



The
Grand Rapids
Mineral Society

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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 7:45 p.m. in the Multi-Purpose Room, East Building, Grand Rapids Public Museum. Summer meetings are at various parks as announced.

Membership dues are \$5. per year for a family, \$3. per year for a single adult, and \$1. per year for students under 18 years of age. Dues are payable to the treasurer. The year is from September 1 through August 31 of the following year.

Advertising in the GLACIAL DRIFTER is limited to a uniform size of one-third page at the rate of \$3. per issue, September through May only.

All material for publication shall be in the hands of the EDITOR no later than the Wednesday after the regular monthly BOARD OF CONTROL meeting which is the third week of the month.

Permission to reprint articles appearing in the GLACIAL DRIFTER is hereby granted, provided proper credit is given.

Member - National Bulletin Editors Association.

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EXCHANGE EDITORS -- PLEASE NOTE: Address all exchange bulletins to:

Mr. Gordon Williams, Editor
2038 Parade NW
Grand Rapids, Michigan 49505

the Glacial Drifter

Volume 13 No. 9

G.R.M.S. CALENDAR

Time: 6:30 P.M. Wednesday, May 12, 1971
Place: East Building, G.R. Public Museum
Program: Pot Luck Supper - Annual Meeting
and
Dr. J. Cotter Tharin, Geology Department,
Hope College speaks on
"Rock and Mineral Identification"

Field Trip

Saturday, May 8, 1:45 p.m. G.R. Public Museum
Bus Tour of Kent and Ottawa Counties
Jointly sponsored by the Museum and G.R.M.S.
Details elsewhere in this Drifter

VISITORS WELCOME

LOOKING AHEAD

- May 15-16 - Kalamazoo Gem & Mineral Fair, Fairgrounds, County Center Building, Kalamazoo. Swapping. No selling. Silent Auction. Dealers. Educational Programs.
- May 17 - Board of Control meets at the Jim VanVuren's
- May 21-23 - Muskegon Co. Rock & Mineral Ass'n Swap at Pioneer Park. Excellent camping
- May 26 - Mineral Group meets with the Fay Reed's, 2868 Buttrick SE, Ada
- June 9 - G.R.M.S. Regular meeting, Picnic at Ideal Park. Speaker: Dr. Stonehouse, U. of M.
- July 14 - G.R.M.S. Regular meeting. Picnic at Ideal Park. Program: Show and Tell
- July 22-25 - Midwest Federation Convention, Mansfield, Ohio

FROM THE PRESIDENT'S ROCK ROOM

Well, folks, another show has come and gone. "It was a good show!" This word came from people other than our club members (who might be a little prejudiced!). Our hosts and hostesses reported favorable comments. Tho some of us were a little in doubt about putting the emphasis on fossils, it turned out to be a good show, well received. We also had some new examples of lapidary in the south cases. There were also some fine mineral specimens. Every show seems to bring forth new methods of displaying our goodies. Thanks to our show chairman, Rich and his assistants, Dr. Rose, Roger King, and Jim Van Vuren, for all their hard work that made the show a success. Thanks to all our exhibitors for their efforts also. Official attendance was 17,529 according to the museum.

The April program, "Dig Mexico," was enjoyed by about 80 people. The scenery was beautiful and the rock specimens shown left us wishing we could have gotten them. Our thanks to Marie Spielmaker, who brought it to our attention. We wish we could go with her this fall when she takes this trip.

The May 12 program will be our annual election and business meeting. The list of nominees appears elsewhere in the Drifter. Remember you can make other nominations from the floor if you have the person's consent to run. This will also be a pot luck supper. Please bring your own table service and a main dish and a dessert or salad to pass. Remember to come early--the building will be open at 6 p.m. and we will try to eat about 6:30. Coffee and rolls will be furnished by the club, also milk and punch for those who want it. The program will be a talk on rock and mineral identification by Dr. J. Cotter Tharin, head of the Geology Department of Hope College. Hostesses for the May pot luck will be Emily VanVuren and Faye King. If you have any questions regarding food arrangements, please contact them.

The June meeting will be a picnic supper at Ideal Park on June 9. The program will be Dr. Stonehouse from U. of M. Details next month.

The July 14 meeting will also be a picnic supper with a show and tell program afterwards. Bring your choice goodies and have fun.

In the rush of the meeting and trying to be in too many places at once, your president forgot to announce the gift we just received from Jessie Walker, Marguarite Peterson's cousin. It is a complete colony coral of the lithostrotionella species from Cedar Creek, a branch of the Des Moines River at Dumas, near Revere, Missouri. This is a Mississippian coral similar to Petoskey stone. The board voted to have this loaned to the Grand Rapids Public Museum for display.

Several of our hardier members joined the Indian Mounds Rock Club field trip to Medusa Quarry at Charlevoix over the past week end. This was truly a trip to separate the men from the boys. On the way up we ran into strong winds and then snow. It must have snowed 3 or 4 inches, and the temperature dropped to about 30° during the night. In the morning the snow melted quite rapidly so we went out on the beach for a while. Right after lunch we went in to the quarry and onto the dumps at the top. Hunting was fairly good, a lot
(next page, please)

(concluded from page 2)

of black Petoskey was found. In the evening we held a council around the fire with toasted and scorched marshmallows. Sunday we again hit the dump piles. The president was lucky and found a coral that has not been identified yet. It looks like a stalactite and twins part way up. It is not the usual horn coral, but is flat-sided instead.

On May 29 the Indian Mounds Club will be making a trip to Woodville, Ohio, for celestite. G.R.M.S. members are invited. This is a quarry with strict rules, including hard hats, etc. For further details contact their field trip chairman, Rich Lemmink. Those going will be expected to observe the rules carefully, lest this become another closed location.

We need a volunteer to be our delegate at the Midwest Convention in Mansfield, Ohio, on July 22-25. This involves attending one meeting on Saturday and possibly the banquet on Saturday evening. The rest of the time is free time or someone could be a delegate and only go Saturday.

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REPORT OF THE NOMINATING COMMITTEE

President - Roger King

Vice-President - Robert Beauvais

Secretary - Marilyn Arnold

Treasurer - Dorothy Ferguson

Liaison Officer - Faye King

Historian - Lucile Pearl

Board Members - Ted and Marie Duprey
Jim VanVuren
George Arnold

.. Nellie Mead

Marion Jennings

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Des Moines Register states: "If you collect rocks, don't stow them out of sight. Spread them out on shelf or table top and let them be important accents in a room.

Rocks are being displayed in very elegant rooms designed by high-priced New York decorators this year. All the model rooms in Altman's store had rocks around, sometimes arranged with such accents as a silver antique ink-well or a porcelain vase, in formal drawing rooms and parlors. "The beauty and patterns of natural minerals add an unexpected spark to a formal setting," explains one decorator. "They blend as well with traditional mahogany as they do with contemporary polished chrome and glass."

-Mary Bryson, Home Furnishing Editor, via The Pyriter

FROM THE EDITOR'S ROCK ROOM

It seems incredible that another year has gone by, and that this will be the last large issue of the Drifter for the 1970-71 year.

It has been a pleasure. It is always a pleasure when people of good will help one another. The year's efforts would have been futile indeed without club member interest and cooperation.

Thank you all.

The visitor list at our April 14 meeting was an unusually large one. Welcome guests, and come back!

Mrs. Helen Slavinskas
Jim and Ruth Frans, Holland
Mrs. Marie TenBrock
Mrs. Arthur Spielmaker
William King, Cadillac

David Phillips
Mr. & Mrs. John Schipper
Mrs. Robert Spielmaker, Art
and Abbie
Mildred Coulter, Jackson
Marvin J. Mulder (now a member)

The slate of officers for the May election was presented by the Nominating Committee at the April 14 meeting and is published elsewhere in this issue. They, along with any nominations from the floor will be voted on at the May 12 meeting. They are our officers guiding our club. Each of us can do no less than be present to cast our ballot.

And now for a story of one of our young members. Kevin Friar of 5550 Skyway Dr., Comstock Park, an 8th grader at Assumption School, Belmont, was a first place winner in the Kent County Science Fair with his study in geology.

Kevin built a 48" long display with 32" wings on each side and arranged a display of rocks, minerals, fossils, and crystal systems. Many of the crystals Kevin produced artificially. Kevin's interest is general collecting.

Pretty good sort of demonstration.

(continued on page 5)

MOVE OVER

At first we kept 'em in the closet
And this we didn't mind a bit,
But soon we had to scratch around
To find a place to sit.

We've built a lean-to, and we
Will rearrange without much fuss.
We've solved the problem gracefully,
House for the rocks--lean-to for us.

-Muriel Menzel

via Black Hawk Gem & Mineral
Soc. of Iowa, via The Crystal
Cluster

EDITOR'S ROCK ROOM (continued)

As a sort of beautiful benediction, we would like to present Gwen Frostic's "THIS EARTH!" In her usual unselfish manner she granted permission without seeking an acknowledgement:

This earth--
 with its great green trees--
 its infinite life--
 and boundless beauty--
 the only earth there'll ever be.

These waters--
 of deep springs--
 of rivers and lakes--
 drops of dew--
 and clouds above--
 all the water there has ever been--
 all--there will ever be.

The air all around--
 that everything must breathe--
 over and over--
 forever and ever.

Love this earth--
 love it as much as life itself--
 earth from which all life has come--
 earth to which all life returns.

Love its waters
 and keep them clean--
 water on which all life depends.

Love clean air--
 care enough to keep it clear--
 clear enough to see the stars.

And earth will remain;
 beyond time.

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Earth wears a mantle rich in lore,
 Of storied fabric finely spun,
 It tells of eons come and gone
 Whose only witness was the sun.
 Not seer nor monarch can divine
 The cryptic writings; he alone
 Who humbly speaks the tongue of earth
 Can wrest a story from a stone.

(quoted in the Midwest program, "Life Revealed
 in the Rocks" - no author given)

AND NOW ONE LAST WORD ABOUT THE 1971 SHOW

The 12th Annual Rock Show of the Grand Rapids Mineral Society is now history and the time has come for us to thank everyone who participated in any way in making it a success. The official attendance this year, as compiled by the museum staff, was 17,529.

Although it was a lot of work and took a great deal of time we enjoyed it very much. It was a great experience and we discovered anew two things: First, what a really great group of people we have in our club--everyone was most willing to do whatever we asked of them if they possibly could. Several, when applying for a certain amount of space for their exhibit said that they would be willing to fill additional space if necessary to assure that all cases would be filled. This flexibility made our job easier. And second, we found what a really great group of people we have on the museum staff--we had only to ask and they did it or got it for us. Often they would suggest something although it would mean extra work for them.

Although many are deserving of special thanks if we once begin we won't know where to stop so we will content ourselves by mentioning everyone who had anything to do with the show and hope that we won't overlook anyone. (Many of these participated in more than one way such as by being a host or hostess, chairman, demonstrator, exhibitor, etc.)

G.R.M.S. Members: Bob, Ruth, and Jeanne Beauvais; Casey and Sena Doornbos; Dan, Paul, and Joan Miller; Matt Smith; Earl (since deceased) and Gladys VanderWerf; Jim and Bertha DeZwaan; Ford and Dora Hurd; Clyde and Elizabeth Littlefield; Laurence and Marguarite Petersen; Arnie and Elsie Wendt; Henry, Bette, Steve, and Nancy Tchozeski; Marie Spielmaker; Ruth Steele; Bill Gorlitz; Stan and Dan Loper; Jim, Em, and Virginia VanVuren; Ted and Marie Duprey; Don, Leona, Janet, Jim, and Steve Crabbs; George, Sr., Marilyn, George, Jr., and Greg Arnold; Kevin Friar; Roger and Faye King; Pete and Crystal Boogaart; Dr. Richard W. Rose; Dr. Robert Smith; Karl DeBack; Lucile Pearl; Russ Girard; Gordon and Dorothy Williams; Don and Mable Bowers; Bob and June Smith; Elaine Smith; Erwin Atkins; Dorothy Waterman; Art and Dorothy Ferguson; Nellie Mead; Larry Fegel; Reggie, June, and Linda Vos; Davena Lett; Billie Whitcomb; and Nina Rozema.

Museum Staff: W. D. Frankforter; Anne Leiber; Ardath Allen; Anna Fraser; Norma Raby; Bob Bushewicz; Evelyn Fox; Marya Stiles; Dave DeBruyn; Larry Gwinn; Jeff and Liza Wainoris; Terry Viele; Horace Frownfelder; Elmer Karklins; Abe Postema; Henry and Frank Burtt; Dale Smith; Jim Marler; Richard Smith; Jim MacDonald; John Schippers; Ray Saxe; Pat Fortuna; Gary Frankforter; and also security guards furnished by the Sheriff's Dept. Auxiliary. (We only included staff members who were directly involved in some way with the show.)

Indian Mounds Rock Club: Rich and Gert Lemmink; John and Mable Watrous; Gerry Norman; Ann Gifford; Jack Cramer; Bill and Nancy Ammerman; and Joyce Potter.

Others: Mr. and Mrs. Don Chaffee; Mrs. Dodge and three members of the Ecology Class from the Educational Park; Mr. & Mrs. Rene VanNeste from

(concluded on page 7)

FIELD TRIP - THIS SATURDAY, May 8

STARTING TIME: 1:45 P.M.

STARTING PLACE: Museum parking lot behind East Building

TRANSPORTATION: The Museum Bus

LIMIT: 40 Passengers (so get your reservation in early)

SPONSORS: The Grand Rapids Public Museum and the Grand Rapids
Mineral Society

GUIDES: June Smith and Jim Muller

WHAT AND WHERE: "Glacial Geology of the Grand Rapids Area"

This will be based on a tour which was sponsored last October by the National Science Teachers Ass'n. Convention and was guided by Donald Eschman from the University of Michigan, who is the co-author of the fabulous new book, "Geology of Michigan." Jim Muller and June Smith, who took the tour at that time will be guiding us. Jim Muller is the one who gave the program on the geology of the Grand River Valley two years ago.)

We will begin by going to Plainfield Bridge and after observing the geological features of the Rogue River area south of Rockford we will zig-zag through Grand Rapids and then so south, south-west, and west of Grand Rapids to observe former abandoned channels of the Grand River, moraines, kettleholes, deltas, former shorelines of the glacier ancestors of Lake Michigan, outwash surfaces, etc.

This will last approximately 3 hours. There will be a small fee for the services of the bus driver.

For more information and reservations call me at 459-3903 or the VanVuren's at 538-0826.

Rich VanBeek, Field Trip
Chairman

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SHOW REPORT (concluded)

the Grand Valley Rock and Mineral Society; Forest Cooke from Grass Lake; Jim Muller, Harry Scott; Tom Jakeway; Mrs. Clous; Jacquelyn Davis.

In addition material was loaned for exhibit by Michigan State University; Central Michigan University; Calvin College; and Governor Milliken's Office in the State Capitol.

To all who helped in any way, we again say :thank you."

-Rich VanBeek

AMERICAN FEDERATION "CODE OF ETHICS"

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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 the property on which I plan to collect.

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

I will cause no wilful 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 wilful 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 in designated authority in all collecting areas.

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

(This Code of Ethics is reprinted for the enlightenment of our new members and to refresh the memory of our old members.)

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For dopping small heat-sensitive cabochons, use Quick-Set Epoxy with wooden golf tees. They provide a good handle and are easily released when soaked in acetone. From PICK AND SHOVEL via PROSPECTOR

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WANTED: Candidates for State of Michigan Conservation School. We have one scholarship available. Ask any board member.

Driftlings

GOD LEFT THE CHALLENGE IN THE EARTH

by Dr. Allen A. Stockdale

When God made the Earth, He could have finished it. But He didn't. Instead, He left it as raw material--to tease, to tantalize us, to set us thinking and experimenting and risking and adventuring! Therein we find our supreme interest in living.

Have you ever noticed that small children in a nursery will ignore clever mechanical toys in order to build, with spools and strings and blocks, a world of their own imagination?

And so with grown-ups, too. God gave us a world unfinished so that we might share in the joys and satisfactions of creation. He left the aluminum in the clay. He left the electricity in the clouds. He left the rivers un-bridged, the mountains un-trailed. He left the diamonds uncut. He gave us the challenge of raw materials, not the satisfaction of perfect, finished things. He left the poetry undreamed, in order that men and women might not become bored but engage in stimulating, exciting, creative activities that keep them thinking, working, experimenting and experiencing all the joys and durable satisfactions of achievement.

So it is with all the world. There is no Shangri-La where our every want can be supplied by wishing. There is no substance to philosophy of "getting by". There is nothing worthwhile gained by chance.

Work through creation gives life its stimulus, its real satisfaction and its intriguing value.

Progress comes, not by some magic word and not by government edict, but from thoughts, the toil, the tears, the triumphs of individuals who accept the challenge of raw material--and by the grace of God-given talents produce results which satisfy the many continuing needs of men everywhere.

Via Michigan News, Enid G & M Society
S.S.E.S.C. Bulletin, Mt. Sterling, Ill.

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GOOD THINGS TO COME - Remember the joint Indian Mounds-Grand Rapids Mineral Society Rock Swap on August 14, at the Gaines Township Hall, 68th & Kalamazoo SE. The committee is already working on the plans. This is headed by Len and Shirley Jurries of Indian Mounds and Faye and Roger King of our club. They will need your help as plans develop. Especially needed are material for door prizes and workers for the kitchen and swap. Please be ready to say yes when you are called.

MOUNTAIN TRAVEL CAN CAUSE ILLNESS

IDAHO SPRINGS, COLO. (UPI) A Colorado doctor who has worked as a general practitioner in this mountain town for 35 years says it is time that people learned some of the dangers of traveling in the Rockies.

"Year after year, we see patients deathly ill from carbon monoxide poisoning just because they are not alert to the peculiar hazards of mountain travel," Dr. Freeman Fowler said. "We've been trying for 20 years or longer to get somebody to do something about this."

Most of the trouble, Dr. Fowler said, comes from tourists who travel to Colorado to escape the heat of their home communities.

"They come out here in short pants and get up on Berthoud or Loveland passes, and it's cold, so they roll the windows up tight," he said. "The first thing you know, they have a terrific headache and become dizzy and nauseated. If there are babies in the car, they sometimes have convulsions."

Dr. Fowler, whose medical office is one of the first available to persons traveling Loveland and Berthoud passes, said he treats victims of carbon monoxide poisoning weekly and sometimes almost daily.

The physician said the risk of carbon monoxide poisoning is at least twice as great at an altitude of 11,000 feet as it is at sea level.

Lack of oxygen at high altitudes results in poor combustion, causing motor vehicles to emit about twice as much carbon monoxide as at sea level. In addition, the human body at high altitude is deprived of approximately one-half of the blood's oxygen-carrying capacity, making it able to cope successfully with only half as much carbon monoxide.

Dr. Fowler said a number of problems involved campers, many of which are placed on pickup truck bodies without tailpipe extensions. He said some camper owners haul children in the back without two-way communication between the cab and camper and without stopping to check on the youngsters.

In 1969, 25 persons died in Colorado as a result of carbon monoxide, five in campers.

"When windows are left far enough open to supply an adequate amount of fresh air, we don't have these problems," Dr. Fowler said. "But we've got to convince motorists of the necessity of keeping their windows open, particularly during mountain travel and especially on cloudy days.

"When the air is heavy, as on cloudy days, it tends to hold the gases under vehicles."

-Reprinted from The Grand Rapids Press

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A few tablespoons of oxalic acid crystals in your final tumbler polish will give your stones extra luster.

"The Arkansas Rockhound News"

E D U C A T I O N

MORE ABOUT MINERAL IDENTIFICATION BY. Dr. Gordon Hammersley

PHYSICAL PROPERTIES OF MINERAL AND GEM STONES--

HARDNESS

Definition - The power a mineral possesses to resist abrasion when a pointed fragment of another substance is drawn across it without sufficient pressure to develop cleavage.

Moh's Hardness Scale - An order or scale of hardness. The divisions are not equal. For example, the difference between diamond and corundum is greater than that between corundum and talc.

Scale	1. Talc (soap stone)
	2. Gypsum (amber)
	3. Calcite (coral, pearl)
	4. Fluorite (rhodochrosite, aragonite, malachite)
	5. Apatite (sphene)
	5½ - 6 (opal, thomsonite, hematite)
	6. Feldspar (silica glass, sodalite, turquoise, pyrite, prehnite, lapis lazuli)
	6½ (peridot, chalcedony, nephrite)
	7. Quartz (tourmaline, jadeite)
	8. Topaz
	8½ (chrysoberyl)
	9. Corundum
	10. Diamond

Slight variation exists between specimens and slight variation in the direction tested in the same specimen. Durability is directly related to hardness. The degree of polish attainable is usually greater in harder stones than in softer stones. Ordinary dust, usually fine sand or quartz particles, has a hardness of 7. Jewelry stones liable to be scratched or rubbed in ordinary wear such as rings should therefore have a hardness of 7 or greater. Softer stones may be used in brooches or pendants.

Testing for Hardness - 1. Hardness points - Sharp fragments of minerals listed in Moh's scale are mounted in wooden or metal stems.

2. Hardness Plates - A safer method. Use flat polished slabs of minerals including synthetic stones, in Moh's scale, not gem quality. Apply edge or corner of mineral to be tested to flat surface of hardness plate. Wipe off spot with finger. Examine mark under hand lens.

3. Rough hardness scale - 3 copper penny
5-5½ Carbon steel knife blade
5½ common window glass
6-7 Hardened steel file
9½ Silicon carbide

THE ART OF IDENTIFICATION

The first step in learning the jargon of identification is to convince everyone that you know less than they do. This is sometimes hard to do. You may have the misfortune of looking intelligent. While this is a serious handicap, it is not insurmountable. Here are some simple rules which may be helpful.

When member "X" identifies your rock as agate, and member "Y" says it is jasper, then it is probably opal. An elementary deduction, Watson!

On the other hand, when member "A" studies your rock, watch his expression. It won't help you, but it will be entertaining. If he says, "Son, you've sure found a pretty rock," then he doesn't want to tell you what's wrong with it. This is known as "encouraging the new member."

aa A favorite reply to your question, "What do you think it is?" This indicates that the member suspects you of being smarter than you look. You just could be an expert in disguise and laying a trap for him. At this stage it is fatal to venture an opinion. It will confirm his opinion of you. The system works like Alcoholics Anonymous. You must recognize that you are on the bottom, and you must demonstrate that your need is desperate.

Remember that if you attend a class in English literature, the instructor would never begin by telling you that there were twenty-six letters in the alphabet, beginning with "A" and ending with "Z". If you concealed your ignorance of that fact, you would eventually finish the course and be granted a diploma. You might even become a Pulitzer prize winner, but you could never teach at the kindergarten level. You will find many professors in this hobby, but not many kindergarten teachers.

If you can't convince anyone that you know as little as you know you know, then the next step is books. As I write this, I have an excellent book in front of me. It is read by all beginners and the definitions make identification simple. For instance, "Impure chalcidony, when colored red or brown by traces by hematite or limonite, is called jasper." Once you have mastered that definition, you will have no trouble in identifying jasper. If you see green jasper displayed at the club, think nothing of it. The author of the book may have been color blind.

If you can't find a kindergarten teacher, and definitions confuse you, don't be discouraged. Start at the top! Ask your dealer to buy a nice specimen of Babingtonite (Ca,Fe) (SiO₃), being sure the crystals are brilliant and roughly equidimensional and with faces striated. Bring it to the club meeting. Tell us what it is. I'll believe you. I don't know the alphabet, either.

The Oregon Rockhound via Cedar Valley
Gems via Rock Dobber

Midwest Federation's NEWSLETTER



Published monthly except July and August as a service to member clubs
All news, articles, subscription orders and requests for information concerning publication
should be sent to P.O. Box 1130, Des Moines, Iowa 50311

Issue No. 115 - May 1971

Progress Report

1971 Convention

Are you all set to come to Mansfield, Ohio in July? July 22-25 are the dates and the members of the Richland Lithic and Lapidary Society, hosts, are getting prepared to welcome you and make your stay with them an enjoyable one.

By now you should have exhibit entry blanks, advance registration forms, and accommodation lists. If any clubs are short of these items or were missed, let us know right away. You can help us by getting your exhibit entries and advance registrations in early.

Remember, the banquet is limited to 500 and is a bargain at \$4.25. Don't be disappointed - get your reservation in now!

Write B. F. Parr, show chairman, 1488 Marion Avenue Road, Mansfield, Ohio 44906 if you need any information.

Hiram and Wavie Swanson

ACTIVE CLUB MEMBERS

There is an old folk song which contains the words, "Some come to dance, and some come to play, Some merely come to pass time away."

Are you in that category, just passing time away in the hobby? Hiram and Wavie Swanson, members of the Lake County (Illinois) Gem and Mineral Society aren't.

According to an article in a recent issue of the Beachcomber, the LCGMS bulletin, the Swansons have taken on the project of educating most of Lake County. In the past three years they have given over fifty talks about the importance and uses of minerals in daily living to fascinated school groups, usually right in the classroom. In their spare time, they construct custom-made mineral cases which they fill with 30 identified specimens. The cases are then donated to

In Elmhurst, Illinois

Spring Executive Meeting

On Saturday, April 3rd, the MWF held its spring Executive Committee meeting in Elmhurst, Illinois at Elmhurst College. The meeting was well attended by committee members and considerable progress was made in many areas to promote the rock hobby and assist the member clubs.

Reports were given by state directors and by permanent and special committee chairman.

The all day meeting was recessed at noon for a luncheon at the college and an evening dinner was served at the Lizzadro Museum.

A full report, in the minutes, will be sent to all member clubs.

CAN YOU HELP?

Donald Mikulic, a student at the University of Wisconsin, has been doing research on Silurian trilobites for the last five years. He needs to see specimens of Silurian trilobites, particularly of rare or unusual species that have been found in the Great Lakes area... the Grafton and Lemont, Illinois areas. If you have a large collection of Silurian trilobites and can help him, please write him at 7016 W. Acacia St., Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53223.

schools, libraries, Scout groups, and hospitals. Believe it or not, they have made and distributed 86 of these cases to different groups!

Hats off to the Swansons. If someone in your club is as active, we would like to give them recognition in the Newsletter. Send us his qualifications.

For Mansfield Show
CLERKS NEEDED

We want to enlist the help of a few competent people who would like to act as clerks for the judges of competitive exhibits at Mansfield, Ohio on July 22nd at the annual convention and show. This is good experience for those of you who are interested in becoming familiar with judging procedures. Only eight or nine clerks are needed, so please contact Betty Crawford, Chairman MWF Uniform Rules Committee, 1119 Seminole Avenue, Mansfield, Ohio 44906 soon and state which judging team you prefer to assist.

Your Help Needed

ORDERING AND RETURNING PROGRAMS

Evelyn Hirsch, our Library Program Chairman, asks that all clubs return programs immediately following their scheduled use. Programs have been kept as long as six days after use which causes another club to miss their scheduled showing of the program.

Clubs are requested to order programs at least 30 days in advance and to give three choices of when the program ordered can be used. Also a choice of programs so that your club will be sure to have a program for the date you request.

Be sure to include the program fee when ordering and give the exact, and correct, name, street and number, city and state and zip code to where the program is to be shipped.

The Library Program Service is always in quest of new programs. A program on lapidary for beginners and children and on tumbling is needed. If your club would like to supply programs contact Mrs. Hirsch.

After Four Years of Work

WISCONSIN NAMES STATE ROCK AND MINERAL

Through the efforts of the Kenosha Gem and Mineral Society, after nearly four years of letter writing, attending hearings and telephone calls, etc. the Wisconsin Legislature passed a bill naming Red Granite the state rock and Galena the state mineral. It was signed into law on March 4, 1971 by Governor Patrick J. Lucey.

In the May-June Issue

EARTH SCIENCE MAGAZINE

Midwest shows have a way of bringing out the latent talents of host club members. Mansfield is no exception. Barney Parr (MWF First Vice President) has an article on Pugh Quarry for you in the May-June issue of Earth Science magazine. Betty Crawford did the illustrations. You will see photographs of Dick Lyons' silver chess set and coffee pot and you can read the story behind these shining beauties.

Ed and Mary McNamar

NEW SPECIAL DISPLAYS CHAIRMAN

Ed and Mary McNamar, 3517 Fifty-seventh street, Des Moines, Iowa 50310 now head the Special Displays committee. They are active members of the Central Iowa Mineral Society and also belong to the Dallas County Rock club and ESCONI. Charlene Berry of 238 North Ave., Mt. Clemens, Mich. 48043 is an assistant.

Ed and Mary will be looking for outstanding displays at club shows, and if they decide yours is excellent, they will be contacting you about the possibility of listing your display in a special directory which will be made available to all member clubs. If you know of any outstanding displays send the information to them so that it can be included in the directory. This directory will enable clubs to secure outstanding displays for their shows.

ARCHAEOLOGY DIVISION NEWS

Articles of interesting archaeological sites in the MWF region are being printed in Earth Science Magazine. The sites covered are all open to the public and are generally National Monuments or state parks.

A trophy will be available for competitive exhibits in archaeology at the 1971 convention in Mansfield, Ohio. If you have Indian artifacts, please consider exhibiting at the convention. Share your interest with others.

Anyone interested in learning about archaeological activities in your area may write to the MWF Archaeology chairman, Richard Ade, 641 Crest Lane, Lisle, Ill. 60532

INDIVIDUAL MEMBERS

Mr. and Mrs. Alan L. Palmer, 2825 North Troy St., Chicago, Illinois 60618., have been added to our individual members list.

WILL YOU HELP US HELP YOU?

When you write to any member of the Executive Committee or order programs from the program service or order Newsletters or write concerning them will you please give your name, your complete address and the name of your club. In this way we will be able to give your request complete and prompt reply.

Executive members, our program booker Mrs. Evelyn Hirsch and your Newsletter editor and shipping office receive many letters without the information needed to complete your orders and request promptly.

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PLEASE ADD THE FOLLOWING NEW MEMBERS TO YOUR DIRECTORY:

Betsy Browneye (Junior)
 3654 Aspen Ct. SW
 Grandville, Mich. 49418
 Phone 538-0361

Mr. Marvin J. Mulder
 312 W. Michigan
 Fremont, Mich. 49412
 Phone 1-924-4863

Mr. Daniel K. Ayres
 7871 Bliss Rd.
 Saranac, Mich. 48881
 Phone 642-4064

Look for them at our next meeting and make them welcome!