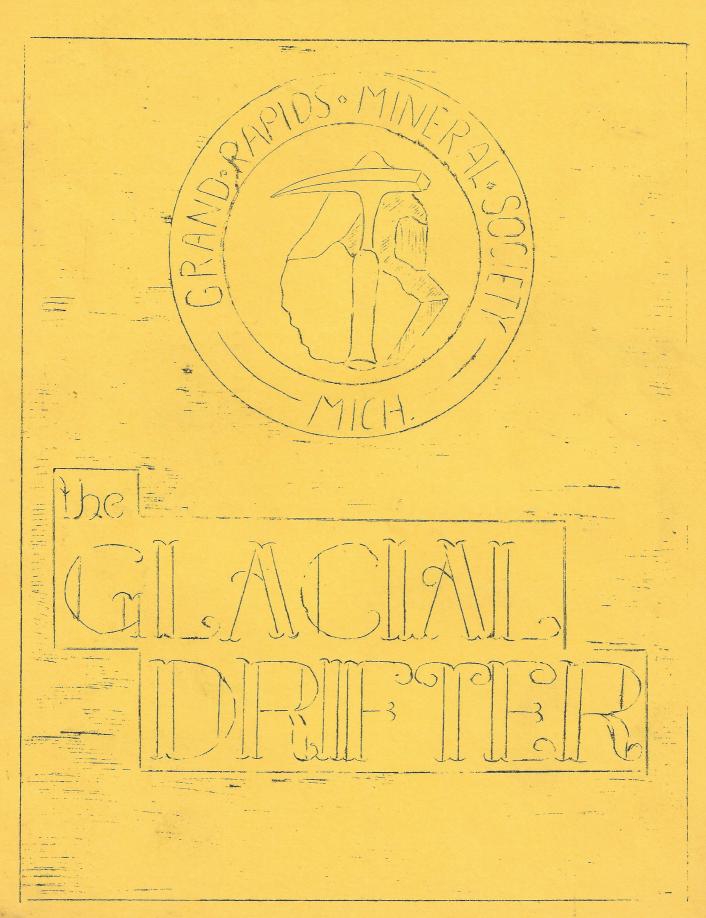
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The Grand Rapids wineral Society is a con-Frofit Corporation affiliated with the widwest  $F_{\rm e}$  deration and American Federation of wineral Societies.

cetings are held at Riverside Elementary Conool, 2420 Coit is the 2nd Leanesday of each month at 8:00 F.M. (Sept. thru April) Annual Leeting second Lednesday 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. (Advertisements p blished Cept. 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.

Fermission to reprint material appearing in the DRIFTER is nereby granted provided proper credit is given.

Lember - Bulletin Editors Association.

# M.ARCH MEETING

Date: Wednesday, warch 11

Time: 8:00 Fw come earlier The 105 Pour goors open at 7:30

ne main hall is the work of

Flace: Riverside Elementary School 2420 Coit N E

Frogram: At the time of going

to press the program had not been decided

on. This is not because of lack of co-operation on the part of our program chairman, Jack Kirkwood, but because Jack has been transferred from the GR Cffice of F H A to their Cincinnati office where he will be the director. This is a promotion for Jack and we aferver

happy for him, although it will leave a hole in our society which will be hard to fill. Good luck, Jack,

on your new job.

But we .ILL have a program, we always do manage to have something of interest to our members and guests.

..e will have a door prize as well as the donation prize of a sphere made and donated by Jim wolenbeek. Proceeds from the sale of tickets will go to buy more equipment for the juniors.

#### MINERAL STUDY GROUP MEETING

The Mineral Study group met on Thursday, February 27. Slides of the mineral collection at the Smithsonian in Lashington, D C were shown. The meeting was hosted by the Rozemas.

The Warch meeting of this group will be held at the home of Wr. & Wrs. Joseph Parish, 2212 Thornwood 5 .. at 8:00 PW on Thursday Warch 26. We hope YOU will join us.

#### MARCH AND EARLY APRIL IS SHOW TIME

As announced in the February DRIFTER, the Annual show of our group at the Museum has been extended beyond the 29th of March. This show will continue until Sunday, April 19 at 5:00 F.M. Last month's DRIFTER stated the 18th which was in error. Plan to be on hand at 5:00 on April 19th to remove your display from its case. Please be prompt so that someone will not have to wait for you to get your material out.

#### OUR FRESIDENT "S MESSAGE M THO HAM

As I write this everyone is busy with last minute projects to complete the displays for our show at the Museum. And by the time this reaches you our show will have been on public display for a couple of days.

The fountain in the center of the main hall is the work of Dick Damstra with the assistance of a mason from Valentine's.

Show Chairman Jerry m'rris and his committee have been working hard and it looks as if it has paid off. ..e have a very good show and it should attract a lot of attention.

mary Jane Dockeray, Mrs. Elaine Smith, and my good wife, Ruth, appeared on TV from MKZO in Kalamazoo and gave our show a good boost. The publicity received through the Press has been very good and we are indebted to Elaine Smith and Mable Palmer for the two articles.

Our past president Bill Atwell has been transferred to ashington and I have, withthe approval of the Board, appointed Bob Rozema to fill the vacancy on the board created by Bill's departure. We wish Bill much success and happiness in his new position and we hope he will have an opportunity to visit us if he comes this way.

..e also wish to congratulate Vice-President Jack Kirkwood on his promotion as Director of the F H A office in Cincinnati. ..e are sorry he has had to leave us, but we know he will make a good addition to the club in Cincinnati.

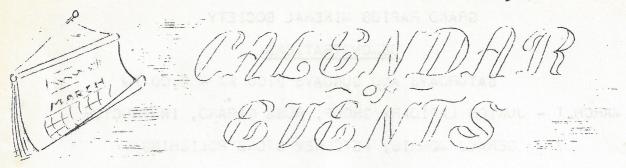
I want to take this opportunity to thank each and every one of you who have had a hand in making our show a success and this includes many, many of our members.

Don't forget the field trip we are planning for April 12th.
At the time of the Board meeting Casey Doornbos reported that he had 30 reservations. If you haven't made yours, better take care of this immediately. Colly nine more seats to fill to have a full bus.

to be an hand at 5:00 on April 19th to remove your display from

Augie Post, President

for you to get your materia



- March 11 ..ednesday, 8:00 PM Regular monthly meeting at Riverside Elementary School, 2420 Coit, N.E.
- Warch 16 Monday, 8:00 P.J., Board of Control Meeting at home of Wiss Warie Spielmaker, 4680 Burlingame, S...., "yoming.
- march 26 Thursday, 8:00 Fm, wineral Study Group at home of mr. Joe Parrish, 2212 Thornwood, S.W., Grand Rapids, wichigan.
- April 8 ..edesday, 8:00 Pm, Regular wonthly meeting Nomination of Officers for coming year.
- April 12 Sunday, Field Trip by bus to Field Museum.
- April 13 Monday, 8:00 PM, Board of Control meeting.
- April 19 + Sunday, 5:00 PM, close of ANNUAL ROCK & WINERAL SHOW, REMOVAL OF DISPLAYS. PLEASE BE PROMPT.
- may 16-17 Saturday and Sunday, kalamazoo Geologocal and Mineral Show.
- July 23-24-25-26 Midwest Federation Convention andshow, Muskegon.

SEE PAGE 4 OF THIS ISSUE OF THE DRIFTER FOR THE SHOW CALENDAR SHOWING SPECIAL EVENTS

#### GRAND RAPIDS MINERAL BOCIETY

#### DEMONSTRATIONS

#### SATURDAYS AND SUNDAYS 2:00 PM - 5:00 PM

- WARCH 1 JUNIOR LAPIDARY GROUP, RUSS GIRARD, INSTRUCTOR
  - 7 GERALD MORRIS, FETOSKEY STONE POLISHING
  - 8 ERNIE GIFFORD, LAPIDARY
  - 14 JUNIOR LAFIDARY GROUP, RUSS GIRARD, INSTRUCTOR
- 15 ROBERT REED ROZEMA, LAPIDARY
  - 21 JUNIOR LAPIDARY GROUP, RUSS GIRARD, INSTRUCTOR
- 22 RICHARD AND GARY DAMSTRA, CABOCHON
  LARRY FEGEL, LAPPING
  JIM MOLENBEEK, SPHERE MAKING
  - 28 HENRY TCHCZESKI, VERNEMATSON & SON
  - 29 SILVERSMITHING DEMONSTRATION
    LAPIDARY, MR. & MRS. CORNELIUS DOORNBOS
    MR. & MRS. AUGUST POST
- APRIL 1 PETOSKEY STONE POLISHING, GERALD MORRIS
  - 5 LAPIDARY, MR. & MRS. ROBERT SMITH
  - 11 TO BE ANNOUNCED
    - 12 PETOSKEY STONE POLISHING, GERALD MORRIS

## DEMONSTRATIONS FOR SCHOOL GROUPS

THURSDAYS 1:00 PM - 3:00 PM

- MARCH 5 DR. RICHARD ROSE
  - 12 NINA ROZEWA
  - 19 ELAINE SWITH
  - 26 NONE
- APRIL 2 JOE PARRISH
  - 9 DR. RICHARD ROSE
  - 16 WRS. GERALD MORRIS
- EVERY SUNDAY MOVIES RELATING TO ROCKS AND MINERALS
  2:15 4:30 FM CONTINUOUS.

Among the many petrified forests of the world, the area known as the Sweethome Petrified Forest stands unique. Although known for many years by local farmers, its extent, scientific value and outstanding features have not been realized until recently.

The Sweethome Petrified Forest is readily accessible by auto and is situated some 25 miles southeast of Albany, Oregon, and can be reached via highway number 99. The forest is named after the town of Sweethome. The best exposures of the fossil wood are to the south of this community.

A preliminary survey made of the area by local collectors, including walter Nelson, Charles Flory, George Kirkwood, and the writer, indicates that the fossil forest extends over an area of at least twenty square miles. The localities which have so far yielded the best and most abundant specimens are on the small farms between the towns of Sweethome and Holley. The latter town is about 4 miles south of Sweethome. Fossil wood is also found over a considerable area to the south and east of the above communities.

The geological horizon at which the fossil wood occurs in the Sweethome Petrified Forest appears to be associated with the Tyee sandstones which are referred to as Eocene age. This would place the age of the fossil wood at approximately 50 million years. Further studies of the region may prove a correlation with the well known Coshen flora to the south in Lane County, which would place the Sweethome Forest in Oligocene.

Outcroppings of fossil flora were encountered in the Sweethome Forest region, but no detailed study has been made of this material. The ancient Sweethome Forest probably thrived under sub-tropical climatic conditions, as indicated by specimens of fossil fig wood which have been found. Cedar, laurel, and oak have also been identified, but hardwoods are not dominant.

For some years the farmers in this region have looked upon the specimens of fossil wood as an annoyance. Thile plowing the fields innumerable specimens of fossil wood are encountered on some of the farms, and these, together with what rock the plow may expose, are piled along the fences or thrown upon hugh piles. Some of the farms have small mountains of rock intermingled with fossil wood. In many instances permission can be readily obtained to remove this 'rock' from the property. The region is not thickly settled, but around most of the farms in the Sweethome district fossil wood is abundant, and generally a small pile of the better grade of specimens will be seen around the homes.

Very little collecting has been done in the Sweethome Forest. A small number of local collectors have for the past year visited a few of the farms where an interest was taken in the specimens and the better ones brought in from the fields. The best specimens would be selected for cabinet use.

Ames Creek, south of Sweethome, appears to yield a tremendous (continued next page)

#### S..EETHOME FOREST (continued)

quantity of specimens. As a matter of fact, at least ten per cent of the rock in the creek bottom and along the shores is fossil wood. On a farm of 150 acres which Ames Creek passes through over two tons of limb sections were picked up in a very limited area.

Not all specimens of fossil wood found in the Sweethome Forest are colorful and suitable for cutting and polishing. Perhaps only above five per cent of the specimens can be classes as outstanding. Rather, the locality is remarkable for the fact that a considerable amount of the wood is in well preserved complete limb and tree sections, which show the grain of the wood remarkably clear.

most of the specimens are silicified and agatized, rather than opalized, hence bright colors are not found in profusion. A number of excellent jasperized specimens were seen by the writer The complete limb and tree sections, regardless of color, make excellent specimens for study purposes.

Frobably the most interesting and colorful of all specimens found in the Sweethome Forest is the wood which has been largely silicified by well colored carnelian agate. Usually these specimens are not complete replacements of the entire log section by carnelian, but show thick layers and seams of the agate running lengthwise with the grain of the wood. Some of these masses are of substantial size.

Although not occuring in any great quantity, very excellent carnelian agate is found associated with the wood at some localities in the Sweethome Forest, especially along Ames Creek. The agate masses are well colored and the color penetrates fairly deeply into the specimens. Some show combinations of fortification agate with the carnelian color.

Many of the tree and limb sections of fossil wood found in the Sweethome Forest will range from three to eight inches in diameter, and in varying lengths up to several feet. Some smaller and considerably larger sections are also available,

After a number of trips to the locality by the writer and others it was thought that no trees standing in the original vertical position were to be found. Local residents had stated that in certain places stumps were standing in the vertical position. After some search an area was found by Charles Flory and the writer where marvelously agatized fossil stumps were found in the original vertical position.

The denuded fossil trees found standing in the vertical position are approximately 50 million years in age and are remarkable in that they are standing in the midst of a present-day Douglas fir forest no more than 200 years old. In many instances a five-foot diameter fossil stump may be seen adjacent to a 200-year old fir, pine or oak tree. The present forest is a mixed one, with Douglas fir in the dominant position.

(continued next page)

#### SWEETHOME FOREST (Continued)

According to Charles Flory, Supervisor of the Wt. Baker, hashington, National Forest, the Sweethome Petrified Forest is one of the very few of its kind in the entire world. It is well known that most of the great fossil forest of the world are in areas where forests of today do not thrive.

The area of vertical standing stumps is not an isolated one, but extends over a considerable area. In the thickest part of the present-day forest the debris is so deep that the old agatized remains cannot readily be found, but upon slopes where small streams have cut canyons the fossil examples are well exposed. In one area of only a few acres over twenty large stumps were noted standing in vertical position. Scattered about in this area are many tons of large and small petrified logs and a great amount of fragmentary material.

About four miles from the above described area of standing fossil trees is a remarkable exposure of the ancient forest in a cross section. This locality is in the canyon of the Calapooya River about four miles east of Holley. Take the upper Calapooya road and park at the overed bridge and walk one-fourth mile down the railway track.

Exposed on the north side of the river canyon is a series of sedimentaries, including sandstone and consolidated clay shales. At numerous places on the face of the steep canyon wall can be seen petrified trees of various sizes standing in a vertical position. Thile colorful specimens are lacking here, the locality offers ample proof that the Sweethome Forest is not of the drift type, but was covered and fossilized while standing in the vertical position. It is hoped that these remarkable specimens will remain unmolested.

The typical dark and coarse sandstones in which the trees are embedded at this locality are exactly the same as those associated with the denuded standing forest described above. This sandstone also seems to mark the horizon at which specimens are most likely to be found. Above this specimens are not likely to be found, hence this outcropping of sandstone will serve as an excellent field guide to indicate where specimens occur.

Among other rare and unique specimens found in the Sweethome Forest is the silicified wood showing layers and coatings of quartz crystals. In some instances the quartz crystals are of a drusy nature, while specimens have been found showing quartz groups of considerable size and comprising large specimens. The deposition of quartz crystals is in seams and layers and is probably of a secondary nature. The wood prior to silicification probably dessicated, the spaces caused by shrinkage were not filled in by the original deposition of silica, but by subsequent solutions of a different character.

One of the largest and finest examples of fossil wood showing coatings of quartz crystal groups was the specimen recently found by wrs. .alter Nelson. (continued next page)

#### S.EETHOME (continued)

This specimen was a portion of a large log, the area showing fine quartz crystals was over fifty pounds in weight, and by careful breaking several fine large cabinet pieces were obtained In the thicker seams the large quartz crystals were deposited as open coxcomb growths.

For the time being the exact location of the newly discovered standing portion of the Sweethome Petrified Forest cannot be revealed the general public Owing to the convenient location of the area it is possible that vandalism may destroy many of the remarkable tree stumps, despite the fact that excellent loose material is available here and elsewhere.

The standing tree area could be developed into a state park at relatively little cost, and this is urged. Attention is called to the fact that the Ginko Petrified Forest (state park) in central washington drew nearly 60,000 visitors in 1938. This should serve as ample proof of the wide public interest in areas of this kind. Developments of similar interest could readily be made in the Oregon locality.

The writer wishes to thank halter Nelson, Portland collector, for guiding him to various places of special interest in the Sweethome Forest, and otherwise aiding him in obtaining the data presented here. Due appreciation is extended to Charles Flory of Bellingham, washington, for his kind aid. Acknowledgement is made to A. R. Hines and George F. Kirkwood, Portland collecte ors, for their aid in the field.

Several local residents kindly permitted the writer and party to enter their property and freely remove specimens, and otherwise rendered aid. This hospitality and generosity is appreciated.

From The Wineralogist Wagazine, Warch 1940

Editor's Note - Please note the date of this article and don't rush out to Oregon to do your collecting. I imagine this area is now pretty well picked over and all the easy collecting has been done. But don't you wish you had been there in 1940 when it was a newly discovered collecting site?

## PERSONALS

A couple of our members have been hospitalized recently. Herbert Papke had an operation on his back, but we are happy to report that he is back on his feet and patiently (?) awaiting the doctor's "back-to-work" sign.

Clarence Ryan was hospitalized after a fall from a 5-foot ladder, no broken bones, but he had a blood clot on the brain, which, with good medical care, dissolved and he returned home on February 26th. Good luck to both of these men. Hope to see you both at the next meeting.

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WIDWEST FEDERATION'S "LETTER-A-MONTH" for March 1964

#### LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE REPORT

I'm sure many of us feel life is complicated enough without locking horns with the government over what may seem to be an innocuous recreational-type hobby. It's understandable therefore that many have asked, "why a legislative committee for rockhounds?" Perhaps the basic answer lies in the fact that what we are engaged in, is not a mere hobby. The problems we face are compounded by the tremendous growth of this avocation from a slight handful of amateur thirty years ago to millions of enthusiasts today...many of whom have achieved a high degree of professional know-how.

with this increasing 'array of diggers' going forth every spring, there is little wonder that our lawmakers have begun to take a serious look at these strange creatures apparently bent on re-arranging the earth's crust. But the eyes of Congress didn't focus on the situation until we witnessed the advent of the "quick-buck artists". With bull-dozers, dynamite and itinerant bean pickers they entered the known collecting areas for agate, petrified wood, rare crystals and junkite and picked them clean. Land owners' and lessers' rights were ignored and soon many desirable spots were closed to all comers. Since Public Lands were receiving the same going-over, it was inevitable that the Federal Government step in with both feet and introduce new laws restricting mineral collecting

Thus the legislative committee was established by the Federation's past-president Bernice Rexin and continued by direction of President Russ Kemp. After receiving the assignment as chairman, I asked two of the best informed people I knew to serve with me---June Culp Zeitner of Mission, S. D. and Merton Young of Michigantown, Indiana. To me, their long experience in earth science research, and the conservative development of our natural resources was fundamental to the establishment of an effective working committee.

we first tackled the wilderness Bill which would have made many areas inaccessible to all but the rugged and the rich. The lands would have been off-limits for the mineral collector and, with no roads, could not even be seen by most Americans. Tho we exerted no influence in having the bill stymied in Committee, we were starting to make ourselves heard. When the Bureau of Land Management, Department of Interior gave birth to the so-called Petrified wood Act, we were prepared. Since a stipulation of our non-profit organization status prohibits our engaging in politics, we restricte our efforts to a presentation to the Bureau and members of Congress of the problems the proposed legislation created. For instance... the ten pound daily limit on collecting petrified wood is completely unrealistic approach and the yearly total limit is patently unenforceable outside a Police State. To place proper emphasis on the matter, however, we suggested that our members give voice to their individual thoughts directly to the people who represent them in the House and Senate.

The other Federations including the American Federation, the Lapidary Journal and Gems and MInerals magazines were in the fight from the very beginning.

(continued next page

#### LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE REFORT (concluded)

Now we are coordinating our efforts to effect sensible solutions to our growing problems. Overwhelmed at first by the magnitude and unanimity of our membership, the Dept. of Interior is currently working with American Federation representatives (who have been advised of the Midwest's wishes to establish a unified position) in order to write a just and effective act. Much remains to be done, but I feel we're on the right track.

Occasionally I'm asked by a member of one of our mineral societies "why join (and pay dues to) a federation? We just want to hunt rocks and enjoy this wonderful hobby."

I think this answers their question. Joe D. Hanna, Jr.

INFORMATION FOR ALL CONTESTANTS UNDER THE 1964 UNIFORM RULES

At last ear's National Show in Oklahoma City a new authority was a approved for the Master group in the Fossil category, "The Treatise Series on Invertebrate Paleontology" by Raymond Moore. It now appears that this selection may be working a hardship on many potential exhibitors. The Treatise Series does not yet have wide distribution and therefore may not be available for extended periods to the average collector. Also, the reported price is beyond the means of many individuals.

while we in the AFMS Uniform Rules committee have neither the authority nor the desire to reverse decisions reached at Oklahoma City, we feel we would be remiss were we to ignore the situation. Therefore, at the National Show in San Antonio we shall call these matters to the attention of the Fossil judging teams and request that they observe appropriate leniency when scoring the labeling in the Master Fossil classifications.

Again this year the following deviations from Dana and Hey will be acceptable on labels: Obsidian, Phyolite, Granite, etc. Chrysocolla and Psilomilane will be "Chalcedony" with descriptive terms in parentheses.

Herb De walt, Chairman, AFMS
Uniform Rules Committee

#### SUPPORT THE SHOWS

There will be many shows and exhibits this spring and summer in our region as well as in others. Flan to attend as many of the shows as you can and thus help promote the showing of rocks and minerals, etc.

H elp E liminate L itter F lease H elp E liminate L itter F lease The Grand Rapids Mineral Society
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(paul tomos) (did nama ad (v)

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333 Richard Terrace S.E.

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Herb De Leit, Chairman, AP/S Uniform Rules Committee

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T. F. Jease