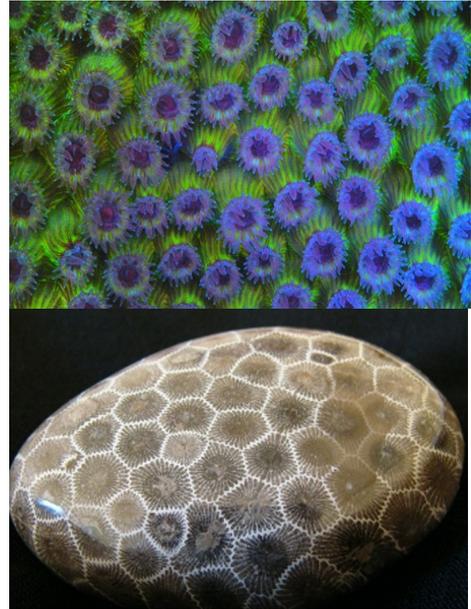


The bed rocks under us were a result of millions of years of marine animals dying and leaving their remains to be fossilized over time. 364 million years ago a shallow sea covered most of the SE Michigan area. In it grew corals which were also fossilized and became Michigan's state stone the Petosky pebble. When the seas dried out, it left a 32 foot layer of rock salt, which is 1200 feet below Warren. I took the family on a salt mine visit there with 4 miles of roads which we rode on by train. We saw a transparent house of salt and a big room with sparkling walls of salt 32 feet high. They turned out the lights and it was the darkest black we ever saw. It's 68 degrees there year around.



Below the layer of salt lies hundreds of feet of what we now call bed rock below Warren. Above the salt is more dolomite and limestone and many other minerals. There are many layers missing as they were eroded away. About 110 feet down is gravel and sand and above that is in many places 100 feet of glacial drift or till (clay, silt, sand, gravel, cobble and boulders) which are the remains of the Klarney Mountains of the upper peninsula. This was deposited over five recent periods of glaciation in which ice sometimes 6,000 feet thick covered our area and extended as far as Kentucky. The last ice cleared SE Michigan about 35,000 years ago. One could correctly say that Warren sets on top of mountains even though it is only about 615 feet above the sea level of 1900. It should be noted that there are natural underground water, gas and oil storage areas and underground rivers. During construction sometimes equipment disappeared into the quicksand in these areas. (Julius from ARC) Warren water often has burnable gas.

From 35,000-10,000 years ago SE Michigan was barren tundra. About 11,000 years ago Paleo-Indian peoples had walked here and were living on shores of lakes and capturing the caribou of the region. They were the ancestors of the Early Archaic Indians. As the climate gradually warmed Boreal grass then forests appeared Most of the trees were conifers which have cones like pines, spruce and larch. But Aspen, and birch then cottonwood appeared as the climate warmed. There were other plants grasses mosses and sedge. Then with more gradual warming came the deciduous forests we see here now. Sometimes called Great Lakes Forest.

The miniature horses, camels, giant sloth, saber tooth tiger and dinosaurs had died off millions of years before. But new animals increased in numbers until they abounded. There were big herds of deer, buffalo, pigs, turkeys, bear, wolves, foxes, cougars, bob cats, lots of fish and hundreds of other species of animals. There were so many birds that the sky would become dark with their flocks. Pigeons were so numerous that they could be hunted with a stick. Many species of colorful song birds charmed the wilderness with their calls. Swans and geese foraged in the shallows of lakes and streams. (A M Cadillac in 1701) There were so many buffalo they did not know what to do with them so they used them for food and made blankets and things out of the hides. But that animal was hunted to extinction as were some others. The Woodland Indians hunted most animals and fished the lakes and streams which were so pure one could see the bottom of Lake St Clair and the Detroit River. Most animals provided food, clothing, containers and tools. A few were to be feared such as the wolf, bear, cougar who avoided humans but they would get your chickens. The worst animal of all was here in the billions and killed more people than wars ever did. The mosquito spread diseases and ague which is like malaria. This disease could disable a strong man in just a few days. Many a pioneer suffered greatly. Rats, mice and insects also spread disease and still do. There was a huge cholera epidemic in Detroit in 1824 just when settlers were beginning to come in. Before 1920 there were no good medicines or pain killers or doctors with real good medical knowledge.