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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 American Federation of Mineral Societies.

Meetings are held at Riverside Elementary School, 2420 Coit N E the 2nd Wednesday of each month at 8:00 p.m. (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 Sept. thru May only)

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

Member - Bulletin Editors Association.

PROJECT MOHOLE FOR SEPTEMBER

At nightfall on March 26, 1961, a powerful ocean tug towing an ungainly barge churned through heavy Pacific swells about 260 miles south of Los Angeles. The odd barge was the Cuss I, fitted with a 98 foot derrick amidships and three miles of steel drill pipe in 60 foot sections on its deck. At about midnight the barge was manuevered to the center of a ring of buoys and held there with outboard motors while its derrick began lowering a diamond-studded drill toward the ocean floor.

Can Cuss I be held still enough to drop a drill through two miles of sea water?

Can the three miles of crust under the ocean be penetrated without bending or breaking the drill?

Why drill at sea?

What does MOHOLE stand for?

Come to the first indoor meeting of the season on Wednesday, September 11th at Riverside Elementary School, 2420 Coit N E to find these answers and more.

The formal meeting starts at 8:00 p.m., but you will want to get there early to pay your dues to Miss Marian Jennings, Membership Chairman, Mrs. Madeline Vickery, or Mrs. Lucile Pearl, our new treasurer. In case you have forgotten, membership dues are \$3.00 for a family, \$2.00 for a single adult, and \$1.00 for a junior.

The drawing for the door prize will be on the 1964 membership cards Joe Parish will be on hand before the meeting to sell you a chance or two for the special raffle, proceeds of which will go toward the purchase of equipment for the junior program.

Prior to the MOHOLE pictures, our retiring president, Willis Atwell will turn over the gavel to our new president, August Post.

In addition to the main feature there will be a "Ten-Minute Talk" on Selenite, a particular form of gypsum. This should be of special interest to us from this area. Your Educational Chairman twisted the arm of Robert Rozema for this month's talk. Any future volunteers will be welcome. What is your specialty? Will you give a "Ten Minute Talk" on it at one of our meetings?

R. W. Rose, Educational Chairman

* * * * *

WAIVIOS WIN BLUE RIBBONS

Roger and Nancy Waivio, two of our newer members, children of Mr & Mrs Eldon Waivio, won blue ribbons at the Lowell 4-H Show with their rock displays. This entitled them to enter the State Show at Lansing where they also won blue ribbons. Our congratulations to these two young people. Keep up the good work.

LOOKING BACK - AUGUST MEETING

What did the earth look like? What type of animals were here? Was man around during the last great advance of the glaciers?

Mr. Frankfurter, Assistant Director of the Grand Rapids Museum, paleontologist, and speaker extra-ordinary, showed us fossils found in the glacial drift, and explained how even parts of fossils could often be used to piece together a picture of the type of climate - size and shape of animal, even the type of food that the animal ate. He also used slides to illustrate the extent of glacial advance and type of terrain and soil in which fossils are found. All in all it was a very educational and interesting meeting.

Did you know that a bone, even one thousands of years old can tell a story? The size and type of muscle attachments indicate strength and size and weight of the animal. Microscopic thin sections of bone show direction of stress and help indicate these things. Those of you who missed last month's meeting are to be pitied.

Jane Cichaniewicz was present and went home with added knowledge of the glacial period and also a blue ribbon for a job well done on a bloodstone cabochon. The rest of you bring some lapidary work along to the next meeting at Riverside School - you may be the winner.

R . W. Rose

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SWAP PARTY PLANNED FOR SEPT. 21

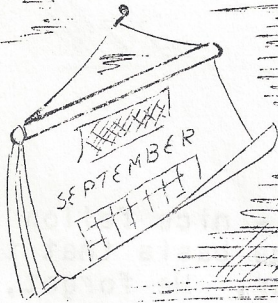
Mr & Mrs Ray Lathrop and son, Kenneth, had such a good time at Marie Spielmaker's Swap Party on August 24th that they are having one on September 21st. The Lathrop's address is 3829 Wyoming S. second block south of 36th street, one block east of Byron Center Road. Their phone number is 534-6305. If you have some good swapping material and want to spend a pleasant afternoon swapping and talking rocks with fellow members plan on accepting the Lathrop's invitation for about 2:00 p.m. on Saturday, September 21. Bring a card table for your swapping material and a chair or two. Mrs. L. tells us that she will be serving coffee and.

MINERAL GROUP TO OPEN FALL SEASON

All mineral collectors and those interested in becoming mineral collectors are urged to attend the first Mineral Group meeting of the season at the home of Mr. & Mrs. Casey Doornbos, 1917 Rosemont S. E. at 8:00 p.m. on Thursday, September 26. Please do not wait for a personal invitation - YOU are most welcome to attend these meetings. If you need a ride let us know and we will see what we can do to find one for you.

AUGUST FIELD TRIP

Only three members turned out for the trip to Pugh Quarry in Ohio on August 24th, but those three had a very well worth while day collecting some very good specimens. Sorry more of you could not have been there. If enough interest is shown, another trip to this quarry will be planned for a later date.



CALENDAR of EVENTS

September 7 - Saturday - Install displays at Saginaw Fair

September 8 - 14 Saginaw Fair. The Gem & Mineral Section is housed in new quarters and should be well worth visiting.

September 15 - Sunday - Pick up displays from Saginaw Fair

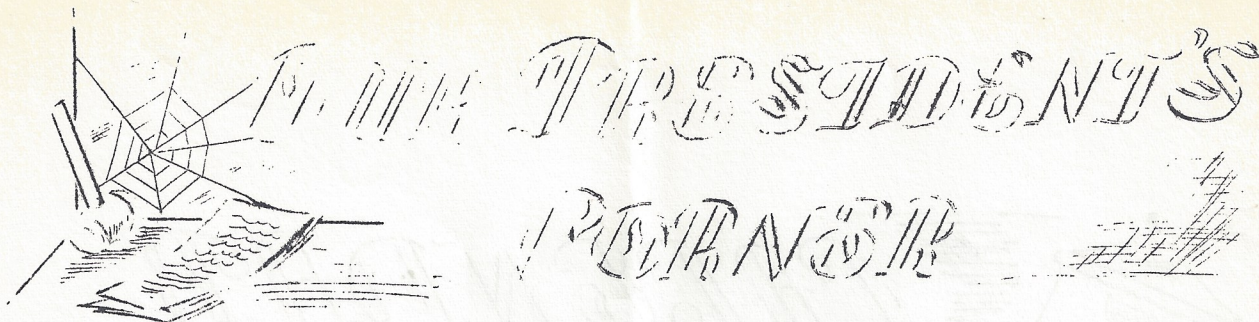
September 11 - WEDNESDAY, at 8:00 P.M. Regular Monthly meeting at Riverside Elementary School, 2420 Coit N E

September 16 - MONDAY, at 8:00 p.m. Board of Control Meeting at home of President & Mrs. August Post, 5647 - 84th Street, Caledonia

September 21 - SATURDAY, Swap Party at home of Mr. & Mrs. Ray Lathrop, 3829 Wyoming S W, Wyoming

September 26 - THURSDAY, at 8:00 P.M. Mineral Group meeting at home of Mr & Mrs Cornelius Doornbos, 1917 Rosemont S E

October 9 - Dr. Zumberge will be guest speaker at our regular meeting.



PRESIDENT'S PASTURE

Technically this pasture is now Posted, but Augie - nice fellow that he is - gave me one last shot. This is on the basis that this lame duck session was only three-quarters of a year. He forgot, however, that the August Drifter was almost completely devoted to the President's discourse.

Anyway, a few more sad tales of the Hibbing Convention continue to come to light. We hope Midwest heeds our suggestion that experience liaison be maintained with future convention committees and that the by-laws are amended to make this possible.

We proudly report that there was a 100% attendance of the members of the "lame duck" Board of Control at its final meeting plus a goodly percentage of the new Board, so that a smooth transition from one administration to the other is well underway. The year ahead with Augie Post as President should be a very good one for the Society and as he announces his appointments for the year you will see that the affairs are in capable hands.

It is with mixed feelings that one writes a final message as the President of a fine group like the Society. Probably the uppermost sentiment is gratitude for the other officers, Board members, and general membership who have helped make this such a satisfying experience. Only one member found it impossible to take on an assignment when requested during the past year and the reasons were most understandable and that member more than made up in other ways for not accepting what was asked. This is a terrific record and Augie will soon find out what a wonderful organization the society is. To each and everyone of you a heartfelt "THANK YOU".

In addition to the general thanks which I hope each of you will accept for the part you have played in this year's success I must single out for especial commendation my friend and fellow officer, Jerry Morris. You have seen Jerry introduce the programs each month and must have realized he was sharing in the administration to a great extent. However, he has been the most active and helpful Vice-President one could hope to have. Jerry and I shared the responsibility for the club's second show and found how well we worked together and have continued to do so ever since. Next we shared the candidacy for president with the friendly understanding that this would continue to be a joint effort regardless of who won. I am sure Jerry has kept the bargain much better than I could have. He has prodded when prodding was needed and has supported when support was needed. His enthusiasm for the success of the club has been contagious and if anyone thinks well of the past several months as far as the club is concerned it will be because of Jerry and his
(continued next page)

PRESIDENT'S PASTURE (concluded)

efforts as Vice President which kept the President on the ball.

Best wishes to Augie Post and our pledge to help him and his administration in every possible way. Please join me in this pledge.

Bill Atwell

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IN-COMING PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

As we start another year with new officers and board members, we ask the full co-operation of each and every member of our society to help us make this the best year in our history. And it will take a lot of ingenuity to make this year the best as the years before have all been good. Jack Kirkwood, our new vice-president, will have charge of programs for the coming year. Miss Marian Jennings will act as Membership Chairman and will be on hand to collect the dues at each meeting. Mrs. Eldon Waivio has consented to be the Hostess and will be on hand to greet members and guests.

Joe Parish will have charge of door-prizes. And speaking of prizes, there will be two items of exceptional worth which will be raffled at the September meeting, proceeds will go for equipment for the juniors.

I hope you have all been collecting a little extra during your outings this summer and will donate a number of good things for our annual auction which will be the feature of our November meeting. Don Crabbs and Art Joldersma are co-chairmen for this event. More about this at a later date.

I hope to see all of you at the September meeting.

August Post

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NONSENSE, NONSENSE, NONSENSE

Upon a rock dump huge and tall
Dug rockhounds big and rockhounds small.
Tell us a story, a small rockhound requested,
While all of them lunched and afterward rested,
A big rockhound told this story to all.
It was a pleasant day in fall
Upon a rock dump huge and tall,
Dug rockhounds big and rockhounds small.
Tell us a story, a small rockhound requested.
While all of them lunched and afterward rested,
A big rockhound told this story to all.
It was a pleasant day in fall
Upon a rock dump huge...

A. E. Murray

From March 1963 issue of THE JASPILITE

SAGINAW FAIR TIME

The Gem & Mineral section of the Saginaw Fair, as you know, has been dedicated to the memory of Mr. Leslie Pearl. All ribbons will be so inscribed. We trust you have sent in your reservation for a case to house your display. Time is running out, so if you have been procrastinating, get with it!! Send your reservation to Mr. Harry Sprague, 11307 Swan Creek Road, Route 5, Saginaw, Mich. AND DO IT TODAY. Cases are to be set up on September 7 and dismantled on September 15. There will be 120 cases and 16 club displays in this show.

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MINERAL SPECIMENS - CUTTING ROUGH - SLABS - FINDINGS - CARVINGS

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SOME TALL ONES

California boasts the world's tallest known tree, a giant Sequoia reaching to the unbelievable height of 364 feet, in the well known Humbolt County Redwood Forest. Nearby thrives a close competitor with a length of 345 feet.

Reports have been made of eucalyptus trees in Australia 400 to 500 feet tall, but the tallest authentically reported example now standing is a giant gum (Eucalyptus Regnams) in Victoria, 325 feet.

In Deschutes County, Oregon, the home of some of the finest fossil forests in the state, is a yellow pine (Pinus ponderosa) which has been accurately measured to be 162 feet tall and a diameter of 11.3 feet. This is considered to be the tallest tree of this species in Oregon and Washington if not in the entire world. For many years a giant pine near Guller, Washington held the record in yellow pine, but the Oregon specimen is slightly larger.

So far as can be learned the world's largest petrified tree was found a few years past in the desert region of western Nevada near the town of Coaldale. This prone specimen measured nearly 15 feet at the largest diameter, and while partly covered with sand, its length was traced for a distance of about 295 feet. Curiously enough this fully silicified monster is a redwood and a close relative of the giant sequoias now thriving in California to the west. The Coaldale specimen is probably in the Esmeralda sedimentaries.

A Utah fossil forest, not widely known, and briefly described a few years ago in these pages, reports petrified trees up to about 10 feet in diameter. The Arizona Forest records many huge examples of considerable size, as does the several standing forests of Yellowstone Park.

Among the fossil trees of Deschutes County, Oregon, where the tall yellow pine now thrives, a standing but denuded oak tree six feet in diameter was recently discovered. This specimen is still surrounded with the original sediments in which it grew prior to being covered by a shower of volcanic ash.

In the new Sweet Home Petrified Forest near Sweet Home, Oregon, a local rancher pulled from a plowed field an enormous section of fossil wood nearly six feet in diameter. This specimen appears to be a hardwood of some type, but has not been definitely determined.

The opalized forest of Central Washington, including the Ginkgo, Forest contains numerous beautiful opalized logs from four to six feet in diameter. (H.C.D.) This article taken from the July 1939 issue of THE MINERALOGIST.

The Grand Rapids Mineral Society
1355 Hollywood N.E.
Grand Rapids 5, Mich.
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California bears the world's tallest known
Sequoia reaching to the unbelievable height of 304 feet,
well known Humboldt County Redwood Forest. Nearly 100 years a
close competitor with a height of 245 feet.

Reports have been made of eucalyptus trees in Australia 400 to
500 feet tall, but the tallest authentically reported example
now standing is a giant gum (Eucalyptus Regnans) in Victoria,
327 feet.

In Deschutes County, Oregon, the home of some of the finest
fossil forests in the state, is a yellow pine (Pinus ponderosa)
which was reported to be 102 feet tall and a
diameter of 17.3 feet. It is reported to be the tallest
tree of this species in the world. It is not in the
entire world. For the world's tallest tree, the Oregon spec-
imen in Washington held the record in yellow pine, but the Oregon spec-
imen is slightly larger.

So far as can be learned the world's largest petrified tree was
found a few years past in the desert region of western Nevada
near the town of Golconda. The petrified tree was reported to be
15 feet in diameter and 100 feet long, and while only covered with
sand, it is reported to be a distance of about 500 feet.
Obviously, the petrified tree is a redwood and
a close relative of the giant sequoia now living in California
to the west. The Golconda specimen is probably in the same
sediment.

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