

the GLACIAL DRIFTER

Volume I.

May, 1959

Number 6.

official publication of
THE GRAND RAPIDS MINERAL SOCIETY

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FIRST MAN-MADE DIAMONDS TO SPARKLE AT MAY MEETING

The achievement of centuries of alchemy and scientific research will pose a rare treat for members of the Grand Rapids Mineral Society when the story of the first man-made diamonds is told by one of the five General Electric scientists who accomplished the historic feat. Mr. William K. Cordier, head of G.E.'s metallurgical products department in Detroit will address the meeting to be held Wednesday, May 6 at 8 p.m. at Riverside elementary school.

Mr. Cordier will outline some of the history of man's attempt to reproduce the world's hardest substance. He will also give a little insight into the problems that confronted those assigned to the task---the development of new equipment without even a suitable pattern to go by and the trial and error of formulas and methods with nothing to delve into but the countless thousands of failures of others.

Few people realize the economic significance of the General Electric achievement. For years the giant and fabulously wealthy Diamond Cartel has controlled the world market for both gem and industrial grades. Though G.E. has not yet produced multi-carat stones the price break in the market has been noted by the DRIFTER in offerings made this month. Mr. Cordier will present his ideas as to the potential market in the abrasive field now that the United States is no longer dependent on Brazil's limited production and British industrial interests in Africa.

Mr. Cordier's appearance marks another outstanding event for the Society. It is believed that the research specialist will have some of the man-made diamonds to show to the membership.

JUNE MEETING TO COMBINE PICNIC

Caledonia Park will be the site of the June meeting of the Society which will combine a picnic and a special program Wednesday, June 10, from 5:30 p.m. to midnight. Mrs. L. H. Duyser, activities

committee chairman, advises the shelter house has been reserved for that date for members and their families. Assisting Mrs. Duyser are: Miss Esther A. Hall, Mr. and Mrs. William F. Brimmer, Jr., and Miss Virginia Franzen.

Details of the picnic and program will be announced at the May meeting and final arrangements will be outlined in the next issue of the DRIFTER.

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Last call for "Rocks and Minerals of Michigan." There are a few copies of this excellent book left that must be sold at the next meeting. Price is fifty cents. There are also some that have been paid for by members but not yet picked up. Be sure to get yours if you have it on order.

FEDERATION CONVENTION TO BE JUNE 18-21

Plans have been completed for the Midwest Federation of Mineralogical and Geological Societies' convention to be held at the Clark County fairgrounds, Springfield, Ohio, June 18 to 21. Since your Society is a member of the Midwest Federation, each of you is entitled to attend the convention as a representative of the Grand Rapids group. Members planning to make the trip are asked to contact President Robert Rozema for additional information.

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Society President and Mrs. Robert R. Rozema were the guests of Mr. and Mrs. Floyd N. Mortenson of Pontiac recently. Mr. Mortenson is regional vice president of the Midwest Federation and plans for the group's coming convention were discussed.

CLUB MEMBERS DO ROCKHOUNDING IN WATER

Mr. and Mrs. Edmund J. Wasel have just returned from an unusual rockhounding trip where the specimens they were seeking were under water! Combining the pleasure of a Florida vacation with a bit of agate collecting, the Wasels explored the famous agatized coral reefs of Tampa Bay. Found some too!

BOULDER BENEFACTORS BOLSTER BUSINESS

Steve Tchozeski--whose father's name has appeared enough in these columns--tells us that the club received a fine lot of rocks for last month's sale. Thanks go to John Sexton, Gerald Bloomfield

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(where have we seen that name before?), Newton A. Cairns (there's a name for a rockhound!), Donald B. Osborn, Penny Hanna, James Ray Jones (just signed up as member), Ray Fox, and Mr. and Mrs. Robert Pritchard.

Sale of rocks starts at 7:30 as usual.

DOOR PRIZE CARRIED OVER

The "Jiffy Cabinets" which were to have been offered last month will be presented at the May meeting according to Paul Chase, chairman of the prize committee. The cabinets donated by Don Casey were received in time, but the tickets didn't arrive until too late to do justice to the sale. The free door prize for the May meeting is a slab of jadeite given by Wilper Rock Shop of Allegan.

RIVERSIDE SCHOOL REPEATS AS MEETING PLACE

In order to present the outstanding program slated for the May meeting, it was necessary to move our meeting night up one week. As the Public Museum was not available for the changed date, arrangements have been made to hold the meeting at Riverside elementary school, 2420 Coit NE, where the April meeting was held.

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The Grand Rapids Public Library will have a display of the lapidary work of Joe D. Hanna, Jr., DRIFTER editor, from May 4 to 16.

CHRISTYS RANK AS TOP HOBBYISTS

Mr. and Mrs. Frank Christy certainly must rank as the top hobbyists in the Grand Rapids area if one considers the quality of their work as well as its great diversification. Frank is one of the few lapidaries we know who does expert faceting of gem stones. He has an excellent collection of cabinet specimens and when not busy with rocks, designs and makes award winning rugs. Mrs. Christy creates the silver mountings for her husband's gems. Her ceramic ware has received prizes in art shows and recently she completed a course in weaving. Her latest efforts in this field produced a bolt of beautiful wool tweed which will soon be a sport jacket for Frank.

These two fine people have a world of talent in every finger.

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Mrs. Charles French was the winner of the earrings made and donated by the Brimmers at the April meeting.

SECTIONS

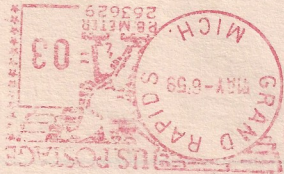
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The GLACIAL DRIFTER
Grand Rapids, Mich.

WHO STARTED THIS THING ANYWAY?

A few people have asked us about how the Society got its start and who the Founding Members are. Well, it all began with a meeting at the Kerr's house last October. Those present were: Mr. and Mrs. Raymond Kerr, Mr. and Mrs. Robert R. Rozema, Mr. and Mrs. Henry Slater; Mr. and Mrs. Joe D. Hanna, Jr., Dr. Richard W. Rose, Miss Mary Jane Dockeray, Mr. Merle Shook, Mr. Jay L. Shook, Mr. Henry J. Tchozeski, Mr. Russell W. Therrien and Mr. James Sherman. These people are the Founding Members. Sounds sort of ancient and dignified, doesn't it? We can attest to the age but we've seen darn little dignity around this bunch.

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While we don't conduct a lost and found department, we've got a friend who lost a new hat at the last meeting. He's John Simcoe who thought up the name for this journalistic fiasco, and we don't want any DRIFTER namers going bareheaded. So whoever lifted John's hat--by mistake--bring it back.

BUY BOOKS AND ROCK MAGAZINES THRU SOCIETY

You pay only the regular price when you order a book or magazine from the club but the dealer's profit goes to the Society's treasury. See Bob Rozema or Henry Slater.

PLANNING A ROCKHOUNDING VACATION?

Perhaps we can put you in touch with another member who's made the trip and has some helpful hints. Call

Joe D. Hanna, Jr. - editor, 2319 Riverside Dr. N.E. - EM 1-6511