

VOLUME 7, NO 2 - OCTOBER, 1964



The

GLACIAL

DRIFTER

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The Grand Rapids Mineral Society is a Non-Profit Corporation affiliated with the Midwest Federation and the American Federation of Mineral Societies.

Meets are held the 2nd Wednesday of each month at 8:00 P.M. at Ridgeview Junior High School, Burton and Rosewood, S.E. (Sept. thru June). Summer meetings at various parks as noted.

Advertising in the GLACIAL DRIFTER is at the rate of \$3.00 per issue (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 of Bulletin Editors Association.

BRING-A-GUEST NIGHT - OCTOBER 14

Bring a guest - or two, or three - they will thank you for the invitation after they have enjoyed the program we have in store for you on Wednesday, October 14. Remember the place, RIDGVIEW JUNIOR HIGH, on Rosewood at the corner of Burton, S E. Meeting starts at 8:00 P.M., but you will want to get there early to visit with friends.

Miss Mary Jane Dockeray will give us a premier showing of her new film which she will be showing all over the country in the months to come.

members of the Lansing, Kalamazoo, Muskegon, and Ionia rock clubs have been invited to share in our good fortune. We hope to see many of them at this meeting.

Joe Parish needs something good for the donation prize. Please contact him before the meeting night so he can be prepared. His phone number is LE 2-9135. Door prize drawings will be on the NE. membership cards. HAVE YOU PAID YOUR DUES?

Mrs. Lucile Pearl, our treasurer, will be on hand to take your money and issue our membership card before the meeting, or, if you want to save time that night, send her your check for your dues immediately. She will have your card ready when you get to the meeting. Her address is 1598 Gridley N W.

Lapidary-of-the-month awards will be made if we have enough entries in each classification. Adult or Junior. Don't forget to bring a piece of work to enter.

Arm patch club emblems are available from Miss Jane Cichaniewicz, our secretary, for the nominal fee of 75¢ each. Let's all wear an emblem at this meeting to help our guests distinguish a member from another guest.

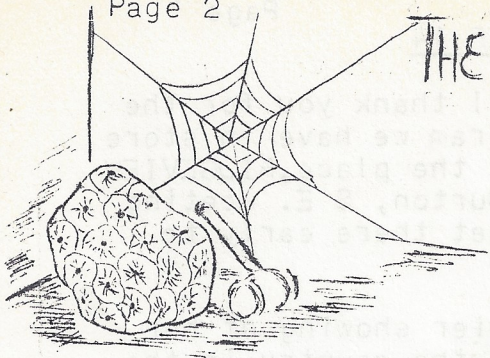
See all of you on the 14th.

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MINERAL STUDY GROUP MEETING

At the September Mineral Study Group meeting held at the home of Mr & Mrs Fay Reed, Joe Parish showed some of the rocks he had picked up on his extended western trip. Fay and his good wife showed some of their finds while on a trip around Lake Superior and had a box of tumbled material, including Thomsonites, from which each person picked a tumble in the hopes of getting a Thomsonite. The second time around everyone was able to pick the Thomsonites and each went home with one.

We were happy to welcome Mr & Mrs Glenn Scott as first timers with this group. We hope more of you will join us at our next meeting which will be held on Thursday, October 22 at the home of Mrs. Lucile Pearl, 1598 Gridley N W. At 8:00 P.M.



THE PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Greetings Rock lovers and normal people,

You who have long read the silken words with velvet syllables in this column are now about to be introduced to burlap and cheese cloth. We are about to cut the ribbon to a new road of literary revolution. Leave us went!

The new meeting place at Ridgeview Junior High can seat 1,400 -- there is a challenge -- let's fill it up. There was some confusion on parking, but if you drive to the rear of the building (south), you will find gobs of parking space right opposite the door that leads to the sanctum.

Three new chairmen have joined the throng of eager workers within our group: AL LAVIO, Chairman of the November Auction; NELLIE MEAD, Chairman of our annual show at the museum, and our globe trotting, rock seeking, MARIE SPIELMAKER, will be our new field trip leader.

To relieve congestion of holding one's breath while the door prize numbers are called, JOE PARISH is going to have members draw numbers before the meeting starts. Joe will list these numbers and zip code them down the list with the speed of light or something.

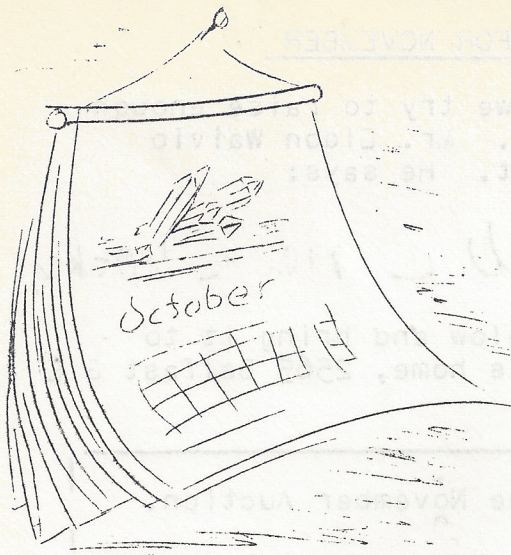
Ever faithful HENRY TCHOZESKI needs rocks for the rock table. Sale of rocks has been a major contribution to the financial status of our organization and this guy has done a bang-up job -- and it is not an easy one. Anyone donating rocks to the sale is asked to please leave your name and the type of donation with Henry so proper credit can be given in the DRIFTER.

December is going to be a shocker as far as a program is concerned as the program is going to be completely in charge of the gals! That's right -- it's LADIES NITE for the December meeting. Now we'll see how to run this clam bake!!

The preview of MARY JANE DOCKERAY'S film for our October meeting promises to be one of the outstanding programs of the year. So unique is this film that we want everyone to invite a friend or neighbor to our first "Bring A Friend Nite" and see Mary Jane's film.

To the new members of the G.R.M.S. -- we would like to know you better - what your interests are (rocks, that) and get your ideas for activities. We're brewing up a brainstorm to promote such, and feel that a write up in the DRIFTER will be a good starter.

Let's keep rockin' 'till the next time. Jerry Morris



Calendar of Events

October 9 thru 11 - Michigan Gem & Mineral Society, 2nd Annual Show, Raka Plaza Shopping Center, Jackson, Mich. Hrs. 9th - noon to 10PM, 10th - 10 to 10, 11th - 10 AM to 6PM

October 14 - Wednesday at 8:00 P.M. - regular monthly meeting at Ridgeview Junior High, Rosewood SE at the corner of Burton. Bring-A-Guest Night with Miss Mary Jane Dockeray presenting the program

October 17-18 - Michiana's Third Annual Rock And Gem Show South Bend Armory, 727 South Eddy Street, South Bend Indiana

October 19 - Monday, at 8:00 PM - Board of Control Meeting at home of Mr & Mrs James Waldron, 1111 Hazen SE

October 22 - Thursday, 8:00 PM - Mineral Study Group meeting at home of Mrs. Lucile Pearl, 1598 Gridley N.

November 11 - Wednesday, 8:00 PM - ANNUAL AUCTION. see notice in the issue of the DRIFTER regarding your donations.

November 16 - Monday, 8:00 PM Board of Control Meeting

December 9 - Wednesday, 8:00 PM LADIES' NIGHT

ANNUAL AUCTION SCHEDULED FOR NOVEMBER

November is Auction month at which time we try to raise enough money to carry us along for another year. Mr. Eldon Waivio has been appointed Chairman of this event. He says:

Help Help! We need rocks.

He requests that you fill out the form below and bring it to the next meeting, or mail it to him at his home, 2565 Belfast S E

I will donate rocks and minerals for the November Auction.

Name _____ Address _____

I will bring my donation to one of the following addresses:

- Eldon waivio, 2565 Belfast S E
- Richard Damstra, 2709 Carlton N E

I can't deliver my donation and would like to have it picked up.

Bid sheets will be available at the October meeting. You are asked to fill out a sheet for each item contributed, noting the name of the material, location where found, and a minimum bid.

THE WINNERS!!

Winners of prizes at the September meeting are as follows:

- Petoskey stone pen set - James Holloway
- Tigereye bracelet - James Van Vuren
- Vial of Opal - Wesley Wycoff
- Book - Shop Helps - Mrs. John Potter

Sorry we do not have the information of the winners of the Lapidary-of-the-month awards.

GALS, WE NEED YOUR HELP

Miss Esther Hall, Chairman for Ladies Night in December, will be calling you ladies for help with the program. If you have some ideas it would help if you would call her. Her phone number is GL 8-5408.

JUNIOR JOTTINGS

Last month you heard from Sherrie Damstra, and this month we have a JOTTING from Jim Molenbeek. I would like to thank Jim at this time for his help. We need your help too. Please send your JOTTINGS to me, so that yours will appear real soon in the DRIFTER

We also hear by the grape vine that classes will be formed on or about November 1st at the Museum. Let Russ and his boys see you there. Don't forget to send me your JOTTINGS.

Thank you,

Marilyn Damstra (Mrs. Richard)
2709 Carlton N E

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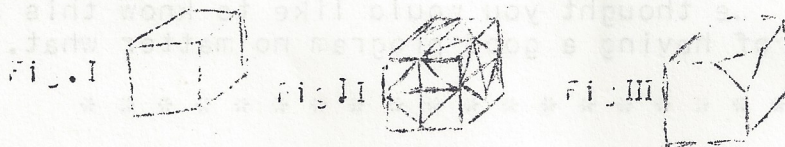
SPHERE MAKING by Jim Molenbeek

Among the many facets of this wonderful hobby of rockhounding I have entered is the making of rock spheres. I started making spheres many months ago, and now I will pass along some of the things that I learned.

To begin, all one needs is a large piece of rock, the size depending on how large a sphere is wanted. This rock is cut into a cube (Figure I) and then each side is marked, as in figure II.

Then the cube is taken back to the saw where every corner is cut off. (every corner corresponding to x in Figure III) Then all of the corners that are made from cutting off the first corners are cut off. Then any small corners produced by the second corner cutting are cut off.

Now the pre-formed sphere is taken to the grinder, where all projecting points are ground down so that when we are done grinding we will have a fairly round rock. Of course, it is far from perfectly round, but at least now it will fit into the sphere cutters.



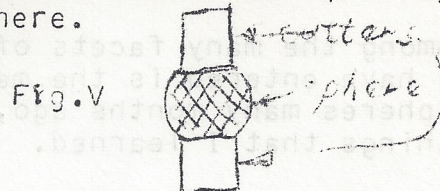
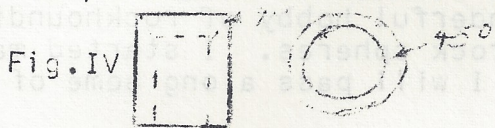
The sphere cutters are simply two hollow pipes, each pipe having a 45° angle on the inside (Figure IV). One of the cutters is mounted on a fairly slow moving arbor. The other cutter is held in the hand. The sphere is held in between the two cutters, which are each moving in opposite directions to keep the sphere moving in all directions at the same time. (Figure V). The purpose of the sphere cutters is to make the sphere perfectly round, and by the time it is done it is usually not much more than 1/1000 of an inch out of round. (usually)

I use silicon carbide as an abrasive in the sphere cutters, starting with #80 grit to wear the sphere down to where it is perfectly round. From #80 grit I use #220, #300, and #600 grit, in that order, going from a coarse grit to a very fine grit.

Sphere Making

After I am done with the 600 grit, I start to polish the sphere. There are two ways in which one may polish a sphere. The first is on a regular vertical polishing buff, the type many people polish cabochons on. The second way, the one I use, is to place the polishing material over the mouth of the cutters, and go through the same motions as before, adding wet polishing compound from time to time to avoid overheating. (A sphere can crack from overheating the same as a cabochon.)

After sufficient polishing, the sphere should be done. On the average it takes about ten hours to make a two inch sphere, although time varies according to how hard the material used is. I have used mostly softer materials like travertine onyx, and septaria, not because harder materials like agate are undesirable but because I think ten hours is long enough. But in the future, if I ever come across any exceptional agate or some clear quartz, I might be persuaded to turn it into a sphere.



If you have any question on sphere making, please ask me, and I will try to answer it for you.

Jim molenbeek

JUST IN CASE --

The Program Committee is making arrangements to have a couple of stand-by programs to be used "just in case" something happens and we are unable to have the program scheduled for a particular meeting. At present, they have been able to obtain two very outstanding features on this basis, but if they are not used as a stand-by, they will be used later in the year for a regularly scheduled meeting. We thought you would like to know this so you can be assured of having a good program no matter what.

Coming next month - "MAN'S GUIDE TO THE METALLIC AGE" by Barb Roys.

Needed - for the December DRIFTER, the story of a rockhunting trip by one of our members. Who will volunteer?

o O U R T R I P

On a pleasant Saturday morning in early June of this year my wife, Grandson, Kenny Lathrop, and I started out on a week's vacation, including a visit to my wife's mother in St. Louis, Missouri. But especially, we wanted to do some rock hunting.

Our first stop was a Dresden Lakes Resort located a few miles south of Joliet, Illinois. It was a very interesting place and has had some publicity to the effect that there are fern and related fossils to be found there. It consists of old coal mines. There are adequate camping grounds, if one wishes to stay a few days. The old mines are full of spring water from which several nice lakes have formed and are stocked with various breeds of fish. For a nominal fee you can camp, fish or hunt fossils in the old dirt piles. There are some nice specimens on exhibit in the store, so we decided to try our luck. The hills were hard and dry and after two hours without any luck we gave up. I do think that with a good pickaxe and a lot of ambition to do some mining, you might find some nice specimens.

We proceeded south for Hamilton, Illinois but, as it was getting late, we decided to spend the night at a motel in Macomb, Ill.

Early the next morning we continued our trip. The only restaurant in Hamilton was still closed, so we went to the creek located at the Gil Bulk Station and picked up two bags of geodes in a short time. After a hearty breakfast, we drove to the quarry where they had dynamited recently. The geodes were medium and small, most of them were whole and the tall cliffs were sparkling with halves of geodes in the early sunlight. We took some nice pictures of same. We filled a few bags with geodes and met some people from Iowa who come to this quarry every weekend.

Last year we made the acquaintance of a farmer who has a creek running through his pasture and he gave us permission to pick up all the geodes we wanted. We stopped there again this year and he was very pleased with the Petockey bola tie we had made for him. We filled another bag and decided that was enough geodes. The geodes were plentiful this year due to recent rains.

We then crossed the Mississippi River into Keokuk, Iowa and followed highway 61 south. We stopped at a drive-in, a man there told us that a gravel pit near LaGrange, Missouri contains many fine agates. When we got there we found the gates closed but an employee gave us permission to look around. We met people there from as far as Kansas City, also looking for agates. We found two small ones, not very colorful.

We drove on to Hannibal, Missouri to Injun Joe's Motel to spend the night. Ken talked about rocks to the proprietor and he gave Ken a broken indian spearpoint he had found in the field behind the motel. After a restful night we continued our trip. The trunk of our car was sagging from the bags of geodes and when we arrived in St. Louis we had the bags shipped to Grand Rapids by the Darling Freight Lines. When we told the truck driver we had rocks in those bags he gave us a rather odd look.

OUR TRIP

The day was hot and the traffic in town was very heavy. We wanted to go south in St. Louis, but became confused in traffic and before we realized it we found ourselves traveling on Veterans Bridge heading for Illinois. We stopped and ate some ice cream and asked for directions to get on the McArthur Bridge -- so back to St. Louis we went.

After a visit with my wife's mother in St. Louis, we took off for Fredrickstown, Missouri, about 90 miles south. We spent the night at Cameron's Resort, a pleasant place with eight housekeeping cottages nestled among the Arcardia Hills by the old silver mine located on the St. Francis River. What a beautiful quiet place to spend a vacation! The federal government is developing a National Park and camping ground on one side of the river. It is an accelerated program but seems not to be making much progress. We were told that they are having trouble with water and sanitation problems for the camping area as the granite rock is very near the surface. Red granite boulders are abundant and near by is Graniteville where the "Elephant Rocks" are located.

We were told that the mining at the old silver mines was done by individuals and larger groups around Civil War time. Ken and I hiked about two miles up hill and down hill, to look at the remains of the largest silver mine on the St. Francis River. This was a shaft mine. We found two partially collapsed shafts; one spews forth cold air that is very welcome on a hot day. We wouldn't enter either one because of rotten timbers and also because this is copperhead country and three of these had been killed nearby the previous day. We found the mine quite interesting, primarily because of the labor involved in either carrying or using packmules to transport the cement and tools needed for mining in that rugged country. Someone constructed a dam of square cut stones in the river - apparently to provide water necessary for mining. Part of this dam is still standing in the river. The rock is not too productive. There are pieces of low grade ore laying around - lead and others - and a few amethyst crystals have been found there. We found it productive in the beauty of this part of the Ozarks.

Next we started to look for old lead mines north of Fredrickstown and found one that was still fenced and with tipples and smelters, though not working. We inquired about other mines.

It seems that investors have bought most of the old mines and posted them against trespassing. We were given directions to one which was past the old coppermine that is still open. When we could not find it, we stopped at a house to inquire, and told the lady what we were looking for. She informed us that a local doctor had purchased the old mine and it now was posted but that he probably would give us permission. We decided not to try; however, this lady wanted us to see what her young son had found while spading their garden these past years. She brought out a cigar box full of arrowheads which were real beauties and were perfect and in all sizes.

OUR TRIP

We also learned that the the old Cherokee Trail went through this area. The natives here are very friendly and they enjoy visiting with people, which makes it very hard to get away. We finally left and headed for Potosi to visit the old Tuff Mines in our quest for barite and drusy quartz. The old mines are just north of Potosi at a site of an old village that had the name of "Old mines" many years ago. We found these mines to be very productive in what we thought were very nice specimens. Just as we were leaving we spotted in the fields some newly dumped stuff that really sparkled in the sun. We picked up many nice specimens.

As it was late in the day we headed east and stopped in Vandalia Illinois for the night. After breakfast the next morning we were putting our grips in the car when the lady who cleans the motel remarked about the pretty rocks in our trunk. Ken asked her, "Did you ever hear of rockhounds?" "Oh, is that where you're from?" the lady replied with puzzled look on her face. It took some explaining what 'rockhound' meant and Ken muttered under his breath, "Gee, how dumb some people are."

We still had a few days left of our vacation and we decided to stop at Terre Haute, Indiana and hunt for fern fossils. After checking in at the Maple Lodge Motel which is adjacent to a good restaurant, we drove the short distance to the mines. The weather was very hot, there is no shade at the mines and it was dusty from the roads, as they were mining near that area and hauling coal on the road near us. Despite the constant sprinkling of two large tank trucks the dust still came in clouds. Our faces were covered with red dust and the sweat was pouring out of us, but we still managed to pick up many nice fern fossils.

We each carry small anvils mounted on a board and break the fossil open as we pick them up to check if they are good or not.

The heat was getting unbearable and we decided that a shower at the motel was what we needed. Our backs were aching and we were tired, but my wife's and Ken's mouth were watering for some of Stuckey's goodies so that is where we went before heading back to the motel, a shower and bed.

Next day we got home, collected our pets (2 dogs and a talking parakeet) from their boarding homes and - oh, yes - our rocks from the freight depot. They got here before we did.

We had a nice vacation - good rock hunting - good weather - beautiful scenery - and a safe trip. Our profits? Specimens for us, for our friends, and some for the G. R. Museum, as we think it to be proper considering the cooperation given our club in putting on our show, and some for the Auction in November.

We are particularly happy with the geodes as they are running about 40% acceptable specimens.

Clarence Ryan

COMING NEXT MONTH - " ROCK HUNTING IN NOVA SCOTIA" by
Jim DeZwaan

LETTERS FROM OUR CALIFORNIA MEMBERS

San Pedro, Calif.

Dear Lucile:

Kindly give me credit and extend my membership for another year. Even tho I belong to a small club here my heart and interest are still with the old club and its members and we both miss them very much.

we like the climate here and we are close to our children and grandchildren. we have a nice cool breeze from the ocean three blocks away and sleep under two blankets all summer long and that's hard to beat.

we enjoy the DRIFTER and so keep in touch with you and the other members.

Please remember us to all of our friends.

Thank you,

Gus Beuker
711 W. 39th Street
San Pedro, California 90731

* * * * *

Ridgecrest, Calif.

Dear Nina and Bob:

Charés and I have moved here last and we would like to give you our new address for our copy of the DRIFTER.

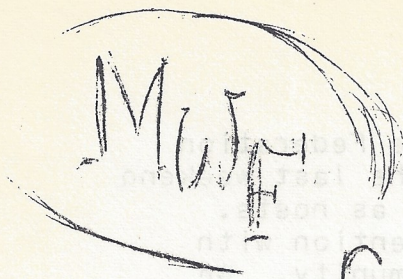
Charles is employed at the American Potash & Chemical Corp of Trona, California - about 22 miles from here. Housing isn't too good there, so we live here. Our house faces the "Sierra Nevada Range of Mountains", each day and hour is a new and beautiful picture out of our window. The sunsets are beautiful, the weather is hot - 100 to 118 degrees. Today is 105.

Rock hunting is a snap. Any where you go there's a possibility of finding good stuff. Please tell all our friends in the club if they, and you, should ever come to California, please look us up and we'll show them around.

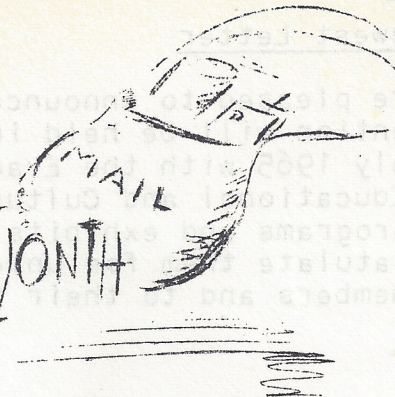
Good luck to all and we will be keeping in touch.

Sincerely,

Eert & Chuck Sweet
1078 Mayo Avenue
Box 2426 - R #1
Ridgecrest, California 93555



LETTER of the MONTH



A MESSAGE FROM OUR NEW PRESIDENT

Greetings to all members of the Midwest Federation of Mineralogical and Geological Societies!

Nineteen hundred sixty five will be the Silver Anniversary of the Midwest Federation. From a small beginning it has grown to a group of over one hundred sixty societies, and the responsibilities and services of the Federation have grown proportionately.

As your president, I look forward to continuing those services and hope that, with your help, these may be expanded and new ones inaugurated.

We have chosen as our motto for the coming year, "To Learn and To Share". Nothing elevates and satisfies the human mind as does Learning. Equally, nothing inspires the human spirit and gives the depth of satisfaction as does Sharing, the sharing of new skills and of new information and ideas and inspiration.

Sharing implies both giving and receiving. Those of us who have been active in our societies have received so much of benefit. We take satisfaction in the fact that there are about ten thousand members of the Midwest, but what about the forty million who are not members? We have responsibility to them too. In this Silver Jubilee Year, I challenge each of you and every Society to SHARE with schools and the Public and the Communities where you reside, some of what you have learned and the materials you have collected. We hope each Society can increase its membership, but we also hope you will vigorously attempt to organize another club on the other side of your city or in an adjoining county. Let's put ourselves and the materials we have collected to use.

We are pleased to note exhibits held and to be held with the cooperation of Colleges and Universities. This we commend and encourage.

We have appointed Russel Kemp Chairman of an Advisory Committee, to assist any Societies with problems related to Shows and Exhibits. Your society is invited to call upon his experience in this field.

We plan to extend the services of the Uniform Rules Committee under Tolson Radloff, Chairman, 625 Winchester Avenue, Lincoln Park, Michigan to include lists of available judges and advisory services for competitive exhibits. Please furnish him with information as to competent judges available in your area and call upon him for copies of Rules. (continued next page)

Midwest Letter

We are pleased to announce that the Silver Jubilee Federation Convention will be held in Evansville, Indiana, the last weekend of July 1965 with the Evansville Lapidary Society as hosts. The Educational and Cultural value of such a Convention with its programs and exhibits is important to any community. We Congratulate them for undertaking this important service to our members and to their Community.

Merton A. Young, President
Midwest Federation

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Two Great Days

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10 A.M. - 10 P.M.

OCTOBER 18th
11 A.M. - 7 P.M.

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MINERALS, FLUORESCENTS, SLABS, CARVINGS
JEWELRY

Demonstrations —

MACHINERY, FILMS, CUTTING, LECTURES

Sales —

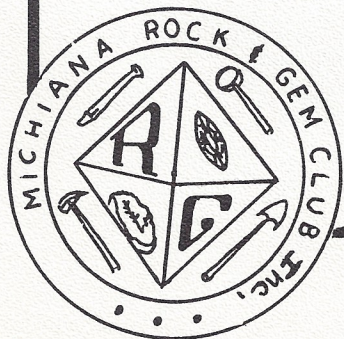
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