

Volume 6, no. 6 - February, 1964



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 Ave. 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)

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.

FEBRUARY MEETING

DATE: Wednesday, February 12

TIME: 8:00 PM - come earlier if you want to visit before the meeting.

PLACE: Riverside Elementary School, 2420 Coit N E



We have much to discuss regarding our forthcoming show. Come prepared to let the committee know your needs as to space required for your display. Bring your application along.

At the time of going to press no information regarding the program for this meeting was available, but we are sure Jack Kirkwood will have a good one for us. And, of course, there will be a door prize or two.

Club emblems will be available for the small cost of 75¢ each. Each member should have an emblem to wear to meetings and on field trips. If you haven't one - this is your chance to remedy the situation.

There will be a contest to pick the Lapidary-Of-The Month. Bring your latest effort for the judging. YOU may be the lucky one this month.

* * * * *

MINERAL GROUP

Eighteen mineral collectors turned out for the January meeting at the home of Mr & Mrs Fay Reed on January 23rd. The discussion was on FELDSPAR. The Reeds have a number of good specimens which were used to show the various types of this material. We also enjoyed looking at their collection of fluorescent minerals.

The next meeting will be held on Thursday, February 27th at Rozema's shop (Back room), 776 Leonard NE and pictures of the mineral collection at the Smithsonian Museum will be shown along with some from other collections. Anyone interested in mineral collecting is invited to attend this meeting.

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COUPONS FOR SCHOLARSHIP

Again we would like to remind you to save the coupons from Betty Crocker products. Each coupon is worth 1/2¢ toward scholarships. Full details were printed in the December DRIFTER.

Coupons can be mailed to W H deNeui, 6600 Cornelia Drive, Minneapolis, Minnesota. However they should be turned into your chairman, Mrs. R R Rozema, who will send them on to Mr. deNeui.

OUR PRESIDENT'S CORNER

This message is coming from my basement where I am busy working on my agates for the show. How are YOU doing? This issue of the DRIFTER contains the application for space in the show. Turn yours in without delay. As you know, space is limited and will be awarded on a first come -- first placed basis.

All members who joined prior to the January 1964 meeting are eligible to exhibit. It is most rewarding to receive an Exhibitor's Ribbon.

The Show Committee, headed by Jerry Morris, has been working hard to make this show even better than the preceding ones.

Casey Doornbos, Field Trip Chairman, has lined up a trip to the Field Museum in Chicago. It is scheduled for early in April. If enough interest is shown, this trip will be made by bus at a cost of approximately \$6.00 per person.

Be sure to complete the blank for field trips elsewhere in this issue of the DRIFTER. Your early cooperation will be appreciated by the committee.

The next three months will be busy ones for all of us and we hope each of you will do his or her share to lighten the load of those responsible for the various events scheduled. Don't wait to be asked for your help. Volunteer!!

See you at the February meeting.

Your agate lovin' president,

Augie Post

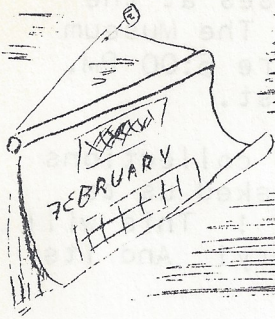
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Conscience is the small voice that makes us feel small when we've done something small.

From GEMS

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We must not resent opposition. It is so universal there must be some good in it.



CALENDAR of EVENTS

- February 12 - Wednesday, at 8, Regular Monthly meeting at Riverside Elementary School, 2420 Coit N E
- February 19 - Wednesday, at 8, Board of Control Meeting at home of Mrs. Lucile Pearl, 1598 Gridley N W
NOTE CHANGE OF DATE FOR THIS MEETING.
- February 21 - Friday, 1 PM. Watch one of our members on WKZO-TV "Feminine Fancies" program
- February 26 - Wednesday, 1 PM. Another of our members will appear on "Feminine Fancies" on Channel 3, WKZO-TV
- February 27 - Thursday, 8 PM, Mineral Group Meeting at Rozema's 776 Leonard N E
- February 29 - Saturday, 9 to 5, Time to set up displays for the 5th ANNUAL ROCK & MINERAL SHOW at the Grand Rapids Public Museum.
- March 1 Sunday, 2 PM, official opening of the 5th ANNUAL ROCK & MINERAL SHOW
- March 11 Wednesday - Regular Monthly meeting
- March 16 Monday - Board of Control Meeting
- March 26 Thursday - Mineral Group Meeting
- April 8 Wednesday - Regular Monthly meeting - Nomination of Officers for coming year
- April 12 Sunday - Trip by bus to Field Museum of Natural History at Chicago. An outstanding rock & mineral collection. Get your reservation in early.
- April 13 Monday - Board of Control meeting
- April 18 Sunday, Last Day of 5th ANNUAL ROCK & MINERAL SHOW. Displays must be removed from Museum immediately after the closing of the museum at 5:00 PM.
- May 16-17 KALAMAZOO GEOLOGICAL & MINERAL SHOW.

FIFTH ANNUAL GEM & MINERAL SHOW

Material for your 5th Annual Show will be put in the cases at the Grand Rapids Public Museum on Saturday, February 29th. The Museum opens at 9:00 AM and all displays must be in place before 5:00 PM. The show opens officially at 2:00 PM on Sunday, March 1st.

As a tribute to past shows, to the exhibitors for their collections and craftsmanship, the Grand Rapids Public Museum has asked us to continue our Rock & Mineral Show 'til the 18th of April ! This will make the 5th show the longest show of its type in history! And its all yours.

As chairman of this show, I would like to emphasize that all contributors within the Grand Rapids Mineral Society are welcome (those with memberships dating prior to the first of this year). Small collections are desired as well as large ones. Quantity does not mean quality - a small display, well arranged, is better than a large display poorly arranged. So come one - come all ! !

NO displays in part or otherwise will be removed before the formal end of the show. Do NOT ask Museum personel to open your case once the display is completed. Cases will be opened only by two or more members of the Show Committee. This rule is established for the protection of your specimens.

Club-member-dealers are welcome to display lapidary equipment and abide by the recommendations of the Show Committee as to the amount of space used. Such equipment shall bear no advertising other than the name of the manufacturer. Dealer circulars and advertising will be distributed by a central method to be established by the Committee.

NO display will be accepted without a Show Application, properly filled out as to specimens and space required. All material will be insured at the Club's expense.

Use the application blank in the DRIFTER or obtain one at the February meeting.

We have some excellent chairmen serving on various committees and you will hear more of them at the February meeting.

So this is a brief outline of what is to happen for the biggest and best rock and mineral show we have ever had.

Any questions regarding any of the above rules will be answered at the next meeting, or you may give me a call.

Gerald B. Morris, Show Chairman
Phone GL 2-3889

* * * * *

WATCH "FEMININE FANCIES" ON WKZO-TV

Our Show will be featured on "Feminine Fancies" on WKZO-TV on Friday, February 21, and Wednesday, February 26. Hope you will plan to see it.

LAPIDARY AWARD OF THE MONTH!

The number of competitors for the Lapidary Award of the Month is on the upswing. Perhaps our attempt to stimulate interest in this phase of our hobby is beginning to pay off. The quality of the work is improving month after month also. Although our winner in the Senior Division this month says that the tiger-eye cufflinks were his first attempt this should stimulate some of our more bashful members into entering some of their artistic endeavors. You too may win a blue ribbon on your first try.

Jack Kirkwood did a nice job on his tiger-eye. The pattern was used to its best advantage. His daughter is the proud owner of the blue ribbon cufflinks.

Jim Molenbeek did an outstanding job on his sphere. This was probably one of the most monumental jobs that we have had entered, and the judges admit little knowledge of the art of sphere making but the septarian sphere looked round, well polished and looked like a winner. Congratulations, Jim! He is making another sphere to be raffled at the February meeting.

The mistake that is being made most frequently, especially on cabs, is the failure to get the outline of the cab ground properly. Most cabs now are turning up with high polish but many are not round or symetrically oval, a few still show a few scratches but sanding is improving.

We had seven entries last month, all were good. We hope to see these seven entering a new piece next month along with a few new entries. Good luck!

R. W. Rose,
Lapidary Award of the Month Chairman

MID-WEST FEDERATION'S BEGINNINGS

In the March 1940 issue of THE MINERALOGIST I ran across an article which should answer the question of when the Mid-West Federation was started. Thought you might like to read it.

"Ben Hur Wilson of Joliet, Illinois, and others residing in the Mid-West area, call attention to the need of a closer cooperation between the earth science organizations. A "Mid-West Federation of Mineral Societies" would seem to be the answer.

"Members of the strong Colorado Mineral Society at Denver are also in favor of the Federation suggestion. It would appear that there are enough amateur organizations in the Rocky Mountain region and the Mid-West area to comprise one or two federations. Wilson suggests two federations, one known as the "Rocky Mountain Federation."

(continued next page)

Beginnings (concluded)

"There are many advantages in federations. For the past five years the California Federation has been most successful in its work, and the annual conclaves are well attended and serve the purpose of bringing the "amateurs" together for a better mutual understanding. The Northwest Federation has also had every success, each annual conclave bringing out increasing numbers of visitors and members.

"Earth science organizations of the Mid-west and the Rocky Mountain region who favor a federation are asked to express their opinions as to how this can be accomplished best."

* * * * *

It's the editor's job to dodge the vegetables as well as catch the bouquets, while the business manager must catch the checks. from The Mineralogist

CUSTOM JEWELRY Phone LE 2-6727

THE AGA- TREE
Lapidary Supplies and Mountings

Open 4 PM to 9PM Monday thru Friday - 9 AM to 9PM Saturday

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WYOMING, MICHIGAN

r o z e m a ' s r o c k p i l e

776 Leonard NE(at Eastern) Grand Rapids, Mich. 49503
Phone 742-3383

Hours: Monday, Wednesday, Saturday 9 to 5
Tuesday, Thursday, Friday 9 to 9

"SPECIALS" for February and March

Tumbling size - Lace Agate, Mexico	\$0.50 lb
- Petrified wood, Arizona	0.50 lb
- Cacoxanite, Brazil	1.25 lb
- Amethyst, Mexico	1.00 lb

Findings - 11-pad bracelet 35¢ each, \$3.00 per dozen
Key Chains 15¢ each, 2 for 25¢

Slabs 10¢ per inch and up

Lapidary Classes Silversmithing Classes
"GRAND RAPIDS' OLDEST COMPLETE ROCK SHOP"

LINCOLN MAY HAVE BEEN A ROCKHOUND

"Abraham Lincoln probably was a rockhound," writes J. Emil Smith, editor of the Illinois State Journal.

Whether or not this may actually be true, we may only conjecture, but as a young "railsplitter", spending much time out of doors in close contact with nature, it would not be unreasonable to believe that his keen intellect and powers of observation may have directed his attention in this direction.

Editor Smith quotes Dr. Ben Hur Wilson, an alumnus of Iowa Wesleyan College, of Mount Pleasant, Iowa, as follows: "That Abraham Lincoln was probably a rockhound is one of the interesting and little known Lincoln sidelights."

D. A. Hayes, President of the local rock club, discovered Lincoln's possible interest in geology while chatting with Dr. Wilson, (then) editor of Earth Science.

Wilson, an acquaintance of Hayes through the Midwest Federation, once mentioned that he had seen in the Museum of Iowa Wesleyan College, a small rock collection made by Abraham Lincoln. On Lincoln's birthday last February 12, Hayes received a letter from Dr. Wilson:

"In regard to the A. Lincoln relic, my recollection is as follows: Mineralogy and geology were taught in the old college before Civil War days and afterwards discontinued. Back in one corner of the museum was an old case of dusty miscellaneous minerals of interest to me.

"The collection first introduced Senator Clark, the "Copper King" of Montana, to minerals when he was a student at Wesleyan, and in this collection there was a small cigar box partitioned off with cardboard, marked "collection of Rocks made by A. Lincoln", and as I remember, his signature was written on one corner of the lid.

"Now, as to how it got there, Senator James Harlan, who was the college president, was also a member of Lincoln's cabinet, and Lincoln's son Robert, married Harlan's daughter, Mary. She spent much time in Mount Pleasant at her parent's home, with her children. Later when the Harlan home was broken up, this box was found and placed by someone in the mineral case at the college, just across the campus.

"I have never doubted the authenticity of the box, and although it was been a good many years since I have seen it, I have been told recently that it is still there. I believe it to be genuine"

From Earth Science Digest, 1954 as published in the GEMS of Kalamazoo Geological & Mineral Society and contributed by member Gertrude Jordan

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LAPIDARY LAMENT

Why is there never enough time to do it right -- but always enough time to do it over!!

from GEMS

LARGE CHRYSOBERYL

what is believed to be the largest chrysoberyl crystal in the world was placed on exhibition in the mineral collection at Field Museum of Natural History. Chrysoberyl is a rare accessory mineral in granite pegmatites, characterized by extreme hardness, being exceeded in this property only by diamond and sapphire. Certain varieties of chrysoberyl, which chemically is the aluminate of beryllium, are cut as gem stones known as alexanderite, cymophane or cat's-eye, and Oriental chrysolite.

The record size specimen now exhibited, and another exceptionally large specimen, were recently obtained from their discoverer, Richard V. Gaines, of the Colorado School of Mines, who found them near Golden, Colorado. The specimens occurred among several hundred crystals, of which a number were larger than had ever before been found on this continent, or probably anywhere in the world. The larger of the two crystals at the museum measures 5 by 5 by 1½ inches, and weighs two and one-half pounds. The largest specimen previously to reach the museum did not exceed 2½ inches in its longest dimension.

from March 1940 The Mineralogist magazine.

RUGGED AMERICAN

The January 1940 issue of Redbook Magazine carries a fine story of the active and interesting life of Chase S. Soborn, now 80 years of age. Of special interest to the mineralogist and geologist is the fact that over half a century ago, Chase Osborn, while residing in Northern Michigan, became interested in mineralogy. By diligent reading and field studies of the local iron deposits he soon graduated from the ranks of the "amateur" to become an expert on deposits of iron minerals, and through this he won his first fortune of over five million dollars - just one of fifteen similar fortunes.

Among other accomplishments he is recognized as a geologist, seismologist, botanist, ornithologist, and explorer. He was once the Governor of Michigan. Osborn's struggle to prominence and success reads like a Horatio Alger novel. It is a pleasure to note our records show he has been a subscriber to The Mineralogist since 1934.

from March 1940 The Mineralogist Magazine.

GEM PRAYER WHEEL

A Tibetan prayer wheel of silver, inlaid with turquoise and coral, has been presented to the Field Museum of Natural History, for addition to its Oriental collection, by C. J. Hambleton, of Chicago

The wheel is of very fine workmanship and was used for many years by the Tibet monks. In use the rotation of the wheel represents repetition of the prayer, a "labor saver" it would seem.

From March 1940 The Mineralogist Magazine

E N T R Y B L A N K

FIFTH ANNUAL ROCK & MINERAL SHOW March 1 - April 18, 1964
Grand Rapids Public Museum

Name _____ Phone _____
Address _____ Zip No. _____

TYPE OF EXHIBIT: MINERAL () LAPIDARY () FOSSIL ()
 GEOLOGICAL ODDITY () EDUCATIONAL ()

Space requirement _____

I will: Give demonstration () be a Host/Hostess ()
 arrange a neighborhood store display ()

Fill in form as soon as possible and give, or send, to:

Gerald B. Morris, Chairman
1315 Griggs S E
Phone GL2-3889

Fill in space below for insurance purposes:

Item	Value	Item	Value

Total Value \$ _____ Deadline for Entries: Feb 23

Deadline for Exhibits: February 29, 3:30 PM - no exceptions

Show closes at 5:00 PM Sunday April 18

NO exhibit may be removed prior to 5:00 PM on Sunday, April 18, and all must be out of the cases by 6:00 PM.

I agree to abide by the rules of the show, especially with regards as to time of setting up display and removing same from Museum.

Exhibitor

YOUR PREFERENCE FOR FIELD TRIPS ?

What is your preference for coming field trips? In order that we may have the trips you want we will need your cooperation. Check, clip and deposit in box at the next club meeting, February 12.

1		Calcite plant at Rogers City, Michigan
2		Terre Haute, Nashville, Indiana
3		Petoskey- Traverse Area
4		Pugh Quarry, Custer, Ohio
5		Medusa Quarry, Sylvania, Ohio
6		Cheney Quarry, Bellevue, Michigan

Number in order of your preference.

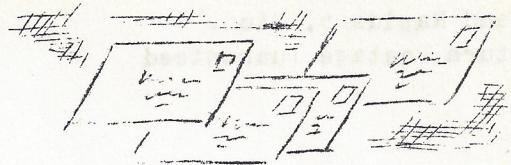
Ballot for Field Museum Excursion - deposit in box at February 12th club meeting.

<p>I (or we) are interested in the proposed BUS EXCURSION to the Field Museum of Natural History, Chicago, Ill. on Sunday, April 12. I understand that the cost will be approximately \$6.00 per person.</p> <p>Name _____</p>
--

If you can't be at the meeting you can contact me at my home and I will see that your reservation is made for this trip.

Casey Doornbos, Field Trip
Chairman
Phone 949-5069

M.W.F.



LETTER OF THE MONTH

WRAP IT RIGHT by PHILIP H. BARRY
Member of the Midwest Mineral Exchange

Most packages of rocks and minerals I have received from rock-swappers have arrived severely damaged. The carton is crushed, torn, ripped open and flimsy; in some cases specimens were lost.

At the point of origin the P.O. employee accepted the package because it looked good; at the destination the story is different. Normal routing subjects packages to many handlings which cannot be avoided. I think the Post Office deserves credit for making delivery in spite of poor wrappings.

Many specimens are hard and heavy and they act like projectiles when the package is shifted suddenly; they can and do penetrate the cardboard container unless restrained and cushioned (e.g., with crumpled paper) to absorb shock. Further, it is a must to select a hard cardboard box.

Here are suggestions from bitter experience:

- (1) Do not let individual specimens touch each other in the package. Isolate with suitable insulation.
- (2) Make sure the specimens do not bear against the inside surface of the box. Cushion here also.
- (3) Select a hard cardboard box. Simple corrugated boxes are not enough. Choose a box that is hard to bend with your fingers. Don't use shoe boxes.
- (4) Wrap the carton in heavy duty kraft paper or a suitable substitute.
- (5) Tie the parcel securely with strong cord. Tie around the girth three times if the carton is heavy, and add interlocking ties at each crossover point.
- (6) Don't send a package that rattles. This is an indication that something inside is not secure.

The Grand Rapids Mineral Society
1355 Hollywood N.E.
Grand Rapids 5, Mich.
Return Postage Guaranteed



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Mr. Kreigh Tomaszewski
333 Richard Terrace S.E.
Grand Rapids 6, Mich.

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