

✓ Vol 6, no 6 - Feb, 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.

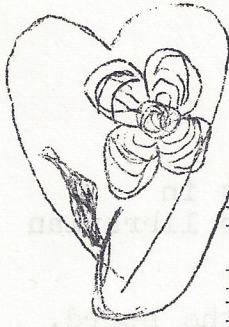
Membership dues are \$5.00 per year for a family, \$3.00 for single adult, and \$1.00 for students under 18 years of age. Dues are payable to Treasurer-year is from September 1 through August 31 of the following year.

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.



February ♥ ♥ ♥

Feb. 12, 7:30 p.m., Reg. Meeting, Museum East Bldg.
"Pictorial Review of Nat'l. Gem Show", Ted Duprey

Feb. 17, 7:30 p.m., Board Meet, A. Ferguson, 645 Ferris N.

Feb. 26, 8 p.m., Mineralogy Grp., F. Reed, 425 Lafayette N.

MAR. 1, 9 a.m.-3 p.m.--"ROCKING THE RAPIDS"--Museum Show

FEBRUARY MEETING: VIEWS OF OUTSTANDING NATIONAL EXHIBITS;
COOKIES FOR SCHOLARSHIPS; ONE LAST TRY AT "LAPIDARY
OF THE MONTH"; SPECIAL DISPLAYS

When the Ted Dupreys attended the Midwest Federation Convention and National Federation Display held at Normal, Ill. last summer, they were careful to take colored slides of as many outstanding lapidary and mineral exhibits as possible. We will have the pleasure of seeing these at our Feb. meeting--wonderful idea to put us in the right frame of mind for getting displays ready for our own March Museum show. Ted will also show a few views of the noted Grotto at West Bend, Iowa.

George and Marilyn Arnold will bring the month's special display--a conversation-starting group of amethyst materials from Port Arthur, plus a really special specimen or two from the Bellevue Quarry. Come a little early, so you have a chance to see these. Incidentally, if anyone would like to bring one of these little monthly interest-displays, see the president.

It has been hard to get going on our "Lapidary of the Month" contests, but with a little special urging, we will try once more! The Board especially urges experienced lapidarists in the club to participate, which would be a great help in encouraging other entries. There will be two classifications, "Beginners" (applying to all who have cut and polished less than 10-12 cabochons); and "Advanced" (for those who have done more than a dozen cabs. Cabs should be unmounted, identified with a piece of tape on the back on which is marked your membership card number, and turned in for judging before the meeting starts. Bob Rozoma and Casey Doornbos are judges.

The coffee and cookies provided last month proved to be a popular feature, and will be continued this month. Remember: the proceeds each month will go toward our club contribution to the American Federation Scholarship Fund--you will find a special story on this on another page.

Note: A new Membership Directory will be issued soon. If your previous listing has changed, or will soon change, please call Emily VanVuren, 538-0826.

LIBRARY BOOKS NOW IN CIRCULATION

The G.R.M.S. Memorial Library for members is now in operation, with Davena Lett taking on the job as club librarian in addition to her duties as Historian.

The term "Memorial Library" came about because the Board, to get the library and the idea started, donated three of the books in memory of Past Presidents Gerry Morris and Leslie Pearl and outstanding Board Member Lowell Palmer. However, it is not the Board's intention to donate a book in memory of every deceased member -- it is hoped that relatives or friends might do that -- nor are books to be received only for this purpose. A number of club members have already donated books, just to see them get good use. Another excellent idea might be for a club member who is moving out of town to donate a book as a remembrance.

Books are kept in the club locker and will be on hand at every meeting. Each book has a record card attached, matched to a master file card. It is the responsibility of each member to see that the card is filled out correctly and deposited in the proper place. Each book is to be returned within one month.

The following books are presently available: "Gemstones of North America", John Sinkankas; "The Mineral Kingdom", Paul DeSautels; "Modern Jewelry", Graham Hughes; "Field Guide to Rocks and Minerals", Pough; "Guidebook for Mineral Collectors--Copper Country", Kiril Spiroff; "Midwest Gem Trails", June Culp Zeitner; "Fossils", Rhodes, Zimm & Shaffer; and "The Book of Agates", Leland Quicke.

HIGGINS LAKE CONSERVATION SCHOLARSHIP OFFERED

G.R.M.S. is again offering an all-expense scholarship for one week at the Mich. Conservation Camp at Higgins Lake during the summer of 1969. The annual scholarship is offered in the hope that its use will lead to a greater knowledge and dissemination of sound conservation education and practise. The last two winners have been two of our younger members, Larry Fehel and Steve Tchozeski; however it is not just for young people, and in other years adult teachers have received it.



Anyone wishing to apply for this scholarship, or knowing someone whom it might benefit, such as a teacher or youth leader, is invited to write a letter to Pres. Henry Tchozeski giving the name, address and phone number of the applicant, with a brief resume of that person's experience and reasons for desiring the conservation training. If you submit someone else's name, check first on whether he (or she) would be able to accept (there is a choice of weeks.) All applications must be received by March 12.

WHY WE ARE ROCK HOUNDS

by F. A. Reed

About 25 years ago my wife got arthritis. Doctors, various treatments, baths, etc., etc., slowed its advance, but she finally got so bad she could hardly walk. Two hands could barely hold a cup. I heard that if we could get her creative force flowing through her mind into some hobby or intense interest, it might help. At that time the U. of M. was offering in the old Junior College night courses that cost \$33 a semester to people over 65, with a special to husbands and wives--if one enrolled the other could get in free. It took a lot of--shall we say, discussion--but a doctor of gerontology was on my side; so we started geology classes three nights a week in the fall. I know I was cruel to insist as I did, because often before we got to the top of the stairs, the tears would be running down my wife's face. She would never cry out--she never has--but the pain was so bad she could not pay attention; so she wanted to take the same class over the next semester.

It took us three semesters to get two credits; but it turned the tide--she got better--painfully slow but steadily. The next ten years we took courses in a lot of different subjects from astronomy to logic, and who got the "A" in logic? I thought being a male I could beat her, but I got a "C" anyway.

We were overjoyed when the Rock Club started so we could have more of a physical outlet; that is, polishing rocks and going on field trips. Well, now after all these years on the rock pile, my wife can spend nearly all day in a gravel pit; does most of her own work. So us two old fossils owe a lot to some other old fossils.

(Editor's Note: The Reeds, being nearly 80, have the distinction of being the most "senior" of our members, but their enthusiasm and active participation in all club activities is an inspiration to all ages. We think their story, told above, is, too.)

IMPORTANT! "DRIFTER" PUBLISHERS NEEDED!

Help! Jim and Emily VanVuren have only one basement, and their growing family and growing activities need it. They no longer have the room or at the moment the time to continue to put out our important news bulletin. WHO can take over this job? It involves running off the stencils (on the Club mimeograph), and assembling, addressing and mailing each issue (with the help of the Club addressograph, etc.) The VanVurens will help you get started. The trick is to find a few friends who will meet with you once a month, make it a fun-evening, and get the job done. YOU can do it!

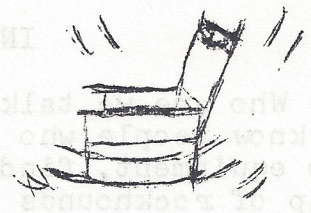


DRIFTIN' AROUND.....If the club library story didn't get in last month, and the winning Jr. essay never got printed, etc.--blame it on an editor flat on her back with the flu (can you imagine sleeping away an entire Christmas week?). And many thanks to indefatigable Emily VanVuren who came all the way over here in very bad weather to pick up the necessary material and do all the stencils herself. Emily is doing a big job for us on the forthcoming membership directory as well. If you ever catch yourself thinking you're "too busy" to answer a club request for help, think of people like her, and change your mind!....

..Past President Nellie Mead is starting out the new year with a broken leg--reason enough, no doubt, for (almost) attending the Jan. meeting a week late!Pres. Henry Tchozeski needs a gavel (we're a noisy bunch)--can anyone oblige? While a stone one would seem suitable, Henry will be quite happy to settle for the ordinary wood kind. Marilyn Arnold will receive at the Feb. meeting a slab of tigereye and a slab of patricianite--her reward for thinking up the winning "Rocking the Rapids" name for the March show. Incidentally, some interesting new ideas are being developed for demonstrations and for theme displays--you'll be proud of these. You might be interested in the FM radio program "The World of the Rockhound" being presented at 11 a.m. Thursdays over WVGR-FM (104.1) FIND IT NOW--your embroidered club emblem--and be sure to wear it to every meeting. By fastening them on with a tictack, or sewing a safety pin onto the back, they are easily changed. Somehow we have missed greeting our new members in recent issues. Those have included Louis and Dortha Murray, Herbert and Margaret Papke, Paul and Ruth DeVries, R.B. and Rosemary Ross, Durward Duprey, Dr. Erwin Clahassey and Family, Robert Kaboos and Family, Arnold Wendt Jr. Family, Curtis Dunlap and Family, and Charles and Gladys Cooley. We hope we haven't missed anyone, and welcome you all sincerely. By the way, Gladys Cooley has knife #232 from the Dec. Potluck and someone has hers. The Cooleys will be out of town for a couple of months, but perhaps these knives can eventually find their own homes.

.. You might like to know that Treas. Bob Teunis just put \$300 of our funds into a savings account--we try to carry about that much over for the use of succeeding Boards, and this way the money can at least earn a little interest. A note from former member Dr. Denny Donnell, now in Columbia, Mo., says, "We took in the National Show in Illinois, collected agates and geodes with the 'silver pick. Tumbled L.Superiors till we couldn't take the noise. Found one superb 2½-in. Superior, a 'sleeper', in a bookstore here in Columbia! Bought some cobaltite, ricolite, silver, etc. specimens in Toronto... I am program chairman for our local rock club, field trip director for Audubon..." ACIDLY SPEAKING: For a brilliance non-metallic, just boil quartz X'ls in oxalic. For glossiness that's quite ostatic, dip pyrite into muriatic. I've made discovery historic--calcite dissolves in hydrochloric. (via Rockhound News).

SHOW CHAIRMEN URGE EVERY MEMBER TO HELP IN "ROCKING THE RAPIDS"



March 1, the day when exhibits will be installed at the Museum, is nearly upon us! At the Museum's request, our displays will remain until Apr. 6; however, if necessary any display may be removed at the end of March. Demonstrations and programs will be given only through March.

Our show is unique in its educational quality, in the length of time it is held, and its being in a Museum, open free of charge to all, and entirely without profit or commercial interest.

What is more to the point, it simply cannot be done without the full cooperation of all G.R.M.S. members. If you do not have enough specimens or lapidary work to fill an entire case, fill out an entry blank (in last month's Drifter) explaining what you do have, and it can be combined with other small exhibits. If you do have interesting material, by all means sign up for a case. Find out what size it will be. Figure out a theme, or how you want to display your things. Have the proper signs ready. The Museum has a large-type typewriter (Miss Allen) which you may use, which is helpful for labels and signs. The Museum also has many pedestals, risers, drapes, and other display materials, and Miss Ardath Allen is most helpful to all of us in making these things available and in helping to plan their best use.

Co-Chairmen Marion Jennings and James DeZwaan Sr. offer the following thoughts and suggestions:

"This will be our tenth show; we have had a very good show in each of the previous years. If it had not been for so many of our members who wanted to show the results of their interest and labors, these shows could not have had any success. We feel that the effort put forth by so many is worthwhile.

"Men have moved mountains, endured the heat of the deserts, the cold of the arctic, dug huge craters in the earth, all in the search for gems, minerals, rare rocks, etc. Believe it or not, when you picked up your first rock and looked at it and put it in your pocket you, perhaps unknowingly, joined this group.

"No one person possesses all of the more than 2,000 different gems and minerals that have been so far identified. Knowledge is constantly changing, and even the experts can be confused. However there is enough knowledge so that anyone having a mineral collection can find out very much about the things they have collected. To demonstrate this is one of

(cont.)

INQUISITIVE - INVENTIVE - ADAPTIVE

Who are we talking about? Why, rockhounds of course. We all know people who design their own jewelry, build their own shop equipment, find new areas for field trips, etc. And if a group of rockhounds gets together to form a club, they just adapt themselves to whatever meeting space is at hand. Just look at this list, based on information found in the 1968 Midwest Federation Handbook.

Among the 200-plus clubs in our federation, two meeting places are most popular: 25 clubs meet in city schools, and an equal number meet in civic or community centers. Close behind come the 19 clubs that meet at a college, 17 in a bank, 15 in a public library, and 12 in a museum (lucky clubs!)

Then we come to nine groups that meet in members' homes, 8 in churches, 5 at the YMCA, and 4 each in the R.E.A. building, YWCA, or in a fieldhouse.

And "would you believe...?"--one or two clubs each gather in such quarters as motels, labor center, oil company lounge, county courthouse, shopping center, art gallery, trailer court, old peoples' home, hospital lounge, bowling alley, airport lounge, firehall, and medical clinic, among others.

Conclusion: where there's a will a rockhound will find a way!

(Illowa Gem & Mineral Soc.)

FIELD TRIP A GREAT SUCCESS: The Jan. 11 field trip to the old gypsum mine attracted well over 50 persons (they scattered into the dark mine corridors so quickly it was hard to keep track!) Friends from the Indian Mounds, Kalamazoo and Grand Haven clubs also joined us, and they are always welcome. Thanks to Ted Duprey for arranging this welcome winter collecting.

(Museum Show -- con't.)

the purposes of our show.

"I was reading the other day an author who compared the gem and mineral collector with people who are interested in fine art. He stated that rockhounds who are constantly on the lookout for the unusual or rare piece are of the same mind as the art collector. So think of your self as a "fine art" collector; be ready to show the beauties and special features of your specimens or lapidary work, and make clear the things of special interest about them. That way our 10th anniversary show will surely be the "finest ever".

"FINAL NOTE: Do send in your space reservation sheet right away so we can have an idea of the cases we'll need. Thank you."

LES PEARL JUNIORS WRITE WINNING PAPERS

Recently Larry Febel, leader of the Junior Rockhounds, offered members of his group a new contest: they were to write a paper on rocks or minerals, with the winning report to be published in the "Glacial Drifter". Results were most interesting. Among the papers submitted were "The History of Volcanism" by Larry Miller; "Determining the Age of Rocks"; Janyce Slotsem; "New Rocks from Old", Jane Curran; "Rocks", Tom Curran; "Feldspar", Tim Kral Peterson; "The Formation of the Great Lakes", Joan Miller; and "Mineralogy", John Corby.

Winner of the contest is Dan Curran, age 12, with the report given below. It was selected for its imaginative approach as well as for good specific information.

* * * * *

Dear Rock,

I have learned a lot about you since I found you in the dirt which the earthmovers dug up when they built the new road. At that time I picked you up because you were different and pretty. I wanted to know more about you so I searched through some books on geology. I learned that you were formed from tiny pebbles of many kinds, cemented together. It was very interesting to find out that the red parts of you are called jasper and that the glassy ones are quartz but I haven't been able to find out what the black parts are. Do you know?

Were you here when the glaciers covered Michigan or were you formed when our state was covered with water? Some fossil rocks were found near you and I wonder if those tiny snails ever crawled over you.

Dear rock, how I wish you could tell me all of your story. Did any of the Indian children who lived here before we came ever pick you up and use you for a mark to keep from getting lost? At least, dear rock, I have learned your name. You are a conglomerate, but my grandfather calls you a pudding stone. You are one of my prettiest and most precious stones.

Your present owner,

Dan Curran

Edit.
(Note: The black pebbles are usually jasper, occasionally flint.)

CHIEF BUZHAW, in Sagmuk Reserve near Sault Ste. Marie, was asked how the uranium boom was affecting the Indians. He said: "Two or three hundred years ago, white man came to North Shore of Lake Superior. He takes all the fur and give Indian few strings of beads. A few years later, he cut down all big trees, build mills. Soon all big trees down--he burn mills and go away. Few years later he come back, buikld paper mills; cut down all small trees. Nothing left on North Shore but rocks.

" Now, by gosh, he come back for rocks!"
(via Rockhound News)

BETTY CROCKER COUPONS (& DOLLARS) FOR SCHOLARSHIP

The coffee and cookies being offered for sale at meetings each month represent an attempt by your Board of Control to encourage club participation in the scholarship program of the American Federation of Mineralogical Societies. The program, set up as a separate Foundation, annually awards \$500 scholarships in one of the earth sciences, and does it in an interesting manner. The scholarship honors an outstanding scientist or educator in the field by being given in his name to a school of his choice; after which a student in that school is selected to receive the award. As the fund grows, additional scholarships are being provided, hopefully four this year. Payments are made from income only. The 1968 award went to Dr. Armand J. Eardley, Dept. of Geology, Univ. of Utah; we have not heard what school or students he has designated.

While it is true that money provided by local clubs for this purpose does not necessarily directly benefit their own localities, it is certainly possible that a Michigan school or student might be so honored. In any case the project builds good public relations for our hobby, and is conducted on a scope which individual clubs could not hope to accomplish on their own.

Any club which donates the equivalent of \$1 per member (in cash or Betty Crocker coupons credited at $\frac{1}{2}$ ¢ ea.) to the Scholarship Foundation is considered a "100% club". Many clubs have gone far beyond this. The Midwest Federation is close to being a 100% Federation (with every club at least 100%), and we are one of the few holding them back. With our membership we need between \$90 and \$100--at present we have about \$6. So save and turn in your coupons, make a donation if you wish--and do have another cookie!

LAPIDARY CLASS MEMBERS EXPRESS APPRECIATION

While the holidays, flu, and other events have interrupted the completion of some of the lapidary instruction, those participating have expressed themselves as very well satisfied with the plan. "We've been collecting rocks for years, but this is the first time we have done anything this gratifying with them," said one. "I've learned a lot," remarked another. "At least I'm getting so I know what I'm doing," was another reaction. All hope to enter cabs in the Lapidary of the Month contest this month or very soon (which they were asked to do in return for receiving the instruction). In the meantime, any other club members who expect to take up lapidary interests and would like individual help and instruction are invited to contact Elaine or Robert Smith, 949-4093.

DID YOU KNOW?...It takes nature from 500 to 1000 years to make an inch of good topsoil - which can be washed away in a single night. ("Gravelog")

MEMBER'S WANT*AD:

Your kids will love one of these for field trips! Brownie Hawkeye simple camera, \$2.50; Brownie Flash 20 camera, \$2.50: Both take 620 film.

Redwing Irish Setter sport boots, size 7 $\frac{1}{2}$, fairly narrow, suitable for either boy or girl, leather, above-ankle length, waterproof crepe soles, \$2.00. Call E. Smith, 949-4093.

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OUR THEME WILL BE

"HOOKING THE RAPIDS"

March 2 - March 30,
1969

GRAND RAPIDS MINERAL SOCIETY
TWENTH ANNUAL GEM & MINERAL SHOW

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 Gem & Mineral Society will list it in the show. ENTER NOW so we can plan the space.

NAME _____ PHONE _____

ADDRESS _____

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

Space Requisition

I WILL BE: arranging a neighborhood display ()
Demonstrate Thru: Self () Be host or hostess ()
for a fee or gift ()

Bring Cookies - Art. 1 () Art. 2 ()

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

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

Mr. James DeWaan
3230 Cherry Valley
S.W. 2
Caledonia, Mich. 49316
Phone TW 1-8024

Remember that the show committees 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.