

FEBRUARY 1976



The

GRAND RAPIDS MINERAL SOCIETY

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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

FEBRUARY 1976

VOLUME 18 NO 6

THIS MONTH

Time: Wednesday, February 11 7:30 p.m.

Place: Grand Rapids Public Museum, Multi-Purpose
Room

Program: POT POURRI - Fun for everyone!

G.R.M.S. CALENDAR

- Feb. 14 Field Trip by bus to Field or Lizzadro Museums, Chicago
- Feb. 16 Board of Control meets at the Roger King's
- Feb. 26)
- Feb. 28) Set-up dates for our annual show (see Show News)
- Feb. 29 Show Opens: A ROCKHOUND'S VIEW OF THE BICENTENNIAL

COMING SHOWS AND CONVENTIONS

- Feb. 13-15 Tucson, Az. Tucson Gem & Mineral Society 22nd Annual Show
- Mar. 13-14 Stevensville, Mi. Blossomland Gem & Mineral Society Show
Lakeshore High School Gym
- Mar. 13-14 Livonia, Mi. The Roamin Club Silent Auction, Bentley High
School
- Mar. 21-28 Grand Haven, Mi. Beacon Rock & Fossil Club Annual Show
Civic Center. Dealers on Mar. 26-28
- Apr. 3-4 Ann Arbor, Mi. Michigan Geology and Gemcraft Society
Annual Educational Seminar Washtenaw Community College
- Apr. 3-4 Cincinnati, O. Cincinnati Mineral Society 12th Annual Show
Convention Center, 5th and Elm
- June 25-27 Roswell NM Rocky Mountain Federation Show
- June 17-20 Austin, Tx, So. Central Federation & AFMS Show
- July 22-25 Midwest Federation Show, St. Louis, Mo.

CHIPS from the Editor's Workbench

by Art Ferguson

February is shaping up as a very busy month. This is participation month with the POTPOURRI PROGRAM, followed by the bus trip to Chicago, followed by the start of our annual show at the museum. Boy! How time flies! Show time already. It is just not possible; but here it is. Don't forget to take plenty of film to Chicago. Having spent considerable time there over the years, I would have to rate it as very photogenic. Both museums are very good subjects for your camera.

The show season is also about to start. The Grand Haven show is always during our show, then Flint, Jackson and Kalamazoo. We had displays at Kzoo, Holland and Lansing last year. After the

good response from the neighboring clubs in placing displays at our show, we felt obligated to support their shows. They are fun and a good way to make more friends.

Roger King reports that he is having good results in lining up a slate of candidates for the annual election. This is good news as some times in the past we have had only one candidate for each office. If anyone wishes to run for an office and has not been contacted by Roger or Herm Prins, be sure to let one of them know which office you would like to run for.

I hope all of you read the MWF Newsletter. An article entitled Pollution will help put present day pollution in perspective. Not that we should be complacent, but it mentions volcanic and other natural pollutants. Read it!

YOU'RE INVITED!!

The Indian Mounds Rock and Mineral Club of Wyoming, Michigan, will hold their annual Silent Auction on Tuesday, March 16 at 7:30 p.m.

This popular event has drawn members from other clubs in past years. We invite your club to attend. It will be held at the Sunset Park Church of God, corner of Michael and 34th St. SW.

From the Tulip City Conglomerate. . .
HOW TO CLEAN IVORY JEWELRY:

Ivory which has yellowed can be restored to whiteness by rubbing it with fine pumice and water and rinsing it thoroughly. While the ivory is still damp expose it to the sun for a few hours. If a lighter luster is desired, rub it with past of whiting and water before exposing it to sunlight.

Jewelers Conglomerate KEYSTONE

HELP!! HELP!! HELP!! HELP!!

Our Raffle Chairlady, Marilyn Arnold, says that she needs donations for door prizes and raffle prizes. Take a look thru your rock room and see what you have several of and thin out your excess specimens. Marilyn is eager to have them to pass along to our members. Thank you.

MEMBER OF G.R.M.S.: Thought you said we were going to have a new cover design for THE GLACIAL DRIFTER? Looks the same to me!

PUBLISHER: (red-faced) We do! Just haven't had the time to get it ready. And the Board okayed the printing, too. Now we'll try for March!

Gavel Gravel

by President Ruth Steele

February - a time to pause, to analyze accomplishments of past months, make way for new objectives with more zeal in spirit. Weather may impede our progress temporarily, but the persevering desire to excel remains. So it goes with activities we assume as members of the G.R.-M.S. The past two field trips were examples of varied interest and participation. December is not usually a month for our field trips and that may account for sparse attendance by our members when we held a basement field trip with the Tulip City Gem and Mineral Club members as our guests. They came in goodly number to absorb rock displays, information and the hospitality of our hosts. Perhaps it was assumed that it was primarily open to the Holland Club which is not the case. Consider it a success, but some enjoyable moments were missed by those who did not attend! Good luck nexttime (new word!!!) Our trip to see the Holland collections was quite a different story. A faithful 18 to 20 members, an average attendance, rustled their bones collectively and ogled and gabbed about--what else?--rocks, minerals and fossils, at the Nutile's, the Gibson's and the Smith's, our hosts for the day. I wish to thank the Holland Tulip City Rock and Mineral Club for exchanging invitations with us for a field trip this past month. It was most enjoyable and enlightening.

The trip planned for February 14 to museums in Chicago and Elmhurst on February 14 by bus is proof that we are ready and willing to drop our cares by the wayside for a day of enjoyment with rocks, geology, etc., with our friends and families. Call the chairman if you are interested; there is a full bus at present but always the possibility of a cancellation. And if you have ideas for other field trips, please pass them on to us.



February 26 and 28 are official set-up days for the show. Exhibitors, make your plans and finalize them quickly! Don't let the lack of a Bicentennial theme squelch a good inspiration for your display. Those rocks were there during the past 200 years, qualifying them as witnesses to history. Proudly show them as your contribution to the show!

Another matter each of us as members should be familiar with is the Memorial Scholarship Fund. This past year the board acted to establish a method for any member who wishes to consider a bequest in his will, or contribute otherwise to a scholarship fund to be used by students designated by the board and the club as recipients of financial aid in furthering studies in geology or related subjects. The interest of the fund will be used in such an event. Any questions will be answered by calling me or other board members.

Response to the election committee calls have been encouraging! Please submit your name for any office. The presidency is the only office with a qualification: that candidate must have served at least one year on the Board of Control at some time. If you run for office, you will be beginning a new phase of enriching your life in the hobby of "rockhounding." Try it. YOU'LL LIKE IT!!!

We're planning a new directory--any changes should be reported to Ruth Beauvais or to me. AND IF YOU MOVE, please let us know--the post office just returns our third class mail and we must pay triple to get your copy of the bulletin to you. IT WILL NOT BE FORWARDED LIKE FIRST CLASS MAIL.

RAFFLE NEWS

We sure are lucky to have some very talented people for members. Ruth Beauvais has been making some very beautiful sand bottles and has donated one for this month's raffle. Also Arnold Wendt came up with a humdinger of an idea for a rock pick, using a heavy metal handle and a railroad spike. Roger King welded them together and did a fine job. Arnie and Roger have donated two of these. We will have one this month and one next month. George Arnold is donating a specimen of Iceland spar from Durango, Mexico. We will also have a book, "Color Treasury of Gems and Jewels," and a lighted magnifier. There is something everyone can use this time so be sure to get your tickets!!!

Thanks to many of our members and visitors the raffle showed a profit of \$19 for January. Our hard working board members, secretary, typing and publishing couple, Bob and Ruth Beauvais, got double lucky and won the book, "Getting Acquainted with Minerals," donated by Marion Jennings, and also the petrified wood donated by Marie Spielmaker. Lucile Pearl won the dolomite with sphalerite, also donated by Marie. Guy W. Dewey, a guest, won the sulphur crystals donated by Roy Beck and Roger Striegle won the blue celestite, also from Roy. Roger and Faye King donated two beautiful sand dollars that were won by Marion Jennings and Pat O'Beshaw. Arnold Wendt won the tourmaline, donated by two of our dear and departed members, Fay and Edith Reed.

-Marilyn Arnold

PIT OF HELL

Have you even wondered where the deepest hole in the earth is and just how far down it goes? The place is on a mountainside in Corno D'Aquilio, Italy - and just how deep the hole is no one knows!

The "Pit of Hell" is perhaps the world's deepest natural hole, piercing thousands of feet through the earth's crust, and has been the source of whispers since the Middle Ages. People passing the vast inky cavity used to avert their eyes and cross themselves because everyone thought it to be the very gate leading to the Devil's domain.

In spite of the danger - not to mention the ugliest, most bumpy, rocky, narrow mountain road leading to it - the Pit of Hell attracts its share of curiosity lookers. On Sundays a dilapidated bus takes visitors up to the top of the 3,839' mountain to attend Mass in the tiny chapel built in memory of those people who have fallen or jumped into the hole.

The mouth of this notorious abyss, surrounded by only a foot-high wire fence, is 32 X 36' wide. Forty-six feet down it narrows into a neck 10 X 13'. The funnel then widens again and below that there is just no bottom.

In the last ten years there have been daring explorations - the last of which was in 1967. These last adventurers, after many days of extreme hardship and danger, managed to eke their way down to a depth of 2053' where they had to give up. According to their team captain there were at least another 3000' still further down that could not be attempted. Just how deep the bottom is he refused to even guess.

by Janet Dostal from PEGMATITE
via REAR TRUNK

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MEETING

This year our program will be a repeat of the one we had last year: a pot pourri - a little of everything. Whatever the members want to do. If you have some project that you would like to share with others, be sure to bring it along. We expect to have silversmithing, micromounting, cab making using diamond wheels, swapping, selling, and anything else which applies to our hobby. This is a good time to see what can be done with different phases of rockhounding. Anyone having a portable display of minerals or lapidary work is invited to bring it along. Our newer members, especially, will benefit from this program.

FIELD TRIP

CHICAGO BUS TRIP 7 a.m. Saturday, February 14

PLACE: Rogers Plaza Parking Lot, east end near Clyde Park SW at the laundromat. The manager has asked us to park as far from 28th St. as possible.

FOOD: If you wish to snack enroute in the morning, take your own food and beverage with you. On the return trip we will stop at the Firebird Restaurant at Sawyer, Michigan, for dinner. There is a cafeteria in the Field Museum and those going to Lizzadro can eat at nearby Northern Illinois University.

CANCELLATIONS: If you find that you cannot make it, even at the last minute (Friday evening or early Saturday morning) call me at 459-3903, Ted Duprey at 532-3841, or Ruth Steele at 457-3249 and we may be able to sell your ticket for you.

TICKETS: Only a few of those who have made reservations have not yet purchased theirs. If you have not yet paid, please send me your check or call me immediately when you receive your Drifter.

RESERVATIONS: They have all been taken. We said last month that all reservations had been taken and we had one on the waiting list. Since then we have had five cancellations but all have been snapped up and we are again filled up and have one on the waiting list.

REMEMBER!!! We leave at 7 a.m. SHARP!!!!!!!

SHOW NEWS

"A Rockhound's View of the Bicentennial"

Only a few more weeks and it will be time to put in our displays at the museum. If you have not yet reserved your space, don't delay any longer or you may be disappointed. At the time of this writing we have a very limited amount of space in the wall cases but we still have a number of the free standing cases available.

Remember, if at all possible, to include our bicentennial theme in your display. A diorama depicting an historical event which has some connection with rocks, minerals, or geology would be excellent. We already have members working on displays featuring the gold rush, early salt and gypsum mining in Grand Rapids, and early borax mining. Carvings, intarsias or mosaics of historical characters, buildings, or symbols would also be most appropriate. Or a display of minerals could be labeled to tell their importance in the history and development of our country. But let me know what you have in mind so we can try to minimize duplication.

Our set up times will be: Thursday, Feb. 26 at 7 p.m.
no time Friday evening
Saturday, February 28 at 9 a.m.

Mr. Charles Collins, recently appointed director of displays (both temporary and permanent) will be there to assist us. Paul Wondolowski is in charge of demonstrations and Jerry Bell is Host and Hostess Chairman. Faye King has consented to be Refreshments Chairlady on set-up day, February 28. Mrs. Terry Viele of the museum staff will handle publicity to the news media while Herm Prins is contacting the other clubs and notifying the radio stations. The Beauvais' will be designing and printing the flyers and Ruth Steele will make arrangements for posters. Tom Sherry and Paul Wondolowski will be there at set up times to lend a hand to anyone who would like assistance. Tom will also be projectionist for our programs when we have movies.

We are registered with the local Bicentennial-Sesquicentennial Office as an official Bicentennial Exhibit and as such have been authorized to use the official logo which will be printed on our award ribbons. All participants --not only the exhibitors--will receive a ribbon. Tricorns (three-cornered hats) for the men and bonnets for the ladies are a possibility. They might be worn by demonstrators, hosts, hostesses and other members present at the show.

We will have the Midwest Federation Holotype Display for the first three weeks (4 weekends) of the show. This honors members of the MWF who have discovered new species of fossils and which have subsequently been named for them. Our own Marguerite Petersen is one of those so honored.

See the next page for a partial schedule. The remainder will appear in March.

SHOW SCHEDULEHOSTS AND HOSTESSES

(Jerry Bell, Chrm.)

DEMONSTRATORS

(Paul Wondolowski, Chrm.)

PROGRAMSSunday, Feb. 29Henry, Bette & Nancy
Tchozeski
Eva & Stan Way

Dr. Bob Smith

(none, first week)

Saturday, Mar. 6Arnie & Elsie Wendt
Marie Veenstra
Florence Datema

Henry Tchozeski

Sunday, Mar. 7Stan, Fran, Paul,
Sue & Stosh
Wondolowski

Rick O'Beshaw

Movie: "It Couldn't Be
Done" (about many difficult
achievements, many of rocky
or geological interest, in
our country)

Advance notice on programs:

Sunday, March 14: "Beaver Island - America's Emerald Isle" - slide program by Elaine Smith. History and geology. Elaine is a summer resident of the island and has written feature articles for the Grand Rapids Press and authored a book on Beaver Island.

Sunday, March 21: "Mackinac Island" slide program by Rich Van Beek. History and geology.

Sunday, March 28: "The Geological Development of the Grand River Valley and How Man has changed it" Slide program by James Muller. History and geology. Jim, a science teacher at Grand Rapids Christian High School, has many slides showing how localities appeared a century or more ago and how the same place looks today.

Sunday, April 4: Movie: to be announced

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GUESTS AT OUR JANUARY MEETING were:

Barb Kopp
Richard Nichols
John Hanson
Steve Gelwick
Guy W. and Florence Dewey
Bette & Chet Smith (speakers)

We extend a cordial welcome to our
new members:

Henry L. Vander Kolk (Dr.) and
his wife, Pat, with their children,
A. Charles and Rebecca

John J. Turata and his wife, Irene

FOR SAFETY'S SAKE

by Stan Conway, Safety Chairman

Well! The snows have come. And to think we are only about four weeks into winter. Boy, with about 14 inches of snow on the ground we will soon be up to our eyebrows. (Hope you're not too tall.)

The 14th of January was my son's birthday so I gave myself a couple of silicon carbide grinding wheels. No use giving them to him--he doesn't even have a grinder. Smart, huh? "Yeh, smart," you say, "Here he goes again, more safety stuff." Right! More safety stuff, so I'll run it past you just once and take heed, unless you want to read it twice.

I started from scratch. I tapped the nice new wheels for that clear solid ring. No ring could mean that the wheel is faulty. Then I unplugged the motor and took off the drive belt. Boy, if the electric switch was accidentally turned on, it sure could trim the finger nails. Then I really got down to work. I found that those doggoned nuts holding the wheels have a mind of their own. They'll fight you all the way. Well, sir, after taking the combination unit apart, I cleaned it real good and put the new wheels on. Now here is something else I learned: don't tighten the nuts too hard. A piece of grit between the nut and wheel could cause unwanted strain in the wrong place. And wow! with that wheel barrelling along it could fly apart. Those projectiles could really ventilate anybody or anything.

I got the "beastie" all put together with no more than a couple of skinned knuckles and one shortened fingernail (oh well, it was extra long anyway). Then came the running test. Here's another thing I learned--by book read-in!--turn on the switch; oh nuts, I forgot to plug the unit into the electrical outlet! That being done, I again flipped the switch and stood back out of line for a couple of minutes. Just in case. In fact, I always stand to one side when I turn it on. You should too.

- To recap:
1. Does the grinding wheel ring or thud?
 2. Don't tighten the nuts too tight - grit could crack it.
 3. Check for recommended speed.
 4. Stand aside when you start the grinder.
 5. Don't let the wheel stand in water - makes it heavier on the bottom and out of balance.
 6. Use lots of water when grinding - saves on the breathing apparatus
 7. Make sure the rig is grounded - respect the electrical power.

That's it for this month. Play it safe, have fun and be around to read my next article.

MINERAL OF THE MONTH - HgS CINNABAR

The mineral mercury, or quicksilver, has always held me spellbound especially in my high school years while working in the science lab. I would do most anything to obtain this interesting material. Even though I was fascinated by mercury I never learned its source until becoming seriously interested in collecting rocks and minerals about 22 years later.

While casually reading about rocks and minerals one evening in San Jose, California, I discovered a new word for my vocabulary: cinnabar. A nice sounding name. One to learn and to remember. Also the source of mercury, reminding me of my high school interests and rekindling an obsession I had for this mineral. As I continued to read I discovered that I lived about 10 miles from the historic New Almaden Quicksilver Mine, named after Almaden, Spain, that was the prime producer of mercury during the Civil War, World War I and World War II. In its lifetime from discovery in 1824 to 1949 it produced more than one million flasks (76 lbs. each) of mercury. This exceeds the total dollar output of any gold producing district in California.

I was beside myself with joy. I thought I was obsessed with mercury during my high school years but the feeling now was indescribable. Immediately I obtained several books concerning the history of cinnabar in the state of California, discovering that the state was the leading mercury producer in the United States. Other major producers of any consequence were Texas and Nevada.

Focusing my attention upon the historic

New Almaden Mine one fine morning I prepared for a field trip to visit this site for photographing and collecting. When I arrived my happiness ceased after reading the sign, NO TRESPASSING, ARMED GUARDS. That message was very clear, leaving no room for doubting authority. I turned my car around and went back to the town of Almaden and began to poke around for information. It was slow in coming. I finally did learn the name of the caretaker and began formal communication for several months. Finally the glorious day arrived. I was escorted over the most important sites, including "Old Cornish Town," and the original discovery site called "Mine Hill." We visited two large dumps from which I found several superb specimens. We went underground in a working mine to observe first hand a cinnabar producing operation, and also visited a processing plant.

This field trip was most exhilarating, highly educational, and very productive. I even came home with some excellent photos. But best of all for me, I had in my possession some superb cinnabar specimens--sources of mercury. It seemed like a lifelong dream come true. I was most grateful to my host and thanked him sincerely.

Now, most anyone would be satisfied at this point. I discovered another mine nearby which was named "The Guadalupe Mercury Mine." After the necessary communications I was invited to this site for a "Cook's Tour." Fabulous and magnificent is the least I can say for this adventure. Here I collected a very rich specimen. I heard that cinnabar nuggets could be found in nearby Guadalupe Creek and for the next several

-next page

CINNABAR (concluded)

days I was on my hands and knees in that creek bed searching for those elusive nuggets. I did find some but the mines are what turned me on.

My next goal was to visit the New Idria Mine in San Benito County, California. This was named after the Idria Mercury Mine in Idria, Italy. This mine operated four 90-ton roasting kilns a day in its heyday and was California's leading mercury producer. Today it is inoperative and is now declared an historical site by California law.

Communications now began for this adventure; and I was successful, being received by the head geologist on one occasion and by a second geologist on another who gave me a grand tour. I spent the whole day photographing here and gleaning much information about the whole process from drilling and blasting to the final production of distilling the liquid mercury from its matrix. And I collected two superb specimens.

Now I had a new-found interest--that of visiting cinnabar mines and collecting specimens from each. I carefully studied each of California's mercury mining sites (past and present) and made plans to visit and collect at least one specimen from each.

Over the next four-year period I did manage to visit all of the sites that were in present production plus scores of other mine sites no longer operating or were just plain ghost towns. Among others not already mentioned, here is a partial list of the most important: Altoona, Manhattan, Orange Lady, Wall Street, Crystal Ball, Helena, Hillsdale, Pope Valley, Mirabel, Great Western, Abbot, Aetna, Phoenix, Star and Knoxville.

While most of my specimens are massive, I did obtain some in crystalline form (all micro-crystalline). The best and largest cinnabar crystals ever discovered come from the Hunan Province of China.

In the interim of the search for cinnabar I discovered that there were other minerals to collect in California, such as epidote, axinite, benitoite, garnet, molybdenum, etc., and of course, gold. But that is another story in itself. Fossils of all types can also be found in various parts of California and some were added to my growing collection. I also became interested in Indian artifacts.

As far as collecting for minerals and fossils goes in California, there are two major restrictions; namely, time and money.

Thanks and good collecting,

Herm Prins

LET'S GO BACK TO OUR JANUARY MEETING

We were treated to a trip around the world titled "Our Longest Field Trip." This was presented by Chet and Bette Smith of the Tulip City Rock and Mineral Club. After corresponding with rockhounds in New Zealand, Australia and South Africa, and swapping rocks with them, the Smith's were able to go and visit these pen pals in person. They stayed at their homes, swapped rocks and rock tales with them and went field tripping and sightseeing with them. The Smith's brought many fine specimens of minerals and cutting materials to display. It was a very enjoyable (and envious) evening!

SHOP HINT by Roy Beck

SAVE THOSE CONTACT PAPER SCRAPS

This material makes excellent templates for cabochon cutting. Simply trace your design on contact paper, cut, then remove the backing and affix the template to the stone. Although the glue on the paper is water solvent, it will usually hold up long enough to effect cutting. This can be used for standard ovals and rounds but most useful for freeforms or to get an exact fit for a mounting. Use contrasting paper.

Midwest Federation's NEWSLETTER



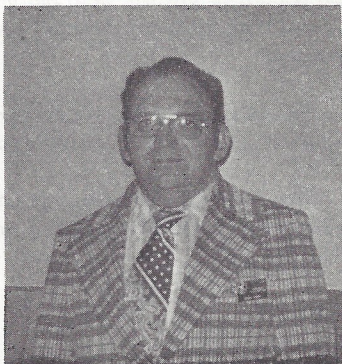
Published monthly except July and August as a service to members clubs.
All news, articles, subscription orders and requests for information concerning publication
should be sent to the Editor, Haydon Peterson, Parrot Printing, 2125 Forest, Des Moines, Ia. 50311

Issue No. 162 - February 1976

Meet Paul Good

OUR SECOND VICE PRESIDENT

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 experienced editor for a large manufacturing plant.



Bicentennial FEATURES

by June Zeitner



One of the early bicentennial gem shows was the 1975 show of the Central Michigan Lapidary and Mineral Society of Lansing. The central display of the Bicentennial Mineral Heritage theme was a group of 20 cases of displays which showed antique articles together with the raw materials which went into them.

Materials shown were glass, iron, copper, pewter, lead, zinc, gold, tin, silver soapstone, jet, amber and sulphur. Antiques included priceless and appropriate examples of pressed and cut glass, sparkling jet and amber and gold and silver jewelry, pewter tableware, soapstone carvings, copper pots, iron tools, historic guns and a crystal radio set.

Some of the larger pieces were a copper wash boiler, a steel bear trap and a lithographer's soapstone. These larger items were placed on a platform of Chicago brick facing the entrance. Specimens accompanying the big antiques were huge and showy.

The red, white and blue background was accented by the flags of the United States, the State of Michigan and the Bicentennial flag. A low rail fence with pots of flowers enclosed the entrance display.

Co-chairmen Lola Pearson and Nancy Smith and their entire committee and club are to be congratulated for their excellent use of this theme.

Bicentennial themes are planned for 1976 by McDonnell Douglas and other St. Louis area clubs for the Midwest and by Kalamazoo, Michigan, Hot Springs, South Dakota and many others. We would be interested in hearing your plans.

Scholarship fund tops \$200,000

The trust fund of the AFMS Scholarship Foundation continues to grow at an ever increasing pace. The total reported by the Foundation Treasurer, Ellis W. Courter, is now \$202,792.05 with \$24,533.17 of this having been received during the past fiscal year. This tops all previous contributions for one year.

The contribution of the Midwest Federation for this period was \$7,739.50 which brings the grand total of Midwest contributions to \$61,649.38. Every club in the Midwest is to be congratulated for their fine support of the Scholarship Foundation over the past years.

Because of the increased income realized from the growing fund, the interest (which is the only part used) allowed three \$750 bonus scholarships to be pledged during the year in addition to the usual six grants, making a total of \$11,250 awarded during the year to support college graduate students working on their masters or doctorate degrees in science fields.

Beginning with the new 1976 awards, the amount of each grant will be increased to \$1,000 per year with each grant still covering two years. The usual six two-year grants will be awarded and hopefully funds will also be available for another bonus award. To date, 52 students have been assisted in their education for a total expenditure of \$51,900.

PUBLIC IMAGE AND COURTESY COMMITTEE

Mrs. Ruth Mogg, R. R. 1, Box 231, Grayslake, Illinois 60030

The Central Iowa Mineral Society of Des Moines, Iowa is an active club. Mr. William Ashby, Treasurer for the club, described some of their activities.

They answer questions about rocks and minerals of Iowa for the Iowa Development Commission. Some of the members have Boy Scout Troops and Blue Birds in their homes to observe and ask questions about collections. They visit grade schools to exhibit and discuss specimens and they also conduct discussions in the Adult Education Classes. They present programs for the Des Moines Women's Club and have exhibits at the Iowa State Fair and the Des Moines Public Library. This past year they had an exhibit and gave demonstrations for two days at the Des Moines Plaza Shopping Center. They also furnish displays for Drake University and have set up the Straight Collection there. They always cooperate fully with the owners of areas when they are on field trips and they welcome visiting rockhounds any time.

What does your club do? Please let us know.

SCHOLARSHIP TREASURER'S REPORT

OPERATING STATEMENT - Nov. 1, 1974 thru Oct. 31, 1975

OPERATING INCOME

Interest Earned - Bonds in Trust Fund	\$ 13,959.30
Savings Account	411.74
Gain on Matured Bonds	45.00
TOTAL EARNINGS	\$ 14,416.04

OPERATING COSTS

Office Supplies and Expense	\$396.50
Postage & Communications	299.76
Plaques	686.78
Bank Charges	5.00
Trust Fund Administration	537.27
	\$ 1,925.31

Scholarships Granted or Pledged	\$ 11,250.00
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	\$ 13,175.31

TOTAL GAIN FOR PERIOD	\$ 1,240.73
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TREASURER'S REPORT - Nov. 1, 1974 thru Oct. 31, 1975

ASSETS

Bonds - First National Bank of Minneapolis	
Public Service Electric & Gas Co.	\$ 10,148.30
American Tobacco Co.	5,002.80
Borden Co.	5,002.80
Crucible Steel Co.	8,000.00
Sears Roebuck and Co.	10,000.10
General Motors Acceptance Corp.	14,962.50
Pacific Gas & Electric Co.	10,060.60
Trailer Train Co.	5,000.00
Columbia Gas System	5,025.00
Carolina Light and Power Co.	10,000.00
Trans-Continental Pipe Line Co.	9,180.00
American Telephone & Telegraph Co.	9,775.00
Southern Bell Telephone Co.	9,950.00
Appalachian Power Co.	10,150.00
Ford Motor Credit Co.	10,100.00
Federal National Mortgage Assoc.	9,993.75
Michigan Wisconsin Pipe Line Co.	10,100.00
Virginia Electric & Power Co.	10,275.00
Ohio Edison Co.	5,125.00
European Coal & Steel Co.	9,950.00
Texas Commerce Bank Shares	9,664.50
City of Montreal	10,000.00
	\$ 197,465.35
Savings Account - American Savings & Loan Detroit	11,214.04
Checking Account - Manufacturer's National Bank, Detroit	1,226.06
TOTAL ASSETS	\$ 209,905.45

LIABILITIES

Accrued Accounts Payable -	\$ 537.27
1st National Bank, Minnesota	
Scholarships Pledged but not paid	7,500.00
	\$ 8,037.27

CONTRIBUTIONS (Principal fund)	202,792.05
---------------------------------------	-------------------

DEFICIT - As of November 1, 1974	2,164.60
Less: Net gain for period	1,240.73
	923.87

\$ 209,905.45

POLLUTION

The late Dr. Wm. Pecora, Undersecretary of the Interior, calculated that all of man's air pollution during his thousands of years on earth does not equal the amount of particulate and noxious gases from just 3 volcanoes: Krakatoa, near Java (1883); Mt. Katmi, Alaska (1912) and Helka, Iceland (1947).

He points out that nature's pure water isn't so pure after all. A few examples:

The springs feeding the Arkansas and Red Rivers carry approximately 17 tons of salt per minute.

The Lemonade Springs in New Mexico carry approximately 900 pounds of sulfuric acid per million pounds of water. (This is more than 10 times the acid concentration in coal mine discharges.)

The Mississippi River carries over 2 million tons of natural sediment into the Gulf of Mexico each day.

The Paria River of Arizona carries 500 times more natural sediment than the Mississippi River - yes, one billion tons of sediment per day.

MASTODON PARK

A committee of housewives near St. Louis is winning its fight to save a notable fossil site from which the skeletons of sixty mastodons have been removed. The state had sold the land for a development when concerned housewives decided to take action. The ladies were told that they would have to raise a half million dollars to buy the land and preserve it as a park. They were also given a deadline for coming up with the money. The Federal Bureau of Outdoor Recreation agreed to match funds and the State Legislature provided \$200,000. When it appeared that the ladies would meet their goal, the final \$28,000 was pledged by the McDonnell Aircraft Company of St. Louis.

Now a Mastodon Park is assured and the four housewives and their helpers are starting to think of a museum dedicated to the extinct resident of their area.

The McDonnell Douglas Gem and Mineral Club helped the Mastodon Park Committee at their recent annual show. McDonnell and other St. Louis area clubs will host the Midwest Federation Convention in July.

LARGEST BLACK OPAL

The world's largest black opal, weighing an astonishing 145 pounds, was recently found at Andamooka, Australia. Professional lapidary, Bill Moriarty, will soon cut the opal into about 30,000 pieces. The stones could bring over three and a half million dollars on the market according to an officer of the Australian Jeweler's Association. The king-sized gem was found by a miner and sold to John Roberts and Yoshe Goldberg who named it Koninderle, the Aborigine word for rainbow.

PLEASE!! DON'T BE A LITTERBUG!!



THE GRAND RAPIDS MINERAL SOCIETY

PRESENTS IT'S

17TH ANNUAL GEM & MINERAL SHOW

"A ROCKHOUND'S VIEW
OF THE BICENTENNIAL"
FEBRUARY 29 - APRIL 4, 1976

PROGRAMS ON SUNDAY

Relating our underground riches to our country's history with displays of rocks, minerals and lapidary.

Demonstrations every weekend

See the FOSSIL FINDER'S HONOR ROLL
The Midwest Federation of Rock and Mineral Clubs honors the discoverers of fossils.

Mar. 7 Movie: "It Couldn't Be Done"

Mar. 14 Slide Program: "Beaver Island -
"America's Emerald Isle"
by Elaine Smith

Mar. 21 Slide Program: "Mackinac Island"
by Rich Van Beek

Mar. 28 Slide Program: "The Geological
Development of the Grand River Valley
And What Man Has Done to It."
by James Muller

Apr. 4 Movie: To be announced

GRAND RAPIDS PUBLIC MUSEUM

54 JEFFERSON SE, GRAND RAPIDS, MICH.

HOURS MONDAY THRU FRIDAY 10 AM - 5 PM
SATURDAY AND SUNDAY 2 PM - 5 PM

NO ADMISSION CHARGE



BOARD OF CONTROL MEETING, Jan. 19, 1976

The Board met at the home of Arnold and Edith Ballast. It was called to order by President Ruth Steele. Other members present: Thea Fleming, Bob Beauvais, Rick and Pat O'Beshaw, Roger King, Arnold Ballast, Rich Van Beek, Herm Prins, Art and Dorothy Ferguson.

Minutes were read by Bob Beauvais in the absence of the secretary; and accepted as read.

Moved by Rick O'Beshaw, seconded by Art Ferguson, that the treasurer's report be accepted. Balance was \$653.69. The motion was approved.

Ruth Steele will see about getting the shelter house at Ideal Park for summer meetings.

The attendance at the Junior Rockhound Group is down, due mostly to the interference of sports.

There was discussion about our March show, ribbons, club case, publicity and programs.

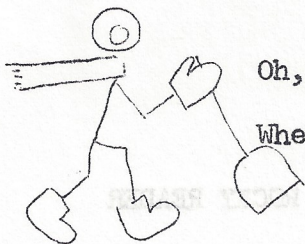
Rich has 46 reservations for the bus trip to Chicago; 40 are already paid.

Moved by Art Ferguson that we have our bulletin covers printed, supported by Roger King and carried. The price for 2000 will be about \$19.; \$3 extra for each extra color per thousand.

The next meeting will be at Roger King's/

Respectfully submitted,

Dorothy Ferguson
Secretary Pro-Tem



Oh, wretched man, grousing as you shovel
Snow from before your hovel,
Where is that sun-tanned man who mowed,
And couldn't wait until it snowed?

ROCKHOUND NEWS via OZARK EARTH SCIENCE NEWS

TREASURER'S REPORT

Balance, December 14, 1975 \$ 702.65

Receipts:

Raffle	19.00
Memberships	10.00
Patches	7.00
Interest (Sav. acct.)	8.45
Contribution	2.88
Cookies	9.58
	<u>56.91</u>

Disbursements:

Attendant	5.00
Service charge	.22
Postage	45.00
MWF Dues	36.50
Addressograph ribbon	4.15
Speaker	15.00
	<u>105.87</u>

Balance, January 15, 1976 \$ 653.69

Respectfully submitted,

Thea Fleming
Treasurer

LAPIDARY HINT -

Use an electric frying pan to heat the stones for dopping. Set it at 210° and there will be no danger of cracking. Line it with aluminum foil, then put the side of the stone up that you wish to dop. Melt dop wax in a small aluminum pan placed in the same frying pan. Dip dop stick in dop wax, set it on the stone and then shape.

from ROCK CHIPS via
PTERODACTYL

WINTER COMES BUT ONCE A YEAR
BUT THAT'S ENOUGH!



FROM THE AFMS NEWSLETTER. . .

IS THE COPPER PENNY DOOMED?

With the price of copper going higher and higher, it will soon cost more than a penny to make a penny. The present director of the U. S. Mint says we might even see aluminum pennies next year. Sometime next year the Mint will have to buy 52 million pounds of copper just for pennies. And right now the world price of copper is going up. And that, plus manufacturing costs, is enough to make a penny cost a penny. Should it go higher - and it very well could - pennies would then be worth more as a metal than money.

Aluminum is now priced around 30¢ a pound and the Mint could get three times as many pennies from it. Besides, it is softer and more easily worked, so the government would save about \$50 million a year.

About 75 percent of the country's coinage is made up of pennies. Last year the Mint made seven billion of them - and the number grows each year. Where do all the pennies go? People all around the country have shoe boxes stuffed with them. Too, they are being hoarded with the hopes that they will increase in value.

If with the blessing of Congress, the Mint should start making pennies from aluminum or some other suitable material, it will be the first change since 1943

when during the War they were made of zinc-coated steel. If the switch is made, it is likely that the penny would contain 96 per cent aluminum, a bit of magnesium for hardening and traces of iron, silicon, manganese, zinc and copper.

Likely some confusion between a penny and a dime would be created just as there was in 1943. The penny, however, would be grayer than a dime. Too, an aluminum penny would weigh only a third as much as one made of copper. Of course, it is possible the Mint might simply reduce the copper content of the penny from its present 95 percent to perhaps 70 percent. This would make it a little lighter colored than at present.

Makers of vending machines are very much opposed to any changes in the penny as they fear it might jam their machines.

Right now the Mint has a stock pile of lower priced copper on hand. Thus, if any changes are made in the penny it will depend upon the copper market when the Mint will have to renew its supply.

-from THE CONGLOMERATE

With extra care I chose the stone,
I sawed, preformed and dopped it,
Next sanded it to a mirror sheen,
And then, by dang, I dropped it.

ROCK CHIPS via FLINT CHIPS & ROCKY READER



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10 A.M. - 6 P.M.

Mon., Tues., Wed.,

Thurs., Sat.

10 A.M. - 9 P.M.

Friday

A L E T A ' S R O C K S H O P

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NATIONALLY KNOWN FOR CHOICE MATERIAL AT REASONABLE PRICES

FIRE DANGER - AFMS NEWSLETTER

A cautionary report from the California Division of Forestry should be noted in other states, including Idaho.

The California agency says investigations have identified auto exhaust catalytic converters as the cause of grass fires in six locations last fall. According to a fire prevention engineer on the division staff, the converters emit gases at about 725 degrees Fahrenheit, some 275 degrees hotter than those from conventional auto exhaust systems.

Dry grass ignites at about 525 degrees under summer conditions. Accordingly, drivers of late model cars and trucks equipped with catalytic converters should be wary when they drive through grassy fields, doubly so when they stop and leave their engines running where grass, or forest-floor underbrush and debris, could be ignited by hot exhaust gases.

from BOULDER GAZETTE, Emmett,
Idaho

If you have any questions about the stamps mentioned in the next column call Bob Beauvais. He will be happy to accept your contributions.

ALL THAT'S CANCELLED IS NOT LOST

Remember all the pleas we have made to you to save your commemorative stamps? Those we collected were mailed in October and we have just received a "Thanks, very good" from the Washington State Council of Churches Stamp Project.

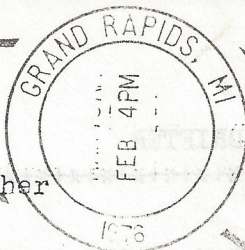
What good does this do? Well...in the last 16 years \$150,000 has been sent to Church World Service to provide high protein food to needy families and orphanages "wherever the need was greatest. In 1974 \$12,954.91 was sent and in 1975 just over \$13,000. Isn't this worth the extra effort it takes to remove a stamp from a used envelope? At our house we keep an old envelope in a special place and tuck the stamps in as we find them.

Orgently needed are the large commenorative stamps, large and middle-sized foreign stamps or air mail stamps, pre-cancelled stamps of all sizes and denominations, postage due stamps 30¢ and over, and high denominations of special delivery stamps. Please leave at least a ¼ inch margin of paper around the stamp (don't peel or tear off!). Pre-cancelled Christmas stamps are needed but not ordinary ones. Those stamps with clipped tops, missing perforation points, torn edges or damaged backs are not acceptable.

A personal note added says: "We continue to be most grateful for good, carefully processed stamps! Really important! Keep them coming!"

R. E. Beauvais, Publisher
3308 Wilson SW
Grandville, Mi. 49418

Address Correction Requested
Return Postage Guaranteed



JOHNNY HORIZON SAYS

THIS IS YOUR LAND.
KEEP IT CLEAN!

DATED MATERIAL
PLEASE DO NOT DELAY

HISTORIAN-ARCHIVES
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BERWYN IL 60402

BETTY CROCKER COUPONS CAN
STILL HELP THE AFMS SCHOLARSHIP
FUND, BUT WE HAVE TO HAVE THEM
BROUGHT TO US! GIVE THEM TO
DOROTHY FERGUSON

"STAMPS FOR FOOD" needs
our help. Give your
cancelled stamps, commem-
orative, foreign and
values over 10¢ to Bob
Beauvais.