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the

GLACIAL

DRIFTER

board

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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 April) Annual Meeting second Wednesday of May at Riverside Junior High Summer meetings at different parks as announced.

Advertising in the DRIFTER is at the rate of \$3.00 per issue, (published only September thru May)

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.

OUTDOOR MEETING SCHEDULED FOR JUNE 12th

As in the past, our summer meetings are scheduled for various county parks. Our June 12th meeting will be held at Fallasburg Park (near Lowell). Picnic supper (bring your own) at 6:30 P.M. with regular meeting at 8:00, in the shelter house. Program chairman Jerry Morris, says our June meeting is going to be filled with colored sound movies: THE FOSSIL STORY, a color spectacular of the history of fossils will be shown along with THE ROCKHOUND, two shows that will be worth seeing.

Naturally, there will be door prizes, and a lapidary award contest. Be prepared, bring your best lapidary effort for the judging.

ROGERS CITY FIELD TRIP ON JUNE 8th

Saturday, June 8th, all you field trippers will be meeting at the entrance to the quarry at 9:00 A.M. where you will be met by the guides furnished by the Company and taken on a tour of this, the largest limestone quarry in the world, and then to several good collecting areas to dig to your hearts content for those good Devonian fossils which are so abundant in that area.

Bring your lunch and drinking water, and please, when you have finished lunching, pick up all refuse and leave a clean area. We are extremely lucky to be invited to this quarry and if we are to be invited another year we must do our part to see that the area is left in a neat condition.

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MINERAL GROUP MEETING

Those of you who did not attend the Mineral Group meeting on May 23rd at Newton Cairns home missed a very interesting talk on rocks and minerals mentioned in the Bible, and also missed out on a very excellent lunch.

This group will not meet during the summer months, but the next meeting will be held in September at the home of Mr & Mrs. Casey Doornbos. This will be on September 26th. Mark your calendar now so that you will have a chance to see Casey's collection of trilobites and other specimens.

* * * * *

NEW MIMEOGRAPH IN USE

Thanks to the generosity of the Board we now have a new mimeograph which is being used for the first time on this issue of the DRIFTER. No slip-sheeting - which saves considerable time. We still spend as much time assembling material, cutting stencils, addressographing, stapling and stamping, but we should be home before morning with this new machine. Thank you!!

The DRIFTER Staff



of EVENTS

- June 8 - Saturday, 9:00 A.M. Field Trip to Rogers City meet at entrance to quarry at 9:00 A.M.
- June 12 - Wednesday - regular meeting at Fallasburg Park Picnic supper at 6:30 P.M. Business and program at 8:00
- June 17 - Monday - Board of Control meeting at rozema's rockpile (back room) 776 Leonard N E Newly elected officers and board members invited to attend.
- July 10 - Wednesday - regular meeting at Caledonia Park
- July 17-21 Midwest Federation Field Trip Convention, Hibbing, Minnesota. Details at June 12th meeting including prices on trips, etc.
- August 14 regular meeting at Townsend Park
- September 8-14 Saginaw Fair Gems & Minerals Show. See article on this event in this issue of DRIFTER.

OHIO INVADED SYLVANIA OVERRUN TRILOBITES CAPTURED !!

On a chilly May 11 at 10 a.m. a band of Michiganders invaded Ohio with more peaceful aims than those who marched into Lucas County on Sept. 6, 1835. As an old ballad reports:

In eighteen hundred thirty-five there was a dreadful strife
Betwixt Ohio and this state; they talked of taking life.

Ohio claimed Toledo, and so did Michigan;

They both declared they have it with its adjoining land.

Our band of Michiganders wanted only to capture trilobites and didn't give two hoots about Toledo - we like our U.P. they gave us instead.

Before we get lost in more legends and general reports, you should know the new champion trilobite catcher. Move over, Casey Doornbos, and make way for Mrs. Reginald Voss. This gal caught one so perfect that she gave it to the drooling guide of a Cranbrook Institute expedition. She then came up with another about three inches long whose only missing part was a small bit of his lower jaw! Most of the rest of our 30 or so hunters had to settle for bits and pieces.

Our application is now in to the Medusa Portland Cement Co. for the parking concession at the pits. With this we could maybe buy a whole trilobite - we hate to think what we will have invested in the first whole one we capture by ourself. (Charlie Moore, does "ourself" go along with the editorial we?)

The reason we want this concession is that while Dorothy Waterman, Jim DeZwaan - who hates fossils anyway, Betty Mollo, the Wavios, Voss family, Casey Doornbos, and several other members, families and children were chasing these critters, about 20 cars from Flint came in to park. They were followed by 25 or 30 cars from Cranbrook. Then in came some buses and the lot was full of boys and coeds from Bowling Green University each of whom had to collect a trilobite, coral, brachiopod, cephalopod, and a couple of other things. (Some of the pebble pups cooperated with the college people and cash changed hands.) Next came cars and buses with more students. There were wearing the letters MSUO, which we found out means Michigan State University at Oakland.

We'll bet there were more people milling around that trilobite territory than there were mixed up in the Toledo War of 1835. It was not surprising that the Medusa crew fled the pit and left it to the rock choppers. With people whomping on the tops of walls, others on the floor of the pit, and youngsters heaving rocks in puddles, it is a wonder that somebody didn't end up as stiff as a fossil. As far as we know there were no casualties beyond a few battered thumbs which came between hammer and shale.

By afternoon the sun had come out, we got a bit of suntan, not much else, but when the next expedition leaves for Sylvania we'll be there again with high hopes. After all there is a law of averages.

Bill Atwell

FIRST LESLIE PEARL CONSERVATION CAMP SCHOLARSHIP AWARDED

Mrs. Margaret Cox, a ninth grade earth science teacher at South High School, has been awarded the first scholarship to the Conservation Scholarship School for Teachers given by the Grand Rapids Mineral Society in memory of Past President Leslie G. Pearl. Mrs. John Simcoe, club member and 4H Club leader from Cedar Springs, was chosen as alternate in case Mrs. Cox cannot attend for some unexpected reason.

To refresh your memory, Les attended this camp last summer on the recommendation of the Museum through a Garden Club scholarship. He came back enthusiastic about the purposes and program of the camp and its value to people working with young people in earth science and related fields. As a result he proposed that the club offer a scholarship. Most of the members of the Board were not acquainted with the camp and program. Les had an uphill struggle trying to sell the scholarship idea. Finally, a committee composed of Marian Jennings, Edna M. McDowell, and Bob Rozema was appointed to investigate.

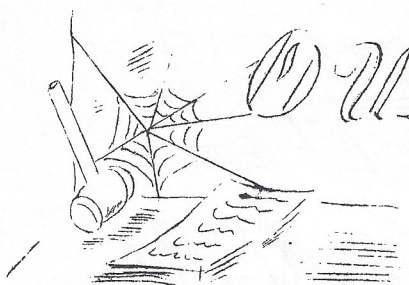
The gavel changed hands and almost immediately Les' counsel was lost. The Board adopted the scholarship idea which had been so dear to Les and decided it should be a memorial to him. The same committee carried on and has performed a quiet but outstanding job for the Board and club as a whole. Marian, as chairman, brought considerable experience to the project, having functioned in a similar capacity for the Audoubon Society.

An excellent report from the committee was published in the April DRIFTER, indicating that the person who was to be in charge of the summer program at the Museum would have first preference for the scholarship. This was not possible so the availability of the award was announced through the usual channels. From among the applicants the committee wisely selected Mrs. Cox.


A copy of the Department of Conservation letter to recipients has been received. So you may better understand the camp, too, here are a couple of quotes: "This is NOT a nature camp! Conservation Department, college and university personnel who work with the teachers attempt to give them a sound, thorough background for understanding the problem in the state-wide conservation picture....Conservation as taught at the summer sessions is not nature study, but rather wise management and wise use of, and relationship between, all our natural resources. These are related to human needs, environment, and society. Conservation concepts and principals, and how teachers may take them back into the classrooms, are integrated throughout the week..."

The membership should take pride in the club's participation in this worthwhile program which truly reflects Les Pearl's attitude toward our hobby and its place in relation to earth sciences.

Willis Atwell



OUR PRESIDENT'S CORNER



Do you have a map of Michigan's l.p. cut from yellow paper on which is written GRMS with the map mounted on a blue background edged in gold? You do - or did - if you attended the annual meeting on May 8th. You also had a fine meal and the food came out just about right. These decorations and the splendid planning were all thanks to Marianne and Jim Waldron and their helpers. We are grateful!!

Bob Rozema, Dick Rose, Augie Post and Lowell Palmer were the photographers who made the slide program possible - thank you!!

The generosity of the members in competing for the beautiful opal pendant made by Russ Girard is appreciated and shows the esteem the membership has for the splendid work being done by Russ with the Junior Lapidary group. Russ is certainly a dedicated member and deserves the club's fullest support in the fine job he has been doing with the "kids". (Sometime it would be interesting to know how many members belong to GRMS because their children led them into the hobby after the Museum programs interested the kids.) Russ, you can be sure that the club will hold up its end in continuing the Junior Geology group now that several of us have found how interested the youngsters are.

Joe Parish, thank you for garnering some good prizes from Jerry Morris and Edna M. McDowell. We promise you more tickets before the June meeting at F. H. Lasburg Park, so you can do some more arm twisting. Anyone like to make a contribution of another item with proceeds earmarked for Junior Lapidary equipment? If so, you know Joe!

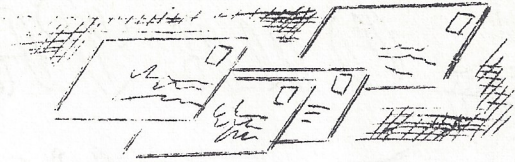
The Midwest Federation was shocked when we sent in our dues this year on the basis of paid members on January 1. They have quoted article and section convincing your Board more dues were due. We have sent them the dough. At least GRMS finally got some recognition, even if it was "what-the-what". We also gave them 8 of last month's DRIFTER's 12 pages. Of these three were a plug by our revered Dr. Wilson for Earth Science Magazine, which personally has not proved very interesting from the standpoint of subject matter, style, typography, or layout. We liked the shorter article on nomenclature. However, we share the general confusion of the GRMS membership regarding Hibbing after re-reading the DRIFTER's article from MWF. We are not sure that even our distinguished Liaison Officer is going to be able to get us clear concise information, including costs, for the June meeting, but he hopes he can. We shall hear on June 12th.

Plaudits to our tellers on election night when they efficiently tallied votes for treasurer, historian and three places on the Board. If you have not heard, Lucile Pearl is to be treasurer, Marie Spielmaker, will keep the history book, our Board members will Madeline Vickery, James DeZwaan, Henry Tchozeski, and Leo Hoogerhyde. The membership is to be congratulated for having such a fine list of nominees from which to choose officers and board.

Bill Atwell

May, 1963 (Received too late
for publication in May)

M. C. F.



LETTER OF THE MONTH

WHY HAVE STATE ROCKS?

by June Culp Zeitner

Judging from the number of letters I have received from all over since the subject of official state rocks was mentioned in the AFMS Bulletin, it seems likely that regardless of how we may feel about such measures they are bound to be considered by most states in the near future. As an organized hobby in the earth science field we must be ready to use our influence to see that logical selections are made, that intra-club and intra-state difference are peacefully arbitrated, and that bills are accurately worded.

Since most states have official flowers, birds, and even trees, it is natural that in this rapidly mushrooming hobby, many people desire to see the mineral kingdom equally honored. We have a real opportunity to use this trend to further public knowledge of rocks, and minerals, as well as to demonstrate that this hobby is fair, important, scientific, influential, and efficient, - truly America's number one hobby. We should consider carefully the following points.

1. The states will want a rock or mineral which may be used for publicity, official purposes, insignia, gifts to noted visitors, state museums, etc.
2. Scouts, 4H Clubs, science classes, and other groups, who have for years been bombarding museums, rock shops, and public officials for samples of state rocks, will want showy specimens which are readily available and not too expensive.
3. Hobbyists will want a rock adaptable to jewelry, gem show exhibits, and other projects.
4. Field trippers will hope for state rocks they can have the pleasure of finding for themselves.

As varied as they points are, it will not be easy to choose a rock common enough to give or sell cheaply to children, beautiful enough for fine jewelry, and important enough for museum displays. The state rock should also be easily recognizable. It should be a rock or mineral unique to its state, most often associated with the state, discovered in the state, or named for a locality or resident of the state. In most cases commercially mined minerals should be excluded. as what may be a big boost to one might prove unfair to the others. If commercial mine products are included we could conceivably wind up with many duplications. Alaska, California, and South Dakota would all have valid reasons to claim gold.

A bill to make rose quartz the official South Dakota rock was tabled half way through the State Legislature largely because of the inaccuracy of calling quartz a rock instead of a mineral, and partly because it caught by surprise most residents of the State interested in this subject either as professionals or hobbyists.

(continued next page)

WHY HAVE STATE ROCKS? (concluded)

Obviously this whole thing could become very controversial. No matter how your club feels, they cannot stop this trend so it is best to give the matter some serious consideration at once. However your group may feel that they would like to have a part in the selection of your state rock. If so, here is how to go about it. Refresh your knowledge of rocks and minerals of your state. Contact other clubs in the state as well as interested professional people. Choose a competent impartial group to poll the state clubs and others who should have a voice in the decision. In South Dakota the State Geological Survey has volunteered to do this. Have a committee of qualified mineral and legal experts to double check the wording of your bill. Find an interested legislator to introduce your bill. Use the ensuing publicity to help your state and your hobby. Don't try to rush things. If it is worth doing at all it is worth doing well.

SAGINAW FAIR

The following letter, received from Harry H. Sprague, superintendent of Gems & Minerals Dept. of Saginaw Fair is, we believe, self-explanatory and warrants your attention:

"Dear Friends:

" It is with a deep sense of gratitude that the Department of Gems and Minerals wishes to announce the dedication of the 1963 Saginaw Fair Gem Show in memory of Mr. Leslie G. Pearl, past president of the Grand Rapids Mineral Society. His efforts in past years through his educational displays have helped greatly to arouse the interests of our hobby in the minds of many. His ability to always be available to lend a helping hand will be sorely missed. The members of this great Fraternity of Mineral collectors, fossil collectors and lapidarists in the state of Michigan have lost through God's will one of their most ardent members.

"This year the Gem and Mineral Show is moving to new quarters. The Board of Directors of the Fair have approved this move, which will give us space for 120 cases and 20 special Society Displays. This actually doubles the area that we have had in the past and is a vote of confidence by the Board. This year's competitive awards are to be inscribed in Memory of Leslie.

We hope sincerely that you will help us make this effort the best, in memory of a true friend and ardent Rock & Mineral Collector.

Sincerely,

Harry H. Sprague"
Superintendent, Gems & Minerals Dept.
Saginaw Fair.

The Saginaw Fair dates are September 8 - 14th. Plan now to enter a display, competitive, non-competitive, or educational. Entry blanks are available from Dr. Richard Rose, or Bob and Nina Rozema.

Competitive displays must be in place and ready for judging by 12 noon on Saturday, September 7th. Non-competitive displayers have until 5:00 p.m. to arrange their displays. Let's make this a good show in memory of Les. Don't delay, get your entry blanks now.

