

AUGUST ROCK SWAP TO BE BIG EVENT

Saturday, Aug. 23, 11 a.m. to closing, members of G.R.M.S. and the Indian Mounds Rock and Mineral Club will gather in the Allendale Township Hall on M-45 (L.Mich. Dr.) at Allendale), for a potluck picnic and a swinging, what-did-you-find-this-summer? rock swap that should bring everyone a prize or two. Those attending are asked to bring their own table service and a dish to pass (something that will keep if the weather is hot) for the potluck lunch to be served at 1 p.m. Coffee and drink for children will be furnished. A snackbar will be open all day, serving cookies, coffee and soft drinks. If you have never attended a big swap session, you have no idea of what a wonderful opportunity this is to get new and unusual specimens. Bring whatever good trading material you can spare, and exchange it for things you do not have. Always try to give a little more than you get-- and then everybody's happy. See you there!

JOINT BOARD MEETING ON AUG. 18

Retiring and incoming members of the Board of Control will meet at 7:30 p.m. Monday, Aug. 18 at the home of Pres. Henry Tchozeski. This is an important meeting, and all board members are requested to be present.

July Board Notes: Special mention was made of the good attendance at the July meeting, and the enjoyment people seemed to take in showing and telling about their rocks.....Henry Tchozeski agreed to act as chairman of this year's Silent Auction with George Arnold assisting.....Since Joan Afton was unable to attend the Higgins Lake Conservation Camp this year, the scholarship was given to Miss Eunice Gunn, a Grandville teacher. It is hoped that she will write a report on her experiences for the "Drifter"Special thanks were voted to long-time member Alice Graham for her donation of polished rocks and crystal and other specimens. They will be used as prizes for our membership..... Jim DeZwaan is busily lining up committee chairmen for next year, with more new ideas than he can keep track of. Should be lively!

FIELD TRIP PLANNED FOR ARKONA ON AUG. 16

Hard rains pretty well washed out last month's Pugh Quarry field trip; but Chmn. Ted Duprey is hoping for much better weather on Sat., Aug. 16, at Arkona, Ontario, Can. While many members may take two days for this trip, it can be done in one without difficulty. There is much to see, and excellent fossils there.

Directions: After going through Port Huron and across the Blue Water Bridge to Sarnia, continue east on Hwy 7 for about 30 miles to where #7 turns north. Stay on 7; in a few miles you

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will come to the very small town of Arkona. Go on through the town and not far beyond you will come to a sign pointing to Rock Glen Falls Park. At the park you will come, in succession, to two parking areas. We suggest that you leave your car in the first one, as just over the river footbridge at this location is a fine picnic site, where everyone will meet at 12 noon for lunch. In the meantime, go on into the park (there is a small admission charge), view the lovely waterfall, and then make your way along the paths along the river. Along the shore, and in the clay slopes above it, you should find the fossil "butterfly shells" --microspirifer brachiopods, and other fossils as well.

After lunch you might continue on to the town of Thedford, then go straight north and leave the highway where it curves west. A few rods north of the water pumping station the road slants off to the right down into the brick and tile yard. The quarries back of this establishment; as well as the river banks near it, abound in fine horn corals, crinoids, etc. Later, you may also wish to continue on to Kettle Point, where there is a park and an Indian reservation. This is a beautiful spot on the shore of Lake Huron, with the huge round kettle rocks showing dramatically in the water and in the shale cliffs as you wade along the shore. Incidentally, the Indians have the official rights to these rocks and you are not to remove any of them--most are much too large, anywhere. You can take the fossil shale.

There is a private camping facility at Rock Glen Falls (Arkona), though probably reservations are necessary, and other camping sites in the area. A fine motel at the golf course at Forest, and an interesting little historical museum there, too. More accommodations around Sarnia and Port Huron, of course. This is an ideal trip--plenty of fossil material plus truly lovely scenery. Have fun, everybody.

DATES TO REMEMBER

- Aug.16,17--Rock Swap, Red Cross Bldg., Green Bay, Wis.
- Aug.23; 24--Iron Co. Club Swap, Crystal Falls, Mich.
- Sept.6,7--Raci Keno Wauk Tri-County Rock Swap
Kenosha Co. Fairgrounds, Wilmot, Wis.
- Sept.13,14--Northland Rock Swap, Lieb's Moonstone Mine
Rte.3 East, Saranac Lake, N.Y.
- Sept.27,28--Michiana Club Rock & Gem Show, Christ the King Schl.,
US 31 N. & Darien Rd., South Bend, Ind.

MIDWEST FIELD CONVENTION REPORTS

The Council Meetings: The meeting was called to order at 9:30 a.m. by Pres. June Zeitner. It was voted to give each committee chairman five minutes for his report, which even at that is very time-consuming, as the Midwest Federation now has 216 clubs. The reports indicated that the rock hobby (and the Midwest Fed.) is the fastest growing hobby group in America today.

I am not going into all the reports, as a complete summary will be sent to us and will be on display at a future meeting. Lafayette Funk received the "Rockhound of the Year" award, and various other awards were made to individual clubs for growth in membership, contributions to their community, etc. They were all deserved, but I think our club does as well as most of them, and perhaps we should try for such recognition. The report on safety was outstanding; there was something for everyone as it pertained to driving our cars, using equipment properly with shields, guard wheels, and safety glasses, the use of acids in cleaning, etc. Also of interest was the report of what is being done to keep public lands open, and not let someone get a lease for which they pay very little, then charge the public to hunt on a small, controlled portion and keep most of the material themselves to sell to the public. The Midwest position is that this land belongs to all the people, and, with reasonable limits set, should remain open to all.

P.S.--This was one of the few days without rain, and more than 200 people spent the most part of it at the Council meetings, while the other 2500 went on field trips. We had a fine luncheon at the Methodist church, and met many fine people, and I learned many things new to me about this great hobby and the workings of the Midwest Federation.

--Jim DeZwaan, Sr.

Over 200 delegates and alternates attended the Council meetings, plus about 60 executives and special guests; about 300 were served at the delegate luncheon. Special committee reports included anti-litter, water pollution, long-range planning, special displays, scholarships, safety, and public relations. We have received two copies of a complete bibliography of Earth Science materials, which will be available in our club library.

New officers of the Midwest Federation include: President, Russell MacFall (Evanston, Ill.); Vice-Pres., Jay Wollin (Morton Grove, Ill.); Secretary, Miss Jean Reynolds (Clarendon Hills, Ill.); Treasurer, Bill Dahlberg (Minneapolis, Minn.); and Historian, Elsie Popejoy (Normal, Ill.).

The next Midwest Federation convention will be hosted by the Minnesota Mineral Society on July 23-26, 1970. The 1971

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meeting will be held in Mansfield, Ohio; while the 1972 Field Convention (a field convention is held every third year) will be in Ishpeming, Mich.

--Dr. Robert B. Smith

The Field Trips: "Every Three Years"-- Rockhounds throughout the midwest rally every third year for a field trip convention. This year South Dakota was still the wonderland of rocks that I remembered as a green rockhound eight years ago.

Every go-getter of rocks was chomping at the bit to get at those rocks, on Friday morning early, even if it was cold and snowing (Rapid City had 6 inches). Twenty-some busloads were ready to go to the Badlands area for chalcedony, prairie agate, petrified wood, and possibly a Fairburn. Some drove cars behind the caravan. Off we go! As we neared the destination, bus drivers and guides were debating what to do. Some went to Interior, and let those who wished do their best to hunch in sticky mud and cold rain; later many of these groups visited the Badlands National Monument headquarters and witnessed a special program and displays there. Some went to Wall Drug Store, in the town of Wall, to investigate the truth in the advertising which that lively establishment posts all over the state. Our group started for Rapid City, but the sight of a gravel pit diverted us. We had a lovely day--the weather had cleared and there was no gumbo here. We returned near evening with prairie agates, jaspers, wood fossils, rose quartz, bubble gum agate, and a Fairburn agate, unmistakably a Fairburn, to make the day complete. Needless to say, we were reluctant to leave this paradise.

The following day we were again to go on a scheduled field trip to the agate beds near Interior. A hurried breakfast, then on the way to see what we could retrieve. (Remember always the secondary materials in such areas, and always look for the rare ones--whatever color and shape particularly strikes you.) At the site we donned our boots, clutched our hammers and bags, and headed for the vast prairie, with the others, slipping and sliding in the mud gumbo. With the mud collecting on our boots, it was also difficult to distinguish what our specimens were, as they were covered with the same very sticky stuff. This does discourage a good rockhound. There were hundreds of people conscientiously attempting to gather rocks as they meandered toward more distant and productive spots in the area. There were agates, chalcedony and wood along the way. We, however, were unable to dispel from memory the gravel pit of yesterday, and we finally went there to see if we couldn't find a few more goodies. We found enough to make it necessary to ship them to Michigan to make room for the next bounty--the trip for Teepee Canyon agate, scheduled for the next day 165 miles west, near Custer.

We set out earlier than usual on this lovely day. Oh

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(Midwest Convention Reports--3)

arrival, people were loaded into pickups to be delivered to the site on a mountain. A bulldozer had begun uncovering the rocks to the level where agates are found--a process, however, which requires about 30 hours. During this time we familiarized ourselves with information regarding the elusive Teepee agate. The rock outwardly bears no indication of the agate inside; jasper, rather than Teepee, was what most people were finding. I began finding some nice jasp-agates, and the view was worth the \$1 fee. Just as we were about to return, a swing with the sledge hammer revealed a Teepee gem to put beside the Fairburn. Minutes later, Marie Spielmaker found one lurking in the center of a rock. Happy as two larks can be, we left the mountain side and went on to the national convention in Salt Lake City. (We collected Dugway geodes and topaz there.) This same day, on another trip, the Dupreys were out among the rose quartz fanciers, in a mine near Custer. They came up with some showy pieces, including dendrites--rare, so we were told.

A day in the field is worth remembering, especially if you come back with what you searched for, but better if you found a unique mineral specimen you had not expected to find. I do hope every rockhound I know can attend at least one field trip convention!

-- Ruth Steele

The Banquet: What an occasion after 2-3 days of walking and sliding in mud! It was a change to see 900 rockhounds dressed in their Sunday best.

The menu was most interesting: Garnet Juice, Roast Brontosaurus, Baked Irish Jasper, Buttered Gold, Conglomerate Salad, Prairie Agate Tarts, Hot Quartz, and Assorted Crystals and Jasper. The banquet was served buffet style in a very well planned manner. The centerpieces were of rose quartz and large paper roses. Each guest was presented with a slab of South Dakota quartzite (from the old paving bricks of Sioux Falls), with the map of S.Dak. polished in the center.

Mr. A.I. Johnson, S. Dak. State Mine Inspector, told us some interesting facts of mining in the Black Hills. I am sure most of us feel there is still plenty of good rock left in this area for any rockhound interested enough to hunt it out. Michigan was well represented when the Midwest Federation president, June Zeithner, gave out the awards. Mr. Robert Wilson, Convention Chairman, and his staff did a magnificent job supervising the whole convention.

-- Mabel Bowers

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(Midwest Convention Reports--3)

arrival, people were loaded into trucks to be delivered to the site on a mountain. A bulldozer had been excavating the rocks to the level where gates are found as process, however, which requires about 30 hours. During this time we familiarized ourselves with information regarding the elusive Topos gate. The rock outwardly bears no indication of the gate inside; Jessor, rather than Topos, was what most people were finding. I began finding some nice Topos-gates, and the view was worth the 1/2 fee. Just as we were about to return, a swing with the alder hammer revealed a Topos gem to put beside the Fairburn. Minutes later, Marie Spielmeier found one lurking in the center of a rock. Happy as two facts can be, we left the mountain side and went on to the national convention in Salt Lake City. (We collected Dwayne Geddes and James there.) This same day, on another trip, the Dwyers were out among the Topos quartz faceted, in a mine near Guston. They came up with some shiny pieces, including dendrites--rare, as we were told.

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