

Micromounters Hall of Fame

William Van Horn “Old Timer” Inducted in 2002

William L. Van Horn was a member of the Mineral Society attached to the Academy of Natural Sciences in Philadelphia, PA. Not satisfied with the meetings of the Society alone, he began his own small group, the Tuesday Night Club, in the early 1930s. In late 1935, Phil Evanoff was brought into the Club which eventually included John Hope, Bill Yost, Phil Evanoff, Paul Seel, Bill Hunt, and others.



The Tuesday Night Club members discussed, collected, and mounted many natural objects besides minerals. Mosses, fossils, fungi and diatoms also formed part of their interests. Paul Seel made his first mount under Bill Van Horn's tutelage—and lost it when Van Horn destroyed it for not being good enough. Van Horn was an excellent machinist. He made the original micro specimen trimmer which Bill Yost eventually adapted to develop his own design. He also designed and built jigs for cabinets which the Club produced in his basement. Those cabinets are still in use more than 60 years later.

Van Horn worked to ensure that others got the most benefit from their hobby. He took the others to visit Dr L. C. Wills, author of one of the first treatises on micromounting, to see the beauty of his collection, and he made micromounts for Frank Keeley, Curator of Minerals (the Vaux Collection) at the Academy of Natural Sciences, when Frank's hands became too shaky to make his own.

William Van Horn, like many others of his generation, was a multi-talented man who did his best to succeed, and gave of his best to help others. Four members of his basement group have already been inducted to the Micromounters Hall of Fame. It is fitting that he should join them.