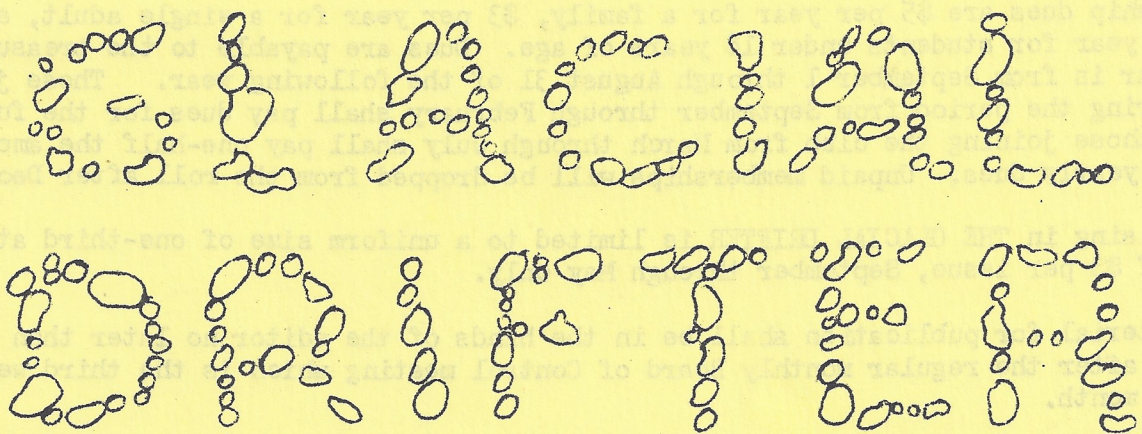


NOVEMBER 1975



The



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The Grand Rapids Mineral Society is a non-profit corporation and is a member of the Midwest Federation and the American Federation of Mineral Societies.

Meetings are held the second Wednesday of each month at 7:30 p.m. in the Multi-purpose Room of the Grand Rapids Public Museum. Summer meetings are at various parks in the area 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. Those joining during the period from September through February shall pay dues for the full year; those joining the club from March through July shall pay one-half the amount of the yearly dues. Unpaid memberships will be dropped from the roll after December 1

Advertising in THE GLACIAL DRIFTER is limited to a uniform size of one-third 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 Monday 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.

EXCHANGE EDITORS: Please address all exchange bulletins to:
Arthur Ferguson, Editor
2748 Pohens NW
Grand Rapids, Mi. 49504



THE GLACIAL DRIFTER

VOLUME 18

NO. 3

NOVEMBER 1975

THIS MONTH

Time: 7:30 p.m., Wednesday, November 12, 1975

Place: Multi-Purpose Room, Grand Rapids Public Museum

Program: ANNUAL SILENT AUCTION (see page 5)

G.R.M.S. CALENDAR

Nov. 2 (and every Saturday) Junior Rockhounds at the Museum

Nov. 11 Club Geology Class at Jackson Park Jr. High, Wyoming

Nov. 12 Silent Auction

Nov. 15 Field Trip to Wheeler's Rock Shop (see article)

Nov. 17 Board of Control meets at the Ferguson Home

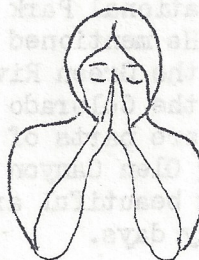
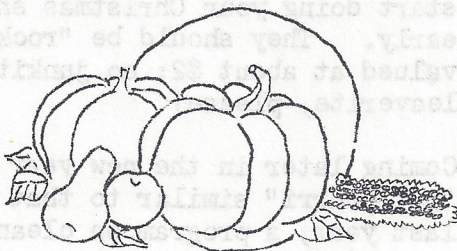
Dec. 10 Annual Christmas Party Potluck

AREA EVENTS

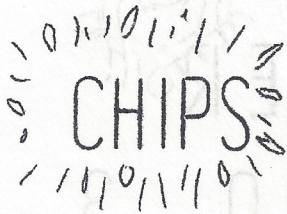
Nov. 11 8 p.m. Silent Auction, Sycamore Valley Lapidary & Mineral Society, Delhi Township Hall, Holt, Mi.

Nov. 14-16 Fort Wayne Lapidary Guild Show, Southtown Mall, Fort Wayne, Ind.

Nov. 14-16 Grand Geology Society Show, 4H Fairgrounds, Marion, Ind.



GIVE THANKS



CHIPS from the Editor's Workbench

This has been a very busy fall season for me. Dorothy and I displayed at Holland and Lansing and attended the Detroit Show. Beside putting on the October program for G.R.M.S., I also went to the Cablevision studio to tape a short version of the October program. Add this to the bulletin deadline and presiding at the board meeting and you have a busy schedule! Wheoo! Glad most of that is past. Now, to sort out some things for the auction! All members should be sure to participate in this fun event. I believe this is the most fun of any meeting, as we have a chance to chew the fat as well as share our excess materials and buy new ones. Another time consuming activity at our house is getting the summer's new rocks taken care of and the basement readied

for visitors. Displays always need up-grading and rearranging for better visibility. Hopefully they can have better labels also. On the way home from the Detroit Show we visited Cranbrook for the first time. The cases are well lighted and labelled. Maybe we can use a few of their ideas.

The fall show season is about over in this area but it will soon be time to plan for ours. We should start thinking now about how to work a Bicentennial theme into our displays. The Lansing show was titled, "Our Mineral Heritage" and antique items were used in bringing out the uses of minerals from early days. Let's see what we can do to make our March show another outstanding event.

OUR OCTOBER PROGRAM was a travelog thru "Red Rock Country" in Colorado, Wyoming and Utah by Art Ferguson. The red rock is mostly various sandstone formations. These have been eroded by rivers, smaller streams and the wind into beautiful formations. Art covered Flaming Gorge, Canyonlands, Arches National Park and Garden of the Gods. He mentioned that the gorges formed by the Green River in Flaming Gorge and the Colorado River in Canyonlands are parts of the huge system including Glen Canyon and Grand Canyon--a truly beautiful area in which to spend many days.

COMING PROGRAM NOTES. . . .

Our December program will be a tour of Iceland, "Land of Fire and Ice," by June Smith, preceded by our annual Christmas pot luck supper. There will be guests from other nearby clubs as usual. Gifts will be exchanged, so start doing your Christmas shopping early. They should be "rocky" things valued at about \$2; no junkite or leaverite, please!

Coming later in the new year will be a "pot pourri" similar to that we had last year; a program on cleaning and preserving fossils and minerals by Roy Beck; possibly a program on volcanoes of Guatamala by Dr. Willard Parsons if it can be arranged.

DUES ARE DUE - THIS MEANS YOU! IF YOUR'RE NOT A PAID UP MEMBER BY DECEMBER THAT ISSUE WILL BE YOUR LAST!!!



Gavel Gravel

-President Ruth Steele

As I write, the typewriter intermitently pauses to the tune of "Trick or Treat!" Goblins and witches who come ignore candy, often when offered a rock instead. But, of course, they leave with smiling faces with both after choosing a rock with identification label from those on the table and having their questions answered. A confession: It is a real treat to have an opportunity to meet this eager young generation and add an extra bonus to their bag of goodies.

As a delegate to the MWF Convention in Detroit, representing G.R.M.S. had many compensations. There were many old friends to greet and we had an opportunity to chat at lunch or in pauses between meetings. Like so many organizations it was apparent that many of the same people are still participating at the Federation level as some years ago when I last attended. It was refreshing to listen to a new-comer to me, President Terry Huizing, MWF President. Howard Taylor of Lincoln, Nebraska is the newly elected president. A change in the by-laws provided an increase in dues to the MWF and the AFMS (inflation again!) The cost of the MWF Newsletter is also increased as are individual memberships. It is interesting to know that there are now 18,418 members of the federation now.

A request for slide programs was made as many of the present ones are becoming worn and it is impossible to reproduce them. We have often depended on the MWF Program Library for our meetings and it would be a great loss to have them unavailable. The cost is so

nominal for the value received. June Zeitner presented a new one, "Memories of Murdo." Do you have a good idea for an education, informative slide program? We have good photographers in our club and, I think, prospective creators of good programs.

I enjoyed being a delegate and my only regret is that each of you could not have attended with me.

The December meeting will be a pot luck on December 10 at 6:30 p.m. June Smith will present the program and I'm told it will be a real rock "thriller." Betty Tchozeski and Eva Way are in charge of decorations and tables to make it special for us and our guests from other clubs.

The Geology Class, taught by June Smith, is still meeting and it is being enjoyed by participating members. There is still room for others for the last three meetings in November. Call me at 457-3249 or Rich Van Beek at 459-3903 if you would like to enroll.

Have you given thought to the "Michigan Intarsia" map mentioned several times? This will contain rocks from the counties of Michigan. Have you any rocks that you may have collected or can obtain in the future? Please help get this started. Bob has rocks from quite a few counties and he will need help in getting them slabbed.

(concluded on page 8)

field tripping

Rich Van Beek - Chairman

The Howard Wheeler Company, a wholesale rock distributor will be the locale of our field trip on November 15 at 1 p.m. As this will be a guided tour it is essential that we know who is coming since Mr. Diamond wishes to limit the group to 15 or 20 so that everyone will be able to hear the guide. If more wish to go, a second group will be taken thru later in the afternoon.

So if you are planning to go be sure to call me at 459-3903 or call Ruth Steele at 457-3249 or you may find yourself "on the outside looking in" or "cooling your heels" while waiting for the second group to start. Since Mr. Diamond wishes to know how many are coming a week in advance, please let me know by Nov. 7. But PLEASE! only make reservations if you are planning to go, and if after making your reservation you find you are unable to attend, please call and cancel!

Wheeler's run a commercial lapidary operation, using saws, vibrators and tumblers (all huge) to manufacture clocks, bookends, pen sets and polished specimens - all, of course, out of rock. They are located at 3020 Coit NE.

At our last board meeting we discussed another bus field trip to Lizzadro Museum and the Field Museum in Chicago. The cost would be about \$10 or \$11 per person. If you are interested, call me or see me at our auction in November. Our bus trips to Chicago have always gone over well -- the smaller bus available being sold out and we had to go to the larger one. So make your reservations early. We will have to work it in during January or February in addition to our exchange "Basement Field Trip" with the Tulip City Rock and Mineral Club of Holland. We will try to keep up our perfect record of scheduling this for the coldest day of the year!

LANSSING SHOW. Several of our members exhibited at the show of the Central Michigan Lapidary & Mineral Society, "Our Mineral Heritage." One of the feature displays was the huge pyrite/marcasite specimen by the Holland owners. This was the best attended show they have had to date according to the show chairman.

We received a late invitation to a lecture by Dr. John Lucke, Professor Emeritus of Grand Valley State Colleges but a few members were able to attend the 3 p.m. illustrated talk based on Dr. Lucke's recent world cruise. Bob and Ruth Beauvais, Ruth Steele, Sheila Smith and Marion Jennings really enjoyed the afternoon.

NOVEMBER

Silent Auction

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 12

7:30 P.M.

We need your specimens for the auction. Be sure to put the name of the specimen, the location, and the minimum bid on the bid sheet. If you wish to receive 50% of the selling price be sure to sign your name on the bottom of the sheet. If no name appears we will assume that you wish to contribute all the proceeds to the club.

Remember this is our big money-making event and we need everyone's cooperation and contributions.

Don't forget the snack bar! Your donation of cookies, brownies, candy, or any special goodies will be appreciated. Proceeds from this will go into the Scholarship Fund. Rick O'Beshaw is chairman and will need the help of several members at the auction. Let him know you are available!

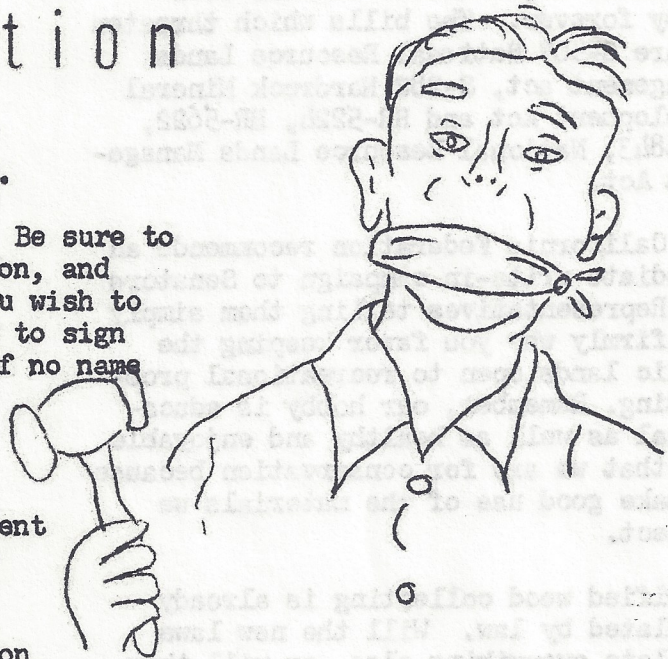
Your contributions for the auction can be anything a rockhound would be interested in having. We have a wide variety of collectors in our midst and need the same variety in our offerings. If you didn't get bid sheets at the last meeting you can get them from Rick before the meeting and get them filled out.

For the uninitiated: items are placed on the table with a bid sheet listing a minimum bid. If you are interested you sign your name with your bid. You must raise the bid by at least 10¢ each time. The tables will be closed without notice and the last bidder on the sheet gets the prize!

WE'RE PROUD!

June Smith has just been elected president of the Michigan Earth Science Teachers Association and Steve Tchozeski is the new vice-president. The editor for the group is Dr. Theron Cotter of Hope College.

ECONOMY: Denying ourselves a necessity today in order to buy a luxury tomorrow. (Rockhounds understand that!)



A few G.R.M.S. members made a quicky trip to Maybee, Michigan, recently when it was possible. No celestite was found but several good sulfur crystals were.

Our sympathy is extended to Nina and Bob Rozema in the death of her mother last week. The Rozema's are founding members of our club.

WILL WE LOSE OUR COLLECTING RIGHTS?

Sharr Choate, CFTS past president, reminds us that the U.S. mining law is up for amendment or repeal and that new proposals might freeze out the rock hobby forever. The bills which threaten us are S-507 National Resource Lands Management act, S-282 Hardrock Mineral Development Act and HR-5224, HR-5622, HR-6843, National Resource Lands Management Act.

The California Federation recommends an immediate write-in campaign to Senators and Representatives telling them simply but firmly why you favor keeping the public lands open to recreational prospecting. Remember, our hobby is educational as well as healthy and enjoyable and that we are for conservation because we make good use of the materials we collect.

Petrified wood collecting is already regulated by law. Will the new laws regulate everything else, or will they prohibit us from doing any collecting ever?

In addition to changes in the National law, many states are taking a new look at policy in regard to state-owned lands. Here again, if the rockhound is to have a voice, it is necessary to let our legislators know how we feel.

National and state lands should be held for the good of the people, for the use and the enjoyment of the people. For them to be off limits to all but occasional back-packers is contrary to their purpose. Write as individuals - not as groups.

A.F.M.S. Newsletter



WOW! WHO OPEE!

Thanks to our many members and friends WE BROKE OUR OLD RECORD of \$22 with a \$25 profit on the raffle for October!

We surely appreciate all you people out there! Especially those great people who remember we need donations.

Marion Jennings donated the book, "Mineralogy for Amateurs" which was won by Richard Pulliam. John Schippers (my Pop) won the sulfur crystals given by Roy Beck. The blue celestite, also from Roy Beck, was won by Stan Young. Don Bowers won the "soft stone" polishing bar donated by George Arnold. Arnie Ballast won the pyrite crystal.

Due to our annual silent auction there will be no raffle this month. Thank you one and all!

-Marilyn Arnold
Raffle Chairman

TREASURER'S REPORT-Thea Fleming, Treas.

Balance, Sept. 17, 1975	\$ 586.09
Receipts: Raffle	25.00
Cookies	8.72
Memberships	54.00
Swap profit	3.78
	<u>91.50</u>
	677.59

Disbursements

Stencils	17.65
Mich. Filing Fee	10.00
Pres. gift	10.75
Gift-Roy Rogers	3.56
Postage "	2.70
Delegate MWF	5.75
Swap food	12.96
Microphone	24.00
Museum Att.	5.00
Bank chgs.	.44
	<u>92.81</u>

Balance, Oct. 13, 1975 \$ 584.78

AN ARKANSAS ADVENTURE

by Herm Prins



While reminiscing about past rock collecting adventures, I focused my attention upon the following trip:

During our Christmas vacation of 1974 I was drawn to the Hot Springs area of Arkansas. Tales of large pyrite cubes, smoky quartz and brookite crystals were heard via the rockhound grapevine and also read about in articles published on this subject. Of course a rockhound never turns this bit of information aside. So here we go (my sons Bob, Pat and myself) off to an area properly named Magnet Cove, Arkansas, which could very easily have obtained that name because of its magnetic attraction to rockhounds.

When we arrived in the vicinity of the prospective pyrite digs I discovered that no one could give me the precise location so it was a hit and miss affair for several hours and by sheer luck we found the digging site and made several immediate discoveries. We were not the first ones to make this find. The main vein of pyrite is now below the water level so all digging is below water and while I did find some nice pyrite specimens none were the size and quality that I anticipated them to be, which is usually the case anyway.

After dredging up a good supply of pyrite, some of which was of questionable character, we decided to search for smoky quartz and brookite crystals in another location, which we finally found after much effort.

In the search for smokies and brookites the trail quite often went into dense underbrush. We followed these trails

often on hands and knees which is the only way to find the brookites as the largest found was about $3/8$ " and the smokies were also small and clouded with mud inclusions. We were successful, however, and did find several nice specimens, small as they were.

I also noted that there were a lot of "bugs" crawling on us that we brushed off in a casual manner.

I felt that we had enough of this type of searching and it was getting late in the day so I had another area in mind for the following day. We were going to look for the clear quartzes for which Arkansas is well noted, especially in the Jessieville area, 14 miles north of Hot Springs.

Well, that night we "camped" (slept in the station wagon) at Lake Ouachita. When we were finally settled down for the night it was quite dark. (I never know what time it is on rock trips, for it's either light or dark!) I then began to notice an itchy feeling like bugs crawling on me. I got up and turned on the flashlight to discover that I had several small 8-legged creatures crawling on me and upon further examination discovered them to be wood ticks. Wow! We turned all the lights on and saw hundreds of them all over the place. Well, I'll tell you right now, for the next two or three hours we cleaned out the whole car, all of our clothes and bedding. We were picking ticks off our bodies for maybe most of the night. Hunting was very good that night and we didn't even need a permit. Needless to say
(next page, please)

AN ARKANSAS ADVENTURE. . (concluded)

we didn't get much sleep but when the sun comes up, folks, its time to go to the digs again, sleep or no sleep.

Off we went to the Coleman crystal mine, paid the man \$1.50 each and for the balance of the day we had a fine time digging quartz crystals and having more fun, having forgotten about the ticks, and we expended our energy looking for that perfect specimen. While we did not find it we did find some superb specimens worthy of any collector's display case.

I was also invited to the home of Jim Coleman, a mansion way in the back country. A visit to Jim's private collection is well worth the trip itself. His specimens rival any museum collection that I have ever seen. He also showed me his viewing room where his crystals are displayed for sale in large lots. A trip to this room alone is unbelievable and also a valuable experience.

Visiting the Hot Springs area could very well be a rock collector's dream come true. The collecting is not only fabulous but the surrounding countryside is extremely interesting. And probably most interesting of all is meeting some of the "old timers" in the back country and listening to their tall tales, but that is another story all by itself.

Our trip finally ended as all trips do and I feel that we were quite successful and had a very enjoyable time; but just as a reminder: when crawling through the bushes looking for brookite crystals at Nagnet Cove don't pick up those 8-legged hitchhikers.

Thank you and good collecting!!

John Potter is recuperating from his recent surgery and doing well - but not hefting any rocks yet!

JUNIOR ROCKHOUNDS.

The Junior Rockhounds, a class for beginners, will again be co-sponsored by the Grand Rapids Mineral Society and the Grand Rapids Public Museum beginning on Saturday, November 8. It will be open to all youngsters between the ages of 9 and 16 and will run for 10 to 12 weeks.

The class will cover rock and mineral identification and classification, as well as physical and historical geology, including fossils and geological map reading. Tentative plans are being made for an outdoor collecting field trip in the spring.

The class will be taught by Eric Christrup, an earth science teacher at Coopersville Junior High School and a graduate of Grand Valley State Colleges with a geology major. The sessions will be held at the Grand Rapids Public Museum from 2:15 to 4:40 p.m. A nominal fee of \$3 will be made. For more information or advance registration call 538-1424 or 459-3903. The class will be limited to 20.

There is still a need for volunteers to introduce these juniors to the art of lapidary. Call Rich Van Beek if you are willing to take a few of these students into your home some Saturday afternoon for a lesson in lapidary.

PRESIDENTS'S MESSAGE (concluded from page 3)

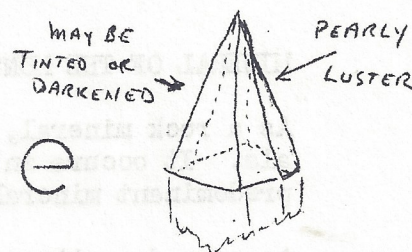
I hope you are all getting into the competitive spirit for our silent auction. Please come with rocks or other related objects (rock bags, books, anything pertaining to the hobby) and bring that "green stuff" and a guest or two.

-Ruth Steele

DON'T FORGET THAT IT'S DUES PAYING TIME!

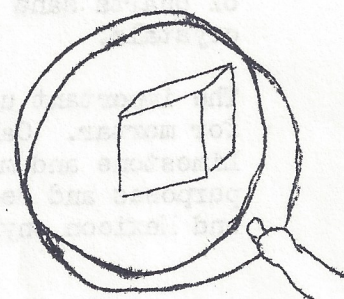
MINERAL OF THE MONTH

Calcite CaCO_3



Adapted from an article by Wilbert McKinney
from ROCKWOOD ROCKHOUND NEWS (March 1975)

- KEYS:** Cleavage: Perfect rhombohedral
 Hardness: 3. Cannot be scratched by fingernail, but can be scratched by copper coin
 Streak: Leaves white mark or scratch on streak plate
 Color: Usually white or colorless, but may be variously tinted, gray, red, green, yellow, blue; also, when impure, brown to black. Transparent to translucent
 Specific Gravity: 2.7 (medium weight)
 Luster: Non-metallic, vitreous to earthy
 Crystal System: Many variations

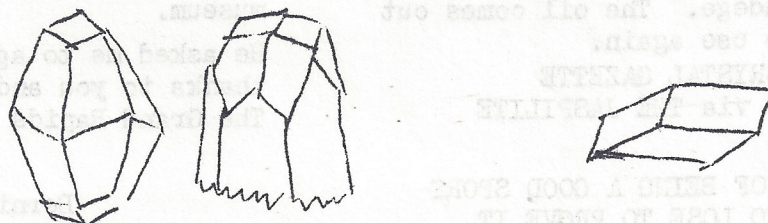


Calcite is calcium carbonate (CaCO_3), often very pure. Like all carbonates it fizzes in acid. Describing typical calcite would be difficult, for over 300 forms and more than 1,000 combinations have been recorded. Hence calcite may have any outward appearance, but it always breaks into fragments of one shape, rhombohedral.

Calcite is distinguished from dolomite by the fact that coarse fragments of calcite effervesce (fizz) freely in cold hydrochloric acid, and distinguished from aragonite by lower specific gravity and rhombohedral cleavage.

In nature, carbon (C) joins with oxygen (O) to form the carbonate ion CO_3 , which means the ratio of carbon to oxygen requires that three oxygen ions be coordinated by each carbon ion, giving us a carbonate (CO_3). There are certain minerals that will combine with these anhydrous carbonates forming three iso (equal) structural groups: the calcite group, the dolomite group, and the aragonite group.

(over)



MINERAL OF THE MONTH - CALCITE (continued)

As a rock mineral, calcite is one of the most common and wide spread minerals. It occurs in extensive sedimentary rock masses in which it is the predominant mineral; and in some limestones it is the only mineral present.

As cave deposits, waters carrying calcium carbonate in solution and evaporating in limestone caves often deposit calcite as stalactites, stalagmites, and incrustations. Such deposits are usually semi-translucent and of light yellow color.

Siliceous calcites are calcite crystals which include considerable amounts of quartz sand (up to 60 per cent) and form what is known as sandstone crystals.

The important use for calcite is for the manufacture of cements and lime for mortar. Calcite in several forms is used in the building industry. Limestone and marble as dimension stone are used both for construction purposes and decorative exterior faces. Polished slabs of travertine and Mexican onyx are commonly used as ornamental stone for interiors.

LAPIDARY TIP by L. J. & Agatha Hinds
Nyana Gemscoop via The Jaspilite

Holding stones too long in one position will quickly groove your grinding wheels; they should be moved across the wheels so they will wear evenly. An uneven wheel, besides causing a rough running shaft, is not an efficient cutting tool. A diamond tipped dresser will soon return a grinding wheel to its proper smoothness. Just use a stationary rest, and with the wheel running at ordinary speed with plenty of water, pass the dresser from one side of the wheel to the other, planing it down to a smooth face. Finish the smoothing with a carborundum stick.

Hint: A rectangular vacuum cleaner bag makes a good filter for reclaiming oil from your saw. At first the oil filters through it in six to eight hours, but slows as the bag fills with sludge. The oil comes out clear and ready to use again.

THE CRYSTAL GAZETTE
via THE JASPILITE

THE ONLY BAD PART OF BEING A GOOD SPORT
IS THAT YOU HAVE TO LOSE TO PROVE IT.

In July, through the courtesy of Hal Walton, promotional director of the Wyoming (Michigan) Rodeo, President Ruth Steele was given an opportunity to meet the guest star, Roy Rogers, and his wife and son. In the name of G.R.M.S. Ruth presented Dale with a pendant made of petoskey stone and Roy with a bola of like material plus specimens from Michigan of kona dolomite, gypsum with selenite crystals, copper, calcite with marcasite. She knew Roy was interested in rocks. She has just received a letter which reads:

Dear Mrs. Steele:

Mr. Rogers has asked me to write and tell you that the material which was presented to him in Wyoming has arrived in perfect condition and has been put on display in the museum.

He asked me to again express his thanks to you and all members of The Grand Rapids Mineral Society.

Sincerely,

Bernice E. Sinnard
Secretary to Roy Rogers

MIDWEST FEDERATION - DETROIT INTERNATIONAL SHOW

One of the great events in the gem and mineral world each year is the Detroit Show. This year it was combined with the Midwest Federation Show and Convention. And this year the Central Canadian Federation participated to make it a triple event. The Windsor clubs have been involved for the past few years, but this year they had many more cases of fine minerals and fossils. The Royal Ontario Museum had their geology bus parked out front again and many fine minerals on display in the museum section. Also in this area were displays from the Smithsonian, The Seamon Museum at Houghton, Michigan, Cranbrook Institute, Wayne State University and Headley Museum at Lexington, Kentucky. Lizzadro Museum at Elmhurst, Illinois, also had cases of carvings.

Several of the dealers also had cases on display. David Wilbur had his fine gold and silver specimens including the 40 oz. seahorse in one case and fine minerals including the famous rhodochrosite in another. Hansen's had a case with three huge specimens including an amethyst lined tube, a huge beryl, and a morganite about 6 inches square and over 2 inches thick in a black matrix that looked like tourmalines. Pala Properties had two large diopside lined geodes from Zaire, Africa. These were practically unbelievable.

The competitive cases were very well done with only one point separating first and second places in several classes. Very close judging! And for once we saw the perfect case, it scored 100 points. This was a case of faceted stones and was beautifully set up and the work was exquisite. The only comments on judging were that they should get together on whether to use sulphur or sulfur. On one card they said that sulfur was preferred (no points deducted) and on another nearby case was a comment that "the color of the background cloth detracted from the sulphur."

Also the word "misspelled" was misspelled on several cards, possibly by the typists. A good number of G.R.M.S. members attended the show.
-Art Ferguson

Bob and I were the only members able to attend the Editor's Breakfast this year. As before, we found Paul Good, Bulletin Chairman for MWF, had arranged a good meal and a constructive panel discussion followed. We extend our congratulations to the winners of awards. Our bulletin scored 92 points in the contest and we weren't even among the first ten, so you can guess the high, close scores of the winners. We know how hard they worked to obtain those points. One thing we are judged on is the publication of articles by members and this is where you can help the staff. Tell us your story! We'll print it!

We also attended the banquet and it was a winner. The Central Canadian Federation is to be commended. From the moment we were greeted at the door of Cleary Auditorium in Windsor, we felt this was going to be special. Uniformed attendants ushered us upstairs. The banquet room is glass-fronted and overlooks the Detroit River and the gay lights of the Detroit skyline. As native Detroiters, we can appreciate this view even though we now prefer to live in West Michigan. The head table was honored--they were piped to their places by the Border Cities Pipe Band! The meal was hot and delicious. The speeches were short. The presentations were brief and pleasant. Climaxing the evening was a superb performance by the Pipe Band with intricate marching formations. Several young lassies executed some Scottish dances.

It was a GOOD SHOW and a credit to both federations.

-Ruth Beauvais

Safety -

(Stan Conway has been appointed Safety Chairman. Please comply with any information he may impart at meetings, on field trips and in the bulletin. He will be glad to have any helpful information regarding safety at any time. Watch for his articles in our future bulletins.)

SAFETY TAKES TIME

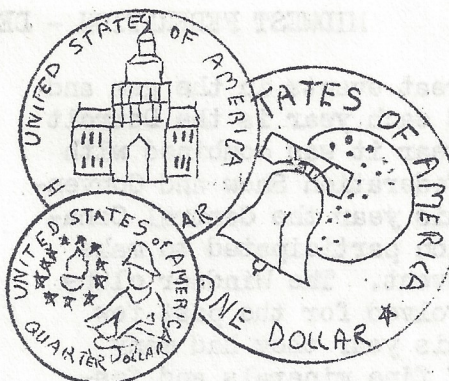
- It takes one MINUTE to write a safety rule.
- It takes one HOUR to hold a safety meeting.
- It takes one WEEK to plan a safety program.
- It takes one YEAR to win a safety award.
- It takes one LIFETIME to make a safe worker.

Northwest Federation Newsletter via "Newscope" and "Ozark Earth Science News."

When operating your lapidary equipment, some things to remember are:

1. Read your instructions. Re-read them often enough to be sure.
2. Check the blades on your saws to be certain the arbors are tight and the carriage is parallel to the blades.
3. Be absolutely certain the rock is clamped tightly to prevent any movement. Tighten between each slice cut.
4. Use a coolant and be sure it is copious. Never cut dry.
5. Keep coolant clean so chips, grit and sludge do not accumulate.
6. Use adequate power according to the specifications of your equipment.
7. Sharpen (dress) your saw blades when sawing a lot of hard material-- according to the instructions received with your blades.

MWF Safety Bulletin via Rock Dust and Puddin'Stone News



\$ 10⁰⁰

YOU
CAN WIN
THIS AMOUNT
IN
BICENTENNIAL COINS !!!

The Board of Control, at the subtle (?) urging of the Editor and staff, has decided that our bulletin needs a new look. You are invited to try your hand at designing a new cover for our bulletin. A committee has been set up to judge the entries. Their decision will be final.

The rules are simple. The club emblem must be used in some size and the name THE GLACIAL DRIFTER must, of course, be used. The design must be one which can be used for every issue. A prize of \$10 in bicentennial coins will be awarded. All you artists get busy and draw up something interesting! Deadline will be the December meeting and the winner will be announced in January.

ONE RESULT of Bob Beauvais' recuperation from surgery -- he's doing fine and says thanks for all your cards and good wishes -- was that he carefully sorted all the stamps club members have so faithfully saved. These are now on their way to the Food for Stamps Program of the Washington (State) Council of Churches.

You are urged to continue saving all used commemoratives and stamps with values over 10¢ plus foreign stamps. Don't tear them off -- leave at least a quarter inch border and be sure the stamp is undamaged except for the cancellation. Bring them to Bob anytime.

1976 MUSEUM SHOW

Our show at the museum next March will be tied in as much as possible with the Bicentennial and the Sesquicentennial (150th anniversary) of the city of Grand Rapids. The show will be from Feb. 29 to Apr. 4.

Some of the events in our country's history have geological significance. One of our families is already planning an exhibit tied in with the gold rush of 1948 - the '49ers." The San Francisco earthquake of 1906 is another possibility. The founding and history of many towns is closely tied in with nearby mineral deposits. The construction of the Soo Locks can be related to the history of Upper Peninsula mining. Thomas Jefferson, who wrote the original version of the Declaration of Independence (which is what the Bicentennial is all about), collected fossils and instructed the Lewis and Clark Expedition to try to find mastodons which he thought were still living. These are just a few ideas to build on. With a little thought you can probably come up with more and better ones.

And there are many things which you lapidaries can do. Jerry Bell, who will be our assistant, suggested intarsias or mosaics of a colonial or later national flags. Or, if someone is really ambitious, and has the time, perhaps he could make one of the Great Seal of the United States, or a carving (or is it a sculpture?) of the American eagle.

You could show how various rocks and minerals are being used during our history: manufactured goods from copper and iron (steel); and granite, limestone, marble and sandstone used as building materials. The possibilities are endless. There are a number of artists in our club (I'm now referring to painting and drawing, etc.) who perhaps can depict historical events or scenes of geological significance. I know of three artists in our club but there are very likely more so let us know who you are.

Jerry Bell will be Host and Hostess Chairman and I'll be arranging the programs which we will also be tying in with the Bicentennial and Sesquicentennial.

We still need a theme and are open to suggestions until our next board meeting. It should make some reference to the 200 years. At our last board meeting "rock" was considered as meaning music to too many people and "minerals" was not inclusive enough. Bedrock was suggested but we couldn't come up with a good tie-in with 200 years. Perhaps with these or other ideas someone will come up with something.

Rich Van Beek, Chairman

- - - - -

OUR OCTOBER GUESTS WERE. . . .

Jim and Jen Giddings, Larry McNalley, Mr. & Mrs. Gale Miner, Martin Ringelberg, George Nadeau, James W. Smith of Bethesda, Md., and Rozella Kip.

Also guests were Mr. & Mrs. John H. Morris, but since they also joined, please welcome them as new members! They live at 3007 Leonard NW in Grand Rapids. Look them up at the Silent Auction and bid them welcome!

(Mrs. Morris' name is Caroline)

- - - - -

Dear Editor:

I have heard that copper was first formed by a Scotsman who tried to stretch a penny. Is this true?

Ed: No. Copper is the only pure metal that is common to rocks. It forms flakes, irregular lumps or nuggets, some of which are very large.

(adapted from a page removed from an exchange bulletin long ago--a bulletin which did not identify itself on each page. Sorry)

BOARD OF CONTROL - OCTOBER 13, 1975

The regular meeting of the Board of Control was called to order at 7:30 p.m. at the home of Thea Fleming, Treasurer. Arthur Ferguson, Vice-president, was chairman as President Ruth Steele was ill and unable to attend. Also present were Herm Prins, Dorothy Ferguson, Arnold Ballast, Bob and Ruth Beauvais, Rick and Pat O'Beshaw and Rich Van Beek.

The minutes of the last meeting were read and approved. The treasurer's report was read, accepted for filing by a motion made by Rick O'Beshaw, seconded by Rich Van Beek and carried. The present balance is \$584.78. We now have 32 family memberships, 25 single memberships and 11 student members. It was also stated that we are now officially a 600% club for the AFMS Scholarship Fund.

The Silent Auction for November was discussed by Chairman Rick O'Beshaw. Herm Prins, Publicity Chairman, will notify our neighboring clubs that they are invited. He will also see that radio stations and local papers are notified.

Concerning our November field trip to the Howard Wheeler Company, Rich needs to know just who plans to go for the visit on November 15. Other possible field trips were discussed.

We need a chairman for the annual Christmas party. The secretary will invite four members of four clubs (16 in all) -- those clubs invited in 1973 will be invited; those who were invited in 1974 will again be invited in 1976. We will ask for volunteers to provide gifts for our guests.

Titles for the 1976 museum show were considered. One suggested is "200 years of Rockhounding," another is "Minerals in Our History." We will attempt to follow a Bicentennial theme. The Board will decide on a name at the November board meeting.

Moved by Bob Beauvais that we initiate a contest among club members for a new design for a bulletin cover. We have been using the old one for a number of years and need a new look. The prize will be \$10 in Bicentennial coins. The deadline will be the December membership meeting.

Our next meeting will be at the Ferguson home. Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Ruth Beauvais, Secretary

Midwest Federation's NEWSLETTER

Published monthly except July and August as a service to members 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. 159 - November 1975

HOWARD J. TAYLOR

New president



Howard J. Taylor

Our Midwest Federation will be led in 1976 by an experienced set of officers. The Midwest has an advancement program wherein a second vice president moves into the first vice president position and then to president.

The 1976 President is Howard J. Taylor of Lincoln, Nebraska. Howard is a painting and wall paper contractor. He became interested in the lapidary

hobby in 1959 when his son was active in the Boy Scouts. He is a member of the Lincoln Gem and Mineral Club and during the past 15 years has held numerous positions in the club.

The First Vice President of the Midwest for 1976 is Miss Hazel Kuntz, Quincy, Illinois. Hazel was a commercial artist specializing in pen and ink and layout work before her retirement. She is a member of two clubs, The Worthen Earth Searchers, Carthage, Illinois of which she was program chairman, and the Gem City Rock Club, Quincy, Illinois. She has been State Director for Illinois this past year. Her main interest is in minerals with some work in lapidary when the time permits.

Second Vice President is Paul Good, Griffith, Indiana. Paul has served on Bulletin Editors Committee and showed outstanding leadership in this field. He served as President of his local club and as show chairman for local shows. He is an expeditor for a large manufacturing plant.

Midwest Treasurer for 1976 will be Milford J. Sharp, Fairview Park, Ohio. Milford has been a State Director for Ohio. He has had financial experience as local treasurer of his union. He is now a teacher in training of workers in installation and operation of switching equipment for Ohio Bell Telephone Co.

Miss Jean Reynolds continues as Treasurer of the Midwest for 1976. She has served in this capacity for nine years. Jean lives with her mother in Clarendon Hills, Illinois and has been with the Federal Reserve Bank in Chicago for 30 years. She is a senior cost accountant. Jean is a graduate of Northwestern University.

NEWSLETTER PRICE INCREASE

Effective November 1, the price of the Newsletter in subscription packets mailed monthly to the clubs will be 2¢ per copy, plus postage. This increase in price becomes necessary due to the continued increase in printing. Send your orders to Parrot Printing Service, 2125 Forest Ave., Des Moines, Iowa 50311.

NO DIGGING, PLEASE!

It may come as a surprise to many weekend "pothunters" - those citizens who go into the back country occasionally to search for arrow heads, pottery and other artifacts of the ancients - but there is a federal Antiquities Act that says thou shalt not dig on public lands without permission.

The Bureau of Land Management is the custodian of the public domain and responsible for protecting archeological sites. Indiscriminate digging with picks and shovels by individuals and groups, seeking artifacts for themselves or to sell, "destroys any scientific value at the site and removes a part of our national heritage," says E. J. Petersen, acting BLM director for Oregon and Washington.

The government means it. Two men caught digging in an Indian ruin in southeastern Utah were fined \$125 each and were sentenced to 30 days in jail, suspended, recently. But it is alright to pick up an arrow head or a pot lying on the surface as many do, without digging up the landscape. Excavations need a permit.

from American River Current

Bicentennial FEATURES

by June Zeitner



Lee Carter of Michigan Mineralogical Society has an article in The Conglomerate about Abel Buel, a Jeweller and "Lapidar" of the Colony of Connecticut in the year 1776. The Boston Gazette reported that Buel had discovered the "true method of grinding and polishing stones of value." In addition to being our first lapidary, Buel was a metalsmith, an engraver, a mintmaster and an accomplished counterfeiter.

The Kalamazoo Geological and Mineral Society (Michigan) has their 1976 show endorsed and promoted by the Bicentennial Commission of Kalamazoo County. The show theme will be "Michigan's Mineral and Mining Heritage."

DEATH TAKES FLOYD MORTENSON

Floyd Mortenson, past president of the Midwest Federation, died unexpectedly at Crystal Falls, Michigan Community Hospital on June 13, 1975. He and Helen had just arrived in Crystal Falls two days previously planning to spend the summer there. Floyd was born and grew up in Crystal Falls leaving there after he graduated from high school in 1922. He attended Albion College and the University of Michigan.

Floyd and Helen were married in 1931 and made their home in Pontiac, Michigan where he was employed by General Motors.

Floyd had two great interests that kept him quite busy - his masonic lodge work and his mineral hobby. He was a past master of his lodge and a past patron of his Eastern Star Chapter, both of Pontiac, and of the Hi Twelve Club of Seminole, Florida.

Besides being a past president of the Midwest Federation (1960-61), Floyd was also a past president and life member of both the Michigan Mineralogical Society and the Waterford Gem and Mineral Society of Pontiac.

Floyd and Helen moved to Florida after he retired in 1967. There they joined the Suncoast Gem and Mineral Club and the Tampa Bay Mineral and Science Club of Tampa. Floyd was an honorary member of several clubs in both Michigan and Florida where he had given programs or judged mineral displays. His latest contribution to the hobby was an article just published in the May/June issue of the Earth Science Magazine - "The Bristol Mine Selenite Crystals."

Helen plans to continue living in Largo, Florida, and as far as she is able, to be active in the clubs. She informs us that a memorial has been established in Floyd's name for the intensive care unit at the Crystal Falls Community Hospital. Helen's address is 63 Grosse Pointe Estates, 9900 Ulmerton Road, Largo, Florida 33540.

DIAMONDS FOUND IN WYOMING ROCK

Several tiny diamonds have been discovered in a rare rock west of Laramie, Wyoming, the U. S. Geological Survey reported.

The white diamond crystals were found in a fist-sized rock nodule believed to have been carried to the earth's surface from depths of 160 miles during violent volcanic activity 350 million years ago.

via the Detroit Free Press

LIGHT FOR GEM CASES

Old fashioned transparent light bulbs in which you can see the filaments give more and better light for gem cases for a given number of watts than the more common frosted type.

Welcome new members

Sterling Heights Gem and Mineral Club
Michael G. Kinney, President
40153 Regency Drive
Sterling Heights, Michigan 48078

Rocky River Valley Geological Society
Mrs. Edward Richards, President
111 East Woolcock Street
Jefferson, Wisconsin 53549

Chisago County Mineral Club
Mr. Eugene Johnson, President
Route #1
Center City, Minnesota 55012

Lombard Junior Geologists Club
Roger B. Sedgwick, Adult Sponsor
Lombard Junior High School
1220 East Knox Street
Galesburg, Illinois 61401

A GOOD SUGGESTION!

The editorial in the September '75 Rock Chatter of the Dayton (Ohio) Gem and Mineral Society begins, under the title of "What You Can Do To Help", with number 1: "Be friendly to our new members and visitors. Introduce yourself. Find out what that new person's interests are. Be helpful. You were new once. Remember the feeling?" The last note, number 11, is "SHARE. That is what it is all about." It sounds like they are on the right line to a good public image and courtesy commitment.

by Mrs. Allan Mogg, Public Image and Courtesy Committee



Johnny Horizon '76 is a nationwide, action-oriented environmental awareness program to clean up America for our 200th birthday - and then keep it clean! Through citizen involvement, with government, business and industry support, the program gives full recognition to the emergine environmental/conservation ethic based on more thoughtful use of our natural resources.

via The Geode

Please Note... New Mailing Address

Our Midwest Federation Secretary is in charge of keeping our mailing lists up-to-date. When you move or your club changes officers, send these changes immediately to Miss Jean Reynolds, 107 Tuttle Avenue, Clarendon Hills, Illinois 60514. By doing this your Federation mail will reach you without delays or costly expense in postage. Continue to send your subscription orders for the Newsletter to Parrot Printing Service, 2125 Forest Avenue, Des Moines, Iowa 50311.

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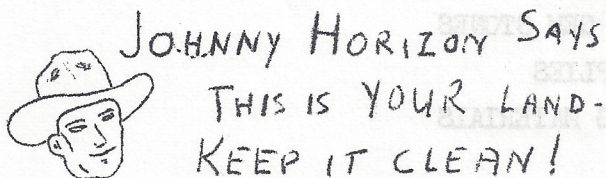
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