

Volume 6, no. 3 - April 1904



The

GLACIAL

DEPOSIT

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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. (Advertisements 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.

# The Great Petoskie!

## AT THE APRIL MEETING

Date: Wednesday, April 8

Time: 8:00 P.M. Come earlier for a gab fest with your fellow hobbyists

Place: Riverside Elementary School  
2420 Coit N E

The Nominating Committee will present a slate of officers and board members and nominations may be made from the floor. (The election will be held at the Annual Meeting in May)

AND FOR YOUR ENTERTAINMENT and enlightenment, our own Jerry Morris will present a program on Petoskey Stone.- the only cutting material in existence, according to Jerry. This is a program which will be of interest to persons of all ages. Be sure to bring the youngsters.

And, of course, there will be a door prize or two.

### WE NEED DOOR PRIZE MATERIAL

Last June we had the misfortune to be without a door prize and an article to raffle at the monthly meeting. We hope that won't happen again. An appeal to the membership brought a response that has carried us through to date, for which we wish to thank those who donated specimens and jewelry.

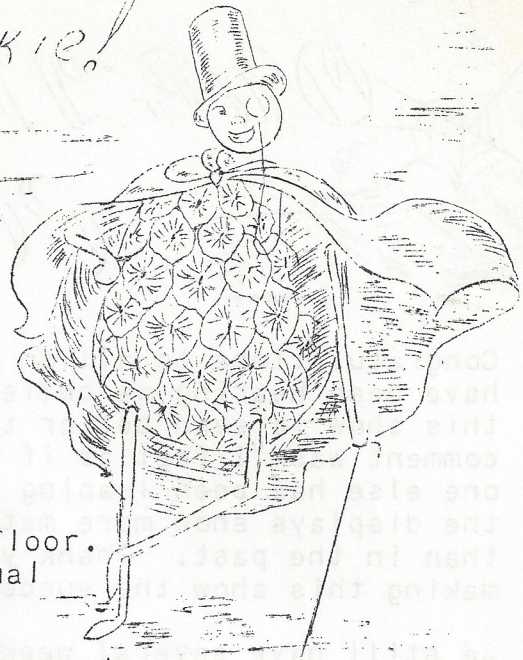
We have on hand at present door prize material for April and May but would like to stock up on enough material to carry through September.

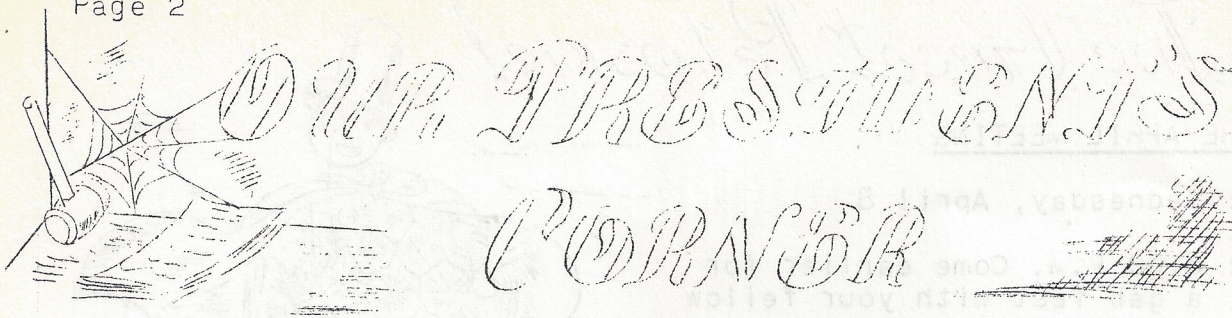
For raffles we have an article for April and one for May, but would like an additional one for the Annual meeting in that month.

In addition we would like raffle material promises for June, July, August and September.

Please let me know if you are willing to donate something for this portion of our program.

Joe Parish, Door Prize Chairman





Congratulations to all on a good show!! From the comments we have been hearing we believe that the general opinion is that this show is even better than those of the past years. One comment was "I feel as if I had been standing still while everyone else has been leaping ahead". And my own feelings are that the displays show more maturity of thought and better planning than in the past. Thank you, one and all, for your part in making this show the success it is.

We still have several weeks of show time and we are hoping that you will keep up the good work of advertising the show to your friends and neighbors so they will want to take the time to stop in for a look.

Congratulations are in order to Jerry Morris and Dr. & Mrs. Robert B. Smith!! Jerry will have his Petoskey stone eagle on display at the World's Fair and the Smiths' will have several plaques of Michigan stone on the entrance wall of the Michigan Cottage. Guess we'll all have to visit the World's Fair to see what our members are doing. This is a real honor for these members and we are very happy for them.

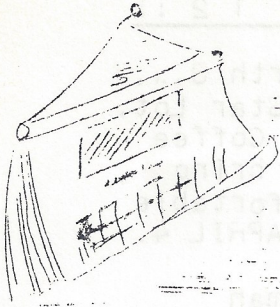
We are most happy to find that the bus is filled for the trip to Chicago. Sorry that some of you will have to miss this excursion, but maybe we can arrange to have another similar trip later in the year, or next year, if we can get another bus load.

We hope to see all of you at the April meeting. As you know, this is the month when nominations for officers and board members are made and if you want a part in the selection of those who are to run your club it is a good idea to be on hand to make your nominations. Election will take place at the May meeting, but if a person isn't nominated in April he cannot be elected in May.

We are planning a potluck dinner for our May meeting and blanks will be available at the April meeting for your use in advising the committee as to what you will bring and how many of you will be attending. We are planning to have an excellent speaker.

Rockily yours,

August Fost, President



# CALENDAR of EVENTS

- April 8      Wednesday, Regular monthly meeting.  
Nomination of officers and board members for  
1964-65 year. Jerry Morris, speaker.
- April 12     7:30 A.M. Bus leaves for Chicago Excursion.
- April 13     Monday, Board of Control meeting at Rozema's  
776 Leonard N.E.
- April 19     Last day of show - be sure to be on time to  
remove your display. Show closing time is 5:00.
- April 23     Thursday at 8. Mineral Study Group meeting at  
home of Mr. & Mrs. Arnold Wendt, 439 Parkside N.
- May          1st weekend or 2nd weekend - Field trip to  
Rogers City - definite plans to be announced at  
meeting.
- May 13      Annual meeting and potluck at Riverside Junior  
High. Get your reservations in early.
- May 16-17   KALAMAZOO GEOLOGICAL & MINERAL SOCIETY ANNUAL  
SHOW at the Recreation Park
- May 18      Board of Control meeting.
- June 6 & 7   Field Trip to Nashville and Terre Haute, Indiana  
for geodes and fern fossils
- July 23, 24, 25, 26 - Midwest Federation Convention  
and Rock and Gem Festival at Walker Arena
- Sept. 12-13   Saturday and Sunday - Northern Region  
Midwest Rockrama, Appleton, Wisconsin

CHICAGO EXCURSION APRIL 12!!

Place of departure, North Star Bus Line, 341 Ellsworth S...  
(at Wealthy Street) Parking area for cars on North Star Lot.  
Time of departure 7:30 A.M. Set your alarm clock. Coffee  
served enroute. A cafeteria and room for those who bring  
their lunches at the museum. Wear or take along comfortable  
walking shoes. ALL RESERVATIONS SHOULD BE PAID BY APRIL 4.

Casey Doornbos, Chairman  
Phone 949-5069

SHOW CLOSING ON APRIL 19th

Don't forget to be at the Museum at 5:00 P.M. on Sunday,  
April 19th to remove your display from the Museum cases.  
We would like to see all displays removed before 6:00  
on that date. PLEASE be prompt.

KALAMAZOO GEOLOGICAL & MINERAL SOCIETY SHOW

The Kalamazoo Geological & Mineral Society will have their  
Annual Show on May 16 and 17 at Recreation Park in Kalamazoo.  
Their's is an excellent show and well worth a drive down that way  
to see. Casey Doornbos, field trip chairman, is planning a  
field trip for Saturday, the 16th to visit this show. Why not  
plan to join us?

MINERAL STUDY GROUP NEWS

The March meeting of the Mineral Study Group was held at the  
home of Mr & Mrs Joe Parish on March 26th. We had an opportunity  
to test our skills on identifying a number of rocks which Joe  
had assembled. We were amazed at some of the identifications  
made but believe we all learned something from this experience.

The April meeting will be held at the home of Mr & Mrs Arnold  
Wendt, 439 Parkside N.W. on Thursday, April 23 at 8:00 P.M.  
We hope to see YOU there.

ATTENTION ALL MEN!!!

Did you wear a tan covert top coat to the club meeting in March?  
If so, please check the one you took home with you. Does it  
have a pair of grey suede gloves and a bunch of keys in the  
pocket? Also, is it too large for you? If so, you took the  
wrong coat and left yours. The one left on the coat rack was  
purchased at Dice's Men's Store on Madison Ave. If you find  
that you have the wrong coat PLEASE contact the Editor, Mrs.  
Nina Ozema, 742-3383 and arrangements will be made to make the  
switch to your own coat.

BURIED TREASURE

The old gray rock lies in the field  
 And holds no interest or value for most.  
 They know not what it may yield,  
 Or of what inner treasures it may boast.

Perhaps, in the depths of the ugly gray thing,  
 A story is told to those who can read it.  
 A bit of bone, or shell, or plant may be hiding,  
 The cast of a shell, or an animal print.

These things are small, I'll have to say.  
 But where is the story? now you question.  
 But for those who can see, and look back to the day  
 Of the trilobite, dinosaur, or mastadon -

It's as plain as words what happened here.  
 Perhaps a battle is taking place  
 With ferocity unequalled for many a year.  
 Who knows what amazing things can be traced!

So, people, don't pass the rock on by  
 Not even tossing a careless glance,  
 For, though the outside may not catch your eye,  
 Who knows what the inside may hold; Take aChance!

Joan Afton

\* \* \* \* \*

SACRED CEDAR -- FOSSIL

Professor George F. Beck, Washington College of Education, Ellensburg, Washington, announces the discovery of a fossil cedar tree in Oregon which is essentially the same as the Lebanon Cedar of Biblical days. The original Lebanon Cedar grew in the Forest of Lebanon and is mentioned in the Bible as having been used in the construction of King Solomon's Temple.

The fossil cedar tree referred to by Professor Beck has been standing exposed along the Columbia River Highway (US 30) near McCord Creek for many years. The petrified tree was encountered during the construction of the highway in about 1912, and was fortunately preserved and protected with a wire netting. The specimen is in a vertical position, and stands exposed to a length of about 8 feet, and is about 4 feet in diameter. The specimen has been seen by hundreds of thousands of people during the past 28 years. The identification was made by Beck from a small fragment, cut into a thin section and examined under the microscope. For years the fossil tree had been labeled "hemlock".

This is the first instance where a Lebanon Cedar has been found petrified in Oregon. None have been encountered in Washington, where most of Professor Beck's work has been carried on. Beck also predicts that the sacred cedar will appear in the Sweethome, Oregon petrified forest. The Sweethome forest was described in the March 1940 issue.

From The Mineralogist magazine, May 1940 issue

THE ANCIENT FISH OF WYOMING

Visitors passing through Wyoming via U S Highway 30, will find it of interest to stop at the noted fossil fish locality west of Kemmerer. The locality is adjacent to the main highway and permission to visit can generally be had from the proprietor of the quarry, who operates a filling station nearby.

The remarkable fossil fish of this locality are found in the Green River Shales (limestone) of Eocene Age, or some 40 to 60 million years ago. A considerable amount of labor is required to remove the specimens intact. First an overburden of some twenty feet of barren material must be removed, often months of labor are required to expose a fossil bearing area some thirty feet square.

The fossil bearing strata may be from one foot to several feet in thickness, and when once exposed, is quarried out in the form of large blocks of light colored coarse grained impure limestone. Once the blocks are out, special knives are used to split the material into sections varying up to about one inch in thickness. If the blocks are permitted to dry, splitting is more uncertain. It is a matter of luck what may be exposed on the cleavage surface. There is of course considerable waste, or again a very fine specimen may be exposed. Some slabs measuring two feet and over have been obtained, and on the flat surface or even on both sides may be numerous small and large beautifully exposed fish skeletons. More than one specimen may be found on a single slab. After the section has been trimmed square it is necessary by very careful work to pick away with sharp instruments the limestone adhering to the skeleton. This is a delicate operation.

A few insects and some leaves are found in the fossil fish quarry, but the fish predominate. Why so large a number of fish are entombed in the limestone is a matter of conjecture. The fossil fish locality is a very intensive one, but it is only in a very limited area that good specimens can be obtained.

One of the rarest of all fish found here was a huge Alligator gar fish which was found some years ago, said to be the only one or one of the few specimens of its kind ever found. The ray fish (Xiphodrygon) is another rare species.

Sea bass (*Dapedoglossus*) and sun fish, *Priscacara Cypha*, are found sparingly, while some other varieties of sun fish are quite common. Herring (*Dyplomystus*), chub, and some perch are more common.

The plaques comprising the natural matrix upon which the skeletons rest make very attractive cabinet specimens. These range in size from quite small up to about two feet or more square and presenting from one to a dozen or more fish. A small steel drill will readily cut a hole in the limestone plaque so the specimen can be hung on the wall, as a fascinating reminder of the days when Wyoming enjoyed a semi-tropical climate, some sixty million years ago.

(From The Mineralogist, May 1940 issue)



A LETTER FROM BRITISH COLUMBIA

Dear Friend Rockhound:

Like yourself I suppose, I have always been interested in every kind of gem stone, but I am far more interested in the field of fossils.

Like yourself, also, I wish to enlarge my collection with new species of fossils and gem stones from other states.

However, after a two year long illness and a major surgery in the lung, a long trip abroad and hard digging is now out of the question for my kind of health and income.

So if you or your fellow members of your club are willing to trade with me for fossils or gemstones or both, they are both welcome. This is done very easy by mail and parcel post.

And if you or your friends were planning a trip to British Columbia, they will be ever more welcome to visit us. There is always plenty of coffee and cake for the friends. We have only a very small house but there is about two acres of park land for the ones who wish to stay with their tent or trailer.

Besides hundreds of pounds of jasper agate, bog, and wood, we have also a real zoo of domestic and wild birds.

Visitors spend hours here taking pictures and feeding the birds. There is also delicious trout in the creek 50 yards from the house.

My home is about 2½ miles north of Oliver on highway 97, everyone here knows me as "The Frenchman" and you may ask your way at the B/A gas station in Oliver.

An answer to my letter would make us very happy, Thank you so much for your attention.

Friendly yours,

Rene and Rita Liboton  
RR 2, Oliver, British Columbia

\* \* \* \* \*

Diamonds and Gold are sometimes found in the same alluvial deposits, and such ground should be examined for the precious gem.

Be not harsh to an ant, how much less to mankind.- 'Abdu'l-Baha

Native lead is found in nature but is rare, excellent specimens have been found at Langben, Sweden.

Mines are not salted to make them keep but to make them sell.

from The Mineralogist magazine, May 1940 issue

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MIDWEST FEDERATION'S "LETTER-A-MONTH - April, 1964

MIDWEST FEDERATION CONVENTION

Greetings from the Muskegon County Rock and Mineral Association!!

We invite you to plan your vacation in our scenic water wonderland, and enjoy the 1964 Midwest Federation and Muskegon Rock and Gem Festival. Our show will be held at the Walker Arena in Muskegon, Michigan on Thursday, Friday, Saturday and Sunday, July 23-24-25-26, and will feature a display area 30 feet wide by over 900 feet long. Here you will see both club and individual exhibits of fossils, mineral specimens, lapidary art, faceting, jewelry, as well as the other phases of our hobby.

These exhibits will be competitive and non-competitive, using the American Federation Rules. Here also you will see special displays such as the crosses made by Tolson Radloff that has gained much well deserved fame.

We hope that you will wish to enter your display in your federation show also. On the main floor we will have booths for about 45 dealers coming from all over the United States and Canada.

We are planning continuous programs for your enjoyment and a host of special demonstrations. We will have a swap room set up that you may visit at any time, and scheduled auctions to delight you.

We have a wonderful speaker lined up for our banquet on Saturday night, as well as some delightful favors. We are blessed with many lakes and campgrounds or you can obtain a motel or room within walking distance.

Our club is determined to make your stay here, a happy and most memorable visit. Your inquiries may be directed to me, Fred Andreson, 297 Main Street, Coopersville, Michigan. We will see you in Muskegon in July!

ANNUAL MICHIGAN ROCK SWAP SCHEDULED FOR JUNE 6 and 7

Word has come that the State Line Gem and Mineral Society will sponsor their annual Michigan Rock Swap on June 6th and 7th at Frontier City, Onsted, Michigan.

There will be an auction, entertainment...square dance, bonfire Crackerbarrel session, choral group... and plenty of things to keep the young busy.. rides, slides, etc. at Frontier City.

more than 650 rockhounds attended the 1964 session and it is hoped more will avail themselves of this event in 1964.



The Grand Rapids Mineral Society  
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Grand Rapids 5, Mich.  
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