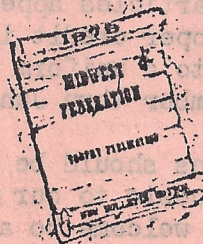
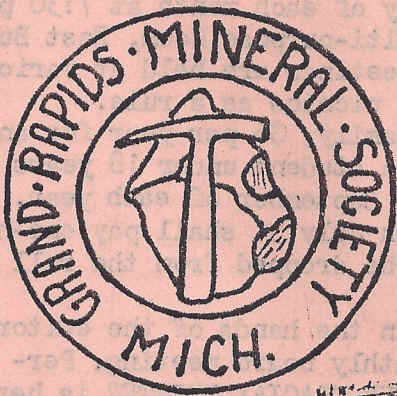


OCTOBER 1985



REG 25

THE GRAND RAPIDS MINERAL SOCIETY

BOARD OF CONTROL

President	Donn Cuson	453-4034
Vice-President	Peter Boogaart	451-3274
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Treasurer	Ted Duprey	532-3841
Historian/Librarian	Mary Honton	241-4001
Past President	Rich VanBeek	459-3903
Liaison Officer	Bob Beauvais	534-3871
Editor	Ruth Beauvais	534-3871
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	Val Katelnicks	874-6466
	Marguerite Petersen	530-0368
(2 years)	Herm Prins	241-4827
	Ruth Steele	791-9337
	Roger King	532-6239
Program Chairperson	Rich VanBeek	459-3903
Publicity	Peter Boogaart	451-3274

The Grand Rapids Mineral Society (founded 1958) 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. We meet in the Multi-purpose Room, East Building, Grand Rapids Public Museum. Summer meetings are held at various parks or at members homes and are pot-luck picnics as a rule.

Membership dues are \$8 per year for a family; \$6 per year for an individual membership and \$4 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 board 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. Each member is entitled to one free ad per year.

Exchange bulletins should be sent to the editor.

We welcome all guests to our meetings and encourage them to come again. Members are welcome to attend all Board of Control meetings as guests.

THE GLACIAL DRIFTER

Volume 28

Number 2

OCTOBER 1985

G.R.M.S. CALENDAR

Wednesday, Oct. 16 6:30 p.m. POT LUCK DINNER - in the Multi-Purpose Room, Grand Rapids Public Museum. Please bring a hot dish plus a salad or dessert plus your table service. We will be having guests from several area clubs - be generous!

Monday, Oct. 21 7:30 p.m. Board of Control meets at the home of Arlene Sladek, 2424 31st St. SW, Wyoming.

PLACES TO GO

The show season is winding down, but here's a couple of events you might like to take in.....

LANSING, MI Show by the Central Michigan Lapidary & Mineral Society on Oct. 18-20 at the Michigan National Guard Armory, 2500 S. Washington, Lansing.

WYOMING, MI You are invited to the annual Silent Auction of the Indian Mounds Rock and Mineral Club on Tuesday, Oct. 15, beginning at 7 p.m. at Sunset Park Church of God, Michael Ave.

EVERY MEMBER should realize that he

Has a job he can do in our society,

Not shoutin' the loudest or braggin' the best;

Not trying to equal or outdo the rest.

Just being your own natural, likeable self,

And putting your worries way back on the shelf.....

To gather dust as a worthless thing;

For in this way you are bound to bring

To the club meetings, your very best,

Not just for yourself, but for all the rest.

It ain't the bigness you got under your hat,

But the friendship you left in the seat where you sat!!!

Sequoia Bulletin, via

The Glacial Drifter (Kansas)

THE PRESIDENT'S PAGE

President Donn Cuson is in Korea on business as this is written and could not manage to get us a message before he left, so here's a bit from your editor....

Last Thursday (Oct. 3) was a pretty exciting day here in Grandville. That's the day when Grand Valley archeology professor Dr. Richard Flanders and some of his students were digging up more of the mastodon bones in the back of an excavation for a new home.

You probably read about this discovery in your newspaper, or saw it on the TV news. You will remember that some boys were playing around this excavation and found several large bones their father couldn't identify. He called Grand Valley State College for assistance. Dr. Flanders identified the bones as coming from a mastodon and brought out some of his students to check out the site.

A family from our church will move into that house when it is finished.

Bob was alerted to the excitement and we drove over to join the reporters from Channels 8 and 13, a lot of neighbors and men coming home from work, and many, many children.

In the back of Dr. Flanders station wagon parked on the street we saw some of the first bones found, several rib and vertebrae. Then we walked back to where the digging was going on and watched as the students worked to rinse the mud from the tusks and lower jaw bone. We saw the teeth, said to be in almost pristine condition, emerge along the huge jaw bone as the mud was washed away.

Dr. Flanders has named this "Smith's Elephant" (the land belongs to Mark Smith at present) and he is excited about the possibility of assembling an almost complete head. Right now he says they just have to keep digging for the construction continues. What he would like to do is to have the entire large pile of dirt, marl and mud dozed into a truck and hauled out to Grand Valley where the students could work without interference. We've heard that a lot of unauthorized digging goes on at night even though the site is now posted "no trespassing."

The bones were found in marl which had been moved by the excavators. They have done some soil testing and it appears that most of that marl is on only one lot, those on either side have little. We thought we knew what marl was, but when we tried to define it, we couldn't come up with an answer so we looked it up. Marl is a friable (crumbly) earthy deposit consisting of clay and calcium carbonate.

At last report they are still digging, and still finding parts of this mastodon...even an ankle bone. There should be more to this story later.

That's the news from Grandville - where at least one mastodon lived a long, long time ago - mastodons disappeared around 6000 B.C. We hope we got some good pictures!

Ruth



OCTOBER



Following our dinner we will have a program: "Excavation at Umm El-Jimal" by Dr. Bert DeVries. Dr. DeVries is a member of the Calvin College History Department and a Biblical archeologist. Umm El-Jimal, a basalt city in the Syrian Desert, was built by the Arabs under the Romans in the 1st century A.D. It functioned as a link in the Roman military frontier, protecting Palestine and Syria. Dr. DeVries will give an illustrated lecture and discuss the geological, climatic, historical and political environment of this agricultural, rural city located in a desert in what is now Jordan.

Note: Dr. DeVries isn't just interested in things ancient; he has one of the pioneer homes in this area utilizing solar heat.

Our September meeting was a most enjoyable one as Roger King gave his slide show of the trip he and Arlene, with his sister and his son, Michael, took to the Yucatan area last spring. We enjoyed very much his pictures of the pyramids and other sights of that fascinating land.

We were especially pleased to be able to present to Marie Duprey her award as 6th place winner in the AFMS program "Education Thru Sharing." The award partially recognizes all Marie has done for her club and for others during the last year, but all of us are aware of the many things she has done to help the hobby of rocks and minerals thru the years. We're proud of you, Marie!

GEMMY BONES

Did you know that gemmy bones have been found in California's El Paso Mountains? These opalized fossils occur in a strata called the Ricardo formation, which is lower Pliocene in age...about ten million years old. The Ricardo strata were deposited in lakes, ponds and streams that were subjected to many intervals of intense volcanic activity, for interbedded with the typical fine-grained water-deposited silts and sands

are several layers of tuff, lava and pumice.

These strata from ancient streams and ponds were probably the drinking holes of the animals living in the Lower Pliocene times. Due to layers of pumice in this section where opalized fossils are found, it is thought that these animals may have been stampeded into their watering holes by volcanic eruptions.

These fossils are so perfectly opalized that when the weathered but fossil bones are spotted they are a striking life-like white and look very much like recent bones. However the opalized fossils are very hard and cannot be scratched by a knife, as compared to recent bones that can be easily cut with a knife.

via The Pyriter
and Breccia (8/85)

QUARTZ is a German word used by Georg Agricola in 1530. The early Greeks called it "crystallos" which means clear ice. They believed it was formed by water turning to ice due to the extreme cold temperatures in the Alps.....

via Tulip City Conglomerate
and The Conglomerate (10/85)

BOARD OF CONTROLMinutes of the Meeting, Sept. 23, 1985
(condensed)

The Board of Control met at the home of Bob and Ruth Beauvais. President Donn Cuson called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. Present besides the president and hosts were Ruth Steele, Lucile Pearl, Roger King, Rich Van Beek, Herm Prins and Arlene Sladek.

The minutes of the last meeting were read and corrected to read that Roger King, Ruth Steele and Herm Prins are the newly elected board members. Val Katelniks, Marie Duprey and Marguerite Petersen are now in their second year as board members.

Bob Beauvais read the report of Treasurer Ted Duprey. Check account balance is \$410.34.

Karl Bruder, instructor in geology at Grand Rapids Junior College has a project in mind for the club. Rich was asked to call him for more information.

The merger with the Indian Mounds Rock & Mineral Club was discussed and it was decided that nothing would be done about a joint meeting until after that club has its next election in November. Ruth suggested we begin to think of a program when it is our turn to host a joint meeting.

Herm Prins suggested we send a thank you note to Bob and Ruth Tuinstra for hosting our August picnic. Our secretary will do this.

The program and plans for the October meeting were discussed. We decided to invite guests from six neighboring clubs. Roger King will donate for the table decorations.

Moved, supported and carried that \$100 be allocated for programs for the coming year with the stipulation that if necessary, more can be designated later. There will be no change in the dates for our November and December meetings as the holidays will not interfere.

Donn Cuson will continue as field trip chairman with Roger King and

Herm Prins on the committee. We will check with Pete Boogaart to see if he will continue as publicity chairman.

Respectfully submitted,
Arlene Sladek, Secretary

TREASURER'S REPORT

Balance, 8/5/85		\$ 319.34
Income:		
memberships	108.00	
raffle	8.00	
		116.00
		<u>435.34</u>
Expense		
Rent to museum	15.00	
Mich. filing fee	10.00	
		25.00
Balance, Checking account 9/19		\$ 410.34
Savings Account balance 8/5		622.21
Income		
coffee	3.90	
interest	8.63	
		12.53
Savings account balance 9/19		<u>634.74</u>
Scholarship Savings 8/5		104.49
Income		
interest	4.14	
interest on C.D.	5.67	
		9.81
Scholarship Balance 9/19		<u>114.30</u>
Certificate of Deposit		800.00
		<u>\$ 914.30</u>

- Ted Duprey
Treasurer

Quarrymen in ancient Rome sometimes rubbed wax on their marble blocks and pillars to conceal cracks and flaws, at least until after the sale was made; the wax washed off in the first rainfall and the imperfections reappeared. The Roman Senate passed a law that all marble purchased by the government must be sine cera, or "without wax." From this root comes "sincere," a word we use to mean "without deception."

-Coastal Waves
via The Glacial Drifter (Kansas)

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. Lois Blackburn, 902 E. North St., Appleton, WI 54911. All subscription orders should be sent to Parrot Printing Service, 2125 Forest Ave., Des Moines, IA 50311.

PRESIDENT

James Edwards
306 Somonauk
Park Fores, IL 60466

1ST VICE-PRESIDENT

William Parch
P.O. Box 180
Fountain City, WI 54629

2ND VICE-PRESIDENT

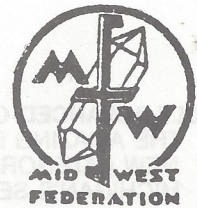
Mrs. Esther Mullaly
30018 Dawson
Garden City, MI 48135

SECRETARY

Miss Jean Reynolds
107 Tuttle Avenue
Claredon Hills, IL 60514

TREASURER

Mrs. Kitty Starbuck
7636 V Avenue East
Vicksburg, MI 49097



SEPTEMBER, 1985

Issue No. 255

IMPORTANT NOTICE IMPORTANT NOTICE IMPORTANT

Persuant to Executive Committee Action, the Midwest Federation will no longer accept subscriptions to the Newsletter. Present subscriptions will be honored through the December 1985 issue. Clubs having subscriptions which run beyond that date should contact the Midwest Federation Treasurer giving the number of months, number of copies per month, and the amount to be refunded.

President Jim's Corner

We had another successful Convention and Show in Souix Falls, SD July 18-21, 1985.

Most of our Executive Committee people were present and 64 delegates from the Clubs were also present at the Council Meeting on Saturday. That is only about 25% of the clubs represented.

People ask, "What does the MWF do?" What better way to see it in action than to attend a Convention and show. Your next chance will be July 17-20, 1986 in South Bend, IN.

Each of the Committee chairpersons gave a written or oral report on the activities of their committee. About 65% of the Committees had a report. I would like to see that increase also. We need good people willing to work and willing to come to meetings. a good place to start is to help on a committee to see what goes on and then when you are experienced, step up to the chairmanship job. Don't be shy, come on and join the fun.

New chairpersons were announced. For the State Director of Illinois, Mary Henning will take the job. Bob Heinek will be State Director for Indiana. The Newsletter will be done by Lois Blackburn. Bulletin Editor Aids will be taken over by Lois McMahon.

Jim Taylor had to resign as Show/Convention Chairman. We need a new person in that job - anyone interested?

At the live auction for the MWF Endowment Fund we raised \$777.10. The silent auction earned over \$200 for the AMFS Scholarship fund.

At the South Bend Show in July 1986, we hope to break the record of 203 Competitive displays. Everyone bring your best "stuff" and show it at South Bend. This is your **big** chance to show at a combined MWF/AFMS show close to home.

The Fall meeting of the Executive Council will be in Dearborn, MI., on November 2, 1985. If you plan to go and do not know the details, get in touch with me or Happy Gibb of 622 - 8th Street, Wyandotte, MI., 48192. Details will be mailed out by Jean Reynolds later with the Committee Reports.

It has been fun being President for the past year. I appreciate all the help the committees, officers, assistants, directors, etc., have given. All I have to do now is stand up and be introduced as the Past President!

Jim Edwards, President, MWF

ADULT ADVANCED ORIGINAL ARTICLES

1. THE AMAZING DESERT, Lorraine Burson, author, published 2/84 in Crystal Cluster, IL.
2. NEW CATEGORIES FOR OLD FOSSILS, Paul Harris, author, published in Ozark Earth Science News, 4/84, AR.
3. MICHIGAN'S SECOND MOUNTED MASTODON, Ron Smith, author, published in The Petoskey Stone 3/84, MI.

CERTIFICATES

4. STONE TOOLS, Jean Reynolds, author, published in Earth Science News, 12/84, IL.
5. CRYSTALS OF THE ISOMETRIC SYSTEM, John Ade, author, published in Escon, 11/84, IL.

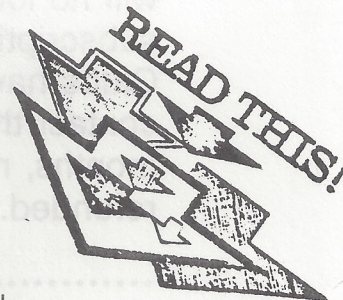
Congratulations to all who entered the contest and to all winners!!!!

Please watch the newsletter for the next contest, usually announced in October!!

PLEASE LET YOUR BULLETIN EDITOR AIDS CHAIRMAN KNOW IF YOU MOVE OR IF YOU ARE A NEW EDITOR OF A BULLETIN, SO YOU CAN BE ON HER ROSTER. Thanks!

I have enjoyed reading all of your bulletins, mini, small, and large.

Rita C. Hagerbaumer, BEAC
Hazel Kuntz, Asst.



MERIT AWARDS COMMITTEE REPORTS

The Merit Awards Committee received applications from 26 clubs this year. This is more than any other federation received. based on scores of 90 or more, three of our clubs were entered in National Competition. They were:

1. Calumet Gem & Mineral Society
2. Wisconsin Geological Society
3. Neville Public Museum Geology Club

At the AFMS Show at Charleston, The Neville Club received a second place rating, sandwiched in between two California Clubs. This was in National competition. This club scored a 93 or better by five different judges. They found the club had many attractions for new members, good field trips, good show, great support for youth and senior citizens, and the programs were excellent.

The Calumet Gem and Mineral Society is a repeat winner in this competition. The club does everything well but lots of things better. Its best and most useful tool is its success in getting items into press--four papers regularly published information of the club's activities. At the time of the report the club was nearing 2000% in support of the AFMS Scholarship Fund.

Another repeat performance was given by the Wisconsin Geological Society. This club's report was prepared by enthusiastic members. The club showed great skill and capability in hosting the 1984 MWF SHOW. This club will celebrate its 50th anniversary in 1986. It must be doing something right.

In addition to those clubs winning awards at the national level, the Midwest recognizes clubs which in one way or another, have unique features or make unusual contributions to their local group and community, as well as to the welfare of the MWF. At Sioux Falls, six clubs received the Midwest Club Award. All awards are of equal merit and the order and presentation does not indicate a rank of any sort. These clubs are:

Gem City Rock Club
The Park Forest Earth Science Club
Midwest Mineralogical and Lapidary Society, Dearborn
Earth Science Club of Northern Illinois
Michiana Gem and Mineral Society
Black Hawk Gem and Mineral Society

The MERIT AWARDS COMMITTEE thanks the clubs for their participation. We hope many more clubs enter next year. The committee was composed of these judges: Alan Hukill, Margaret Heinek, Joe Claxton, and Helen Smith. I wish to thank them for their work and cooperation.

Ben Moulton,
Chairperson



There are two new address that MWF members need to know.
Marian Parch Marian is the new Scholarship Chairperson.
Box 64
Wyeville, WI 54671

And if that is not enough to interest you about Marian, you will soon learn that her husband, Bill Parch, of the same address, naturally, will take over the office of MWF Prexy in a few months.

The other new address need by members is that of the Newsletter Editor: Lois Blackburn This is my first attempt at this position. We trust all reports received by August 16th, were in and printed.
902 E. North Street
Appleton, WI 54911

If you do not see your report, Look for it in the October issue. There were several items sent to me that were too late for Bette Smith to use and much to late to be used here in this notice now. I sincerely hope to be of service in this job.

CONGRATULATIONS!!!!!!!

Education Through Sharing Honorees Announced for 1985

1985 Club Member of the Year - Helen L. Smith of Licking County Rock & Mineral Soc., Inc., Newark, Ohio; 1st runnerup - Charles R. Enigl of Neville Public Museum Geology Club, Green Bay, WI; 2nd runnerup - George Gleisner, Wisconsin Geological Soc., Inc., Milwaukee, WI; 3rd runnerup - Harlan Waters, Kalamazoo Geological & Mineral Society, Kalamazoo, MI; 4th runnerup - Roy T. Bower, Loop Valley Gem & Mineral Soc., Inc., Monroe, NB; 5th runnerup and Fieldtripper of the year - Stanley Franczak, Midwest Mineralogical and Lapidary Soc., Dearborn, MI. The 6th runnerup - Marie Duprey, Grand Rapids Mineral Soc., Grand Rapids, MI; 7th runnerup - Vernon C. Barr of the Central Missouri Rock & Lapidary Club, Inc. Columbia, MO.

These awards were announced by Margaret M. Pearson, Chairperson, Education Thru Sharing Program. The honorees were given these awards at the Show Banquet at Sioux Falls, by Carol Anderson, assistant on the committee.

ENDOWMENT FUND . . . OFF AND RUNNING!!!

The Executive Board of the MWF held an auction at the Spring Executive meeting in Macomb, IL, March 16 for "seed" money for the proposed Endowment Fund. This first auction was to be items donated by just the Executive Board members.

Thanks to the very generous contributions from Jim and Mary Edwards, Bob and Esther Mullaly, Bill and Marian Parch, and Marve and Kitty Starbuck, we earned \$454.50.

The Geode Gem and Mineral Society of Burlington, IA, recently disbanded. They gave the balance of their bank account of \$171.74 to the MWF. This was added to the \$454.50 and made a total of \$626.24 for the Endowment Fund.

Special thanks to the above people and a bigger thanks for all who so generously opened their pocketbooks!!!

Marve & Kitty Starbuck
MWF Chairpersons of Ways & Means



Plan now to attend the Michigan Geology & Gemcraft Society's Conference and Seminar scheduled for July 12-13, 1986. This will be held at the Kalamazoo, MI. Some 48 classes are offered in the two days plus crackerbarrels and doorprizes. This is a few days before the MWF-AFMS at South Bend. The cost for the MGAGS is \$8.00 per day. You find your own motel and food. This is worth everybit of the money as all hands-on materials are furnished.

You might even get the idea of starting such an educational and fun seminar in your area.

You Should Have Been There ---- Where?

Presque Isle, Marquett, MI., when at least six rock and mineral clubs plus a Canadian Club gathered for the annual Swap & Sell run by the Ishpeming Club. Good weather, good trades, good buying and selling. And there were fabulous field trips after. This took place Aug. 3-4.

1985 MIDWEST FEDERATION BULLETIN EDITORS CONTEST AWARD WINNERS

MINI BULLETIN CONTEST

1. MASTODON TRACKS, Gerbert Larson, Editor. Badlands, Sandlands Earth Science Club., SD

SMALL BULLETIN CONTEST

1. FLINT FLASHES, Helen L. Smith, Editor. Licking Rock & Mineral Society, Inc., OH
2. ESCOMO, Shirley Uebel, Editor. Earth Science Club of Missouri.
3. THE SHIELD, Joe & Nancy Ohm, Editors. Akron Mineral Society, OH.

CERTIFICATES

4. SUMMIT GEM, Grace M. White, Editor. Summit Lapidary Club, OH.
5. SMOKE SIGNALS, Delores Bates, Editor. Blackhawk Gem & Mineral Club, IL.
6. ROCK DUST, Gladys Holliday, Editor. Sioux Empire Gem & Mineral Society, SD.
7. THE BEACHCOMBER, G.E.M. Suess, Editor. Lake County Gem & Mineral Society, IL.
8. THE ROCK TABLET, Carol Anderson, Editor. Neville Public Museum Geology Club, WI.
9. TONKA TAILINGS, Farn Krogstad, Editor. Minnetonka Mineral Club, MN.
10. S.I.E.S. CLUB NEWS, Nellie Claxton, Editor. Southern Illinois Earth Science Club.

LARGE BULLETING CONTEST

1. THE LITHNICS, Evelyn L. Rohn, Editor. Rickland Lithic & Lapidary Society, OH.
2. EARTH SCIENCE NEWS, Jean Reynolds, Editor. Earth Science of Northern Illinois Club.
3. OZARK EARTH SCIENCE NEWS, Mrs. Jean Zahnen, Editor. Ozark Earth Science Club, AR.

CERTIFICATES

4. SERENDIPITY GEMS, Luella Bond, Editor. Evansville Lapidary Society, IN.
5. THE OPAL, Lois McMahon, Editor. West Suburban Lapidary Club, IL.

NEW OR FIRST TIME EDITOR

1. THE ROCKPILE, Diane Kuzara, Editor. Mineral & Lapidary Society of Dearborn Michigan.
2. WORTHEN WORTHY NOTES, Miss Hazel Kuntz, Editor. Worthen Earth Searchers of Hancock, Co., IL.
3. THE TULLY, Cleo McPherson, Editor. Park Forest Earth Science Club, IL.

CERTIFICATES

1. CRYSTAL CLUSTER, Bill Zima, Editor. Des Plaines Valley Geological Society, IL.
5. ARROWHEAD NEWS, Edward Benjamin, Editor. Indian Mounds Rock & Mineral Club, MI.

SPECIAL PUBLICATIONS

1. WHAT IS A ROCK HOUND? Evelyn Cawthon and Robert Mount, authors. Final form Spring 1984. West Suburban Lapidary Club, IL.
2. "BEN" Bulletin Editors News. Rita C. Hagerbaumer, Editor. Midwest Federation Gem & Mineral Society. 1/4/10/1984.
3. BROWN COUNTY QUARRIES. Neville Public Museum Geology Club. Elinor Vannes, Author, w/assistance of Jane Page & Marcia Silveral, October 1984. WI.

CERTIFICATES

4. OUR 23RD ANNUAL SHOW, Michiana Gem & Mineral Society presents . . . Sept. 1984. Sherry Russell, Editor, IN.
5. OPALESQUE, The History and Major Achievements of West Suburban Lapidary Club, 1959 - 1984. IL. Compiled by Bea York and Robert Mount. Spring 1984, to final version Nov. 1984.

JUNIOR ORIGINAL ARTICLE CONTEST

1. HOW A FOSSIL IS MADE. Angela Hinshaw, author. Published Sept. '84. Serendipity Gems, page 11. Evansville, Lapidary Society, IN.

ADULT ORIGINAL ARTICLES

1. TIPS FOR PREPARING A DISPLAY CASE, Margaret Heinek, author. Published in the Rockfinder, Sept. 1984. Michiana Gem & Mineral Society, IN.
2. FOSSIL COLLECTING, Paul B. Godollei, author. Part 1, 3/84; Part 2, 4/84; Part 3, 5/84; Part 4, 6/84; & Part 5, 10/84. Published in The Rockfinder, IN.
3. FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK, Ed Benjamin, author. Published in May, '84 in The Arrowhead News, MI.

CERTIFICATES

4. 'LARIMAR', Harold Joiner, author, published in the Fort Hamilton News, 10/ 84, OH.
5. A TRIBUTE TO GEORGE, Jim Russell, author, published in the Rockfinder, 4/84, IN.
6. THE NON-LAPIDARY MEMBER, Esther Johnson, author, published 2/84 in Serendipity Gems, IN.
7. CHANNEL JEWELRY, Freeman Drew, author, published 1/84 in THE OPAL, IL.
8. AN INTRODUCTION TO ENAMELING FOR THE BEGINNER, Terry Licko, author, published 12/84 in The Opal, IL.
9. PRESERVATION OF MT. RUSHMORE, Carol Anderson, author, published 10/84 in The Rock Tablet, WI.
10. POUNCING ON THE PUDDINGSTONE, Marilyn Lord, author, published 12/84 in Rock Ramblings, OH.

GEM SCAMS - WATCH OUT!

"There's a sucker born every minute." Playing upon this typical human trait are the dozens of gem scam operators who are ruthlessly bilking the public out of millions of dollars per year by inducing them to purchase gemstones, often of inferior quality, at unrealistic prices. It would be well to mention that this article, in no way applies to your jeweler, or to the sophisticated collector who knows the market and understands what he is buying, and why.

SPECIFICS Floods of advertising appear in our mail boxes and in the publications which we routinely read. We have all seen so-called gems advertised at low, low prices, some of which are worth mentioning.

The "Black Star of India." Gemologically speaking, there is no such thing. The ones that were brought to us for evaluation have been black star diopside which is a very common pebble in the gem gravels of Southeast Asia.. ..if you want one, go to a lapidary shop and ask for star diopside. They're inexpensive.

The "four dollar emerald." These are emerald, technically speaking, but the ones we have seen are not of jewelry quality. They are dull, opaque, poorly cut stones useful only as mineral specimens.

The "\$85.00 mail-order diamond." The ones we have seen are not as advertised. They are not suitable for jewelry and are not an investment. Our advice on this one is to buy one if you can afford \$85. to satisfy your curiosity but you would do much better at a retail store.

The ".25 point diamond." A diamond is weighed in carats and by decimals, or hundredths of a carat. One hundredth of a carat is called one point. The .25 size ($\frac{1}{4}$ point or $\frac{1}{400}$ carat) is a misleading designation, although perhaps it is legal. This is extremely small, and cannot display beauty. It is usually encased in a folder with a magnifying window...to make the diamond appear larger...the diamond cannot be put to good use.

Next comes the really painful experience that is happening on a large scale and really hurts. This is the

"boiler room operation." You are usually called on the phone from a distant city and told about the "once in a lifetime" chance to buy an investment gemstone that will make a large profit for you in say, a year's time. These are not cheap. Our experience has been from \$400 to thousands of dollars...you are perhaps sent impressive literature, extolling the opportunity to buy diamonds, rubies, sapphires or whatever, at truly bottom prices. You receive your gemstone, accompanied by an impressive certificate. The gem itself is almost always sealed in a plastic container which you must not unseal. This serves to prevent a gemologist from evaluating the stone)...

These are pitiful cases and they are happening each day. They involve substantial losses...We have seen these "investment" stones liquidated at a very small fraction of the prices paid - like a few cents on the dollar. This situation hurts the public image of gemstones and in turn hurts the jewelry and gemstone industries.

HOW TO AVOID GEM SCAMS - Be on guard if you receive an unsolicited phone call offering investment gems, especially if it is long distance.

Be on guard against limited time offers - the now or never type. If a proposition sounds too good to be true, it probably is.

Don't be soothed by the promise of a refund period of 15 days. These scam artists go out of business periodically and assume new names.

If you still actually desire to make such a purchase, talk to your jeweler before you buy. Ask him if he can show you similar merchandise. (from A Public Service Article by Cardinal Gemological Laboratory, Milwaukee, OR; via Rock Pickings and Crystal Gazer (10/85))

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