

# the GLACIAL DRIFTER

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official publication of  
THE GRAND RAPIDS MINERAL SOCIETY

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## ROCK AREAS TO BE MAPPED AT AUGUST MEETING

A new idea in "do-it-yourself" treasure hunts will be introduced at the next meeting to be held at Riverside park, Wednesday, August 12 starting at 5:30 p.m. Dr. Richard W. Rose, Society Vice-President and program chairman, has announced a novel plan in providing the membership with locations of rocks and minerals in Michigan. Each member is asked to bring a state map (easily obtained from service stations) and a marking pen or pencil to write in the sites that will be given.

Anyone who has a favorite hunting spot can then pass on the location and description of the material found there for the benefit of all. A number of good collecting areas not mentioned in any publications on the subject are expected to be revealed by the more experienced rockhounds in the Society.

The evening will follow somewhat the pattern set at the July meeting which was also held at Riverside park. Swap tables will again be in evidence--this time with a separate arrangement for the Junior members who outdid their more timid elders at the last affair. The group will meet at the park pavilion, though picnic tables are available throughout the area for families who bring picnic suppers.

Dr. Rose advises he is also attempting to secure an outstanding speaker for the event.

## PARENTS TAKE BACK SEAT AT "SWAP NIGHT"

The July picnic meeting at Riverside park turned up some real



horse traders and a few "hoss thieves" among the younger set. Joe Fortuna was all around the table making deals. Young Bill Semeyn often had two or three trades in progress at the same time and then capped his efforts for the day by drawing his own number out of the hat for the door prize. John and Julie Joldersma had a big attraction with their catlinite or pipestone which they had picked up in Minnesota. This was the first time anyone in the Society had shown the mineral which Indians still use to carve pipe bowls and other artifacts. Philip and Barbara Wasel created a real sensation when they produced dad's Tampa Bay agatized coral and petrified manatee bones.

Carol Jean Slater celebrated her birthday (the DRIFTER does not publish the ages of female members) while trading rocks, and Bobby Moore got a shoe full of water climbing a tree! This latter event has no relation to mineralogy but it struck us as being a trifle odd.

Perhaps the most determined youngster at the silent auction was Patti Ann Rose. She had her eyes fixed on a particularly beautiful piece of coral and wasn't about to give up, no matter what it cost--her dad. We started to put in a bid, got a glare usually reserved for ogres who go around pulling arms off of little girls' dolls, so walked away. Yep, she got it. One of the Kerr gals (we won't tell them your name, honey) had the money situation all figured out, however. When asked how she was going to get the money to back up her bidding, she replied, "Oh, you just ask your husband." When it was pointed out that such a magic formula in all probability did not apply to her, she shrugged and said, "Silly-- when you don't have a husband, you ask your daddy."

Somewhere in this we detect a message to the bachelors of America. The married man is obviously doomed.

#### PIT PICKERS AND BEACHCOMBERS HAVE FUN

Field trips to the Coit Avenue Gravel Co. pits and Allegan county park beach attracted many of the Society's rockhounds during

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July. The trips, which were Captained by Henry Slater and Edna McDowell, respectively, furnished the groups with quite a variety of top-grade material. Good hunting was reported by Edith Register and Sarah Royer and excellent fossils were found at both locations by Mr. and Mrs. Otto. J. Weisner. It remained for his wife, however, to beat out veteran rockhound Les Pearl. Mrs. Pearl discovered one of the most attractive Lake Superior banded agates we've seen taken from this area.

#### OCEANA COUNTY TO BE EXPLORED NEXT

Sunday, August 23 will mark the next field trip by Society members who will travel to Oceana county to explore land owned by Mr. and Mrs. Louis A. Witte, both staunch club supporters. Lou advises the land has several "blow-outs" with interesting rock-bearing areas exposed. This will present a new type of ground to many Society mineral collectors. The trip will take most of the day and is open to all members and their families. Location and travel details will be given at the August meeting.

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We're most happy to see Frank Christy up and about after undergoing major surgery in one of the local hospitals. An expert at faceting gems, Frank has introduced some beautiful and wholly original cuts to the art---dryly advises it's more fun to cut than be cut. We'll buy that.

#### OVERNIGHT FIELD TRIP SET FOR SEPTEMBER

The Society's first overnight field trip is being planned for Saturday and Sunday, September 26 and 27 with the exploration of the Grand Traverse Bay coast near the village of Norwood. The DRIFTER has investigated this region and can report outstanding finds of Petoskey stone, banded chert, anthraconite crystals and marcasite nodules in shale. The entire field is covered with a variety of rocks and minerals making this perhaps the most interesting spot for the rockhound in Michigan's lower peninsula. Further

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THE GLACIAL DRIFTER  
Grand Rapids, Mich.

details will be available at the August and September meetings and in the next issue of the DRIFTER. Club Secretary Jane Kerr is handling reservations.

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Mary Jane Dockeray, geologist for the Grand Rapids Public Museum and the Society's Guide, tells us that visitors to Isle Royale National park who stoop to pick up a stone are regarded by the Rangers just as casually as one would a bank teller going to lunch with a large suitcase in each hand.

#### HAS ALASKAN "FLOATING ROCK"

Mrs. Helen W. Aves has one of the famous "floating rocks" picked up by her advertising exec husband Wesley while on a recent fishing trip in Alaska. These pumice stones are of volcanic origin and are found floating along the glacial-fed waters or washed up on the rugged shores. They apparently never become waterlogged and sink.

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Joe D. Hanna, Jr., editor.