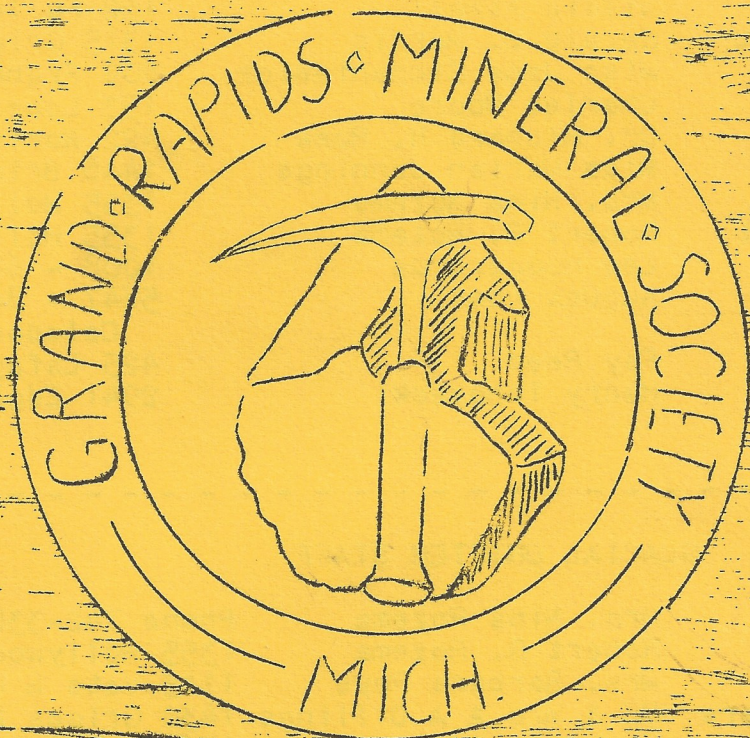


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the

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 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.

## JULY PICNIC AND PROGRAM AT CALEDONIA LAKESIDE PARK - JULY 10th

Program chairman Jerry Morris promises an interesting program, but some of the details are still being worked out at this point so we can't be more definite. Anyway, what matters the program! We have the shelter house reserved. There will be good company and fellowship. Joe Parrish will have some door prizes. Someone will win the blue ribbon for lapidary work. We'll have fun whether Jerry gets a program or not, but our guess is that he will have a super. See you at Caledonia for dinner at 6:30 and the meeting at 8 P.M.

\* \* \* \* \*

### PRESIDENT'S PARAGRAPH

When it's too hot to read and too hot to write and too hot to publish we condense pages to paragraphs and sermons to sentences. Our message is simple: have a safe summer, good pickin's and if you're in town join the gang at the park meetings for July and August. Swapping is always permissible so set up your swaps on the picnic tables before the meetings.

Willis Atwell, President

\* \* \* \* \*

### CONGLOMERATE

A goodly crowd enjoyed the outing at Fallesburg Park on June 12. The roaring fire in the lodge provided welcome warmth from the cool night air - low 50s. Jerry Morris provided an interesting movie program which brought out several visitors. The Vos family was proudly displaying a certificate of thanks from the Cranbrook Institute for the gift of a beautiful trilobite at Sylvania, as reported last month. We missed Dick Rose who was visiting his wife in the hospital. Mrs. Prexy-elect Post won the lapidary of the month ribbon. We can see that Augie has put her to work in anticipation of doubling the output of polished thunder eggs, or maybe because he won't have so much time next year. Joe Parrish was very disappointed; he had a brand new roll of tickets, but no prizes. To pep him up he was permitted to draw on membership tickets with the prize to be claimed at the next meeting - our winner, none other than our Prexy-elect, Augie Post.

\* \* \* \* \*

The Rogers City field trip was blessed with beautiful weather which left many of the participants with a rosy glow. Elaine Smith was the temporary leader when Prexy Atwell blew a tire and came in half an hour late. The guide took the group to the area in which specimens have weathered out nicely and the pickings were good. At noon many members moved to another section of the quarry to hunt cephalapods. Most found something, but the Joldersma family made the prize catch - as far as we heard. They gathered a slab about 12 x 18 inches just peppered with nearly perfect and many perfect cephalapods nestled in their bed of limestone. It is a good thing the super-salesman from Cranbrook wasn't there or we'll bet this would have joined the Vos' trilobite.

MORE CONGLOMERATE

In mid-June a "thank you" letter was received from the Grand Rapids Press, sponsor of the Kent County Science Fair, in which our support was commended. You will recall that we give a \$25 wish award in the earth sciences which was won by one of Lucille Dwyer's students, John Avise. The Press notes that the local boy winner of the grand prize won second place in the national, indicating the high caliber of the local show. With the emphasis on biological exhibits or those in physics, we doubt if an earth science entry would be able to win either local or national honors, which is even more reason for GRMS recognition of entries in earth science.

\* \* \* \* \*

At the last meeting Jerry Morris called for a show of hands of members who had joined during the past year. We were surprised at the large number who responded. This indicates a growing club, but we miss some of our original membership. Have they lost interest in rocks, or isn't the club providing what they want? We would like to know so we can plan our programs and events accordingly.

\* \* \* \* \*

The Junior Museum program of the club, and the school program which Nellie Mead is doing with the early elementary grades, can both use give-away material next fall. When you're collecting this summer, if you can carry a little extra, bring back samples for thirty or forty kids. They love to get these at the Saturday morning sessions and Nellie says the school rooms like them for their exhibit tables. If you want to see how kids enjoy these specimens you can make your own presentation at the Museum some Saturday next fall or winter. Let us know and we'll make the date.

\* \* \* \* \*

And speaking of collecting, the club is sponsoring a field trip to Cheney Quarry at Bellevue, Michigan for Saturday, July 13th. Bellevue is about 12 miles north of Battle Creek on M-78. Marcasite and calcite specimens are being found in the quarry as well as fossils. Meeting at the quarry at 9:00 A.M. Group leader will be announced at the July meeting.

\* \* \* \* \*

If you plan to attend the Midwest Federation Field Trip Convention on July 17-21 your reservation should be in to the convention committee by this time. Altho' you may be welcome if you arrive without a reservation it may be well to check with them.

\* \* \* \* \*

We see by the papers that a Los Angeles woman got the divorce by testifying her husband beat her on the head with a specimen from her rock collection. And all this time we were under the impression that it was the husband who had the collection and the wife who objected. Things must be different in California.

THE PLACE OF EDUCATION IN OUR SHOWS  
June Culp Zeitner

One of the major purposes of our gem and mineral shows should be Education. A show may feature fine displays, new materials, and methods, noted lecturers, unusual field trips, but unless the show also helps to educate the public it has not fulfilled its potential. True, the shows are sponsored by the organized hobby primarily for hobbyists, but if it were not for the interest and attendance of the general public many of these events would fail completely.

Why should we help educate the public? We live in an age where science is the all important subject - the key to the future. Exploding population and rapidly dwindling natural resources are creating problems in which we of the rock and mineral hobby should be vitally interested. In spite of the increasing significance of the earth sciences, only four states of the fifty have well established statewide school programs of earth science courses. Twelve more states offer earth science in a majority of schools, and all the rest report few courses or none. Some states (I am sorry to say South Dakota was one of them) thought the matter of so little importance that they did not reply to the survey conducted by Professor John Coash, Bowling Green University, and the McGraw Hill Book Company. I conducted a survey a few years ago to see what position earthscience news items have in the American press. In most cases the stories were relegated to the back pages. In many instances they were inaccurate, poorly written, or incomplete. Clearly, to a multitude of Americans their best and most tangible contact with the earth sciences is through our "rock shows".

Since we have such a splendid opportunity to reach so many people through our shows how can we help them? Competitive educational exhibits, encourage perhaps by a special award since they are not eligible for an AFMS trophy. Prize winning educational exhibits could be loaned to schools, libraries, civic clubs, or youth groups. Most clubs have a special, club exhibit for a show at which they are host. This could well be of educational nature. Non-competitive displays and programs stressing education should certainly be sought. It should not be too difficult for every show to devote a certain amount of space and time to so important a part of our hobby.

Even field trips at shows should be made more educational. For example, how many on a large field trip know in what formation they are hunting, the age of the formation, or the formula or constituents of whatever they are looking for?

The hobby has much to gain through increased public knowledge of the earth sciences. First, we attract desirable and helpful types of people to the hobby by emphasizing educational aspects. Second, such emphasis gives the public a better image of our hobby. Fringe benefits are important too. An enlightened public will help advance earth science in our schools. A public which admires what we are accomplishing will help see that we get better publicity, better buildings and lower rents for our shows, and increased cooperation from local officials.

The public likes its education in easy doses. Therefore displays of this type should be informative, timely, accurate, attractive, easy to grasp, thought provoking and memorable. (continued next page)

THE PLACE OF EDUCATION (concluded)

People especially like displays which they feel relate in some way to their locality, their work, their interests, their lives.

Another point is that through emphasizing education in our shows we will help our own hobbyists. At the present time many of our members are new-comers. Many have not yet joined a club. These new hobbyists eagerly attend our shows in hopes of learning a lot in a hurry. We must keep them in the hobby by showing the serious and scientific aspects as well as the creative and recreational sides.

Educational values do not need to stand alone as such. Most correct, well arranged displays have at least some instructive characteristics which could easily be magnified without harming other qualities of the exhibit. We tend to forget after we have been in the hobby for a while that what seems elemental to us is almost like a foreign language to the public.

Since Education is one of the stated aims of our Federations we should make a greater effort to see that this is apparent in our shows.

\* \* \* \* \*

MORE ABOUT STATE ROCKS (OR MINERALS)

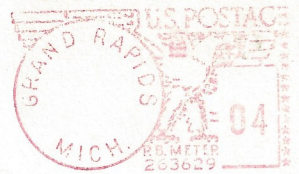
Marquerite Collyer, Secretary of the Eastern Federation, writes, "Now I want to put everyone straight on this (state rocks). I think that Arizona can claim to be the first state to have an official title along this line. It was around the early 20's when Governor Hunt declared that Arizona should be named THE COPPER STATE. In fact, to make it more official, burnished copper license plates were issued for automobiles, the copper being donated by the various mining companies such as Inspiration Copper, Miami; Phelps Dodge, and others.

"The plates were only used about two years as many complaints came in that due to the strong Arizona sun shining on them it blinded the drivers and was considered too dangerous on the mountain roads of the state. I was there and was a part of the official celebration. Now that you are a 'native' of Arizona you should make use of this. You will find the data at the State House."

Editor's note: Those copper license plates are collector's items, equal in value to a good chunk of old Bisbee azurite!"

from AFMS bulletin, 15 May 1963

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