

Clarence R. Smith Mineral Museum

*Dedication*

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Ceremony

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June 16, 2001



YOUNGSTOWN STATE UNIVERSITY

CLARENCE R. SMITH MINERAL MUSEUM

*Dedication Ceremony*



*June 16, 2001*

Program

Welcome ..... Mr. Paul J. McFadden  
Director of Development  
University Development

Remarks ..... Dr. Ikram Khawaja  
Chair  
Department of Geology

Remarks ..... Dr. David C. Sweet  
President  
Youngstown State University

Remarks ..... Mr. Clarence R. Smith, Jr.

Reception ..... Atrium  
Moser Hall

## Clarence R. Smith, Jr.



Clarence R. Smith, Sr. was born and raised in Youngstown, Ohio and he started his mineral collection in 1959 when he spent the winter in Tucson, Arizona. In 1962, Mr. Smith opened a mineral shop in his barn. In 1970, after Mr. Smith passed away, the collection was moved to Adamas Jewelry & Gifts located at 8391 Market Street, Boardman, Ohio. The collection's new home is the Youngstown State University Department of Geology where it will be able to be enjoyed by all for years to come.

Clarence R. Smith, Jr. was born and raised in Boardman, Ohio. He graduated from Boardman High School and attended Kenyon College and Youngstown State University. He is chairman of the Diamond Steel Construction Company, Compco Industries, and its affiliates. He also serves on the board of Home Savings and Loan Association of Youngstown. He is married to the former Rose Marie Poschner and they have three children, Gwen Smith of Boardman, Ohio, Gail Smith of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania and Gregory B. Smith of Boardman, Ohio and five grandchildren.

Mr. Smith had worked for the Diamond Steel Construction Company as a truck driver. During his junior year at Kenyon, he was called home to take over the management of the company due to his father having a stroke. He has been the leader of various companies since that date. A partial list of the companies are: Compco Industries, Compco Land Company, C&S Land Company, Buckeye Manufacturing Company, Diamond Metals Corporation and Adamas Jewelry & Gifts.

Mr. Smith is a member of the Boardman United Methodist Church and its official board. Mr. Smith's civic responsibilities are: Advisor to Goodwill Industries, Member of the Board of Directors of Boy Scouts of America, Mahoning Valley Council, Member of the Board of Directors Mahoning County Library Board, and Member of Western Reserve Port Authority.

Who has not, at sometime, perhaps as yesterday's child or today's adult, stooped to pick up and admire a bit of bright stone? Maybe while walking along a beach or a country road, through a forest path or a plowed field—or even while digging a garden.

And the lucky ones who find an arrow point or a fossil or can see a picture in the shading or the shape of a sand-polished rock never again really walk with heads up. There is always the hope of finding another treasure, and thus is a rock hound born.

This pleasure in one of nature's millions of miracles has evolved into a hobby that has grown phenomenally in the last 10 years, a hobby that has sparked an industry, and a hobby that entire families from toddlers to grandparents can share, spending as little or as much as they can afford.

One of the country's finest shops catering to this ravenous national interest is just a few miles south of Youngstown on Route 7—Market Street Extension—in Boardman Township.

"Adamas Lapidary and Gem Shop" reads the sign at 8391 Market Street.

For many years a sign reading "Adamas Art and Hobby Shop" stood just one driveway north of the present location. The one-way blacktop lane led back to the home of Clarence Roman Smith who had been afflicted with "rock hounditis" in the early 1950's. Because of Mrs. Smith's health, they spent their winters in Arizona, and it was there that he was exposed to and contracted this now common disease.

He housed his collection in a large barn on his Boardman property, which at one time was adjacent to old Southern Park, adding to it from every trip in this country and abroad. Even then, when most people thought a rock hound was a breed of dog, hobbyists found Adamas, which is the Greek word for diamond. It was an appropriate name in more than one respect: diamonds are really "rocks" and C.R. Smith "was" Diamond Steel Construction Company.

It was natural that his son, C.R. Smith, Jr. —"Sonny" or "Smitty" to longtime acquaintances—succumb to the same progressive malady with which his father had been afflicted, and when the senior Smith died in 1970 at the age of 72, Smitty continued.

Dr. Ikram Khawaja, Chair  
Department of Geology

The Adamas Mineral Collection will be an educational resource to YSU. More specifically, it will enrich the resources available to geology students in a number of areas. The Collection includes specimens from mineral districts around the world; some of these specimens are unique and not available except in certain museums. Having the Collection on campus will provide our students an excellent opportunity to view samples from mining locations which are studied in the geology courses. The Collection also includes specimens illustrating fossilization, crystal structure, mineral associations and varieties. As such, it will enhance the teaching of geology classes as well as other disciplines dealing with minerals, i.e. chemistry and materials science.

As an educational asset to the community, the Adamas Mineral Collection will attract visitors to campus and enhance University-based programs by serving as a designated stop for campus tours. Schools making trips to the Butler, the YSU campus for Science Day, Math Day, English Festival, Planetarium and campus activities will be invited to include the Clarence R. Smith Mineral Museum as part of their itinerary.

It will also serve as a resource center for science teachers for their own enrichment. Students working with the Collection and in the Museum will gain valuable experience in the curatorship of minerals and fossils. The University will benefit greatly from this outstanding gift. The initial investment required to modify the space will be realized many times over in the years to come.

The University is deeply grateful to Clarence R. Smith, Jr. for providing this unique opportunity for YSU students now and in the future.



University Development  
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