

1958-1978



the

GLACIAL  
DRIFTER

Official Publication of  
THE GRAND RAPIDS MINERAL SOCIETY  
A Non-Profit Corporation  
1325 Ridgeland Ave. N.  
Grand Rapids, MI 49504

Affiliated with  
The National Federation of the American  
Federation of Mineral Societies

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October 1960

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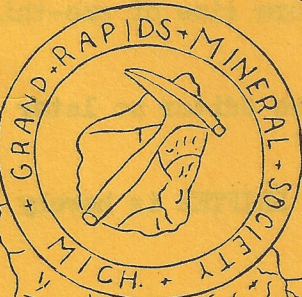
Volume 11, no 2 - Oct, 1968  
10th ANNIVERSARY



GLACIAL  
DRIFTER

20th

ANNIVERSARY  
EDITION



OCTOBER 1975

GLACIAL  
DRIFTER

OCTOBER  
1978

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DRIFTER



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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 third 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 \$6 per year for a family; \$4 per year for a single adult and \$2 per year for students under 18 years of age. Dues are payable to the treasurer. The fiscal year is from September 1 through August 31 of the following year. Those joining the club from March 1 through July 31 shall pay one half of the annual dues. Unpaid memberships will be dropped from the roll in December.

Advertising in THE GLACIAL DRIFTER is limited to a uniform size of one-third page at the rate of \$3 per issue, September through June.

All material for publication shall be in the hands of the editor no later than Monday after the regular monthly membership meeting.

Permission to reprint articles appearing in THE GLACIAL DRIFTER is hereby granted provided proper credit is given.



# THE GLACIAL DRIFTER

## VOLUME 21 NO. 2

### OCTOBER 1978

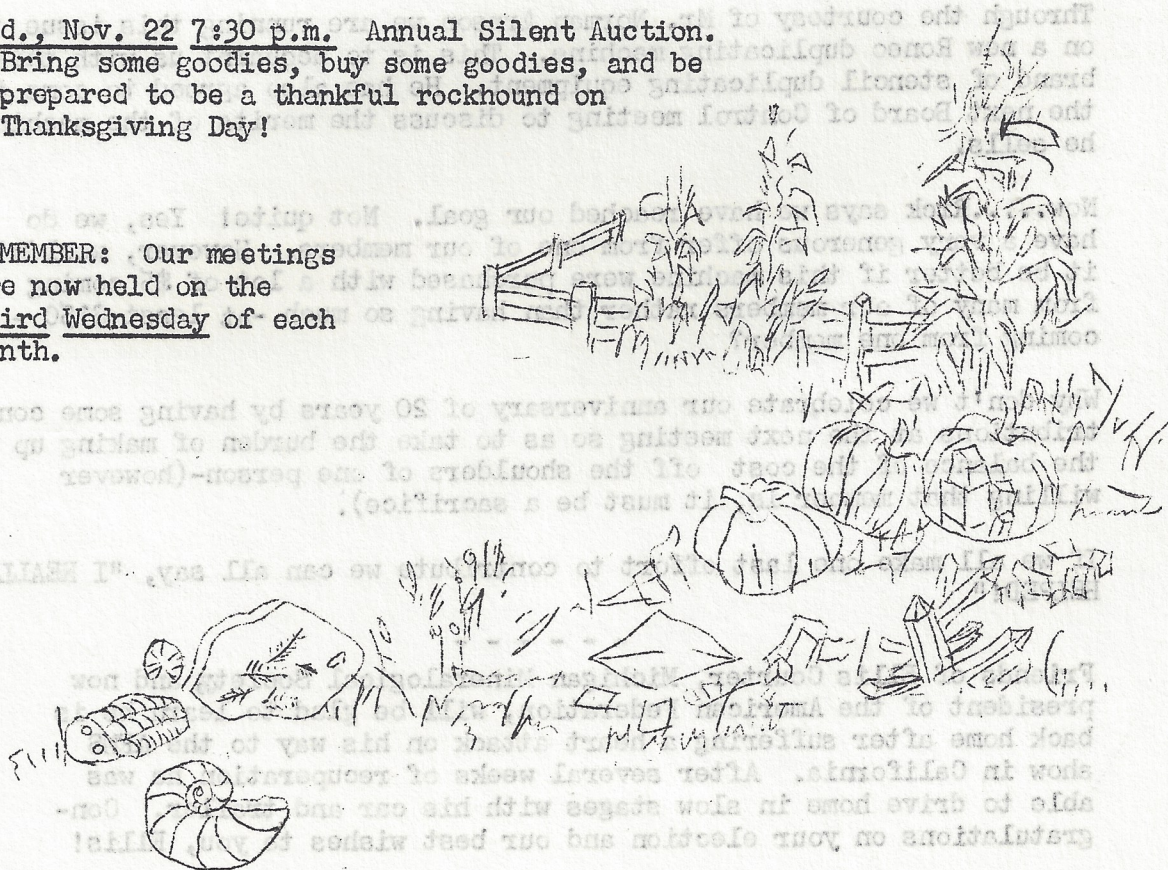
#### G.R.M.S CALENDAR

Wed., Oct. 18 7:30 p.m. OUR TWENTIETH ANNIVERSARY PARTY. Our speaker will be Dr. Richard Rose, Founding Member. His topic: "Illustrated History of the Grand Rapids Mineral Society."

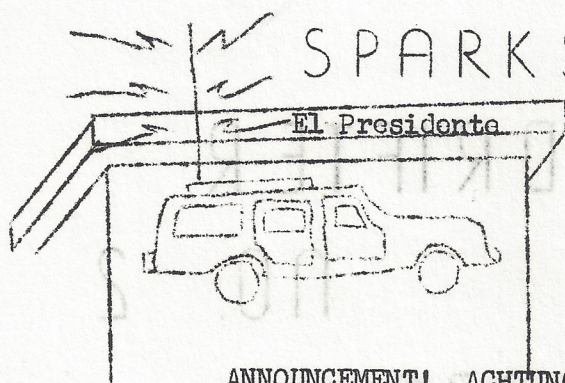
Mon, Oct. 23 7:30 p.m. Board of Control Meeting at the home of Roger and Faye King, 1957 36th SW, Wyoming.

Wed., Nov. 22 7:30 p.m. Annual Silent Auction.  
Bring some goodies, buy some goodies, and be prepared to be a thankful rockhound on Thanksgiving Day!

REMEMBER: Our meetings are now held on the third Wednesday of each month.







SPARKS from the

ROCKGRINDER

ANNOUNCEMENT! ACHTUNG! LISTEN UP! WE DID IT!

Last Saturday's rock sale at Elaine Smith's, coupled with an anonymous member's donation will put us over the top for the mimeo fund. Finally, through the efforts and donations of many people we will have enough money to buy the mimeograph machine - a new one. No more will the Beauvais' fight the "clunker." Thankfully, no more will you hear me "harping" about it. Your president sincerely thanks all who contributed so much time, money and effort to accomplish this goal.

- Rick

Through the courtesy of Mr. Norman Arnson we are running this issue off on a new Roneo duplicating machine. This is to acquaint us with this brand of stencil duplicating equipment. He has also agreed to come to the next Board of Control meeting to discuss the merits of the machine he sells.

Now.....Rick says we have reached our goal. Not quite! Yes, we do have a very generous offer from one of our members. However, wouldn't it be better if this machine were purchased with a lot of \$5 coming from many of our members rather than having so much -at least \$150 - coming from one member?

Why don't we celebrate our anniversary of 20 years by having some contributions at the next meeting so as to take the burden of making up the balance of the cost off the shoulders of one person-(however willing that member is, it must be a sacrifice).

If we all make one last effort to contribute we can all say, "I REALLY HELPED!"

Friends of Ellis Courter, Michigan Mineralogical Society, and now president of the American Federation, will be glad to learn he is back home after suffering a heart attack on his way to the AFMS show in California. After several weeks of recuperation he was able to drive home in slow stages with his car and trailer. Congratulations on your election and our best wishes to you, Ellis!



THIS MONTH

Dr. Richard Rose

"AN ILLUSTRATED HISTORY OF THE GRAND RAPIDS MINERAL SOCIETY"

Dr. Rose, a dentist, is a Charter Member of our club. He has long been interested and involved with all phases of rockhounding: collecting, mineral study, lapidary, but his primary interest is geology. He is an excellent photographer and a speaker who has the ability to make his subject come alive as he talks.

Mary Honton has arranged to have a display of the Les Pearl Student Loan Collection for us. This was made during the years Mr. Pearl was leader of the Junior Rockhounds of our club and was given to the Grand Rapids Public Museum to aid students in their study of rocks and minerals. Be sure to read "A Child's Hero" on page

Jim VanderMey has an Estwing rock hammer, given by the Beauvais', for the raffle, the last one to benefit the Mimeo Fund. Jim has some other prizes for the raffle, too.

Be sure to come for this celebration of twenty years as a rock club!

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Our September meeting was the first one on our new day, the third Wednesday of the month. Members attending formed queues to pay their yearly dues. (Did you pay yours?)

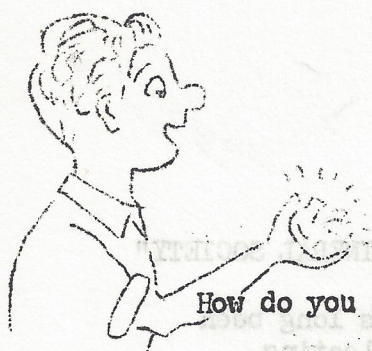
The program for the evening featured colored slides of some of the west and southwest areas where Don and Mabel Bowers have been treasure hunting. The presentation was well done and those of us who saw it could not help but think that the Bowers are as familiar with the camera as with rock pick and chold chisel. Many members of the club were heard to mention that some of the sites were familiar territory. Thank you, Don and Mabel, for getting us off to a good start this year.

-Mary Honton

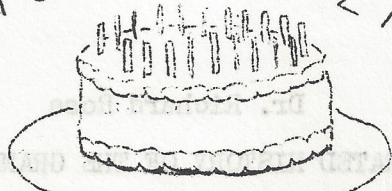
The September raffle (for the mimeo fund) was very profitable and the prize was terrific - that beautiful piece of fire agate donated by Jack and Jean Rocks. It is purely coincidence that Jim VanderMey, newly appointed raffle chairman, was the lucky winner. He didn't do the drawing and we are sure everyone was happy he was the winner of that lovely specimen.

Wasn't it nice to have such a quiet meeting, with no undercurrent from another group interfering with our speaker?





# CRYSTAL GAZING



How do you say "Happy Birthday to us" with a bulletin?

How do you make the 20th anniversary edition of THE GLACIAL DRIFTER worthy of the occasion? You start with the cover. On it you'll find the four designs which have been used on our bulletin covers through the years. Our "face" has changed, hasn't it?

Some time ago we collected a set of October issues of THE GLACIAL DRIFTER, dating back to the first one-page issue run off on a spirit duplicator in 1958. The set is complete except for the issues of October 1959 and 1961. If anyone has these they can spare we would appreciate it.

Just as summer is rerun time on TV, so this issue is mainly reruns of articles taken from other issues of the month of October through the years. We've reviewed these issues and selected items which we think will interest our present readers and bring back pleasant memories to our "old timers." Also included are some more modern items of interest to you all.

These old bulletins make good reading. The club has been fortunate to have good editors who stayed with the job for long periods of time and produced well-rounded (and sometimes prize-winning) bulletins throughout our twenty years.

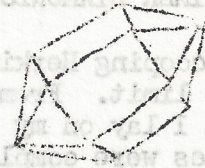
A history of the G.R.M.S. says Joe Hanna was appointed editor in February 1959 when the bulletin name was selected. However all issues we have seen were edited by Nina Rozema who was also publisher. In 1966 Elaine Smith took over editing and Jim and Emily Van Vuren were the publishers. They were the ones who involved us in doing the mimeographing in the fall of 1969 when Gordon Williams became editor with Esther Hall typing stencils. Ruth began doing the typing in September 1970. Art Ferguson moved to the editor's desk in 1972 and stayed with the job until January of this year when we began to edit as well as publish. These long editorships through the years have helped G.R.M.S. be the rock club it continues to be.

If you are an "old rockhound" get set to remember some of the former years - if you're a new member of the club this will help you know "This is the way it was."

*Ruth*

*Bob*





# ROCKHOUNDING IN THE GOOD OLD DAYS...

## SO YOU WANT TO HUNT FOR HERKIMER DIAMONDS?

(reprinted from THE GLACIAL DRIFTER, October 1962).

Man, this was the way to travel! I was lying on one bed in our camper, and Russ Greer was up in the bed over the cab as our truck sped over Canadian highways, piloted by our wives. We were on our way at last to the famous Herkimer diamond fields at Middleville, New York, and my head was filled with visions of hitting a pocket out of which tumbled huge Herkimer diamonds, but before I could pick them up a cockney accent snapped me back to reality. "Man, this sure is the way to travel." I gazed out the window to see the owner of the accent taking our camper in as he filled the tank with petrol. "It sure is," I said, "Let the wife do the driving." "Blymy, gov'ner, all you need is a box of beer, and you've got it made," came the sage reply. After a restful night of travelling we breakfasted overlooking Niagara Falls, and then on to Middleville, arriving at the Ace of Diamonds diggings about lunch time.

After lunch, which I can never remember gulping down, we changed to our work clothes; grabbed an assortment of chisels, hammers, and sledges, and with our specimen bags headed toward the caretaker's house to find out where to dig. "Do you want a guarantee pocket?" the caretaker asked to my plea for a good place to dig. "It will cost you \$2.50 extra." After a hurried consultation with Russ, we allowed as, so long as we had come this far, we might as well go whole hog and shoot the works. The caretaker took us to a spot next to his shed, removed his tools and bade us get to work. I thought it was odd that a hole about the size of a grapefruit was plainly

visible near the bottom of the diggings, but down on my belly I went to explore the pocket, and my heart skipped a couple of beats - but upon withdrawing them I found them to be fractured pieces. Sucker! Sucker! So. I had bought a salted mine! Oh, well, let's explore it further, shall we, Russ? Sledges banged, and dirt flew as we enlarged the opening 'til finally we made enough room so that by lying on my side downhill I could get my arm into the cavity up to my shoulder. My exploring fingers groped about the three foot square pocket when suddenly, around a corner I felt the main pocket drop into a smaller hidden pocket. This was no loose dirt as in the main entrance, but a clay that hadn't been disturbed for centuries.

What was that smooth cold surface I felt? My heart hammered with excitement as I drew a large perfect crystal from its resting place, then another, and yet another. The news spread fast and a group gathered to watch as I scooped the beautiful crystals out by the fistful. I heard the caretaker whisper to a small boy, "I thought you cleaned out that pocket," to which the boy replied, "I thought I did."

Every precious handful of dirt was placed on a sack, and our good wives had a field day combing the dirt for the smaller diamonds. I didn't even feel that rock that was digging into my side or notice that my face was flushed. How long can you practically stand on your head with your feet three feet higher? When you next page, please



## HERKIMER DIAMONDS (concluded)

are scooping Herkimer diamonds there is no limit. From 1:30 to 7:30 that night I lay on my side; my bones and muscles were complaining, but I heard nothing until the dawn of a new day. After all, it isn't every day that you can fill sack after sack with their precious cargo and I was determined to clean out that pocket down to the last tiny crystal. After all, the mine was salted, wasn't it? It was growing dusk as I pulled the last handful of dirt from the pocket; it was cleaned down to the bare rock, and as I stood and stretched weary muscles, I realized with a smile that dreams sometimes do come true.

-Fred Andresen

## THE ROCK PILE

I'll tell you what I often do,  
When I am tired or feeling blue;  
I like to take a chair or box,  
And sit beside my pile of rocks.  
I get a thrill as I begin  
To think of places I have been  
To gather these, my treasures here,  
In various spots both far and near.

Altho I've sat here oft before,  
Each time I find in this rock store  
Some hidden gem I did not see,  
Which somehow hid itself from me.  
You'd be surprised the peace of mind  
This simple act helps me to find.  
So I advise you, when you're blue,  
To do this thing I often do.  
You'll find relief from toil and care.  
You've left them at the rock pile there.

- C. G. Schweitzer

Ozark Earth Science News  
reprinted from THE GLACIAL DRIFTER  
October 1968

FROM THE AFMS NEWSLETTER . . .  
(October 1978)

Summer's over, and with it a lot of field trips are over for another year. Will next summer find the field trip part of our hobby on an irreversable downhill slide? It could well be. There is constant pressure by radical groups for more and more wilderness, and the new Federal Mine Safety regulations are closing off many of our finest mines and quarries to any collectors. It seems to me we have been quiet and tolerant and polite too long. We can protest loudly, as individuals, this constant erosion of our rights as citizens who contribute much to the American way of life.

One of the reasons for many areas being closed to us is that the BLM has a different definition of "road" than field collectors. To them a road is "An access route which has been improved and maintained by hand or power machinery or tools to insure regular and continuous use." To them a natural route used by vehicles, perhaps for years, is not a "road." Field collectors recognize many desert trails, (which were perhaps first wagon trails or wild animal trails), as roads. And to us a field trip road does not have to be improved by machinery or kept open continuously.

-June Zeitner

DID YOU WRITE A LETTER TO THE U. S. FOREST SERVICE? DID YOU SAY YOU WERE IN FAVOR OF PROPOSAL "B" - NO NEW WILDERNESS AREAS? WE HOPE SO! \*

You like the club?  
Enjoy the news?  
It's time, my friend,  
To pay your dues!

\*If you failed to get that letter to the U.S. Forest Service giving your preference on RARE II, write a letter now to your congressman and tell him much you value rock collecting areas. If you wrote the Forest Service please send a copy of your letter to your congressman.



LOOKING BACK

Our 1973 Anniversary issue carried a history of the club. It is part of the club records and is neither dated nor signed. We are not re-printing it - merely highlighting some of it for this issue.

In October 1958 a meeting of two couples resulted in a later meeting on October 29 to form a club. The first general meeting was held on November 12, 1958 at the Grand Rapids Public Museum--a turnout of 250 was estimated and 59 memberships received. At the end of the first year there were 175 memberships.

The first bulletin was issued in December 1958 and in February 1959 the name THE GLACIAL DRIFTER was selected. The club was incorporated in January 1959 and joined the Midwest Federation soon after.

The first field trip was to the Grand Rapids Plaster Company's mine on Butterworth Road. The history tells of many field trips, some to Cranbrook Institute, many to nearby gravel pits, and one to the excavation going on at Belknap Park.

This history ended about 1960 but in 1973 Rich Van Beek compiled some further items from minutes and past DRIFTERS. He notes that the name of Henry Tchozeski appears many times as does that of Dr. Richard Rose and Les Pearl, who led the junior rockhounds many years until his sudden death. His wife, Lucile, is still one of our members.

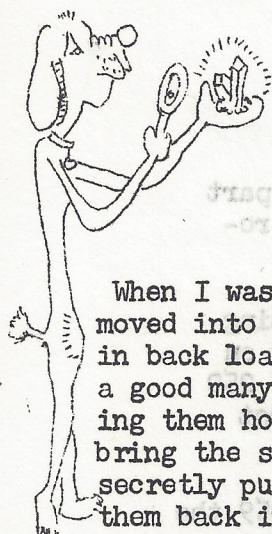
Our historian has scrapbooks of club activities and a file of THE GLACIAL DRIFTER. Our society has a varied history and we continue to make history with each and every meeting and activity.

Here's to twenty more years!

NOTE - DUES ARE DUE. Our new year begins each September and yearly dues are due then. If you haven't paid yours, be sure to do so in October. If you can't make the meeting, please mail your check to Treasurer Donn Cuson at 944 Roger NW, Grand Rapids 49504.

We want to keep you as a member! Sign up now!





### HOW I BECAME A ROCKHOUND

by Don Crabbs

When I was six years old, our family moved into a house that had an alley in back loaded with stones, and like a good many children, I started bringing them home. As fast as I would bring the stones home, my mother would secretly put them in boxes and dump them back in the alley. I sometimes wonder how many times I brought the same stones home.

This ritual continued until about the time I was twelve. By that time I had become a little more selective in what I brought home, and the volume had diminished tremendously.

By the time I was married I had become so selective that I only had a seven drawer chest full of rocks (that was a great improvement), which probably weighed about 1500 pounds. These were gone by the time my wife and I came back from our honeymoon. This probably wasn't any loss since I didn't actually know anything about rocks at that time. All I did was collect "pretty" or unusual rocks.

About this time the rock club was formed. I decided to learn to identify rocks, and made a weekly pilgrimage to the mineral room at the museum. I would spend an average of an hour and a half studying the different rocks. I did this for about six months, and learned a great deal just by observing. Shortly after that I joined the rock club and really started learning from the pros like Bob Rozema and others.

Since starting to learn about rocks, I've had just about every book on rocks from the library - all the way from "Gold Deposits of the World," to "Handbook for the Small Mine Operator."

I've hunted thomsonite in matrix for the last nine years in Minnesota, agates in matrix at Copper Harbor, mine dumps at Champion, Republic and Ishpeming for iron ore and associated material. I've hunted "pudding stones" in Rydalsbank, Ontario, and panned for gold in northern Ontario. I've had a ball hunting rocks and I hope to continue for many years.

(Don Crabbs is a Charter Member of the club, a past president and our resident expert on thomsonite)

-from THE GLACIAL DRIFTER, 10th Anniversary Edition  
October 1968

This hint, which appeared in the same issue in 1968 still is seen in many bulletins today:

Tip for Tumbling: Spic and Span has oxalic acid in it, and is especially good in the polishing agent mixture.

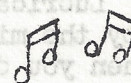
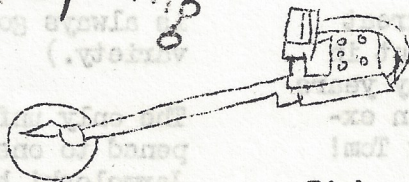
W. VA)

We thank Stew McKalip, editor the Kanawha Rock & Gem Club's (Charleston, PROSPECTOR PICKINGS and hope he will not get all "stewed" up about our borrowing his crystal-gazing friend which we used to dress up Don Crabb's story. We enjoy reading his bulletin--he's even punnier than Bob!





Be-bop-ing the Keweenaw



I realize this sounds like a strange title for a tale about a field trip. However, if you have ever heard a group of people using metal detectors you would soon learn this article is correctly titled as you heard the be-bop and boop of the detectors.

Tom McLean was our field trip chairman and he really did an outstanding job. Even though we have personally thanked him, we feel he should stand up and take a bow. He left nothing to chance and had explicit instructions and directions. Tom, or Cave Man (C.B. title), was our advance man, taking his children to the Keweenaw a week early to contact Richard Whiteman about the mine dumps we were to prospect.

Rich Whiteman owns the Red Metal Rock Shop in Calumet. He is a graduate mining engineer associated with Michigan Technological University and well qualified as a guide. He also did an excellent job, and is a great person to field trip with.

Our group consisted of my husband, Rick (Ye Prez); myself; Tom, Bernie, Tom, Jr. and Jodie McLean; Chuck and Lois Jarmoloski; Stan and Eva Way; John and Caroline Morris with their daughter and son-in-law, Chris and Gary Woods. The Gibsons, Kent and Geoff (new members) were going to join us but after discovering the length of the trip decided against it.

Bernie and Rick shared the driving assignment as we drove up north, roughly twelve full hours, leaving Grand Rapids at 5:30 a.m. and arriving at Copper Harbor between 5:30 and 6 p.m.

We joined Tom and the children at Fort Wilkins State Park where they were camped, as were the rest of our group.

Rick and I drove back to Lake Fanny Hope Motel where we stayed as we have the reputation of being "flush toilet campers." We had marvelous accommodations, quite plush. Then we drove a short distance to the dump and saw two large bears. Rick exclaimed, "Oh, no, my camera is in the back of the car. I've got to get out and get it!" But I said, "No, you don't! People will just have to take your word that we saw them!"

Later we drove back to Fort Wilkins to join our group around a nice bonfire (thanks to Tom). We discussed our field trip plans for the next day, Saturday. Believe me, we were not disappointed.

We went to the Cliff Mine to gather copper chisel chips and greenstones --a terrific time and good finds here. This is where Bernie began calling me "Hazel the Witch" after the comic strip character. Everytime I found something exciting I would cackle and tee-hee like crazy! Everyone thought this very funny and we all laughed about it. The only time we had bad weather was here; it only rained for one hour. The rest of the time was very warm - 90° in Marquette.

Next, we went to the Allouez dump where we found chrysocolla, malachite and cuprite. This material was in granite conglomerate so we had to use at least a twenty pound sledge hammer and sometimes that would bounce off. Roger King, where were you?

We then journeyed over to the Centennial mine where we prospected for epidote and copper, this was very easy going with good specimens.

Next we went to Mohawk #2 dump for  
-next page, please



## KEWEENAW ( concluded )

mohawkite and copper and found great material. Lubricating oil was put in the dump by the mine company many years ago, so when you dig here you can expect to become quite tarry. Ask Tom!

We dug down quite deep. In fact, Bernie found a john seat complete with brass fittings and some old bottles. There was good cutting material here, and specimens, too. I found a great copper arsenic specimen which we call "arsenic and old lace" as the piece has a lace-like appearance after being cleaned. Rich Whiteman said he loved seeing us all work so hard!

Sunday we went to the Central Mine for copper and greenstones. Rick had a nature call and what to his wondering eye should appear but a basaltic rock loaded with greenstones, my dear!

Later on, Stan Way, or Tiger Eye (his C.B. handle), with wife Eva led us to Lake Superior where we looked for agates and zeolites with some luck--not too much. We certainly had a great time, thanks to Stan and Eva. I even waded in Lake Superior, if you can believe it -- in September! I sat down near the water one time and a large wave gave me a very wet seat! and another laugh for everyone! What fun.

Rick and I had planned to make our meals simple so one day I suggested hamburgs and sweet corn. He agreed and we went to the store in Copper Harbor and asked for sweet corn. I thought the store owner would die laughing. He said, "We don't have a growing season up here; everything must be shipped in." So we had to settle for a can of corn. A word of warning to all going to Copper Harbor. Carry all your supplies except for milk, eggs, and bacon unless you expect to eat out. (Ed. note: During the summer months you can get almost anything you need but fresh fruit and meat is limited. Ice is always available and the fish

is always good, especially the smoked variety.)

The only unfortunate thing which happened to one of our group was that Lois Jarmoloski had a bout with a black fly. It bit her in the eyelid and the lid became swollen. It's better now - I called to ask about it.

Tom, Jr. and Jodie McLean were our gophers - "Go for this, go for that." They were really great running up and down the dumps like little mountain goats, being very careful about all specimens. They were really great to have with us - no trouble at all. Nice kids!

We had a marvelous time gathering round the campfire and toasting marshmallows at night, talking about our "finds" and plans for the next day. We agreed it was all too short a stay and vowed to return soon. Those who did not join us really missed a good time.

Next trip, y'all come!

-Pat O'Beshaw

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## COMING NEXT MONTH . . .

Another letter from June Smith who is in Tehran, Iran. Elsie Wendt has had a good two-page letter which we will print in November.

Here's an excerpt: "We were so delighted to receive your letter - part of our hearts are there with you. This week we've had a war, two earthquakes and a lunar eclipse. How's that for excitement?"

June says they are not worried -- the American Embassy has already been in touch with them and will take care of them in an emergency.



# Midwest Federations 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 Ave., Des Moines, Iowa 50311

October 1978 - Issue No. 188

## *In the cameras eye at Cedar Rapids*



**HONORARY MEMBERS.** Elected to Honorary Membership in the Midwest at Cedar Rapids were Doris Kemp, South Holland, Ill., left, and Jean Reynolds, Clarendon Hills, Ill. Jean was also re-elected Federation Secretary.



**BULLETIN WINNERS.** Left. Midwest President Paul Good presents large bulletin Judges Award Trophy to Betty Myers, editor of the "Tully", Park Forest Earth Science Club. Right. Paul presents 1st Place Trophy in large bulletin contest to Willis Smith, editor of "The Geode", publication of McDonald Douglas Gem and Mineral Society.



### THE CEDAR VALLEY GEM AND MINERAL SOCIETY

has given the flags used in the Hall of States exhibit during the Cedar Rapids show to the Midwest Federation so they may be used at future Midwest Federation shows.

### AT THE COUNCIL MEETING

during the Cedar Rapids show, Truman Ramsell, Cedar Valley Rocks and Mineral Society, was elected to a one year term on the Nominating Committee, ending in 1979. Haydon Peterson, Des Moines, Iowa and Miles Smith, Frankfort, Kentucky, were elected to three year terms on the committee, ending in 1981.

### THREE NEW SLIDE PROGRAMS

will soon be available to Midwest clubs. The three winning programs in the AFMS Slide Contest are being duplicated and copies will be sent to Program Chairman in each of the six Regional Federations. Program titles are "The Geology and Minerals of the Rutherford Mines, Amelia, Virginia", "Introduction to Faceting", and "Creative Lapidary with Reforzado".

### PLEASE DO NOT ORDER

slide programs for use during July and August. This is vacation period. Only exception are programs needed for use at rock and mineral shows.

### WELCOME NEW CLUBS

The following two clubs have been accepted into membership in the Midwest Federation.

Wayne County Gem and Mineral Club, Rittman, Ohio. J. Raymond Chittum, President, 39 Orchard St., Rittman, Ohio. Accepted August 29, 1979

The Artesian Diggers Rock Club. Robert Lockhart, President, Route 2, Bryan, Ohio 43506. Accepted June 26, 1979.

### \$1,037.60 FOR SCHOLARSHIP

51 clubs of our Midwest Federation donated material for the silent auction at the Cedar Rapids show that brought a total of \$1,037.60 for the Scholarship Fund.

### COLUMBUS CALLING....

It's not too early to plan to attend the Midwest Federation 1979 Show and Convention in Columbus, Ohio, August 2-5.



# Bulletin contest winners

*Here is the complete list of winners in the Midwest Bulletin Contest as announced at the Midwest Show and Convention, Cedar Rapids, Iowa, Aug. 10-13.*

The entries this year were all exceptionally fine. The judge's job was an extremely difficult one this year. Great appreciation and thanks go to Loyal Gooch, Diane Dare, Katie Steinbrenner and Haydon Peterson, who served as this year's judges.

## LARGE BULLETIN CONTEST

Judges Award. One bulletin selected from all entered for this award. "The Tulley", Editor-Betty Myers, Park Forest Earth Science Club, Ill.

1st - "The Geode", Editor-Willis Smith, McDonald Douglas Gem and Mineral Society, Illinois.

2nd - "Sandscript", Editor-Marilyn McFadden, Duneland Rock Club, Inc., Indiana

3rd - "The Pick And Shovel", Editor-Evelyn Ulrich, Lincoln Gem And Mineral Club, Nebraska.

4th - "The Glacial Drifter", Editor-Arthur Ferguson, Grand Rapids Mineral Society, Michigan.

5th - "Beachcomber", Editor-Jan Huff, Lake County Gem and Mineral Society, Illinois.

6th - "The Opal", Editor-Rudy Loeffler, West Suburban Lapidary Club, Illinois

7th - "The Pyriter", Editor-Lyle Voas, Dallas County Rock Club, Inc., Iowa.

8th - "Escomo", Editor-Shirley M. Vebel, Earth Science Club of Missouri.

9th - "Rock Trails", Editor-Kathryn Wolcott, The State Line Gem and Mineral Society, Michigan.

10th - "Cedar Valley Gems", Editor-Mrs. Robert Blin, Cedar Valley Rocks and Minerals Society, Iowa.

## SMALL BULLETIN CONTEST

Judges Award: "The RockFinder", Editor-Fred Niebauer, Michiana Rock and Gem Club, Inc., Indiana.

1st - "Rock Talk", Editor-Tanis Diedrichs, Blackhawk Gem and Mineral Society, Iowa.

2nd - "Worthen Worthy Notes", Editor-Irma Bradley, Worthen Earth Searchers of Hancock County, Illinois.

3rd - "Pebble Prattle", Editor-Clif Backstrom, White River Gem Society, Indiana.

## MINI-BULLETIN

1st - "Flint Flashes", Editor-Helen Smith, Licking County Rock and Mineral Society, Ohio.

2nd - "Agateer", Editor-Herb Olmstead, Wisconsin, Madison Community Center Lapidary and Mineral Club.

## NEW BULLETIN EDITORS

1st - "Ozark Earth Science News", Editor-Elaine B. Beachler, Ozark Earth Science Club, Inc., Arkansas.

2nd - "Crystal Cluster", Editor-Jean Mueller, Des Plaines Valley Gemological Society, Illinois.

3rd - "Rockwood Rock Hound News", Editor-Robert P. Beckman, The Rockwood Gem and Mineral Society, Missouri.

## SPECIAL PUBLICATIONS

1st - "Materials for Cabachon Cutting by the Lapidary" by Marge Price, Duneland Rock Club, Inc., Indiana.

2nd - "How to Make and Present a Slide Program" by Les Petery,

Gem City Rock Club, Illinois.

3rd - "Reflections of a Rockhound" by Cathy McFadden, Duneland Rock Club, Inc., Indiana.

## ORIGINAL ARTICLE CONTEST (Adult Division)

1st - "Hazards in Arts and Crafts", Author-Kathryn Wolcott, The State Line Gem and Mineral Society, Michigan.

2nd - "Big Bend Country", Author-Jim and Norma Silva, McDonald Douglas Gem and Mineral Society, Missouri.

3rd - "Fossil Collectors - A New Feature", Author-Jim Fijalkiewicz, Des Plaines Valley Mineralogical Society.

## ORIGINAL ARTICLE CONTEST (Junior Division)

1st - "What Archaeologists Do!", Author-Beth Habbersett, The Park Forest Earth Science Club, Illinois.

## NEW MIDWEST BULLETIN EMBLEM

At the Midwest show and convention in Cedar Rapids, Aug. 11-13, a new bulletin emblem was shown and is permitted to be used by winning bulletins.

The emblem can be adopted to yearly dates and large, small and mini bulletins.



## Competitive exhibit winners

Harriet George, Uniform Rules Chairman, reports the 38th Annual Midwest Federation Convention and Show at Cedar Rapids had 48 competitive exhibits. 16 entrants earned eligibility to compete for AFMS trophies. (A score of 90 or above is required to be eligible for the Master Division and 70 or above for the Junior Division.) 14 of the 24 available Midwest Federation Trophies were awarded.

II Minature Minerals: Patricia Carlon, Corn Belt Lapidary and Geological Society, Normal, Ill.

III Thumbnail Minerals: Glen E. Nicol, Shawnee Mission Gem and Mineral, Kansas City, Kans.

IV Micromount Minerals: Hazel Tarcza, Shawnee Mission Gem and Mineral Society, Kansas City, Kans.

V Minerals, Junior Group: James A. Carlon, Corn Belt Lapidary and Geological Society, Normal, Ill.

VII Cabochons: Donale J. Voights, Chicago Lapidary Club, Chicago, Ill.

VIII Specialized Lapidary: Geraldine Palmer, ESCONI, Downers Grove, Ill.

X Lapidary Achievement, Junior Group: Greg Hiller, Roehm Geology Club, Berea, Ohio.

XI Fossils: Bruce Lauer, ESCONI, Downers Grove, Ill.

XII Fossils Jr. Group: Rich Baud, Roehm Geology Club, Berea, Ohio.

XIII Jewelry and Metalcraft: Joseph Laycsak, Chicago Lapidary Club, Chicago, Ill.

XIV Educational: Clint Heckert, Elgin Rock and Mineral Society, Elgin, Ill.

XV Educational Jr. Group: Rich Baud, Roehm Geology Club, Berea, Ohio.

XVIII Junior Society Exhibits: Roehm Geology Club, Berea, Ohio.

XXII Fossils Collected in the Field: Peg Johnston, Roehm Geology Club, Berea, Ohio.



Reprinted from THE GLACIAL DRIFTER, October 1970

## A CHILD'S HERO

by Joan Afton

(Joan was a member of the club since she was 11 years old, starting with the Junior Club at the museum. When she wrote this she was a music major in college, still interested in geology. She asked that her article be printed, that she wanted "the many people in the club who have shown an interest in me to know that I appreciate all they have done, and that I take something very wonderful with me from my years in the club.")

Every Saturday morning half-a-hundred children would pour through the museum door into the unfinished corner where the rock club met. It was a wonderful place, and no one noticed bare cement floors or pipes and wiring, or unshielded light bulbs; here was a place of knowledge free for the asking, and friendship in a common love. But the room was empty until he appeared. He was usually dressed in a tan work suit, the kind he wore for his carpentry jobs, but here was no common laborer. His sixty-some years of knowledge and wisdom fairly shone from his gentle blue eyes, and there were crinkles of warm laughter around them. His hair almost white, and his face was tanned and weathered from many days beneath the sun's gold stare. He walked with a surety that bespoke a love for life, for people, for the world; and a humble confidence that only long years of toil and trouble and achievement could mold. As far as the adoring children could see, he knew everything, and his warm sun-browned hands were always ready to take theirs and lead them into a wonderland of learning about almost everything under the sun. Rocks were his specialty, but they learned much, much more. He was a wise and understanding friend, a father,

a teacher...a child's hero.

I was one of those half-a-hundred children. One of the half thousand or so whose lives he touched through the years. I saw him then as a giant, a wizard, a tall, tall father, and I see him still as one who will never find another like him in this world. And he was the beginning.

A little spark in my mind that could have been quenched with "Oh, I don't have the time now," or, "Don't ask so many questions," was not. I heard about this rock club, and began taking the bus there every Saturday. I met Mr. Pearl. I met the Museum. I met lots of kids. And I met Geology. We five, Mr. Pearl, the Museum, the kids, Geology and I, started on something really beautiful. We discovered that rocks had names, and crystals had forms. Mountains had reasons, and valleys had stories, sea bottoms held communities, and the whole of earth was fascinating. Week after week, he kept showing us more wonderful things, and the spark had long since become flame. He told us why, he showed us why, and he kept making us ask all the more: "Why?"

After twenty-two weeks we had to quit, until the summer program started two months later. Then eight weeks more of hikes and gravel pits, wonderfully heavy knapsacks, and more knowledge. There was more than rocks. Even more than creeks and those grand alluvial fans, and hills...there were fascinating things about hornbeam trees, and summer tanagers, ant lions and salamanders, wood nymphs and goldenthrush and fairy rings. And when we got home

next page, please



## A CHILD'S HERO

late one night, there was Orion, and Cygnus, and Cassiopeia's chair in the sky.

Months, and years...almost all I remember for those years is the rock club. I lived for it, for nature, for knowledge. I learned how to live life and absorb it, to love it. I learned the delight of unspecialization: I sponged up every available piece of knowledge of any subject; I collected every rock that was different from the ones I had. I counted my allowance in the number of specimens I could buy from the Museum's shelf; gorgeous stuff like lepidolite and satin spar and apatite. I joined the Mineral Society, feeling like an extremely privileged mouse among the big people's store of cheese, hiding behind Mr. Pearl, and getting to know the rockhounds from afar. I was a "pebble pup" at first but graduated to the status of "junior rockhound" after a couple of years. I learned to polish stones from dear Russ Girard and made all Mom's presents for three years. She never knew what to expect; it could be a pin, a necklace, earrings...but always a rock. I put my meager entries in the March shows and wore "Exhibitor" on my coat, and even "Hostess." People never told me they didn't have time, or to stop asking questions, or to go play. Instead they always gave, of time, of knowledge, of rocks. I'll never forget when Mr. Pearl picked up an arrowhead from under my toe as we hiked...and gave it to me. Or when I was first to identify a trilobite head and found it suddenly mine. Or the swaps I made with Big People who must have laughed inside as I offered my splendid red granite for a brachiopod.

And this is how I've grown up, finding in common things wonder, finding in people love, finding in nature beauty and glory...and in all these things finding God. I still learn, and yet there are opportunities also to teach.

There are wide eyes looking up at me, smaller hands reaching for mine, little minds that beg to be fed with the reasons for mountains and the stories of valleys. Now I can give back, now I can share my treasures ...and I think of the ones who shared life with me. Besides names of rocks and forms of crystals, and trees and birds and...besides these there is one thing, the best treasure of all, that is mine to share...the love of life, the love of living, the abundance of every day that molds hearts to thanksgiving and an eagerness for tomorrow. This is to hill and valley and forest and field, snow and stars, Christ and God...this abundant life is what I want most to give to my children, to everyone's children in the years to come, to give as I have been given.

With sincerest thanks,  
Joan Afton

THE GARAGE ROCK SALE September 30 at the Smith home was fun and profitable. Helping throughout the day were Bob and Elaine Smith, Mary Honton, Don Bowers, Ruth Steele, Jim VanderMey, Pat and Rick O'Beshaw, Thea Fleming and Bob and Ruth Beauvais. Other club members came and went, some to contribute, some to buy.

The variety of material was good; the rain was not! It continued with varying intensity through the morning but did not discourage people from coming. Some stopped to look and went on, this was not their kind of garage sale. By noon the weather cleared.

Elaine got some great publicity, both in the Press and a local paper. Our thanks to Bob and Elaine for the use of their home and garage, and to all who brought things for the sale. Our proceeds were about \$236. Items left over will be used for the raffle and silent auction.



In the October 1964 issue we find a column called Junior Jottings, edited by Marilyn Damstra. Here we found this fine article by a junior member, Jim Molenbeek.

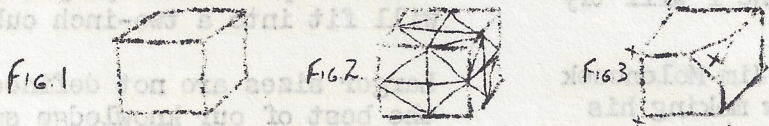
### SPHERE MAKING

Among the many facets of this wonderful hobby of rockhounding I have entered is the making of rock spheres. I started making spheres many months ago, and now I will pass along some of the things that I learned.

To begin, all one needs is a large piece of rock, the size depending on how large a sphere is wanted. This rock is cut into a cube (Figure 1) and then each side is marked, as in Figure 2.

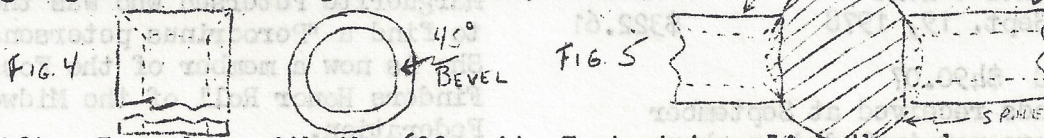
Then the cube is taken back to the saw where every corner is cut off (every corner corresponding to X in Figure 3). Then all the corners that are made from cutting off the first corners are cut off. Then any small corners produced by the second corner cutting are cut off.

Now the pre-formed sphere is taken to the grinder, where all projecting points are ground down so that when we are done grinding we will have a fairly round rock. Of course, it is far from perfectly round, but at least now it will fit into the sphere cutters.



The sphere cutters are simply two hollow pipes, each pipe having a  $45^\circ$  angle on the inside (Figure 4). One of the cutters is mounted on a fairly slow moving arbor. The other cutter is held in the hand. The sphere is held in between the two cutters, which are each moving in opposite directions to keep the sphere moving in all directions at the same time (Figure 5). The purpose of the sphere cutters is to make the sphere perfectly round, and by the time it is done it is usually not much more than  $1/1000$  of an inch out of round (usually).

I use silicon carbide as an abrasive in the sphere cutters, starting with #80 grit to wear the sphere down to where it is perfectly round. From #80 grit I use #220, #300 and #600 grit in that order, going from a coarse grit to a very fine grit.



After I am done with the 600 grit, I start to polish the sphere. There are two ways in which one may polish a sphere. The first  
next page, please



## SPHERE MAKING (concluded)

is on vertical polishing buff, the type many people polish cabochons on. The second way, the one I use, is to place the polishing material over the mouth of the cutters, and go through the same motions as before, adding wet polishing compound from time to time to avoid overheating. (A sphere can crack from overheating the same as a cabochon.)

After sufficient polishing the sphere should be done. On the average it takes about ten hours to make a two inch sphere, although time varies according to how hard the material used is. I have used mostly softer materials like travertine onyx, and septaria, not because harder materials like agate are undesirable but because I think ten hours is long enough. But in the future, if I ever come across any exceptional agate or some clear quartz, I might be persuaded to turn it into a sphere.

If you have any question on sphere making, please ask me, and I will try to answer it for you.

Ed. note: Wonder where Jim Molenbeek is now? Maybe he is now making his spheres in a more modern manner - using three motor-driven cutting tools arranged at 120° angles from each other.

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## TREASURER'S REPORT

Balance forward, Aug. 15, 1978 \$292.61

## Receipts

Ads	12.00
Memberships	18.00

30.00  
322.61

Disbursements : none

Balance, Sept. 19, 1978 \$322.61

Mimeo Fund \$490.07

(note: funds received at September meeting are not included in above report)

Donn Cuson, Treasurer

From October 1974. . .

## WHAT'S A THUMBNAIL

When one of our lapidarists asked this question the other day, it occurred to us that we often get so used to using certain terms and become so familiar with them that we forget some of our members have other interests and may not know to what we are referring.

To answer that question we consulted the AFMS Uniform Rules concerning the sizes of mineral specimens:

"A micromount (m/m) is a mineral specimen in which the individual crystals are so small as to require magnification to correctly identify and evaluate the mineral. Micromount specimens shall be of a size no larger than will fit into a 1 x 1½ inch box.

"A thumbnail (T/N) is defined as a mineral specimen displayed so that it will fit into a one inch cube.

"A miniature mineral is defined as a mineral specimen displayed so that it will fit into a two-inch cube."

Larger sizes are not defined, but to the best of our knowledge specimens commonly known as hand-size are just that--they fit easily into your hand.

Specimens larger than that are usually referred to as cabinet or museum size.

Correct us if we're wrong!

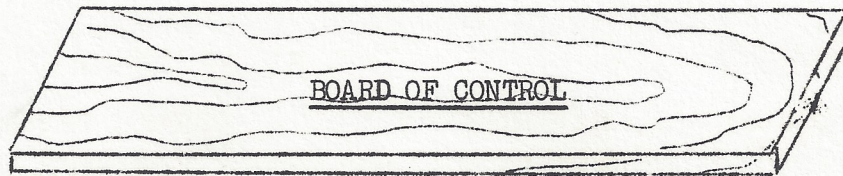
-Art Ferguson, Bob Beauvais

- - - - -

DID YOU KNOW that one of our members has a fossil named for her? She is Marguerite Petersen who was the first to find a "Perocrinus petersenae." She is now a member of the Fossil Finders Honor Roll of the Midwest Federation.

(October 1971 issue)





MINUTES OF THE MEETING, September 25, 1978

(Henry Tchozeski, spouse of our secretary, Bette, made quite a hit when he took over for her last month - everyone seemed to enjoy his humorous minutes. Sorry, folks, but this month neither Tchozeski was able to attend, so you get just plain old factual minutes to read.)

The regular meeting of the Board of Control was called to order by President Rick O'Beshaw in his home. There was a slight delay because of couple of members had to be called and reminded of the date.

Present were Dick Pulliam, Arthur Ferguson, Faye and Roger King, Bob and Ruth Beauvais, Carl Flink, Mary Honton, Bob Tuinstra and Rick and Pat O'Beshaw. Carl Flink was appointed by the president to fill the term of Don Crabbs who could not accept the election because of work commitments. Treasurer Donn Cuson was unable to be present but his report was given by Art Ferguson.

Rick announced the appointment of chairmen for 1978-79: Mary Honton, Vice-president, programs; Dick Pulliam, Publicity; Pat O'Beshaw, Hospitality; Ruth Steele, Sunshine; Field Trips, Tom McLean; Raffle, Jim VanderMey. Show and Silent Auction chairmen will be announced later.

Tom McLean is talking of a field trip to either Pugh Quarry or Rensselaar in late October, this is all right if it does not conflict with other club shows.

We are still holding off on the new mimeo until we are sure of the funds for purchase. It should be possible to purchase one if the garage sale planned for September 30 is successful.

A letter from the AWARE Committee was read requesting funds--they seem to be interested in hunting, fishing, etc., so no action was taken.

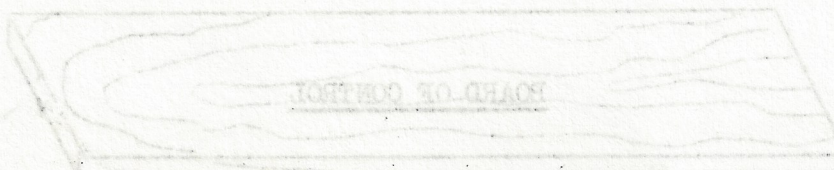
A letter from Florence Hill, State Director, was summarized by the president. Club presidents will be meeting during the Lansing show on Sunday. Rick asked for a volunteer as he cannot attend that day.

Moved by Faye King, supported by Mary Honton, that the secretary invite all past presidents to be our guests of honor for our 20th anniversary meeting in October. The tentative title for our March show will be "Twenty Wonderful Years of Rockhounding."

Mary Honton summarized plans for programs for the rest of this year. Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,  
Ruth Beauvais  
Secretary Pro-tem





--- PLACES TO GO ---

- Oct. 13-15 Detroit, MI. Michigan Mineralogical Society <sup>Show</sup>, Detroit Light Guard Armory, 4400 E. 8 Mile Rd. Admission \$2 - 3-day special for \$5. Great displays, programs and dealers.
- Oct. 27-29 Lansing, MI. Central Michigan Lapidary & Mineral Society Show, Michigan National Guard Armory, 2500 S. Washington. Lectures, demos, door prizes, supervised swap, dealers.
- Nov. 4-5 Bay City, MI Tri-County Rock and Mineral Club Show, Bay County Community Center. Displays, dealers, demos.
- WATCH FOR THESE TWO EVENTS SCHEDULED FOR 1979!
- Feb. 25-Apr. 1 Grand Rapids, MI. Our annual show at the Grand Rapids Public Museum. Start planning now to display and to help put over this public service effort.
- Mar. 29-31 Grand Rapids, MI. Indian Mounds Rock and Mineral Club Show at Eastbrook Mall.

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

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"I love the ground you walk on!" This was the tale he told.  
For they live dup by the Klondike and the ground was full of gold!

— PEGMATITE via ROCK TRAILS  
and other bulletins



## GUESTS AT OUR SEPTEMBER MEETING WERE:

Edward Connors  
Theodore & Glenn Bartman  
Nellie Osband

## WELCOME THESE NEW MEMBERS:

Nellie Osband, 12020 Grand River , R#2  
Lowell  
Geoff Gibson (Student)  
1216 N. Broadway,  
Hastings  
Clair and Madelyn Speckin  
233 S. King St., Ionia  
- - - - -

In our last issue we failed to report on the Budget Bash held at Traveler's Park in Allendale in June. We had a good number of campers and quite a few others who came out on Saturday. Swappers got an early start then were forced to pack up when the rain came down. It soon stopped, and before the drops had stopped falling our chairman, Ted Duprey, was out encouraging campers and swappers to get out and get started again. We had a delicious pot luck, a good silent auction, and even time around the big campfire before the rain came again. Our thanks to Ted and Marie Duprey for all their work in preparing for the Bash - it was a fun time for all who attended.  
- - - - -

## NOVEMBER is SILENT AUCTION MONTH!

Clean out your stock and decide what you can bring to this special night. As usual you may have 50% of the profit is you wish. Henry Tchozeski will be chairman, and bid sheets will be ready at the October meeting. Be sure to fill out the bottom line if you want the 50% rebate! We need good specimens, slabs, finished jewelry, cabs...anything of interest to the rock hobbyist. Tell your friends!

The following was submitted by Elsie and Arnie Wendt. It was written by their son, Jim, a resident of Anchorage, Alaska. He works on the Alaskan pipeline and make frequent trips to Prudhoe Bay. Obviously he is an ardent back-packer and an observer of nature....

TWILIGHT

I've traveled the Haul Road from end to end; and seen a living thing at every bend.

I've fished the Aleutian Chain, sailed Katchamach and Bristol Bay; the water's still cold and clear, even treacherous, some say.

I've flown o'er the Arctic Tundra a thousand miles square, and watched the Caribou rub his rack of velvet bare.

Yes, the Caribou are there, the Arctic Fox, with all his hair.

The Great Wolf still stalks the winter range with all his cunning care, the Trumpeter Swan, the Loon and Ducks so rare, to raise a brood or two, keep returning there.

I've packed a hundred miles and more, faced ole' Griz a time or two.

Found and dug Yellow Gold, Oh Sierra Club, in spite of you.

Oh great Sierra Club, if you'd take the time to see. There's no great change, with progress and oil industry.

Yes, if you'd but leave your office desk and see, my friend, you'd stop your darn complaining, and drop your poison pen.

But when you stop the road, the bridge; the rail and trail you see

It'll all be there forever, but only for the likes of me.

-James A. Wendt

(this is Jim's reaction to the push for more wilderness areas)

- - - - -

SAFETY TIP: Those who go into a thing head first usually come out of it feet first.

Issue of October 1974



R. & R. Beauvais, Editors  
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Grandville, MI 49418

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GUESTS AT OUR SEPTEMBER MEETING WERE:

Edward Corns  
Theodore & Glenn Barman  
Nellie Osband

WELCOME THESE NEW MEMBERS:

Nellie Osband, 12020 Grand River, NW  
Lowell  
Geoff Gibson (Student)  
1216 N. Broadway,  
Hastings  
Clair and Madelyn Spoonkin  
333 S. King St., Janis

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Swappers got an early start then were  
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chairman, Ted Dury, was out  
sitting campers and swappers to get out  
and get started again. We had a  
delicious pot luck, a good silent  
auction, and even time around the big  
campfire before the rain came again.  
Our thanks to Ted and Marie Dury for  
all their work in preparing for the  
Book - it was a fun time for all who  
attended.

NOVEMBER IS SILENT AUCTION MONTH!

Clean out your stock and decide what  
You can give to our  
"Coffee Kitty" at the refresh-  
ment table aid our contribu-  
tion to the AFMS Scholarship  
Fund