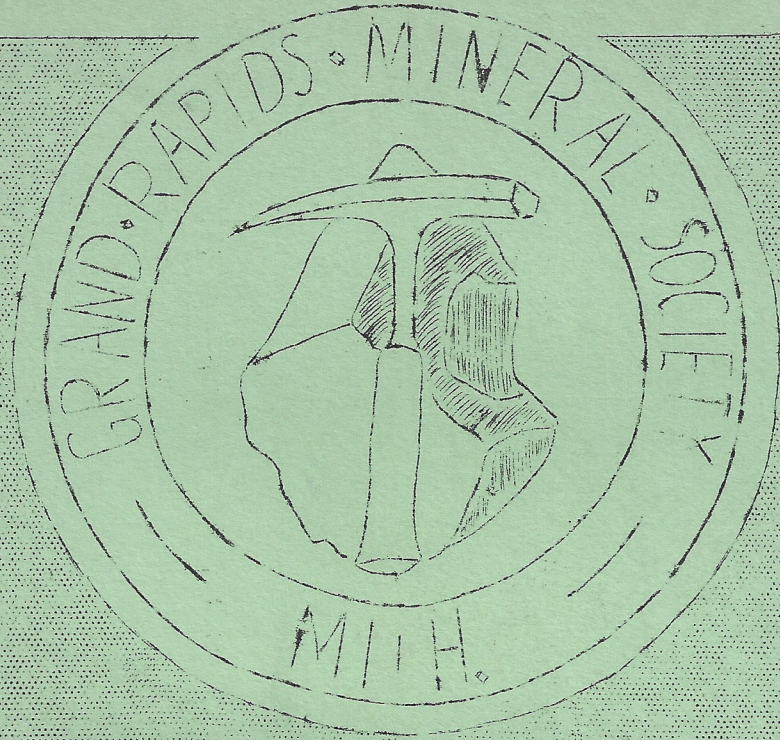


volume 3, no. 4 = april, 1961



the

GLACIAL

DRIFFTER

official publication of

♦ THE GRAND RAPIDS MINERAL SOCIETY ♦
1355 HOLLYWOOD, NE, GRAND RAPIDS 5, 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.

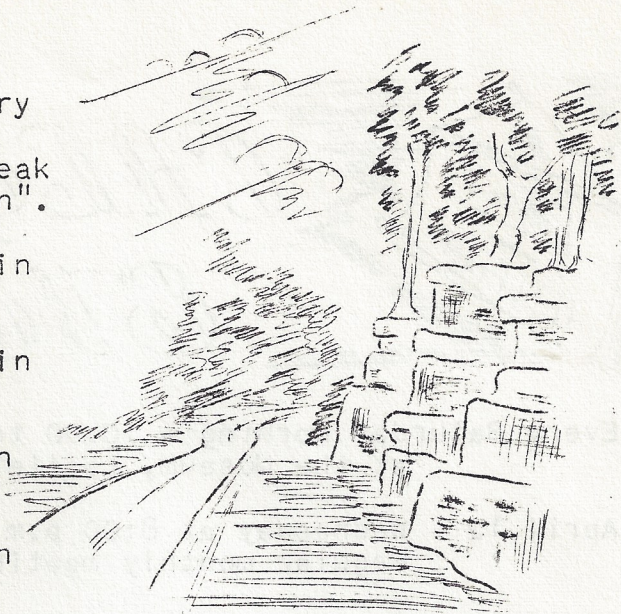
Advertising in the DRIFTER is at the rate of \$3.00 per issue.

All material to be published must 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.

APRIL MEETING

Wednesday, April 12th, at 8:00 pm we will meet at Riverside Elementary School. We will be privileged to hear Miss Helen Martin who will speak on "The Glacial History of Michigan". Dr. Rose says "Never having had the privilege of meeting Miss Martin I can only tell you what I have heard, read, or seen. My first encounter with the name Helen Martin was on the small outline of Geological History of Michigan, which I purchased from the Michigan Conservation Department. Then, on the book 'Rocks and Minerals of Michigan', next, on the Michigan Geological Maps, then a book on glaciers entitled 'Ne-Saw-Ge-Wan', and on and on. The list grows. Geologists whom I have met speak of her. Rockhounds said when she talks she makes it sound as though the rocks were talking to you. She neither talks above you or below you. Again the praise ran high. Who is Miss Martin? She was research geologist for the Department of Geology for many years until her retirement. She is now Conservation Chairman of the Federated Garden Clubs. Her energies are apparently endless".



Steve Tchozeski and Phil Wassel will be at the Rock Sale Table to take your money. But, the boys do need more material. Do YOU have something you would be willing to donate? If so, bring it with you and give it to the boys.

There will be a door prize. But you must be there to win. Don't forget your membership card.

MARCH MEETING IN REVIEW

How many of you have been taking real thin slices of your rocks to use as slides since seeing the wonderful results Bill Matheson gets? We have heard of several and we have heard of others who are planning a trip to Utah to see for themselves the natural wonders of that state after viewing the slides Augie Post presented at the March meeting. Those of you who missed this meeting are the poorer for not having been there.

The door prize, a sulphur specimen donated by Bob Rozema, was won by John Simcoe.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

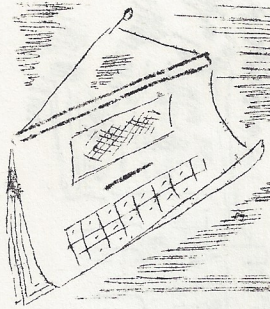
We are happy to welcome the following new members:

Rev. R. W. Albert
950 Pinecrest S. E.
Grand Rapids 6, Mich

GL 2-7282

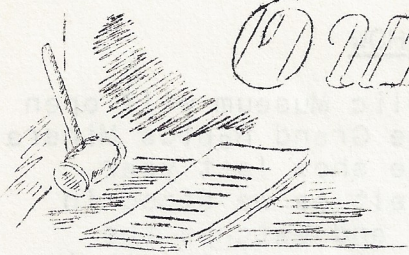
Miss Anne Zeller
1035 San Lucia S. E.
Grand Rapids 6, Mich

CH 3-0725



CALENDAR of EVENTS

- Every Saturday Morning - 10:00 to 12:00 - Junior Group meeting at the Museum, Leslie Pearl, sponsor.
- April 12 - Wednesday at 8:00 p.m. at Riverside Elementary School Regular monthly meeting. Miss Helen Martin, speaker.
- April 15 - Saturday - Set up displays at the Museum. All displays must be in place by 5:00 p.m. Gerry Morris and Willis Atwell, show chairmen in charge.
- April 16 - Sunday - 2:00 to 5:00 Opening day of the Second Annual Gem & Mineral Show at the G. R. Public Museum. Officers and Board Members and spouses acting as hosts.
- April 17 - Monday - 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. - Museum open, demonstrations.
- April 17 - Monday - 8:00 p.m. Board of Control Meeting at Museum
- April 20 - Thursday - 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. - Museum open, demonstrations.
- April 26 - Wednesday Museum open, demonstrations. 7:00 to 9:00 pm
- April 27 - Thursday Museum open, demonstrations. 7:00 to 9:00 pm
- April 28 - Friday Museum open, demonstrations. 7:00 to 9:00 pm
- April 16 - 30 - Every day and above evenings. Second Annual Gem and Mineral Show at the G. R. Public Museum.
- May 20-21 - Saturday and Sunday - Field trip to Rogers City. Contact Leo Hoogerhyde for reservations and information.
- June 3 - 4 Saturday and Sunday - Kalamazoo Geological and Mineral Society will have a two day ROCKFEST at Recreation Park in Kalamazoo. We are invited. Picnic grounds in connection.
- June 29-30 Thursday, Friday Midwest Gems and Mineral Fair and
- July 1 - 2 Saturday, Sunday 21st Annual Convention at Saginaw



OUR PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Bring along some of that loose change this month. We will have a few copies of the "Geological History of Michigan" and a few of the geological maps, products of Miss Helen Martin. Also, the "Ohio Fossil Book", plus the usual rock sale. The boys behind the rock sale table could stand a few donations. This money helps to pay the rent. What have you to donate to this cause?

This month, of course, will be the month of the Rock Show. Please, everyone, pitch in and help Gerry Morris and Willis Atwell and the members of their respective committees.

This month's meeting should arouse much interest in those who are interested in the geological history of our state, and from all appearances we couldn't learn it from a more qualified person.

The Pony Express must have met with Apache troubles or something. Our correspondence with Barite Rose has been nil. We did receive a list of his works, which proved very interesting. One entitled "Pardon my Intrusion" was a text on igneous rocks which followed the life of a red hot magma through her early unsettled life until in her old age she became real gneiss. Another, "Settle Down", was a humorous article on sedimentary rock and a companion article, "They Put the Squeeze on Me", is obviously on metamorphic rocks. We had asked for a story on his discovery of amethyst and received a beginning article for the DRIFTER. This is on the desert which he so dearly loves and is a preface to the BIG story to come and will be started in the next issue, we hope.

Richard W. Rose.

JUNIOR MEMBERS PLAN FIELD TRIP

Les Pearl, sponsor of the Junior Group, advises that the juniors are planning a field trip to Cranbrook Institute of Science for Saturday, April 15th. This trip will be possible if 50 of the juniors participate. The price of the fare is \$3.25 each and must be paid by Saturday, April 8th. If there are not enough to fill the chartered bus the trip will have to be cancelled. Parents, please co-operate with Les on this project, so that your child will have the opportunity of seeing one of the finest and the best displayed mineral collection in the country. For further information contact Les Pearl, or Miss Grebel at the Museum.

GROUP MEETINGS CANCELLED FOR APRIL

The Paleontology Group sponsored by Les Pearl, the Mineral Group sponsored by Dr. Richard Rose, and the Mineral Group sponsored by Bob Rozema will not meet in April as most of those attending these group meetings will be busy at the Museum in connection with the Gem & Mineral Show. Plan on attending the MAY meetings of these groups. Dates and places will be announced in the May DRIFTER.

SECOND ANNUAL GEM & MINERAL SHOW

April 16th, the doors of the Grand Rapids Public Museum will open on the Second Annual Gem & Mineral Show of the Grand Rapids Mineral Society. Those of you who participated in the show last year will remember the thrill of pleasure we all felt as we stood in the central hall of the museum on opening day and watched the people of Grand Rapids as they moved past our cases and by their comments gave us their acceptance and their warm appreciation of our efforts. The reaction of both the viewing public and the directors of the Grand Rapids Public Museum was one of such complete approval that the membership of the Grand Rapids Mineral Society decided to make the show an annual presentation.

All exhibitors are requested to have their displays set up by the 5:00 p.m. closing hour of the museum, on the afternoon of Saturday April 15. The museum has some background material which will be available to club members for their use, however those of you who wish to furnish your own background material are more than welcome to do so. Just a suggestion for your own benefit, during the next two weeks drop in at the museum and look over the case assigned for your use by the show chairmen, Gerry Morris or Willis Atwell.

Some of you will be asked to help out on working demonstrations of lapidary work and as hosts and hostesses for our club. If the committee should forget to ask you to help us please feel free to volunteer as we will need all of you. We expect to host groups from neighboring mineral and lapidary clubs who will want to meet our members to discuss mutual interest and problems. Then, too, there will be local people who will want to talk to someone about participation in the earth science hobby field.

The Second Annual Gem and Mineral Show is our gift of beauty and information to the people of the Grand Rapids area. It is our expression of thanks to the Grand Rapids Public Museum for the help and encouragement it has given us in building the Grand Rapids Mineral Society into a cultural and educational organization which is of service to the community. It is the very best we can offer, show in it, promote it, and attend it.

The museum is open daily from 10 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. - Sundays from 2:00 pm to 5:00 pm. In addition the museum will be open from 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. on the evenings of Monday, April 17; Thursday, April 20; Wednesday, April 26; Thursday, April 27; and Friday, April 28. The Gem & Mineral Show will remain open through Sunday, April 30.

CONKLIN 4H ACHIEVEMENT DAY

On Saturday, March 25th, we had the privilege of attending the Achievement Day activities at Coopersville of the 4H groups of one section of Ottawa County. Of special interest to us were the displays of the Silver Star Club, sponsored by Dale Rosel, Russ Girard, Jim Moerman, and Art Halpin. The first year members displayed cases with 15 minerals and rocks, each properly identified. The second year members had 30 properly identified rocks and minerals and three polished stones. The third year - Lapidary Group - displayed their work which had been judged by Joe Hanna. These displays will be part of the Gem & Mineral Show at the Museum.

You will recall that in the March DRIFTER we talked about the properties of hardness and streak as aids to identification. This month we are going to consider four other properties of particular value in the field identification of minerals. Bear in mind that all properties must be considered in their proper relationships. Thus a specimen of massive fluorite would not exhibit the property of cleavage since this is strictly a property of the crystal form. I am going to assume that all of you own and use a good field guide. I will not, therefore, describe or explain crystal form. This series of articles is intended to help the beginner to learn the language and techniques of the rock hobby.

One of the most important of these techniques is the intelligent use of a good textbook of mineralogy or a good field guide such as those by Frederick Pough or Frederick Loomis. If you don't own such a book, buy one immediately. Trying to collect and study minerals without an accepted reference book is like trying to build a frame house without nails.

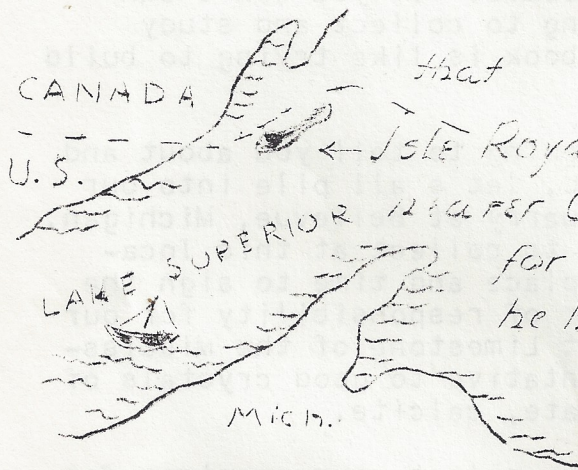
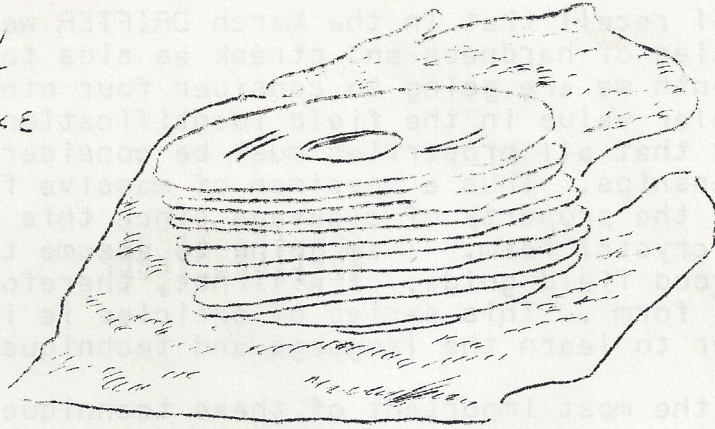
To better describe the properties I am going to tell you about and to give you an idea of how they are used, let's all pile into our cars and go on a field trip to Cheney Quarry at Bellevue, Michigan. We have, of course, obtained permission to collect at this location and we assemble at the determined place and time to sign the waivers which release the property owner of responsibility for our safety. Cheney Quarry is in the Bayport Limestone of the Mississippian Series. It has produced representative to good crystals of several sulphides as well as the carbonate, calcite.

Having found an area that appeals to you, select your specimen for sharpness of crystal form and general attractiveness, also for its relationship to the associated minerals of the area and to your own collection. For example, I have a plan to build a collection of all of the rock formations that make up the bedrock of the lower peninsula of Michigan. So, I will be looking for a nice specimen of Bayport Limestone containing good pyrite and calcite crystals. I will, also, be on the lookout for fossils although the Bayport is not known to produce fossils of much importance at this quarry.

Having picked out a good specimen of limestone with a good sized vug containing bright brassy colored cubes and perhaps a few light colored to clear crystals of rhombohedral shape, you set out to make a tentative identification based on a field recognition of the simpler more obvious properties of the minerals. The brassy metallic luster of the cubes tells you that it is most likely to be a sulphide, the cubic crystal form agrees with that of pyrite as does the pale brassy color. The cube leaves a brownish black or greenish line across your streak plate and they do not exhibit a distinct cleavage, while their fracture is uneven to conchoidal, all of which are common properties of pyrite. For a final check try the hardness of the brassy cubes - they should be 6 to 6.5. Property tests of the light colored rhombohedrons will undoubtedly indicate calcite and your specimen can be labelled and put into your collection as pyrite and calcite on limestone.

DO YOU KNOW.....

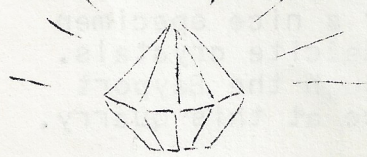
that geologically Michigan's lower peninsula is like a pile of rock saucers...



that Iste Royale, even though nearer Canada, was claimed for the U.S. by BEN FRANKLIN, because he had heard about its native copper...



that DIAMONDS have been found in the Benton Harbor area...



that lightning will occasionally fuse LAKE MICHIGAN sand into icicle shapes called Fulgurites prized by collectors...



BUT - that MICHIGAN'S Leaders were disgusted, after loosing the TOLEDO WAR, to Ohio to be given, the Upper Peninsula - they did not know about the copper and iron in 1834.....



WILLIS W. ARWELL.

M.W.F.



LETTER OF THE MONTH

for APRIL 1961

Subject: Participation in Midwest Shows
by Harry H. Sprague
General Chairman, 1961 Convention and Show

The date is set, the buildings have been set up, the decorations are all in place, the dealers from all over the United States have signed their contracts, the special educational exhibits have all been allotted their space, and the general programs as well as the Editors Breakfast and the Annual Banquet are all in their final stages of planning.

WHAT IS MISSING? You, the Societies and INDIVIDUAL MEMBERS of the Midwest Federation. We, the Host Society to the Midwest Federation Gems and Minerals Fair and 21st Annual Convention have gone just about as far as we can without you!

NOW it is up to you. If you wish to make this 1961 show your best in 21 years of existence it will be up to you. We will need your help and participation with Club Displays and individual displays entered in the competitive as well as the non-competitive divisions of the show.

The Rules and Regulations are in the mail, see to it that the members of your Societies get copies of them. This is your show ... it is put on expressly to give the collectors in the Midwest a chance to see just what material their fellow collectors have gathered.

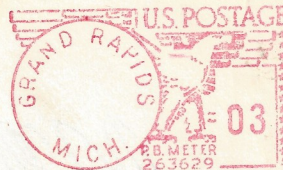
We have an abundance of cases available, for your use rent free. Fill out the applications for entry and join us here in Saginaw at the biggest show and convention that the Midwest Federation has ever held.

So, come and meet old friends, join the active members of the Federation by displaying your best. But if YOU CAN'T DISPLAY COME ANYWAY SO THAT WE MAY ALL ONCE AGAIN MEET AND RENEW OLD FRIENDSHIPS.

Harry H. Sprague

Entry blanks are available from Joe Hanna or Bob Rozema. See one of these members soon and get your application in by April 30th. Editor.

THE GRAND RAPIDS MINERAL SOCIETY
1355 HOLLYWOOD NE
GRAND RAPIDS 5, MICHIGAN
RETURN POSTAGE GUARANTEED



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Mr. Kreigh Tomaszewski
333 Richard Terrace S.E.
Grand Rapids 6, Mich.

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