

✓ Volume 11, no 3 - Nov., 1968



The

GLACIAL

DRIFTER

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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 7:30 PM at the Grand Rapids Public Museum, Multi-Purpose room, East Building. Summer meetings at various parks as announced.

Membership dues are \$5.00 per year for a family, \$3.00 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.

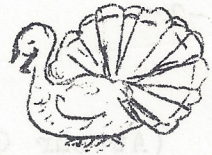
Advertising in the GLACIAL DRIFTER is at the rate of \$3.00 per issue, September through May only.

All material for publication shall be in the hands of the EDITOR no later than the Third Wednesday of the month or the week after the regular monthly meeting.

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

Member--National Bulletin Editors Association.

N O V E M B E R, 1968



Nov. 13, 7:30 p.m., SILENT AUCTION, Museum E. Bldg.
Nov. 16, 17, Gem & Mineral Show, Evansville Lapid. Soc.
Washington Sq. Shopping Mall, Evansville, Ind.
Nov. 18, 7:30 p.m., Board of Control, D. Crabbs, 1827 Millbrook S.E.
Nov. 20, 8 p.m., Mineralogy Group, A. Wendt, 439 Parkside Dr. N.W.
Nov. 26, Happy Thanksgiving!

10th ANNIVERSARY SILENT AUCTION

TO OFFER HUNDREDS OF SPECIMENS, LAPIDARY ITEMS

Figure it out. Six tables, plus the Connoisseur's table. Each table holds 16-20 auction sheets--that's about 100 items out at one time. Each table will be "closed" about four times during the evening. So there will be between 400 and 500 rock and mineral specimens, slabs, cutting materials, and finished lapidary items offered for bidding at the next meeting. And the great majority of these items have a minimum bid of just 10¢ or so. What a chance to pick up bargains! Our experience has been that this is a great meeting for guests--all your neighbors, and their kids, get a big kick out of seeing all this identified material, and being able to get some at reasonable prices.

If you haven't been to one, our Silent Auction goes like this: each item is placed on a bid sheet; you go about the room writing your name and the amount you wish to bid on the sheet. Minimum raise is 5¢, and names and bids must be entered in order. Tables are "closed" at random, at which point whoever has written the last bid on an item at that table gets it. As soon as the sales are cleared out, the table is re-set with new items as another table is closed.

Of course we cannot have a successful Auction without plenty of good material being donated for it. EVERY CLUB MEMBER should donate at least one item--if you really do not have anything, go buy a slab or specimen to donate. Even if it does not bring as much as you paid at retail, the club has gained, and you have done your part. And it well might bring more. All material donated remains the property of the club if it is not sold. The Connoisseur's Corner provides the one exception to this rule. This table is for items of more than average worth; here the donors set the minimum bid at a fair proportion of its value, and if the item is not sold for this or more, the donor may take it home again.

Cookie Donations Requested

The club will furnish coffee throughout the evening. Cake and cookies will be sold for 5¢. So please remember--along with your auction donations, please bring a batch of cookies if you can -- we all look forward to these goodies. SEE YOU AT THE AUCTION, and look forward to meeting your friends, relatives and neighbors there, too!

TRIP TO ZINC MINE

(At our October meeting a guest, a member of the Lake Co. and Illinois Rock Club, announced that this group was having a field trip to a zinc mine in Wisconsin on Oct. 20, and invited anyone interested to attend. Since Bob and Audrey Teunis had to be in Chicago that weekend anyway, they decided to take advantage of this invitation. The following is the Teunis' account of the trip.)

We were invited to join the Lake County and Illinois Rock Club field trip Oct. 20 to the New Jersey Zinc Company Elmo Mine and Mill, which is located three miles north of Cuba City, Wis. We arrived at the mine, which is about 170 miles northwest of Chicago, just before noon. There were already some rockhounds waiting, plus a few campers and one tent.

The mine is also 15 miles north of Galena, Ill. which, in the first half of the 19th century, was a boom town, making many men rich from the lead ore. Gen. Ulysses S. Grant lived here, and after the Civil War a few of the richer people built and gave him a house which is now owned by the state and open to the public. It is still furnished with the general's furniture and gifts from all over the world.

On hand at the mine were 49 from the Lake Co. & Illinois Club, 10 from the Duluth Rock Club, and 2 guides from the mine for a total of 61 who went underground, plus 15-20 who stayed on the surface. We split up into two groups, and walked half a mile to the mine entrance. Then we walked in on a slope of about 13 ft. per hundred feet forward, for about 1400 feet -- so we were about 200 feet below the surface.

Clear water was running out the sides of the mine about three feet above the floor. Six feet above was the clay layer. The ore was above that and up almost to the surface. The good layer contains about 8% zinc and also some lead. The water was pumped to the surface and most of it went through a pipe to a town near by.

In the back of the mine a 30-inch emergency shaft was open to the surface, with fresh air being blown into the mine. There was a metal ladder up the shaft. This company has another mine two miles east of this one, and are about to open a third northwest of this area.

The rock specimens we found contained galena, bladed marcasite, pyrite, sphalerite, and calcite crystals. Also many fossils are to be found, as is true in most of the State of Illinois.

We enjoyed this trip, and met some interesting people.

FIND THE HIDDEN MEMBERS

Last names of 26 active club members are hidden in the letters below. They may be read forward or backward, up or down, or diagonally in either direction. We suggest you circle each name as you find it. Each letter is used only once. Can't find one? Answer on page 5.

D L E O M S P A B U K C D A E M
 U T L I O W R X N A A W Z E D S
 P D O V F N G S T E E L E R S L
 R N E A O N E R U V N A V O A R
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 B S U P O S T J O S Y E X S A C
 O M P A D R E U Z H E N E W E R
 W I L K T N C A Y B E Z T N R A
 E T K A N O Z R L U F L O V I B
 S H L I W E T C O G H U R H O B
 P I N T S D A R K Z R E E D C S
 A G T I J O Y C E D E R A L H T
 S E L D O C K E R A Y M E U Z A
 L A S O B N R O O D U L A S K T

 STYLE SHOW PLANNED FOR DECEMBER -- a Jewelry Style Show, that is. As a special dinnertime feature at our December Potluck, members will model jewelry items which they have made. So plan on it now--perhaps you can create something unique for the occasion. Creative silverwork is sure to be a highlight of the showing, but commercial mountings may certainly be used as long as you have done the lapidary work yourself. There are also beautiful sets of jewelry made from tumbled materials. And we hope the men will model some of those outstanding bola ties, cufflinks, etc. More details in next month's "Drifter".

"How I Became a Rockhound" - - - by Nellie Mead

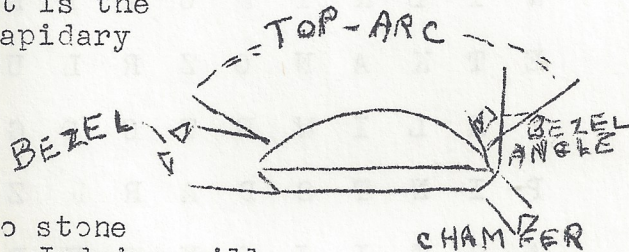
When Elaine asked me how I became a Rockhound, my answer couldn't have sounded less exciting. It was the late Virginia Franzen who, nine years ago, admired an agate pendeant mounted by Helen Aves that I'd received for Christmas and was wearing to church. She told me about G.R.M.S., and my friends the Willis Atwells took me to my first meeting. There was to be a gypsum mine trip later in January, and as only members could go, I signed up immediately.

My years in the club have given me a tremendous amount of pleasure, not only in collecting fossils, minerals, and crystals and studying about them, but in making many friends, including our own Junior Rockhounds and the more than three thousand 4th, 5th and 6th graders to whom I have talked about the exciting stories of Nature lying under our feet.

Knowing a little about the subject is enough to urge one on to learning more, limited time and space being the only deterrents.

START NOW -- BE READY FOR "LAPIDARY OF THE MONTH" AWARD

There is nothing like competition and comparison to sharpen your lapidary skills. That is the reason for re-instating our "Lapidary of the Month" award, with the first contest to be held at the December meeting.



Entries will be limited to cabochons, unmounted, and no stone may be entered more than once. Judging will be based on girdle outline and accuracy, symmetry and overall balance, quality of polish, orientation of pattern, and bezel angle and chamfer. In the case of free form cabochons, complexity of the form attempted will also receive consideration. A Prize Ribbon will be awarded the winner each month, and we hope to have a special display of winners at the March Museum show.

(Note: The above sketch is taken from the Family Lapidary Club "Petoskey Stone" of Waterford, Mich. This club has its own lapidary workshop, and a 4-step training program in lapidary work. This is the club which produced the stone map of the United States which won first place, and the Sweepstake Trophy at the Saginaw Fair Gem Show. Congratulations to them!)

SHOP TIP: A few drops of liquid soap added to the water for mixing cerium, tin or chrome oxide holds the polishing compound to the wheel much longer, and makes polishing faster and easier.

YOU CAN BE A WINNER!

NAME THE 1969 MARCH MUSEUM SHOW!

The show is to open March 1. Last year's very capable show chairmen, Marian Jennings and Jim DeZwaan Sr., have agreed to give the club the benefit of their experience by handling the show again this year.

Now what we need is a good name for it. Last year we called it "Living With Rocks". What can you suggest for this year's 10th anniversary title? In order to encourage clever and pertinent ideas, the board is sponsoring a contest, with the winner to receive a special mineral specimen.

All entries must be received by the "Drifter" Editor, Mrs. R.B. Smith, 1445 Breton Rd. S.E., before the Board meeting on Nov. 18. She will prepare a list of the suggestions, without the names of the contestants, and the Board will decide by vote on a winner. Winner will be announced in the next "Drifter" and the prize awarded at the December meeting.

I'm the (Rock) Crystal Ball.

PROMISED AND STILL HOPED FOR--presentation of the two fine memorial volumes to our club library. A slight misunderstanding prevented the books from being on hand at the October meeting, but they will be officially presented in December. ... HOPED FOR--by Sandi Feole--donations of good material, jewelry, etc. to the club raffle table. She is about out of supplies for this worthy cause. The attendance-prize raffles are fun for all, and the other chances provide one of the few ways this club has of making any money to keep its program going. ... Despite confusion as to registration procedures, the NORTHVIEW SCHOOL rock identification classes are now underway, with some of our members attending. ... A small hobby group of SILVER WOMEN is getting started; call Davena Lett if you'd like to join in--not for instruction, however; this is not a class. ... DAVENA had a quick response to Larry Fegel's remark that the Junior group would need a new saw blade -- she promptly gave him a blade which she had had recharged and never used. ... The MINERALOGY GROUP is studying the book "Geology--Our Changing Earth Through the Ages" by Jerome Wyckoff. It's a paperback; you might like to look it over. Perhaps one of the group can donate a copy to the club library when they are through with this study. ... Special thanks to AUDREY TRUNIS and EMILY VAN VUREN for so efficiently handling the refreshments at the Oct. Anniversary party; also to HARRIET ROSS for the use of the lovely centerpiece.

DID YOU FIND THESE "HIDDEN MEMBERS"? Duprey, Feole, DeZwaan, Mead, Ross, Rose, Reed, Smith, Post, Iteen, Crabbs, Dockeray, Doornbos, Joyce, Pearl, Lett, Jennings, Arnold, Vos, Wendt, Tchozeski, Damstra, Steele, Fegel, Rozema, VanVuren.

" THE ROCKHOUND "

by T.O.Garrett, Willapaw Harbor Gem Soc.



When heat devils dance across the sand,
Who swings a pick that burns his hand?
When the sage is scared by the torrid sun,
Who sweats and strains - and calls it fun?
THE ROCKHOUND!

When the river bank is white with snow,
And ice has covered the rocks below,
When the fish are huddled together for heat
Who wades in water up to his seat?
THE ROCKHOUND!

Who clings to a cliff a mile in the sky
Where eagles and clouds are all that go by?
One slip and they'll scrape him up in a pail
And his widow will have to hung a new male.
THE ROCKHOUND!

Who goes for gems like a kid for cake?
Who bites right back at a rattlesnake?
Who cows the bull that bars his way?
(While throwing the bull most every day?)
THE ROCKHOUND!

Who piles the rocks on his poor wife's load
Till her backbone creaks and her legs are bowed?
Then, when they're home with the precious haul,
Who is the one that claims them all?
THE ROCKHOUND!

Who looks at the slab I hold most dear,
Points to a flaw with a scornful sneer,
Then lays it down and says, "It's cute"?
He is the guy I'm going to shoot!
THE ROCKHOUND!

(via Ozark Earth Science)

LAPIDARY TIP--from Gems & Minerals, Apr.1963 (via Ozark Earth Science): Floyd Garber, Charles City, Iowa, has a method of polishing flat surfaces such as thundereggs. "I lap the surface with 220 grit, then 400 grit, and finally 600. After washing well, I put the stones under a heat lamp or 100 watt bulb for 5 minutes. When they are dry and very warm throughout, I polish them on a felt wheel with tin oxide. It takes no time at all to get a good polish. By preheating the stone the polishing action is instant."

SAGINAW COUNTY ROCK SHOW--a Report by Art Ferguson

On Sept. 26th we enjoyed a visit to the Saginaw Co. Fair, and the rock show held in conjunction with it. This was a competition show with many fine cases of all sorts on display.

We especially enjoyed several cases of agatized coral made into butterflies and all sorts of animal. The cases were entered by a lady whose name I have forgotten, but whom we met there. She had many odd-shaped pieces in one case, several clown faces, a seal, and other animals. She had made one piece into a face with the mouth open, and had it labelled "Look, Ma, no cavities!" But her butterflies were the outstanding pieces. Some were 6 or 8 inches across each wing.

There were cases of fossils, minerals, and other groupings. A number of Junior cases also added to the variety. Awards were given in both Junior and Senior classes. There was also a large fluorescent cases with alternating regular and black lights. Another outstanding exhibit was the intarsia map of the United States which was recently featured in "Gems and Minerals" magazine.

We also took note of the club's school program. They have a number of cases of mineral and rock specimens that are available to all schools in the county. They also have other teacher assistance materials that the teachers were busily signing up to use. Two dealers had stands there.

We also visited Camper Row to see the many trailers, etc. on display. It was a chance to see some makes not sold here. We could not miss seeing the fine Clydesdale horses from the Busch Co. in St. Louis. We also saw the world's largest steer, over 6 ft. tall and 13 ft. long, weighing 3100 $\frac{1}{2}$ lbs.

It was well worth the trip to see "How the other half lives!"

JUNIOR GROUP NEEDS FIELD TRIP ESCORTS

Les Pearl Junior Rockhounds, under the leadership of Larry Fegel, will be registered at the Museum on Saturday, Nov. 2, with classes to start the following week and run through March. Class fee is \$2 per person, and the group will be limited to the first 35 registrants.

Larry has asked for help on just one main point: could you accompany the group on field trips, either as a driver or as escorts if the Museum bus can be used for transportation. This is an opportunity for those members not too active otherwise to be of real service to the club and to the youngsters. Larry must have help on field trips--won't you call him, NOW, at Em.3-7335, and give him your name and phone number? (one other thing--if you have any spare slabs of cabochon material, Larry needs them for the Junior lapidary class.)

AS OTHERS SEE US:

Rockhounds is queer animals. They was made to walk standing up straight but when in action, they doubles over or crawls aroun on all fours. They all has 'ceptional eyesite but carries a extry eye in a poket, this is used on all sides of every specimen. Also as a aid to eyesite, they licks things with their tongue, regardless of dirt, germs or pizon. They drapes theirselves with sacks to carry home their plunder an sometimes can scarce stagger under its weight. A mere whisper to rockhounds about availuble material is jest like a red flag to a bull. They chases it. It don't make no matter if its rainin er freezin - er so hot that nails melt out of boards, if rockhouns hears about somewheres they kin find new and differunt rocks, they travels there pronto. Sometimes they take their wimmen along. Even some wimmen is rockhounds too. When on the scent, they never stop fer nutin till its too dark to see and then they talk about what they found till its about daylite...an time to take to the trail agin.

Thanks to S.I.E.S. CLUB NEWS. BENTON, ILL.

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Issue No. 89 - November 1968.

A MESSAGE FROM OUR NEW PRESIDENT

Acceptance Speech of June Culp Zeitner on receiving the President's Jade Gavel of the Midwest Federation at the National Banquet at Normal, Illinois.

No individual reaches for the Jade gavel alone. The responsibility symbolized by this precious gavel would be too great, were it not for the more than 12,000 helpful members of the Midwest Federation who have placed their confidence in me. I thank each member, and I humbly accept this gavel, with the hope that together, through understanding and communication we can achieve an expanded base for the future.

The greatness of this hobby lies in many things. The Scotch have a delightful word for a pile of stones representing a landmark. It is cairn. I sometimes think that we are all busy building stone by stone, a cairn for tomorrow. We each have our own talents, our own ideas, our own stones, as it were to add to that ever increasing cairn. Some of us will add stones labeled companionship and recreation, and it is one of the blessings of this age that we may do so without guilt. Recreation is at last respectable. Do I date myself when I admit I remember when grandmas wouldn't let children play on Sundays because pleasure was synonymous with sin? Others of us, devoted to the organization of man's knowledge, and to research for truth, will add stones labeled science. Still others, believing that beauty is truth, and seeking to interpret science to the senses of man, add stones labeled art.

We have an obligation to choose with care the stones we add to that cairn for tomorrow. We must literally use everything that we find or acquire of this earth's vanishing resources to add to man's happiness, or to his knowledge, or to his culture. Although it took this federation 28 years to reach 200 clubs, we may double that

number in half that time. We don't want to have to apologize for our collections of today, but rather we want their truth and beauty to stand recommendations of our generations.

As I see it, we have but one major danger facing the integrity and beauty of the structure we are building for tomorrow. That is intolerance. I know field trippers who refuse to attend a scientifically oriented meeting. I know mineral collectors who smugly say to the Lapidary, "We are serious collectors", and I know lapidaries who sneeringly say of a mineral specimen, "What's that good for?" And I know newcomers to the hobby whose most constant remark is, "How much is this worth?"

The fact is we should be a more cohesive force than any other similar organization in the whole world, because what we have in common is more basic; the love of nature, which combines recreation, art, and science. Our mutual hobby is based on this planet of rock we inhabit, and rock is the timeless symbol for all that is solid and enduring. Our greatest need is to understand each other. United, there is no limit to what we can accomplish. This year I wish we would make a great effort to understand other phases of the hobby, besides our own specialty. Goethe said, "Whatever you cannot understand, you cannot possess". My motto for this year is "Understanding, through education, is the builder of tomorrow."

OUR HISTORIAN NEEDS YOUR CLUB HISTORIES

Each of us enjoys his club because the people in it are our friends and what they do concerns us. Each of them is a small part of us. That is the real reason that we read our club bulletins. But they are not the only friends we might have through the club. Behind today's members stand many interesting people who once belonged to

A WORD FROM OUR RETIRING PRESIDENT

On November 1, 1968, another fiscal year -- the 28th in our Midwest Federation history-- comes to an end. At that time the curtain will drop momentarily as the 1969 cast comes upon the stage, and then, quickly it will rise for these new administrators who full of ideas and enthusiasm usher in the year that lies ahead.

During the past year it has been a privilege to have served the Federation as president. Too, it has been a pleasure, though the skies were not always cloudless. And now, before I surrender the reins of leadership on November 1, I would like to direct a final challenge to each of you. In the year ahead, set your goals high, for yourself, your club, and your Federation. Remember, we can never reach the top of the mountain if we aim only at the half way mark.

"Think big and your deeds will grow!
Think small and you fall behind.
Think that you can-- and you will!
It's all in the state of your mind."

Records were made to be broken. Years of achievement are simply the foundation for the even greater achievements of tomorrow. It is hoped that by working together during the past year we have added a few more foundation stones-- a few more stepping stones-- to the progress that will be made in the future. Whatever success we have had has been due to the willing co-operation of my team of workers-- the elected officers, the committee chairmen, and the State vice presidents and their assistants-- who have served so loyally throughout the year. To them all, I express my heartfelt thanks.

To the many clubs within the Federation, again I must say it is regrettable that time has made it impossible for me to see or visit with all of you. Because of this it is my hope that others on my team have served your needs-- and that the new team, as it comes onto the field, will continue to serve you.

Thank you all, from your out-going president.

Ellis W. Courter

Historian... con't from page 1

the club and whose services made it what we enjoy today.

Do you know that one Midwest club grew out of a Sunday School class, that another got its start in sending packages to World War II soldiers overseas and that a third owes its bulletin to a woman's chance vacation in the Michigan copper country? Most clubs began because of a person and a circumstance collided and every member of a club is a little richer for knowing about it.

What started your club, what has it contributed to the hobby, to the community and to the federation of which it is a part, what leadership has it developed and shared with the Federation movement, where does it meet, what have been its triumphs and struggles, its field trips and shows and rockramas and conventions, and its publications?

A well written history not only is a token of the club's maturity but it also shares friendships and accomplishments of the group with all other rockhounds.

A number of Midwest federation clubs have responded to the Historian's appeal for club histories. They are the substance of the federation itself, for it is what its clubs are and have been. How about your club history as a Christmas, 1968, present for the federation files? Maybe they'll be in a book someday.

(Send your histories direct to our Historian, Russell P. MacFall, 721 Foster Street, Evanston, Illinois 60201.)

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