

VOLUME 5, NO. 3 - MARCH, 1963



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 at different parks as announced.

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 - Bulletin Editors Association.

A Rockhounding Trip

FOR PYRITE SNAILS AND HERKIMER DIAMONDS

WHEN?? At 8:00 P.M. on Wednesday, March 13th

WHERE? Riverside Elementary School, 2420 Coit N. E.

Pyrite Snails and Herkimer diamonds are the agenda for the March meeting. Mentor Lowell Palmer will give us the low down and the high up on the locations of such valued collectors' items Lowell will demonstrate various pieces of equipment used in uncovering these coveted gems.

There will be door prizes (if someone remembers to donate something for this event).

Saw Dr. Robert B. Smith smoking a beautiful pipe at the last meeting. Yikes!! It was made of Petoskey stone!!

If you want to try something a little different, try working one of those salvage pieces of ivory, obtainable at some rock shops. It saws, sands, and files easily and takes a beautiful polish.

Gerald B. Morris, Program Chairman

1963 DUES ARE DUE

If your dues are not paid by the March meeting your name will be dropped from the membership rolls and this is the last issue of the DRIFTER which you will receive. If you haven't already taken care of this, do so NOW. If you cannot attend the meeting send your dues to our treasurer, Charles Moore, 153 Lowell, N E, Grand Rapids 3, Michigan.

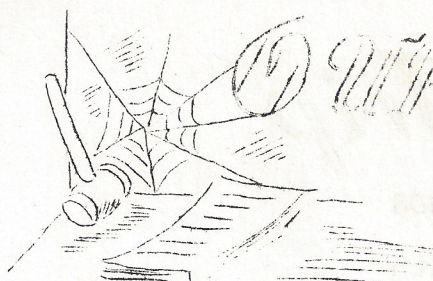
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OUR 4th ANNUAL MUSEUM SHOW


As we go to press, we breathe a sigh of relief. The cases at the Grand Rapids Public Museum are filled with the displays of club members who have worked long and hard to bring a good showing of our hobby to the general public. And as you and your friends come in to look and admire, don't forget the window exhibits. Yes, all of the windows are filled with "our" displays this year. And one of the side rooms contains a table full of cases with treasures which shouldn't be overlooked.

The Show Committee, headed by Jim DeZwaan, is to be congratulated for a job well done.

Just had a flash from Prexy Atwell that we will be on "Michigan Outdoors", live, on Thursday, March 7th at 7:00 P.M. Don't know at this point who will "star" in the show, but you can bet it will be well worth tuning in.



OUR PRESIDENT'S CORNER



Members may not be aware that we have been working with the Museum staff in covering the Saturday classes at the Museum. This is the group with which Les Pearl had been working. There were 12 meetings left during the term and the Museum staff took 6 and the club members have agreed to take six. Those helping on this project are Lee Budd, Jack Kirkwood, Lowell Palmer, Jerry Morris, Don Crabbs and the writer. Having been the first club member to take the group, let's say they are as active as reported and as interested as one could ask. We went over staurolite, Catlinite and a bit on Flint Ridge, Ohio. In our meeting we built staurolite crystals with paper, scissors, and paste. One little guy, being a real diplomat, said this had been the most interesting class since Mr. Pearl's, but Joan Afton who has the clean-up job took us down a peg, by saying it was the messiest they had ever had!

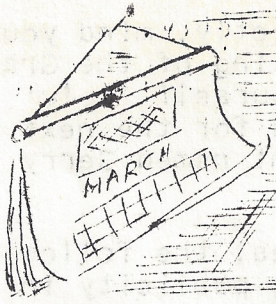
Having a professional interest in old timers, the plea Nina Rozema had in the February issue for stamps for Ye Old Timers Mineral Club project sparked our curiosity. Perhaps everyone else knew about this, but we did not. The qualifications for belonging to Ye Old Timers Mineral Club are to be 50 plus years old and a member of a club affiliated with the American Federation of Mineralogical Societies through one of their Regional Federations, which we are via the Midwest. Dues are \$2.00 for the first member of the family and \$1. for each additional member of the same family. The club has a monthly bulletin, but meets only at Federation Conventions. Want to join? Bob Hagglund, 2412 Chestnut St., Everett, Washington, is the treasurer. Some members of GRMS have already sent in stamps.

In case you wonder about the gift given to our speaker at the February meeting, the Board in January commissioned Jerry Morris to make up pen sets - less elaborate than those given Past Presidents - to be given guest speakers who did not charge a fee. The first so awarded was Mr. George McAlee an, who certainly deserved it for his excellent talk. (Congrats to Charlie Moore who made a double column eight inch news story on the talk in the G.R. Press the next day.)

If you have never visited the Museum craft shop on Saturday afternoon, you should some time. There is a fine group of junior lapidaries - beginners and more advanced - working under the able direction of Russ Girard. This is a wonderful craft training for these youngsters and Russ is to be commended for the fine work he is doing.

If hard work pays off, this year's show should top all previous efforts, because Jim DeZwaan has been really plugging. He has his committee in high gear and has put the bit on nearly every club member to do something - enter a display, demonstrate, set up a window, be a host or hostess, call a list, do something. If you haven't been tabbed, better volunteer; it's easier.

Bill Atwell.



CALENDAR of EVENTS

- March 3 - Sunday at 2:00 P.M. Grand Opening of the 4th Annual Gem & Mineral Show at the Grand Rapids Public Museum.
- March 13 - Wednesday at 8:00 P.M. Regular monthly meeting of GRMS at Riverside Elementary School, 2420 Coit N E, Lowell Palmer on Snails and Herkimer Diamonds.
- March 18 - Monday at 8:00 P.M. Board of Control Meeting at home of Mr & Mrs F. A. Reed, 425 Lafayette N E
- March 31 - Sunday at 5:00 P.M. Close of 4th Annual Show. Please be prompt in removing your displays.
- April 10 - Wednesday at 8:00 P.M. Regular monthly meeting
- April 15 - Monday at 8:00 P.M. Board of control meeting
- April 25 - Thursday at 8:00 Mineral Group Meeting at home of Mr & Mrs Joseph Parrish.
- May 11/12 - Illinois Valley Rockhounds 5th Annual Rock Exhibit in Pekin, Illinois
- May 25/26 - Gem & Mineral Fair of Kalamazoo Geological & Mineral Society, County Center Lbdg., Recreation Park, Lake Street, Kalamazoo, Michigan
- July 17/21 Midwest Federation 1963 Field Trip Convention at Hibbing, Minnesota

NOTE!!!

Each Saturday, Sunday and Thursday during the month of March, while our displays are at the Museum, there will be special programs and demonstrations. See the Museum announcement board for details, also the Grand Rapids Press.

Note; The Mineral Group will not meet during March due to special program at Museum on Thursday, regular meeting night.

RESUME: Mr. McAleenan's TALK FOR FEBRUARY MEETING

WELL --- It seems all you have to do is sit quietly, mind your own business, while attending the February meeting of the Grand Rapids Mineral Society and you suddenly find yourself "volunteered" to write up the speaker's remarks for the next issue of the DRIFTER (beware of a vice-president named Gerry Morris - he's the sneaky type);

Having no pencil or paper on which to take notes, the following statements are gleaned from memory, pre-meeting publicity in THE GRAND RAPIDS PRESS, pre-meeting publicity in the DRIFTER, a very handy write-up in the following evening's PRESS (by one of our club's officers, I understand), plus a phone call to our speaker to verify a few facts (mainly I was curious to find out if his gift, accepted in lieu of fee, was one of the famous Petoskey stone pen sets - it was!)

Mr. George McAleenan is an independent oil consultant living here in Grand Rapids, who casually stopped in Rozema's rockpile fairly recently to become a purchaser and also suddenly found himself "volunteered" to speak at the February meeting of the Grand Rapids Mineral Society.

We all know Michigan is an oil and gas producer - "permeability, porosity and trap" are the factors necessary here for economically-sound production of the two. Also the salt sea which covered Michigan starting way back in Ordovician times, 550,000,000 years ago in the Paleozoic area, trapped tiny one-celled animals in the mud and silt, where they could not decay in the usual manner, and thus contributed to our supply of oil we find today. The first commercial oil area in Michigan was discovered in the Saginaw Field in 1925 followed by a field in the Muskegon area. Production in Michigan today is 19,000,000 barrels (1962), almost doubling the output of 10,000,000 barrels as recently as 1957. Obviously, locally produced and refined oil can be sold more cheaply than the oil piped in from the southwestern states.

Mr. McAleenan frequently mentioned the Michigan Basin, that series of "saucers" we live upon and illustrated his remarks by referring to the several geological maps he had brought with him. The glaciers which made possible our lovely Water Wonderland makes the job of the oil-seeking geologist just that much "harder" - just that much more "stuff" to drill through, but from every drilling expedition, the geologists learn something valuable about the composition of our state; even if a "dry well" is the result, the money spent - \$20,000 to \$25,000 - is not a total loss. One of the greatest producing areas right now is a field down in the Albion area, the Albion-Scipio, Trenton-Black River trend which extends 40 miles through Hillsdale, Jackson and Calhoun counties.

If any of you had any qualms or doubts, as I did, during the recent cold weather that the supply of oil and gas might run low, Mr. McAleenan's remark on that subject had a pacifying effect. The Michigan Consolidated Gas Company buys natural gas during the off-season, compresses and stores it under-

(continued next page)

RESUME (concluded)

ground in depleted gas fields in the central part of the state, Montcalm, Mecosta, and Isabella counties, and calls upon the supply when needed.

For the statistically minded, Michigan has to import 60% of its oil and 90% of its natural gas supply. There are eight refining companies engaged in business in our state at the present time.

For the visual-minded Mr. McAleenan brought with him core sample from drillings, geological maps, a microscope, a geoscope ----- and a very interesting, informal talk - also a promise to return to our meeting another time with slides and projector to show us visible proof of the thriving oil and gas business he was talking about.

Mrs. Charles R. French

LAPIDARY AWARD TO BE PRESENTED MONTHLY

Next meeting will mark the beginning of a new era for those interested in working with stones. The Board of Control have set up provisions for the presentation of a lapidary award of the month. This should live the interests of both the cutter and those just interested in seeing what can be done with stones. At present we will have no special categories so you are invited to bring your favorite cab., flat, carving, or what have you, perhaps you can return home with a blue ribbon.

The object of the award is to stimulate interest in cutting and polishing through a little friendly competition at our monthly meetings. Any work submitted will remain the property of the individual and will be returned at the end of the meeting. Judges will be members of our C Club who have had some experience in working with stones, but being amateurs, the judges choice may not always agree with your. A set of rules will be formulated and printed in the DRIFTER in the near future to help you in preparing your work. Those wishing constructive criticism of their work may request it from the judges.

Taking a cab as an example, the judges would look for accuracy of size if a standard shape is being used, symmetry of the curved portion, general proportions of the finished cab., quality of the polish, esthetic use of the pattern if present, orientation as to chatoyance, schiller, or other characteristics of the stone. There are, of course, other criteria than those mentioned used in attempting to judge a cab. The intrinsic value of the stone will not be considered as a point in judging as this is intended to improve the quality of our workmanship rather than to deflate our pocketbooks. Obviously, however, a good quality agate, for example, will usually produce a better finished product than one of poorer quality.

If competition is stiff the difficulties inherent in one stone over another in obtaining a polish, undercutting etc. will be
(continued next page)

LAPIDARY AWARD (CONTINUED)

taken into consideration. In general at least for the present, we hope you will have a little fun and learn a little more about this art of cutting and polishing, perhaps picking up a few pointers from others and giving out with a few helpful hints of your own in return.

The judges will be Russ Girard, Bill Rosel, and Dick Rose for the March meeting. We will eventually have five or six judges just to make sure that at least three will be present at each meeting. Any comments good or bad should be directed to Dr. Rose who has been asked to take charge of this project which was started by Joe Hanna before his departure. Bring along something for next month's competition and Good Luck!!

Richard W. Rose, Chairman
Lapidary Award-of-the-month Committee.

* * * * *

OUR TRIP TO LIZZADRO MUSEUM

On Sunday, February 24, 36 members of the Society and their guests found that it is a pleasure to take a bus and leave the driving to a good natured driver. The field trip to Lizzadro Museum of Lapidary Arts at Elmhurst, Illinois, left everyone impressed to the gasping point. It was the kind of trip that is a sure cure for cabin fever. The Museum was opened before the regular hour especially for our group. We were greeted by Mr. Joseph Lizzadro himself, who talked for a short time about his collection and how he had acquired some of the pieces. Then everyone took off to look and "oh" and "ah" and look some more. Mr. Lizzadro took time for chats with individuals and groups as they admired the unbelievably beautiful carvings and other pieces.

Although the displays will be changed from time to time, one of the most magnificent pieces is to be kept on view permanently. Facing the entrance of the building, on the rear wall, is a Chinese screen. Each of the thirteen panels is seven feet tall and is framed in carved rosewood. The background of cinnabar sets off the symbolic designs in jade, lapis lazuli, ivory, mother-of-pearl, and other precious stones. It was presented as a birthday gift to a Chinese emperor about 250 years ago. Another of the greatest treasures of the Museum is a five-piece jade altar set stolen from the Emperor's Summer Palace when the Chinese capital was burned in 1860. Those who had always thought of jade as green or white were surprised to find how beautiful the rare mauve and yellow shades of jade can be.

Besides the jade, there are star rubies, and sapphires, faceted aquamarines, topaz, amethyst, and other precious stones. There are also crystals and crystal clusters and massive mineral pieces, as well as agate slabs and carvings. Among the most unusual displays are ten dioramas along the sides of the main exhibit hall. All the animal figures in these were carved especially for the Museum in Idar-Oberstein.

On the lower floor are a lapidary workshop and space for jewelry making. There are also wall cases, which were filled with
(continued next page)

OUR TRIP (continued)

exhibits by lapidary and earth science clubs of the Chicago area.

This was no trip for a would-be calorie counter. Lowell Palmer came supplied with a crate of oranges and pounds of chocolate candies and sat up in front. Nina Rozema was at the rear with dozens of goo-oo-ey fried cakes and vismarks. Between the two of them no one went hungry. The travelers carried their own lunches, and hot coffee was supplied. Then on the return trip a swarm of locusts descended on a stop on the Indiana Toll Road and cleaned them out of food entirely. For the sake of anyone who is curious, the snow in Illinois and Indiana looked just like the snow in Michigan.

Our congratulations and thanks to Bill Atwell for doing such a swell job of planning and arranging this trip in such a short time.

Esther A. Hall

* * * * *

FROM ROCK OF AGES MUSIC RESOUNDS
WHEN THEY PLAY THE GREAT STALACPIPE ORGAN

"Sermons in Stone" is just a figure of speech, but Leland W. Sprinkle, Sr., has coaxed real music from stone in the Caverns of Luray, just below the Skyline Drive which winds along the Blue Ridge mountains of Virginia. A great Stalacpipe Organ electronically controls the cushioned hammers that strike stalactites, producing beautiful tones.

The idea originated when four-year-old Robert Sprinkle bumped his head on a Luray stalactite in 1954, and the deep tone of the rock fascinated him and his father even more than the bump. Sprinkle, Sr., an electronic scientist at the Pentagon, was excited by the idea of creating a device to play musical selections on the stalactites.

To begin, he had to answer the 64-acre question -- was it possible to tune the stalactites in the caverns which covered that much area? Many would have been discouraged to find, as Sprinkle did, that only two of the stalactites were naturally in tune.

For tuning the others, a system of grinding was worked out, with aluminum oxide sanding discs rotating at high speed. Although the discs were tough enough to wear down tempered steel, the stalactites wore them down readily.

Thirteen English tuning forks were used for initial prospecting before precise tuning could be done by referring to a system of precision oscillators. These were amplified so they could be heard above the grinding which must continue for each stalactite until the beats, or wav effects, disappeared.

It is a tricky job, but a lasting one. These exceptionally hard rocks will stay in tune, says Sprinkle, for at least a thousand years.

Reprint from "GEMS" Kalamazoo Geological & Mineral Society

LETTERS WE WANT TO SHARE

San Pedro, Calif. Feb 13

Dear Nina & Bob:

You have no idea how happy we were to receive the February issue of the Drifter, it so to speak, put us back in Grand Rapids among our many rockhound friends whom we miss very much. That has been our biggest loss, the hundreds of friends and acquaintances that we made in the 42 years we lived in Grand Rapids.

From all reports you have another record winter there which we do not miss, average temperature here during the winter months are from 70 to 80° shirt sleeve weather most of the time and although they have had frost in the desert and lower areas it has never gone below 40 where we live, which is only 3 blocks from the ocean, in fact we can see it from our kitchen window.

We changed our minds about living in a trailer and bought a house instead on a 50 by 130 ft lot. We have 3 peach trees, 2 avocados, 2 figs, about 30 tea roses, 3 ramblers, camelias, bird of paradise, fuschia, cala lilies and many others that I don't know the name of and most of them have bloomed all winter.

I hope to put a small addition on my garage for a rock shop because I have no room for one now, so that I have not been able to follow my hobby since leaving Michigan, but hope to correct that this summer.

When we started our trip out here I had such high hopes of stopping along the way and look for rocks but we were so loaded down, in fact we had to have overload springs put on both the car and trailer to keep the tires from rubbing, so we came right on through and only stopped in a few of the National Parks, Pikes Peak, Mesa Verde and the Grand Canyon. To climb Pikes Peak we had to unload the wagon but had no trouble other than almost being blown away by the tail end of a tornado in Kansas.

A week after we arrived our daughter and family and we went to Yosemite for a week, the Grand Canyon is awe inspring but Yosemite has such rugged beauty and one week was not enough time to see it all. We climbed to the foot of the Nevada Falls and needless to say we took many pictures.

We were stunned to hear about Les Pearl's untimely death and we join you and the other members in mourning for him, why do the good ones die young? He willbbe missed.

I am enclosing a check for two dollars to continue my membership for the coming year and to insure my getting the Drifter and be able to read Bill Atwell's editorials, such as the one by Annie Slanders.

Please remember us to our many friends and know that we will not soon forget them.

Sincerely your friends

Gus and Tess Beuker

(continued next page)

Letters (continued)

The day after the February Drifter was mailed we received a call from Jack Baines advising that Ray Fox had had an accident and was paid up with a broken wrist. The following is his reply to our message:

February 20, 1963

Dear Friends:

Thanks for the card and note, I never knew how helpless I could be by completely loosing the use of my right hand. The cast is from my shoulder to my fingers, I am only a one finger typist and now that finger is on my left hand and its stiff with arthritis, so please excuse mistakes, but it should come off March 8th, so guess I can make it. However, eight weeks is all is too much.

Are the Society dues still \$3.00? and who shall I send it to? I was in hopes that I could have been able to put in a display at the next show, but I know now that will be impossible.

Well you know that a woodchuck can't give out much news when he is down in his hole in the middle of the winter, so

Sincerely, Clara & Ray Fox

Received a card showing the Blue Mesa, Petrified Forest National Monument, Arizona from our new members, the Henry Noordheims with this message:

2-21-63

"Visited here yesterday and got 35 lbs of specimens outside the Park, Today we got 71 pieces of turquoise from 9 different mines. Watched Indians making jewelry today and saw some other things they'd made and brought in for sale.

"We're starting home now and expect to arrive about March 1st"

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P. S. We make a nice stiff brush that stays stiff in hot water. Sometimes makes an old rock good enough to keep.

Remember, we are a factory, we make things: one product - satisfied customers.

WHAT ARE THE ADVANTAGES IN BELONGING TO THE MIDWEST FEDERATION?

About the time that dues become due we hear this question. It's only natural that we worry about where the money is going but but this year it seemed to come up more than usual, perhaps stimulated by the increase in the fee to twenty-five cents. At any rate as Liaison representative the query usually ends up in my lap, so this will be an attempt to answer the question.

As an enthusiastic rockhound it is a little difficult to get down to specifics, and much easier to give the usual answers; such as "look at the friends that I have met and made because I was fortunate enough to belong to a club that was in the federation." Or to mention that any of the last three Midwest Federation Conventions which I have been fortunate enough to attend make my little "two-bit" contribution look pretty small. By the way, I wouldn't miss the one at Hibbing for anything, but let's try to mention a few specifics.

There is the program manual listing available programs in the area, films, and other program ideas. The Midwest Federation directory lists the Clubs in our area, their officers, the time and place of meeting. Going on a trip, want some information on the area that you are going to visit, you may get some help by using the directory and writing ahead. Or if it is visiting a club that you are interested in this information is also available to you. Your secretary has a copy of the current directory.

Want to swap? Mr. R. K. Lampe of Dubuque heads up the Mineral and Fossil exchange program Committee. Bob Markert of Ishpeming heads up the Field Trip Program sponsored by the Federation. You are welcome to most field trips put on by other clubs if you are a member of a club belonging to the Federation.

Do you like to participate in the Shows either competitive or non-competitive? The federation has them. Local, regional, Rockramas, as well as the big Midwest Show and we are automatically members of the American Federation so you can go to the top if you so desire.

There are many other committess designed to help us. True, being run by non-paid volunteers such as you and I, who must work for a living, sometimes causes lags in communication, and other minor frustrations but on the whole the members of the Federation are as helpful a bunch as you can find and there is much more help available than most of us think possible.

For my part, there never was a question about belonging, but if any of you have any questions please let me know and I will attempt to answer them. If I can't, and if no one here can we will send it to the Midwest Federation and see if they can.

Dr. Richard W. Rose, Liaison Rep.

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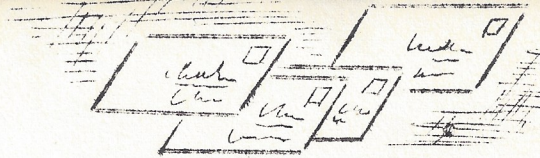
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M.W.F.



LETTER OF THE MONTH

February, 1963 (arrived too late for the February DRIFTER)

A PROPOSAL by Ben Moulton, Department of Science, Indiana State College, Terre Haute, Indiana

A short time ago the writer sent a proposal to Bernice Rexin, our President, concerning the possibility of developing for club use a series of Kodachrome slides on various aspects of mineralogy. The slides would be divided into seven sets of about 35-60 slides each as listed at the close of this letter. The slides could be used for club programs but could also be used for information and instructional purposes for small club groups. This second use might be the principal use of most of the series.

The source of the slides would be from club members who would loan to the Midwest Federation the slides. If they were selected they would be duplicated and the original returned to the owner. In use, the authorship of each slide would be acknowledged. A guide book for each series would be prepared.

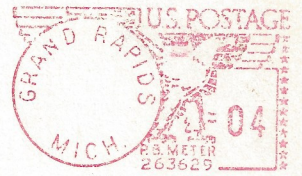
The slides would represent material and items from the midwest where the remoteness to the individual would not be so great.

So many clubs seem to have one or more members that combine rock and minerals with photography. To put their results together would seem well worth while. If there are such that have slides and features listed, I hope each willing to loan slides or even one slide would write me first so that I can give them further details on how we will handle the slides here to insure their safety.

The proposed list of films or slides is:

- | | |
|---|---|
| A. Properties of Minerals
of example slides showing:
Color (fluorite, tourmaline)
luster
cleavage
crystal shape (good garnets)
etc. | B. Metallic Minerals
galena
sphalerite
copper
pyrite
etc |
| C. Non-Metallic Minerals
Gypsum
halite
mica
etc. | D. Mineral Families
as many pictures of different
kinds of quartz and calcite
as available. |
| E. Minerals for the Lapidary
pictures of slabs of rock
of various types | F. Mineral Site Types in Midwest
pictures of quarries and
especially minerals in posi-
tion in quarry wall. Quarry
should be identified and
located. |
| G. Techniques of collecting,
cleaning, labelling and
display. | |

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