

Volume 5, no 5 = May, 1963



the

GLACIAL

DRIFFTER

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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

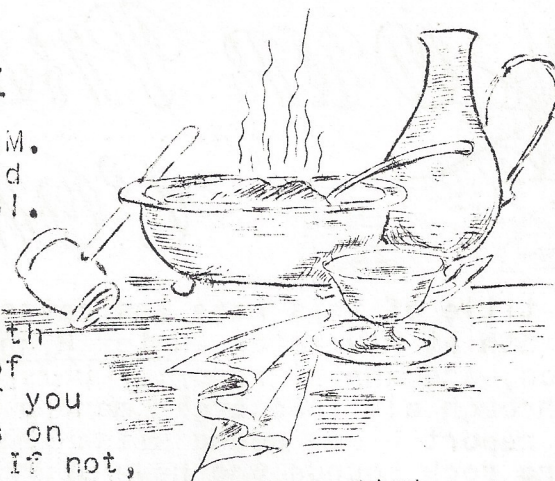
All material to be published must be in the hands of the editor no later than the 25th of the month preceding publication.

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

Member - Bulletin Editors Association.

EATING MEETING PLANNED FOR MAY

Wednesday, May 8th, at 6:30 P.M. the Annual Meeting will be held at Riverside Junior High School. Please note the place, Junior High.



Potluck dinner at 6:30 P.M. with Mrs. James Waldron in charge of arrangements. We trust all of you have sent in your reservations on the blanks mailed last week. If not, be sure to give Mrs. Waldron a call today, CH 3-1474. We need your cooperation in order to know how much coffee, milk, rolls, and butter to order. Bring your own table service.

If you cannot come in time for dinner, try to make it for the meeting at 8:00 P.M. when there will be an election of officers and board members. Bill Atwell will show slides of our club activities during the past year.

A beautiful opal set in an original design sterling silver pendant will be taken home by some lucky person. Proceeds from the sale of these tickets will go to purchase equipment for the Junior Geology Group which meets at the Museum. Come prepared to help this worthy group. Donor of this pendant wishes to remain unnamed - a very modest fellow. There will also be other door prizes.

This is our FUN meeting for the year. Hope to see all of you there.

Lapidary Award of the Month competition has been made into two classifications, Junior (16 yrs and under) and Senior. It has been decided that there must be at least four entrants in a classification in order to have an award. How about trying your luck this month?

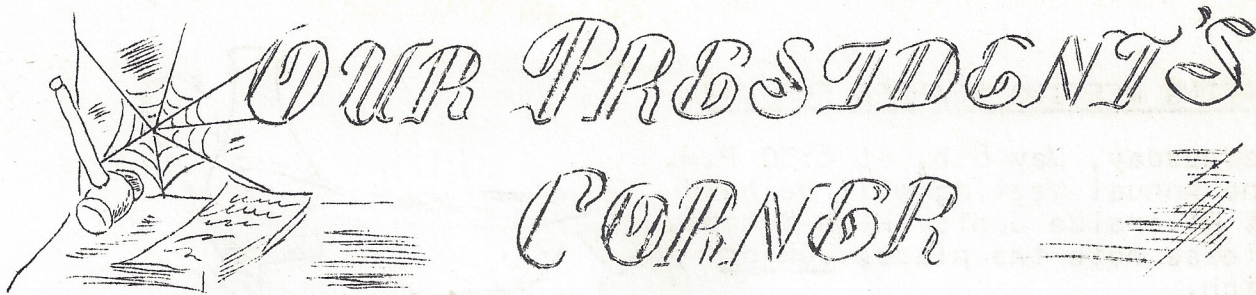
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NO HITTER WINS SERIES FOR POST

With no opposition Augie Post pitched himself a no hitter ball game by being unanimously nominated our next mineral society president and proceeded to be the feature program on the April meeting. As he says "being a bit shook up" Augie bounced us over mountain ranges with color slides to illustrate his many and varied trips. This man clicks a mean shutter and his color slides are beautiful to behold. Mrs. Post was in Kentucky taking care of new twin grand-daughters so Leo Hoogerhyde was in charge of the projector. Jim DeZwaan passed out calcite facts for a memorable ten minutes before Augie took the floor. Nice calciting, Brother Jim.

For May our illustrious and learned president will present his usual inimitable annual color slide report with tape recordings as only Atwell can make them.

Gerald B. Morris, Chairman
Program Committee



OUR PRESIDENT'S CORNER

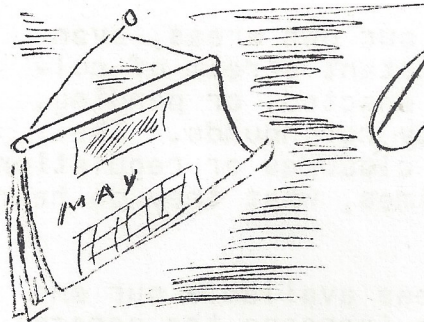
As the title of this page indicates, the president is in a corner. On May 8th at Riverside Junior High School is the annual potluck, election, and annual report. BUT, this is a short year. We just went through all this eight months ago, so the pickings for the annual report - our sound slide show - are slim. Any of you shutter flicking rock hounds who have appropriate slides please call me quick or plan to go home early on the 8th.

We hope these annual reports have been fun, if they have it has been because of the efforts of our most persistent photographer - Bob Rozema. At various times we have tried to make Bob the official club photographer and have the club pay for all the film he shoots on club activities and for the processing, Each time he has refused so his efforts continue to be a contribution to the club. Some of the rest of us manage to help out with a slide or two, but the big thanks to Bob!

The future soundness of the club has been assured by the nominating committee and the membership in naming Augie Post to the presidency and Jack Kirkwood as vice president. With agates and geodes we're in. One must admit it is an improvement on blowpipes and petrified mud. We are also sure that the club records will continue in good order with Jane Cichaniewicz returning as secretary. The treasury will be as well guarded as it has been with Charlie Moore (what a miser he has been!) whether Madeline Vickery or Lucile Pearl is elected. Lucile held the purse strings last year and Madeline works for a bank. How can you beat the choice you have there? Luckily Nina Rozema has again agreed to be the bulletin editor - wotta gall! Midwest's foremost salesman in the club is again the liaison officer and they know Dick Rose's address so he should get communications promptly. Even the race for historian turned into a hot one when the Potter family volunteered to snip and paste so now Marie Spielmaker is busy campaigning. With the field of nominees for the board we will probably be all night counting the votes, but you can't miss on any of them. Jerry and his committee are to be commended for the selections they presented and for the response from the membership.

The first outdoor field trip of the year went off excellently with Elaine Smith taking a goodly group along the shores of Lake Michigan to collect septaria. There were some good finds and Elaine did very well in guiding members to likely spots. We counted somewhere in the neighborhood of 20 cars but the people were so scattered along the beach that we didn't get a good count. It helped the spring fever like everything to have the sun come out and to be on the beach after 10 these many months. Now we are looking forward to those trilobites waiting for us at Sylvania and the cephalopods curling themselves in the sun at Rogers City. Glad to hear some of our Kalamazoo friends joined us at Glenn and we hope more will be with us at Rogers City.

Grab your knapsack, safety glasses, rock pick and let's go!
Bill Atwell President



CALENDAR of EVENTS

- May 8 Wednesday - 6:30 P.M. Annual Meeting at Riverside Junior High School. Potluck dinner. Election and Annual Report
- May 11 Saturday - 10 A.M. Field Trip to Sylvania, Ohio for trilobites, brachiopods, etc. Meet at Brint and Centennial Roads, Sylvania. Further details available at May 8th meeting. Three of the juniors are looking for a ride, if you have the space for them please contact Nina Rozema for names.
- May 13 Monday - 8:00 P.M. Board of Control Meeting at home of Mr & Mrs Henry Tchozeski, 2941 Edgewood NE
- May 23 Thursday - 8:00 P.M. Mineral Group meeting at home of Mr Newton Cairns, 2226 Thornwood S W
- May 25-26 Saturday - Sunday KALAMAZOO GEM & MINERAL FAIR. Free admission. See details on pink sheet in the April DRIFTER.
- June 8-9 Saturday, Sunday - Field Trip to Rogers City. Sign up at May meeting.
- June 12 Wednesday - Regular meeting at Fallesburg County Park
- July 10 Wednesday - Regular meeting at Caledonia County Park
- July 17-21 MIDWEST FEDERATION FIELD TRIP CONVENTION, Hibbing Minnesota. Detailed report appears in this issue of DRIFTER
- August 4 Wednesday - Regular meeting at Townsend Park

OUR "PUBLIC IMAGE" by Al Keen, Vicepresident AFMS

Perhaps the most valuable asset we, as individual rockhounds, societies, and Federations, can have is a favorable "PUBLIC IMAGE" - which is simply good will; what others think of us. Industry spends millions of dollars every year to achieve this objective.

We can no longer live within our own clubs, our own areas, even our own Federation. We are faced with a constant stream of collecting area closures, of legislation being enacted, or pending, withdrawing areas or regulating collecting by rockhounds. The general public is little concerned by these closures or regulations because they know little about us and, at times, what they do hear is not too favorable.

If we are to continue to have collecting areas available our one best bet is to do everything in our power to increase the general public's opinion of us by engaging in beneficial community activities - and letting people know about it! Many clubs and individuals are already doing this in varying degrees. However, it will require the full cooperation of every member to build up and maintain the image we should have. We know that our members are the finest people on earth - we must convince others of that fact!

Here are some of the ways we can provide beneficial community services and help to increase our stature at the same time:

(1) Actively support the H.E.L.P. -- Help Eliminate Litter, Please -- Project. This gives us the opportunity to beautify our country, save us, as taxpayers, many thousands of dollars each year - now being spent to clean up the litter - and, at the same time build good will nationwide. PRACTICE IT! Influence others to join in! Use H.E.L.P. stickers to publicize it!

(2) Get behind the AFMS Scholarship Fund. Put your 2¢ worth at every one of your club meetings. 2¢ isn't much, but multiplied by 50,000 it sure is! The future of our nation depends to a large extent on our trained scientists; and we can help so easily -- TELL OTHERS ABOUT IT.

(3) Save your cancelled stamps and turn them in to your club bulletin editor to help provide milk and food for children who seldom have enough to eat. Contact your friends and enlist their aid. Let them know what you are doing - as a rockhound group.

(4) Engage in all possible community activities. Work with young peoples organizations; Science camps; Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts; Campfire Girls; all Union Groups, etc. Put on displays and programs for any organization requesting it. Work with your public library in setting up educational displays. Identify your club with your museum and help it in every possible way. These are just a few of the ways individuals and clubs can participate in community activities which are beneficial to all concerned. Many are already doing some of these; all should! AND LET OTHERS KNOW WHAT IS BEING DONE!

A word of caution: Rockhounds know how to conduct themselves on field trips and all other occasions; which should always be as ladies and gentlemen. The hobby has no room for those who do not do so! A careless act or remark may do irreparable harm; it affects not just one individual, but the rockhound hobby as a whole.

(continued next page)

OUR "PUBLIC IMAGE"(concluded)

As a citizen every rockhound has the right to express an opinion on legislation concerning withdrawal or regulation of collecting areas, if he so desires. However, be sure to have all the facts possible. Appoint a committee in your club to ascertain them; confer with other clubs in other areas; with Federation officers; with government officials and any others who might have information. -- If you then feel that an opinion will serve the best interests of rockhounds everywhere, express it in a courteous manner to the proper person, or persons.

If we have a reputation as a community-minded organization, as well as a top-rated hobby group, our opinions will command attention and be more carefully considered; and we can enlist the approval and support of the general public if this seems advisable. Without this we have two strikes on us to start. No Federation can take part in any political activity; individuals can, but this privilege should be used with discretion and only after careful analysis of the problem - and should represent the consensus of many different opinions, not just those of one or two persons.

The highest possible public good will can not be built up over night! it can not be built up at all if only a handful participate. It will require the full, nationwide cooperation of every member - and from now on! Every individual member and every club can play a vital part in building up our prestige by engaging in the activities mentioned and others as well, - and by making them continuous projects! This may not be the full answer to all our problems but it will, without any doubt, go a long way toward solving them. We will have a much better chance of keeping open both private and public collecting areas.

Let's all do everything possible to build up our "Public Image" and to guard it as a sacred trust; IT MAY WELL BE THE KEYSTONE TO OUR FUTURE!

February 1963 Northwest Newsletter

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JOE PARISH ENTERTAINS MINERAL GROUP

The Mineral Group traveled to the northwest with Joe Parish as he showed slides of his trip and samples of the rocks which make up the rim of Crater Lake and obsidian from Obsidian Mountain. At the time he made his trip Joe tells us that he wasn't too interested in rocks and passed Pridey Ranch without even a second glance. We ate deer burgers made from the deer Joe shot with an arrow last fall. Best eating we have had in a long time. Too bad more of you weren't there to enjoy the evening with us.

The Mineral Group's next meeting will be held at the home of Mr. Newton Cairns, 2226 Thornwood S W on Thursday, May 23rd at 8:00 PM Don't expect deerburgers but do know that we will be seeing one of the outstanding collections in this part of the country. Why not join us?

A SUMMARY OF THE '63 MIDWEST FEDERATION FIELD TRIP CONVENTION
IN THE ARROWHEAD OF NORTHEAST MINNESOTA
17 - 21 July 1963

By Margaret Peterzen
for Conrad Peterzen, G.C.

First of all there will be a registration fee of \$4.00 which will include insurance and badge and booklet (one copy - 220 pp). There will be separate fee of \$2.25 for entrance to the thomsonite collecting area. This will be just about the last chance to collect thomsonites in the rough. The site has been leased and bulldozing is proceeding to turn up fresh pickings by a private party who has agreed to let our field-trips be the first to explore, Don't miss this opportunity of a lifetime.

There will be field trips on Thursday, Friday, Saturday, and Sunday, (18-21 July). On the first three days there will be trips to each area; on Sunday the longer trips may not be offered. Let us follow Mr. Rockhound as he participates. He's decided to do everything and see everything. On Wednesday, he can't wait so he's up early and as a club delegate is at the council meeting of the MWF bright and early. Dinner will be available at the meeting place for optimum efficiency. Thursday Mr. Rockhound is up really early to board a bus for Duluth, Grand Marais, etc to find gabbro, thomsonites, agates, etc. Only bus travel is planned for this trip. Sack lunches should be taken as they will allow you more time to hunt the elusive minerals.

On Friday Mr. Rockhound and family are up early again for a bus trip to Ely and the search for Soudan Quartz crystals, Ely lump hematite and Ely greenstone. In the evening there will be a fish and steak fry hosted by the Greenstone Division of the Mesabi Rock & Mineral Club. A very able speaker will be there too, also a swap session with the Greenstones!

Saturday starts with an Editor's Breakfast and the awarding of the winners of the annual Bulletin Award of the MWF. This will start about 7:30 A.M.! Also a field trip to Grand Rapids to look for fossils and tube agate and further to the Crosby-Ironton area to search for silkstone and binghamite. In the evening about 7:30PM the big banquet will be held in the Hibbing Armory. About \$2.50 per person. Another very good speaker is in the offing. The silent auction is also planned for the late evening of this day.

On Sunday, Mr. Rockhound and family may go to the church of their choice. A whole series of short field trips to the local mines - The Hull-Rust for goethite and marmite and maybe lunch in the bottom of the largest open pit mine in the world. Also to the Judson near Buhl for fossils and to Mountain Iron to see the Pilotac, USSteel's taconite plant. Over further to Gilbert area for Mary Ellen jasper and maybe fern fossils.

Also during these days there are movies and slides in the Hibbing Armory Rifle range (out of the sun) and much activity in the swap and tailgate section on the Fairgrounds. Hunting in the rockpile by the registration desk and comparing the specimens from the egg cartons with the ones picked up the previous day on the fieldtrip.

As of this time (26th of March) it is expected that at least 2,500 people will be at the convention. All of the above mentioned field trips will be going everyday!!

SUNNARY '63 CONVETNION (Concluded)

Requests for registration forms (1 per person) should be addressed to the general Chairman, Conrad Peterzen, 2607 E 3 Ave, Hibbing, Minnesota. They will be mailed out with hotel and motel accomadations on the 15th of April 1963.

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ABOUT NOMENCLATURE - Bill deNeui

LET'S CALL A SPADE A SPADE

Why should we -- what's in a name, anyway?

A lot, A whole lot. Would you for one mement consider saying "Johnny" when you're talking about that cute little girl of yours; or call your new split-level a barn? I think not!!

Then how come so many of us, (yes, me too), talk or write about MORRISONITE when we really mean JASPER, from Morrison;s Ranch; HERKIMER DIAMONDS when we mean QUARTZ from Herkimer County; APACHE TERAS when we mean VOLCANIC GLASS; LAGUNA when we mean AGATE from Laguna, Mexico?

One may ask, what difference does it make?

A great deal of difference; for example --

1. When your dealer misnames material in his advertising, how will you know what it is he offers for sale?
2. When you describe a show or a display you've seen and admired, how can you convey a picture if local nicknames are used?
3. When you correspond, or even talk with a fellow Rockhound about his lapidary masterpiece or your lovely cabinet specimen, will either of you understand, for sure, what the other is saying?
4. When the Judges come to examine your display at the Show, how many points will they have to take off your score because of several nisnames?

---and is this problem confined entirely to Mineralogists and mineral specimens? Not at all! -- experienced judges say that their biggest problems arise among lapidary displays, nor is this hard to understand. The Mineralogist has only his mineral specimens to study and know; that's his first interest. But the lapidary's first concern is his workmanship. Identification of his material can easily become a secondary consideration. (How well I know).

Now let's not get the idea that the AFMS or your Regional, by appointing Committees, or through long hours of work, or by any other means can do anything about it. That's strictly up to each individual. only YOU can give yourself the knowledge you need to correctly describe and name the material you're working on or placing in your collection.

(continued next page)

ABOUT NOMENCLATURE (Concluded)

The Federations can, and pestiferously will, keep poking at you about it and keep reminding you, but YOU are the only one in the whole world that can do something; -- and here's how --

Your Regional has been asked to suggest to your Local Club President that he appoint one or more of your own Club members as a Local Nomenclature Committee, (and if he doesn't, you get right after him) This Committee will be the knowledgeable, old time collectors and/or lapidaries who already know at least half the answers. Their jobs on such Committees won't be work, - no meetings - no reports; only the one thing they like best, namely looking at and talking about ROCKS.

So you've got a piece of material - you're not sure just what it is. You take it along to your next meeting and examine it with one of your Committee members. If he's sure of its identity and of its CORRECT name, (and most of the time he will be), you've got your answer. If he isn't, he'll know another member who may be. And if that fails, your club's (or City's) library can help. After all that has been tried without success, he still can write to his Regional, get the name of a nearby University or similar agency (lists furnished the regional by AFMS) to whom you can send the specimen for really authoritative identification.

Note carefully one thing though! YOU are the one that pushes the deal -- and how could it be otherwise? The world's foremost authority could be your next-door neighbor, yet if you don't ask him, you learn nothing.

Just think about this a bit -- if your material is worth assembling, cleaning, displaying, cutting and polishing and then admiring surely it is worth knowing its name, its correct name, that is.

Take the unknowns one or two at a time as you go along, and the first thing you know, you'll have it. You'll be able to call your whole collection of specimens by their correct names, same as you do all your other friends.

LET'S CALL A SPADE A SPADE

* * * * *

AN APOLOGY - WE GOOFED

Anyone notice that this writer didn't give Dr. Rose a bouquet of roses for his kick-off talk on Identification By Cleavage which should have been included in the report of the March meeting? Sorry, doctor, we just plain forgot.

G.B.Morris

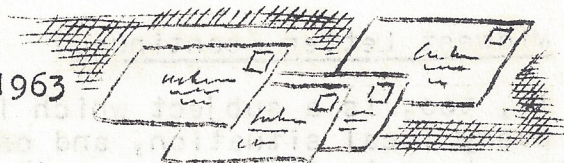
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DON'T FORGET - KALAMAZOO GEM & MINERAL FAIR

Kalamazoo Gem & Mineral Fair is scheduled for May 25-26. Many good programs, displays, dealers, door prizes, auction, swap. Should be well worth a drive down.

M.W.F.

April, 1963



LETTER OF THE MONTH

GENERAL INFORMATION CONCERNING EARTH SCIENCE

BY Dr. Ben Hur Wilson

What is Earth Science?

This is a question that we frequently hear asked, and furthermore just where does the Midwest, or for that matter any Federation, come into the picture? This we shall attempt to answer as concisely as possible, while at the same time we shall endeavor to point out the many fine opportunities it affords for the advancement of both individual and community welfare.

It has been stated many times, without serious question, that there is at present, perhaps, no other field of important human knowledge, concerning which there exists such abysmal ignorance, among the well educated and cultured class, that there is concerning the fundamentals of ERDKUNDE- earth knowledge.

Not too long ago, should one have mentioned the subject before some sophisticated intelligentsia, (high-brows to us), more than likely they would have come back with the query: EARTH SCIENCE, - what is that - never heard of it. Happily, today, due to the splendid promotional efforts of our many fine Earth Science Hobby Clubs and Societies, and our Federations, this is no longer so true.

Again we might ask the question, why is Earth Science, including all of its kindred facets one of the fastest growing hobbies in the country today? Some, indeed, may say even the fastest; now running third only to photography and stamp-coin collecting hobby. If this be true there must be some good reason for its being, - no doubt there are many. Let us now take a serious look at the picture and make a little retrospective and prospective analysis. Cause and effect one might say.

What is Earth Science you say. I say Earth Science is a comprehensive composite term which embraces all such subjects as are concerned with the physical and dynamic earth. This would include physiography, geography, meteorology, and certain phases of the geological sciences including the science of the rocks, the minerals, crystals, fossils, etc. For, their study and employment as an avocational hobby, they have no equal.

It is therefore, one of the broadest of subjects, and by reason of the great breadth and versatility of its content can easily be made one of the most interesting subjects not only in the entire school curriculum, but also as a cultural hobby as well.

(continued next page)

Midwest Letter (continued)

It, too, is a subject which lends itself readily to any and every local situation, and one need not go far away from his own home to find many excellent examples for study. In this respect, it also has for most individuals great carry over value into their actual living experience, which is always one of the best recommendations for any situation.

To begin with, the earth being definitely our home, in a larger sense, for the duration of our natural lifetime, we should come to know it intimately from every possible angle, just as we should want to become fully acquainted with our own locality and its physical environment. Through the study of Earth Science, we should arrive at an awareness that we actually know the Earth, and likewise into a realization that we are a part of it and it is a part of us, and that we should live in complete harmony with it. This in itself should make for a better and more rational living experience.

Furthermore, we are indebted to the earth for all of our natural resources. In other words, for all that we are, have, or make use of. It is that vast storehouse from which we derive, either directly or indirectly, all our food, shelter, and raiment, as well as our oil, fuel, building materials, and the raw materials for all of our industries. Is it not natural to assume, then, that anyone who goes through life without a true understanding of all this and how it came about, must be unnecessarily handicapped in his thinking and in the method of his attack on and solution of the problem of life? This alone is reason enough for individual interest and the broadening of his living experience.

Without begging the question further, let us make only a few pertinent statements outlining our point of view. These are they:

1. Earth Science encourages the questioning "why"? (Scientific thinking.)
2. Earth Science develops interest in leisure-time activities.
3. Earth Science develops an interest in nature-environment.
4. Earth Science teaches living on earth, not teaching to live.
5. Earth Science adds through study of new terms, an appreciation of language.
6. Earth Science adds to enriched appreciation of world in which we live.
7. It is a stimulus to "rationalized living" and confines our thinking to things which are tangible.

In closing now let us ask, just where does EARTH SCIENCE Magazine come into the picture. In the first place while it is the official publication of the Midwest Federation, the Federation as such, has not one cent invested in the magazine and therefore, it is no burden upon it. It in itself is published solely as a hobby by six devoted Earth Science enthusiasts, and while it now consistently operates in the BLACK, every dollar of income is placed directly back into the magazine.

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MIDWEST Letter (concluded)

With an operating budget of approximately \$12,000.00 per year, some \$2,500.00 worth of printed space is donated gratis to the promotion of Midwest Federation interest and welfare. While many of our 150 affiliated clubs support the magazine generously by their individual and gift subscriptions, there are many other clubs that have less than 5 or 10 subscribers each, which we feel to be a reflection upon their loyalty, to Federation activities, objectives and interest. In other words, the more subscribers they produce, the better and larger the magazine will become.

A fine variety of articles of interest to Earth Science hobbyists are published in each issue, many written by authors of national acclaim, all on the level of the lay-reader. We are told over and over by many subscribers that just one single article to their interest and liking is often worth more than the price of a whole years subscription.

We feel that Earth Science magazine as the Federation house-organ should be on the reading table of every club member family, and since this can be done at less than the cost of one steak dinner or two cartons of cigarettes per year, we cannot see why so many should look at a dollar so long when it comes to buying a good book or subscribing to a good hobby magazine. Can you?

Perhaps each club should appoint a literature chairman, who might be able to stimulate more interest in the valuable contribution of the printed page, which would be to the great advantage of all concerned. We shall await your reaction to this suggestion with interest. You take it from here.

WHY NOT SUBSCRIBE, OR RENEW YOUR SUBSCRIPTION TODAY!!

Earth Science Motto: "Not the biggest, just the Best!:"

Dr. Ben Hur Wilson

ROCK SWAP

Word from Hugh Jameson advise that there will be a Rock Swap at Onsted, Michigan (Near Jackson) on June 1 and 2 sponsored by the State Line Gem and Mineral Society. Write to Mrs. Don Bruce Route 2, Blissfield, Michigan for full information.

MINERAL EXCHANGE

Don't forget the Midwest Mineral Exchange Bulletin which is issued every other month. Write to R. K. Lampe, 1175 Glen Oak Street, Dubuque, Iowa.

Editor's note: As the April letter, reproduced above, was not received until April 17th we had nothing to offer in our April issue. Guess these three pages makes up for it. Maybe the May letter will arrive in time for our June issue.

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Or do you have a good old brush that needs whiskers?
Maybe we can grow a new crop. This saves time and money.

How about that favorite bow? Need re-balancing? New string?
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