

Volume 4, no. 2 - February, 1962



the

GLACIAL

DREIFTER

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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).

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.

Member of Bulletin Editors Association.

## FEBRUARY 14th REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING

The regular meeting of the Grand Rapids Mineral Society will be held at 8:00 p.m. on Wednesday, February 14th at Riverside Elementary School, 2420 Coit, N.E.

Program Committee Chairman, Willis Atwell, says "Col. John Glenn and your program committee seem to be having an equally difficult time getting into orbit. We too thought we were set a week ago only to have to cancel just before count-down.

"The DRIFTER deadline now finds us still waiting to hear for sure. Hence, the best we can tell you is 'There will be a program for you on Wednesday, February 14th - Valentine's Day'".

The membership committee will be on hand to take your dues. If you have not paid your 1962 dues, do so now. The new roster will be compiled in the very near future and we would like to see all of you included, but we can only do this if you have paid.

The contribution door prize is a beauty. Be sure to get in on it. See Gus Beuker for your chance.

Henry Tchozeski and his committee will be on hand to sell you material from the Rock Sale Table.

### A LAPIDARY TIP by Russ Girard

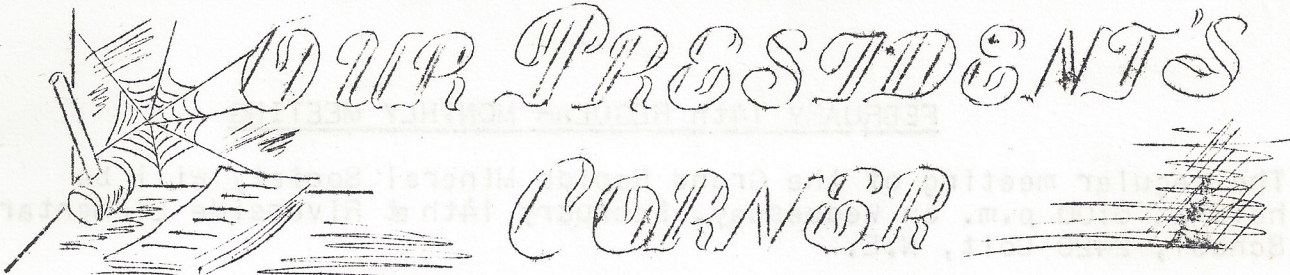
Next time you have to replace an odd shaped or non-standard sized stone in a piece of jewelry try this gimmick. Take an old exposed negative, and roughen it slightly with a piece of 400 or 600 grit sand paper. Lay it on the table, rough side up, and lay a piece of carbon paper on it, carbon side down. Take the piece of jewelry (make sure the bezel is straightened out, if not straighten it with your burnisher) and lay this on the carbon paper, bezel down. Now, give it a couple of light raps. This should leave a carbon copy, so to speak, of the bezel. Cut this out with a knife, razor blade, or exacto model knife. Be sure to cut inside the line, in other words, leave the line showing on the film. Now, lay it out and cut just as you would with a regular template. Don't forget, if the stone is not symmetrical, the template has to be turned over: i.e. the roughened side goes against the stone.

This will also work for your free form sketches. Simply lay the sketch over the carbon paper and trace over it.

### CONGRATULATIONS

Mr. & Mrs. Paul Chase are the proud parents of a new son. (Paul is an ex-vice president).

Mr. & Mrs. Donald Crabbs are the proud parents of twin boys. Don, in case you don't know him, is the man who looks like the cat who swallowed the canary. A grin from ear to ear. Our sincere congratulations.



# OUR PRESIDENT'S CORNER

## THE SPRING CLARION

It takes a heap of courage and imagination to keep up one's enthusiasm for this hobby of rocks and minerals when Old Mother Nature is dumping the most priceless crystals of all in such profusion upon us. But snow is beautiful and its crystals unmatched by any other substance even after man has done all he can to improve them. The Joker is, as you all know, snow does not remain long in that sparkley condition, and all too soon returns to its fluid state of  $H_2O$ ; which kids can slop in, the dog and cat mess in and bring indoors to the dismay of any housewife.

But what happens to father? Sure, he wipes his feet and all that; but look at all that junk in his corner of the basement! Rocks, crystals, cutting rough, machinery, dops, laps, and all the rest of his special equipment. Mother sometimes wishes it were just the kids tracking in the wet. She does, until this time of the year when father lays out his whole winter's endeavor, then steps back to survey it all with that mystic glint of great satisfaction for a job well done. Then she too gets a bit excited when she realizes the importance of all this labor of love. This verve to place a display of one's talent in the spring Gems and Mineral Show of the local society at the Grand Rapids Public Museum which, this year, will be the whole month of March, is something no doctor will diagnose adversely.

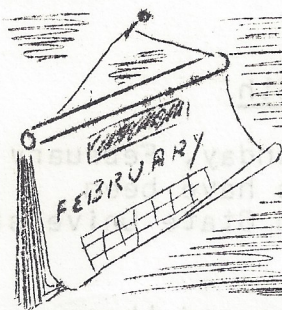
Here is where a bit of advice will help even one who has followed the circuit of shows. We can always learn from past experiences and sometimes from the most simple soul among us to choose carefully, place sparingly, label correctly, arrange artistically, and enter according to the rules of the Committee.

Displays always have a message to those who view them, either of themselves, their owner, or the society in general.

I hear this so often: "I have nothing to show!" Yet, I have seen some of your possessions, and if what you have is "Nothing", so help me, you will have a hard time realizing when you have arrived. Always remember in Nature there is no such thing as perfection, but always a nearly, nearly approach. So, since none of us can be more than that which fashioned us, let us try this nearly, nearly approach and respond to the call of the SHOW COMMITTEE headed by Mr. Fay Reed and offer the best we have.

You will not be sorry, and I know quite thrilled with the togetherness which comes when a club works in unison on a project of so far-reaching effect.

Well, I hope to see as fine, if not better, show than any previous one because of the experience gained. See you at the gate post MARCH 3, 1962 when the displays will be set up. Leslie G. Pearl.



# CALENDAR of EVENTS

February 14 - Wednesday, 8:00 p.m. Regular monthly meeting of Grand Rapids Mineral Society at Riverside Elementary School, 2420 Coit N. E. Program plans not completed at time of going to press. Watch the Grand Rapids Press for details.

February 18 - Sunday, 2:00 p.m. Field Trip to Michigan State University Geology Department conducted by Dr. Stonehouse. Meet at Natural Science Building on the campus of MSU in East Lansing at 2:00 p.m. Dr. Richard Rose, Trip Chairman.

February 19 - Monday, 8:00 p.m. Board of Control meeting at home of Mrs. L. H. Duyser, 1043 Underwood S. E.

February 22 - Thursday, 8:00 p.m. Mineral Group meeting at the home of Mrs. Nellie Mead, 334 Briarwood S. E. Bob Rozema, Group Leader.

February 24 - Saturday, 10:00 to 12:00 noon. Lapidary Group meeting at S&W Rock Shop. FREE use of equipment.

MARCH 3 - Saturday, all day (until 5:00 p.m.) Set up displays at Grand Rapids Public Museum for month-long show. See details elsewhere in DRIFTER. Fay Reed, Show General Chairman.

MARCH 4 Sunday, 2:00 to 5:00 p.m. FIRST DAY OF ROCK AND MINERAL SHOW at Grand Rapids Public Museum

March 14 - Wednesday, 8:00 p.m. Regular Monthly meeting at Riverside Elementary School.

April 18 - Wednesday, 8:00 p.m. NOTE CHANGE OF DATE OF April meeting.

May 9 - Wednesday, 8:00 p.m. Regular monthly meeting.

May 18-19 - Saturday and Sunday - KALAMAZOO ROCKFEST. Displays, dealers, auction, grab-bags, programs. More details in future issues.

June 8-9-10 - ROCKRAMA at Rockford, Illinois Shrine Temple. Rock River Valley Gem & Mineral Society, hosts.

June 13 Wednesday, 6:00 p.m. Regular monthly meeting at Caledonia Park Shelter House.

## FIELD TRIP PLANNED FOR FEBRUARY 18th

The first field trip of the year is planned for Sunday, February 18th. Through the efforts of Dr. Richard Rose, we have been invited to tour the Geology Department of Michigan State University under the guidance of Dr. Stonehouse.

Those desiring a ride are asked to contact Dr. Rose and those having room for one or more passengers are also asked to contact him. In this way we can have a large turn-out for this trip.

We will meet at the Natural Science Building on the campus of MSU in East Lansing at 2:00 p.m. See you there.

## SYMPATHY

Our sincere sympathy is extended to Mrs. Jim Perkins in the death of her father; Mr. Claude Norton in the death of his father; and Mr. & Mrs. Lowell Palmer in the death of their son-in-law.

## MARCH IS SHOW MONTH

Plans under way by the Annual Show Committee are shaping up and the Committee has held two skull sessions in the back corner of Fay Reed's Brush & Archery Shop. Those attending have been Jack Kirkwood, Jerry Morris, Charles Sweet, and Bill Atwell.

Hosts and hostesses for Saturdays, Sundays, and special week-days will be needed. Also in demand are members who are willing to demonstrate cutting, polishing, faceting, carving, and identification.

Most of all, the Show Committee needs club support in filling those cases at the Museum. Just because you have only a few things to display doesn't excuse you + get in the activity and be one of the members wearing an exhibitor ribbon this year! Last year only 33 members had displays - let's double it this year because the space is there.

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ENTRY BLANK

THIRD ANNUAL GEM AND MINERAL SHOW

MARCH 3 - APRIL 1 - MUSEUM

This is an opportunity for the  
Grand Rapids Mineral Society

VALUE	ITEM
	members to show the community
	what "rock hounds" do in this
	hobby of ours.
	We can share with others our
	prized possessions and at the
	same time interest others in our
	hobby. There will be room for
	a single piece or a complete
	display. You name it and the
	Committee will fit it into the
	show..... <u>ENTER NOW</u> so we can

plan the space.

NAME \_\_\_\_\_ PHONE \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_ ZONE \_\_\_\_\_

TYPE OF EXHIBIT: Mineral ( ) lapidary ( ) fossil ( )  
geological oddity ( ) educational ( )

SPACE REQUIREMENT \_\_\_\_\_

I WILL: give demonstration ( ) be a host/hostess ( )  
arrange a neighborhood store display ( )

Fill this blank in as soon as possible and give, or send, to:

(Mr) FAY REED, Chairman  
425 Lafayette, N.E.  
Grand Rapids 3, Mich.

(OVER)

ENTRY BLANK Continued

The Show Committee will again insure the exhibits during the show period. To save time when you bring your exhibit to the Museum on Saturday, March 3, please have an itemized list of items and a valuation on each.

If you have your exhibit planned, it would be even more helpful to have the items listed in the space below right now.

ITEM	VALUE	ITEM	VALUE

TOTAL VALUE: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

DEADLINE FOR ENTRIES: February 24

DEADLINE FOR EXHIBITS: March 3 - 3:30 p.m., but the earlier, the better!

SHOW CLOSSES AT 5:00 p.m. SUNDAY, April 1 - no fooling!



JANUARY MEETING IN REVIEW

Guest Critic: Barite Rose as told to I. Emma Rockhound

I visited your rock club last month, an' did you know that quartz is really made up of lots of little white and blue balls all hooked together? An' there are twice as many little white balls as there as little blue balls. An' that those little balls are all lined up in a certain way so's they look like a checkerboard no matter which way you look at 'em. An' lots of other things I'll you about in just a minute.

You know, I been learnin' lots of things lately. Just the other day on TV I learned that when you swallowed a pill it won't open up that little flapper valve you got in your stomach unless the tablet has a "B" scratched in it. An' you know what else I learned? I learned you got three little room-like things up in your head thats got different things like lightnin', an' hammers, an' other stuff like that in um. I learned that on TV.

But that ain't nothin' to what I learned at that there rock meetin'. I learned lots of things. I learned that Mrs. Atwell didn't give two hoots in a dry wash fer that picture. Fact is, she went sound to sleep and would have fell off her chair right on the floor if Doc. Rose hadn't been settin' next to her so's she fell up against him an' woke herself up. That Mr. Atwell, tho', he liked it real well. He set right there a watchin' it every minute an' never once looked at that pretty little girl a settin' down the row a spell, an' she was a humdinger too.

But I learned some other things about rocks too. You know them little balls we was talkin' about, well, when they all line up that-a-way, that's what makes 'em crystals. Yes, sir, an' when you study crystals that there's Crystalography - now ain't that some word. Wait 'til I try that one on some of the fellas back around Globe and Miami, an' around the Superstitions. Bet they sets up an' takes notice! Oh, before I forget it - them balls, wall they ain't really balls at all, them white ones are supposed to be oxygen atoms, an' the blue ones - them's the silicon atoms - an' when they lines up - well the silicon atoms lie on three interpenetrating hexagonal lattices which got in the vertical direction a spiral arrangement in respect to each other. An' them oxygen atoms, why, they seem to be grouped in a tetrahedral manner around the silicon atoms. An that little group of balls that that feller kept pulling out, that there's called the unit cell, an' its got three blue balls or silicon atoms in it.

Oh, ya! An' there's another kind of Symmetry besides the kind where you puts dead people. This new kind is where you stick a straw through them little balls an' then turn the straw around, an' if you see the same pattern more than once that's Symmetry. There's more than two kinds of symmetry too. There's lots of kinds, depending on how many times you see the same pattern of balls while you turn the straw around once.

Now, quartz - that's what they was talkin' about, that belongs to the Trigonal or Rhombohedral Division of the Hexagonal Isometric System, an' its got three like planes of symmetry intersecting at angles of  $60^\circ$  in the vertical axis. Bet you thought there was six, didn't you? Wall, there ain't, only three. (continued next page)

## January Meeting (Continued)

Yup, it has a vertical principal axis of Trigonal Symmetry, an' that's not all! It's got three horizontal axes of Binary Symmetry, co-inciding with the Horizontal Crystallographic axes.

Now, if you'd come to more rock meetings you'd learn them things too. Besides the movin' picture was good, an' they was all color too. You folks was mighty lucky to have Mr. Bell's telephone company let you see it.

Oh, ya - before I forgit it, did you see them pen holder things that that Gerry Morris made so's the club could give them to the past presidents. I saw Doc Rose's, an' it was a map of Michigan all cut out of some rock Gerry Morris called Petoskey stone or somethin'. I ain't never seen none of it before. Doc Rose says it's just petrified sea bottom but I noticed he was sure proud of it. It shore looked pretty though. Makes a fella kind a wish he could write. Well, anyway, it was a good meetin'. Real good! I learned a lot, I think? An' I met a lot of real nice folks. That Mr. Pearl fellow, the president, said I could join your club for two dollars and come to all the meetins on the second Wednesday of every month, an' I aim to.

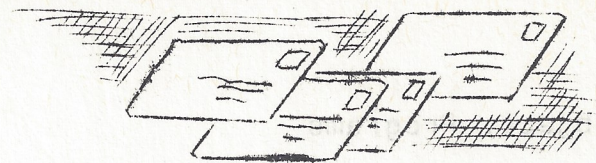
### PETOSKEY STONE

I walk along the shore  
in search of you.  
I turn an outward gaze,  
where blue meets blue.  
Thw waves come rolling in,  
they break on shore.  
They may have washed you in,  
and many more.  
I turn a downward gaze,  
the search begin.  
You take my eye, it does  
something within.  
I pick you up with joy,  
and take you home.  
But you are just lowly  
Petoskey stone.  
No lovely thing's been washed  
in by the tide.  
Your beauty's buried very  
deep inside.

I shape and polish you  
to heart's content.  
Nor do I count it work,  
the hours I spent  
Are but a moment in  
the span of time  
That you were forming, now  
you are sublime.  
Thousands of years, the waves  
washed over you,  
To form you thus. The  
little bit I do  
But brings out the beauty  
already there.  
Now you are done, I  
handle you with care.  
In you, I now the  
countless ages see.  
God's handiwork is now  
revealed to me.

Adelaide Halpin.

MWF



# LETTER OF THE MONTH

for February 1962

Subject: Responsible Membership

By: Floyd N. Mortenson, Past President MWF

It is high time that all of us take a determined stand towards stopping the thoughtless and irresponsible acts of a few members of our societies who are ruining the reputation of all rock and mineral hobbyists

Hardly a month goes by that does not bring out a story of unwarranted acts of vandalism or trespassing by collectors at some quarry or mine, which has so aroused the ire of the owners and managers, that they have closed the place to all collectors.

Now, most of us are aware of the fact that the "screwballs", who do not know how (or care less) to conduct themselves while on a field trip, are unquestionably in a minority among the members of organized earth science clubs and we can all recall the increasing number of such incidents which have been brought to our attention in the past few years. What are we, as conscientious and responsible members, going to do about it? What can we do about it?

Some serious thinking on this problem points out several avenues of approach which are open to us in our search for a solution. One of these avenues is named "Education". We can embark upon an intensive program of educating those members who may possibly be doing the wrong thing through ignorance. Most likely many of these members can be straightened out once they are made aware of their failings. The other avenue leads us to a close scrutiny of our policies on membership qualifications. Here we can find an important cause of our dilemma which can be traced to lax and impetuous efforts to build up membership roles by freely accepting all comers who can be "high-pressured" into joining a local society. I am positive that such practices result in letting down the gates to many "screwballs" and ultimately in closing the gates to many good collecting areas.

Although we may not feel that this is fair to the well behaved and responsible collectors, we cannot blame the quarry and mine operators for protecting their rights and property. They have their responsibilities and we have ours. While much of the damage is done, we can still take some positive steps to take some corrective action. We must eliminate this vandalism by a stepped up educational program and by a better screening of our membership applications.

Of course, we have no control over the "outsider" who at times misbehaves in the quarry or mine, but we do very definitely have responsibilities as organized earth science societies to assume the task of putting our own house in order. That is a responsibility we cannot afford to shirk.

Floyd N. Mortenson, Past President MWF

Subject: Programs

By: E. W. Courter, Program Chairman

Having trouble lining up programs? In a quandry as to what to do? Who to get? Where to look? How to get it? Seems to be a common problem that most of us experience at some time or other. The important thing though -- what are you doing about it? As you know the well being of any organization is dependent upon the quality of its programs. Nothing can undermine the morale of your members quicker than a lack of programs or programs that fail to stimulate interest.

It becomes important then to overcome this problem and as your Midwest Program Chairman, I would like to help you. Unfortunately there is no Aladdin's Lamp that will remedy this situation with a single rub, but I do have some special aids to offer that should give you help.

FIRST: I have an article "So You've Been Made Program Chairman" which has to do with the psychology of being a program chairman and the ways and means of going about the job. Might give you a different slant on things -- maybe some ideas. If you would like a copy, write me and I'll send it along to you.

SECOND: In the making -- available in the very near future -- a directory of program aids. It will list a wide variety of programs and tell you how to go about getting them. Should be valuable to both your program and educational committee.

One section will list more than three hundred movie films, both free and rental, available to groups such as ours. It will describe the subject material of each film -- tell you where it may be obtained.

Another section will be set up as a speaker's guide. It will list slide programs, demonstrations, speakers, and other personally conducted programs. It will describe the program, tell you whom to contact, and let you know the approximate area where it is available.

Now then -- A FAVOR FROM YOU. In order that the section on personally conducted programs be as complete as possible, we'd like some help. In your area--either in your own society or out-- I know there are people who can put on programs--slide presentations, lectures, demonstrations, and the like. With their permission, I'd like to list them in our new directory. So, for the good of all clubs, won't you take a moment right now and send me the names and addresses of all those you might know so I can contact them.

In the meantime, if I can assist you with any of your own program problems, do drop me a line.

Sincerely yours

E. W. Courter  
15459 Tracey, Detroit 27, Michigan

MIDWEST FEDERATION  
LETTER-A-MONTH  
for January 1961

Subject: The Letter-A-Month  
by Leo Yanasak, President Midwest Federation

One of the most serious problems of all Regional Federations and also the American Federation, is getting information to the individual clubs and thus to the club members. Some tried issuing bulletins, others published an official magazine, still others tried to get information out by buying space in publications. For one reason or another these were all found to be unsatisfactory. They were either too late or too expensive, or did not reach the members.

About two years ago certain members of the Midwest came up with the idea of sending a letter a month to every club in the Midwest. These letters were to be written by officers or members of the Midwest having important information to give. They were to be short and to the point. This idea turned out exceedingly well and is being seriously considered by other Regional Federations.

At present about 250 copies of the letter are mailed each month. They are sent to Liaison Officers of all Midwest clubs, to all Officers of the Midwest Federation, and to the officers of the American Federation. These letters cost the Midwest in printing and mailing about 6¢ a piece or about \$15.00 per month, a small cost indeed for the results obtained.

There is just one concern which somewhat mars the picture. We actually have in the Midwest, Liaison Officers who make very little or no effort to present the letter to their members. It is the hope of the Midwest Board that each club will have the letter read, or at least briefed, as a part of their business meeting. Just laying it on the table and saying "Here it is" will hardly do the job. As a result the clubs that follow this practice do not know what their own Federation is doing. Are you one of them?

Sincerely,

Leo W. Yanasak  
President

Editor's Note: This letter received too late for the January issue of the DRIFTER.

The Grand Rapids Mineral Society  
1555 Hollywood N.E.  
Grand Rapids 5, Mich.  
Return Postage Guaranteed



Subject: The Letter-A-Week  
By Leo Yarnask, President Midwest Federation

One of the most serious problems of the Midwest Federation and also the American Federation, is getting information to the individual clubs and to the club members. Some of the reasons for this are: 1. The clubs are scattered over a wide area. 2. The clubs are of different sizes. 3. The clubs are of different types. 4. The clubs are of different ages. 5. The clubs are of different financial conditions. 6. The clubs are of different geographical locations. 7. The clubs are of different social conditions. 8. The clubs are of different political conditions. 9. The clubs are of different religious conditions. 10. The clubs are of different ethnic conditions. 11. The clubs are of different racial conditions. 12. The clubs are of different language conditions. 13. The clubs are of different cultural conditions. 14. The clubs are of different educational conditions. 15. The clubs are of different occupational conditions. 16. The clubs are of different marital conditions. 17. The clubs are of different family conditions. 18. The clubs are of different health conditions. 19. The clubs are of different age conditions. 20. The clubs are of different sex conditions. 21. The clubs are of different income conditions. 22. The clubs are of different wealth conditions. 23. The clubs are of different power conditions. 24. The clubs are of different prestige conditions. 25. The clubs are of different honor conditions. 26. The clubs are of different respect conditions. 27. The clubs are of different fear conditions. 28. The clubs are of different love conditions. 29. The clubs are of different hate conditions. 30. The clubs are of different greed conditions. 31. The clubs are of different envy conditions. 32. The clubs are of different pride conditions. 33. The clubs are of different shame conditions. 34. The clubs are of different embarrassment conditions. 35. The clubs are of different humiliation conditions. 36. The clubs are of different indignity conditions. 37. 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Mr. Kreigh Tomaszewski  
333 Richard Terrace S.E.  
Grand Rapids 6, Mich.

At present about 250 copies of the letter are mailed each month. They are sent to Liaison Officers of all Midwest clubs. Liaison Officers of the Midwest Federation and Liaison Officers of the American Federation. These letters cost the Midwest Federation about \$15.00 per month, a small cost indeed for the results obtained. There is just one concern which constantly enters the mind of the Liaison Officers who work very little of no effort to present the letter to their clubs. It is the fact that the Liaison Officers who work with the letter do not at least include as a part of their training program, a copy of the letter and a copy of the letter to the club. As a result, the clubs do not know what their own Federation is doing. Are you one of these?

Leo W. Yarnask  
President

Editor's Note: This letter reached too late for the January issue of the CRITERION.