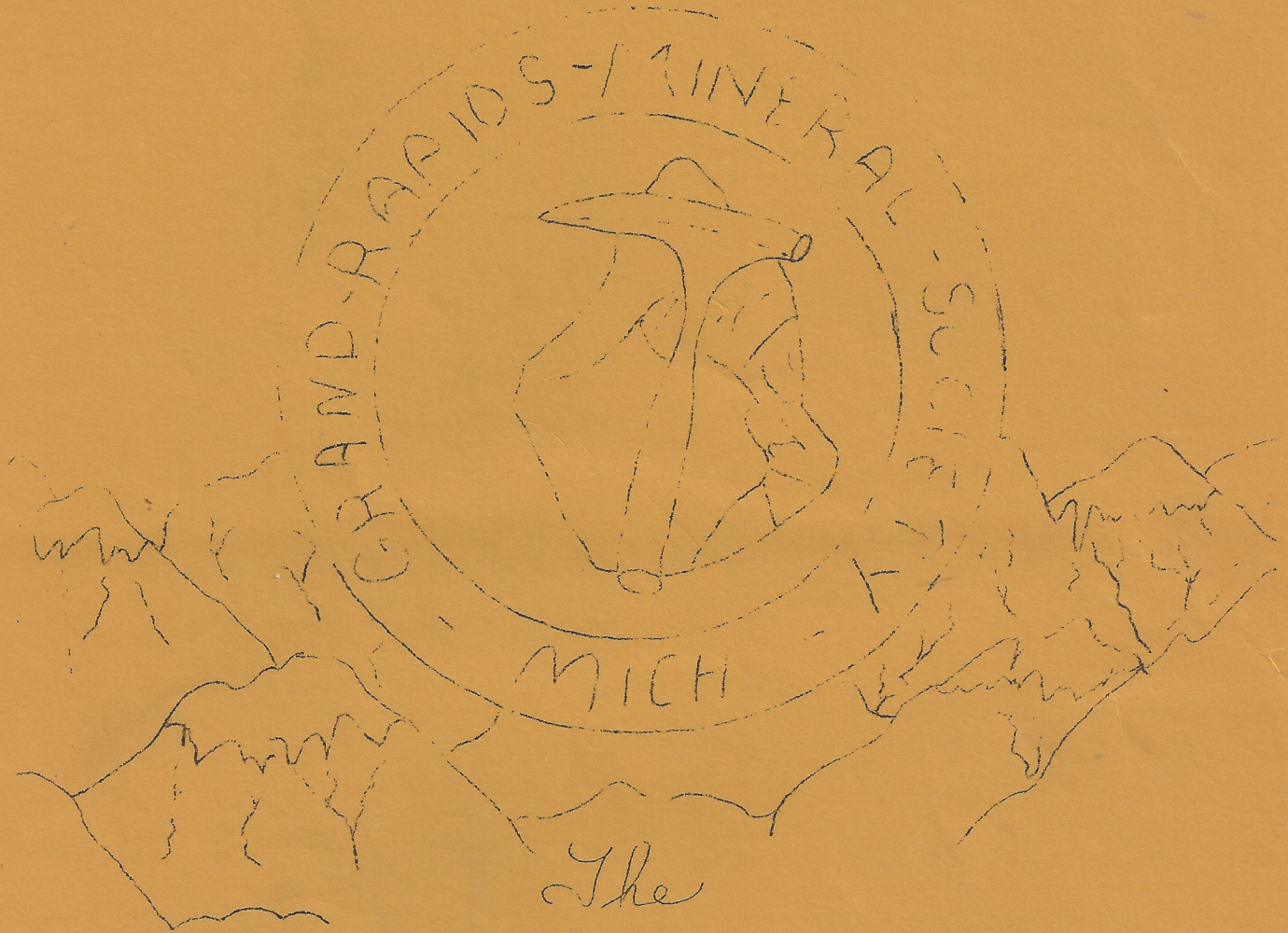


VOLUME 12 NO. 9

MAY, 1970



The

GLACIAL

DRIFT

G.R.M.S. CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- May 13, 1970 Annual Business Meeting
6:30 P.M. sharp - Pot luck supper
East Building, Museum
- May 18, 1970 Board of Control
7:30 P.M.
Mr. and Mrs. Robert Beauvais
3308 Wilton, S.W.
Grandville, Michigan
- May 27, 1970 Mineral Study Group
Usual time
Lucille Pearl
1598 Gridley, N.W.
-

CORRECTION

Sorry about this. We reported the future joint program-rock swap with the Indian Mounds Club as August 12. It is on Saturday, August 15. Please make the corrections on your calendar.

We will repeat the schedule of dates, places, and programs as far as they are available, starting with our May meeting.

- May 13 Annual Meeting, 6:30 P.M. potluck at East Building of the Museum. Bring own table service and dish/s to pass. Speaker: Dr. Parsons, Wayne University, on "Volcanism!"
- June 10 Ideal Park - Picnic supper, 6:30 P.M. Speaker - Dr. Potter Pharin Hope College. In lieu of fee, Dr. Potter Pharin has asked for fossil, rock, and mineral specimens. Contributions should be given to Rich Van Beek.
- July 8 Ideal Park - Picnic supper 6:30 P.M. Program not set.
- Aug. 15 Allendale Community Hall. Joint rock swap with Indian Mounds Club. 1:00 P.M. to 10:00 P.M.
5:00 P.M. Potluck Supper. Bring two dishes to pass and own table service.
No selling - only swapping.
Bring your rock and mineral displays to view or trade.
No admission fee
-

Black petrified wood can be soaked in household bleach such as Clorox to bring out the growth rings in an otherwise plain black slab. Avoid using metal containers, as they react with chemicals. Cover and let stand for several weeks; once a week add bleach. The slab should be ground and sanded before soaking, as the bleach does not penetrate too deeply.

Gen News via The Pick & Shovel & Cedar Valley Gems
via "Rear Trunk"

FROM THE PRESIDENT'S ROCK ROOM

Every G.R.M.S. member should plan to be at the annual business meeting on May 13. This is a dinner meeting, potluck style, that will start at 6:30 P.M. sharp.

Hostesses for the event are Mrs. Chas. Cooley and Mrs. Roger King. Coffee, rolls, and butter will be furnished by the club. Table service and dishes to pass are the responsibility of the club membership.

This is your meeting at which you elect your officers for the next year, and transact any other business that may properly come before the membership. It is the most important meeting of the year.

If you need further information, please call -

Mrs. Cooley 866-5883
Mrs. King 532-6239

Don't forget the Board of Control meeting Monday evening, May 18, at the Beauvais home, 3308 Wilson, SW, in Grandville.

Your president is looking for a delegate from G.R.M.S. to the Midwest Convention in Minneapolis-St. Paul, Minnesota. Please see me if you can go or are planning on going. The dates are July 23, 24, 25, and 26. I have all the necessary information.

The dates and places of our summer meetings are listed on the first page. Ideal Park, Wyoming, is a fine park and not too far out. These are picnic meetings with good programs planned. Don't miss them.

Let's talk a bit more about the August meeting. This will be a rock swap in conjunction with the Indian Mounds Club. The place and date are given on the first page. Let's get behind this fine joint endeavor with our neighboring club. One can never spend too much time making new friends, and what can be more fun than a rock swap -- to say nothing of the joy of adding to your own collection.

As your president, I cannot emphasize safety too much. A great deal has been said in the DRIFTER and will continue to be said on this all important phase of our hobby.

We are again at the spring season and that means field trips, week end trips and all the other things for which rock hounds are noted. By now, all the equipment should be in shape, but this time let's talk about food.

Each year we read or hear of people who come in contact with contaminated food. It was good food when it left home, but perhaps it was left in a hot car, or not properly refrigerated. If you have any food that is questionable -- don't eat it. You won't starve and you may avoid serious or fatal illness.

Have you done something about eye protection? You can't replace them, you know.

GOOD NEWS FOR ROCKHOUNDS

It was recently reported in the newspapers about a snake bite vaccine that will make a person invulnerable to snake bites for almost a year or longer has been developed by the University of Utah. It will be available as soon as approved by the Federal Food and Drug Administration.

From Bear Tracks via the Gem News via "Rear Trunk"

FROM THE EDITOR'S ROCK ROOM

I am writing this at the close of "Earth Day", and I can't think of a more appropriate task. Neither can I imagine a more interested audience. The beauty of our planet is the essence of our interest. Surely we can do no less than support every effort to revive our environment.

And that brings me to the business of the American Federation Scholarship Fund. Presently the fund stands at about \$83,500. The interest on this money is what finances the scholarships that are awarded to candidates for Master's or Doctor's degrees in the field of Earth Science. (The DRIFTER carried the story of the A.F.M.S. Award in April.)

The funds are accumulated through the redemption of Betty Crocker coupons. For each coupon turned in the Federation gets $\frac{1}{2}$ cent. Each club that contributes the equivalent of \$1.00 per member, or cash in that amount, is awarded a certificate indicating 100% participation.

Illinois has half of its member clubs 100% or better with one club at 1100%. Yes, that's right -- 1100%! Peru, Indiana, has a 1100% club. Michigan has 38 member clubs with 22 of them 100% or over. Most of them are at the 200% to 300%. Our Indian Mounds neighbors are a 300% club. They have 28 adults and 2 junior members.

Where is the G.R.M.S.? Well - we are not a 100% club. We have 72 adult and 6 junior members in our club. Besides our Betty Crocker coupon drive we also use the proceeds of our coffee and cookie fund for our scholarship money. It would be a shame for us to let this year slip away when it is so easy to bring in those coupons and put our club over the top. We might even try drinking some more coffee.

LET'S GET OUT OF THAT 16 CLUB DIVISION NOW!

As soon as your summer trip plans are completed, how about letting the editor know so we can keep track of our summer rockhounds. Wouldn't you like to know where your friends are going?

Congratulations, Rich Van Beek. The Grand Valley Lithogram is carrying your series in full. It is a fine thing to have a contributor in our midst.

SEE YOU ON THE 13th!

G.R.M.S. was pleased to welcome as guests at our April meeting:

Kathryn Colby
Mr. and Mrs. Mike Kula
William Rolfe
Robert Toomstra
William Morris and his mother, Jane Morris, of Kalamazoo

Please come again, friends.

It was announced that visitors to the Museum during our March show came from New Jersey in the East to Denver, Colorado, in the West. There was no information on the North-South extremities from which our visitors came.

For our April program the Fergusons and Williams teamed up to take our membership and guests around Lake Superior and over into Bradford, Ontario. Very beautiful hunting and beautiful country. Each brought some of the material they gathered.

DATES FOR OUR TRAVELERS

- May 2-3 All Iowa Rock Round-up-- Winterset, Iowa
No displays, no dealers.
- May 9-10 Blue-Water Gem and Mineral Show
Manitou Gymnasium, Port Huron, Michigan
- May 16-17 Kalamazoo Prospectors Rockerama,
Kalamazoo Geological and Min. Soc., Host
Kalamazoo Fairgrounds, County Building
- May 16-17 Lincoln Orbit Earth Science Society Show
Illinois Bldg., Springfield, Ill.
- May 23-24 Cuyahoga County Gem and Mineral Show, "Rockrama"
Cuyahoga County Fair Grounds, Berea, Ohio (Note! entry
blanks available from the Jaspilite editor.)
- June 6-7 State Line Gem and Mineral Society Show and Rock Swap
Fulton County Fairgrounds, Wauseon, Ohio
- June 13-14 1970 Pennsylvania Dutch Rock Swap
10:00 A.M. to 6:00 P.M. Shartlesville, Pa.
(U.S.Rt. 22, Shartlesville)
- July 30-Aug.2 U. P. Gem and Mineral Show
- July 23-Aug.26 Midwest Federation Convention, Minneapolis, Minn.
- AUGUST ROCK SWAP, ALLENDALE TOWNSHIP HALL
- June 6-7 Wisconsin Geological Society of Milwaukee
Rock, Gem, and Mineral Show
Hart Park, 155 North 73 St.
Wauwatosa, Wisconsin
-

THOSE INDIAN MOUNDS (Part III)

In 1874 the Kent Scientific Institute (K.S.I.) now the Grand Rapids Public Museum, appointed a committee consisting of W. L. Coffinberry, a civil engineer; Prof. E.A. Strong, and Dr. J.C. Parker, to explore the mounds on the farm of Capt. A.N. Norton on Grand River a short distance below the city of Grand Rapids. Permission was obtained from Capt. Norton on condition that the mounds would be restored to their original condition when they were finished and any relics found

5

would be kept in the K.S.I.

Committee Chairman Coffinberry writes:

"Upon these conditions we commenced the labor of excavating in mound No. 1 according to our plat. We spent about fourteen days at work on this mound with very little remuneration for our labor. Like all novices we had an idea that the largest mounds would be likely to contain the most valuable relics, but when we reached the bottom of this large one making an opening or shaft from the top center about 8 by 15 feet and 17 feet deep, and found nothing of any value but one small copper needle, or awl, we concluded that we would try a small one next, and if we did not find anything, we would not lose so much labor."

They then excavated six more mounds of the 17 in this group, finding seven skeletons and many artifacts in three of these with the other three yielding nothing. Not having the carbon 14 method of dating in those days Coffinberry made an "educated guess", writing as follows:

"There are two large red oak stumps, the trees having been sawed down and left the stumps in fine condition to count the annual growth rings, which number about 260 years as the age of those trees, and the whole vicinity being covered with heavy timber, the mounds included, it is presumable that the age of all the large trees may be about the same; but who knows whether this is the first or the fiftieth crop of timber grown since the building of the mounds?"

In the minutes of the K.S.I. of October 22, 1874, we read:

"The next order of business was the report of the special committee upon the mounds in this vicinity and their exploration. Capt. Coffinberry, as chairman, gave an explanation of the locality, height, and numbers of the mounds and the avenues to reach them together with a description of the manner of research for their contents.

"He stated that they found one lady's copper needle shells which must have come from the Pacific Coast and evidenced some sort of commerce between the prehistoric races of the Pacific Coast and those of the Grand River Valley. . . . vases formed of silicious clay, which are in themselves evidence of high artistic ability. These vases are ornamented with certain figures. . . . They are on exhibit at the K.S.I. room and subject to examination by the curious."

(In another undated manuscript, but obviously of a later date, Coffinberry writes that these excavations were done "in company with Prof. Strong and Prof. Daniels of the G.R. High School", and "Nearly all the relics obtained are in the school, the balance in my possession at my house in good condition".)

We will now continue with the minutes of the K.S.I.:

"Prof. Strong received a letter from Prof. Henry at the Smithsonian Institute at Washington, D.C., looking to the deposit of the articles above named in the Smithsonian Institute, which proposal was received with little favor. Prof. Strong then stated that from the examination he has made personally, he was satisfied that the mounds were built by a prehistoric race and were at least 500 years old. He next spoke of fabrics of woven cloth and impressions of the same which indicated an age of at least 500 years; of the vases, which might have been used as drinking cups or cinerary urns, also of commerce which is evidenced by the Pacific and Panama shells, the copper spears and arrow heads, evidently from the Lake Superior mines and he enlarged upon the fact that those mines bear evidences of having been worked by a prehistoric race.

"Dr. W. H. Decamp next addressed the meeting, said that for 20 years he had engaged more or less in the examination of prehistoric remains and had thus accumulated a collection which was lost in the fire of 1857. He recognized the vases and pipes shown as being similar in construction and material to those used by the Egyptians from 1000 to 1800 years before Christ. It becomes an interesting question when we reflect that the new world is in fact the old, whether Egypt was peopled from America or America was peopled from the East.

October 22, 1874

James H. Rogers, Secretary
pro tem"

What Coffinberry and his associated found in the smaller mounds was pretty well dispersed in later years. The finds were sent to various museums and expositions before 1900. Only a few found their way back to Grand Rapids.

We will now move ahead some forty years to the time of the next excavations of the Norton Mounds with an article which appeared in the Grand Rapids Herald on May 2, 1915. We hope that you will enjoy reading it as much as we did with its very flowery and sometimes archaic language. It was introduced by the following full page headlines:

BREAKING THE SEALS OF THE
MYSTERY OF FIRST CITIZENS
OF
GRAND RAPIDS
(by T. O. Manchas)
1000
YEARS
AGO

"MYSTERY!

"Deep impenetrable Mystery -- with a big "M".

"The farther you dig into it the more mysterious and weird and absorbing it becomes.

"Years--centuries--maybe ages-- have rolled in their inexorable and onward rushing rate and have sealed the doors to knowledge that can explain the Mystery.

"Today great forest trees rear their lofty heads twenty and thirty feet above the spots where the mystery was buried. Other forests may have preceded these for aught we can tell. Old Mother Earth has held her secrets well and has absorbed much of them again into her own being.

"What remains today are but a few mounds of earth, topped by great forest trees and invariably covered with luxuriant growth of grasses. Within these mounds long ago there were buried the last traces of a people who were the first, perhaps, to gaze upon the beauties of the hills and the vales of what is now the Valley of the Grand. They were the first to make their homes at the rapids that gave us a name as a city -- Grand Rapids.

"One thousand years ago - at least -- presumably long before the Indians ever paddled a canoe on the river -- maybe long before the Star of Bethlehem shone in the far east -- there were in this valley men and women who lived and loved and had their joys and sorrows.

"A civilization existed we are told, and a community of life. There were arts and crafts -- hunters and warriors -- religion and perhaps culture.

"Who were these people? Whence came they? Whither did they go?

"Mystery--MYSTERY--M Y S T E R Y!

"The past week an exploration party was organized to delve into the Mystery as it exists in the immediate vicinity of Grand Rapids. There were in the party John T. Byrne, Director H.E. Sargent of the Kent Scientific Museum, and photographers and representatives of the Herald. The party drove to the south of the city on the route of the River Boulevard, to the site of what are commonly, but very erroneously, known as "the Indian Mounds".

"But it was not the shovels that broke the seals, after all. At least the tyro, the novice, the impressionable explorers of mysteries soon forgot the time, the day, the year and even the age, and in retrospection were carried back to that period when the men who constructed these mounds were sentient beings and were moving about the spot as was their wont in their little day of life.

.....
"Day dreams -- with an era-old text beneath your feet -- and a dark and absorbing Mystery. And as you dream a voice, vibrant with earnestness and explicit with knowledge, steals into your consciousness and you realize that you are hearing the story of THE MYSTERY. Listen--

" ' Rivaling the tombs of the Pharaohs in Egypt, the ruins of Herculaneum and Pompei, the crumbling buildings and pyramids of the ancient Aztecs in Mexico and Peru, are the tumuli or mounds profusely scattered through the United States,' says the voice.

"The skeletons of three adults and two infants have been taken during the last few days, from the mounds south of the city on the east side of Grand River!

"When they were buried, no one knows. What story is behind them, no one will ever be able to tell.

"But there they were!

"The skeletons of three adults and two infants in their sepulchre of earth!

"The discovery is startling in its mystifying possibilities!

"But most startling of all is the declaration of a man who ought to know that these skeletons may not be less than 1,000 years old!

"Think of it! This is 1915! Try to imagine Mound Dwellers who peopled the present site of Grand Rapids back in .915--long before the Norman Conquest! It was undoubtedly a race that preceded even the Indians! And there has just been excavated the bones of men and women and children who lived on the site of Grand Rapids in those prehistoric days!

"There is something almost uncanny about it all! To think that we have dug into the presence of these skeletons that link us with an ago so far away! To think that we have builded a modern city over the graves of these peoples of distant yesterdays! To think that we have complacently viewed these mounds for many years and looked upon them as mere humps of earth that perhaps went back as much as one century into the early Indian life of Grand Rapids! To think that all this time we were really in the presence of tangible proofs of prehistoric life!

"Those who read this tale and ponder will have ample text for a riot of imagination. Try and think of the valley of the Grand 1,000 years ago -- five centuries before Columbus landed! What other stories might be told if we knew all the things that

that may be beneath us as we walk our modern streets!

"The skeletons of three adults and two infants who lived ten centuries ago! It is a discovery worth more than passing notice!"

How do you like this for a melodramatic treatment? Or, would you call it "corny"? But we like it. We can't help but speculate what kind of treatment he would have given to, and the superlatives he might have used, had this writer been present at the finding of a fossil, such as a trilobite, whose age is not measured in thousands, but in hundreds of millions of years, or he had been called upon to report the landing of Apollo 11! If we could but generate some of this kind of enthusiasm today perhaps we could move faster to preserve and develop the mounds.

We are sorry that we were not able to reproduce the drawing and seven photographs which are part of this one and one-third page spread.

It must be remembered that this was written before the discovery of carbon 14 dating, which, as we stated in an earlier article, has positively determined the age of the mounds to be 2,000 years and that not all the theories held in 1915, or 1874, are still held today.

The article then continues, quoting in its entirety a report given by Director Sargent of the Kent Scientific Museum to the Board of Library Commissioners on April 3, 1915. This report was incorporated into the article with no credit being given to its author and later "the Director claimed no responsibility for the feature head lines in the newspaper".

Director Sargent's report very interestingly summarizes the history of mound excavation in various parts of the country going as far back as 1776 and of Coffinberry's excavations of various mounds throughout western Michigan including the Norton Mounds. He gives a very detailed report of the two mounds excavated in 1915.

(to be continued)

Rich Van Beek

HAS A STONE LIFE?

(An Editorial in the Grand Rapids Herald of May 2, 1915)

If you mean can a stone breathe and move like living things -- No.

A stone does not breathe nor has it powers of motion possessed by the simplest living things, but -- Yes-- there is life in a stone.

Scientists have discovered that some of the substances which make a stone aid in building up the bodies of living things. These bodies can be broken into simple chemicals and made into stone. If a living substance goes into the making of stone, then it's a fact that life is in a stone.

One of the commonest elements in stone is silicon, and silicon, which is a nob-metallic element, is found in wheat straw as well as other things that live and grow. Thus the answer -- a stone contains a living element and therefore is itself alive!

Many small pieces of banded rough that cannot be placed in the saw vise to any advantage can be laid on edge and cut parallel to the bands to achieve bullseye effects.

A very good stone for this is tiger eye, which can give you a surprisingly different cab. The more contrast between the bands, the stronger bullseye effect you will have. If the stone is cut with a high dome, many bands will be evident. If a low dome is cut, less bands will show. This should be taken into consideration before the slabbing process to arrive with the desired effect in the finished cab. Always remember to slab as parallel to the bands as possible and have some idea of how thick the slab should be.

If the slab should not come out as expected, try a preform teardrop to compensate for what would otherwise be an off-center bullseye. Also try malachite, onyx, jasper, and some rhodochrosite with the treatment.

From EARTH SCIENCE NEWS

MOST MAGNIFICENT IOWA CAVE - R. K. Lampe

The biggest, the most spectacular, and the most inaccessible cave in Iowa was discovered this summer by two geology students from the University of Iowa.

Biggest? It's six miles long! Just close your eyes and think of a spot six miles away from where you are sitting. Think of going there through a secret, underground passage and at every turn seeing wonders that no man has ever before seen. Imagine calcite crystals glistening, frozen cascades of flowstone, colors from creamy white to brilliant red, and everything wet from water so that your flashlight beam is reflected a million times.

Only this cave is guarded by an underwater passage (a flowing stream with a temperature of 47°), and it's a long way in. David Jagnow and Steven Barnett are 21 and members of the Iowa Grotto of the National Speleological Society. David is a former member of the Dubuque Rock Club and has searched every cave in Dubuque County. He and Steven have been hunting northeast Iowa for "The Big One," just as all rock hunters do.

They heard of this spot and were intrigued by the gushing stream. One of the nearby farmers told them that during Prohibition Days he set up a still 'a little ways in'. So Steven says, "One morning I slid into the water and reached under with my feet to feel the ceiling with my toes. I took a deep breath and plunged into the opening. With that numbing cold, I became disoriented. Instead of coming back to the entrance, I came up in a small room. It was the most vivid 60 seconds of my life."

That first room was only 15' away, but nobody needed to tell the boys what would have happened if the room hadn't been there! They went home and got complete underwater gear (wet suits, airtanks, waterproof lights -- the works).. They came back.. On their first trips in they found only downfalls, brief airspaces, twisting tunnels. Imagine crawling the length of a football field in bitterly cold water and utter darkness. Then a second field, and a third, and a fourth. Never knowing but what some rock might not come down to crush or entomb you. At last, a full quarter-mile from the entrance, they found a spot high enough for them to stand --

probably making this the longest underwater cave entrance in the world. They weren't equipped to stay, but from the echoes they knew it was a large cavern.

Home again, they took on a third caver, Thomas Egert of Genesco. They took a tent, three days' food, carbide lights, and cameras. Spelunkers have a slogan: "Take nothing but pictures, leave nothing but tracks." They brought back every scrap of paper, all used carbide, and the empty cans. From the cave itself they have nothing but pictures and memories. But what memories! The Biggest and most spectacular cave in Iowa, and it was like being the first men on the moon. The young geologists have sought state and federal aid so it will not be spoiled by commercialism. Maybe someday, instead of crawling through the stream gushing from the base of a hundred-foot high cliff, you may go down an elevator and take a mile-long boat trip to see ivory stalactites twenty feet long in this most magnificent Iowa cave.

This cave is in Winneshiek County in northeast Iowa, close to the Minnesota border, and east of the town of Kendallville. Don't rush there! These slim, young, experienced, physically-fit spelunkers risked their lives to enter and explore this cave. It might be just a bit smarter to stay home, and read about it in the Earth Science News.

THE AMERICAN FEDERATION CODE OF ETHICS

I will respect both private and public property and will do no collecting on privately owned land without the owner's permission.

I will keep informed on all laws, regulations or rules governing collecting on public lands and will observe them.

I will to the best of my ability ascertain the boundary lines of property on which I plan to collect.

I will use no firearms or blasting material in collecting areas.

I will cause no willful damage to property of any kind -- fences, signs, buildings, etc.

I will leave all gates as found.

I will build fires in designated or safe places only and will be certain they are completely extinguished before leaving the area.

I will discard no burning material - matches, cigarettes, etc.

I will fill all excavation holes which may be dangerous to livestock.

I will not contaminate wells, creeks, or other water supply.

I will cause no willful damage to collecting material and will take home only what I can reasonably use.

I will support the rockhound project H.E.L.P. (Help Eliminate Litter Please) and will leave all collecting areas devoid of litter, regardless of how found.

I will cooperate with field trip leaders and those designated with authority in all collecting areas.

I will report to my club or federation officers, Bureau of Land Management, or

or other proper authorities, any deposit of petrified wood or other material on public lands which should be protected for the enjoyment of future generations for public educational and scientific purposes.

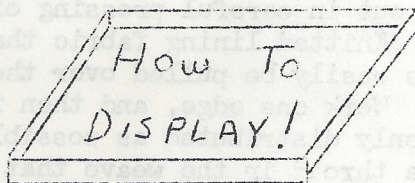
I will appreciate and protect our heritage of natural resources.

I will observe the "Golden Rule" and will use "Good Outdoor Manners" and will at all times conduct myself in a manner which will add to the stature and "public image" of rockhounds everywhere.

Apropos to this Help Eliminate Litter Please, the Automobile Legal Association says American Motorists could do well to heed the sign at the entrance to the Pleasure Gardens of Ceylon, which reads:

"If you with litter will disgrace,
And spoil the beauty of this place;
May indigestion rack your chest,
And ants invade your pants and vest."

from: Vista Rockorder 12-69 via The Agatizer



ARE YOU READY?

Last month we started a series on "How to Display". As we are expecting everyone to have a display this year, now you won't be able to use that old excuse "I don't know how"..... OR THE WORST EXCUSE OF ALL....."My material isn't good enough". Any material, I don't care how good or poor, if displayed properly, looks like a million dollars.

Already we've heard two or three "No, I'm not going to display, I don't have anything, and what I have isn't good enough". Hogwash, how do you know if you've never tried? So come on, let's get those displays under way.

CASE-LINER PANELS:

Case-liners, or wall-liners, are pieces of plasterboard, plywood, pressed fiber, cardboard, styrofoam, etc. used to make inner case walls and a bottom. For example, cut pieces of plasterboard (available in 4 x 8 sheets at building supply) for the back, sides, and bottom (to fit in that order). In measuring your case for sizes, be sure to allow at least 1/4 inch for the thickness of the fabric lining material that will be applied to these liner pieces later. The heavier the lining fabric, the greater the allowance for its thickness. Try the liner walls inside your case and check carefully that there is enough space or "play" between

the pieces to permit a comfortably close, but not tight, fit after the liner walls are covered with the fabric. Care in sizing these pieces now will save you frustrating trouble spent in unfastening lining material, trimming the panel and refastening the covering fabric.. When the wall-liner pieces fit to your satisfaction, write on the back of each piece -- as you remove it - marking all front and top edges, right and left sides, and bottom and back pieces. Put your markings far enough in on the panel so that they won't be covered over when you pull your fabric lining over and fasten it.

After the wall-liner pieces are cut, fitted, and marked, they may be covered with a single layer of old sheeting or sheet blanket to give a padded effect.. The sheeting may be glued or taped on with masking tape; staples work only on liner pieces that are thick enough for the staple to hold well without poking through the surface and snagging whatever it touches. If you're using cardboard, this inner covering will hide any printing; to be sure, try one piece in your case, with a scrap of your lining fabric over it and with the case light turned on. Case lights unforgivingly reveal any imperfections as well as the beauty of your display. Scratches or gouges in the top of "right" side of plasterboard must be painted or they show through as smudges. Printing on cardboard can be painted out, too.

LINING YOUR CASE:

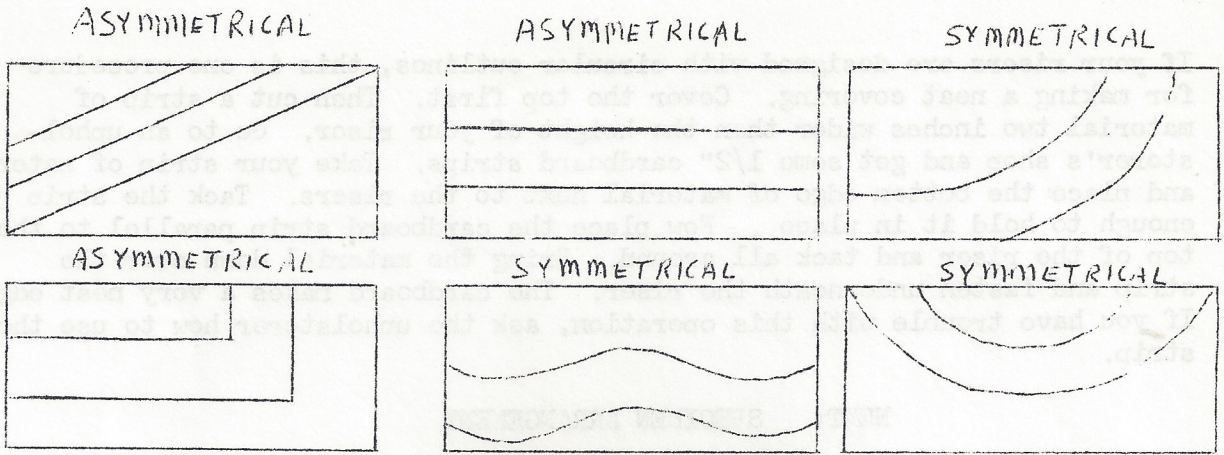
To cover the wall-liner panels with your chosen lining fabric, cut the material AT LEAST TWO INCHES LARGER on each edge than the panel size. Make sure the texture of nap of your fabric all runs in the same direction; be sure all wrinkles and folding creases are ironed out in careful pressing of each piece just before you are ready to work with it. Knitted lining fabric that is stretchy (jerseys, strawcloth, etc.) can quite easily be pulled over the sides of the panel and fastened on the back side. Work one edge, and then its opposite, in order to keep the amount of "pull" as evenly distributed as possible. If your material is a woven fabric, you can use a thread in the weave that runs parallel with the edge (on which you are working) as your gauge in keeping even the amount of material lapped over. Masking tape or glue may be used in fastening the lining fabric down; staples, too, if the panel is thick enough so the staple prongs don't poke through to the front side (where they can snag threads-- or lose you showmanship points just by showing.)

In order to be able to remove the back panel easily, once it is in place, it is suggested that you cut three pieces of 1/2" cloth tape. Fasten these to the back panel at the bottom in such a way that you have three tabs to pull the panel free without marring the material. (The bottom panel will cover these tabs.)

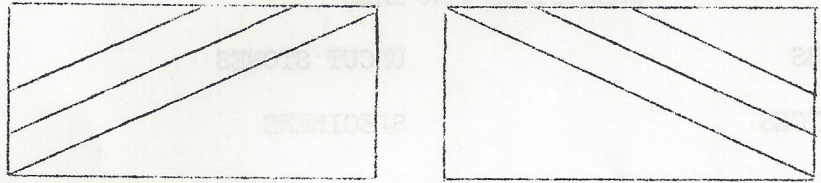
ELEVATION:

In the early days of mineral exhibits, a glass shelf was often used instead of risers, but it is generally accepted that the added area does not offset the poor showmanship. When you have specimens on and under a glass shelf, particularly in a slant-front case, the lower specimens are often shadowed by those beneath which they lie.. It also often creates an appearance of being crowded, with specimens "piled up". There may be ways that glass shelves can be used to obtain special effects, but it is advisable to use them with caution. A case of specimens which are lying in rows on the bottom of a case is not as interesting as a case in which the specimens are displayed at various levels. These levels (or steps) we call risers, and their style and construction is widely varied.

The following diagrams illustrate a few ideas which can be used. Don't feel that these are the only ones.

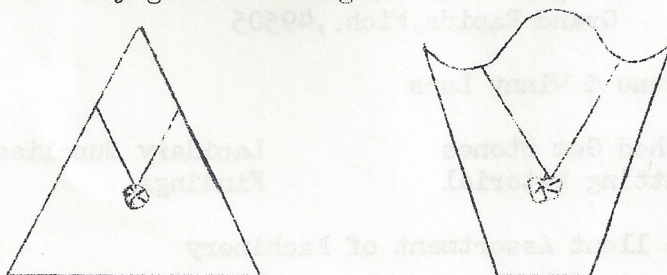


No matter what the style or shape, do not stack your risers too high. If two adjacent cases are used for one exhibit, an arrangement of risers -- as shown below -- can help to unify the exhibit.



Risers can be constructed from dozens of materials -- styrofoam, plywood, lumber, cardboard, plastic, bricks, boxes, etc. Styrofoam comes in widths up to 36" in almost any thickness. You can make longer pieces by splicing it and anchoring the pieces with large nails (pointed at each end), pieces of wooden dowling, or even a couple of pencils. Just coat your "pin" with Elmer's glue, poke halfway into one styrofoam section and then push your "pin" into the other styrofoam and align the pieces as you push. Building insulation can be obtained in 4' by 8' chunks from building supply companies; it is cheaper than styrofoam and just as easy to handle. Both the styrofoam and the building insulation material should be cut with a fine-toothed saw; smooth the cut edge.

For jewelry you can design holders for necklaces and sets of jewelry which will show them off to very good advantage.



In covering your risers, use the old sheeting just as you did on your wall-liner panels. If you have square corners be sure and make your material fit the corners. If you have stretch material, you will find that the risers are very easy to cover.

If your risers are designed with circular outlines, this is one procedure for making a neat covering. Cover the top first. Then cut a strip of material two inches wider than the height of your riser. Go to an upholsterer's shop and get some 1/2" cardboard strips. Take your strip of material and place the bottom edge of material next to the risers. Tack the strip just enough to hold it in place. Now place the cardboard strip parallel to the top of the riser and tack all around. Bring the material down over the strip and fasten underneath the riser. The cardboard makes a very neat edge. If you have trouble with this operation, ask the upholsterer how to use the strip.

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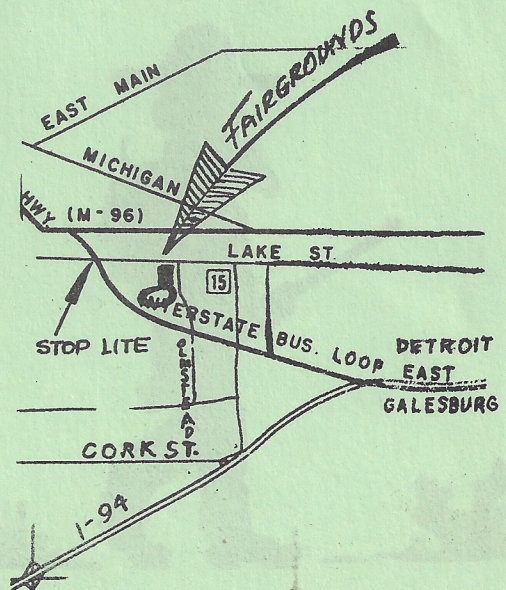
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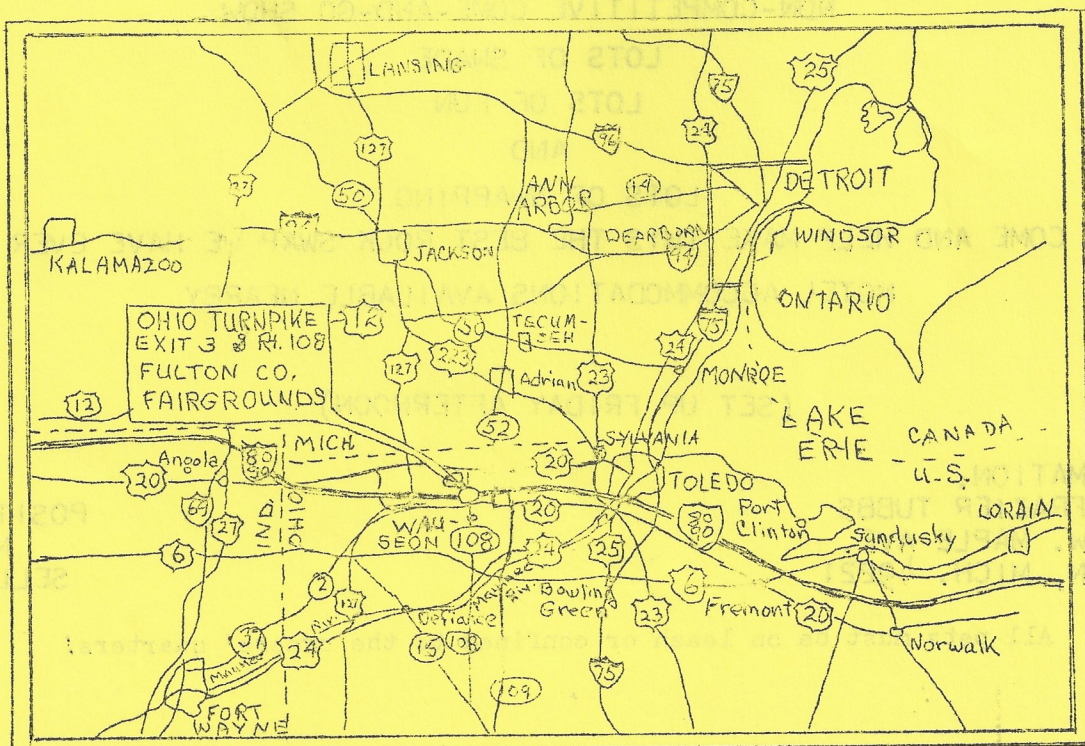
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Rock Swap Chairman

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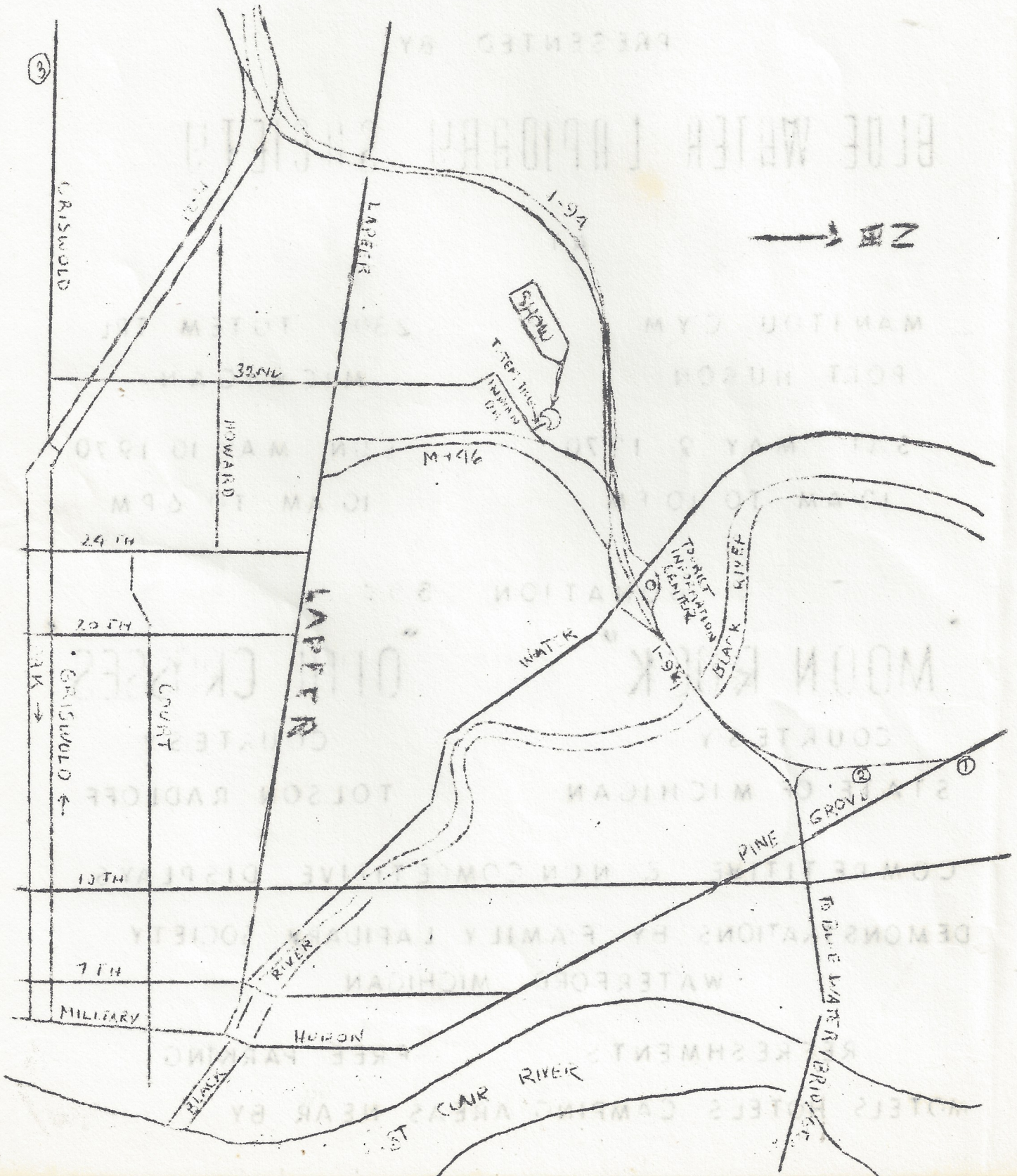
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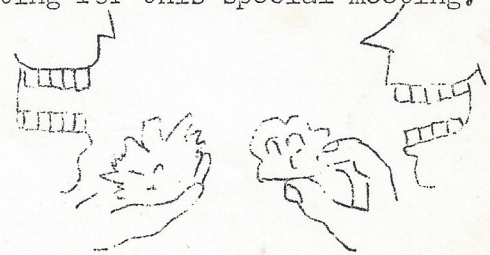
"ROCK E. SWAPPER" SEZ:

Plans for the August Rock Swap are well under way. Committee chairmen appointed are: Kitchen, Mr. & Mrs. Ford Hurd; Display, Mr. Karl DeBack; Rock Tables, Mr. & Mrs. Reginald Voss; Clean-Up, Mr. & Mrs. Clyde Littlefield. General Chairmen are Mr. & Mrs. Robert Beauvais. Similar chairmen have been appointed by the Indian Mounds Club and all will be working together.

But this is just the beginning. The help of all our members will be needed, especially for food for the snack shop. Please be prepared to say yes when you are asked to help.

There will be lots to do for everyone. Let's make a planned vacation the only excuse for not attending and assisting for this special meeting.

Swappin's fun!
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But this is just the beginning. The help of all our members will be needed, especially in food for the week shop. Please be prepared to say when you are asked to help.
There will be lots to do for everyone. Let's make a planned vacation the only excuse for not attending and catering for this special meeting.
Go to 121
Supply 121