

Volume 11, no 5 - Jan, 1969



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.

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

Jan. 8, 7:30 p.m., Regular Meeting, "Rockhounding in Colorado"  
Jan. 11, 1 p.m., Field Trip, Gypsum Mine, 1200 Judd S.W.  
Jan. 13, 7:30 p.m., Board of Control, Ted Duprey 3326 Badger SW, Wyom.  
Jan. 22, 8 p.m., Mineralogy Group, Fay Reed, 425 Lafayette NE

#### PROGRAM ON COLORADO, FIELD TRIP, ARE JANUARY HIGHLIGHTS

Our own Gordon and Dorothy Williams will share with us some of their rockhounding adventures as they roamed the state of Colorado looking for good material. Their pictures will be a combination of two trips, for adventure, scenery, and location "tips", this is a program you won't want to miss.

Added feature: Bob and Audrey Teunis will have a display of materials they found in the Cuba City, Wis. mine field trip (which they joined at the invitation of an Illinois club). Specimens will include bladed marcasite, galena, zinc ore, calcite, sphalerite, etc.

#### Winter Field Trip to a Favorite

With the temperature in the old gypsum mines at the Michigan Natural Storage Co. always an even 50°, this is a fine time to secure a good stock of that beautiful salmon-pink gypsum for which the Grand Rapids area is noted. Because most other gypsum areas do not have this color, we have found this to be a very good trading material almost anywhere. There is an admission charge of \$1 per adult, 50¢ per child.

We will meet at the Mich. Natural Storage building at 1 p.m. (Judd intersects Chicago Dr. in the 1300 block --turn north and follow Judd to the end). Those of you who have never been through the huge natural storage rooms and freezer rooms should not miss this very interesting tour; you will need warm coats for this, as some of these rooms are very cold. Those who have been through the storage rooms will be guided directly to the old mine tunnels; the others will join the group there following the storage tour. We will be given plenty of time, and you can take out as much material as you like. Lately, some good finds in selenite crystals have been reported. Good hunting, everyone!

EVERYBODY GET READY FOR "ROCKING THE RAPIDS"

"Rocking the Rapids"--that was the name finally selected by the Board of Control for our 1969 March Museum Show. The list of suggestions, those written out at the December meeting and others, was passed around the board for a vote, with no names on the list. After the winning title was selected, Marilyn Arnold turned out to be the lucky winner. She will receive a slab of cutting material as her prize.

Jim De Zwaan, Sr. and Marion Jennings will again co-chairman the show. They point out that this will be our tenth anniversary show, and they hope that every club member will have at least some part in it. Plan NOW, start working NOW, --whether for just a few pieces, or for a whole display case--working together, we can make this the outstanding show of them all! Start "Rockin'!"

HOW ABOUT THAT?

Copper mining on the Isle Royals in Michigan has spanned 4,500 years.

In the past 75 years more than 150 million pounds of nickel have been used for coinage.

Jets of water under very high pressure are being used in some Soviet mines to cut anthracite, an extremely hard type of coal.

Mogul Shah Jahan, 17th. Century emperor of India, sat on a throne valued at \$30 million .

Mounds, which American Indians built as tombs for their dead, are found in many parts of the United States. Thomas Jefferson excavated one of these 40 feet in diameter and 12 feet high, a few miles from Charlottesville, Va.

At Rockhound State Park in New Mexico, the public is encouraged to take minerals and stones such as perlite, blue opal and amethyst as souvenirs.

Large tonnages of starch are used in aluminum production to free ore from extraneous materials.

The sea supplies only three minerals in large quantities---- common salt, magnesium, and bromine.

Brazil is still a leading source of industrial diamonds, but produces only a small percentage of fine gems.

Most of the "jewels" used in cheaper watches are garnets, over 250,000 of the tiny stones being used each month for this purpose alone.

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(A month or so ago, Ernest Gifford was asked by the Board to attend a meeting on water pollution, representing the G.R.M.S. The following is his report on the meeting, with information supplemented by his own reading and study)

### The Abatement of Pollution By Ernest Gifford

There has been much talk in the past year about water pollution both in the newspapers and on the street or wherever people meet to make conversation. In November we even voted on a water pollution control about water pollution.

It would seem that most people believe that this will be the end of the story and that water pollution will soon be no more. I fear that it will not be so simple.

Pollution is a complex problem. When pollution takes over a stream or a lake it becomes self-perpetuating. This is made so by a simple act of nature. When plants and organisms live and die in the water they become food for another generation and another and another. Now we can see that it will take many years of clean living to starve the pollution that is in our lakes and streams as of today. Unless we can find other means of killing the organisms in the water then we now must begin the long and slow process of starvation.

If we are to ever again see clean water in our streams then we must stop all unclean water from flowing into the streams. Let us apply this test. If water is unfit for household use then it is unfit to dump in our streams. I fear that the sewage treatment plants we now have and plan to build in the future may not meet this test and must be abandoned for other methods. Let us remember that any pollution is too much, for it will feed the organisms that are now present. We will never win if we go on feeding the pollution.

Let us not overlook other sources of pollution. Our farms for example. Early America had an average top soil depth of nine inches. Now it is down to six inches and going fast. This material is carried down into our rivers and lakes by the action of runoff water. Much of this material is organic and is another source of unclean water. Farm animals is still another source. Waste from these animals will accumulate on pasture land until rains come and wash it down into the streams in the form of raw untreated sewage. The washing away of organic matter represents a loss to the farmer and to the country amounting to billions of dollars each year.

I do not wish to tire you with a lot of detail but I do wish to make these points.

We must clean up America. We must save America.

## ROCK HUNTING OUT WEST BY ART & DOROTHY FERGUSON

### HUNTING PETRIFIED WOOD IN N. DAKOTA

As we traveled westward this year, our first rock hunting state was N. Dak. Even tho there are some good spots in Minn, and Wisc. we camped at Heart Butte Dam on the Heart River SW of Bismark. This is a rustic campground with good swimming and Beau Coups mosquitoes. We picked up some nice specimens here, wood and fossils. The next morning, we headed west & south toward Mott. The Midwest Gem Guide shows wood along the Cannonball River. We didn't see any access to the river as we drove along so we kept going. When we stopped for gas at New England, we noticed a petrified wood wall across the street. The attendant told us that Dr. Brown was quite a rock nut, so I went over to see him. He was glad to show me his collection and swap some wood for our Petoskey. He also told us that just out of town there were piles of wood in the fields and that the farmers would be glad to get rid of it.

When we reached the location, we found just oodles of wood in the road and everywhere. Imagine Petrified Wood being a nuisance. But it is as much of a bother to the men plowing the fields as the gneiss etc. back in Michigan. We picked out as nice pieces as we could find, being as choosy as possible. We took pictures of some that were much too large to bring home. Then we headed on.

We had planned to see and possibly camp at the Burning Coal Vein campground. We saw some black smoke in the direction of the coal vein, so we headed out that way. Five or six miles out in the boondocks, we came to a blacktop batching plant, so back to the main road and north again. They were working on the road so we asked them about the coal vein but they didn't know as much as we did. A few miles north, we came to a sign saying Burning Coal Vein campground 29 mi.. This was a gravel road as was the previous one so Dorothy asked me if I was going to drive that far on a narrow road and being a stubborn Scotsman I was. 10 miles out we suddenly came to a place being graded and for sure we couldn't haul the trailer thru there. So back to the main road-10 miles. By this time we had driven some 30 miles back and forth and gained nothing so stubborn or now we forgot the coal vein. So on to Teddy Roosevelt Nat'l Memorial Park, S. Unit. We stopped at the painted canyon overlook for some pictures. This is Badlands and beautiful. Surely would hate to have to cross this area.

The walls and shelters are all built of scoria from the coal vein and petrified wood. We spent the night in the Cottonwood campgrounds. Just after we made camp, a thunderstorm with hail came thru. Some places in Medora were flooded. This is an historic spot where a French count founded a packing plant to eliminate the long shipments to Chicago. His project failed in 18. But some chimneys etc. mark the spot. There is another burning coal vein in the T. R. park but due to road work, the only way in way on foot so we settled for some picture postcards of it and a piece of scoria from a rock shop. So on to mont.

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## HUNTING MONTANA AGATE

We camped at Miles City and having made previous arrangements, we went to Kinsey to meet Bill May. Ruth Steele and Marie Spielmaker told us about him so we had written. He has two sections of range land (1280 acres) that is crossed by a creek. He took us out in his 4 wheel drive pickup and showed us what to pick up. With his help we found some good agate and nice wood. The creek was mostly dry and it was a cloudy day which made the hunting ideal. All folks from here are worried about rattlesnakes. We did not see even one snake of any kind last year or this anywhere in the west. Bill told us he had stepped right over one in the area where we were hunting, but we saw none--Thank goodness!!! Back at the campground we sorted out our treasures. We had about  $\frac{1}{2}$  a gunny sack of agate and about the same of wood.

One of the things we liked best about rock hunting and camping is meeting so many nice folks from all over the country, doing the same things. We met people in Miles City that gave us some pointers on Yellowstone Park and also gave us the name of a campground in Piedmont, S. Dakota where we spent 2 nights. We gave some boys some petoskey for their collections. The trick to finding a camp spot in Yellowstone is to get there in the morning, tho we could easily have driven all the way there. We spent the next night in Livingston along the Yellowstone River. There were some nice rocky sandbars across the river. I put on my boots and waded across. In spite of nearly getting upset and getting a wet seat, it was an enjoyable afternoon. I did find some more agate and wood. Bill also showed us his prize agates. He has some fine iris that he has put into the center of a table he made from cedar. He has some fine jewelry that is originally designed by him. It is a picture agate in beautiful mountings.

## COLLECTING IN WYOMING

After we left Yogie Bear and all his cousins at Yellowstone or is it Jellystone, we regretfully headed back east, tho we had several offers of guided trips, we had none planned in Wyoming. Our skedule just didn't match the hosts so we played it by ear. We stopped in Cody at the Buffalo Bill Museum. This is a worth while stop as it is now combined with the art gallery. There are many Remingtons, and other fine western artists works on display here as well as some sculpture. Then on to Greybull for the night. We had heard of the Greybull Museum so made it a point to visit here. They have mineo maps of the area showing where fossils are obtained. But even with the maps and the instructions of the people at the museum we drove all across the prairies and could not find the right places. We did find some gryphaea and belemnites tho. We also bought a board at the museum with various specimens on it. Dinosaur bones are found near Greybull and this is a famous fossil area. Bentonite is processed in large quantities here. We drove thru the mine areas and past the plants. This is a material of many uses. We had hardly heard of it before going there. It is used in toothpaste, oil well drilling, polishes and many other processes, such as taconite production and foundry molding sands. Wyoming bentonite is the sw-billing type.

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(collecting in Wyoming--Continued)

A few miles east of Greybull we stopped at Shell at the rockshop of Walter Drengson, mentioned in the Journal. We bought some of the spanish point agate from his claim. Then we started the climb up Shell Canyon over the Big Horns. This is a long grade and it was a hot day, so Betsy, our faithful steed developed a fever several times on the way. The Big Horns are the prettiest place we have seen in the Rockies. East of the mountains we again stopped at a rock shop. This time in Dayton at the shop of Jack Reavis. This is another place mentioned in the Journal. We bought several pieces of his lysite agate. He has some museum type pieces on display. The best way to describe them is that they are a blue agate in round topped colims that remind me of the cypress knees from Florida. These all are attached to a large piece of the same agate. Perhaps they are stalactites as agate is found in Wyoming that is called stalactite agate. We dug some of it in 1967 near Glendo. It was white. This lysite is a picture agate with brown dendrites that look like trees, etc. Some remind me of the Black Hills which were to be our next stop. The Journal calls it a botryoidal agate.

#### FAIRBURN HUNTING IN S. DAKOTA

In order to insure good results on our rock-hunting trip, we had made prior arrangements to have Mr. & Mrs. Paul Reutter of White River, S. Dakota act as our guides. As soon as we parked our trailer at Kadoka, we called them to report our arrival and make an appointment for our field trip in the morning. Due to the time differences, they arrived while we were finishing breakfast.

We followed them out thru the Badlands Nat'l Monument to a rock bed southwest of Interior, about 35 miles from Kadoka. We went thru several fields cross country to the location a mile or so off the road, dodging as many cactus and pieces of barb wire as possible. These rock beds extend for miles. There are several kinds of agate including the elusive fairburn, petrified wood, fossils and fossil casts. There are also jaspers. Nearly anything you pick up is worth taking home. As most can be polished. We picked up a good sample of everything but a fairburn. Paul found at least 1 fairburn and several nice fossils. We spent most of the day tramping around rock hunting. We returned home tired but ready to go again the next day.

Up early in the morning, lunch packed, koolaid iced, ready to get that fairburn. I should say that durn fairburn. This time we went to another bed southwest of Kadoka, not so far away this time. It was so hot that we could stay out only a short time before we had to come back to the cars to cool off and get a cool drink. The second day I did find a fairburn, and since we got home we found another in the rocks as we sorted them. When we returned to the trailer, the thermometer read 105 degrees in the shade. These rock-hounds must really be crazy to be out in this heat!!!!!!!!!!



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(collecting in S. Dakota-continued)

After we cleaned up, had supper etc. we drove over to White River to see the Reutters collection. This includes fairburns, fossils, indian artifacts, antiques and other things. They live on the Rosebud Indian Reservation and are friends of June Culp Zeitner. Unfortunately she was not home so we did not meet her. We spent an enjoyable evening with our hosts under the 32 volt Delco lights. They have a wincharger that keeps the batteries charged. We swapped petosky and septeria for some chalcedony, wood, petrified sponges etc. Reutters have a unique specimen of petrified wood that has a center that is not petrified, it is just plain wood. We thanked our hosts profusely and took off for home. (they had driven about 400 miles in taking us out field tripping)

The beds we hunted were the same ones that the 69 Midwest Convention is going to hunt and the Reutters are assisting in that project. So we had a preview of next year. Tho I did not get a picture of them. Our tires looked like porcupines as we drove out of the beds, they were full of cactus thorns. Luckily we had no flats because of them.

Near Piedmont, we tried our hand at panning gold. This is a concession so we got some very small flakes. This was all we really expected so we were happy.

Our last night away from home found us agate hunting at Muscatine, Iowa. This seemed a fine way to end 2½ weeks of rock hunting and sight seeing. Incidentally, some of the landmarks in Muscatine, mentioned in the Midwest guide are there so local inquiry may be necessary. We stopped at a shell station no longer.

Near the railroad. This is the place to turn left across the tracks.

VISITE A MINE. The fascinating world of the nation's great mines is the subject of a new 35-cent booklet designed to help the tourist. It's called "Mining and Mineral Operation in the United States; A Visitors Guide. It is compiled by the U. S. Bureau of Mines and sold by the Supt. Of Documents. The booklet presents interesting highlights about mines that can be visited. For a copy of the guide send 35 cents in coin to the Supt. of Documents, U. S. Govt. Printing Office, Washington D.C. 20402 From Discovery, Winter 1968  
Via Template

When he proposed to her she pretended she did not hear him. But when he showed her a 4-carat diamond, she listened intently. She wasn't stone deaf.

Via "Rear Trunk" - To make a simple button mounting--flatten a bell-cap, preferably number 60, and cement on it a flat baroque--use as a bytton.

Via "Template" - Place a piece of camphor in your jewelry box and the sterling silver pieces will not tarnish.

(collecting in S. Dakota-continued)

After we cleaned up, had supper etc. we drove over to White River to see the Reutter's collection. This includes fairburns, fossils, Indian artifacts, antiques and other things. They live on the Rosebud Indian Reservation and are friends of June Crisp Reutter. Unfortunately she was not home so we did not meet her. We spent an enjoyable evening with our hosts under the 2 volt DeLco lights.

ROZEMA'S ROCK PILE

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Via "Post Trunk" - To make a simple button counting-flatten a ball-car, preferably number 60, and cement on it a flat paragon-use as a piston.

Via "Template" - Place a piece of carbor in your jewelry box and the sterling silver piece will not tarnish.

OUR THEME WILL BE

"ROCKING THE RAPIDS"

GRAND RAPIDS MINERAL SOCIETY  
TENTH ANNUAL GEM & MINERAL SHOW

March 2 - March 30,  
1969  
G. R. Public Museum

Again the members of the Grand Rapids Mineral Society have an opportunity to show the community what 'rock hounds' do. We can share with others our knowledge and our prized possessions, and at the same time interest others in our hobby.

There will be room for a single piece or a complete display. You name it and the Committee will fit it into the show....  
ENTER NOW so we can plan the space.

NAME \_\_\_\_\_ PHONE \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

Type of Exhibit: Mineral ( ) Lapidary ( ) Fossil ( )  
Geological Oddity ( ) Educational ( )

Space Requirement \_\_\_\_\_

I WILL HELP: Arrange a neighborhood display ( )

Demonstrate Thurs. Sat. Sun. ( ) Be Host or Hostess  
for a Sat. or Sun. ( )

Bring Cookies - Mar. 1 ( ) Mar. 30 ( )

Fill in this blank as soon as possible and give, or send to

Miss. Marion Jennings	or	Mrs. James De Zwaan
Hillmount Apartments		8250 Cherry Valley
Apt. No. 101		R. # 2
505 Cherry St. S.E.		Caledonia, Mich. 49316
Grand Rapids, Mich. 49502		Phone TW 1-8054
Phone 454-8629		

(Remember that the show committee will not be able to insure exhibits this year. If you are displaying something which you feel must be insured you should arrange for this yourself. All display cases at the show are locked, but especially valuable items should be in the wall cases.)

Grand Rapids Mineral Society  
Mrs. R. B. Smith, Editor  
1445 Breton Rd. S.E.  
Grand Rapids, Mich. 49506  
Return Postage Guaranteed

OUR THANKS WILL BE

"BOOKING THE RAPIDS"

March 2 - March 30,  
1969

G. R. Public Museum

GRAND RAPIDS MINERAL SOCIETY  
THIRTY ANNUAL GEM & MINERAL SHOW

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ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

Type of Exhibit: Mineral ( ) Lapidary ( ) Fossil ( )  
Geological Exhibit ( ) Educational ( )

Space Requirement \_\_\_\_\_

I WILL HELP: Arrange a neighborhood display ( )  
Demonstrate Theory ( ) Sell Gem ( ) Be host or hostess  
for a Sat. or Sun. ( )

Bring Cookies - Sat. 1 ( ) Mar. 30 ( )  
Fill in this blank as soon as possible and give, or send to

Miss Marion Jennings or  
Billie Ann Apartments  
Apt. No. 101  
505 Cherry St. S.E.  
Grand Rapids, Mich. 49502  
Phone 452-8829

Mr. James De Swaan  
8250 Cherry Valley  
S. W. 2  
Caledonia, Mich. 49318  
Phone TR 1-6024

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