

VOLUME 5 NUMBER 8

AUGUST 1963

THE GLACIAL DRIFTER  
publication of  
THE GRAND RAPIDS MINERAL SOCIETY

Please excuse our cover. Apparently the stencil for this month's cover has been lost in the mail. Here it is Wednesday and although it was mailed last Friday, it hasn't been delivered.

DISPLAYS FOR SAGINAW FAIR

Don't forget to send in your application for a case for your display at the SAGINAW FAIR, September 7-14. Display to be set up on the 7th and dismantled on the 15th. If you didn't receive an application blank in the mail, let us know and we will see that you obtain one.

Let's have a good showing, remember, the Fair Gem and Mineral Show has been dedicated in memory of our own Leslie G. Pearl. Please do your part.

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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.

W. D. FRANKFORTER SPEAKER FOR AUGUST

On Wednesday, August 14, our last outdoor meeting of the year will be held at Townsend Park. Bring your food and have supper with the gang at 6:30 p.m. The shelter house has been reserved. The business meeting will start at 8:00 p.m. Our guest speaker will be Mr. W. D. Frankforter, Assistant Director of the G. R. Museum, who will talk on Vertebrate Fossils.

If there are enough participants in both the senior and junior divisions there will be a lapidary-of-the-month award given. Bring a piece or two of your lapidary work for the contest. And, of course, there will be a door-prize or two. Augie Post will receive the prize he won at the June meeting. Wish I could tell you what it is, but have promised to keep it a secret.

JULY MEETING HAD FILMS AND DOOR PRIZES

The July meeting, held at Caledonia County Park, was very well attended. Jerry Morris, with the assistance of Prexy Atwell, showed two films of interest to the rockhobbyists. The Montana agate tie-bar, donated by Augie Post, was won by Mrs. James DeZwaan, Sr. Historian-elect Marie Spielmaker donated several very nice specimens of chrysocolla, one of which was won by your editor. Gary Damstra, a junior, won the lapidary-of-the-month with an opal cabochon.

SWAP PARTY PLANNED FOR AUGUST 17th

Marie Spielmaker invites all interested members to attend a Swap Party at her home, 4680 Burlingame SW, on Saturday afternoon, August 17th. She asks that you bring a card table (chairs, if you want to sit) and your swapping stock. Bring as good as you want to receive!! Plenty of parking space in the lot next door. For further details phone Marie at LE4-5629.

FIELD TRIP TO OHIO ON AUGUST 24

Secretary Jane Cichaniewicz advises that we have received permission for a field trip to Pugh Quarry, Custar, Ohio for Saturday, August 24. We will meet at the quarry at 9:00 a.m. Some beautiful specimens of dog-tooth calcite and barite have been coming out of this quarry. If we get permission, part of the day will be spent at a quarry near Maumee, where some calcite with oil covering has been found. We saw some of this material last week and was very impressed. More details will be available at the August meeting.

BOARD MEETING SCHEDULED FOR AUGUST 26th

Because of vacationing board members, the board meeting will be held at the home of Mr & Mrs Willis Atwell, 152 Fuller S E at 8:00 p.m. on August 26th. All board members and members elect are expected to attend this meeting to assure a smooth transition into the new year.

DUES ARE DUE SEPTEMBER 1st

Since the change of our fiscal year to September 1st, dues become due and payable on September 1st. Please make arrangements to pay your's at the next meeting.

PRESIDENT REPORTS ON FIELD TRIP CONVENTION  
OF MWF AT HIBBING - JULY 17

BOARD GRMS members who attended the June meeting at Fallasburg  
VOTES Park will recall the general dissatisfaction expressed by  
\$25.00 members following the detailed reading of the publicity on  
the Hibbing event of MWF. It was noted that buses would be  
the means of transportation and prices were quoted. Someone reached  
a total of some \$40 odd for the trips. A number of members reported  
they had changed their plans after seeing the expense involved,  
plus cost of the 1500 mile round trip. It was proposed that the  
President be sent to voice the club members feelings. When it  
worked out that business would take the President within shouting  
distance the Board at the July meeting voted \$25 toward expense of  
the side trip to Hibbing. A few amusing details on the trip later.

DELEGATE The credentials committee had had the proper notice from  
MEETING our efficient Secretary- Jane Cichaniewicz - so there was  
no problem in being a delegate starting at 9:15 am.  
The meeting was called to order by President Bernice Rexin and the  
roll call of delegates followed. One of the most interesting  
reports was that of the Treasurer, William deNeui, who had set up  
a system of budgets which had brought the Federation from a posi-  
tion in the red to a plus balance of \$2,338 on June 30. Some of  
the gain was also because of the effort he put into collecting dues.  
You may recall our report in the DRIFTER of how he had questioned  
our calculation of the amount owing the Federation and we coughed  
up the additional amount. Also helped by the dues increase and  
good profits on the Muskegon and other Rockramas the balance made  
the report look good.

MICH VP One item of business is a report by the various state vice  
REPORTS presidents which gives an insight into various club act-  
ivities by states. Marion Gingery of Flint - Michigan VP,  
gave a good report on clubs in Michigan and he is a careful reader  
of the DRIFTER because our club had most favorable mention in his  
report.

STATES This paragraph is special for the local board who did not  
GATHER favor our club taking leadership in pulling Michigan clubs  
together. Iowa has had great success in state meetings and  
through joint effort has been able to open some areas closed to  
rockhounds for the benefit of organized groups. The-editorial-we  
believe such a Michigan organization would be beneficial in working  
with our educational institutions, Department of Conservation, and  
private owners.

INFORMAL During the luncheon recess, after the lay of the land was  
GRUMBLES more apparent, it was possible to try taking the pulse of  
the gathering. (Mix metaphores has always seemed part  
of political action or at least politics.) We found an undercurrent  
of dissatisfaction quite similar to that in the open at our club  
meeting. No initiative was developing, however, until we noted  
dissatisfaction was our principal reason for being at the meeting.  
Encouragement to be the voice of dissatisfaction came from many  
sides and unexpected places. So we went to the afternoon session  
even more committed to speak for the absent. (continued next page)

President's Report (continued)

COMMITTEE REPORTS The afternoon session opened with reports on both the Midwest and American Federations activities. One was concerned with efforts by a committee under the chairmanship of Tolson Radloff to arrive at workable uniform judging rules for shows, a commendable activity for the federation. (You may recall that Mr. Radloff has been a speaker at our club in the past.) Another report was concerned with the closing of collecting areas following such mis use as occurred in the lakeshore Tompsonite area where blasting was used to free the specimens. Very few clubs, including our own, responded to this committee's request for suggestions and advice. Mrs. June Zeitner, who became MWF's first honorary member, reported on the "Wilderness Bill" which will close great areas under the Department of Interior, or Department of Agriculture (We will discuss this at a club meeting next fall.) She also highlighted the "Antiquities Act", which if enforced could prevent us from disturbing an arrowhead or a mastadon rib, and the possibility of this carrying over into collecting petrified wood, etc. It seemed to be in these areas that Midwest could, and wanted to be, most effective. (What would happen to Morris, if the antiquities act suddenly included petrified mud? It could, if Mr. Udall or successors so decreed!)

CAN'T READ CAN YOU? Among the committee reports was one on the 1963 convention given by Mr. Conrad Peterzen, chairman. Mr. P. made very light of the problems in Hibbing. He said his committee could not agree on a fee, so compromised on \$4 as something most could pay and might make a profit for the club and the MWF. He joked about the program cost of \$1.50, caused by lack of ads when the mines cut back. He indicated it was foolish to suppose all could be accomodated on the buses since only two Greyhounds were available (although there seemed to be standby school buses) "so most certainly those who wanted to drive their own cars could do so" If this irritates you, as it did many delegates, you were supposed to have been able to tell this from the information sent you. Or, maybe you did not receive any information for your \$1, either; many others did not. Mr. Peterzen also seemed to be aware of questions some had about the sudden change of ownership of the Tompsonite area and its availability for a fee, but his explanation was too fast or funny for your reporter to grasp. As Mr. Peterzen noted in his introduction excuses are a poor defense, but to our ear jocular explanations are worse; especially when it aint funny, McGee!

NEW BUSINESS ITEM There was no call from the chairman for acceptance of this report or for discussion, so the only chance for legitimate comment was in the "New Business" item. As this came up on the agenda, the Chairman called on some elderly man who had a proposal for a rockhound day at the 1964 World's Fair, which left most delegates wishing they had left. This was finally out of the way and the Chairman was heading into home stretch when we saw our only opportunity to justify 25 bucks from the treasury and the silent, but burned up, other delegates. We then offered the following proposal:

"That the Midwest Federation in future field trip conventions, through consistent liaison with local committees, make sure that the general membership is able to participate, by keeping fees and expenses at a minimum through experienced (continued next page)

President's Report (Continued)

planning and management, and by giving complete advance publicity."

In explanation of this proposal we noted that it might not be in order, but that we had left a substantial number of disappointed members of the Grand Rapids Mineral Society at home because apparently the confusion, which Mr. Peterzen had noted prevailed during the convention planning, extended to the general membership --- even in Grand Rapids. We also noted this concerned us because our club had made an effort to interest both older people and youngsters in the hobby and in both situations we were dealing with limited budgets.

In rebuttal it was reported that the Hibbing convention might well lose money and it was asked if we were willing to take on the next field trip convention. The gentleman was assured we strongly suspected the program might end in the red, based on Mr. Peterzen's report which showed advertising at \$1,000 against an anticipated \$3,000 toward the program plus a partial list of other expenses we jotted down which were around \$1,600. If we had anything to offer a field trip convention our club would be better organized than Hibbing's seemed to be, this we can be sure.

In support of our proposal, Mr. Floyd Mortenson of Pontiac, who was MWF president at the time of the Saginaw convention, noted that constructive criticism should be considered and perhaps Midwest should review its by-laws which gives the host club complete responsibility for organizing and running the convention, once it has been awarded it.

Many delegates spoke to us after the meeting about the confusion, cost and conditions surrounding the conference, indicating their belief that someone had to bring the dissatisfaction into the open. There were other delegates who were also there for only the day because of the expense.

FACILITIES We also heard about the lack of facilities at the Fair LACKING grounds from delegates and from a friend who is on the faculty of the school of public health at the University of Michigan. He was considerably shaken by the poor sanitation - such as an old hose for drinking purposes in the swap area. These comments are passed on without verification because we did not get either to the Fair Grounds or even to get a glimpse of the world's largest open pit iron mine. We attended meetings from 9:00 a.m. to about 10:00 p.m. and the plane left the following morning at 6:15am.

We hope we made our point and that our members are satisfied that the Federation knows they were unhappy with the arrangements.

DRUNKEN You might be interested in a couple of personal experiences.  
GOOSE On the way north from Milwaukee to Minneapolis our plane passed through the advance turbulence of a weather front moving east. We tossed about a bit and as we were landing the pilot commented, "That was a little rough over La Crosse, but we came through ok. Now see that you who are driving do as well". In the airport we learned there were tornado possibilities. This didn't sound too good, especially when we were transferring from a United Viscount to a North Central DC-3. We took off in a pouring rain driven by gusty winds. You will recall that North Central's emblem is a blue goose. I have never seen an (concluded next page)

President's Report (Concluded)

intoxicated goose flying north, but I'm sure I know how the insides of a drunken goose flying north in a storm feel, and it ain't good.

OLDER WORKERS We called ahead from the Minneapolis airport to the hotel in Hibbing for reservations. If you know either the Allene in Ann Arbor or the Fordney Hotel in Saginaw you have an idea of what Hibbing's hostelry is like. The ultimate, however, was to find in the combination dining room and bar "bunny girl" waitresses. In typical Playboy style they wore abbreviated white bunny suits, had bunny ear headgear, and black mesh stockings. The most interesting observation, however, for one who is concerned about employment of older workers is that Hibbing is either a haven for "bunny girls" who retire, due to age, from the spots in Chicago or New York, or the Hibbing city fathers have an ordinance setting the minimum age for "bunny girls" at 40. One wonders whether at this age it is proper to say "bunny girl", or whether we should just say "dam". (Note to editor: do NOT put an 'n' on "dam". In speaking of bunnies it is probably just as important to use correct nomenclature as in speaking of rocks; and, if the MWF chairman of the nomenclature committee has his way, any club whose members talk of Herkimer Diamonds, Apache tears, or Petoskey stones, instead of using proper terms, will be banished from MWF.)

MUSKEGON Muskegon's bid for the 1964 show convention was accepted IN 1964 unanimously by the delegates on recommendation of the MWF executive board. Dates will be July 23 to 26 at the L. C. Walker Arena. In presenting the club's bid Russ Greer said Muskegon would do its best to make this an interesting convention at a minimum of expense. The Grand Rapids club rallied behind the Saginaw meeting and should do the same for Muskegon.

Bill Atwell

CHENEY QUARRY FIELD TRIP A SUCCESS

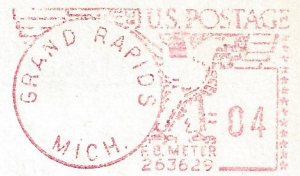
Twenty-eight members and guests had a hot, but successful collecting session at Cheney Quarry, near Bellevue, on July 13th. Many nice specimens of calcite, marcasite and a couple of very good fossils were among the trophies brought home by such avid collectors as John, Marjorie, Michael, and Donna Potter, Michael Blough, Elizabeth and Clyde Littlefield, Jay Shook, Clarence and Gertrude Ryan, Marguerite Petersen, Mary Boone, Helen Fleming, Robert Sore, Art, Cecile, and John Joldersma, Jim Molenhoek, Mr & Mrs H. A. Nordheim, Mrs & Mrs Clare Galloway, Joe Parish, Sylvia Delacher, Jim, Tom and Sue DeZwaan, and field trip leader Marie Spielmaker.

NEW DUES DATE - SEPTEMBER 1 - DON'T BECOME A DELINQUENT

ARTICLES ON YOUR VACATION  
NEEDED FOR DRIFTER

If you had a rock-collecting vacation please share it with your fellow members by writing a short article for the DRIFTER. We will be happy to give you any help you need. Please let us have an article a month from a member for our club paper. May we have one for the September DRIFTER, which goes to press on August 25th? WHO WILL HELP US.

The Grand Rapids Mineral Society  
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