

volume 4, no. 11 - november, 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.

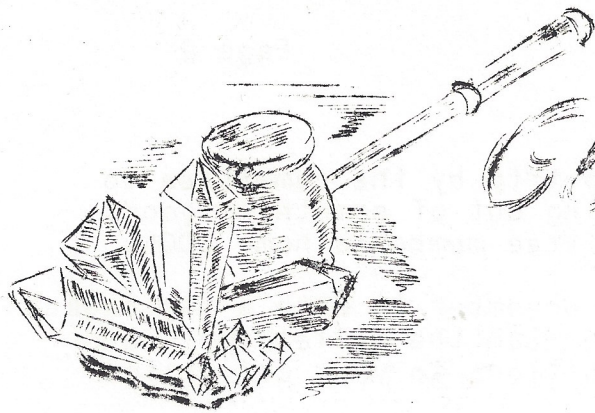
Meetings are held the 2nd Wednesday of each month at 8:00 p.m. at Riverside Elementary School, 2420 Coit N.E. (Sept. thru June) Summer meetings as announced.

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

ALL material for publication 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.

Member of Bulletin Editors Association.



GOING... GOING...
GONE!!

Altho' our regular meeting to be held on Wednesday, November 14th at 8:00 p.m. at Riverside Elementary School will not feature an auctioneer, we will be having our 4th Annual Silent Auction, that is if all our members cooperate.

It has been almost two weeks since a letter went out to the general membership about participation in this affair, and things have been mighty quiet in the central area of our town. Not one member has brought any rocks to our house - as requested in the letter. (Could be they're afraid I'll chop the rocks in bits and start on them with the blow-pipe, but really they need not be worried because the letter asked them to have their contributions all identified ahead of time.)

Just to check up, we strolled past Lowell Palmer's home and peeked on the porch. We thought they that all the folks in our part of town had taken their contributions to the Palmers, but all those rocks on their front porch are part of Lowell's Grand River Collection. Next, we checked on Jerry Morris because we understood he was giving away a Michigan-shaped Petoskey stone to the members who brought their material to his house. Somebody else said he was just giving thumbless Petoskey stone Michigans, but he isn't giving away any Petoskey stones - except to the auction, of course. Jerry said he had had one member come to contribute to the auction.

Geode Jack Kirkwood reported he had a vision of a good haul for the auction the other day at his office when a fellow walked in with a big box of rocks, but it turned out to be someone checking to see whether F.H.A. would approve them for a facing on a building. Yes, Jack says he will have some geodes fresh from Iowa, but he is willing to see that some other members' material gets there, too.

Reports from Augie Post down Caledonia way and from Chuck Sweet are no more fruitful. Yes, and Chuck has been keeping track of his dad's place down the street to see that some member hadn't been there. Jim DeZwaan is also waiting for contributions from someone else - he says it is too late in the season to pack another load of calcite with inclusions in from Canada before the November 14th meeting.

Don Crabbs took an armful of the listing sheets expecting tons of rocks. He, too, is still waiting. Chairman Bob Rozema is riding herd on his committee, so don't be surprised if a committee member - like Dick Rose, for example - makes a call on you sometime soon with a shopping bag in hand and asks to see your collection

(concluded on page 2)

GONE (concluded)

One thing you can do to avoid a field trip by the committee to your basement is to do your own picking out of something good. Drop off your contribution at a committee member's home SOON.

Finally, come to Riverside School on November 14 with a big basket and a full wallet and plan to go home with the wallet empty and the basket full of some wonderful additions to your collection you can gloat over all winter.

By the way, there will be coffee and cookies available at this meeting (for a small fee) with Miss Esther Hall, Miss Edna M. McDowell, Miss Maxine Atwater, Mrs. Davana Lett, Mrs. James Waldron and Mrs. William Olson working in teams of two to dispense the brew and collect your money.

Willis Atwell, Program Chairman

MEMBER-ON-THE-MOVE

While now a Captain in the Army Medical Corps, Dr. Denny Donnell is viewing his surroundings with a practiced eye for rocks. "We had a very pleasant stay in Texas, in spite of the intense heat" he writes. "On week-ends we made several collecting trips and got some petrified wood and a lot of fossils, some of which I have identified --mostly from Cretaceous formations, gastropods, and pelecypods and a few cephalopods. We found several nice echinoids. En route back we stopped near Graham, Texas and collected in Pennsylvanian."

About a week ago Capt Donnell made a flying trip to Grand Rapids, bearing more specimens of fully-identified fossils, woods, fluorescent materials, etc. than many of us get in a year. He left some fine specimens as donations for our November auction, distributed others to friends, picked up some Michigan materials in return, and hurried back to his army duties.

Capt. Donnell may have a chance to get specimens from farther afield than Texas. He is taking special training in preventative medicine, and may go abroad with a Civil Affairs group to advise others of our methods in prevention of disease. Wherever he is, nearby rocks aren't likely to have a much better chance than nearby microbes to survive his enthusiastic attentions.

Elaine Smith



CALENDAR of EVENTS

- NOVEMBER 10 - Saturday, 9:45 a.m. Junior Geology field trip to Gillisse Construction Company's pits on Maynard and Veterans Drive S.W. Senior club members are invited.
- November 14 - Wednesday, 8:00 p.m. Regular monthly meeting at Riverside Elementary School, 2420 Coit N.E. 4th Annual Auction. YOUR copy of the roster is available. Pick it up at this meeting.
- November 19 - Monday, at 8:00 p.m. Board of Control Meeting at home of Mr & Mrs Fay Reed, 425 Lafayette N E
- November 29 - Thursday, at 8:00 p.m. Mineral Group Meeting at home of Mrs. Nellie Mead, 334 Briarwood, S. E.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

We are happy to welcome the following people who have joined our group in the last few months:

- | | |
|--|---|
| Mr & Mrs Lee Budd
1612 Plymouth S.E.
Grand Rapids 6, Mich 241-0846 | Mr & Mrs George L. Carey
2213 Riverside Dr. N.E.
Grand Rapids 5 EM 1-6169 |
| Mr. Edward A. Pryce
152 Robinhood Rd. N.E.
Grand Rapids 6, 454-5384 | Mr & Mrs William Olson
1106 Hazen S E
Grand Rapids 7 CH 3-8269 |
| Mr. Ted Thompson
428 Storrs St. S.E.
Grand Rapids 7 CH 5-3520 | Mr & Mrs Donald Johnson
3305 Coit Ave N E
Grand Rapids 5 EM 1-4775 |
| Mr & Mrs Grant B. Carpenter
9391 Kedowa S.E., Rte 5
Grand Rapids 4 GL 3-3385 | Mr. John Alfirevic
c/o William A. Pope Co. Box 2
Grandville 534-8601 |

Most times men are as young as they feel, but never as important.

OUR PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Since the weather has blessed us with the first snowfall, and the harvest moon as flown the October night sky, it is time to gaze at your own personal crystal chandelier and wonder if you paid the light bill. If you have, then you are filled with light and there is no need for a president, or any other officer of this congenial club of rock grabber-uppers, to remind you one and all, that the October shindig was a success no less, and all the bouquets are in the hands of those who made it so.

Now we are engaged in a great struggle of mind, whether this specimen or that bit of slabbing shall endure upon our shelf or that of some lucky bidder come the night of SILENT AUCTION. Just whistle up your courage and cut the strings which attach you to your fond possession or your mother-in-law's apron. Freedom is more than a word. What you don't know never will hurt you, and what you give to those genial gentlemen of the hammer (no sickel) and blithe phraseology of "up-a-ditty" will enhance the account of one Grand Rapids Mineral Society. Now this is a worth-your-wile endeavor to get people into the swing of things without a rope, and it will boost the ego of all concerned whether they like it or not.

Don't let the scare heads on radio and newspaper jolt you out of your sense of humor or justice, and come heeled, as well as hauled, and help make silent auction 1962 a real bangup fracas filled with dignity.

May the blessings of the summer scrouching get a royal heave-ho and a thither-be-the-end that our incoming board, though filled with knots and such as make boards, accept their challenge without a turn at narcotization.

Gentlemen and Ladies: Let the music begin that we hear no squawks from all concerned except the auctioneer.

Les Pearl, President

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OCTOBER MEETING IN REVIEW

Mmmmmmm - did you try a little from each of the dishes prepared by our ladies for the potluck last month? Well, I did. Haven't had to eat since but it was worth it. If possible, the planning was even better than last year. The team of Waldron, Olson, Dudkin, and Joldersma deserve a standing ovation from the entire membership. The Olson's deserve credit for the artistic name tags and the Dudkins did themselves proud on the table decorations, but the entire project was well planned and executed, and that food, Mmmmmmm!

Willis Atwell did his usual fine job in setting up the slide program and coordinating the taped narration of our year's events. It isn't good to say that someone did his usual fine job but what else can you say about something that Bill Atwell does?

All in all it was an enjoyable evening but I keep wondering what it was that kept the vote counters out so long. Is it possible that the election was fixed? They couldn't have done a better job than you who voted did if they had tried to fix the machines. Your choice of officers and Board members were:

President - Willia Atwell
 Vice-President - Gerald B. Morris
 Secretary - Jane Cichaniewicz
 Treasurer - Charles Moore
 Historian - Marian Jennings
 Bulletin Editor - Nina Rozema
 Liaison Officer - Richard W. Rose
 Board Members - Leo Hoogerhyde, August Post, Fay Reed,
 and Henry Tchozeski.

Congratulations and you can depend upon the support of each of us in your coming year.

President and Mrs. Harlan Waters of the Kalamazoo Club and Mr. Marion Gingery and Mr. Victor Youmans of Flint Club were our guests for the evening.

Richard W. Rose

FIELD TRIP PLANNED FOR NOVEMBER 10

The Junior Geology members who meet at the G. R. Public Museum Saturday mornings are to have a field trip, Saturday, November 10 beginning at 9:45. They will assemble and leave by bus in two contingents, as the group has one hundred and four eager beaver pebble-picker-uppers, to search the Gillisse Construction Company's diggings on Maynard and Veterans Drive S W. Since the management has always given us a welcome hand in sharing their property, we expect cooperation in safety and regard for their equipment.

We also extend a cordial welcome to our senior club members to visit this interesting pit, if for no other reason than the variety of drift material which it contains which was once the mountains to the northeast of Michigan, now known as the Canadian Shield.

Be seeing you at the diggings!!

Leslie G. Pearl, Pres.

FINANCIAL STATEMENT AS OF OCTOBER 1, 1962BALANCE IN BANK OCT. 1, 1961 \$455.27

RECEIPTS Oct. 1, 1961 to Oct. 1, 1962

Memberships =	\$483.00	
Advertising in Drifter	54.00	
Rock Sales	40.57	
Door prize ticket sales	82.00	
Subscriptions: Earth Science		
Gems & Minerals	10.00	
Safety glasses sales	15.50	
Emblem sales	22.50	
Petty cash	162.00	
Donations	21.25	
Dealers' night fees	30.00	
Silent Auction	<u>281.41</u>	
	\$1,202.23	
Stop payment Ck.#258 dated 8-21-61		
Credit Program expense (Lost)	10.00	
Stop payment Ck.#264 dated 9-13-61		
Credit bulletin expense (lost)	<u>11.34</u>	
	<u>1,223.57</u>	\$1,223.57
 TOTAL RECEIPTS		 \$1,678.84

DISBURSEMENTS Oct. 1, 1961 to Oct. 1, 1962

Bulletin and roster expense	\$311.08	
Rent	190.00	
Subscriptions: Earth Science		
Gems & Minerals	15.00	
Program expense	62.25	
President awards	78.41	
Annual Show at Museum	54.70	
Insurance, Annual Show	40.00	
Office supplies & postage	5.10	
Rock table expense	39.41	
Petty Cash	142.00	
Potluck expense	34.38	
Membership cards	13.00	
Midwest Federation '62 dues (395 mem @ 15¢)	59.25	
Club Emblems	115.99	
Donations (Xmas gift Riverside School custodian)	25.00	
Bond on Treasurer	10.00	
Mich. Corp. & Securities Annual filing fee	<u>5.00</u>	
	<u>\$1,200.57</u>	\$1,200.57

Balance Oct. 1, 1962

\$478.27

Books audited 10-8-62
Henry A. Slater, Auditor
Leslie G. Pearl, President

Lucile E. Pearl, Treasurer

Thank you ! ! ! We asked your cooperation in obtaining rock specimens for the use of the county schools in their earth science programs and that is just what we got. I think that at least seventy five members showed up at Beiknap Park and we sure found rock. The only problem seemed to be that most were more interested in the rare ones than in the common ones. We had lots and lots of fine specimens but not enough typical rock specimens. But we ended the day with just about everything we were looking for and then some. We do need a little more help, however, from some of you who may have some specimen grade obsidian, also pumice and scoria. Also somehow we sort of forgot about samples of porphorys. If you can spare any of these please contact Les Pearl or Dick Rose as these should be included in a good basic rock collection. By the way, I understand that at least one agate was found and Jerry Morris naturally walked home with a large and very good Petoskey stone. There were some Petoskey stones found associated with an oil shale which were very well marked and very dense and quite dark - almost black - in color which should polish beautifully. I had never seen them in an oil shale before, but live and learn!! Anyway, thanks again for turning out in force and doing a good job. The cases will be ready soon and the rocks should be in the schools soon.

Dick Rose

OUR TRIP TO THE NORTHEAST

After reading Fred Andresen's absorbing account of Herkimer diamond hunting, I was reminded of another method which we found for obtaining these sparkling stones - not as exciting or productive, perhaps, but effective enough!! It is the well-known trading tour.

We started out from G. R. with a small travelling case full of Petoskey stones and septaria -- some rough, some slabs, and some polished and finished. Our visit in Boston included a view of the truly marvelous mineral collections at Peabody Museum -- much better than Smithsonian, we thought. Then we camped on Hermit Isld, Me., where we could climb (and prospect) on cliffs of excellent garnet schist, as we swam in the ocean coves around the island. If only all rock hunting could be like this!!

Now we started touring to points of more interest to rock-hunters. The Maine Conservation Department issues a special bulletin for the guidance of rockhounds, and we had obtained a copy of this as a starting point (though it is nothing to follow implicitly, as even Maine rockshops admit it is over-enthusiastic). However, with the help of its maps and descriptions we found our way to a number of old mines and quarries. Some were right beside the highway, and some down old roads so rough you had to hike if you had a car as loaded as ours. There is not too much overlapping of material from one mine to another. The graphic granite and feldspar was plentiful, the rose quartz tended to be pale, the smoky quartz was beautiful but fractured, the mica extensive and in unusual formations, the wild raspberries out of this world. We put in a short long-distance call to the owner of one mine,
(concluded next page)

asking permission to go there. This was granted, with the suggestion that we look on the floor for Clevelandite, with a newly discovered type of crystal which was highly fluorescent. We found some of these, and some tourmaline, but the sight of a 30-ft.- high cliff faced solid with mica gleaming in the late afternoon sun was something we could carry only in memory.

Since our time was limited, and we were travelling with people who had only a passing interest in rocks, we did little more than skim the tops of these areas. More thorough searching, and going farther back into at least one of the quarries, might well have been more productive. We got plenty of rocks, but most were only average in quality.

Wherever we went, we stopped at likely-looking rockshops or mineral companies and brought in our little case of Michigan materials. This was invariably enough to secure personal interest and a detailed explanation of their own operations, as well as an offer to trade at least a few colorful specimens for some of ours. In general, New Englanders are more used to the colorful minerals, but they were intrigued by the septaria, and those that knew and liked Petoskeys liked them very much indeed. One evening we stopped at the Jewel Mill near Boston. This is a Revolutionary War mill, still supplying its own power with a huge water wheel, which is floodlighted at night. This place specializes in tumbles, and no wonder!! The owners took us all over the premises to show us their 600-lb. tumblers (they grind without grits, 6 months at a time), and a new rock crusher they are devising, on the order of a 10-ton truck. They also do a great deal of quartz dying, and asked for some of our polished Petoskeys to try dying them (it didn't work, if the ones our Boston friends sent back later were the same; they were almost unrecognizable). Rhyolite is a specialty of this area, and they gave us some nice pieces of it.

Perhams, in Maine, is one of the outstanding shops in this area, and we had written Mr. Perham previously, but had not heard from him. The day we stopped there, Mr. Perham, himself, was away, but his cordial assistant manager showed us some of their "back-room" things, and how to twist jeweler's wire to enhance a little Petoskey I showed him. He offered to trade us some regular rose quartz for some of our finished Petoskey items, but there's plenty of rose quartz to find in that country, so we weren't interested in that. He also gave us directions to a certain mine dump he recommended. (After we got back to G.R. we received a long letter from Mr. Perham apologizing for having lost our letter on his desk and giving detailed information and directions for prospecting in that area, even though he realized it was probably too late to help us this trip. Some of it would have been more helpful than what we had, and if anyone is planning a trip to that locality, we would be glad to pass on the info).

But what has all this to do with Herkimer diamonds? Well, we put up at a private campground in Franconia Notch and the wife of the owner turned out to be a rockhound so out came my little case and swapped Petoskey stones for Herkimer diamonds and some other fascinating materials.

So don't forget - what's road-gravel to one county is diamond-bait in another. Our Petoskeys can hold their own anywhere!!

The Mineral group had a very interesting meeting on Thursday, October 25th at the home of Mr. & Mrs. Lee Budd. Those of you who weren't there missed the story of the zeolites. Mr. Budd, who recently moved from the east, took us to Paterson, N. J., where in the Front Street Quarry is found 67 minerals!! His collection of zeolites include heulandite, stilbite, chabazite, natrolite and analcite. Some minerals associated with these shown by chart by Mr. Budd are datolite, prehnite, apophyllite, and thomsonite. These occur in trap rock (or basalt). We were told that all zeolites seem to have one characteristic in common -- that they form in nodule of radiating crystals. Zeolites have been produced synthetically by various hydro-chemical reactions and are used in industry and commerce. Zeolites, when dehydrated, have a high re-absorption ability which makes them very useful in various processes beneficial to our suburban life, like water softeners and water purifiers.

Our sincere thanks to our host and hostess for a very informative evening.

The November meeting will be at the home of Mrs. Nellie Mead, 334 Briarwood, S. E. at 8:00 p.m. November 29th. YOU are invited!!

Lucile Pearl

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Leslie Pearl, President,
Grand Rapids Mineral Society,
Grand Rapids, Mich.

Dear Leslie and Fellow Members:

Alice and myself have just made our annual trip to our home here in Florida and we made an over-night stop in the town of Lebanon, Tenn. We stayed at the Sunset Motel, Highway 231, Lebanon, Tenn.

I am writing this open letter to you and the Rock Club members because I think all club members should know about the people that run the Sunset Motel: (Mr. & Mrs. Smith, Prop.).

First of all it is a neat, clean well run Motel, good size rooms, full carpets, good tile baths, television if a person wishes to turn it on, plenty of hot water and very good drinking water, all at very reasonable rates, plus the fact that Mr. and Mrs. Smith are very friendly and make you feel as though you are staying with friends of long standing rather than with paid Motel owners.

When we drove into the Motel grounds several geodes on the side of the drive caught my eye. When I stepped out of the car in front of the office, I really took a second look. Arranged in very nice order were all types of fossils and minerals and local rock specimens, all picked up within 50 miles of the Sunset Motel there in Lebanon.

In the office wherever there was a place for a fossil, it was in use. Crinoid (I hope I am spelling it right, at times my 5th grade schooling fails me, and my Michigan fossil book is in Grand Rapids). Anyhow, you will know what I am talking about.

Crinoid stems and beads they had them, a large pile on the table Mrs. Smith was working on stringing them on a cord like beads, as lots of them were separate and had the hole in them ready to be run on a string just like beads. They had one dandy crinoid head about $4\frac{1}{2}$ inches across, it was just perfect; almost made me drool.

I asked Mr. Smith if it was a secret where he was finding all of those specimens. He said no, it was no secret, he would take me to the place himself or show me on a map where to go. It was about 50 miles from his Motel and he and his wife were more than willing to go there with Alice and I if we wished to go the next day and look it over.

I had to turn down the kind offer for the time being, but I will try to arrange my travel time on the way home so as to be able to stop over with them for a few days and look that fossil bed over.

If there are any members traveling through Tennessee, they should not go through Lebanon without stopping at the Sunset Motel, if no more than to say "hello, Mr. & Mrs. Smith."

With very best regards to all, Lester & Alice Walters.

DO YOU KNOW

THAT MICHIGAN'S FIRST GLASS
FACTORY WAS STARTED AT
MONROE IN 1836 BECAUSE
OF THE EXCELLENT SILICA
THERE



THAT GRAND RAPIDS
WAS AT THE BOTTOM
OF LAKE CHICAGO IN
GLACIAL TIMES

THAT ARENAL (COUNTY)
MEANS "PLACE OF SAND"
(NAMED BY HENRY
SCHOOLCRAFT) ARENA ~ SAND
AC & AKKE ~ PLACE



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