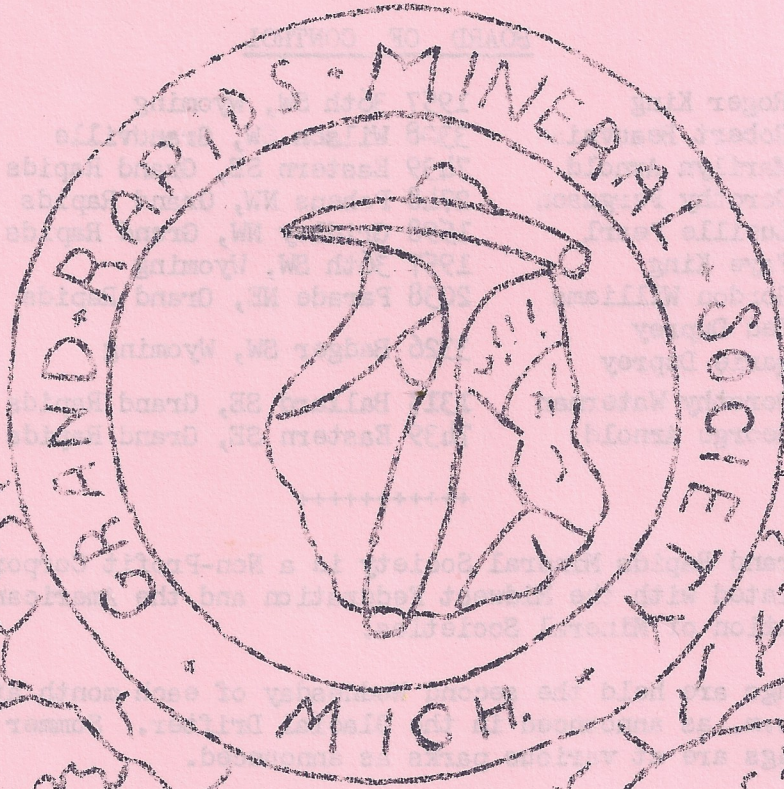


JANUARY 1972



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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 7:30 p.m. as announced in the Glacial Drifter. 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.

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EXCHANGE EDITORS - PLEASE NOTE: Address all exchange bulletins to: Mr. Gordon Williams
2038 Parade NW
Grand Rapids, Michigan 49505

The Glacial Drifter
Volume 14 No. 5
January 1972

JANUARY MEETING

Place: East Building, Grand Rapids Public Museum

Time: 7:30 p.m., Wednesday, January 12, 1972

Program: Steve Sinotte, The Geode Man, will give
a slide lecture, "The Fabulous Keokuk
Geodes"

G.R.M.S CALENDAR

January 15 - Field Trip by bus to your choice of Field
Museum or Lizzadro Museum - by reservation
and ticket

January 17 - Board of Control meets at the Duprey's

January 20 - Archeological Society Meeting. W. D. Frankforter
will speak: "Aleutian Expedition." We are invited

January 26 - Mineral Study Group meets at the home of
Mrs. Cornelius Doornbos

February 9 - Regular Meeting - June Smith will show pictures
of a Grand Canyon Float Trip.

February 14 - Board of Control

February 23 - Mineral Study Group

Month of March - G.R.M.S. Annual Show at the Museum

A HAPPY AND PROSPEROUS NEW YEAR TO ALL!

FROM THE EDITOR'S ROCK ROOM

What a delightful Christmas party! President Roger has paid the compliments to club members who worked so hard, so I will pass on to the guest list which is impressive. I will try not to miss anyone. It was indeed a pleasure to see so many from other clubs. And what a feast you G.R.M.S. girls prepared. Here we go - for better or for worse:

Mr. & Mrs. Clarence Nies, Tulip City Club
 Mr. & Mrs. Harry Wendt "
 Mr. & Mrs. Scott Taylor, Barry County Rock Club
 Alice Trepp "
 Barbara Clinton "
 Mr. & Mrs. Donald Waldron, Belding
 Milton Michel, Belding
 Mr. & Mrs. Jake VanderMeer, Indian Mounds Club
 Mr. & Mrs. Dick Lemmink "
 Mr. & Mrs. Charles Melley, Grand Haven
 Mr. & Mrs. Earl Warner "
 Mr. & Mrs. Russell Greer, Muskegon (our MWF representative)
 Mr. & Mrs. Richard Matych, Muskegon (our MWF area representative)
 Mr. & Mrs. Clarence LaTarte, Muskegon
 Mr. & Mrs. Joe Gilmore "
 Mr. & Mrs. Harry Jager, Kalamazoo
 Mrs. Fred Waber. (Fred was ill) Kalamazoo
 Mr. Roy Beck, a new resident of Grand Rapids
 Mr. & Mrs. James Marten, Archeological Society
 Mr. & Mrs. William Thatcher "
 Mr. & Mrs. Adam Konieczny, Pres. Roger's parents
 Frank Eston (sorry, folks, I missed the address)
 John Passaneak (missed this one too)
 Larry Lemanski, Scout Troop 218
 Lonnie Maurer "
 Daane Wilson "

Count 'em!! 41 there are! !

And it was especially nice to welcome new members, Mr. & Mrs. James Frans of Holland and Mr. & Mrs. Stan Wondolowski with Paul, Suzanne and Stanley, Jr., and Jim Zandee, brother of our youngest member, Don Zandee.

We ran across a new item the other day telling of an underground cathedral near Bogota, Columbia. It is carved out of salt and seats 10,000 people.

A big G.R.M.S. thanks to Ruth Steele, the Ferguson's and Beauvais' for their fine write ups on the Detroit show.

(more on page 4)

FROM THE PRESIDENT'S ROCK ROOM

I would like to thank all the members of our club for making our Christmas banquet a great success. I also would like to give a special thanks to all the good cooks in our club. Their time in the kitchen was well spent. I had lots of compliments from all of our guests. Also, I wish to thank all of our hosts and hostesses for doing such a nice job. We appreciate everyone's interest in the very smallest thing any one member has done for the club to make our meetings a success. Many thank you notes were received from our guests attending the banquet.

Also a special thanks to our hostess for our banquet, Betty Tchozeski. You did an outstanding job. And to June Smith for our very beautiful table decorations. And, hosts and hostesses, thank you for supplying the gifts for your guests.

The March rock show at the museum was discussed at the last Board meeting, and it was decided to emphasize minerals this year. We are asking everyone to help in getting our mineral displays by listing their mineral specimens and giving the list to either the chairman, Rich Van-Beek, to Bob Beauvais, who will be in charge of the show mineral display, or to myself. The theme selected was "The Miracle World of Minerals."

It was also decided to have a field trip to the gypsum mine on January 29. Rich will have more information about this in his article.

We also have a new board member - Mr. Reginald Vos will replace Dorothy Waterman who is going to California for the winter.

This month I would like to tell you about a field trip I went on with the Ferguson's on July 24 to Amherstburg, Ontario. This was with the Indian Mounds Rock and Mineral Club. I was invited by Art and Dorothy to go along as a guest.

This was the first field trip for their club in this quarry and I was very happy to be given an opportunity as I had heard that some very nice celestite specimens are to be found in this area.

We arrived at the quarry about noon. There were already some rockhounds ahead of us. We drove down into one of the deepest quarries I have ever been in. It was at least one hundred feet deep, if not more. We were told that the best specimens were all the way to the bottom and they were certainly right. I found some of my most beautiful specimens of celestite here and so did Art and Dorothy. After I had a good supply of celestite I took my usual walk around the quarry, to check it out. You sometimes come up with some pretty good specimens this way, and then again you may waste a lot of time and not find a thing while all your fellow rockhounds are finding all the good specimens by just

(concluded on page 4)

FROM THE PRESIDENT'S ROCK ROOM (concluded from page 3)

staying put! It wasn't a walk for nothing, though, I did find some FLUORITE (which was so small the only thing you could see was the purple color) and a few small pieces of calcite. Later I found out the calcite did fluoresce a beautiful red color. We left for home soon after and had a very pleasant drive back talking about ROCKS.

Before I finish my article I would like to say to all rockhounds: On many of my rock hunting trips I have invited other members of the club to go along with me and have found this to be more fun than going alone, and a lot less expensive to both parties. So don't be afraid to ask a fellow member to go along with you. It's a lot of fun and we can all get to know each other a lot better. We are all in this for the enjoyment of the hobby--so let's enjoy it together!

-Roger King

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FROM THE EDITOR'S ROCK ROOM (continued from page 2)

Visitors to the Smithsonian, Washington, D.C. may recall seeing the Tucson Ring meteorite. Well, after 109 years this famous piece is going back home. With the blessings of the Smithsonian and an \$1800 outlay for shipping by the Tucson Gem and Mineral Society, the 1400 pound rarity is returning to "star" in the Feb. 11-13 Fiesta of Gems and Minerals in Tucson, Arizona. (I'll bet Gladys and Charles Cooley get to see it--they sent me the story!)

By the way, has anyone in G.R.M.S. been contacted to provide cabs for the celebration of the Silver Anniversary of A.F.M.S.? We have seen the request in several exchange bulletins as well as seeing it on the back page of the Midwest Federation Newsletter. These cabs are due no later than March 1 and preferably before Feb. 1. Check the back page of the bulletin in the December Drifter for materials desired. Let's get some cabs in the mail to the Silver Anniversary Committee, c/o June Zeitner, Mission, S.D., 57555. G.R.M.S. should be there!

(The publishers would like to add that Curley Vos of the Indian Mounds Rock Club has been selected to make the official Michigan cab for the above mentioned anniversary. We know our entire club would like to congratulate Curley, and we are proud that a rockhound from Grand Rapids has been selected for this honor.)

Elsie Wendt has had word that Mrs. Joe (Clara) Parish has been ill and is now recuperating in a rest home. She expects to be back in her own home soon and would appreciate hearing from all her old rock club friends. Write to her at 12206 Beauregard Drive, Houston, Texas, 77024

-Gordon Williams

EXPLORING THE ROCK TRAILS OF ARIZONA

CRYSTAL HILL CAMPGROUND, QUARTZITE

We arrived in Quartzite on a Tuesday afternoon only to find that their big annual Rock Show had been held the previous weekend. Our first impression of the town was that it was composed of a dozen or more rock shops and about the same number of trailer parks, plus two gas stations, neither of which corresponded with our credit cards. A later exploration showed there to be the usual number of small businesses in a small town, but rocks were certainly in evidence everywhere even in the grocery store, a building half of which was devoted to specimen rocks, saleable rocks, and curios and artifacts of the area.

In Arizona they say that you are not a real rockhound until you have hunted in the Quartzite region and we were determined to become real rockhounds real quick. We stopped at one of the larger rockshops and found a colorful display of local and imported materials. Here we first learned of the earthquake in California that had taken place a few hours before. In spite of the excitement the people were eager to discuss rocks, they were still talking about the big rock show and what a huge success it had been and too bad we had missed it.

We made a few purchases and departed for Crystal Hill Campground, our destination. We drove south of town on Highway 95 for 9 miles, then turned east on a rough and dusty road for 6 miles. 95 lay centered in the Lapse Plain and on either side as far as we drove, there were campers, trailers, motor homes, every conceivable mode of outdoor living parked on the desert floor and nestled up beside the hills. Some were the remains of the Rock Show, others were there for the winter or for vacation periods. Some were in groups, others were off by themselves. There were no conveniences of any kind--they hauled water from town and used it sparingly but the parking was free as it was federal land, the scenery was grand and the weather was usually ideal. It was a perfect place for retirees on low income, and those from upper California, Oregon, and Washington especially took advantage of it. However, there were people from many other states, too.

Crystal Hill Campground was a revelation to us. It has about 30 campsites but there were about 100 families enjoying it. They were parked in almost every available spot--we managed to find a little corner for our own. This is a BLM camp and boasts of water supplied by a windmill and has outside toilets. To the east the campground was bounded by a broad wash, above which was Crystal Hill itself. Quartz crystals had been dug from the rocks here for years and there seemed to be an endless supply if you were willing and able to work for them. The hillside was scarred with manmade diggings with trails branching off to them. Being a novice, I asked a woman that evening where to go to find crystals. She said, "Oh, just walk anywhere up the hill and start digging."

(continued on page 6)

CRYSTAL HILLS CAMPGROUND, QUARTZITE (continued)

Having arrived late in the afternoon, we spent the evening walking around, getting acquainted with the people and surroundings. Everyone was friendly. We discovered that some of them had been there since October (this was February) and planned to stay until it warmed up at home. Some of them were rockhounds but not many. The men seemed to spend a lot of time out in the desert washes hunting the desert ironwood (a very hard, beautifully grained wood) from dead trees. They carved all sorts of things from this wood, canes, birds, etc., and often just sanded and polished up the natural artistic shapes to take home for their patios and family rooms. Dead palo verde and mesquite trees furnished fuel for campfires, which glowed far into the night. The women amused themselves with knitting, making flowers from egg cartons, gathering artistic pieces of cholla stems and other hobbies. Many of them were quite bored and dreamed wistfully of their running hot and cold water at home, their electric appliances and clean bathrooms. The rockhounds were much too busy to think of home.

Next morning we climbed up the hill and started looking for crystals, as several other people were doing. We watched a woman sift through some old diggings and pick up some small crystals, a man a short distance away found a blue crystal, rather rare. We were thrilled when we made our first small find. We continued up the hill and over a saddle and looked out on many hills, also scarred with diggings, and sparsely dotted with people, some digging, some searching the piles and some just strolling about, enjoying the fine weather. We found a small single crystal on the piles and soon came to the conclusion that we didn't have the heavy tools that were needed to chip away the thick quartz veins that would finally give way to the crystal lined cavities if one were lucky. We had an interesting conversation with a 77 year old man that came every winter from northern California to dig crystals. He was nearly blind but he worked hard every day. His wife chauffeured him, and when he reached the crystal cavities she came out and helped him so that the delicate clusters would not be broken. Sometimes he dug many days in one vein and sometimes the vein would prove empty of crystals, but usually his efforts were rewarded. He had a box of clusters for sale and we gladly purchased them. The next day we made friends with a young couple from Denver that were digging feverishly during their month's vacation. They showed us some of their prize specimens and we learned much from them about inclusions, phantoms, scepters and double terminations. The more we learned the more interested we became and, fortified with tire iron, chisel and whatever other tool we could imagine to be useful, we did quite a bit of digging on our own. We tried to purchase some mining tools in Quartzite but there were none to be had. One day our young couple insisted we use their tools while they went to town. We had been digging in a hole very close to theirs at their suggestion. We ran into a few small pockets but the crystals were single or small clusters and most of them were broken or fractured. The day before we had accidentally stumbled upon a surface deposit and had spent quite a bit of time digging out two or three quartz of crystals, also small singles and clusters, with many broken, but it was a fascinating occupation to have them tumble out of soft dirt into your hands and see the glitter in the sun

(concluded on page 7)

CRYSTAL HILLS CAMPGROUND, QUARTZITE (concluded from page 6)

Out in the middle of the crystal country to the northeast of camp there are flats where limonite pseudomorphs after pyrite may be found. These are little grey cubes. Several people searched for them. We noted one man with a metal detector going over the fields. We managed to get some without hunting--we were much more interested in crystals and other materials in the area.

We had planned to spend two or three days at Crystal Hill Campground but ended up staying ten days. Seven days were spent, some partially, in hunting and digging for crystals. We had several other rock hunting adventures that I shall relate later. We didn't get to all of the areas in and near that location. There are the pastelite, opalite, and orbicular jasper diggings a few miles south; to the north near Parker are jasper, and palm wood and near Bouse is gem hematite and, of course, very near us were the famous Kofa fire agate fields. When we left we took with us many happy memories and a longing to come again.

-by Helen Spencer-

Via Flint Rock and Gem Club

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Marie Spielmaker has reminded us that each member, by tradition, is entitled to one free ad a year in the Drifter. Here is hers:

FOR SALE: one 10-inch saw, Highland Park \$40.
call Marie Spielmaker, 538-5125 after 4 p.m.

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FROM OUR DECEMBER MAIL - - -

TROPICAL TRAIL GEMORAMA FEB. 4 - 5 - 5 Edinburg, Texas

A new winter show in the beautiful tropical Rio Grande Valley of Texas, to be held in the just completed Edinburg Civic Center, February 4-5-6, promises excitement and fun for all. There will be special displays never seen before in this country, competitive and non-competitive exhibits, famous speakers, Mariachi bands, well known dealers, lots of prizes, demonstrations of the newest machines and techniques, and rock hunting along the Mexican border. More surprises are in store for you, so you are invited to plan now to bring your display and participate in the festivities. For more details, or for application blanks, write THE RIO GRANDE MINERAL AND GEM ASSOCIATION, BOX 509, EDINBURG, TEXAS 78539.

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DID YOU KNOW? - That granite can withstand a pressure of 15,000 to 20,000 pounds per square inch?

- About 200 of the 2,000 known minerals have been found in the Franklin, New Jersey area?

- The white "sand" of White Sands, New Mexico, is gypsum, and it is the largest known surface deposit of gypsum?

STONE FOREST TUCKED AWAY IN MISSISSIPPI in Flora, Mississippi

Tucked away in upland above the Mississippi delta country lies a place of fascination--the only petrified forest in the eastern United States.

Its existence has been known since the middle of the 19th century, but only within the past few years has it been developed and opened to the public. This past summer, increasing numbers of travelers wended their way here to view the petrified remains of magnificent trees. It is three miles from the hamlet of Flora, in Mississippi's Madison County by the state's major highways. Open daily, the site also contains an outstanding mineral museum.

The 40-acre petrified forest tract is privately owned. A national registered natural landmark since 1966, it is one of few privately owned sites to have this recognition by the National Park Service. The U. S. Department of the Interior's advisory board has stated that the site should be preserved as an outstanding specimen of the nation's natural history.

Some of the petrified wood logs are whole, some have hollows, some are tree chunks, but all of them were once part of a primeval forest transformed into stone. The specimens were dated by the age of the soil layers in which they are found. They have been carefully examined by scientists.

Events leading to the preservation of the petrified logs began over 36 million years ago during the Oligocene period. The logs are not indigenous to their present location, but came as driftwood from the north. This area was lowlands, where shifting rivers spread sand over plains and shores. Stranded here in a gigantic logjam, the logs were preserved from decay by rapid burial in the sands carried by the waters. Petrification took place during the ages by gradual infiltration of dissolved minerals, mainly silica.

Some of the stony logs have a gray lichen growth, some carry the wounds of water-wearing, some have odd shapes. One is calculated to have been more than 1,000 years old as a living tree.

Natural erosion first exposed these prehistoric stone trees. As time goes on, more erosion will uncover additional tree remains.

-Printed in Toledo Blade, 11/10/71

Via Rock Trails and Rockhound News

A simple way to dissolve epoxy resin cement to remove stones, etc., is to soak or dip them in household vinegar.

Some of the petrified wood logs are whole, some have hollows. Add a few drops of liquid detergent to the drip water on your lap wheel to help keep the surface more evenly wet.

They have been carefully examined by scientists.



TO CHICAGO

Saturday, January 15

6:45 A.M.

In the last Drifter we announced that all of the reservations for for the bus excursion to the Field Museum in Chicago and the Lizzadro Museum in Elmhurst, Ill. had been taken. After our December meeting we had sold 32 tickets and in looking over the list of those who had signed up to go we found that 9 more had reservations! It doesn't take a Ph.D. in math to see that we had goofed. We had 41 passengers to put in a 39 passenger bus! The cause of the problem---when one couple bought their tickets we put their name on the list of those who had already bought their tickets but neglected to also put it on the list of all who were going. 41 passengers and only 39 seats---and since Ralph Nader the ICC has become very "sticky" about not allowing more than the specified number of passengers on a bus. There was only one solution - charter a larger bus and sell 6 more tickets. With the assistance of the Board this was done. In fact, after all 47 tickets were sold we received another request, which unfortunately we could not honor.

We have made arrangements to board the bus at Rogers Plaza, 28th St. and Clyde Park, so as to avoid the parking problem we would have if we left from the bus depot near downtown. Look for the bus near the laundromat at the eastern or Clyde Park end of the Plaza, and park nearby. Be sure to be there at 6:45 a.m. on Saturday, January 15.

If you wish to snack or have lunch en route on the way over, take your own food and beverage along since we will not make any stops. On the return trip we will stop at a restaurant in Stevensville, Mich. for dinner.

Pronunciation hint! - Notice the location of the "R" - it is Lizzadro - not Lizzardo.

Be sure to be there at 6:45 a.m. If you're not there on time ---well, the tickets will make nice bookmarks!

Turn to page 10 for more news about field trips. . .

P.S. We understand that food may be purchased at the Field Museum but know from experience that it is a long walk from the Lizzadro Museum to a restaurant and this takes a good chunk of your "viewing time."

GYPSUM MINE FIELD TRIP

SAT., JANUARY 29

9 A.M.

There will be a field trip at the Michigan Natural Storage at 1200 Judd Ave. SW at 9 a.m. In addition to the usual gypsum, "pencil rock", and sheet-like slabs of selenite, there are selenite crystals and very recently fossils have been found. In addition to the usual hammers, chisels, containers, etc., be sure to take along a good light.

-Rich Van Beek
Field Trip Chairman

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ARCHEOLOGICAL SOCIETY MEETING

Mr. W. D. Frankforter, Director of the Grand Rapids Public Museum will speak on and show slides of his "Aleutian Expedition" of this past summer at 8 p.m. on Thursday, January 20 at the regular meeting of the Archeological Society. This will be in the all-purpose room of the museum (same place where the Mineral Society meets). In addition to the archaeological aspects of his presentation which will be about the excavation of a village midden, he will show some airplane views of valley glaciers, extinct volcanic peaks, sea caves, and will tell about the origin of the Aleutian Islands. Everyone is invited.

LAPIDARY HINT - WORKING PETRIFIED WOOD - from THE PETOSKEY
STONE

It takes millions of years, and the right conditions, for wood to be replaced by the mineral silica. Gemcutting wood is called agatized, jasperized, or opalized. The first two types take a good polish and are beautiful in jewelry, book ends, table tops, etc.

Some wood is fibrous, especially that from the northern states. It is best to do the final sanding and polishing of this wood at right angles to the fibers. (Myrtle wood is an example.)

Move your template on "picture wood" until you find the best picture. When there is a good picture use a simple setting. A fancy one would detract from the picture. Opalized wood is brittle and more difficult to work. Keep the stone wet during all processes as it burns easily. Agatized wood takes a high polish and makes beautiful jewelry.

ANNUAL SHOW

MONTH OF MARCH 1972

"THE MIRACLE WORLD OF MINERALS"

This will be the theme for the 13th Annual Rock Show of the G.R.M.S. and was submitted by Ruth Beauvais. A very similar one was submitted by Elaine Smith: "The Magical World of Minerals." We wish to thank Elaine and Ruth for submitting these and other suggestions, without which our show would undoubtedly still be nameless.

We will have a special exhibit this year on minerals, featuring as many different kinds of minerals as our members can come up with. (Yes, I know I broke one of the grammatical rules by ending the sentence with a preposition, but Churchill said, "This rule we will not put up with" !!! Modern grammarians say: "Forget the rule. Do be natural." - courtesy of our former member, Dr. Edwin H. Palmer, now living in New Jersey.) Bob Beauvais will be chairman of this special exhibit. If you have minerals, especially unusual ones, which you would be willing to loan for this, call Bob at 534-3871.

An innovation this year will be a center floor display simulating field trips. Joan, Paul and Dan Miller will be working with Ardath Allen and Bob Bushevitz of the museum staff on this. They will be looking to the members for material from Sylvania, Pugh, and Dresden Lakes. These do not have to be top quality specimens - we want this to be as realistic as possible and every rock in a quarry is not a "braggin' rock". Especially, rocks with no fossils or crystals will be welcomed--these are plentiful at the quarries but are seldom if ever carted home. If you have something call Joan, Paul or Dan at 453-4883.

Another innovation will be a special display for the blind, featuring rocks and minerals which have distinctive features of shape (crystals), feel (sandstone, copper, talc, etc.), hardness, etc. Art Ferguson will be in charge of this and can be reached at 361-6451. These will be labeled in braille.

We will also have a fluorescent display and a display featuring the best specimens found by members on our field trips. The latter will be not only to show off your "braggin' rocks" to other members but by showing others the results of our activities, to encourage them to join our membership.

Elsewhere in this Drifter you will find an entry blank for the show. The deadline for entries will be Feb. 3. We are having a number of special exhibits this year, and since we want to accommodate all of our members who wish to have an individual exhibit, we are waiting to see how much space is left before planning the geological periods exhibit. We will take the space that is left for this, hence the comparatively early deadline, since we will need time for planning. Please let me know if you have any specimens from the Cambrian, Eocene and Cretaceous periods.

-Rich VanBeek

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1972

ANNUAL MARCH SHOW

1972

"MIRACLE WORLD OF MINERALS"

I plan to have a display in our show.

I wish to reserve the following space:

_____ inches high _____ inches wide _____ inches deep

I would like a wall case _____ South side _____ North side _____

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

I have the following mineral specimens which I can put
in the club display at the 1972 show, "Miracle World
of Minerals"

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

(Please indicate whether for geological, mineral, fluorescent, braille
or field trip display.)

Grand Rapids Mineral Society
R. E. Beauvais, Publisher
3308 Wilson S. W.
Grandville, Mich. 49418
Return Postage Guaranteed

WORLD OF MINERALS

1971

"WORLD OF MINERALS"

I plan to have a display in our shop.

I wish to receive the following spaces:

_____ inches high _____ inches wide _____ inches deep

I would like a wall case _____ inches high _____ inches wide _____ inches deep

Name _____
Address _____
Phone _____

I have the following mineral specimens which I can put

in the shop display at the 1971 Grandville World

of Minerals

Name _____
Address _____
Phone _____

(Please indicate whether for geological, mineral, fluorescent, fossils or field trip display.)