

Volume 11, no 4 ~ Dec, 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.

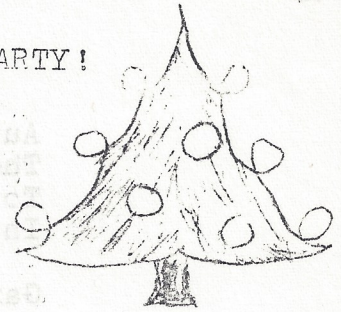
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DON'T MISS THE CHRISTMAS PARTY!

Jewelry Style Show! Gifts!  
Lapidary Exhibits! Potluck Goodies!  
Special Mystery Guest Promised!



Now hear this! You've got things to do for our December meeting!

First, Fix a good-sized main-dish, salad or dessert for the pot-luck supper, and bring your own table service. Coffee, milk and rolls will be furnished. Call one of the supper co-chairmen, Mrs. Arthur Ferguson, Em.1-9803, or Mrs. Arnold Wendt Sr., 453-0143, to say how many servings of milk you will want.

Second, Each person attending should bring a gift, something connected with the rock hobby. Wrap it nice and pretty, with your name on it so the recipient will know whom to thank. And we have been promised the presence of the most expert gift-distributor in the world, to see that each person gets the nicest present of all.

Third, Do try to have an entry for our "Lapidary of the Month" Contest. Certainly most of those who have been taking lapidary instruction recently should have a cab ready. To kick off this month's contest, we are making a special presentation to Arnie Wendt, Jr. of an award, for pipestone carving, which he won some time ago, but somehow missed receiving.

Fourth, Everyone who has a piece of rock jewelry is asked to wear it--pick out your best--and show it in our Jewelry Style Show Parade. This will be held at the close of the dinner hour, and tumbled stone jewelry is fully as welcome as the most elaborate silver pieces--we'd like to see them all. There'll be music, and each piece will be described.

Fifth, The meeting program is planned for getting-to-know-you sociability. There will be some slides shown from our meetings, summer picnics, etc.; others from the Midwest & American Federation Show at Normal, Ill.; and Steve Tchozeski will give a brief illustrated report on his experiences as our scholarship student at the Higgins Lake Conservation Camp.

Sixth, You'll be interested in a few special displays, designed to stimulate more friendly conversation. Jim DeZwaan Sr. will have copper pieces; there will also be a display on carving cameras.

Seventh, You'll be proud of our new club library, and the outstanding books being presented in memory of Past Presidents Leslie Pearl and Gerald Morris, and Past Board Member Lowell Palmer. Use of the library will be inaugurated in January.

Eighth, It's a rockhound's dream of a Christmas Party. See you there! Where? Museum East Building, 6:30 p.m., Dec. 11. Where else?

SPARKLING JEWELS

Autumn spilled her jewels!  
They rolled in gay confusion  
To cover all the countryside  
In colorful profusion.

Garnets deck the oak tree,  
The pond a sapphire holds,  
The wheatfield glows with amber,  
The birch is strewn with gold.

Rubies sparkle yonder  
Where the woodbine tendrils twist,  
The asters by the roadway  
Are scattered amethysts.

And in the bright cold morning,  
On every leaf and stem,  
The frosty diamonds glitter  
Among the other gems.

A reward of joy is offered you  
Who find just where they lay...  
Joy and shining memories  
To light a winter day!

(by Doris Locke, via "Gravelog")

DALE JOYCE.....1911 - 1968

With great regret we note the passing, following a heart attack, of Dale Joyce, 2017 Buchanan Ave. S.W. Mr. Joyce was service manager for I. H. Gingrich & Sons, where he had been employed for the last 35 years. A growing interest in lapidary work led Mr. Joyce to join the Grand Rapids Mineral Society this year; his wife, Beryl, has been a member for several years; and his sister, Miss Vera Joyce, is a long-time G.R.M.S. member. Mr. and Mrs. Joyce had enrolled in the new club lapidary classes, and looked forward to developing this art. His presence and his interest will be missed by all of us, and our deepest sympathy is extended to his family.

DECEMBER EVENTS

- Dec. 11, 6:30 p.m., Museum East Bldg.  
Christmas Potluck
- Dec. 16, 7:30 p.m., Board of Control,  
R.B.Smith, 1445 Breton S.E.
- Dec. 17, 8 p.m., Mineralogy Group  
Mrs. Nellie Mead, 334 Briarwood S.E.  
(Bring rock to exchange)



DRIFTIN' AROUND:

Special Notice: If you have not paid your 1969 G.R.M.S. dues, this is the last issue of the Glacial Drifter which you will receive. You wouldn't want to miss it, would you? Pay at the next meeting, or mail to Treas. Bob Teunis, 1150 Ball N.E., City 5.....We hope you will enjoy the pictures of G.R.M.S. jewelry soon to be run in the G.R.Press. Only a few representative samples could be assembled in time for this, but we want to see everybody's favorite rock jewelry at our Dec. Jewelry Style Show Parade!.....The Les Pearl Jr. Rockhound group is off to a good start on a busy program of activities. On Nov.16 Larry Fegel, assisted by Lucille Pearl and Ruth Steele, led the youngsters on a rather chilly trip to the Gillissee Gravel Pit. Good finds were made in banded cherts, typical fossils, etc..... Incidentally, we were proud to note that some of the late Leslie Pearl's rock specimens were recently on display in a Museum window showing educational aids.....It is difficult for the Drifter staff to secure accurate personal news items in such a loose-knit organization as ours. However, we have heard of the recent hospitalizations of Augie Post, Max Ross, and Ed Wassel, and wish them all continued successful recovery.....Financial Report: Proceeds from the Nov. Silent Auction amounted to \$259.65--a big help in carrying out our varied program of club and community service activities. Next year we hope to have more tables and more space, so it won't be quite so crowded.... ..Tip for those interested in fluorescent materials: tentative plans are being made to have a special fluorescent display at our March Museum Show.....Ellis Courter, retired president of the Midwest Federation who presented his program on the Grand Canyon at one of our meetings, has been elected treasurer of the AFMS Scholarship Foundation.....The apparently favorable report of Nat'l. Park Service Assoc. Regional Dir. Allen E. Edmunds on the Norton Indian Mounds should do much to further our cause of getting these mounds declared a national monument. Mr. Edmunds visited the mounds recently, with representatives of G.R.M.S., the Museum, and Grand Valley State College..... ..We liked the action taken by a Minnesota club on a summer field trip. In gratitude to the man who put his time toward preparing barbecued chicken for the whole group, they set a time signal. At a given moment, everything found by everyone for the next 15 minutes went to the barbecuer.....Then there's this remark in the Wall Street Journal: "We are not surprised at the geologist's report that the world is shrinking. Anything that stays so long in hot water is bound to shrink."

REPORTS ON DETROIT AND LANSING SHOWS

(Art and Dorothy Ferguson have found much interest and value in visits to various rock shows held throughout the state. We are indebed to them for these accounts of two such shows. In later issues of the "Drifter", the Fergusons will share with us accounts of rock hunting in N.DakotaMontana and Wyoming.)

The Detroit Show, which we visited Nov. 3, was a fine show with competitive and non-competitive exhibits from many cities. Mrs. Olive Ereu had several cases of her agatized coral pieces which we had seen in Saginaw. The Waterford Club had their fine intarsia map of the 50 states on display. Their Family Lapidary Club had a large shop area in the center of the room with grinding, polishing, cutting and sanding equipment in operation. They were busy showing people of all ages how to make cabs by doing it themselves. Then whenever a whole family came in to grind rocks, they rang a bell and announced it over a P.A.

The intarsia of the old mill recently on the cover of Earth Science was on display also. There was an impressive case of silver crosses through the ages, made by Tolson Radloff. The crosses were decorated with opal and included the Crusader's cross, Greek Tau cross, Phillips cross, Swastika, and many others. One case held a large piece of Coober Peddy opal, the largest known, 23 lbs. and valued at \$10,000. Excuse please while I drool a bit!

Dealers were on hand from Oregon to Ohio offering many fine materials, cutting specimens and fossils; two of our own G.R. dealers were among those present. Just inside the door was an exhibit donated by a floral group, a rock fountain with many varieties of orchids of different colors on it. Being a dyed-in-the-wool camera bug, I couldn't pass up an opportunity like this. One piece attracting much attention was a table with inlaid petrified wood top. This was beautifully matched and took two years to finish. Also on hand, to my surprise, was a booth from the Detroit Astronomical Society, where we met several old friends from Astro-conventions.

Truly a fine show and well worth the trip.

Saturday, Nov. 9 we visited the Lansing rock show...the third show we have visited this fall, and each has its special features. One special attraction featured materials from all the states. There was an hourly door prize drawing and an hourly silent auction. We picked up some Kona dolomite at the auction. The Waterford club's intarsia was again on exhibit.

One machine being demonstrated at both Detroit and Lansing was creating a lot of interest. This is a homemade rig for polishing star sapphires, etc. It uses a standard poly-arbor with another motor and gear box hooked to appropriate cranks, etc. to produce the pretty hemishpheres.

(con't. on next page)

(Lansing Show--con't.)

Several 4-H cases were on display, some of the prize-winning 4-H club show pieces. Models were also shown of erosion in the making, do-it-yourself magnetic material detectors and other working displays. Many cases featuring Michigan materials such as datolite, copper and hematite graced the aisles.

Once again, a good show that we enjoyed.

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- 3. Saw. "Rocks" 10" saw. Like new, hardly used at all. Weight feed. Diamond blade with less than 1 hour's use.

All required accessories go with this equipment, to furnish a complete home shop, including alcohol lamp, templates, dop sticks, polishing compound, silicon carbide paper, dressing stone, cutting oil, etc. I'll even throw in some good slabs.

Must be sold as a package, will not be sold piecemeal.

Total price.....\$150.00

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"COPPER QUICKIES"...(from Arizona Mining Assoc. via "Rock Rollers")

99 44/100% pure isn't good enough for copper. The metal must be refined to better than 99.9% purity before it is acceptable for many electrical and other uses. As little as .05% foreign matter can reduce copper's electrical conductivity as much as 15%.

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The name "Copper" comes from "Cyprus" where ancients worked extensive deposits of the red metal...Copper pints itself. Oxidation of the outer layer prevents further penetration of oxygen.

Columbus' ships were copper-sheathed below the waterline for longer life and protection against fouling....Copper has been used for coins throughout all recorded history--check your new "sandwich" coins.

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## THE 1969 FIELD CONCENTION

We hope to help you plan your trip to South Dakota next June. First we will explain the geography of the Field Trip Convention. We are 4 small clubs widely scattered. The headquarters town, Murdo, is on Interstate 90, where construction is still going on. There are 14 motels and hotels in Murdo, and 4 more within a 20 minute drive. Then the town of Kadoka is on the way to the rock beds and also has numerous motels. We can find rooms for everyone...from simple and inexpensive rooms, to very plush nationally advertised facilities. There will be plenty of room for campers and trailers. Write to any of the enclosed list to make your own reservations, or write to the Reservation Chairman: Robert Wilson, Murdo, South Dakota 57559, and ask him to take care of your reservation. Be sure to specify the type and price of accommodations you desire, and give the name of the club you belong to. You may be asked to make a deposit.

June 12th., the first day will be devoted to meetings, such as the Editors Breakfast, the Council meeting, various seminars, registration, and a big FREE WESTERN BEEF BARBECUE. June 13 and 14 we will go to alluvial gravel beds in the Badlands to look for agates, jasper, petrified wood, chalcedony, silicified corals, and other fossils, and if your're lucky... FAIRBURNS. There are rocks for everybody, and we think we will have more people rock hunting together than in the history of the entire hobby. There will be silent auctions (please bring a specimen as part of your registration fee) displays of South Dakota material, big swap sessions, slide shows, street dances, and even entertainment for the Junior members. Saturday night we will have the annual banquet. Sunday we will split up into smaller groups and mostly move west. We will have a fossil trip or two for cephalopods and other invertebrates, there will be trips to old mines for rose quartz, garnets, feldspar and mica minerals, spodumene, tin, and many other pegmatite minerals. We may get a bulldozer for Tepee Canyon, and we are hoping to find a barite area. Most likely many field trippers will want to stay in the Black Hills area for a few days, rather than returning to Murdo Sunday night. We will provide lists of places to go on your own after the guided trips are over. What you spend on the trip is up to you.

The weather could be on the cool side in June, so come prepared. The danger of snakes is minimal. We seldom ever see a snake in western South Dakota although we realize that it is possible, just as it is in Iowa or Wisconsin or Michigan. There are plenty of gas stations and we will have primitive sanitary facilities in the field. It would be handy if you would have a thermos along for coffee or water, but we will never be far from places where you can get food and water. If you have never been to South Dakota I will hasten to explain that it is not a bit like the Dakota Territory western you see over TV.

June Zeitner    Publicity Chairman

Note: The "DRIFTER" Editor has a list of motel and cabin accommodations in the Murdo area, with rates, if any one wishes to know more about this.



### CERIUM OXIDE

Some thirty years ago in Switzerland, two technicians discovered the amazing glass polishing properties of cerium oxide. Soon it was being used extensively for the polishing of precision lenses in Europe.

Then came World War II. Scientists in the optical industries in this country heard about cerium oxide...how it could polish faster and cleaner than any other known material. In a cloak and dagger operation, samples of cerium oxide were smuggled out of Switzerland. Tests confirmed the rumors.

This was early in the 40's when Hitler held most of Europe and the Japanese were driving toward Australia. The urgency of our growing war effort was putting fantastic demands on the optical industry. Lenses for bombsights, range finders, periscopes and other military instruments were needed desperately.

By war's end, cerium oxide had virtually revolutionized glass polishing practices in this country. Today it is widely used in the production of distortion-free TV tubes, fine quality mirrors and precision optical lenses. And Rockhounds have found it to be an excellent polish for obsidian, opal, and many other of the softer gemstones.

(...Mich. Gem News)

DO YOU THINK ANTI-LITTER CAMPAIGNS UNIMPORTANT? Robert O. Dodge, Chief of the Parks Division of the Michigan Conservation Department, recently pointed out a few amazing facts. During the period of June through August of 1967, our 72 administered State Parks and Recreation Areas played host to some 11,387,715 visitors. It is estimated that each park visitor deposits three pounds of refuse in the waste container for each day he is in the park. This totals 34,000,000 pounds of disposable refuse collected during the three-month summer period. If this quantity of refuse were spread one foot thick over the ground, it would cover an area 20 ft. wide x 23 mi. long.

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