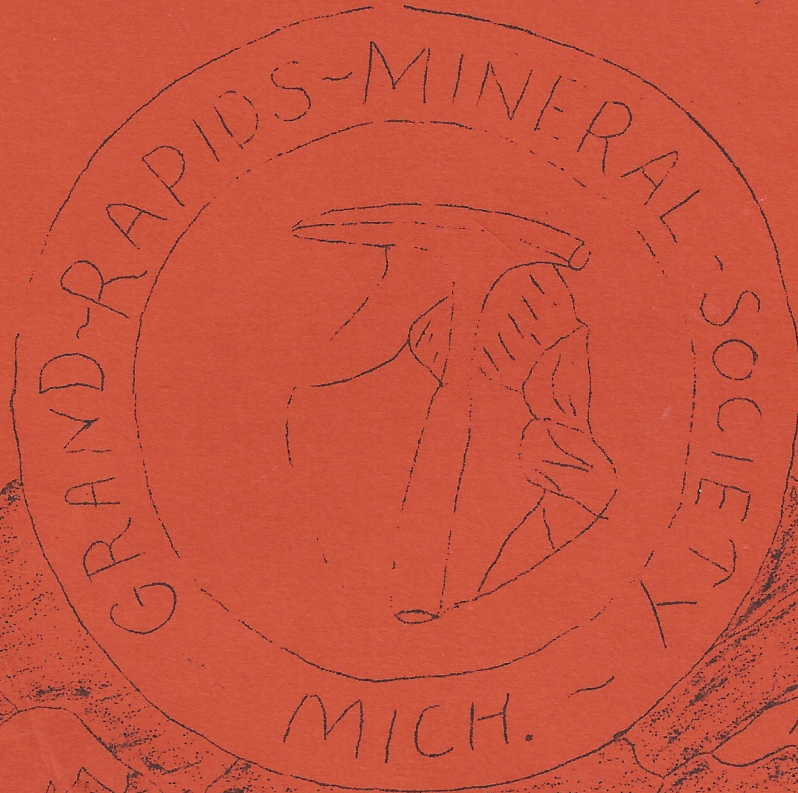


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The

GLACIAL

DRIFTS



## EDITORIAL

One of the rewards of being editor is the privilege of editorializing. The reader may not agree with what is written, but he cannot deny the writer the privilege of writing what he believes.

In these times of turmoil and unrest, the lowly rock has a message for us. We only have to pause and look.

As a lad born and raised on a northern michigan farm, who with his Dad picked up many tons of rocks to make the fields more tillable the editor never held too much affection for a rock. And now in retrospect he can appreciate even the orderliness and symmetry of the stone pile as it stood sentry over the fields and meadows. He recalls with some nostalgia the beauty of the limestone rocks as they dotted a freshly plowed and harrowed field. There was order in their disarray.

Then who has ever seen a polished rock that did not say quietly to its viewer, "Look at me. Believe what you see and be humble. In me is all of the beauty and awe of creation. This is your reward for being a rockhound."

### THE OCTOBER MEETING

The Grand Rapids Mineral Society welcome! Mr. and Mrs. James Whitcomb and Elaine DeZwan to their roster Wednesday night at the October meeting. We extend them warm greetings too via the Drifter.

Now about those memberships. The editor was only number 53 at the October meeting. Let's keep them coming.

Fay Reed touched me and some of his charm rubbed off. Of the five chances I had on the drawing, three of them were called. Don't let this discourage the rest of you. In fact, it should encourage you. Mrs. W. and her hubby have had their run of luck for the next ten years.

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March is a long way off? Not really. It is museum month, and how are you coming with your plans for your display? What do you mean the theme hasn't even be chosen? It's all about rocks, minerals, fossils 'n things, ain't it? Let's give Grand Rapids the biggest and best rock show they have ever seen.

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Joe Parish, who has been ill for some time, gave the members a happy surprise when he showed up at the Mineral Study group on October 22. We will look forward to seeing him back at Grand Rapids Mineral Society meetings again.

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The Mineral Study Group will hold its November meeting at the home of Lucille Pearl, 1598 Gridley, N.W., at 8:00 P.M. on November 19. The topic for discussion will be "New Rocks for Old".

## THE NOVEMBER MEETING

WHAT: The silent Auction  
WHEN: November 12, 1969 7:30 P.M.  
WHERE: The East Building, Public Museum  
WHO: All of us, our friends and relatives

This is the one big money raising project of the year for the Grand Rapids Mineral Society. This finances all that we do in our club from postage stamps to scholarships. This is the time to meet our friends, swap lies -- o-o-o-o-ps -- yarns about where we went and what we brought back; to get into a little friendly rock roulette and see who comes off with the choice pieces.

Henry Tchozeski is general chairman of the event. At club meeting he passed around auction forms and asked for club support for this event.

Now is the time to let loose of some of those choice specimens of cutting material, tumbling and faceting material, and those fossils enjoyed by so many people. Just think, if you get rid of what you now have, you have just created the best reason in the world to go back and hunt for more.

Besides all that, you guys, doesn't your wife ever get on your back to get all that stuff away from the basement wall and clean it up?

If you need bid sheets or transportation for your contributions call Henry. If you will furnish cookies, cakes, or goodies for the refreshment table, call Henry. If you will work at the refreshment table, call Henry.

Oh, yes -- Henry's number is 361-1405.

Oh, H e n n n n -r-y  
Here we come!

## THE PRESIDENT ANNOUNCES

That there has been a change in the Board of Control. Mr. Harry Angel, Vice-President, has resigned and his vacancy has been filled by Mr. Arthur Ferguson.

That the Board of Control will meet at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Robert Beauvais, 3308 Wilson Ave., S.W., at 7:30 P.M. on Nov. 17. This is about four blocks south of the light at M21 and Wilson Ave.

That the annual fund raising silent auction is our November 12 meeting, with the first table open for bidding at 7:30 P.M. Henry Tchozeski, Auction Chairman, is planning a table exclusively for the pebble pups. There should be some excellent material at all of the tables. Henry needs help. You can call him at 361-1405. If you have rocks for the auction that you cannot get to the museum, feel free to call any of the board members. Someone will pick up your rocks.

## FOR YOUR READING

By the way --

You Grand Rapids Mineral Society cab and free form devotees will do well to read the short article in the October, 1969, issue of Gems and Minerals entitled "84 + 50,000 = 98". It tells the spectacular improvement in quality when the authors switched to diamond compounds.

Then while you still have the magazine in your hands, look on page 14 for word of a new device to help with those perfectly formed cabs.

In fact, the entire magazine is a prize issue. More goodies between the covers than we've seen in a long time.

For you winter vacationers there is a list of late 1969 shows and 1970 shows through April that should be appealing. Start reading with the "Coming Events" column right on page 4.

### THE JALISCO SPHERES

In the August, 1969, issue of National Geographic is a most fascinating article on the solving of the mystery of Mexico's great stone spheres.

Dr. Matthew W. Stirling discusses the phenomena that caused these perfectly spherical orbs ranging in size from 2 feet in diameter to 11 feet in diameter, and the process of identifying their origin.

These spheres, formed by crystallization at high temperature in a matrix of hot ash-flow tuff, were formed during the Tertiary Period. About four fifths of the material is of volcanic glass particles.

Much smaller specimens of this sort are to be found near Los Alamos, New Mexico. The largest of these specimens measured only 2 feet in diameter.

The Mexico find is in rough, mountainous terrain about fifty miles west of Cuadalajara, Mexico. Excellent maps and photographs are a part of this fine article. It is recommended reading.

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Did you bring your contribution to Rich Van Beek for the college displays? This is a very real service that Grand Rapids Mineral Society can perform.

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Larry Fegel has requested some help with field trip transportation for the Les Pearl juniors. If you can help, call the museum and they can let him know.

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Thanks to Mr. and Mrs. Ernie Gifford, who gave the demonstration on cabbing with no dop sticks. Don't know how you do it, Ernie, and your fingers are still normal length. Folks, he even has fingernails! Kidding aside, it was an interesting and profitable demonstration.

## THE PRESIDENT'S LETTER

"If there is a will to do it, a rockhound will find out how."  
The author of this statement is unknown.

"Professionally, I am interested in seeing that people develop hobbies prior to retirement which is one of the reasons to have as many people as possible take a look at this hobby." The author is Willis Atwell, former president of the Grand Rapids Mineral Society, who is now working on problems of the aged out of Washington, D.C.

These statements are from some of the notes of the Grand Rapids Mineral Society history. With them in mind, I would like to talk to our membership via the Drifter.

When one watches a person working with a rough stone, handling it in various ways, some of which seem all wrong, we may think "clumsy ox" or "why do it that way?" or "why even fool around with it?" Then the first quote makes sense, especially when he comes up with a fine gem. He has found out how, and that's his way. He has developed his gem and shown his character.

Then we have the collectors who never work a rock, so we think. But they will work hard to collect rocks and work toward making the finest collection possible. Some have collections that are something to behold. I have seen some of the aged who became so interested they forgot their aches and pains. Only this past summer, we saw two elderly ladies walking with canes, still looking for the one perfect piece for their collections.

I'm sure we all meet many people so taken up with their daily routines that become boresome, and we hear them say, "Oh, for something to do!" Suggest the rock hobby to them and you may be doing them the favor of a lifetime.

We hear all about the generation gap. I know that some of my remarks may seem dry and old to some. But as your twelfth president I challenge you as a member of the Grand Rapids Mineral Society to really get involved. I do find that the more one gets into doing, the more one enjoys his hobby.

Some may ask how. Well, we need some of those surplus rocks for our November auction. We need material that is identified by kind and place of origin for our school and college collection. One club, smaller than ours, came up with 62 different specimens of rocks and minerals last year. Richard Van Beek, who is handling this part of our program, needs help. Let's all get at least one specimen to him. The elderly at Maple Grove need polished stones for those who are able to work. Bring them to the next meeting.

These are only a few of the places where we can get involved. We have fallen down badly on some of these things. How about getting two or three neighborhood children together to help them start a rock collection, or hand polish a stone? I promise you will learn more about your own hobby and enjoy it more. It will take some time, but you may be working with the future members of the Grand Rapids Mineral Society.

President Jim

INDIAN MOUNDS REPORT - Richard Van Beek

You will remember that on May 8, 1968, at our annual business meeting the Grand Rapids Mineral Society passed a resolution asking that the Norton Indian Mounds be developed as a National Monument. Since that time, we have written 27 letters and received 34 -- to and from the National Park Service (hereafter referred to as NPS), Rep. Gerald Ford, Sen. Griffin, Sen. Hart, and Grand Rapids City Manager Orr. We also wrote to Mayor Sonneveldt and Commissioner Sevensma, Chairman of the Ordinance Committee into whose hands our second resolution was placed, but these letters were not acknowledged. Who was it who said that local government is more responsive to the people than the Federal Government? We have found the Federal officials to be most cooperative. Congressman Ford and the Senators often acknowledge our letters immediately upon receipt and then write again after receiving a reply to their query from the NPS, which accounts for our receiving more letters than we sent.

We will attempt to summarize the most important of this correspondence. After receiving our resolution the NPS sent a booklet containing their "Administrative criteria for areas recommended for addition to the NPS". After replying, stating why we thought the Norton Mounds met these criteria, we received a letter saying:

"We are asking our Northeast Regional Director to visit the Norton Indian Mounds site in Michigan at his earliest convenience in order that we might have his preliminary appraisal as to the area's suitability and feasibility for inclusion in the NPS . . . . ."

Mr. Allen T. Edmunds, Associate Regional Director of the NPS, was here on November 19, 1968. Mr. Frankforter, Museum Director; Dr. Flanders of Grand Valley State College; who directed the excavation of some of these mounds in 1963-64; Assistant Grand Rapids City Park Superintendent William Pries, and I accompanied him to the Mounds after first showing him slides of the excavation.

We received the report in a letter dated June 27, 1969, which states:

" . . . The Norton Mound Group is nationally significant and the site has been registered as a National Historic Landmark. Thus, the site warrants unusual preservation and interpretation. Much of the integrity of the site has been destroyed by modern development and it would be difficult to justify the site for national monument status.

"Mr. Edmunds did, however, recommend that the mound group be given further study by a multi-disciplinary team to determine the best alternative means of preserving this site. Such a study would include further consideration of the suitability and feasibility of including the Norton Mound Group in the NPS . . . . ."

(Signed) Stanley C. Joseph  
Acting Director.

After receiving this rather discouraging report and after having had the opportunity to speak personally with Congressman Ford we again wrote to the NPS stating why we thought that the integrity

of the site had not been unduly destroyed yet and that we felt that it was urgent that the site be enclosed so as to prevent further desecration pending the time when they would receive further consideration by the NPS.

The NPS replied informing us that federal funds are being allocated to the states to be used "to aid in the preparation of state surveys and historic preservation plans. Once a state has completed its survey and plan, funds may be allocated for individual preservation projects, such as the Norton Mounds. When these funds become available, they will be channeled through the office of the State Liaison Officer..... We suggest you contact Mr. MacMullan and inform him of your wishes. Mention should be made of the Norton Mounds in Michigan's Historic Preservation Plan if Federal funds are desired...."

(Signed) John W. Bright, Chief  
Division of Park Planning

We have done this and also sent him a copy of this letter and are now awaiting further developments. We wish to thank Mr. Frankforter of the Museum with whom we have had many consultations and who made copies of letters whenever we needed them.

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It probably won't be long before the Betty Crocker coupons will be gathered in. Be sure you save them. Mrs. Mordyke set the pace last year. Keep 'em handy, gals. They will be needed soon.

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#### CENTRAL MICHIGAN ROCK SHOW VISITED

We wonder how many Grand Rapids Mineral Society folks were able to attend the Lansing rock show. (Central Michigan Show). Perhaps bad weather and the M.S.U. - U. of M. football game traffic combined to discourage some from driving over, but it was well worth the trip. We saw several from the club there Sunday - wearing their Grand Rapids Mineral Society emblems too - to our shame. Seems as if we never remember to wear them when we really want them.

The many hobbies included in the general term "Rock Hobby" were well represented. As each club member had been urged to have a case in the show, perhaps the show was more representative of the club as a whole than our shows. Yet, this tended to make for much repetition, as so many members collected local fossils and stones. (Perhaps this may not make the best show, but isn't it the right way to start the hobby?)

Of the exhibits that were outstanding or most interesting to us, I would like to mention a case of star rubies and sapphires shown by Dr. Miller of Flint. Beautiful! An exhibit of carved jade, "New Angles in Jade" by the Hatches was magnificent. It included a small team of oxen, a wagon, and a jardaniere that was especially fine -- also an unusual carving in pink. An exhibit of spheres was also an eyecatcher. There was no name on this case -- moonstones? An exquisite cabachon display was entitled "The Holy City". Inclusions in polished cabs were entitled "The Cross", "The Church in the Valley", "Candle - Light of the





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