

Volume 10, no 5 - Jan. 1968



the

GLACIAL

DRIFT

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The Grand Rapids Mineral Society is a Non-Profit Corporation affiliated with the Midwest Federation and the American Federation of Mineral Societies.

Meetings are held the second Wednesday of each month at 8:00 PM at the Grand Rapids Public Museum, Multi-Purpose room, East Building. Summer meetings at various parks as announced.

Membership dues are \$3.00 per year for a family, \$2.00 for single adult, and \$1.00 for students under 18 years of age. Dues are payable to Treasurer-year is from September 1 through August 31 of the following year.

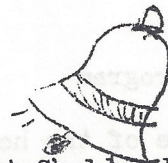
Advertising in the GLACIAL DRIFTER is at the rate of \$3.00 per issue, September through May only.

All material for publication shall be in the hands of the EDITOR no later than the Wednesday after the regular monthly BOARD OF CONTROL meeting which is the third week of the month.

Permission to reprint articles appearing in the GLACIAL DRIFTER IS HEREBY GRANTED, PROVIDING PROPER CREDIT IS GIVEN.

Member--National Bulletin Editors Association.

HAPPY NEW YEAR!



Jan.10, 8 p.m., Museum East Building, side door
Regular meeting (see below)

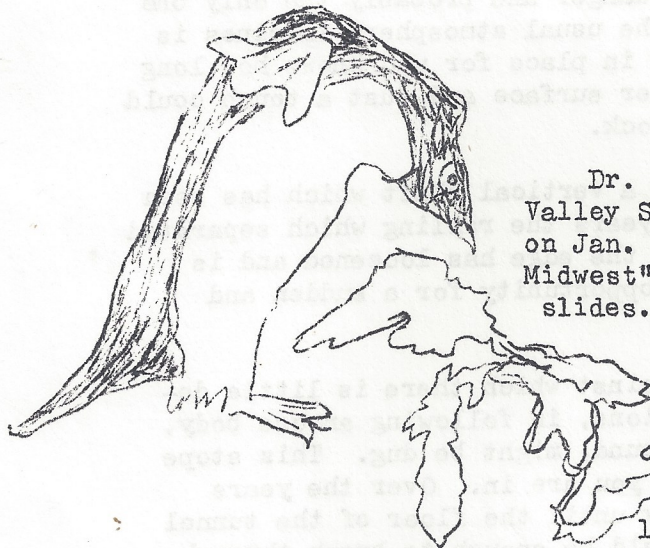
Jan.15, 8 p.m., Board of Control, R.Steele, 828 Port Sheldon Rd., Jenison

Jan.17, 8 p.m., Mineral Group, A.Wendt, 439 Parkside Dr.N.W., all welcome

JANUARY MEETING TO FEATURE

DR. JAMES ZUMBERGE AS SPEAKER

Dr. James H. Zumberge, President of Grand Valley State College, will address the G.R.M.S. on Jan. 10 on the subject, "Geology of the Midwest". His talk will be illustrated with slides. All visitors are welcome.



Dr. Zumberge, who received his B.A. and Ph.D. degrees from the University of Minnesota, majoring in geology, has named his major scientific fields as the study of glaciers, lakes, underground water, and polar regions. He was a member of two exped-

itions to Arctic Alaska in 1946-47. He organized and accompanied two Antarctic expeditions, the first in 1957 as chief glaciologist for the U.S. International Geophysical Year study of the Ross Ice Shelf near Little America; the second in 1959. In 1962-63 and in 1965-66 he directed two subsequent Antarctic expeditions for additional studies of the Ross Ice Shelf. A mountain on the Antarctic continent is named in his honor.

He was appointed in 1958 as U.S. delegate to the 5th International Geophysical Year Conference in Moscow. He has reported on his Antarctic work to numerous professional conferences in New Zealand, England, Denmark, Finland and France.

In 1961-62, Dr. Zumberge was leader of expeditions into Lake Superior aboard the scientific research ship Submarex, to investigate the geological history of the lake basin. He is the author of a widely used college textbook and laboratory manual, "Elements of Geology", which has been issued in English and Spanish editions. He has also written a book on "The Lakes of Minnesota", and numerous scientific papers, including some on the origin of Lake Superior, and the geological history of Lake Michigan.

Dr. Zumberge served as a faculty member at the University of Michigan from 1950 to 1962. In February of 1962 he was appointed as the first president of Grand Valley State College. He is married and has four children, three boys and a girl.

MINE SAFETY

AFMS Safety Program

--

Carl Hall, Chairman

In pursuite of the hobby, Rockhounds frequently visit areas containing old mining activities. Many dangers are inherent in exploring these.

In tunnels or drifts the most common danger and probably the only one considered by most people, is cave-ins. The usual atmosphere in mines is one of dampness. Timbering which has been in place for who knows how long can rot with little indidation on the timber surface and just a touch could cause it to collapse and release tons of rock.

Another inherent danger in tunnels is a vertical shaft which has been dug right alongside the tunnel. Over the years the railing which separated the two has disappeared, the ground around the edge has loosened and is just waiting for a footstep to create the opportunity for a sudden and decisive change in elevation.

A third danger in tunnels, and one against which there is little defense, is the stope. During mining operations, in following an ore body, a stope, which is like a huge room underground, might be dug. This stope could be located directly uhdner the tunnel you are in. Over the years the roof of the stope could have caved away until the floor of the tunnel is basically paper-thin and your weight could be enough to break through. Since these stopes were frequently up to several hundred feet in height, the result is obvicus.

In shafts there are two major hazards. The first is the likelihood that ladders loading down into them could easily be rotted and either a section come loose or a step break away with a person's weight. The other danger would be falling objects from above.

Although not prevalent in all parts of the country, there is always the possibility of mine gas. This gas is odorless, colorless, and tasteless and like carbon monoxide, can cause death without a person being aware of it until too late.

Although very stable in fresh condition, dynamite is very unstable when spoiled. Even a very slight jar can be sufficient to detonate it. If a dynamite case is found and you can't see that it is empty, LEAVE IT ALONE; especially it if looks damp along the bottom.

Last, but certainly not least, certain types of electric blasting caps can be detonated by RF (radio frequency) energy from Citizen Band radios, ham radio or radio-telephones. If operating in an active mining area, DO NOT USE YOUR RADIO !

(Carl Hall is an accredited Safety Engineer.)

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Now that the holidays are over, the first order of business is to again concentrate on membership growth. We still are a long way from the membership we had three and four years ago. The interest is still there. Let's bring guests to the meetings, and urge them to join. A club thrives on new blood as well as old.

We have a lot of "active" members who are inactive. That is, they attend meetings but they don't participate in club activities. I personally would like to call on people for committees that have not been on committees before, but frankly it seems that it's always the same faithful few who volunteer.

How about you? Have you performed some service for the club? Wouldn't you like to become an active part of the club? Let your president know at the next meeting. He is getting embarrassed--always winding up asking the same faithful few. I know there are many of you who would like to take an active part in the club. Let me know at the next meeting. Thank you.

Now is the time to start planning your display at the Museum for the month of March. Let's make this the biggest, best ever. The space is available. Plan on having a display -- particularly if you haven't had a display in the past.

Remember this is your club--every one of you. It does not belong to any one particular group, but all of us. Let's be active!

Con Crabbs

MARCH SHOW CO-CHAIRMEN ANNOUNCED

Miss Marian Jennings and James DeZwaan Sr. will act as Co-Chairmen of the 1968 Grand Rapids Mineral Society Show to be held during the month of March in the Grand Rapids Public Museum. Our annual show is distinctive in two respects: it is purely educational, with no dealers' booths or other money-raising functions; and its duration of a month is much longer than most club-sponsored displays. The co-chairmen are already planning out themes and programs, and studying possible allocations of display and demonstration space. They will be happy to assist any of you in planning an exhibit of your materials.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN ANNOUNCED

Pres. Don Crabbs has announced the appointment of Mrs. Sandy Feole and Gordon Williams to serve as co-chairmen of this year's nominating committee. New officers will be elected in May. The club is particularly anxious to have new members, or those who may not have been active in recent years, represented on the Board. If you would like to serve the Club in some capacity, or if you know of someone who would be a good candidate, please do not hesitate to speak to Mrs. Feole or Mr. Williams about it. Volunteers are really appreciated--and there's no better way to get well acquainted with the club and its members.

PAINING WITH STONES

Mrs. Gladys Severson, of Nerstrand, Minn., is a painter who one day, looking at the stones in her gravel driveway, got the idea of trying to use them in some sort of a mosaic. First she had to crush them into smaller sizes. Following is her own account of her methods. Perhaps some of our members would like to try this technic.

"I discovered that it worked just as well to simply cover the stones with a piece of heavy material (denim) and pound through this with a heavy mallet or hammer. The pieces came out in interesting sizes and shapes and I was amazed at the variety of colors I had. I also discovered that the color of the stones on the outside was often deceptive and this added to the excitement of it. I also learned that some rocks are tougher than others and often ended up with blistered hands."

After crushing, the stones are sorted according to color, which is a valuable aid when a certain area of a painting is to be kept uniform as to color.

"My method is very simple. I make my sketch on the board, cover it (small areas at a time) with adhesive and set the pieces of stone in. I work with my board lying on a table but frequently prop it up and step back several feet to see what I'm doing. This, I think, is very important, and the part that's the most fun. You'll be amazed at the way your picture takes form when you see it from a distance.

"Stone-painting does not require expensive material. A board (light plywood) and some sort of adhesive (linoleum paste is fine for practise, preferably the waterproof kind); a pair of tweezers and an old knife (palette or paring knife) to spread the paste. Work out small details first. For instance, if I work on a portrait, I like to "paint" in the eyes, mouth, etc. first. I like to start in the center of my painting and work around it, but this is not too important. I've tried to use colored glass to add accent, but found myself gouging it out. It didn't fit with the stone. The pieces looked hard and artificial, and sort of killed the life of the stones.

"My stone-painting was a happy discovery. It has brought me many new friends and interesting experiences--apart from the thrill and excitement of actually doing the paintings and the fun of collecting materials. Also, it has brought me some exciting commissions for stone-paintings."

"Rear Trunk" via Ozark Earth Science Club

A THUNDEREGG to weigh more than three tons soon may be on display on the capitol grounds in Salem, Oregon. The rock is 60 inches in diameter at its widest point. (They more commonly range from three to six inches in diameter.) The thunderegg was selected by the 1965 Legislature as Oregon's state rock.

-- "The Oregonian" via "Gravelog"

CONVERSATIONAL CHIP-CHAT



Weren't Chief Bosin and his wife interesting, and didn't you enjoy their information and dancing at the December meeting? They seemed really pleased with the appropriate rattle-rock and string of crinoid stem beads they received from the blut -- thanks to Emily and Jim VanVuren for that good idea! Harriet and Max Ross have come up with some good ideas for attendance and other prizes awarded at each of our meetings. Watch for them, and don't miss out on your chances. Board meeting discussions also brought out some other ideas which might be helpful. Would you be interested in a club scrapbook or catalogue file of resource information on all types of lapidary equipment, through which you could browse when you were considering buying such equipment. This would not include any endorsement of one kind over another, but would give you some idea of what types of things are available, before you checked the local rockshops to see what they had. Another idea: how many of you would like to attend lapidary demonstrations, to be held from 7:30 to 8 p.m. on meeting nights, using the Museum lapidary shop equipment which the Juniors use? These ideas will be presented at the Jan. meeting, and you will be asked to sign up if you are definitely interested. . . . Our sympathy goes to Ruth Steele on the recent death of her father. . . . We hope that Liz Littlefield is now making a good recovery from her recent surgery. . . . Lloyd Heaton was the lucky winner of the arrow bola tie, and Ted Duprey got the copper specimen, both donated by the Rosses. Other Dec. winners included Dorothy Ferguson, the onyx given by Arnie Wendt Sr., Davena Lett, the horn coral given by Dr. Rose; and Fay Reed, the Bisbee crystals donated by Vill Iteen. . . . A note from George W. Waddill, P.O. Box 14, Fort Sumner, New Mexico 88119, says: "I certainly do appreciate receiving the Glacial Drifer, especially as I no longer receive the RRC Newsletter, and therefore stay less in touch with the rock collectors' world. I hope all is well with you folks, as it is here. We are having quite a snowstorm in this area now, though around Fort Sumner it isn't as bad as elsewhere in the state." The Family Lapidary Club of Waterford, Mich. has some real do-it-yourself projects going. To enlarge their club grinding room, cement and cement blocks were donated by members, and a working bee was held to put up the cement block wall; another working bee installed a water system in the grinding rooms, with pipes also donated; another member consented to build four new machines for the grinding room at a good savings. Apparently the grinding sessions include lapidary instruction for the young people. The club is to be congratulated on a big job done. . . . There is a little line on the Ocean where by crossing over, you can lose a day. There is a double line on the highway where you can do even better. . . . With a program featuring the renowned Dr. Zumberge, who is noted as a speaker, educator and scientist as well as in geology, we hope to see a really good crowd of members and guests at our Jan. meeting. Your friend or neighbor would love to be asked to come along and hear this man. . . . Scientists at Antarctica's Byrd Station have drilled to depths of 1,000 feet and recovered cores of ice that fell as snow about the time of Charlemagne's birth in A.D. 742. . . . The National Geographic says that people are drinking and using the same water that existed when the world began.

DESCRIPTION OF A ROCKHOUND



What is a Rockhound, did you say?
 They're folks like you and me,
 Except they're crazy over rocks
 It's very plain to see.
 Their pockets, cars, their homes and yards
 Give evidence of this craze.
 They go off on some Rockhound trip -
 May not return for days!

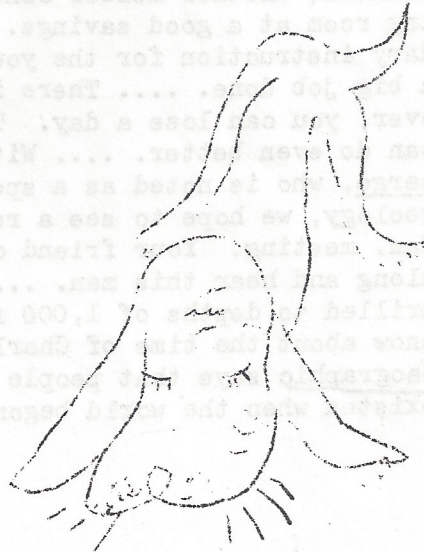
They have an eagle eye for rocks
 That might be of some worth.
 They find them if they have to dig
 Deep down into the earth.
 They have sharp eyes that know the ring
 When pick hits agate true,
 And when it does they dig and dig
 Till it comes poppin' through.

They take a pick and shovel too
 Wherever they may go
 Just hoping that some day they'll find
 A prize gem worth some dough.
 They're not afraid to lick a rock
 As all good rockhounds do
 To see if it is good or bad
 Or maybe something new.

They skin their shins and tear their clothes
 And maybe break a leg,
 But do they stop? No! They might find
 Another thunder egg!
 They dig and dig till almost dark,
 As they have done before,
 Then load their cars and what a load!
 Don't dare take any more!

Then when a Rockhound reaches home
 With all his treasured store
 He throw away an awful lot
 And then goes back for more.
 Now you may wonder how I know
 Just what these Rockhounds do.
 Well, I can tell you everything -
 For I'm a Rockhound, too!

(by Vera Lang, South Bay Agatizer -
 via Ozark Earth Science Club)



THE VICE ON MY SAW NEEDS SOME
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Midwest Federation's NEWSLETTER

Published monthly except July & August as a Service to Member Clubs.

Editor: Haydon Peterson, Route 5 - Box 229, Des Moines, Ia. 50317



Issue No. 81 - January 1968

FROM YOUR MIDWEST PRESIDENT

Greetings to all of the clubs affiliated with our Midwest Federation. As your new President, I have just been scanning the roster of our official membership... and dreaming about how nice it would be if I could drop in on all of your meetings.

Just looking at the many names on this roster provides a great feeling of elation. Through the past years, I have seen the Federation grow in both numbers and strength, and indeed it is rewarding to know that it still is growing... that before this month is ended our membership may very well exceed two hundred Societies. We are now spread over fifteen states, and are over twelve thousand strong.

As well as all this may appear, it becomes just a little frightening, because the responsibilities of your Federation's officers grow proportionately. The need for a stronger, more extensive crew of working people to handle these growing responsibilities already is apparent. Therein lies a challenge... the challenge of effecting the changes and adding the personnel that will enable us to serve you and your club more effectively and more efficiently.

By the time this reaches you, our campaign will already have been launched. Our Executive Board will have met and discussed some of the ways and means of better serving our growing family.

Remember the motto that has been chosen for the coming year... "United We Stand!" Certainly, if all of us... twelve thousand strong.... stick together to combine our brains, brawn and sweat in genuine support of our hobby and our Federation, we just have to move ahead.

WELCOME

to the Coulee Rock Club of La Crosse, Wisconsin which has been accepted as a member club of the MWF. Gene Sawyer of 2730 Bluffview Place, La Crosse, Wisconsin is the president. Mrs. Doris Miller, 569 N. Shore Drive, Onalaska, Wisconsin is the secretary.

CAN YOUR CLUB HELP?

Several clubs are planning to put together specimen cases for schools. Other clubs want information on how to better their present setups. How does your club do it? Send your ideas to our Educational Chairman, Gail Alexander, 1113 West 4th Street, Marion, Indiana 46952.

SCHOLARSHIP

At the recent Executive meeting on December 2nd in LaSalle, Illinois Russell Greer, the State Vice President for Michigan presented a check to our Scholarship Chairman Katharine Steinbrenner which made the Michigan Mineralogical Society of Detroit, Michigan a 200% club. This is the home club of our President Ellis Courter with a membership of over 300.

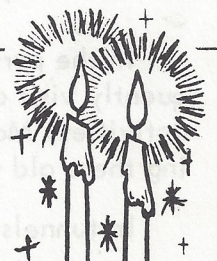
Becoming 100% clubs are the Lake Shore Mineral and Lapidary Society of Mentor, Ohio; Calumet Gem and Mineral Society of Hiland, Indiana, River Valley Rockhounds of Fort Dodge, Iowa and the Duneland Rock Club of Gary, Indiana.

A welcome to all these clubs and a big thank you for your wonderful support of the Scholarship effort.

Keep saving the Betty Crocker coupons. We have received over \$3,900 in cash from these coupons to date.

-Kate Steinbrenner

SEASON'S
GREETINGS
to All Our
Member Clubs



NEW IDENTIFICATION CARD AVAILABLE

The American Federation has announced a new wallet-size identification card that is now available to all individual members and affiliated societies of the Federation.

The Card is folded--or double-- with the emblem and imprint of the American Federation on the front and a listing of the Regional Federations on the back, and a listing of the Regional Federations on the back, along with added space for the imprinting or stamping of any individual Society name. The AFMS Code of Ethics is appropriately printed on the inside of the card.

The fundamental purpose of this card is to present a statement of the ethical standards of the AFMS and its members which might facilitate entry to collecting areas.

These cards are available from the Midwest treasurer at \$2.00 per hundred. (Minimum order 100). Address all orders or inquiries to Gerald W. Huber, 238 Guilford Road, Hoyt Lakes, Minnesota 55750.

THE EXECUTIVE BOARD

of the Midwest Federation met on Saturday, December 2nd at the Kaskaskia Hotel in LaSalle, Illinois with the President Ellis Courter presiding. There was a good attendance and many subjects were discussed which was of interest to all member societies. A report of this meeting will be sent to all member societies as soon as it is ready.

ELSIE KANE WHITE

is the new President of the AFMS Scholarship Foundation. She assumes the position from Russell Kemp whose term expired on October 31st.

THE CURRENT STANDING

of 100% Clubs has reached the high figure of 248 nationally. Breaking this down by Federations we find the Eastern has 23 which are 100%, the Midwest has 84, Rocky Mountain has 46, Texas Federation 19, California has 42 and the Northwest 34. Many of these have gone on to 200%, 300% and 400%, and even 500%.

MINE SAFETY

-AMFS Safety Program

In the pursuit of the hobby, rockhounds frequently visit areas which contain old maining activities, Many dangers are inherent in exploring these old workings.

In tunnels or drifts the most common danger

and probably the only one considered by most people, is cave-ins. The usual atmosphere in mines is one of dampness. Timbering which has been in place for who knows how long can rot with little indication on the surface of the timber and just a touch could be sufficient to cause it to collapse and release tons of rock.

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THE BIG ONE.... MWF Show and Convention
August 22-23-24-25, 1968

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