

volume 4, no. 10 = october, 1962



the

GLACIAL

DRIFTER

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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, 2420 Colt, N.E. (Sept. thru June).

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 preceeding publication.

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

Member of Bulletin Editors Association.

ANNUAL MEETING

On Wednesday, October 10 our Annual Meeting will be held at RIVERSIDE JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL, 265 Eleanor N. E. The potluck dinner will start at 6:30 p.m. The business meeting will start at 8:00 p.m. with election of officers for the short term (January to September 1963), after which we will have our program:



THE YEAR IN REVIEW

Don't forget to bring the makings for the dinner and your table service, but most important of all, don't forget to **MAKE YOUR RESERVATIONS** by calling one of the following:

Mrs. James Waldron.	CH 3-1474
Mrs. Art Joldersma	EM 1-7012
Mrs. Alexy Dudkin	EM 1-1837

Reservations must be in by October 3rd.

Those who saw and heard the REVIEW OF 1961 a year ago seemed to like it, so the Board of Control authorized a similar annual report for this year.

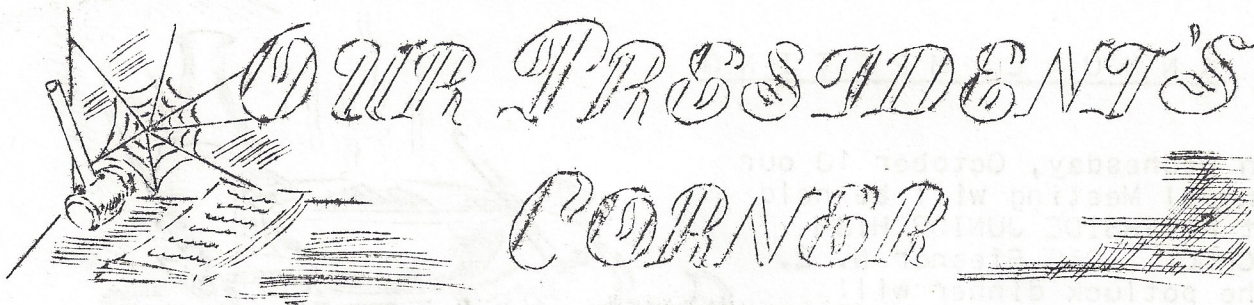
For those who were not at the last year's annual meeting, we took a selection of slides taken by club members pertaining to events during the year. A script was written for the accompanying narration which was taped with background music and sound effects.

To make this a club affair, will all photographers who snapped members in action during the year LOAN their slides for possible use in the 1962 review. Those who loan slides should identify them with their names so they can be returned after the show. Since the program will stay within comfortable time limits we cannot guarantee to use all available slides but a wide selection will improve the program. Don't be a bashful shutterbug, give me a call at GL 6-9880 NOW. Any sound effects experts are also welcome, so are script writers.

We will have a drawing for the door prizes which have been donated by Mr & Mrs Ernest Gifford.

Note: If you are unable to come in time for dinner, by all means come for the business meeting which will start at 8:00 p.m.

Willis Atwell, Program Chairman



OUR PRESIDENT'S CORNER

The men who served on the nominating committee were Dr. Richard Rose, Chairman, Mr. James Waldron, Mr. Charles Moore, Mr. Lester Walters, Mr. Gerald Morris, Mr. Charles Sweet, Mr. Cornelius Doornbos, Thank you, gentlemen, for your cooperation in serving on this committee to choose an election slate of officers for the short term for 1963. The persons elected will serve until September 1963 which is the beginning of the new term as per the amendment of the Club rules.

I might say here is a word of caution and of purpose to those who aspire to officer the club -- make sure, in choosing committees, that you spell out every detail they are to follow for that is Army procedure and it seems we must follow that here.

Let me repeat that your club is to "further interest in rocks and minerals and in the arts and sciences relating to them", and your participation by attendance, committeeman, or officer is the life-blood of such a club.

Leslie G. Pearl, President

MINERAL GROUP MEETING

On September 20th a small, but enthusiastic group of mineral collectors met at the Rozema's home to discuss Herkimer Diamonds. Several members had been collecting in various parts of the country and brought some of their finds for inspection and discussion. Jack Kirkwood had several items he had collected in Colorado, Joe Parrish had been on a trip around Lake Superior, and Lee Budd had something in every pocket, mostly items he had collected in New Jersey.

The October meeting of this group will be held at the home of Mr & Mrs Lee Budd, 1612 Plymouth S. E. on Thursday, October 25 (date tentative, if changed announcement will be made at the regular monthly meeting) at 8:00 p.m. This group meeting is open to any member of the club who is interested in collecting minerals and learning more about them. Please don't wait for one of us to ask you, just come to our meetings, you will be most welcome.

BEEN ON AN INTERESTING TRIP???

The DRIFTER will be happy to publish your account of your collecting trip. Please let us hear from more of you. May we have your story for the November DRIFTER? By October 25th, please.

Your Editor



CALENDAR of EVENTS

- October 3 - Wednesday - DEADLINE for making reservations for Annual Dinner. Phone Mrs. James Waldron (CH3-1474) Mrs. Art Joldersma (EM1-7012) or Mrs. Alexy Dudkin (EM 1-1837)
- October 6-7 Saturday and Sunday - ROCKRAMA at L. C. Walker Sports Arena Annex, Muskegon. Admission 50¢ for persons over 12 years, children free. Several excellent programs are scheduled, including one by our own Jerry Morris on Saturday at 3:00 p.m.
- October 10 - Wednesday - Annual Meeting - Dinner at 6:30 p.m. Election of Officers for 1963 and program THE YEAR IN REVIEW, starting at 8:00 p.m. Please note that this meeting is being held at RIVERSIDE JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL, 265 Eleanor NE
- October 13 - Saturday - Beginning of JUNIOR PROGRAM at the Grand Rapids Public Museum. Contact Museum or Mr. Leslie Pearl for details.
- October 15 - Monday at 8:00 p.m. Board of Control meeting at home of Joe D. Hanna, 2319 Riverside N. E.
- October 25 - Mineral Group meeting at home of Mr & Mrs. Lee A. Budd, 1612 Plymouth S. E. Subject, "Zeolites"
- October 27-28 Saturday and Sunday - Senior Skills Show at the Grand Rapids Public Museum. Members of GRMS are participating in the Hobby Clinic being held in conjunction with this show.
- November 14 - Wednesday - Regular monthly meeting featuring our annual AUCTION. Bob Rozema is chairman of the Auction Committee. Now is the time to get your contributions ready. Let's make this the best Auction in our history!! We need the help of each and every member both in contributing material and at the meeting making your bids.

REVIEWING LAST MONTH'S MEETING

The borates form an important class of minerals which can be divided into two groups: First, those of primary origin, forming from igneous sources almost free of water and relatively rare; second, the hydrous borates forming in arid climates from surface solutions, locally abundant and the commercial source of Borax. The latter are associated with halite, gypsum, and the related sulphates. The former occur in high temperature veins and in pegmatites. Some borates are very hard (to 7.5) - most are soft. The artificial water-free Boron compound seen in the film is among the hardest substances known. Some of the hydrous borates are Kernite, Borax, Ulexite, Colemanite, and Howlite. These are all found in desert Borax deposits, dry lake beds and related forms. Often large and well formed crystals are formed. Unfortunately, they are hard to keep in a mineral cabinet, usually taking on moisture from the air and becoming dull on the surface or in penetrating cracks that make the specimen cloudy.

The moving picture was very good, showing the many uses of the borates and the Sweet's collection is without a doubt the envy of all who saw it. Thanks again to the Sweets for a fine program.

Thanks also to the group who put on the demonstration on working with silver. Some of the jewelry displayed looked too professional for a group less than a year old, but this only tends to show what can be done. I'm sure that we would all like to have a repeat performance from this group at a later date. Those participating in the silver working demonstration were: Mrs. Willem Clous, teacher; Miss Edna M. McDowell, Miss Esther Hall, Mrs. Davena Lett and Mrs. Nina Rozema.

During the business meeting which preceded the program President Leslie Pearl presented the report of the nominating committee. This committee is made up of the following members: Dr. Richard Rose, chairman; Cornelius Doornbos, Charles Moore, Gerald Morris, Charles Sweet, James Waldron, and Lester Walters.

The following is the slate of officers and board members to be voted on at the Annual Meeting on Wednesday, October 10, 1962:

President - Willis Atwell

Gerald B. Morris

Vice-President - Jack Baines

Secretary - Miss Jane Cichaniewicz

Treasurer - Charles Moore

Mrs. Kenyon Vickery

Historian - Miss Marian Jennings

Bulletin Editor - Nina Rozema

Joe D. Hanna, Jr.

Board Members - (4 to be elected) Joe Parrish, Jack Kirkwood, Fay Reed, Art Joldersma, James Waldron, Leo Hoogerhyde, Ernest Hansen, Henry Tchozeski, Miss Edna M. McDowell, August Post, Cornelius Doornbos.

Reported by Dr. Richard W. Rose

FIELD TRIP

We need your **HELP!!!**

When??? Sunday, October 14th at 2:00

Where??? Belknap Park, better known as Reservoir Hill

Why??? The Grand Mineral Society is making a number of trays containing type specimens of the three rock groups and some of the rock forming minerals to be used by schools throughout the county as teaching aids in various science classes.

Sunday, October 14th, we will be collecting rock specimens for these trays and we would like your help. We will want six or eight typical specimens of each rock-type to start our collection. These will then be numbered and placed in simple sturdy wooden trays which will be available for use in the schools throughout the area.

If you don't know one rock from another we would like to have you come anyway. The rocks will be labeled and placed on tables as we find them, and you are free to look them over, ask questions, and perhaps start your own collection. There will be plenty of rock available and someone will be at the tables to help you identify your finds. By all means bring the children.

A few suggestions for beginners - wear sturdy shoes, bring a rock hammer and something to carry your rocks in. Masking tape and a medium soft lead pencil or ball point pen make easy temporary identification labels. Safety glasses are advisable also a few band-aids and don't forget the danger of caving sand on the steep slopes. Don't work directly above or below another person. Two young boys were recently lost in a clay bank cave-in near Murray Lake. Teach the children the rules of safety while they are young and prevent this type of accident.

See you Sunday, October 14th, at 2:00 - Belknap Park.
Don't Forget.

Richard W. Rose

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CAUTION!!! CAUTION!!! CAUTION!!!

Many rockhounds use acid in cleaning specimens, and many do this cleaning in or around laundry tubs where bleach is also used. In view of this I feel that the following Illinois Bell Telephone Co. safety bulletin would be of interest:

WITCHES BREW

"Household bleach, sold under various trade names, is a solution of sodium hypo-chlorite. If any acid substance is added, it will release poisonous chlorine gas. Recently, two cases were reported where housewives were using a well-known toilet bowl cleaner. Not being satisfied with the way the cleaner was working on stains, each of these ladies added some household bleach and stirred the mixture with a bowl brush. Death came in a few minutes to one of those women -- the other, younger, survived but needed a long period of hospitalization and treatment. THIS COULD HAPPEN TO YOU OR ANY MEMBER OF YOUR FAMILY!!!!!"

To be sure that you never combine cleaners and bleach, keep them stored in separate places -- and keep both well away from food storage and medical supplies. (Vinegar and other acids will also liberate chlorine gas from bleach). Never let children play with such compounds -- they might accidentally combine the two and add them up to tragedy."

From "Home Safety", National Safety Council,
by Jim Konoxny, of Esconi.

INTAGLIO - CAMEO

INTAGLIO - An engraving, an incised figure or design in stone or the like, depressed below the surface of the material so that an impression from it yields an image in relief - opposed to Cameo.

CAMEO - A precious or semi-precious stone, a shell, or the like, carved in relief on layers in different colors, the figure being cut in one layer and another layer serving as the background - opposed to intaglio.

From "Rockhound Rambling" Ventura Gem &
Mineral Society publication.

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SO YOU WANT TO HUNT FOR HERKIMER DIAMONDS

Man, this was the way to travel! I was lying on one bed in our camper, and Russ Greer was up in the bed over the cab as our truck sped over Canadian highways piloted by our wives. We were on our way at last to the famous Herkimer diamond fields at Middleville, New York, and my head was filled with visions of hitting a pocket out of which tumbled huge Herkimer diamonds, but before I could pick them up a cockney accent snapped me back to reality. "Man, this sure is the way to travel!". I gazed out the window to see the owner of the accent taking our camper as he filled the tank with petrol. "It sure is," I said, "Let the wife do the driving." "Blyme govner, all you need is a box of beer, and you've got it made," came the sage reply. After a restful night of traveling we breakfasted overlooking Niagra Falls, and then on to Middleville, New York, arriving at the Ace of Diamonds diggings about lunch time.

After lunch, which I can never remember gulping down, we changed to our work clothes; grabbed an assortment of chisels, hammers, and sledges, and with our specimen bags headed towards the caretaker's house to find out where to dig. "Do you want a guaranteed pocket?" the caretaker asked to my plea for a good place to dig. "It will cost you \$2.50 extra." After a hurried consultation with Russ, we allowed as, so long as we had come this far, we might as well go whole hog and shoot the works. The caretaker took us to a spot next to his shed, removed his tools and bade us get to work. I thought it was odd that a hole about the size of a grapefruit was plainly visible near the bottom of the diggings, but down on my belly I went to explore the pocket, and my heart skipped a couple of beats - but upon withdrawing them I found them to be fractured pieces. Sucker! Sucker! So, I had bought a salted mine! Oh, well, let's explore it further, shall we, Russ? Sledges banged, and dirt flew as we enlarged the opening till finally we made enough room so that by lying on my side downhill I could get my arm into the cavity up to my shoulder. My exploring fingers groped about the three foot square pocket when suddenly, around a corner I felt the main pocket drop into a smaller hidden pocket. This was no loose dirt as in the main entrance, but a clay that hadn't been disturbed for centuries.

What was that smooth cold surface I felt? My heart hammered with excitement as I drew a large perfect crystal from its resting place, then another, and yet another. The news spread fast and a group gathered to watch as I scooped the beautiful crystals out by the fistfull. I heard the caretaker whisper to a small boy "I thought you cleaned out that pocket", to which the boy replied "I thought I did".

Every precious handful of dirt was placed on a sack, and our good wives had a field day combing the dirt for the smaller diamonds. I didn't even feel that rock that was digging into my side or notice that my face was flushed. How long can you practically stand on your head with your feet three feet higher? When you are scooping Herkimer diamonds there is no limit. From 1:30 to 7:30 that night I lay on my side; my bones and muscles were complaining, but I heard nothing until the dawn of a new day. After all, it isn't every day that you can fill sack after sack with their

Herkimer Diamonds (concluded)
precious cargo, and I was determined to clean out that pocket down to the last tiny crystal. After all, the mine was salted wasn't it? It was growing dusk as I pulled the last handful of dirt from the pocket; it was cleaned down to the bare rock, and as I stood and stretched weary muscles, I realized with a smile that dreams sometimes do come true.

Fred Andresen

ROCK TRADING PARTY

For a long time I have been tossing an idea around, finally aired it at the Board Meeting. The members like it and said "Do it".

With such a large club it is difficult to get acquainted and we are all prone to talk to our friends and go home. In an effort to correct this situation and to make more friends for you and myself, I'm going to start a series of "Rock Trading Parties". I'll phone members listed in the Roster inviting them to bring some "trading" rocks to my home on a given night, until I have about ten acceptances. On the night of the party, each guest will be given a TV table or a tray to set up his rocks, and we'll have a jolly time swapping rocks and stories.

So, look over your rocks and see what you can part with, 'cause I'll be calling some of you real soon. If you like the idea, maybe you'll have a "swapping" party too, then we'll get to know each other twice as fast.

Edna M. McDowell

HOBBY CLINIC PARTICIPATION

The last week in October (27-28) the Coordinating Council for the Aging is holding a Hobby Clinic in conjunction with the Senior Skills Show at the Museum. This is to try to interest people in a hobby before retirement comes. Fay Reed has accepted the chairmanship of the Grand Rapids Mineral Society's participation in the Hobby Clinic. He has already had some offers of assistance in presenting demonstrations of our hobby's various phases. He can use additional volunteers, so call him.

This is an opportunity to interest new people and to increase the club membership. It is also an opportunity to provide another club community service and to share our hobby with others. Hosts and hostesses can be helpful in this respect. Give Fay and the club your support. Call him today!!

Willis Atwell

HAVE YOU MADE YOUR RESERVATION FOR THE ANNUAL DINNER MEETING???
If not, DO IT NOW.

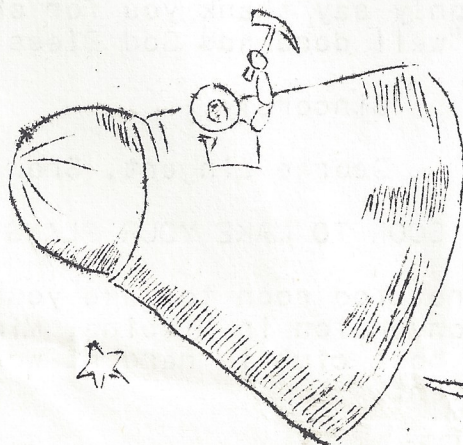
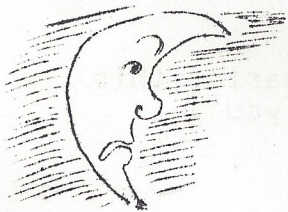
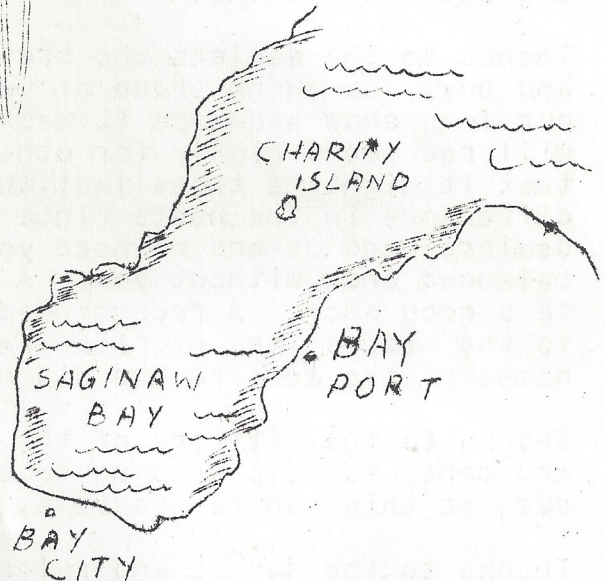
Do You Know — Atwell



...THAT MICHIGAN HAS ONE
OF 13 LOCATIONS IN WHICH
A FOSSIL MOOSE WAS
FOUND ... NEAR BERRIEN
SPRINGS ...

(LET'S GO MOOSE HUNTING !!!)

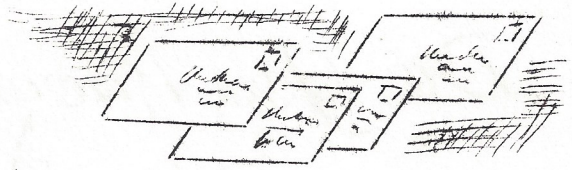
THAT 90% OF THE INDIAN
ARROW POINTS, DRILLS AND
OTHER STONE IMPLEMENTS FOUND
IN THE SAGINAW VALLEY WERE
MADE FROM BAY PORT AND
CHARITY ISLAND CHERT ...



... THAT U.O.F.M.'S
DR. KELLY BELIEVES THE
FIRST MOON EXPLORER
SHOULD BE A "HARD
ROCK" GEOLOGIST ...

(ANY VOLUNTEERS??)

M. W. F.



LETTER OF THE MONTH

A THANK YOU FROM GEORGE WINGERT

Fellow Rockhounds... It is with sincere and heartfelt gratitude that I wish to say THANK YOU to every member of all the Federations that helped with the 1962 Convention and National Gem & Mineral exposition. It was no one member nor club that was responsible for any success, but the supporting cooperation of every member who displayed, lectured, contributed rock, wrote articles, for publicity, gave of their time, and most of all, those who gave of themselves, that helped make this an enjoyable show. Many worked months, even two or three years planning displays and etc. and we have had the support of our many rockhound publications over a great many months.

Thanks to the dealers who brought their best, so that we could see and buy. We thank those of you who stayed with us to the end of our long show and hope it was profitable for you. Most of you we will recommend highly for other shows, for it was you who realized that it might be those last two days attendance that made the difference in the hosts clubs making their expenses. You, as dealers need us and we need you, for it would not be a truly well balanced show without you. A vacant space does not contribute to a good show. A recommended list of dealers has been passed on to the Midwest and American Federations along with the list of names of the dealers who did not fulfill their contracts.

Thanks to the officers of the Federation who gave of their time and money to help keep us together so that a cooperative effort such as this can be possible.

Thanks to the judges and rules committee. Yours is a job that need be done, but is often a thankless one. Many of us know the hours you have spent and the miles you have traveled; we hope that more active competition will compensate in part for all of your efforts.

To you, my committee, I not only say thank you for sharing this responsibility with me, but "well done and God Bless you".

Sincerely,

George Wingert, Show Chairman

REALLY NOT TOO SOON TO MAKE YOUR PLANS

Tho it is only October it's not too soon to make your plans to attend the 1963 Field Trip Convention in Hibbing, Minnesota. Dates are July 17-21 and the host club is hard at work making plans for this outstanding event.

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