

Volume 10, No. 10 - June 1968

June 2, 12 noon Potluck, Mineral Group, H.H. Merrick, 523 Lakeshore Blvd. Muskegon Heights, Mich.
June 8 & 9, Field Trip, State Line Rock Swap, Wauseon, Ohio
June 12, 6:45 p.m., Regular Meeting, Fallasburg Park (see Story)
June 16, 1:00 P.M. Field Trip, Lowell Gravel Pit (see Story)
June 17, 7:30 p.m., Board of Control, J. Van Vuren, 3281 S. Division in Grandville

RAIN OR SHINE--PACK YOURSELF A PICNIC SUPPER and enjoy our next meeting at beautiful Fallasburg Park, gathering between 6:30 and 7 p.m. To get to Fallasburg, take Fulton St. (M21) east to Lowell. One block this side of the first Lowell stop light, turn left on Lincoln Lake Rd.--there is a big sign directing you to the park. We'll be at the Central Shelter House.

Our own Rich Van Beek will give a double-barrelled program: first, an illustrated talk on Mammoth Cave in Kentucky, including its geology and other features; then Rich will show slides of the excavation, a year or two ago, of the largest Indian Mound in the Grand Rapids area, show how the Mounds look today, and tell about some of the things which might be done with these outstanding but neglected historical features in our own back yard. His talk is particularly timely in view of the action taken by the club last month in recommending that the Mounds be declared a National Monument. Another extra program feature: Nellie Mead and Ruth Steele will show a few slides of some of the Les Pearl Junior Rockhound classes and field trips. And still another special feature: Mary Anne Sloboda, 8th grader winner of our G.R.M.S. Science Fair Award, will be present, with her prize-winning exhibit.

TWO FIELD TRIPS PLANNED FOR JUNE

June 8 and 9--A field trip with unlimited variety! Yes, you never know what you'll find at a Rock Swap! Those lucky people who are able to spend vacations in good rock-hunting spots always plan on extra amounts for swapping. So a good swap session brings out material from anywhere and everywhere. Since the 1968 State Line Gem & Mineral Society Rock Swap is likely to be an outstanding one, our field trip chairmen are planning it as one of our early summer trips. The event will be held at the Fulton County Fairgrounds, Wauseon, Ohio (Ohio 108 & Exit 3 of Ohio Turnpike). Free Camping, Silent Auctions, Bake Sale. Saturday evening program and cracker barrel session. Four motels nearby. You can swap from your car, or bring a card table to set up under the grandstand. You'll find good company, and all kinds of rocks, minerals, crystals, fossils and other goodies for--what have you? (Suggestion: If you think you don't have anything to swap, just go to a rock shop and buy a slab or specimen or two...then start trading with those and see if you can't parlay them up to something you're really glad to have in your collection. You can do it.

June 16, 1:00 p.m.-- A nearby trip this time, to the big gravel quarry just this side of Lowell. Turn right on a slightly diagonal blacktop road just before you get into Lowell. You'll see high piles of rocks on the right, within about 1/8 of a mile. A little farther down the road is the river and the quarry itself. This area has excellent, finely detailed fossils, as well as conglomerates, banded cherts, agates, etc. Word of warning, however: the piles are sorted and graded according to size, and they should not be trampled down--for courtesy, as well as safety! Let's be welcome next time!

GERALD B. MORRIS, 1909 - 1968

Gerry Morris was a past president of the Grand Rapids Mineral Society. He headed two of our Museum shows. He assisted with the Junior group. His door and his workshow were always open to newly-interested lapidarists, and he took time to assist many others in starting this hobby. And he wasn't the kind to hold back inside information--he shared what he knew of special technics and ideas.

Gerry extended his love of nature and his ability to work with rocks in many directions. He was a familiar and popular speaker at other rock clubs and at major rock shows. More than that, he conducted classes at Veterans' Hospital and at Villa Maria, and spoke to such widely diverse groups as prison inmates, schools, Scouts and many others about his hobby.

Gerry Morris came to be known as "The Petoskey Stone Man" because he confined himself to one material--Michigan's State Stone. In thus specializing he learned to enhance and develop every aspect of his chosen material. He combined the eye and imagination of an artist with the patient skill of a fine craftsman. It's a rare combination, evident in his Petoskey Stone creations.

Gerry's work was outstanding. His help and interest were always extended to others. He was a credit to the G.R.M.S. and to the "rockhound" hobby. He will be missed in many places and in many ways.

NEW OFFICERS ELECTED

The following officers were elected to head G.R.M.S. for 1968-1969--our important Tenth Anniversary year. Chosen as president was Henry Tchozeski; Vice-President, James DeZwaan, Sr. Secretary, Rich Van Beek; Treasurer, Bob Teunis; Historian, Mrs. Davena Lett; Liaison rep., Dr. R.B. Smith; "Drifter" editor, Mrs. R.B. Smith; board members, Mr. & Mrs. Art Ferguson, Mr. & Mrs. George Arnold. Also invited to attend Board meetings will be Mr. & Mrs. James Van Vuren, "Drifter" Publishers, Miss. Marie Spielmaker and Jim DeZwaan, Jr., Field trips.

3.

Members also voted that the club officially request that the Grand Rapids Indian Mounds be declared a National Monument. In connection with this, Ellis Courter, Midwest Federation President, said he felt that letters from individual members would greatly help this project. Every member is asked to do this. Mention that these Indian Mounds are important and rare historical and archeological treasures, which have already been partly destroyed and will be increasingly threatened with the pressures of road building and population expansion. Since they are owned by one city but lie within the boundaries of another (the former suburb of Wyoming), they are also increasingly difficult to protect and maintain. If the Mounds were designated as a National Monument, much greater incentive and means might be found to protect them as a heritage for the future. (If you would like more concrete information, call Rich VanBeek, or attend the June meeting, when copies of the club's official resolution will be available.) Send your letters to: Rep. Gerald Ford, House of Representatives Office Bldg. Washington, Sen. Philip Hart, Senate Office Bldg. Washington, D.C. D.C. 20515 Sen. Robert Griffin, Senate Office Bldg., Washington, D.C. 20510

Official announcement was made of the change in dues. Starting September 1, family membership will be \$5, individual memberships \$3, students \$1.

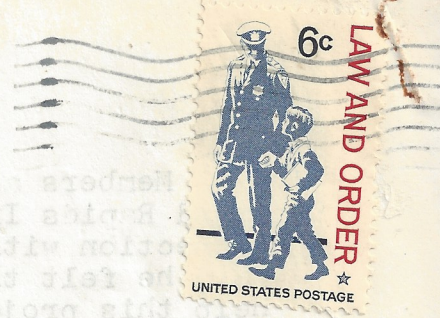
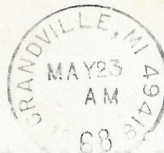
GLACIAL DRIFTER STAFF

A big thank-you should go out to the staff of the GLACIAL DRIFTER. First of all to the Editor, Mrs. R.B. Smith. She sure is doing a beautiful job and a job well done. Next is the publishers Mr. & Mrs. James Van Vuren and Mr. & Mrs. Lloyd Heaton, Mr. & Mrs. Clyde Littlefield, Mrs. Ruth Steele & Miss. Marie Spielmaker. Their time and efforts are greatly appreciated.

DID YOU KNOW there are 4 lapidary clubs in Alaska, the largest state in the Union, twice as large as Texas, and still acres of unexplored rockhound land. They are Chugach Gem & Mineral Soc. and Alasks Lapidary Soc. in Anchorage, Seward Mineralogical Soc. in Seward, and the Kenai Club in Kenai.

From April 1 to November 4, the Alaska rockhounds gather gemstones from a radius of 1,000 miles from home base. They gather jade from Kobuk, beyond the Artic Circle; moonstone from the Aleutian Islands; cinnabar, tin, and silver from the land edging the Bering Sea; mastodon tusks and bones from the Yukon River; soapstone near Anchorage for carving, and gold from all of Alaska.

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Members also voted that the kind of...
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...Rich Vanbeek...
...official resolution...
...Rep. Gerald Ford...
...Sen. Philip Hart...
...Sen. Robert Griffin...
...Official announcement...
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A big thank-you should go out to the staff of the GLACIAL...
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