

1:00 P.M. to 10:00 P.M.

August 15

ROCK SWAP

THINK SWAP

No Selling

Only Swapping with our Indian Mounds Friends

Displays Welcome and Encouraged

Call Karl DeBack

CH 3-4014

TALK SWAP

5:00 P.M.

Potluck Dinner

Bring own table service AND two dishes to pass

Allendale Community Hall

SWAP

DO SWAP!

GRAND RAPIDS MINERAL SOCIETY MEMBERS GO FIELD TRIPPING

The week end of July 25 and 26 found sixteen of our club membership looking for and finding fossils at Arkona and Thedford, Ontario, just a short distance beyond Sarnia. The group camped at Rock Glen, Arkona, within walking distance of the local hunting area, then drove on to the factory at Thedford. This was the first of what we hope will be a monthly field trip for GRMS members.

SHOW AND TELL AT IDEAL PARK

The July meeting, a potluck at Ideal Park, was a huge success for those able to attend. The Casey Doornbooses and the Arnold Wendts (Sr.) were back from their vacation in Texas with a huge mammoth tooth and many other fine specimens to show off.

Since the editor and his spouse were spending that evening in a trailer camp near Des Moines, Iowa, he has to rely on what others tell him. He hears that there were many fine specimens of all sorts at the July meeting. Wish we could have been there with some of our braggin" pieces too.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

August 17 7:30 P.M. will be the joint board meeting with the incoming board and officers meeting with the outgoing group. The meeting will be at President Jim DeZwaan's home, 8250 Cherry Valley, Caledonia.

August 15 What Else But? Rock Swap! GRMS and Indian Mounds Club joint swap at Allendale Community Hall.
1:00 P.M. to 10:00 P.M.
5:00 P.M. potluck supper. Bring own table service and two dishes to pass.

September 9 First meeting of the new GRMS year. The program is not firmed up yet, but will be announ in the September Drifter.
Dues will be due at this meeting.

The Whole Month of August

More glorious summer week ends and longer vacations. Enjoy them in good health and safety.

The Editor is issuing fair warning -- here and now.. I'm going to pester you trippers for write-ups of your summer wanderings until I get them. So-- get 'em written and ready.

MEETING HELD ON INDIAN MOUNDS' FUTURE

On the morning of July 23, in the shelterhouse at Johnson Park, the meeting was held to which we referred in last month's DRIFTER. Present were representative of the federal, state, county, and local governments, as well as other local organizations including of course the Grand Rapids Mineral Society -- a total of twenty men and one lady.

Present planning is to include the Norton Mounds as the focal point of a park extending from Johnson Park to John Ball Park along both banks of the Grand River.

After a few opening remarks, Kent County Park Superintendent George Mueller, turned the floor over to James Bryant, Historic Preservation Coordinator for the State Department of Natural Resources (DNR) who immediately turned the discussion to the Mounds. He said that he had first been informed about the Norton Mounds a number of years ago by Mr. Frankforter, Director of the Grand Rapids Public Museum, and then told of our efforts for the past few years to have them made into a National Monument.

He then introduced James Whitehouse, the Associate Regional Director from the Great Lakes Area Office of the National Park Service, who said that he would attempt to have a feasibility study made of the Mounds. Being recently appointed to his present position he wasn't sure whether one had already been authorized. At this point we read a portion of a letter we received from the National Park Service last year stating that the previous director had recommended such a study but that it was doubtful whether it could be done for several years. Mr. Whitehouse responded by saying that he would attempt to have this study made as soon as possible and would push to have the Mounds developed as a National Monument!

Mr. Frankforter told of what he envisioned for the future of the Mounds: He would like to see the "Central Mound", which was excavated in 1964, re-opened and all of the artifacts and skeletons, which are now in the local museum, replaced. He said that the archaeologists say that they can return everything to its original location and position and they should be given the opportunity to do so.. A concrete roof having the same contour as the mound would be constructed overhead. He would like to see the Interpretive Center also depict the geology and history of the area. There is much evidence of the Pleistocene all about this area and they have artifacts and mammoth bones of the last 10,000 years in the museum.

There was some discussion concerning such matters as a marina and camping facilities and considerable discussion concerning the financial aspects especially the obligations of the local governmental units. It was pointed out that if it were taken over by the National Park Service the federal government would take over the entire financial burden.

We were pleased and encouraged with this meeting notwithstanding the misleading account which was given in the local daily newspaper, which said that it was doubtful whether the mounds would be included in this park. On the contrary, it was obvious from the very beginning that the people from the DNR and National Park Service were primarily interested in the Mounds, and that the rest of the park would be designed around them as the central and most unique feature of the area.

After the meeting, Mr. Frankforter, Mr. Mueller, Mr. Bryant, Mr. Whitehouse, James Hane of the DNR park design division, William Lowery of the State Historical Commission, and the representative of the Grand Rapids Mineral Society went to lunch and then to the Mounds. We stood on top of the "Central Mound" for perhaps a half hour discussing both what should be done with the Mounds and the political aspects of how this could be accomplished. Mr. Frankforter, with the aid of maps and diagrams, showed how the skeletons in those mounds excavated all seem to point, for reasons unknown, to the "Central Mound".

In our opinion, the future of the Norton Mounds has never looked brighter. We have been attempting to have the Mounds developed as a National Monument and more recently to be included in the state Historical Preservation Plan. The men from Lansing (both state and federal) are very much interested in the mounds and are now going to pursue both of these avenues.

Rich Van Beek

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ROCK E. SWAPPER SEZ:

Saturday, August 15, will be a big day for our club, and we need the full cooperation of every member to make it a success. Remember this is a joint effort with the Indian Mounds Rock Club and we want to do our full share.

First of all, we need your contribution for the snack bar. This can be any kind of goody--cookies, brownies, cup cakes, etc., or maybe home-made candy! --anything to tempt the appetite. If you have any questions, please call Mrs. Ford Hurd at 895-6258. Your donation will be needed early in the afternoon, so if you can't come until later, call the Beauvais' at 534-3871 and they will try to make arrangements for it to be picked up.

Mrs. Hurd, who is our kitchen chairman, will appreciate volunteers who can work in the snack bar for an hour or so.

Swappers, attention! Please bring plenty of newspapers or other covering so that the tables may be adequately protected from the rocks.

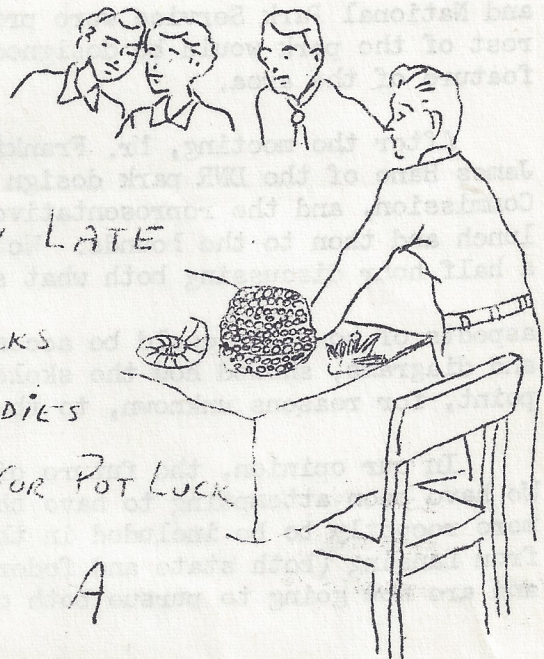
For those of you who plan to display collections or creations, please identify your cases in such a manner that the viewers can not see your name. We plan a prize for the most appealing, by general ballot, then the identity will be revealed and a prize given. Karl DeBack is our display chairman; he'll be glad to answer any of your questions. His number is CH 3-4014.

Allendale Township Hall is located on M45 (Lake Michigan Drive) on the south side of the road, near the center of town.

Let's make this a good end to a good summer! ! !

The pot luck supper at 5p.m. is open to anyone who brings his own table service and dishes to pass.

ROCK SWAP



COME EARLY - STAY LATE

BRING YOUR SWAPPING ROCKS
YOUR SNACK BAR GOODIES
YOUR PASSING DISHES FOR POT LUCK

AND LET'S ALL HAVE A
GOOD TIME!

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- RETURN REQUESTED -



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The
GRAND RAPIDS
QUARTER

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