

THE GLACIAL DRIFTER

NOVEMBER 1983

G.R.M.S. CALENDAR

Wednesday, Nov. 16, 7:30 p.m. Regular Meeting in the Multi-purpose Room, Grand Rapids Public Museum.
Program: "Western Rambles" by Art and Dorothy Ferguson.

Monday, Nov. 21 7:30 p.m. Board of Control meets at the home of Roger King, 1957 36th SW, Wyoming.

Wednesday, Dec. 14 7:30 p.m. Our Christmas Meeting - please note that this is one week early - the 2nd Wednesday instead of the 3rd because of the holiday.

Monday, Dec. 19 7:30 p.m. Board of Control meets at the home of Bob and Ruth Tuinstra, 0-304 Lake Michigan Drive.

This space is normally reserved for news of shows, swaps and other activities of neighboring clubs in which we might share. Now the show season is over and we settle down for the winter. Watch this space in the next months for news of coming events. You might even start planning now to attend the MWF Show in Milwaukee, Wisconsin July 5-8, 1984.

This prayer was printed in THE GLACIAL DRIFTER of June 1960 - we repeat it now in this Thanksgiving season. The author was our president in 1962.

When you to God would kneel and pray,
Don't have a lot of words to say.
A simple thanks your whole demand,
He made that rock whereon you stand.

The agate lace and that of flame,
And all the minerals humans name,
Out from the magma of the earth
Alone his art reveals their worth.

Alone his power their whorls arrayed
In minute detail here displayed.
A million years' look in your face
Need you to ask a greater grace?

- Leslie G. Pearl



GAVEL GAB

By the President

The big event has come and gone - our 25th anniversary. We wish to thank everyone who made it a success: the committee consisting of Bob and Ruth Beauvais, Ted and Marie Duprey and Marguerite Petersen for the planning, making the centerpieces, arranging the tables, etc., and Mabel Bowers for taking charge of the hosts and hostesses who made our guests welcome.

Thanks to Pete Boogaart for arranging the publicity; to the Jeanne Lou Pastry Shop for the anniversary cake; to Mary Honton for telephoning our members as part of our planning; to all of our cooks who brought dishes (I always say that I prefer a Mineral Society pot luck to a banquet), and to all who honored us with their presence. We were very happy to have as our guests representatives from the Holland, Lansing, Muskegon, Kalamazoo, West Shore and Indian Mounds clubs as well as Museum Director W. D. and Mrs. Frankforter and Florence Hill, our Michigan State Director for the Midwest Federation.

Permit me to reminisce some more this month. When I first attended our club it was held at Riverside Elementary School in the north end in a gym which was always filled to capacity. In the rear was a table from which rocks (and if my memory serves me correctly, also magazines) were sold by Henry Tchozeski. Already at that time the November meeting was supplanted by the annual auction, a tradition which continued until a year ago.

After a few years our meeting place was transferred to Ridgewood Junior High School (now Ottawa Hills High). The room where we met was many times larger than our former meeting place and we filled only a small part of it. A few years later we moved to the auditorium of the museum - I understand that we were now back in our original meeting place.

After a short time this became the Preparation Room of Ardith Allen and our meetings were again moved, this time only a short distance, to another part of the museum - our present meeting place, the Multi-purpose Room. One year the Grand Rapids City Commission made a misguided decision to eliminate all evening meetings at the museum and we met at a Lutheran church on the north side. However, the City Commission reconsidered their decision and after one meeting we were back at the museum. I don't remember the actual year we began meeting in our present location but we were already here at the time of our 10th anniversary.

Our June, July, August meetings were originally held in the shelter houses of various county parks, such as Townsend, Fallasburg, Caledonia, Douglas Walker and Palmer, but when they raised the rental from \$15 to \$25 we looked elsewhere. For a number of years we met at Ideal Park in Wyoming and occasionally at Hager Park in Ottawa County where the fees were more reasonable. Then for several years we met in the yards of various member's homes. This past summer we experimented with meeting in parks but without renting the shelter house and took our chances on the weather. So far, so good, this year. It didn't rain during our meetings but we had threatening weather earlier in the day.

The dates for our show will be from January 29 thru February 26. The theme, suggested by Ruth Beauvais and approved by the board will be "Twenty-five Years of Rockhounding." Mary Honton and Keith Johnson will coordinate the show.

- Rich

HAVE YOU PAID YOUR 1983-84 DUES?
If not, this is the last GLACIAL DRIFTER you will receive.

NOVEMBER MEETING

"WESTERN RAMBLES" a slide presentation by Art and Dorothy Ferguson...a pot pourri of travels through several western states featuring scenery, geology, rockhounding, caves, mines and old missions.

This should be a good way to spend a November evening -- enjoying the beauties of our own west. There will also be a raffle (some new material) and refreshments. Don't forget, when you pick up your coffee to drop some coins into the coffee kitty -- all this goes toward our contribution to the AFMS Scholarship Fund.

Are you all saving used stamps? Six club members spent about three hours cutting and sorting the stamps that had been turned in up to this time. We mailed a good sized box to the Washington State Council of Churches. There faithful volunteers prepare them for sale to dealers and all proceeds go for food for the hungry.

Ted and Marie Duprey with Bob and Ruth Beauvais joined Don and Mabel Bowers and cut and clipped our way through that big stack of stamps.

What stamps should you save? Mostly commemoratives, high value, foreign and pre-cancelled ones. Don't bother with the ordinary stamps (flag, etc.) or Christmas issues because enough of them can be obtained out west. Cut them from the envelope leaving a $\frac{1}{4}$ inch border.

Start saving again and we'll have another clipping party and you can join us.

Our Anniversary Banquet was a delight with tables decorated with blue streamers and silver flower arrangements and a beautiful cake also decorated in blue.

The food was overwhelming -- and delicious! Our doorprizes carried out the silver theme: a crystal decorated with a pewter (looks like silver) miner, another with a pewter turtle, and two very nice thumbnail specimens of silver. Also some fresh from Hamilton, Illinois Keokuk geodes (unopened but not silver!).

The program was excellent. Jim Muller took us through the Grand Canyon and into Zion and Bryce Canyons explaining the geology and then relating it to the corresponding ages here in our own Michigan....and interesting way to put it all into perspective for us. We were pleased to have many guests present as well as some of our former members who returned to help us celebrate.

SIZING A RING....Cut a narrow strip of paper about the width of the ring band. Put it around the ring mandrel at the size desired and cut it off. Insert the paper inside the ring and slip it over the mandrel until the whole is tight. Mark the ends of the paper on the ring band. The difference between the two marks is what must be removed. It worked for me.

- Don Bowers

WITH THE BOARD

ALL ABOUT ROCK SAW BEARINGS

Secretary's Report (A summary of the minutes):

The Board of Control met on Oct. 24 at the home of Ted and Marie Duprey. As the secretary was absent the minutes were read from the October Glacial Drifter. The treasurer's report was presented and accepted. The anniversary meeting was discussed as was the program for December. This December meeting will end with a dessert smorgasbord.

We have sold 22 copies of Rocks and Minerals Magazine (Michigan Edition). Discussion also centered on field trips with the possibility of one in June plus a basement field trip this winter. No report regarding the insurance coverage was available. The show will be Jan. 29 thru Feb. 26 with the theme, "25 Years of Rockhounding." The club will not buy the poster "Minerals of the World" until it can be discussed at the regular meeting to see if others also would like to order.

Ruth Tuinstra
Secretary Pro-tem

TREASURER'S REPORT

Help! I can't find it! Bob is out of town and I don't where he put the copy Ted so faithfully gave us. Ted is not home now and I'm trying to get this out on time. Watch for the report in the next issue - and please forgive me!

- Ruth

OUR SINCERE SYMPATHY is extended to our secretary, Beryl Griep, in the death of her mother this month.

DINOSAUR EMBRYO DISCOVERED

from The Houston Post via AFMS Newsletter

Remains of a dinosaur embryo have been found in its fossilized egg at a site near here (Helena, MT). The find is only the world's second known fossilized dinosaur embryo, Mick Hager, director of the Museum of the Rockies in Bozeman, said Monday. The first was found in Mongolia in the 1920s and is in the American Museum of Natural History in New York City.

I have a 14 inch Lortone slabbing saw. Lately while sawing it sounded like I was hammering the slabs off the rock. The saw ran true when not in the cut and turned freely on the bearings. The noise indicated something was wrong. It must be the bearings were bad!

I took the saw apart so I could get the numbers and other information off the parts. The bearings are in pillow blocks that are bolted to the saw arm. I called several mill supply houses to see if they had replacement parts. Two places had equipment that would fit but the price was \$17 and \$19 each. It looked like this job was going to be expensive. I called Lortone in Washington and they could supply bearing and pillow block for \$15.50 each plus \$2 shipping. I sent them a check for two units and wrote a letter asking if they could furnish the bearings only as the iron pillow block was still all right. The bearings are spherical ground on the outer race and will twist out of the pillow block. There are no snap rings or anything else holding them in place, so they are easy to get out and new ones back in.

They sent me the bearings only and a refund check for \$23. The shipping receipt says the bearings were \$5.83 each. Quite a difference from the first investigation!

It only took about an hour to take the old bearing^s out and put the new ones in place. The saw cuts good and the noise is gone. Only one pillow block was removed at one time. In that way the alignment and placement could be maintained to a degree.

Hope this helps someone.

- Don Bowers

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. Bette Smith
10607 Mary Ann, Zeeland, MI 49464. All subscription orders should be sent to Parrot Printing Service, 2125 Forest Avenue, Des Moines, IA 50311

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NOVEMBER 1983.- Issue No. 238

Hats off

TO OUR NEW OFFICERS.....

PRESIDENT - REX WEBB Rex served this past year as MWF First Vice-President. He has been State Director as well as having served MWF in other capacities. He is a member of the Anoka County Gem & Mineral Club, Minnesota Mineral Club, and Richfield Mineral Club, and has served these clubs in almost every capacity, including President of all three.

FIRST VICE-PRESIDENT - JAMES EDWARDS Jim served this past year as MWF Second Vice-President. He has been State Director of Illinois, as well as Assistant State Director. He is a member and co-founder of the Park Forest Earth Science Club and their first President. He has held many offices and chairmanships in this club.

SECOND VICE-PRESIDENT - WILLIAM PARCH Bill just completed his 4th term as MWF Treasurer. He has served as State Director for Wisconsin, also as an Assistant State Director. He is a member of the Driftless Area Gem & Mineral Club and the Coulee Rock Club, and has served both clubs in many capacities.

SECRETARY - JEAN REYNOLDS Jean, an Honorary member of the MWF, has served 16 consecutive years as Secretary. She is a member and Past President of the Earth Science Club of Northern Illinois, and is also Editor of the club's Earth Science News.

TREASURER - KITTY STARBUCK Kitty was the 1983 MWF Show Chairperson. She is a member of the Kalamazoo Geological and Mineral Society. She has been editor of their club's bulletin "Gems" for 17 years, and chairperson of their regular annual show for the last four years.

TO MIDWEST FEDERATION CLUBS: As it comes time for me to assume the responsibilities of President of Midwest Federation, I wish to express my thanks to all those who have shown their confidence in me.

This year I would like to stress the Midwest Federation's service to all the Member Clubs. We have many permanent, as well as temporary, committees working for us to make our hobby more educational and enjoyable for all.

Sincerely,

Rex Webb
Rex E. Webb

RESULTS OF SCHOLARSHIP AUCTION AT KALAMAZOO

10.75	Michiana Rock & Gem Club - South Bend, Indiana
80.95	Coulee Rock Club - La Crosse, Wisconsin
46.75	Earth Science Club of Northern Illinois
20.00	Heart of America Geology Club
9.50	Miami Valley Mineral Club - Fairborn, Ohio
3.75	Park Forest Earth Science Club - Park Forest, IL
187.95	Cedar Valley Rock & Mineral Society - Cedar Rapids, IA
11.85	Parma Lapidary Club - Parma, Ohio
11.30	Northern Earth Searchers - Carthage, Illinois
35.50	White River Rock Club - Muncie, Indiana
15.35	Gem City Rock Club - Quincy, Illinois
18.35	Neville Public Museum Geology Club - Green Bay, WI
2.00	Evansville Lapidary Society - Evansville, Indiana
40.75	Midwest Federation - (Midwest Typewriter)
28.00	Howard Taylor, Sr., Scholarship Memorial - Lincoln Gem & Mineral Club - Lincoln, Nebraska
21.75	West Suburban Lapidary Club - Elmhurst, Illinois
25.00	Mid-Iowa Rock Club - Marshalltown, Iowa
12.50	Grand Island Earth Science - Grand Island, Nebraska
72.25	Lake County Gem & Mineral Society - Waukegan, IL
6.50	Wisconsin Geological Society - Milwaukee, Wisconsin
2.00	Rolling Rock Club
30.50	Rock Exchange Club - Garden City, Michigan
14.05	Bay de Noc Gem & Mineral Club - Escanaba, Michigan
20.75	Central Michigan Lap & Mineral Society - Lansing, MI
.50	Flint Rock & Gem Club - Flint, Michigan
8.75	Indian Mounds Rock & Mineral Society - Wyoming, MI
21.85	Ishpeming Rock & Mineral Club - Ishpeming, MI
54.50	Grand Rapids Mineral Society - Grand Rapids, MI
11.50	Livingstone Gem & Mineral Society - Walled Lake, MI
63.25	Tulip City Gem & Mineral Club - Holland, Michigan
15.50	Midwest Mineralogical & Lapidary Society - Dearborn, MI
100.00	Donation - L.J. Wiggins, Credit 50.00 Muncie Rock & Gem Club and 50.00 Michiana Rock Club

\$1023.90

Total from Auction July 15, 1983

RECEIVED AT COUNCIL MEETING

31.00	Dayton Gem & Mineral Society (Auction Bola Tie)
25.00	Michiana Rock & Gem Club (Most displays)
15.00	Jack Dare

The Clubs that advanced their status at the auction will be notified. The others will be notified when they next send a contribution.

Katharine Steinbrenner, Chairman Midwest Scholarship

All American Club Awards

THE MIDWEST FEDERATION CLUB AWARD

The receivers of this certificate are, by definition, clubs that, in one way or another, deserved recognition for their work or some particular unusual and spectacular aspect of their club work. They may, or may not, have received an American Club award, perhaps because they are new, or perhaps because they did not have a complex program deemed by the judges to be an All-American Club winner. Never the less they attracted the attention of the judges and they received a citation for their work. This year all six happen not to be American Federation winners.

We congratulate them on their award and our good wishes for continued effort go with them.

PARK FOREST EARTH SCIENCE CLUB - This club does many things well. Its report reveals a tremendous strength in working with other clubs by initiating inter-cooperative meetings and hosting various meetings for other groups, including the Executive Meeting of the Midwest Federation.

NEVILLE PUBLIC MUSEUM GEOLOGY CLUB - A small club that works hard to support the local museum. A club that supports about two meetings a month for the entire year. There is plenty of informational programs on a wide range of topics, and in addition, field trips.

RICHFIELD MINERAL CLUB INC. - As a result of several activities in the BLM land management program, Rockhounds became aware of adverse rules for those that wanted to collect on public lands. Individual members of clubs across the nation were encouraged to protest the proposed harsh limitation. This club has presented the best of all the information that would help a member prepare a letter of protest to BLM. In addition, the club has a varied program for all interests.

EVANSVILLE LAPIDARY SOCIETY - This Saturday night club of medium size and thirty years experience has a well developed shop for lapidary work available to members. They have good field trips and a fine annual show. In addition they cooperate with other science clubs (Nature, Museum, Audubon) for mutual benefit.

CALUMET GEM & MINERAL SOCIETY - This club presented a report that best represented what the judges felt provided the desired information in the most compact form pointing out their responses in an easily read form. The club has a fine all-round program for a medium to small club.

THE GRAND ISLAND EARTH SCIENCE SOCIETY, INC. - A small club with a big program, including a meeting of some type each month. The promotional effort for their annual show was super. They have won a variety of awards and citations at Federation meetings. For a club nine years old, it has done very well.

Benjamin Moulton, Chairman Merit Awards

AMERICAN FEDERATION AWARDS

These six clubs are cited as All American Club winners for this year. These awards are presented unranked and read "All American Club Award for Outstanding Service - 1982-1983. Congratulations to them.

WISCONSIN GEOLOGICAL SOCIETY - Host for the Midwest Federation Meeting in 1984, this club has enthusiasm and know-how and, most important, the energy and willingness to use it to support a first rate club. They are consistently a top flight group operating in the best of Midwest Federation tradition.

GEM CITY ROCK CLUB - This small club has the impact of a large club in all its activities at the various levels of operation. Two presidents of the Midwest Federation have come from this club. It has won awards in the various competitions, receiving 3rd place of All American Club Award in 1982 in Houston. If you were in a position of being transferred from where you are now to a new location for your work, you would be considered lucky to be able to move to the geographical area of Quincy, Illinois, and become part of this group.

HEART OF WISCONSIN GEM & MINERAL SOCIETY - There must be something we don't know about Wisconsin that explains why two of our All American winners come from that state. It must be in the air or water or minerals that helps people become interested enough to join together in forming a club such as this one. It is the best of the clubs, primarily orienting its programs to the service of the members but not forgetting other goals of the Midwest Federation.

MCDONNELL-DOUGLAS GEM & MINERAL SOCIETY - A club that clearly defines its goals and proceeds to develop them. This includes meetings, classes, field trips, Scholarship support and fellowship. Members visit a large number of shows elsewhere and participate actively in regional and national and international activities. The club publishes a quality newsletter, "The Geode".

EARTH SCIENCE CLUB OF NORTHERN ILLINOIS - This organization, over 30 years old, has all the sophisticated features of a mature and smoothly operated club. It participates in a variety of community programs in addition to a complex internal program. One sixth of its membership are young people (Junior Members).

FLINT ROCK & GEM CLUB - This club, over a quarter century old, continues to grow. It expresses its success in a complex program to cater to the many interests of its members. The club supports scholarships for college students in addition to support for the American Federation Scholarship Fund. It also buys books and mineral specimens for the geology department of the local Community College.

Benjamin Moulton, Chairman Merit Awards

SAFETY SMOKE: THE POISON IN FIRE

Helen R. Neumann, Safety & Field Trip Chairperson

"When it comes to dying, where there's smoke, you hardly need to look for fire. In the typical home, factory or office-fire, three chances in four, it's the smoke that gets you." So states Barry Rohan, Free Press Science Writer, in his article dated August 9, 1983.

"The nation's fire fighters, supported by personal experience and many medical and toxicology experts, maintain fires are now more toxic because of the wider use of plastics in building materials and furnishings," he continues.

"The National Fire Protection Association, a non-profit research group in Quincy, Massachusetts, reports about 6,500 people are killed and 100,000 suffer serious injuries in fires annually, about three-fourths of them from the effects of smoke inhalation." He quotes Yves Alarie, an expert, and University of Pittsburgh professor of physiology and toxicology who claims that fumes from plastics can kill you twice as fast as wood smoke. A person in an average sized bedroom can be killed in 10-15 minutes by only five ounces of burning polyvinyl chloride, found in wallpaper, furniture and electrical wire insulation.

Some plastics give off hydrogen cyanide, which is a lot more toxic than carbon monoxide and faster acting," Alarie says. "When we have a fire today it's no longer carbon monoxide alone; we've added hydrogen cyanide, hydrogen chloride and other unknown toxins."

Although we now have the warning before us...what is being done to protect the public from this dangerous menace?

LOST - AND FOUND

Bob and Elaine Smith, long time club members, retired and moved to Arkansas a few years ago. They have continued their membership and of, course, we send the Glacial Drifter to them. Recently, we thought we had lost them. Their September issue, 1st class mail, came back to us marked "not deliverable, forwarding notice expired." Ruth Steele, super detective, has found them for us as Elaine's letter, condensed below, reveals.

Dear Ruth,

Thanks for your recent letter....I don't know why the "Drifter" should have been returned because as you can see we still have the same address. We do still spend our summers on Beaver Island, and our 1st class mail is forwarded to us there, while the rest of it is simply tossed into a box down here to await our picking it up when we get back home -- a summer's full of magazines, newspapers, catalogs, etc., to catch up to! I'm still wading through it. So perhaps the post office here was -- so! I know what it was! We told the post office here to hold all mail after September 1 because we would be traveling for a couple of weeks after we left the island. So instead of just holding it here, it being 1st class, they returned it. Stupid! Anyway, please tell Beauvais' to send them on again and enclosed is our check for this year's dues. Please give it to the treasurer.

As usual, we had hoped to see some of you when we were in Grand Rapids but can't seem to plan our trips at the right time to make one of your meetings. At our time back to Grand Rapids for the 5-day national meeting of the Natural Federation of Music Clubs, we had little free time. We'll make one of your meetings yet! Please tell Marguerite Petersen that we were so pleased that she called us to join the field trip to Keokuk, and only wished she had called earlier. (It's a standing joke down here that being retired gives you lots of free time -- we're all busier than ever, but at things we really enjoy instead of required activities.) As a matter of fact, when the trip was first proposed in the "Drifter" we had talked about going but just didn't get around to writing for more info. After reading all the accounts, I wish we had, so don't give up on us....I thought you might be interested in the enclosed article. It was printed in the "Ozarks Mountaineer," a very fine monthly magazine. So you see I'm keeping up on my writing some, anyway. I also have a monthly column of my own in the local newspaper -- but the "Mountaineer" pays a lottbetter.

Say "Hi" to everybody for us.

Fondly,

Elaine

Ruth Steele sent us a summary of the article mentioned above, but we are hesitant to use it until we are sure it is not copywrited. How about it, Elaine?

THE PERKINS SAM MUSEUM

(A special program was presented at the recent Detroit Show about this museum but neither Bob nor I saw it there. We did stay over a day to attend the meeting of the Michigan Mineralogical Society in order to take in their program which dealt with the museum. We're glad we didn't miss it. Below we are reprinting the program report as published in THE CONGLOMERATE of the M.M.S.)

The birth of a major Mineral Museum has not occurred since the late 1800's. It has happened again in our decade. It is the outgrowth of redecorating the Banner Petroleum offices on the 15th floor of the Briarcroft Savings Building in Midland, Texas.

Perkins and Ann Sam fell in love with the high-quality decor mineral specimens used as accents in the Banner office suite. Then they were introduced to Paul Desautels book "The Mineral Kingdom," rich in color illustrations.

As the result of their love affair with nature's mineral masterpieces, some of the finest specimens of their kind in the world will be preserved for the public to enjoy and appreciate.

As Ron Bentley, curator of the new museum, showed slides and described the birth and growth of the Perkins Sam Museum, his audience sat in awe at the sacrament of beauty in form and color which unfolded. He began with the Sam's ranch on five miles of the Taylor River in Colorado. It seemed each scene was more beautiful than the other.

Then: purple adamite from the previously flooded Ojuela Mine at Mapimi, Durango, Mexico...extensive operations in Brazil searching for elusive quartz crystals with pyrite inclusions... tourmaline scepters with green caps and rubellite bases...gorgeous mesolite on green apophyllite...canary yellow anglesite...9-inch snowflake cerrusite crystals from Morocco....2½ inch ruby crystals in zoisite... apple green smithsonite from Tsumeb.... it was enough to make your senses stall out with the beauty and wonder of it all.

The basic collection was formed with the purchase of four choice private collections, those of Ed Swoboda, Julius Zweibel, David Wilbur, Charles Key and a French collection. The focus is on minerals, not faceted gems. The emphasis is upon securing an in-depth collection of the finest specimens on earth. Since the major acquisition stage is completed, only eight or so additions are being made each year. Paul Desautels, Curator Emeritus of the Smithsonian Mineral Museum is a full time consultant.

Negotiations are presently under way to provide a permanent and public home for the collection...possibly in Houston. In the meantime, Ron says, you'll need to contact him personally, to gain a viewing in Midland, Texas.

We are deeply grateful to Ron for staying an extra day after the Detroit Gem and Mineral Show to share with us in this way. And we have a growing sense of indebtedness to Perkins and Ann Sam for what their gamble is providing for mineral lovers everywhere.

- Don Lichtenfelt

AND WHY NOT DECORATE WITH MINERAL SPECIMENS? by Helen Aves

(reprinted from The Glacial Drifter, May 1960)

At the certain risk of being mowed down and ploughed under by my more scientific-minded, orthodox rockhound friends, I'd like to state the case for the use of one's choicest mineral specimens in home decoration - instead of keeping them stashed away, carefully classified, in a collection for which there's often no room except up in Pop's study, down in the basement playroom, or in the cupboard under the dishes in the china cabinet.

What could be more satisfying, for example, than a dining table centerpiece of magnificent crystal specimens on a silver tray, combined with fresh flowers

-next page, please

DECORATING WITH MINERALS (concluded)

when the garden's in bloom, or used alone? There's also nothing more dramatic than a living room "conversation piece" composed of a monumental-sized chunk of driftwood or tree root, displaying, at its base, an equally beautiful specimen of mineral crystals, preferably white, or brilliant sulphur yellow, or a lovely chrysocolla blue. A combination of natural beauties, at their most interesting and exciting - for all to view and enjoy, even those friends who never heard of rock collecting.

A coffee table, framed shadow-box fashion with glass over the top, is another decorative eye-catcher for displaying your choice specimens. (A substantial "permanent" card table can serve as the base for this framed top.) Even a lamp base, made of a single huge and choice specimen (I can hear some of my collector friends groan at such infamous use of a choice treasure) can be a major addition to a room's character and decorative beauty...with far more enduring appeal than the usual "decorator" lamp.

They say romance is a form of prayer for those who don't pray in the accepted manner. To this rockhound, exquisitely beautiful mineral specimens can also be a form of religion - for who can possibly become absorbed in the mysteries of these examples of the earth's most ancient history without believing in a Great Prompter behind it all? And what better way to "evangelize" this belief than by letting one's choice specimens become a part of the home's setting?

There's an advertising executive, for example, who, after studying in complete fascination a group of quartz crystals on our dining table, went home to "investigate" a dozen or so boxes stored in his basement. They contained his father's lifetime collection of mineral specimens, and had stood there, unopened, since they'd been moved there 25 years before, upon his father's death. To him, they had always been just a forbidding, scientific, "collection" his father had kept in a closed cabinet, and as a boy he'd been totally disinterested in anything so

"stuffy." Today, he and his small son have become avid rockhounds.

Then there's our trashman - and the cleaning woman - and two newspaper collection boys - and the grocer's deliveryman - who, having seen "arrangements" of our mineral specimens at the front door, back door, even over the kitchen sink, have been curious, then fascinated, then "sold" on the idea of rock collecting. A newsboy's father told me recently, "After seeing some of your rocks, that kid's been out digging like crazy in Hodenpylo's Woods, looking for geodes, he says!" Naturally, there being no Hodenpylo geodes that I know of, I've had to part with several of my favorite Keokuk models. That's the one disadvantage of this "display-me-all-over-the place" policy-- you keep giving specimens away, ...you're so delighted when you find you've made a convert!

(Ed. note: This reminds me of one of our late members, Edith Reed, who kept a small pan or ordinary rocks in front of her kitchen sink just so she could look and study them while she was working.)

MINERAL STUDY GROUP

We're having a terrible time trying to get started this year. A meeting was planned for November 11, but with Bob Beauvais away, and others who can't make this meeting, we've decided to wait until the new year. Watch the December issue for a date and meeting place.



It's coming - have a happy one. Be thankful if your dues are paid - if not, we can't send you another issue. So write a check and mail it now!

THE GRAND RAPIDS MINERAL SOCIETY

President	Rich VanBeek	459-3903
Vice-president	Ron Brumley	531-4555
Secretary	Beryl Joyce	534-9182
Treasurer	Ted Duprey	532-3841
Historian/Librarian	Ernest Potter	364-4245
Past President	Robert Beauvais	534-3871
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Editor	Ruth Beauvais	
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	Robert McKay	458-2972
	Lucile Pearl	532-6929
(1 year)	Cecil Sefton	942-8456
	Mary Honton	241-4001
Hospitality	Ruth Tuinstra	453-0383
Programs	Marguerite Petersen	530-0368
Field Trips	Marguerite Petersen	
Refreshments	Marie Duprey	532-3841
Sunshine	Lucile Pearl	532-6929
Raffle	Ruth Beauvais	534-3871

An apology: No we don't have a new cover. My assistant editor, artist in residence and publisher is out of town and I can't find the covers or the stencil for them. The time is late so we are having a substitute this month. Next month we hope to be back to normal!

Friday 9:30 a.m. to 8 p.m. - Saturday 9:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Monday thru Thursday 9:30 a.m. to 6 p.m.

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