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january, 1961



official publication of THE GRAND RAPIDS MINERAL SOCIETY. 1355 HOLLYWOOD NE, GRAND RAPIDS S, MICH.

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The Grand Rapids Mineral Society is a Non-Profit Corporation affiliated with the Midwest Federation and the American Federation of Mineral Societies.

Meetings are held the 2nd Wednesday of each month at 8:00 p.m. at Riverside Elementary School.

Advertising in the DRIFTER is at the rate of \$3.00 per issue.

All material to be published <u>must</u> be in the hands of the editor no later than the 25th of the month preceding publication.

Permission to reprint material appearing in the DRIFTER is hereby granted provided proper credit is given.

#### JANUARY MEETING

Most of us who are interested in this hobby of Geology and Mineralogy get additional enjoyment from our collection or lapidary work if we can say "This is one I found". The club attempts to schedule as many field trips as possible but many of you are unable to attend these group functions. We are continually asked "Where did you find that?" or "The family is planning to vacation in the upper peninsula next summer, where can we find some of that specular hematite? Where is Jasper Knob?"

In an attempt to help the many who ask such questions the members of the Grand Rapids Mineral Society who were able to participate in the Midwest Federation's Field Trip Convention last July will present a program covering the numerous collecting spots in the Ishpeming area. We will also take a short imaginery field trip to the copper country, Keweenaw peninsula, and perhaps, if we are lucky, find an agate or two with Joe Hanna on the Lake Superior shore line.

The program, in the main, will cover the Iron Country. You will get a little geology of the area similar to what you received on the Copper Country last year. Maps will be found included in this issue of the DRIFTER to help you on your way. Bring the maps along, if you wish. A pad of paper and a pencil are a must on this type of field trip because you will want to take notes. A few slides will be shown by us amateurs and it is hoped that a good time will be had by all.

Before I forget it, be sure to bring your silver pick (money that is) because this is one field trip on which you may find some specimens to add to your collection and, although this is country abundant in red rust that has the bad habit of saturating your clothing, any type of dress will be suitable for this field trip because it will be held in the Gymnasium of RIVERSIDE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL on Wednesday, January 11th at 8:00 p.m. AND YOU ARE INVITED.

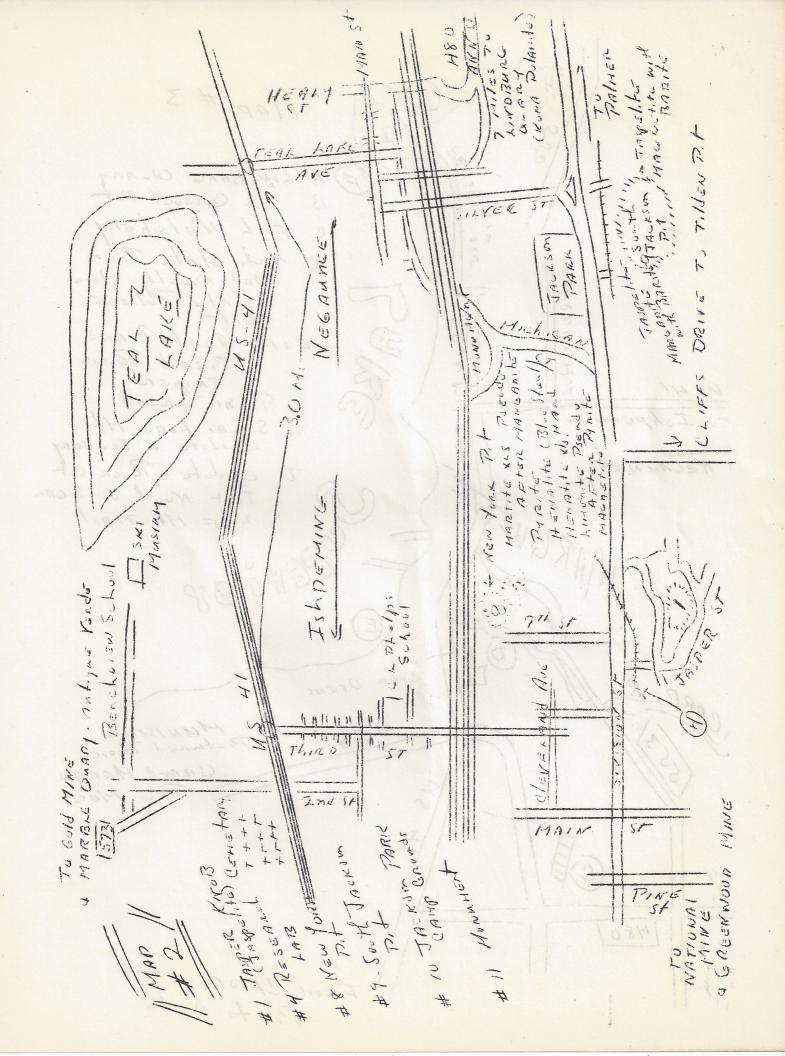
#### DECEMBER MEETING IN REVIEW

Dr. Jane Smith of MSU at Lansing gave us a very enjoyable evening on December 14th at the regular monthly meeting of our group. She clarified for many of us the definition of a fossil and its meaning in the world of geology. Many of our members had not realized the extent of fossil occurence in our area nor the importance of paleontology in dating strata in widely separated localities.

Or. smith showed us representative fossils from the collections of MSU and obliginly identified specimens for many of our club members. Coming as it did on the eve of the organization of our paleontology study group we weel that the December program was very helpful in stimulating interest and in giving the group a better understanding of their subject. Les Pearl is heading up the group until such time as aleader with some background in paleontology can be found. If one of you who are reading this item can help us out, please come to the meeting at Willis Atwell's home on January 19th.

The door prize, donated by Glen Adsit, a jade ring, was won by Charles Giffin.

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### THE PRESIDENT'S CORNER

As your newly elected president I wish to thank all of you for asking me to guide our club through the coming year. My task will be a pleasant one I am sure, thanks to the work that Bob Rozema, Joe Hanna, and their boards of control have done in getting the club started, and to the enthuastic board that you have elected to help me.

A joint Board Meeting was held at my home in December, at which time most of the committee heads were appointed. The committees. along with their charimen will be listed at the end of my short note to you. You will notice that a few positions are not filled as of this writing. Unfortunately, in a club of this size it is impossible to know all of you as well as I would like. I feel that these are important jobs which need good leaders to handle them properly. Without good leadership the committees will not function properly and this would be a detriment to the club. We, of the present board, intend to make this a good year. It should be better than either of the past two years as most of the tedious work of setting up prodecure, special interest groups, etc. has been finished. The work of the past two years should begin to pay off this year in more pleasure for all of us.

The following committees will give you some idea of what is now available and what is in the planning stages. Your comments, praise, or criticism will be appreciated. If you are not satistied with something that the club is doing or if you want something added please tell me or one of the board members. If you are asked to do something we will appreciate your cooperation. If you do not feel that you can spend the time and energy needed to do the job please do not accept its responsibility. We do not look for past experience or expert ability, just a willingness to work and I am sure that the job will be done well. Thank you. sologists, peppi

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The following are your Board of Control & Committee heads for this meeting, are instituting a program to commence January 14th

Joe Hanna - Liaison Rep. Nina Rozema - Bulletin Editor Willis Atwell - Bd. Member Gus Beuker - Bd. Member Paul Chase - Bd. Member Gerald Morris - Bd. Member

Dr. Richard Rose - President Henry Tchozeski - Vice President Jane Cichaniewicz Secretary Virginia Franzen - Treasurer Lucille Duyser - Historian

will be issued regular student cards. There will be available some

ments to be passed on by the Board.

## Committees: 1792 Jean onw aredmentance for adinarelogical girls redmentance

Membership -

Publications - Miss Marie Spielmaker

Publicity - Charles Moore priggswe to noises and Illy arent

requiated club meeting by your own officers. The - ignimon w

Rock Sale - Philip Wasel, Steve Tchozeski and their fathers

Rock Show - Willis Atwell and Gerald Morris Of Control of Control

Field Trip - 3 3 3 5 6 6

Lapidary Group - Joe Hanna Silver Work - 200 801 80 11 1W

Jr. Rockhounds - Les Pearl Auction - 200 lanenim . A . 2 ed J

Advanced Geology - Bob Rozema Geology - Dick Rose

#### CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- January 7th Saturday at 2:30 LAPIDARY GROUP meeting at home of s Joe Hanna, 2319 Riverside N.E. ...
- January 10th Tuesday at 8:00 p.m. BEGINNING GEOLOGY CLASS at G. R. Public Museum, Miss Mary Jane Dockeray.
- January 11th Regular meeting of the G. R. Mineral Society at Riverside Elementary School at 8:00 p.m.
- January 14th Saturday from 10:00 a.m. to noon JUNIOR GROUP and each meeting (ages 8 thru 14) at G. R. Public Museum Saturday Leslie Pearl, sponsor
- January 16th Monday at 8:00 p.m. Board of Control Meeting at home of Bob and Nina Rozema, 1355 Hollywood N. E.
- January 19th Thursday Paleontology Group meeting at 8:00 p.m. at home of Mr & Mrs Willis Atwell, 152 Fuller S. E. bluona cree Leslie Pearl, leader ont bedainit need and ote
- January 26th Thursday Mineralogy Group meeting at 8:00 p.m. athome of Les Pearl, 1563 Benning N. W., Bob Rozema, April 16-30 - Spring Show at the G. R. Public Museum
- June 29-30 Julu 1-2 Midwest Federation Gems and Minerals Fair bebeen votene bas em jat Saginaw, Michigan. Is 1997 Jon of Boy 31

## to do the job please to the passing dollars to the passing dollars to the passing dollars to the passing dollars to the passing the passing the passin

Take notice, junior geologists, pebble-pups, boulder bambini, fossil fiddlers, and just ordinary run-of-the-mill rock ramblers --

We of the Board of Control of the G. R. Mineral Society, having duly ascertained the need and desire for a young peoples group meeting, are instituting a program to commence January 14th, 1961 and continue each week until the last week of May, in the Craft Shop of the G. R. Public Museum from 10:00 a.m. to noon each Joe Hanna - Lisison Rep. Saturday . Totall - Teaved all Tous

The parent club will finance all its junior members without cost to them, but they must present evidence of membership. New members will be issued regular student cards. There will be available some membership scholarships for non-members who meet certain requirements to be passed on by the Board.

There will be a session of swapping, question and answer, and a regulated club meeting by your own officers. The purpose underlaying this program is to stimulate interest in geology and related study, to gain knowledge in art craft of rocks, and to promote fellowship through these contacts. The leaders for this program will be Miss Evelyn Grebel of the Museum staff and Leslie Pearl of the G. R. Mineral Society JouA | 1989 861 - Shoundson . To

We will welcome assistance from adult club members who can give their time to this work.

#### ROCKHOUNDING IS FOR THE BIRDS

"We always check the crops of the doves we shoot when we go hunting, for they seem to prefer the tiny sharp beryl crystals to anything else for their crops, and for some unknown reason they further prefer the deep blue finest cyrstals to the poorer material". What kind of a country was this where the very chickens become rockhounds with a more discriminating taste than most of us humans?

It was the ranch and mining property of the Miglio family near Meinas Geiras, Brazil and the narrator was our new friend Petronio Miglio, in the United States representing the family firm of gem miners and merchants of the fabulous Brazilian Aquas, Amethysts, Tourmalines, and other beautiful minerals.

As Nina and I unfolded the neat little packets of cut beryls, amethysts, and tourmalines Pete unfolded the story of the finding of the famous Marta Rocha Aqua, a magnificent deep blue cyrstal of about eighty pounds weight. A typical group of miners employed by the Miglio family was one consisting of nine miners and their contracting boss. The Miglio's retain a half interest in the value of all minerals produced by this group of miners, the contracting boss a quarter of the value and the remaining quarter is divided equally among the nine miners, with the miners themselves holding the control of the sale of the minerals. Thus Petronio's family are in active competition for the purchase of the products of their mining properties with all of the mineral buyers in the area, only remember that they hold a half interest in the values obtained.

Now, the story of the Marta Rocha: — one day toward evening one of the miners was clearing a building site for a small but which he was building, in the process of digging out the roots of a small tree that he had knocked down his pick grated on a large boulder which he removed with the help of a friend who said "You've struck it man". The first miner replied "Oh, it's beryl alright, but nothing for cutting", whereupon the second miner lit a match and held it near the huge crystal. In the gathering dusk the deep blue beryl glowed as with an inner fire. The two miners took the big crystal into their tent and pillowing their heads upon it they fell to whispering of millions and the things the millions could buy. Sleep refusing to comme, they took the aqua over to where some of the men had built a fire and were heating stones for their beds, dramatically they toosed it down by the fire and let the deep blue blaze of the aqua gleam across the startled faces of their comrades.

"We got no sleep in camp that night" Petronio said, "By morning people began to come in from some distance to see the crystal which weighed about eighty pounds. How the news had spread we will never know, but spread it had." Soon a procession was headed for town with the honored finder astride a horse with the big bery! on the saddle bow in front of him. Once in town the crystal was set on a table in someones house for all to see. Guests started arriving immediately and each one brought a gift, whiskey and whiskey and more whiskey, By nightfall the owner of the house couldn't stand erect. Soon one of the miners shouted to Petronio's brother, "I've got two ninths, let's start buying". One of the miners had sold his share, By the end of the second day the Miglio's owned 28% of the miners' half of the stone. One of the miners refused to sell his share; he wanted the thrill of staying with the affair (continued next page)

all the way to the end. He kept one percent interest in the Marta Rocha all of the way through the cutting and sale of the last beautiful gem in the cyrstal. A record was kept of each and every cut and elaborate accounting was necessary for this 1%, but the miner was given a thrill that will color his whole life by being a partner in a very big gem merchandising operation.

The mining in Meinas Geiras is very primitive. Instead of the huge machinery and deeply driven shafts with which we are so familiar in this country, it is the laborious mining of picks and shovels with the miners playing an active and intimate part in the whole operation. miners and merchants of the fabulous Brazilian Aquas

Rather than sell the whole of their rough material in Rio or to the cutting houses in Germany, the Miglio firm employs their own cutter so that they can bring the finished gems of their own beautiful aquas directly to us in the United States. In addition to a selling trip Petronio was also making contacts with the object of setting up quided gem tours for rockhounds to the gem fields of Meinas Geiras, Within the next two years this idea will probably become reality and some of you who read this may have the thrill of finding the fabulous beryls of Brazil in the company of our good friend to the south.

anonim end by Robert Reed Rozema should will supe the control of the sale of the minerals. Thus Petronio's family

## 

We are happy to welcome the following new members:

Mr. & Mrs. G. A. Young Miss Deborah Hoover 2361 Oakwood N. E.
Grand Rapids 5, Mich EM1-8258 1131 Ottillia S. E. Grand Rapids 7, Mich CH1-4479

Mr. & Mrs. Louis Haas

Mr. & Mrs. John Kommer 658 Third St. N. W. Grand Rapids 4, Mich GL6-7454 4113 Costa N. E. Grand Rapids 5, Mich EM1-0183

## beryl glowed as with an inne SEANDA TO ADVANCE took the big

Mr. & Mrs. Charles Giffin
641 Lyon N. E.
Grand Rapids 3, Mich GL 9-8962

Please make the additions and change in your Membership Directory.

# BEGINNING GEOLOGY CLASS THE SHOOT OF THE PROPERTY OF THE PROPE

Don't forget the BEGINNING GEOLOGY CLASS which starts on Tuesday, January 10th. This is being taught by Miss Mary Jane Dockeray at the Grand Rapids Public Museum. Meetings will be at 8:00 pm each Tuesday for five weeks. Cost is \$1.00 per person for each 2-hour session, \$1.50 for husband and wife.

# more whiskey, By nightfall the owner of the house couldn't stand erect. Soon one of the miner TNIH YRADIPAL ronio's brother,

In working the feldspar gems which have a tendancy to fracture treating the bottom surface with epoxy cement is often helpful.

sell his share; he wanted the thrill of staying with the affair

Our November field trip to the quarry at Clay Center was a good start, you now have some beautiful crystal groups of celestite. I hope you packed them well so that they arrived home as delicately crisp and bright as when you dug them out of their matrix of Guelph and Greenfield dolomite. Now you must label them and put them into your collection so that they can give meaning and enjoyment to you and your friends.

The system of indexing which follows probably exists in no book on the subject - it is suggested by logic and is set down herein as an example of my own way to resolve the problem of keeping track of a collection that is constantly increasing in size. My own preference in a mineralogy reference book is Kraus, Hunt and Ramsdell which bases its classification on the 7th edition of Dana's "System of Mineralogy". Celestite, which is chemically strontium sulfate (Sr804) is classed as a sulfate which is number six of the eight major classes of minerals under this system - so the first digit of my index number is "6". Since the group of minerals isolated under the class of sulfates is greater than ten, I will identify my specimen by using two digits to mark celestite as the second mineral of the sulfate family listed in my reference. My index number is now 602 and needs only to be marked for its place in my collections. As this specimen will be put into my first general collection and will be the first specimen in this collection I will identify it by a number "1" for the collection and with a number "1" preceded by two zeros for the specimen, my index number now reads "602-1001". The two zeros before the number "1" identifying the specimen as the first in the collection will allow me to index 999 specimens in my first collection which should be more than adequate for my needs.

Now, I will paint a small rectangle of white enamel on an unobtrusive part of the back of the specimen as it will stand in my cabinet. Then I will write the number "602-1001 in this rectangle with black india ink, to correspond with a card in my file of my collections as illustrated below.

Celestite SrSO4

602-1001

And draw in line prodecures lax,

We'll send a note to distan

XIs. - tabular

beast.

Cabinet specimen about 3 x 3 x 4 - of very pale bluish xls. on Guelph and Greenfield dolomite from the White Rock quarry of Basic, Inc. at Clay Center, Ohio

Collected during a field trip on November 12, 1960 of the Grand Rapids Mineral Society

I hope you won't think I have been too academic in this article, I am merely suggesting a mechanism that will help you to avoid a headache of my own. Nina and I blundered into mineral collecting with great gobs of enthusiasm and very little (continued next page)

knowledge of methods. Today we find ourselves with a considerable collection for which we have no record except our fairly good memories. We are faced with days of work making these records which we should have kept current with our collection. You, who are just beginning your first collection, can so easily avoid this by labelling and cataloguing your finds when you bring them home from your field trips. Better still, carry a notebook with you and make field identification before you leave the coilecting site, it will only take you a few minutes and will save you hours of work later.

Your first collection should be a general one, time enough to specialize later when you have learned more of the subject of your interest. Collect only the best specimens that you can find. Bruised crystals, and misshapen and ugly crystal groups will not give you any lasting pleasure nor will they make you proud and happy to show your collection to your friends. If you wish to swap with other collectors don't expect to exchange a muddy, bruised, and broken calcite rhomb for a fine clean fan of pink tourmaline pencils on a neatly trimmed base of clean South Dakota quartz - you only gets what you gives!

Before you take to the field again, buy yourself a good field guide and read it. Carry it with you and use it. No matter if its cover gets beat up looking and its pages become a little grimy that's what you got it for - it wasn't named a field guide for you to keep it in its pretty paper cover on your bookshelf to show people how learned you are. I hope some of you will buy a good textbook of mineralogy so you can learn to read the fascinating story of this ball of rock we live on. Please!! no illiterate rockhounds in our group!!. The stories to be read in every rock exposure is too exciting to be overlooked in a world that each year uses more and more of these minerals that are as common as the water you drink and as rare as the beautiful alexandrite of the far away Ural Mountains.

"Cause Nature hasped her icy locks; We'll sit and study Dana's facts And draw in line prodecures lax. We'll send a note to distant friend -The while our hearth we gracious tend.

Now Christmas comes just once this year, A whole full circle of its! cheer, To all our friends in any place Regardless if we have lost trace Of where they might have gone in flight Without their leavin' a trail in sight.

TO ALL ROCK-HOUNDS AT CHRISTMAS
We wont be huntin pretty rocks So with the advent of the year, Remember Rock-hounds, this most clear, --Especially days when on the road. Con't take the world up as your load; Just lug the pretty parts you find 'Cause they will try you out of mind.

> Don't try to cart a county home --A township makes a rock-hound "bone" From which each one can have a feast And not be called the barnyard beast, Be choosy with the stuff you take And leave some from your brother's sake.

with creat gobs or seld to ach and very little (continued next page)

#### ARTIST ADDED TO DRIFTER STAFF

With the addition of an artist to the staff of the DRIFTER we can look for a bigger and better (we hope) publication this year.

Mrs. Ronald Roys, who majored in art at Michigan State University, has kindly offered to work the editor and publisher of the GLACIAL DRIFTER. Mrs. Roys is the gal who won the prize for submitting the winning emblem design. She is the mother of two boys. Besides her sons, her family consists of a husband, two dogs, and two cats.

### DOCTOR'S SON HAS UNIQUE ENTERPRISE

Take a doctor's son, get him interested in polishing rocks, and you end up (according to Dr. Rose) with a method of transfusing bloodstone. Young Steve Smith's contribution to our auction attracted a lot of puzzled comment, but it works! Steve has obtained a supply of intravenous and blood transfusion bottles, complete with air vents, long plastic tubes, and shut-off slides. All you need do to obtain a controlled water supply to any point, is to hang one of these bottles - they are fitted for handing. Steve is selling the complete outfit for 50¢ each, if anyone is interested - hoping to get enough money to finance a field trip next summer, or at least the purchase of something besides Petoskey stones for him to cut and polish. The Smith family (Dr. and Mrs. Robert B. Smith, Steve, and Sherrill - new club members) recently took a Sunday trip to Charlevoix taking in two quarries plus some beach walking, and netting them about 300 lbs. of Petoskey stones, banded cherts, and similar specimens. Enough for the winter, they say.

rozema s Phone EM1-6880

c Choice Labradorite - sunstone k opal - chrysoprase - agates p faceting rough

Gizmo tumblers - Poly Arbors Frantom Lapidary Equipment

Need anything else? If we don't have it maybe there ain't no such thing!

1355 Hollywood NE, Grand Rapids Open evenings and week-ends WILFER ROCK SHOP Phone 437 234 Bond St. Allegan, Michigan

Highland Park, B&I Gem Makers

Ultra Violet Lights - many other names of lapidary equipment

Large stock of findings = baroques

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VALLEY LAPIDARY 2260 Traver Road Bill and Sue Hiser

P. O. Box 440 Ann Arbor, Michigan

WHOLESALE

Your local rock shops are our customers

### SEASONS GREETINGS

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TO: ALL MEMBERS, OFFICERS AND STAFF WORKERS

FROM: FLOYD N. MORTENSON, PRESIDENT MWF

As we rush through a busy life in the short time alloted to us as mortals, let us pause for a moment as we approach the time of the year that brings us the opportunity to turn our thoughts to the more spiritual blessings that have been brought to us and which have endured for so many years since the birth of the Babe in the Manger.

Even as we were thankful for the many material things, which we all enjoy in our great land of America, as we celebrate the Thanks-giving Season, so may we continue our expression of thanks for all the wonderful things that the Christmas Season implies together with an outlook for a happy and a prosperous New Year for 1961.

Helen and I wish that it could be possible to shake your hand and give you the following words in spoken form and even though we must of necessity be content with the written words at this time, they are given with just as warm and sincere meaning.

## "A MERRY CHRISTMAS

AND

A HAPPY NEW YEAR TO ALL"

Floyd N. Mortenson, President Midwest Federation of Mineralogical and Geological Societies Midwest Federation's Letter - A - Month for January 1961

Subject: CALENDAR OF EVENTS, 1961
- By Bob Markert, Field Trip Coordinator

As Field Trip Coordinator for the widwest Federation for 1961, I am hereby starting something new in THE MIDWEST and in order to fill up a complete calendar, I must have the sincere attention of each club President that reads this message. It is our goal to make the Midwest the most active Federation of America and publicitive this fact so all may know about it.

The attached form is being sent to you in hopes that you will do something about it. In its present form it is blank -- but -- how long it will stay blank depends on YOU.

Would you like visiting rockhounds to join your club on one of your week-end field trips?

Would you like to participate in a field trip being conducted by some other area rock and mineral club? Just imagine planning that next vacation so that it would include a guided field trip.

I know that your answer is yes to both questions so help the MID-WEST: in this good fellowship campaign by subscribing to at least one week-end in 1961. Please list three choices in order of preference so I may have some leeway in assigning your club a certain week-end slot.

RULES OF THE ROAD

Participating rockhounds <u>must</u> send written notice to person designated on CALENDAR to receive such notices, stating that he plans on attending a certain field trip.

Participating rockhounds must arrange for own lodgings and food.

Participating rockhounds must be willing to sign any and all liability waivers. You will participate at YOUR OWN RISK.

Be a Good Sport ... Leave some for the next guy. Wear safety goggles at all times ... the eye you save may be your own,

Fieldtripingly yours,

Bob Markert, FTC 107 W. Ridge Street Ishpeming, Michigan

Ash

P. S. Please list your Gem and Mineral Shows as well as we will place them on the CALENDAR. B. M.

Editor's note: We are not reproducing the form to be sent in to Mr. Markert, but when we receive the CALENDAR we will publish it in the DRIFTER for your use.

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oubject: CALENDAR OF EVENTA, 1901 - By Gob Jarkert, Field Trip Coordinator

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333 Richard Terrace S.E. Grand Rapids 6. Mich.

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Rob Markert, Fig. 107 a. Ridge Street Isabemine, Wichtesh

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