

## ***Ramblings and rumblings from the upper peninsula of Michigan***

Thomas Rosemeyer

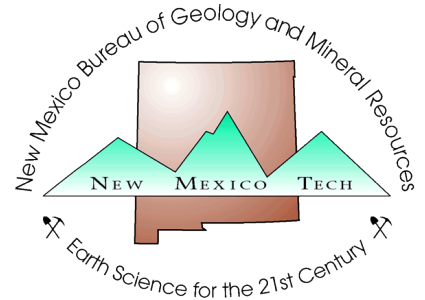
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The annual [New Mexico Mineral Symposium](#) provides a forum for both professionals and amateurs interested in mineralogy. The meeting allows all to share their cumulative knowledge of mineral occurrences and provides stimulus for mineralogical studies and new mineral discoveries. In addition, the informal atmosphere encourages intimate discussions among all interested in mineralogy and associated fields.

The symposium is organized each year by the [Mineral Museum](#) at the [New Mexico Bureau of Geology & Mineral Resources](#).



Abstracts from all prior symposiums are also available: <https://geoinfo.nmt.edu/museum/minsymp/abstracts>

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# Ramblings and Rumbblings from the Upper Peninsula of Michigan

*Thomas Rosemeyer*

It is now the end of September and the 2021 collecting season is coming to an end in the Michigan Copper Country. Fall is here—the days are shorter with cooler evenings are cooler mornings. The fall foliage is turning a vivid red and yellow and fall tourists are coming to the Keweenaw before everything turns white.

In the past two years since my last talk on the Copper Country, collecting has slowed down and so have I. I'm now an old geezer of 80 years and no more scrambling up mine dumps, hiking to remote localities, or midnight mining ventures. I still manage to collect almost every day but at a much slower pace. I'm fortunate in having a younger energetic partner who helps me in my liberations.

Crushing of mine dumps is still ongoing for construction and logging operations. The property owners of the mine dumps have been helpful with collectors and many specimens have been saved from the jaws of the crusher. There have been many small individual finds and some will be mentioned in my talk.

One in particular will be mentioned and that was the discovery of a vein of crystallized silver. The discovery was made along Silver Creek in Keweenaw County. Over a period of three weeks, almost 300 specimens of native silver were recovered from a 10 by 10 foot area. Most of the specimens were approximately a centimeter in size but about 20 pieces ranged up to 8 cm in size. Hopefully this will be a teaser to sit a few minutes longer and not leave to be early in line for the famous breakfast burrito on Saturday morning.



Curt Niemela holding the largest and best crystallized silver that was recovered from the South Silver vein that was discovered near the Cliff mine, Keweenaw County, MI. Photo by Tom Rosemeyer, 3 July 2020.





In early June 2020 a major near surface silver vein was discovered near Silver Creek, Keweenaw County, MI., and ranks as one of the major silver discovery in years. The specimen shown is 7.4 x 8.6 cm and is the best recovered to date. The discovery has been named the Enigma vein because of the puzzling nature of the occurrence. Photo by Tom Rosemeyer, 9 June 2020.