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the

GLACIAL

DRIFFTER

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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. (Adv. 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.

NOVEMBER MEETING IN REVIEW

Competition was keen. Buyers were eager. The offerings were good. The cookies were tasty. The cider was sweet - doggone it. The proceedings went like clockwork. The committee was superb.

The story of the 1963 silent auction could be told in the above several sentences, but then some of the color and the details would be lost. For example, Augie Post reported with amazement: "Art Joldersma and Don Crabbs called me only once, to ask permission to rent more tables... they really had their committee organized.

Augie, Art, Don and the auction committee join in thanking the many club members who contributed generously to the project and in turn those whose purchases swelled the treasury by \$283.54.

Bidding was interesting. We had some fun with some well patterned dendritic limestone and a couple of other bidders and, oddly enough came out with a corner on the market. We heard a couple of older members puzzling over the keen competition that developed over some of Dr. Robert Smith's pre-formed septaria which produced more than quite a bit of well patterned thunder egg slabs. Even the mitten shaped Morris-mud attracted some keen bidding. A group of iridescent chalcopyrite crystals shimmering on nearly chalk-white dolomite crystals clustered on a base of the dolomite, drew some spirited action which should have pleased the donor.

It was also interesting to watch some of the non-members who came to look over the situation. From their activities we can believe the till was swelled by their successful bidding. We were also pleased to see some of our members there, who had goodly distances to travel, as well as the regulars who seldom miss a meeting.

A successful innovation this year was the table for JUNIORS ONLY. This gave the youngsters an opportunity to compete at low prices on some good material. Away from that table it meant the young people were on the same basis as any other bidder, which relieved a bit of reitcence of previous years on the part of adults who hesitated to bid against the younger members.

The regular public address system was not functioning so we were provided a substitute by the principal of the school, Mr. Fred Bailey, who brought his granddaughter along. The young lady is a budding collector, so before the evening was over Mr. Bailey found himself helping defray the club's expenses.

With a deep sense of gratitude to the co-chairmen - Art and Don - to their committee members, to the donors, and to the bidders, President Post can now look forward to a solvent treasury and money in the bank.

No Sig, Your Roving Reporter

OUR DECEMBER MEETING!

DECEMBER 11

The Grand Rapids Mineral Society is extremely pleased to announce the program for the December meeting -

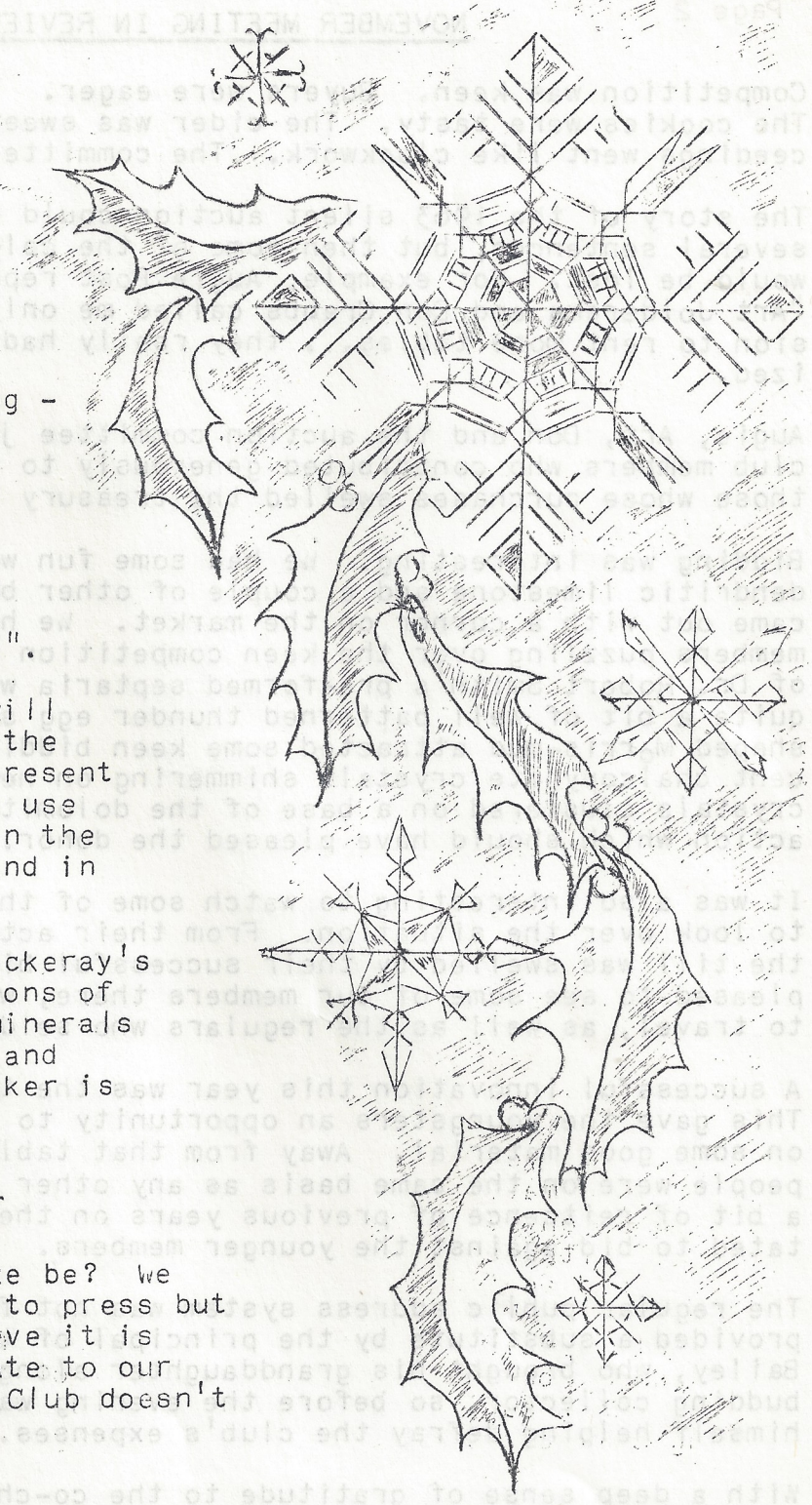
Our favorite speaker and the Club's sweetheart, Miss Mary Jane Dockeray, Geologist of the Grand Rapids Public Museum will discuss "Man's Mineral Heritage".

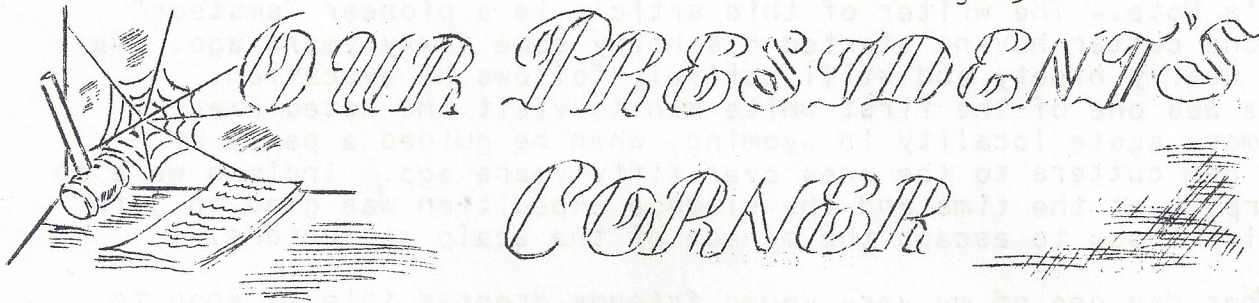
The scope of her talk will cover from the time of the Mound Builders to the present expressing age in man's use of rocks and minerals in the past, in the present, and in the future.

We predict that Miss Dockeray's well qualified predictions of man's exploitation of minerals will be as interesting and fascinating as the speaker is herself.

What will the door prize be? We haven't heard as we go to press but whatever, you can believe it is always a gift appropriate to our hobby, and who in this Club doesn't like surprises!

The Board of Control wishes to take this opportunity to wish each of you a very Merry Christmas and a happy and prosperous New Year!





OUR PRESIDENT'S CORNER

The Annual November Auction of the Grand Rapids Mineral Society was very much a success as shown by the interested attention of the bidders, the quality of the material donated, and by the gratifying financial return to our club treasury. I sincerely thank the club membership for their wholehearted participation in the auction, Don Crabbs and Art Joldersma, who served as co-chairmen and the other hard working committee men, Casey Doornbos, Arnold Wendt, and James Waldron. Thanks too to Mrs James Waldron who had charge of refreshments assisted by Mrs. Robert Mollo. A large portion of thanks to all of you for a very pleasant evening indeed.

The co-chairmen for the event wish me to thank you for your very fine cooperation and generosity without which there would have been nothing to auction

With the Christmas season at hand and many of us busily working to complete gifts I can only ask you to begin thinking about our coming show at the Museum in March of next year. The time is short and there is a lot to be done. Jerry Morris as Show Chairman is already working at the planning level and will need the help and cooperation that you and I can give him in the weeks to come.

Due to the untimely death of President Kennedy and very inclement weather very few turned out for the first Lapidary Group meeting. We will try again early next year.

Ruth and I wish each and every one of you a very Merry Christmas and a Happy and Prosperous New Year.

August Post, President

BOARD OF CONTROL MEETING

The Board of Control will meet on Monday, December 16th at 8 PM at the home of Mr & Mrs Henry Tchozeski, 2951 Edgewood N E

MINERAL GROUP

No meeting of this group until January

Editor's Note.- The writer of this article is a pioneer "amateur" gem stone cutter having started his hobby some sixty years ago. He is now nearly ninety and still actively follows his avocation. Bledsoe was one of the first white men to visit the noted Sweet-water moss agate locality in Wyoming, when he guided a party of German gem cutters to the area over fifty years ago. Indians were on the warpath at the time and the Bledsoe expedition was glad to join a cavalry troop to escape the menace of the scalp collectors.

The other day one of my very young friends dropped into my shop to see what "The Old Rock Man" was doing. As usual he had a pocket well filled with pebbles. Would I look at them? I would. One by one they were cast aside. With sorrow I assured him that no "Gems" appeared among his collection. Not one was worth polishing. Sadly he dropped them into a large paper box which I keep handy for just such occasions. The man in the hardware end of the shop is building a concrete walk, and likes these discards for filling.

The boy thought deeply for a few moments and then said: "Well, what do you collect?"

Never mind what I said to the boy. The question set me to thinking. Just what do I collect? Is it all "just rocks", or are there other things besides. Things worth more even than the rocks no matter how fine and colorful these may be.

As I turn my mind back over the long years that have passed since I picked up my first agate, and wondered how it got that way, I find that rocks are only a very small part of my rather large collection.

It is in a cabinet called "memory" that I store this part of my collection. Here is a tray filled with sunrises and sunsets. How they flame. What splashes of color. Here is a sunrise in Colorado. Harsh, time riven slopes run up to the everlasting snow. Crags and peaks like blue ghosts in the early morning light. Then - Look. Away on the highest snow peak there is a faint flush. This deepens. Runs down the slopes. Smiling Morn brushes aside the curtains of the night, turns and beckons to her lord and master, and the day begins. Yes, we found some rocks that day but they are lost these many years. The sunrise remains.*

Here is a sunset. Out where the Pacific thunders against the high cliffs of the west coast of Vancouver Island. The sun is sinking fast, and that bank of clouds promises something special, and we wait.

The clouds are dark, slate colored. Some of them must be too near the sun for they begin to burn on the edges. Lower and lower sinks the sun, and just as it reaches the horizon there flames up a series of long streamers like the spokes of a mighty wheel. These spokes are bright molten gold. The clouds form a flaming outer band to the wheel, and I see now how it was that thousands of years ago men thought that the Sun God drove a fiery chariot, and I could almost hear the splash as the blazing steeds plunged into the Western Sea. The night comes all too soon, but the memory of that sunset lingers while life lasts.

(continued next page)

Here is an Aurora Borealis. We were away up in central British Columbia on one of those little gold rushes where men went mad at the sight of a few grains of yellow metal. We turned in while it was yet broad daylight, for up in that region the days are about twenty hours long. It was the darkest part of the short night when one of the men nudged me.

"What was that?"

I listened. The sound was exactly as if a giant had ripped a vast web of silk from end to end. Again and again came the sound and we looked out of the tent.

Away to the north, was a vast fan of blue, green and yellow fire. It came and went. It opened and shut. It flamed to the zenith. It sank until it burned along the summits of the range of mountains to the north of the camp. It was as if all the fireworks ever burned since time began was being let off in one celestial celebration. This kept up for hours, and only the coming of the morning blotted it out.

When I think of it, I realize how poor a thing is language. No word of mine can adequately describe it, but the picture remains and I file away that aurora in the cabinet of Memory.

The little buckskin bag of yellow metal has long since been spent and forgotten, but Aurora remains, another of my collections.

I have a collection of little mountain streams where the water comes foaming down over the broken ledges to fall into a deep pool where the shy trout linger. Where the moss spread like green velvet on the rocks and clumps of ferns lean out from nooks in the walls and sway in the breeze of the rushing waters.

I have collections of brown hillsides and sunny slopes, of tall trees and flower clad shrubs, and sometimes a bunch of wandering wild flowers that have escaped from some Eden that the blinded eyes of Man can no longer see.

I have a collection of old time friends who were with me on those trails of long ago. They have gone to their rest. Somewhere in the Happy Hunting Grounds they wait for me. They will not have to wait long now. My strongest hope is that we may again sit in the pleasant shadows and live over again those old, hard but joy filled days.

Oh, yes, and I almost forgot to tell you. I collect "rocks" now and again.

from The Mineralogist Magazine, October 1939

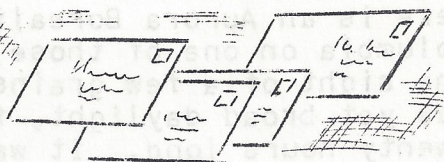
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ASHWOOD FOREST

Two species of wood have been recently identified in the newly discovered petrified forest near Ashwood Oregon. The determinations were made by Professor George Beck, of Ellensburg, Washington, College of Education. The specimens identified are oak and swamp cypress. A Sequoia has also been found in the new forest.

from October 1939 The Mineralogist Magazine

AFMS



BETTER OF THE MONTH

COUPONS FOR SCHOLARSHIP

\$50,000 is needed for the American Federation's scholarship fund. Yet, after four years the fund has not reached \$3,000. Discouraging No!!!!

Our hopes are higher than ever, for General Mills, home of Betty Crocker food products, has promised to give the American Federation $\frac{1}{2}\%$ for its scholarship fund for each Betty Crocker coupon turned in by the AFMS.

There are nearly 50,000 members in the AFMS and if 200 coupons of $\frac{1}{2}\%$ is turned in by each one of us, we will have raised the \$50,000.

We owe a debt to the professional earth scientists who generously share their knowledge with us and there is no better way to pay this debt than by helping educate future earth scientists. This is why The American Federation is getting up the scholarship foundation which will annually award a scholarship to a student who is working toward his master's degree in the earth sciences.

The gift you give to the scholarship fund, whether it be coupons or cash, will be a perpetual gift for the original sum will never be spent, only the earnings on its investment will be used for the annual scholarship. Thus, the gift you give will serve the cause of education year after year, and God willing, century after century.

Betty Crocker coupons mount up fast! They come with over 50 General Mills products: Gold Medal Flour, Soft-a-Silk Cake Flour, Bisquick, Betty Crocker Cake and Frosting Mixes, Cheerios, Wheaties, Kix, Total Country Corn Flakes, all big G cereals, Betty Crocker Potato product 3 Little Kittens Cat Food, Red Band Flour, Sperry Drifted Snow flour and many more.

Start saving Betty Crocker coupons today! Your neighbors and relatives will be pleased to help you save for so worthy a cause.

The central collecting point in the American Federation for Betty Crocker coupons for the Scholarship Fund is "W. H. deNeui, 6600 Cornelia Drive, Minneapolis, Minnesota 55424. Each society is urged to act as a local collecting point and forward coupons to Mr. deNeui

We urge you to join us in this worthy cause for the gift of knowledge is the finest gift you can give. If you cannot give money, you can give coupons.

Bernice L. Regin, Chairman
Coupons for Scholarship

A V E R Y M E R R Y C H R I S T M A S A N D A
H A P P Y A N D H E A L T H Y N E W Y E A R

TO ALL. And our heartfelt thanks for your patronage during
the past years.

Our store hours during the days before Christmas will be
9 AM to 9 PM Mondays thru Saturdays. We will close at
noon on December 24 and will re-open at 9 AM on Monday
December 30.

Our usual complete line of lapidary supplies plus many
interesting items for Christmas giving are available both
for your rockhound friends and for those who appreciate
something different.

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9:00 AM to 5:30 PM Weekdays Open Fridays till 9:00 PM
Closed Sundays

OPEN EVERY EVENING THE LAST TWO WEEKS BEFORE CHRISTMAS

The Grand Rapids Mineral Society
 1355 Hollywood N.E.
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 Return Postage Guaranteed



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