

the



GLACIAL DRIFTER

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Affiliated with
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Federation of Mineral Societies

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OCTOBER MEETING TO BE AT RIVERSIDE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Wednesday, October 12th, is Annual Meeting night. There will be an election of officers and Board Members for the coming year. The nominating committee presented a slate at the September meeting and nominations were made from the floor. The following is the list to be voted on at the October meeting: President, Dr. Richard Rose; Vice-President, Henry Tchozeski; Secretary, Miss Jane Cichaniewicz; Treasurer, Miss Virginia Franzen or Leslie Pearl; Liaison Officer, Joe Hanna; Historian, Mrs. Lucille Duyser; Bulletin Editor, Mrs. Nina Rozema; and four of the following for Board Members - Paul Chase, Willis Atwell, Gus Beuker; Gerald Morris, and Mrs. Lowell Palmer.

But the election isn't the only event for that evening. We are privileged to have an outstanding program as well. Mrs Doris Kemp of the Chicago Lapidary Club will give a program on jewelry making. And rumor has it that the piece of jewelry she makes will be given as the door prize. Mrs. Kemp has won many honors with her outstanding work both on a local level and nationally. Her husband, Russ, will be with her. He is head of Rockrama for the Midwest Federation.

This will be, indeed, a busy and exciting evening. See you there.

REVIEW OF SEPTEMBER MEETING

All who were present at the September meeting, and there was an exceptionally large attendance, were well pleased with the program presented by Rev. Luke McMillian.

The door prize, a piece of Lace Agate, was won by Glen Marvin.

The Membership Directory was available and quite few of you picked up your copy, but we still have one for you if you were one who did not get yours. They will be waiting for you at the October meeting.

SILENT AUCTION SCHEDULED FOR NOVEMBER

Henry Tchozeski, chairman of the Auction for the November meeting announces that in order to make this event a success we will require the cooperation of each and every member. We need material to place on the Auction Tables and buyers to bid on them. Henry requests that each member donate at least one item - a mineral specimen, a piece or slab of cutting material, a piece of jewelry, or a cabochon. We do not expect your best specimen or lapidary effort, but we do need good salable material. If you find that you have nothing to contribute, you can make a purchase from one of the DRIFTER advertisers. Please bring your contribution to the October meeting or call Henry and arrange to have it picked up.

If you havenever attended a silent auction you might be interested in how one is conducted. There will be four tables set up with the items to be auctioned. Each piece will be on a sheet of paper on which your bid will be recorded. The paper will show the kind of material, place of origin, name of donor, and minimum bid. If you are the first bidder you may start with the minimum, but after the first bid had been recorded each following bid must be at least 10% higher. When time is called on a table, the last name on the sheet gets the specimen.

NOVEMBER FIELD TRIP

MEMBERS PLEASE TAKE NOTE, The long heralded and much discussed trip to Clay Center, Ohio is now presented for the 12th of November. Admittance is only by the pass issued to your field trip co-chairman, Les Pearl who will be your guide to and in the quarry.

Permission for this visit has been graciously extended by Mr. L. W. Tillotson of Basic, Inc. who asks that safety be uppermost in the minds and acts of all who participate.

This trip is to acquire celestite, a strontium sulfate mineral of very delicate white to light blue crystalline structure.

Take a chisel, hammer, safety glasses, and a lot of those little things called patience, with plenty of packing material that you get back with your trophies intact and your eyes where they ought to be. Select only those groups which are representative of the mineral, even though they are needle-like crystals. Size and quantity is not the criteria to observe here, as one well packed showy group is worth a truck load of bruised crystals. After undertaking such a trip, you will readily understand the cat and canary observance of an owner of a choice crystal group.

Please observe all the regulations of admittance to this quarry. Safety is the watchword at all times and when your lust for celestite has been satisfied, help another member, as we are not all hammer slingers by birth.

We will meet at the weigh house about 10:00 a.m. Saturday, November 12, 1960. Be seeing you.
Les Pearl

THANKS FOR HELPING

President Joe Hanna wishes to thank those who helped get the Membership Directory ready for distribution -- Mrs. Francis Hocking, Mrs. Phyllis Hanna, Mrs. Celia Joldersma, Mr & Mrs. Leslie Pearl.

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WELCOME TO ALL OUR NEW MEMBERS

We are pleased to welcome these new members to our club.
Please add these names to your Membership Directory:

Mr. & Mrs Rodney Herrick
717 $\frac{1}{2}$ Fountain St. N.E.
Grand Rapids 3, Mich GL6-6475

Mr. Carl Adams
421 Woodlawn St. S.E.
Grand Rapids 7, Mich CH3-3023

Mr & Mrs Ernest Hansen
2525 Patterson Ave. S.E.
Grand Rapids 6, Mich CH3-6206

Mrs. Geneva Reid
0-1276 Lake Michigan Dr.
Grand Rapids 4, Mich GL3-2356

Mr & Mrs. Kenneth Childs
1805 Mayfair N.E.
Grand Rapids 3, Mich GL1-1474

Mrs. J. J. Osband
3427 Briggs Blvd. N E
Grand Rapids 5, Mich EM1-8973

Mr & Mrs Joseph V. Rackes
3131 Cheney N.E.
Grand Rapids 5, Mich EM1-7512

Mr & Mrs Leonard Lieffers
R R #2
Marne, Mich OR7-1034

Dr. & Mrs. Denny Donnell, Jr
347 Bostwick N E
Grand Rapids 3, Mich GL8-5207

Mr & Mrs Albert L. Deal
3850 Wilson
Grandville, Mich LE4-2069

Also, please make the following changes of address:

Mrs. Nellie Mead
334 Briarwood S.E.
Grand Rapids 6, Mich

Miss Maxine Atwater
325 Visser Place S E
Grand Rapids 6, Mich

Mr & Mrs Harold Kingsbury
Box 127
Lake Milton, Ohio

Mr. Robert Montague
6555 S. Division
Grand Rapids 9, Mich

Also, our congratulations to Miss Shirley Andrews on her marriage to Thomas Armstrong. Her address should be changed to:

Mrs. Thomas Armstrong
1302D University Village, MSU
East Lansing, Michigan

*3900 on Durbin
1 block west*

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THE SAGINAW FAIR as reported by Les Pearl

Just a bit of dip and strike from a rockhound after having kissed the Blarney Stone.

Saturday, September 10th, found a happy and intent group of Midwest Federation Club members, including our Grand Rapids delegation, knocking at the gates of Saginaw County's fairgrounds. All were eager to get going on their pet projects. Every now and then we were greeted by a handshake or a wave of the hand in welcome and recognition of our efforts.

It was a pleasure to see the deft arranging and re-arranging of pieces to gain the ultimate of display, and possibly a prize if the entry had been made in a competitive division. There were moments of hesitance and deliberation before the clean glass covers were finally screwed into place, and our efforts left to the prying eye of the judges and that greatest judge of all, public opinion. All displays were under the watchful eyes of the famous Pinkerton Agency.

Then for a bite to eat and stroll about the grounds to see a carnival aborning. Truck on truck of parts to all those thrill demanding machines of entertainment. At times it seemed a wonder that each piece of equipment got all its component parts and not evolve a hybrid of sorts.

Saturday, September 17th, being designated as a Grand Rapids Mineral Society field trip day, found quite a delegation of our members in the last day throng of the fair. There were the Atwell's, Morris's, Billings's, Hanna's, Rozema's and Pearl's. Our club member efforts had not gone unrequited as Mr. Joe D. Hanna, our president, captured a sweepstakes in jewelry and a second in lapidary, while our genial Gerry Morris of the Petoskey-stone Morris's came along on his first try at competitive with a third in lapidary. Now such honors are to be cherished, as there were on display, some of the choicest material to be had in this general area. All the minerals which were on exhibition were of quality that only a connoisseur of that particular fancy will show. Good, clean, well labelled crystals depicting the form most often met with, and sizes which left nothing to doubt the owner's desire to inform. The labels gave the direction as to where these particular pieces could possibly be procured.

The fact that one attends a spectacle of this sort and follows the reasoning of the judges, will teach him where to improve in his technique of lapidary, smithing, composition, and arrangement in display.

Our thanks to Doris and Harry Sprague of the Tri-County Club for the invitation to show at the Fair. It certainly takes a lot of work to attain the quality of display which they and their aides produced. It gives us the desire to see that more of the local efforts be placed at succeeding shows around the State and perhaps nationally.

But let me say this in parting to those who are timid at showing the product of their efforts, don't be ashamed of your work. When you started to walk, you plopped on your rear a good many times before you succeeded unassisted. So, too, it is in any enterprise. Let more of us participate in future shows.

PARTICIPATION IN SAGINAW FAIR

In Les Pearl's account of the Saginaw Fair he failed to mention that in addition to the three cases entered in the competitive section there were three cases of non-competitive material entered by our club members. Don Casey had an educational display on lapidary work and Les Pearl had an educational display called "Nature's Jelly Pot", Bob Rozema had an entire case of gypsum in its various forms.

I'M A NEW MEMBER

I see you at the meetings but you never say hello,
You're busy all the time you're there with those you already know,
I set amongst the fellows and yet I'm a lonesome guy,
The new fish are as strange as I, you'r old comrades pass me by,
But, darn it, you guys asked me in, and you talk of comradeship,
You could just cross the room, but you've never made the trip.
Why can't you nod and say "hello" or stop and shake my hand,
Then go and sit among your friends, Now, that, I'd understand.
I'll be at your next meeting, Perhaps a nicer night to spend,
Do you think you could introduce yourself, I want to be a comrade,
friend.

from "The Pseudomorph"

BIRTHSTONES

For the - Laundress, the Soapstone
Architect, the Cornerstone
Cook, the Puddingstone
Politician, the Blarneystone
Borrowers, the Touchstone
Policeman, the Pavingstone
Beauties, the Peachstone
Careless Driver, the Tombstone
Doctor, the Limbcast
Stockbroker, the Curbstone
Shoemaker, the Cobblestone
Burglar, the Keystone
Tourist, the Yellowstone
Editor, the Grindstone
Motorist, the Milestone
Lawyer, the Blackstone
Thrifty, the Goldstone
Rockhound, A-gate
Old Timer, the Lodestone

from "Chip and Lick"

REPORTS FROM OUR TRAVELING MEMBERS

Wisconsin Geological Society
Milwaukee, Wisconsin

September 11, 1960

Dear Rockhounds:

A word of thanks to your club members whom we met in Muscatine, Iowa. Learning they were on a field trip for geodes and agates, we asked if we might join them. They gladly accepted us, especially after knowing we had mutual friends, the Rozema's, from the Grand Rapids Club to which we belong. We enjoyed a picnic dinner with the Paul Fullers and Norman Youngs. We found some beautiful agates in the Muscatine gravel pits.

Then we drove to Burlington where we almost loaded our car with beautiful geodes under the guidance of Mr. Frank Krutke from Rockfield, Wisconsin. Mr. Rudolph Zimmerman also from Rockfield joined us. We came home delighted to have made new rockhound friends and also to the envy of our own Grand Rapids Mineral Society for bringing home such beautiful loot.

Thanking you again, we are

Jaspilitly yours,

Sylvia Delacher and Marie Spielmaker

* * * * *

Russ Girard spent the summer sailing the Great Lakes on board the S.S. North American and wrote us as follows:

"Thanks for sending the Drifter to the various addresses for me. I enjoyed reading about all of the folks in the club, and the various club activities.

"My own personal activities this summer have been limited to reading. I haven't even been able to get to a rock shop. Can you imagine a town the size of Buffalo, N.Y. (the only town where I get any appreciable amount of port time (3 hours)) not having a rock shop? They do have one redeeming virtue. A good secondhand book shop.

"I was able to pick up a good, autographed copy of 'They Struck Opal', and another that was a rare jewel, 'A History of Gems' published 90 years ago, it contains some things that are interesting. For instance how do you like this for a formula for tourmaline:

Silex - 43 parts
Alumina 47 parts
Soda 10 parts

This is infinitely more simple than the modern chemical formula! The text itself is translated from Italian, and contains a lot of information and misinformation passed on by the Italian Gem Carvers."

* * * * *

Nelson Ring's father called Mrs. Hanna the other day to say that his son left for the Sierra Nevadas in May and is still out there. He should have quite a tale to tell and a lot of specimens to display when he returns.

MIDWEST FEDERATION'S LETTER-A-MONTH For October 1960

Subject: COLLECTION DISPLAYING

A short time ago I was doing some reading and ran across the following: "Does Lapidary work include such activities as making cabochons, spheres, slabs and faceted specimens? Of course it does, we are all agreed on that. But there is one other activity associated with this work that seems to be regarded as a sort of stepchild or worse, lapidarily speaking. That is the provision and arranging of suitable displays, both momentarily at shows and continuously at home."

Continuing I read, "My feeling is that proper use of good display facilities is as important to the lapidist and as productive of pleasure and satisfaction as is the production of fine workmanship on good material... for what purpose is served by such workmanship and material if the end product is hidden or even partly obscured because of inadequate or indifferent display."

These, the words of Mr. W.H. deNeui seems to bear out the thoughts of many rockhounds, both those with lapidary work to display and those with fine mineral specimens. It seems that we do a lot of work cutting and polishing our material... select many fine specimens from all over the world and then we fail to provide display cases for them.

Some who do have cases for their materials tend to "overload" them with the net result that nothing stand out, causing the case to look like jumbled confusion.

Display cases well arranged and labeled and lighted are a joy to see indeed. Such cases are found in some private displays but usually are found in museums and is probably the reason we like to spend considerable time looking over the material. If we should find the displays "overloaded", poorly lighted, and unlabeled we would without doubt take a hurried look and leave.

How many times have you visited a friends home and took a look at his collection and had to ask, "what's this"... "where did this come from" ... and have to strain your eyes because of poor lighting? How many times have you found specimens crowded into make-shift cases or on open shelves collecting dust? Many times I am sure!

I am wondering how many of the members of the Midwest Federation member clubs would be interested in having our Federation take the lead in promoting and encouraging attractive displays of our rocks and minerals. The Federation could provide information and ideas on display, arrangement, lighting, how to classify material, construction of cases, etc. The Federation could be a clearing house for all such information and ideas and have it passed on to member clubs.

If you individual members would like such information, so advise your President who can in turn advise our Midwest Federation officers of your interest. If enough interest is shown perhaps such a program can be worked out in the near future.

Sincerely,
Haydon, Peterson, Acting Editor
"Letter-A-Month"

THE GRAND RAPIDS MINERAL SOCIETY
1355 HOLLYWOOD NE
GRAND RAPIDS 5, MICHIGAN
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A short time ago I was doing some reading and ran across the following: "Cases laboratory work include such activities as making specimens, spheres, slabs and faceted specimens. Of course it does, but are all agreed on that. But there is one other activity associated with this work that seems to be regarded as a sort of specialty or worse, laboratory speaking. That is the provision and arranging of suitable displays, both momentarily at shows and continuously at home."

Continuing I read that proper use of good display facilities is as important as the product of pleasure and satisfaction. For what purpose is every specimen, workshop and material if the end product is hidden or even partly obscured because of inadequate or indifferent display.

These words of Mr. W.H. Bennett seem to bear out the thoughts of many rockhounds, both those with laboratory work to display and those with fine mineral specimens. It seems that we do a lot of work cutting and polishing our material, select many fine specimens from all over the world and somehow fail to provide displays for them.

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Wayton Peterson, Acting Editor
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