indian Princess.

Shortly after their marriage he was adopted by the Ottawa tribe and was named Nea-a-tooshing. After a time, he became one of their chiefs.

In 1787, Nea-a-tooshing and his royal family spent the winter fishing and hunting at the mouth of the Illinois River near the present day city of Chicago. In the spring, the royal family prepared for their return to their summer hunting grounds near Seven Mile Point, which is close to the present site of Petosky, Michigan.

En-route, they stopped on the banks of the Kalamazoo River where a son was born. The next morning, as the sun rose over the tree tops, is shown on the face of the newborn. Noting the sunshine on his son's face, the chief proclaimed that his name would be Pe-tos-e-gay, and he would become a great man. In the Ottawa language, this means rising sun, rays of dawn, or sunbeams of promise.

Pe-tos-e-gay grew into manhood true to his father's prediction and became a great man as a fur trader and a merchant. He accumulated much land and wealth in his profession.

Pe-tos-e-gay was outstanding in his appearance. His dark skin was smooth, his eyes sharp and deep set.; He spoke very good English. He married the young daughter of Chief Pok-e-zee-gun, the last of the great Ottawa tribe from the northern part of the lower peninsula of Michigan. Their marriage lasted many years and produced a family of two daughters and eight sons.

In the summer of 1873, it was decided to start a new city upon some of the Chief's old land along the bay and river. At the time, the site consisted of only a few non-descript buildings and a sparse population of 50 to 60 people. Much of the area was overgrown with June grass at this time. In July, the settlement was made a city and named in honor of Chief Petosky - the English version of Pe-tos-e-gay.

Honorarium

On June 28, 1965, the Petoskey Stone was made the Michigan State Stone when House 13111 2297 was signed by Governor Romney. Present at the signing of this bill was Miss Ella Jane Petosky, the only living grandchild of Chief Petoskey. Bibliography Courier, E.W. (1966) The Petosky Stone: Michigan's Official State Stone - Lapidary Journal, July 1966

Heinrich, E.W. (1976) The Mineralogy of Michigan, Dept. of Geology and Mineralogy, Univ. of Michigan

Note:

This is an extremely good article, written by someone in the deep South. We'll have to forgive the spelling - which does bring up the question, did Chief Petosky ever spell the name as "Petosky"? Editor Ed's maternal grandfather knew of Chief Petosky firsthand, and referred to him as "Petoskey" in his recollections written early in the century and on file with the Michigan Historical Museum in Lansing. Granddad's writings about working to build the first railroad into Petoskey makes for very interesting reading!

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