

Micromounters Hall of Fame

Ruth Cole Wertz

1907-1991

Inducted in 2002



Ruth Cole Wertz was born in Stanton, Nebraska, and was graduated as a teacher. In one way or another, she remained a teacher for the rest of her life. Like many others, Ruth came to micromounting via another branch of the mineral hobby—mounting her husband's lapidary work in silver. She joined the Gem and Lapidary Club of the District of Columbia.

This contact with minerals led to an interest in thumbnail specimens, but a visit to the Baltimore Mineral Society Symposium in the 1960's brought micromounts to her attention, and she never looked back. In 1967, Ruth became one of the founding members of the Micro Mineralogists of the National Capital Area (MNCA). She was MNCA president for eight years, vice president for four years, organizer of the annual conference for nineteen years, and editor of the newsletter *The Mineral Mite* for five years. She was also a leading figure in half a dozen other mineral organizations, including a term as president of the Eastern Federation of Mineralogical and Lapidary Societies, an indefatigable worker for Wildacres, and a corresponding editor for *Rocks & Minerals*.

Ruth's entire life was spent in helping others to achieve their goals. She taught, she encouraged, she supported, and she worked very hard to build and to organize. Many micromounters active today recall Ruth as one who brought them into the hobby and pushed them to reach success.

She is a worthy addition to the Micromounters Hall of Fame.