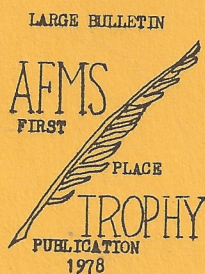
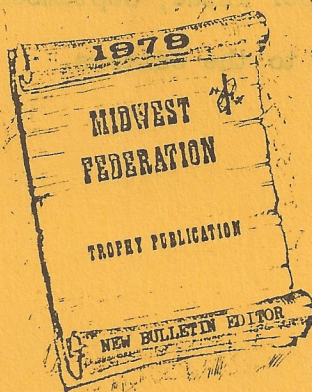
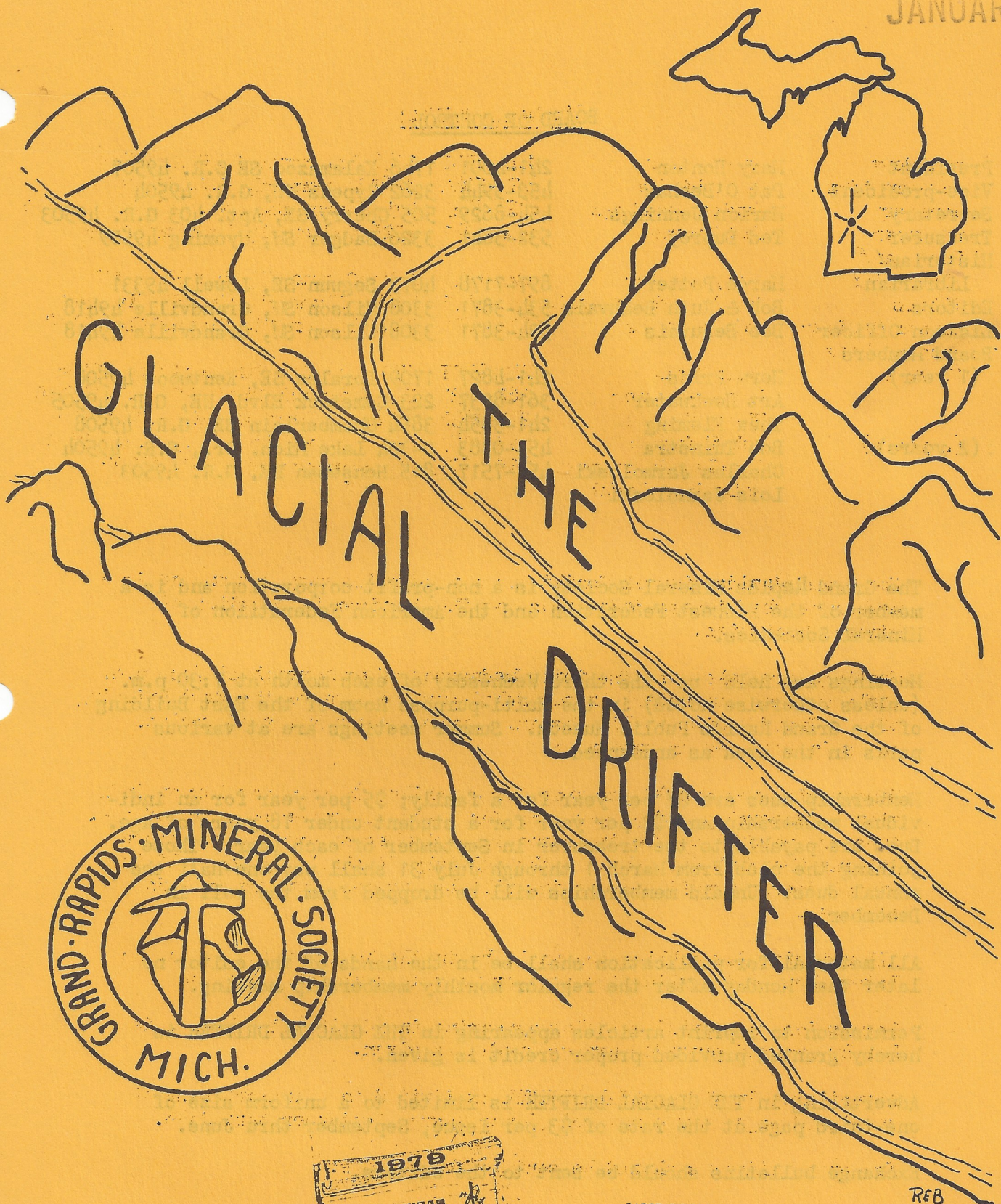


JANUARY 1981



REB
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BOARD OF CONTROL

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Vice-president	Pat O'Beshaw	453-5944	3262 Rypens NW, G.R. 49504
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Historian/ Librarian	Marge Potter	897-7178	4073 Segwun SE, Lowell 49331
Editors	Bob & Ruth Beauvais	534-3871	3308 Wilson SW, Grandville 49418
Liaison Officer	Bob Beauvais	534-3871	3308 Wilson SW, Grandville 49418
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	Art Hoekwater	361-8937	223 Comstock Blvd. NE, G.R. 49505
	Thea Fleming	241-3854	3854 Chamberlain SE, G.R. 49508
(2 years)	Bob Tuinstra	453-0383	0-304 Lake Mich. Dr., G.R. 49504
	Charles Jarmoloski	458-7517	815 Houseman NE, G.R. 49503
	Lois Jarmoloski	"	"

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 on the third Wednesday of each month at 7:30 p.m. (unless otherwise noted) in the Multi-purpose Room of the East Building of the Grand Rapids Public Museum. Summer meetings are at various parks in the area as announced.

Membership dues are \$7 per year for a family; \$5 per year for an individual membership and \$3 per year for a student under 18 years of age. Dues are payable to the treasurer in September of each year. Those joining the club from March 1 through July 31 shall pay one-half the annual dues. Unpaid memberships will be dropped from the roll in December.

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.

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

Exchange bulletins should be sent to the editors.

THE GLACIAL DRIFTER

VOLUME 23 NO. 5

JANUARY 1981

G.R.M.S. CALENDAR

Wed., Jan. 21 7:30 p.m. Regular Meeting. Work Project for the show. Preparing rocks for sale

Mon., Jan. 26 6:30 p.m. Board of Control meets for dinner at Sveden House, 3526 Plainfield NE.
Meeting will follow at 7:30 p.m.

Sat., Jan. 31 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Set-up time for the show, Grand Rapids Public Museum's East Building

Sun., Feb. 1 1-5 p.m. Our 22nd Annual Show opens

Wed., Feb. 18 7:30 p.m. Regular Meeting. Speaker: Wag Wheeler

Sun. Feb. 22 5 p.m. Take-out time for show

Mon., Feb. 23 Board of Control Meeting

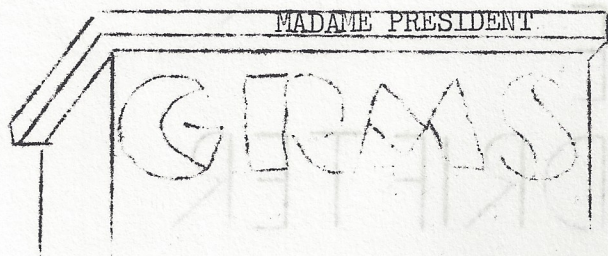
YOU'RE INVITED TO -

The 5th Annual Open House of the Plymouth Rock and Mineral Society, Sunday, Feb. 15, from 12 to 5 p.m. at Plymouth Cultural Center, 525 Farmer, Plymouth. Demonstrations, displays, movies, sales, and more!
Adults 50¢ Children 25¢

The 9th Annual Metro Rock Swap, Sunday, March 22 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. at Allen Park Civic Hall, 15871 Philomene, Allen Park. No admission charge, free parking, swap, sell or buy minerals fossils, and lapidary. Table space fee for 4 ft. \$2. Refreshments available

START PLANNING NOW to attend the Midwest Federation Show at South Bend, Indiana, June 23-26!





You may or may not have recovered from a hectic, happy holiday season. Happy New Year!

Our Christmas pot luck, although not well attended, was an enjoyable one. Lots of good food and fun with the Rock-O-... We dispersed a bit early as Rick came in and told us there was freezing rain to be avoided.

Work is progressing on the February show at the museum. If you have not been contacted regarding a display or demonstrations, please call Lois Jarmoloski or Bob Beauvais. WE NEED YOU! The theme of the show has been set up so that all can be involved: "Rock-Collecting: A Multi-faceted Hobby." If you feel you do not have enough for a case, call a friend and consolidate. Let's share our fun with others. This hobby is probably the most popular national pastime in terms of tourists bringing ^{home} rock souvenirs from vacations.

Our January 21st meeting is to be a working one. We plan to make up mineral specimen boxes and individual minerals for sale during the show. We need identified specimens, any you can spare. Along with this we need egg cartons and small boxes with separators. This sale is an important part of our show since our silent auction did not exactly fill the coffers in regard to our operating expenses. Publishing the bulletin and postage for mailing takes a big bite out of our treasury, and we need this supplemental income to continue in business.

For those of you who did not know, Marge Petersen's husband died during the holiday season. Our sympathy is extended to Marge along with our prayers. We love you, Marge.

See you all on the 21st.

Mary

P.S. I just talked with Bob Tuinstra who had planned to be show chairperson. He has been ill and cannot continue. He's had quite a bout with infection he does not seem to be able to get rid of. We wish him a speedy recovery.

MEETINGS

Wednesday, January 21 - 7:30 p.m.

Bring your contributions of rocks and minerals to be packaged and priced for the childrens table at the show. Be sure they are labelled as to name and location. We'll need some egg cartons so we can prepare boxes.

Remember, we did this last year and had a great time - it was a fun, get-acquainted, work meeting.

Our December meeting was small - very close to Christmas and several members were ill. However, we had a very good pot luck with plenty of delicious food. Following dinner we played Rock-O with Marge Potter calling the numbers. Of course, it started to rain and the party broke up early when Rick O'Bechaw arrived with a report of freezing rain. It was a nice Christmas party!

The Board of Control met on December 22 at the home of Loise and Charles Jarmoloski. Those present were Mary Honton, Ted and Marie Duprey, Herm Prins, Bob and Ruth Beauvais and the Jarmoloski's. Business concerned planning for the show and programs for the January and February meeting.

Bob Tuinstra was unable to attend either the Christmas meeting or the board meeting because of illness. Pat O'Beshaw also was absent for both meetings. Pat has had a bad time with a number of problems and is still not feeling well. Come on, Bob and Pat -- we need both of you!



We're a multi-faceted club with multi-faceted members and we're putting on a multi-faceted show!

It's very easy to list the many facets of rockhounding: lapidary, fossil and mineral collecting, crystal study, carving, metal working and other related activities.

How about the facets of a club member? Those which come easily to mind are: friendly, inquisitive, creative, eager to learn, willing to share, ready to help, and generous with time and knowledge.

Most of us have all these facets or we wouldn't have joined the club. Now, with the show coming on, it's time to polish up all those angles and put our best "crystal faces" forward. We already have members willing to display. At the present time members are calling to schedule demonstrators and hosts and hostesses. Say "yes" when you're called! Volunteer!

We like this set of New Year's resolutions which we have edited from the bulletin of the Rock Rollers of Seattle, Washington. It's not too late to start observing them.

Support your mineral society.

Urge your friends to join.

Pay your dues promptly.

Plan to attend all meetings.

Obtain suitable articles for the GLACIAL DRIFTER and give them to the editor.

Read at least one new book on rockhounding.

Transport a fellow member to meetings if he has no transportation.

Yield to someone more knowledgeable than yourself if the occasion arises.

Offer to help the beginner or new member.

Upgrade your rock stock continually.

Remember to share your knowledge and surplus rocks with others.

Recognize faults of others and forgive them.

Omit criticism which is not constructive.

Contribute to all phases of rockhounding.

Know your membership, introduce yourself to new members.

Sign up at least one new member in 1981.

Offer help, even when not asked.

Catch up on your reading during the cold months.

Invite friends to attend meetings with you.

Enter a case in the rock show.

Try to find new rock hunting localities.

Yell if you are not asked to help and you want to participate.

(Thank you, ROCK ROLLERS)

SHOW NEWS

ROCK COLLECTING A MULTI-FACETED HOBBY FEBRUARY 1 to FEBRUARY 22, 1981

Show time is here and everybody is getting ready. Displays have been scheduled for the museum cases by Karl DeBack, Ted and Marie Duprey, Art and Dorothy Ferguson, Thea Fleming, Mary Honton, Roger and Faye King, June Smith, Rich VanBeek, Henry Tchozeski with Bob Tuinstra, and the Indian Mounds Rock and Mineral Club. There will also be a club case with a display from several members. Those planning to use their own cases are Marge and John Potter, Bob Beauvais and Jim VanderMey. Area clubs have also been invited to display. There is room for more!

The programs will be:

Feb. 1: Rock Collecting Around the Great Lakes by Mary Honton

Feb. 8 Adventures of An American Teacher in Iran by June Smith

Feb. 15 Mountains of the West Coast by Gus Gonnason

Feb. 22 Mt. Saint Helens, Past, Present and Future by Steve Tshozeski

Plan to see and hear these programs. Mary has vacationed in Michigan for many years and will have an interesting program. June Smith will tell more about her Iranian experiences in her inimitable style. Gus Gonnason was our speaker at the October meeting and has a world of experiences to relate. He is a geologist with the Grand Rapids Gypsum Company who has worked all over the world. Steve Tchozeski (yes, he's Henry's son) is a geology graduate now teaching Junior High earth science in Belding. Like his father, he gives an excellent program.

As a very special exhibit we will have the working model of the DeZwaan windmill of Holland. This is constructed of rocks and minerals, polished pieces of all kinds - a project of the Tulip City Gem and Mineral Club of Holland. It is a beautiful sight to see and to examine.

Ruth Steele is in charge of hosts and hostesses and Bob Beauvais is arranging for the demonstrations. Lois Jarmoloski has lined up all the displays.

As a member you have an obligation to assist wherever you can. As a member you should be sure to see the show. It helps everyone to have people willing to assist at the sales table or to be called upon to talk with novice rockhounds who need information.

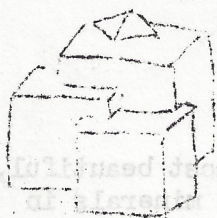
Remember we'll be in the East Building and the museum is open from 1 to 5 p.m. on Saturdays and Sundays and 10 to 5 p.m. on weekdays. So far no admission charge is in effect.

**IN LOVING MEMORY**

On November 30, 1980 we lost our secretary, Marion Jennings, who died suddenly. She had been a member for many years and our secretary for several terms - not always consecutive. Marion loved minerals and she loved birds. She was a loyal member of both the Grand Rapids Mineral Society and the Audubon Club. When the Mineral Study Group was active, she was always present. A legal secretary, she brought her expertise to her job as club secretary so that her minutes of the meeting were always complete and detailed. We shall miss her.

On December 21, 1980 Larry Petersen passed away. He had been a member for a number of years, but because of his work and that of his wife, Marguerite, was seldom able to attend meetings. His interest was in lapidary and his pet project was making inexpensive jewelry so that the elementary pupils from the school where Marguerite taught could buy gifts for their parents at Christmas. At least twice he and Marguerite assisted with club field trip to Keokuk, Iowa, where they had once lived and still had family members residing there. Larry suffered a stroke in October not too many months after his retirement. Our sympathy is extended to Marguerite and her family.

You will remember that we have a memorial scholarship fund and contributions will be accepted for Marion, Larry and for Ernie Gifford.



CLEANING AND PRESERVING PYRITE

by John Ade

Earth Science Club of Northern Illinois

The best reference I have regarding the cleaning of pyrite is "Cleaning and Preserving Minerals," Third Revised Edition, by Richard M. Pearl. Oxidation appears to be the only cause that makes pyrite dull other than dust, fingerprints, and similar soil which can be removed simply by polishing with a soft dry cloth. Pearl lists several methods for removing oxidation from pyrite, all of which use hydrochloric acid, oxalic acid, radiator cleaner or alcohol and involve long soaking and rinsing periods, testing with litmus paper and drying techniques. None of the methods are simple, and it is beyond the intention of this article to repeat in detail the material in the book as the only correct way to do that would be to copy it exactly which would require permission of the author, and it is doubtful if many persons would want to subject their pyrite to such treatment unless the condition was extremely bad. If anyone is interested, they may borrow my book.

I looked at our pyrite and noticed that the specimens we have had for nearly 20 years were dull as compared with those recently acquired. The old pyrite has become dull so gradually I have failed to notice the effect the apparent oxidation has had. I found that by wiping the pyrite with a soft cloth it became quite brilliant. The only problem is that most pyrite crystals are somewhat intergrown and it is difficult to get down into the valleys. However, by using a variety of small cloth covered probes, great improvement in brilliance can be achieved without too great an effort and the results are certainly worth the time and effort.

It is not advisable to wash pyrite as water is usually the greatest enemy of pyrite. Bacteria is also harmful and

Pearl states that Russell P. McFall recommends rubbing an antibacterial agent such as Bacitacin on pyrite as a preventative of bacterial action.

To prevent oxidation and bacteria decomposition of pyrite, many types of coatings have been tried. The difficult problem of preserving pyrite was covered in an excellent article on the July-August 1978 issue of Mineralogical Record. The loss of really rare and beautiful costly pyrite and marcasite due to oxidation and bacteria action has been a problem for museum curators and collectors for several hundred years at least. Many methods of preservation have been tried including lacquer, boiling and storage under linseed oil, parafin oil, shellac, fish and animal glues, various waxes and glycerin; all less than satisfactory.

More recently, various plastics and silicone fluids have proven somewhat successful only until the coating itself fails due to age. It was found that both treated and untreated specimens deteriorated except those in areas where the relative humidity was below 50%.

Although scientific work on the preservation of pyrite is continuing, the best recommendation at present is to store pyrite in previously well dried wooden cabinets in an area where the relative humidity can be maintained below 50%. The dry wood in the cabinet will absorb a moderate amount of moisture during short infrequent periods of higher humidity. No known coating will preserve pyrite if the humidity is not kept low. Also, avoid handling with bare hands. It is easy to keep the
next page, please -

PYRITE (concluded)

humidity low in the winter months just by avoiding over humidification. The warm months and rain seasons require air conditioning or dehumidification. Although our basement is naturally comparatively dry, we have two humidifiers running on control during spring, summer and autumn just to protect tools and other items in our basement, and this may be why we have had so little dulling of our pyrite and a minimum of marcasite decomposition.

Pyrite is one of the most beautiful, interesting and plentiful minerals in most amateur collections. With a bit of extra care it can be kept attractive and free of deterioration for many years. It is not rugged like quartz, but it is certainly worth the extra care it requires. One last bit of advice is to wrap stored pyrite in brown paper as other paper contains chemicals harmful to pyrite.

-ESCONI EARTH SCIENCE NEWS

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MICROFOSSILS

The oldest fossil remnants of living things ever found reveal surprisingly complex, microscopic creatures that thrived in a shallow ocean $3\frac{1}{2}$ billion years ago, scientists say.

The fossil organisms - threadlike chains of individual cells - "tell us that life was a whole lot more complex at that time than any of us had really guessed," said paleobiologist J. William Schopf.

That means life on Earth must have begun much earlier in the planet's 4.6 billion-year history. He said the organisms' primitive organization still found in some modern bacteria, means "the single-celled, simple little things must have come much earlier."

UCLA said the microfossils found in northwestern Australia - in an area miners had named the North Pole - are more than a billion years older than any other generally accepted fossil remains.

Team member Malcolm Walter of the Australian Bureau of Mineral Resources announced a discovery of other evidence in North Pole rocks that primitive life must have existed 3.5 billion years ago. But he had not found actual fossilized cells.

Schopf said the microfossils are "very important because they tell us about the types of organisms that existed, beyond just the fact that they were there."

Schopf said the age of the rocks, and thus of the fossils they contain, was determined by three separate groups of scientists who measured the ratios of various naturally occurring radioactive elements in the stone.

ANN ARBOR NEWS 6/20/80
via ROCK CHIPS

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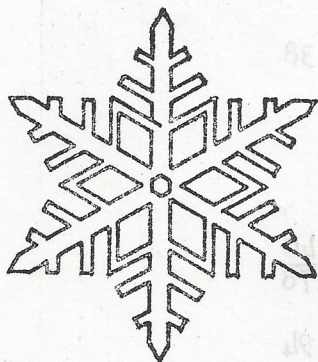
COMPARATIVELY SPEAKING.....a plain bar of iron is worth \$5. This same bar of iron, when made into horse-shoes, is worth \$10.50. If made into needles, it is worth \$4,285. If turned into balance wheels for watches, it becomes worth \$250,000. This is true of another kind of material----you. Your value is determined by what you make of yourself.

-James M. Fughes, Educator

OZARK EARTH SCIENCE NEWS

7-Up can be used to clean gold and silver, catsup to clean copper.

-LAPIDARY JOURNAL



ROCKHUNTING IN WINTER?

by Mark C. Blazek

As fall approaches an end and the cold winter weather starts to roll in, field trips must end, and it appears that rockhounds must go into "hibernation" for the winter. During this time, the activities of the rockhound are restricted to the indoors and a general lull seems to come over us until the warm weather returns. I mean, after all, the rockhound's laboratory is the outdoors and, in this area at least, during winter the rockhound can't do much outdoors, right? WRONG! Let me tell you about a very fascinating form of mineral collecting which I'll bet most of you never tried.

Have you ever thought about snowflake collecting? That's right, snowflake collecting. Believe it or not, ice, snow, and water are considered rocks just like granite, pumice and sandstone. That's right. Snow is, according to definition, a rock. Ask any geologist and he'll tell you so. I'll bet that if some of you tried snowflake collecting this winter, you would be fascinated and you would like it. Let me explain a little more about the subject.

Snowflakes are preserved (and I use this term loosely) by collecting them on a piece of black velvet and transferring them with toothpicks to glass microscope slides. These simple instruments used are kept at below 32° F. When placed on an ice cold microscope slide, the flakes can then be sprayed with an acrylic lacquer to permanently encase them in plastic. Then when the plastic hardens in a few minutes, they can be taken indoors, observed and stored without harm. There are other ways of preserving snowflakes but they involve covering a tiny snowflake with some sort of plastic.

Now, most people think that it is impossible to collect snowflakes for they would melt or be destroyed if you touched them. But that's not so at all. I have a collection of beautifully preserved snowflakes which I gathered during a science project last winter. The only rule you have to follow is to keep everything you use (such as toothpicks, collecting board, spray, etc.) below 32° F. Then the process is simple and fun, not to mention the educational value. Snowflakes will always crystallize in the hexagonal system. I have yet to find two the same although I have noticed various different classes of crystal forms.

If you want to go a little further, you can record the temperature, humidity, and so on, at the time you collect the snow crystals and you will find that the size and shape of the crystals are related to the conditions under which they form.

There is a lot more that can be done with this subject. I have just touched lightly on it here. One can, and many have, spent a lifetime studying these minute perfect crystals. It is really a fascinating subject to explore when outdoor activities are limited during the winter. Snow crystals have an extraordinary and unique beauty about them. So let's bundle up and get together. Let's have a field trip to the nearest open field and go snowflake collecting! I bet that would be a first for ESCONI and probably most earth science clubs. How about it?

EARTH SCIENCE NEWS via OSHKOSH QUARRIER

TREASURER'S REPORT

Checking Account Balance, Nov. 24, 1980		\$ 488.38
Deposits: Memberships	24.00	24.00
Disbursements:		
G.R. Museum - rent	10.00	
Bank service charge	.60	
	10.60	

Net to checking account		13.40
Checking Account Balance, Dec. 22, 1980		501.78

Savings Account Balance, November 24, 1980		270.94
(no deposits, no withdrawals)		

Scholarship Balance (Statement Savings) Balance	12.87	
Interest deposit	.06	
		12.93

Scholarship Balance, December 22, 1980		500.00
Balance of all accounts, Dec. 22, 1980		\$ 1,285.65

48 memberships Theodore R. Duprey, Treasurer

THIS IS WHAT OUR SHOW IS ALL ABOUT.... from AFMS NEWSLETTER
PUBLIC RELATIONS - A TOP PRIORITY by June Zeitner

Everyone who reads this newsletter, and the editor of each club bulletin in AFMS realizes the importance of public relations. This is an age where public images are important. Gem, mineral and lapidary amateurs and hobbyists (some hobbyists are professional as well) know the many advantages of being associated with our organization. But the clubs who serve the hobby best are those who are not only confident of the great values and goals of their group, but are able to project that "image" to those around them. If our goal is truly to educate, then we must educate not only ourselves but the general public.

Creating a better public image for ourselves, and establishing the kind of public relations which will inform our communities who we are and what we are doing is not easy. In fact sometimes it is so difficult to win recognition and attention that we are likely to give up, and spend our time bragging to each other about our significant accomplishments. But a strong public image and positive public relations should be of top priority to all. We can only reach our potential if all people, young and old, know something about earth science, about how vital it is, how fascinating it is, and that there is an organization dedicated to its advancement.

We are not expecting that huge numbers of the public will join us, but we are hoping that they will learn enough good things about us that they will support our efforts. The public cannot be expected to have our enthusiasm, but it can have an attitude towards us which is respectful, admiring, and understanding. To gain the best possible public relations, we have to start with the grass rootsthe individual, then his club, then his federation.....

Midwest Federations NEWSLETTER

Published monthly except July and August as a service to member clubs. All news and articles should be sent to the Editor, Mrs. Betty Smith, 10607 Mary Ann, Zeeland, MI 49464. All subscription orders should be sent to Parrot Printing Service, 2125 Forest Ave., Des Moines, IA 50311.

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JANUARY 1981 - Issue No. 210

1980 FALL EXECUTIVE MEETING

On November 1, 1980 I had the opportunity to attend my first MWF Executive Meeting. It was held at Notre Dame's beautiful Athletic Convocation Center.

After coffee and rolls the State Directors met for their meeting. Reports, problems and helpful ideas were discussed.

The Executive Committee meeting started about 10:30. Permanent committee reports were given - or read if the committee chairman was absent.

HOWARD TAYLOR reported on the 1980 Convention - Show held at Lincoln, Nebraska in June. A large check was donated to the MWF as their share of the profits. As a token of gratitude for their efforts this past year, HOWARD and his family were unanimously acclaimed "MIDWEST FEDERATION ROCKHOUND FAMILY OF THE YEAR".

The 1981 Convention - Show will be held at the Notre Dame ACC in South Bend, Indiana, July 23 thru 26. JAMES RUSSELL, Chairman, gave some preliminary insights to the show. There will be another Silent Auction with proceeds going to the Scholarship fund and crediting the individual clubs.

A discussion was held on having a closer relationship with Central Canadian Federation.

The Spring MWF Executive Meeting will be held at Mason City, Iowa, in conjunction with their show, April 25 and 26, 1981.

Committee members, LARRY DESOTEL, FRED BERMES and BERNICE MCCLOSKEY are working on a Program Book for State Directors. Its purpose is to enlighten the clubs as to exactly what the MWF does for them.

BERNICE MCCLOSKEY was appointed Chairman of a special "Library" committee. This committee will aid the individual Club Librarians.

W. E. "ED" MCNAMAR

Memorial services for W. E. "ED" MCNAMAR were held Saturday November 8 in Des Moines, Iowa, following his death in an Omaha Hospital on November 5.

ED was a past president of Central Iowa Mineral Society and a past Iowa Vice-President for the Rollin' Rock Club. He also had served as Midwest Federation assistant on the Special Displays Committee and Assistant State Director for Iowa.

ED was a resident of Des Moines and in recent years with his wife MARY was a dealer and demonstrator of wire-twist jewelry at many shows.

The Chairman of the Selection Committee for the Scholarship (AFMS) for the next year, T. M. STOUT, has announced the following three winners.

Iowa State University (Ames)
HOWARD J. WHITE
DANIEL ROBERT BURGGRAF, JR.

University of Kansas (Lawrence)
RICHARD A. ROGERS

These persons will probably finish their doctorates next spring so the scholarships will be \$1,000.

Three more students will need to be selected next spring

Congratulations.



It is none too early to begin planning your next summer vacation to include the 1981 MIDWEST FEDERATION SHOW & CONVENTION to be held in South Bend, Indiana, July 23 thru 26 at the Notre Dame Athletic Convocation Center, the scene of most of the important events that are held in the Midwest.

The Michiana Rock and Gem Club will be hosting the show which promises to be one of the most outstanding put on by the MWF.

South Bend is centrally located, near the center of the nation, served by the major airlines, Amtrak and just off the Indiana toll road.

The Notre Dame A.C.C. is ideally located, truly in the Midwest. With 135,000 feet of floor space all on one floor. Completely air conditioned there is ample space for the dealers, displays, demonstrations and wholesalers. Rooms at the Grace Tower, right on Campus and a parking area for 20,000 cars and campers.

Area clubs are most anxious to help man the booths, make favors and bring displays.

The dealers are making early reservations.

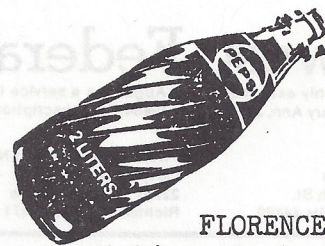
The Midwest Show promises to be a truly great one for all attending the "MIDWEST ROUNDUP OF GEMS".

Information packets will be available soon to all clubs in the Midwest Federation.

For more information, contact:

JAMES RUSSELL, Show Chairman
27911 North Street,
North Liberty, IN 46554

CATHERINE MCHUGH, Publicity Chairman



FLORENCE HILL
Michigan State Director

BOTTLE BILL

Mineral club members everywhere will be interested to know that Michigan's "Bottle Bill" is a proven success. Figures from the State Department of Transportation show that the amount of litter, especially of beverage cans and bottles, picked up along state highways by their regular cleanup crews has substantially decreased since the bottle return bill went into effect January 1, 1979. The improvement in roadside appearance is noticeable even to the casual observer.

Michigan Mineral Clubs supported the bill as being quite in keeping with our beliefs and practices. Club members took part in the statewide cleanup drive organized by Michigan United Conservation Clubs in the spring of 1979. We urge clubs in other states to get behind any such proposition pending in their areas, and help to make it law. Or, if necessary, start the Movement.



The MICRO MINERAL SOCIETY of the Cleveland Museum of Natural History of Cleveland, Ohio.

This society has 19 adult members and meet the 3rd Saturday of the month at the Cleveland Museum of Natural History. The current President is HOWARD H. SMEAD, M.D., 445-35 Hill Drive, Aurora, Ohio 44202. and...

The MIDWEST FACETORS GUILD of Mt. Clemens, Michigan.

They meet quarterly at the various members cities. There are 140 adult members.

President, HAROLD "ARIZONA" RICE lives at 65 Market Street, Mt. Clemens, Michigan 48043.

THE GENTLE ART OF CARVING

by Les Petery

vai ROCKWOOD ROCKHOUND NEWS

We have all seen and admired the fantastic carvings made in times past, made with what we consider crude tools, and maybe taking a generation or two to complete. We have today, many who are doing beautiful work carving gemstones. Even with the better tools we have now, these take a long time. Suitable carving tools are expensive, and the material suitable for carving is usually expensive.

There are two stones that can be worked with household tools--alabaster and soapstone. Alabaster runs \$1.50 per pound plus shipping charges. (ed. note: this author obviously does not live in Grand Rapids or know about our Michigan Natural Storage Mine) These materials are fracturable, so it might not be possible to get the right sized pieces. They are soft, so they would not hold up well on items to be worn. If one cuts wrong, or too deep, it's too bad!

There is some readily available and inexpensive material that can be used for carving, and can be worked with a knife. As with soapstone and alabaster, it is too soft for wearing as jewelry, although this might be possible, my experiments have not developed to that degree. This material gives a person an easy try at carving, to learn some of the fundamentals, to lay out the pattern, and which parts to carve first. I have found it fascinating, and a good way to pass a few minutes at a time, or more.

The material with which I have had the best results is tile grout. I've noticed that this comes in a range of prices, but what I have used was 67¢ (plus tax) for a pound box, picked off the shelf of a variety store. I tried

plaster of paris, but this remained rather soft and powdery after days, while the grout was ready to use in just a few hours. After a couple of weeks, the grout will show some hardening. I had some grout work done several years ago and the grout is now stone-hard. I tried to hasten the hardening by baking in the oven some that was fresh poured, with the result that it remained powdery. There seems no noticeable effect on grout that had set a few days. Going the other way, I tried the freezer, but this made no difference, so I guess the answer is to let nature take its course.

I use a cardboard box the size of the block I want to use. The grout mixture could be poured directly in (if the box is more or less water tight), or a liner inserted. I've found the best liner is thin kitchen foil which can be folded into the box. I made one mold from a 3" length of cardboard tube from a roll of paper towels, blocked the bottom end, and filled the tube. After the grout had set, the cardboard was then cut loose.

When the grout is first set, it can be easily worked with a knife, cut or scraped. A small screwdriver is handy for working inside areas. Emery boards make good files. The beautiful part is that if a mistake is made, a little grout can be worked up, applied to the area, allowed to set, then reworked. Also bubbles may be found and these can be filled. At first this reapplied grout is powdery, and can be wiped off, but after it sets awhile it is workable. Meantime, other areas can be worked.

As the grout is soft, it does not take a polish. When it does get

-next page, please

CARVING (concluded)

rock-hard, then it seems necessary to use rock polishing tools to get a polish. The best I have found is a clear varnish spray. The grout is highly absorbent, and I ended up with some 30 applications. I have the item in a convenient location, and about every time I had a minute in passing, I would spray another coat. I tried some varnish from a can, and the appearance was just what it was - painted. The spray varnish gives the appearance similar to china-ware. Perhaps someone will come up with a new method.

Using this round tube, I carved a small owl figurine pattern. Each person will develop his own technique. I think it is best to first cut out the outline, then the deeper areas. Outlines can be drawn on the material with a soft lead pencil, and can be erased by scraping if necessary for a change. Unsupported parts should be avoided, but it seems that a wire could be imbedded in the main part to make a support, and grout formed around it. Incidentally, "utility wire" hanging on every variety store hardware panel would be suitable.

There are innumerable possibilities. The grout is white, it could be colored. I have found that spray enamel works very well, latex paint and tempera work fairly well. I haven't tried water color paints or inks, but water paint seems to be necessary. The natural grout will take paint, so the item might be painted. Stone inserts could be used, like eyes for animals. There are many opportunities for experimenting.

There might be a question of ethics - that the use of grout is not rockhounding. For many years we have had goldstone; a new arrival is Victoria stone; YAG is widely used. The latest edition of Lapidary Journal lists other manufactured stones, so should "grout" be outlawed simply because it can be made at home instead of paying exorbitant prices for commercial artificial materials?

This form of carving can be challenging, aggravating, frustrating and rewarding. It is worth a try!

ALETA'S ROCK SHOP

<p>Phone 363-5394 Area 616</p>	<p>1515 PLAINFIELD NE GRAND RAPIDS, MI 49505</p>	<p><u>PROPRIETOR</u> Rudy Jaw</p>
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"I didn't come here to be told that I'm burning the candle at both ends," complained the patient to his doctor.
"I came for more wax."

BRECCIA via GEMS

When polishing wood limbs, instead of using tin oxide, use tripoli for a glass-like polish at a lesser cost.

-ROCK ROLLERS

FOR SAFETY'S SAKE!



HOW TO SURVIVE A BLIZZARD CHRISTIAN SCIENCE MONITOR via ROCK ROLLERS

You leave home early in the morning in sunshine. By late morning the sky is gray and a few snowflakes are starting to fall. On the road again after lunch, it's really coming down. You start to worry. By 4 o'clock in the afternoon, still 100 miles from your destination, you are caught in a full-fledged winter storm...a blizzard. What should you do?

The first thing every "Manitoba" driver should do, before the season's first snowfall, is to prepare himself and his car for a winter storm emergency. That means getting your car fully winterized, including snow tires and a set of tire chains. It also means equipping yourself with some highly useful items in case you get caught miles from a town in a severe blizzard. According to the Minnesota Para-Rescue Team, the following items are a must for your trunk and glove compartment:

In a 3-pound coffee can with a plastic lid, put the following items--face mask, first-aid kit, matches and candles, small knife, safety pins, aspirin, two dimes and two nickels taped to the cover for phone calls, compass, facial tissue or paper towels, flashlight and extra batteries.

FOOD should include honey, semi-sweet chocolate, instant coffee, raisins in small packets, candy bars and fruit.

MITTENS OR WORK GLOVES should be tied to the coffee can with a bright red or orange cloth which will serve as your signal banner.

NOW ADD: blankets or sleeping bags
tow chain or cables (a truck may come along and be able to pull you out - if you have a chain)

booster cables
emergency flares
boots, extra overshoes or snowmobile boots

sand-salt or granite polli-
try grit in one quart plastic or paper

milk carton

extra fuses

extra stocking cap or winter
hat with ear flaps

extra heavy overcoat

Although you may never need to use your winter emergency kit, it is excellent insurance to have with you when you are driving. Here are some other tips which may prove invaluable to anyone taking a winter trip by car:

KEEP YOUR GAS TANK FULL OR AT LEAST CLOSE TO FULL. If you get stranded you may need to run your car and your heater to keep warm.

Before you take any long trip in the winter, plan it well. But if you get caught:

1. AVOID OVER-EXERTION. Accidents and a heart attack from exhaustion are two of the dangers of pushing your car or shovelling.

2. KEEP COOL AND THINK. Stay calm - the storm will end eventually. Conserve your energy and body heat. Wet clothing loses insulation, so stay dry.

3. KEEP FRESH AIR IN YOUR VEHICLE. Freezing or wind-driven snow can seal your safe home in the vehicle. Don't run the engine unless you are certain the exhaust cannot enter the car. Keep wing windows or front windows lowered slightly.

4. KEEP WARM. Exercise at least every 15 minutes. Move your arms and legs and clasp your hands and move around.

5. MAKE IT EASY TO BE FOUND. Turn on dome light at night. Road crews and snowmobile rescue units can spot a small glow at a considerable distance. Tie your colored banner to your car antenna. Keep one person on watch. DO NOT HAVE EVERYONE REST AT THE SAME TIME.

NEWS ON MINES AND MINERAL OCCURENCES

by Arthur E. Smith Jr., Geologist

LEAD AND ZINC IN CENTRAL TEXAS

Small scale lead mining occurred in central Texas until 1931. Although some large masses of galena were recovered, few if any good mineral specimens were obtained from these operations. Recently the Texas Bureau of Economic Geology announced that Mississippi Valley Type Lead-Zinc mineralization had been discovered in Gillespie County on the south flank of the Llano uplift. The mineralization occurs in the Upper Cambrian age Cap Mountain limestone member of the Riley formation at depths of 500 to 2,800 feet.

The Mississippi Valley Type mineralization means that the deposits might be similar to the Kansas-Oklahoma-Missouri Tri-State area, the Illinois-Iowa-Wisconsin area or the northern Arkansas area. Any collector who is familiar with any of these areas and their specimens and crystals, most of which were mined-out before or shortly after the turn of the century, can only hope that exploration will turn up some commercial ore deposits. Then perhaps we will have a new source of calcite, galena, sphalerite, marcasite, dolomite and other fine crystals that may occur in this type of deposit. Perhaps even a rare crystallized mineral not found in Texas or in the other deposits.

In the middle and late 1950's the southeast Missouri Viburnum area was just a dream in some geologist's mind. It has since become the U.S.'s largest producer of lead. Perhaps big things are in store for Central Texas. Who knows?

-AFMS NEWSLETTER

STIRRING UP THE NEWS....

We've received a card from Stan and Eva Way from Deming, New Mexico, "the warm and sunny south - temperatures in the 70's in the daytime and 40's at night."

Eva says: "We had an uneventful trip down except the muffler blew a hole in St. Louis Christmas Eve. We were at a campground about 30 miles west of St. Louis (the only ones in camp); tried to get it fixed there but no Midas - nearest one 30 miles back in St. Louis. At first we thought we would stay over and have it fixed the day after Christmas, but that morning decided to go on to Springfield, Mo. So we traveled half a day on Christmas, got to a camp there, and again the only ones in the camp. Got the muffler replaced the next morning and were on our way about noon.

"We stopped at White Sands New Mexico on our last day out. Gee, that's a beautiful place.

"Our address here is Roadrunner K.O.A. R/#2, Box 345, Deming, New Mexico. Let us hear from you."

-Eva

We've already reported that Bob Tuinstra and Pat O'Bechase have been ill - for some time. Now we learn that Cecil Sefton had a stay in the hospital - back trouble. He says it's all right now. Let's hope we get all our invalids back with us soon.

REMEMBER - we save commemorative stamps. Remove them from your mail, leaving a small margin of envelope. They can be recycled for food for the hungry. Bring them to Bob Beauvais.

If you have a stone that won't polish using regular polishes and methods, try adding 8 to 10 drops of vinegar to your polishing slurry. Won't work every time, sometimes a dud will become a gem.

TENNESSEE POPPIN' ROCKS

by Annabel Hecht

Have you got any Tennessee Poppin' Rocks in your collection? If not, better not add any because a Tennessee Poppin' Rock is nature's own hand grenade! Writing in the Tennessean Magazine (Sunday, Dec. 23, 1973) Dwayne W. Laws explains, "Poppin' Rocks are formed as rain falls on West Tennessee's many gullies. As water cascades down a sandy slope it rolls sand into little round balls...newly-formed sand balls, half water, half sand, harden when the sun pops out after a rain. The outside of each ball becomes a hard thin shell of sandstone. The center becomes hollow as it dries...as the hot sun continues to shine on the outside the center partially dries, leaving a hollow space containing a lot of moisture. When the rock is heated this moisture becomes steam. Trapped inside this hollow, thin shell the pressure builds up until - BAM!!! You've got nature's own free fire cracker making a noise like a backfiring Model T and packing a wallop worse than a Missouri mule."

Laws notes that the only way to handle Poppin' Rocks is carefully. They can catch you off guard by doing the unexpected. What you need to experience is the excitement of poppin' rocks in a bed of live coals, a straw hat full of rocks, a set of fast legs and a high sand bank to hide behind. Once the rocks are on the fire there may be a period of uncertainty. But just as some skeptic decides nothing is going to happen the lead off rock explodes "and a piece of shining, red hot sandstone instills respect in him by parting his hair right down the middle." Actually only about one third of the rocks explode. The rest are carried out with the exploders as steaming, hot projectiles....The effect, says Laws, is reminiscent of the battle of New Orleans.

Unfortunately, it probably won't do you any good to collect these cantankerous rocks if you were thinking of using them for the coming 4th of July celebration...apparently when they are moved and lose contact with the ground the moisture inside the rock dries and there is no way to build up the necessary steam. But if you are in the Tennessee area and want to look for them, Dwayne Laws says the Poppin' Rocks can be found in abundance in the red, sandhill country around Bargerton on State Road 104 just a short way out of Lexington.

from ROCK TRAILS vis ROCKHOUNDER

HINT: Polish Wildhorse Jasper: Use tin oxide on a felt buff. Run buff at high speed, 1,725 is satisfactory. Use tin oxide generously, and do not exert heavy pressure on buffing pad. When you start to feel some "drag" on the buffing pad, lighten pressure and finish with very light pressure.

ROCK ROLLERS

