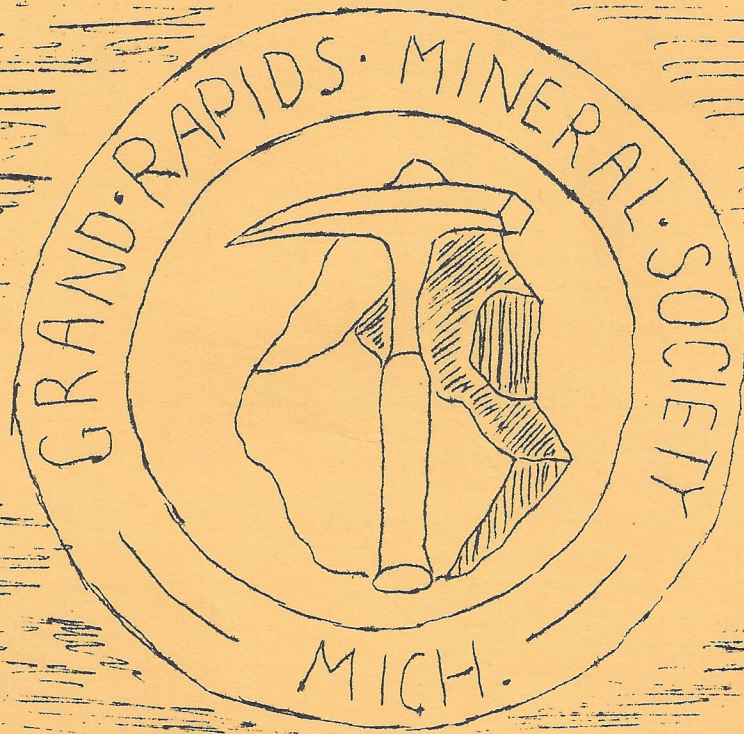


Volume 7, no. 5 - January, 1965



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.

Meetings are held the 2nd Wednesday of each month at 8:00 P.M. at Ridgeview Junior High School, Rosewood at Burton S E (Sept. thru June) Summer meetings are 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, unless notified of an earlier closing date.

Permission to reprint material appearing in the DRIFTER is hereby granted provided proper credit is given.

Member - Bulletin Editors Association.

JANUARY PROGRAM

Our meeting place is RIDGEVIEW JUNIOR HIGH, Rosewood S E at the corner of Burton. The time is 8:00 P.M. and the date is January 13, which is the second Wednesday of the month.

Our January program should bring all a good view of conservation as brought out at the Conservation Department Training Camp at Higgins Lake. Does conservation just happen or does it have to be taught learned, and practiced? And what are we trying to conserve anyway?

Mr. John Zimelis who went to the camp last summer on our club scholarship will tell and show some of his experiences there and likely will leave us with a broader picture of conservation than we now have.

As is our custom, there will be a door-prize or two.

Our Treasurer, Mrs. Lucile Pearl, will be on hand to receive dues from the 'oh so delinquent' and also from anyone wishing to join for the first time.

Our secretary, Miss Jane Cichaniewicz, has club emblems for the small fee of 75¢ each for those of you who do not have one to wear to meetings and on field trips.

And if we have enough entries, there will be a Lapidary-of-the-Month competition for Adults and for Juniors. Why not try to win a ribbon this month?

See you there!

James Waldron, Vice-President
in charge of program for this month.

MINERAL STUDY GROUP MEETING

The Mineral Study Group will meet at the home of Mr. & Mrs. Robert R. Rozema, 1355 Hollywood N E at 8:00 PM on Thursday, January 28th at which time a discussion on chapters 4 and 5 of Dr. Zumberge's book "Elements of Geology" will be led by Mrs. Nellie Mead. All persons interested in learning more about our wonderful world are invited to meet with us. Please consider this as your personal invitation.

JANUARY FIELD TRIP PLANNED

Our field trip chairman, Miss Marie Spielmaker, has arranged a trip through Michigan Natural Storage, 1200 Judd St. S. W. for Saturday afternoon, January 16, at 1:30. The charge is 25¢ per person and we will need at least 25 people for this trip. Make your reservations with Marie at the January meeting or call her at her home if you are unable to be at the January meeting. This storage plant is an old Gypsum mine and is a very interesting place to visit.

OUR PRESIDENT'S CORNER and also OUR VICE-PRESIDENT'S

So the holidays are behind us - cheers!

To get down to the business of the New Year, Dick Rose, who is in the driver's seat of our Junior Training Program needs some adult help at the museum on Saturdays. You don't have to be a geology brain either - keep order and help the instructor or program leader as required. Sure, we are all busy - but if we think it out - a couple of hours spent with the kids today can make a big difference in the tomorrows.

Our gal Mary Jane, hit the magazine section of the G R Press several weeks ago - nice write up. The little lady had another detailed write up in "Conservation" published by the State Conservation Department, that was a honey.

The V. P. takes over the January meeting - Dick Damstra for February - and for March we have the Kalamazoo Geological and Mineral Society to throw a wingding and we reciprocate and do the same thing for them in April.

Hope your holidays were the best ever and now lets make it a live '65!!

G. B. Morris, President

After enjoying a very merry Christmas we take this opportunity to wish you all a most Happy New Year.

No doubt many of you are already looking ahead to new rock hunting joys in the already-started year. What wonderful treasures God has hidden in this world for us to discover, use, and enjoy!

Club-wise we are looking forward to meetings and field trips with fellow "hounds" that will better fit us to appreciate the things we may find on expeditions farther afield. Not to mention the warm friendships we've enjoyed through our common interest.

Just a reminder, too: Our march show isn't far away. Do you have some of those specimens and pieces in mind for a nice display? Better start some serious thinking right now.

Again, Happy New Year!

James Waldron, Vice-president

* * * * *

Our artist, Mrs. Barb Roys, has been ill for the past couple of weeks - hence the lack of illustrations in this issue. Hope she is feeling better real soon. We appreciate all the work she puts into making this paper more attractive and we also appreciate the articles she has contributed in the past. The one in this issue is very interesting - be sure to read it.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Page 3

- January 13 - Wednesday at 8:00 P.M. Regular monthly meeting at Ridgeview Junior High School, Rosewood at Burton S W
- January 16 - Saturday, 1:30 P.M. Field Trip to Michigan Natural Storage, 1200 Judd St. S W
Reservations to be made with Miss Marie Spielmaker
Admission 25¢ per person
- January 18 - Monday at 8:00 P M Board of Control Meeting at home of Miss Esther Hall, 735 Fountain N E
- January 28 - Thursday at 8:00 P M - Mineral Study Group meeting at home of Robert R. Rozema, 1355 Hollywood N E
Mrs. Nellie Mead in charge of lesson.
- February 10 Wednesday Regular Monthly Meeting - Richard Damstra in charge of Program

MONTH OF MARCH Grand Rapids Mineral Society Annual Rock and Mineral Show at the G. R. Museum. Details and applications for space will appear in the next issue of the DRIFTER

JULY 29, 30, 31 August 1 1965 MID-EAST FEDERATION CONVENTION
SILVER JUBILEE SHO. at Evansville, Indiana

JUNIOR JOTTINGS - Mrs. Marilyn Damstra - Editor

HAPPY NEW YEAR

Dear Junior Reader:

My family and I want to wish all of you and yours a very Happy and Prosperous New Year. I missed the boat last month. My letter to you didn't arrive in time for the presses. Thank you, Nina, for coming to my rescue. Time sure does fly.

And again Larry Fegel did a mighty swell job on his article about Trilobites. It sure is interesting. I wish I could understand it. I spend most of the time thumbing through the dictionary. Keep up the swell work Larry, we're proud of you.

We are also happy for the real cute article from Donna Potter which appears in this issue on "How I Started a Rock Collection". I love the part about the marble bag. It's real clever. Thank you very much, Donna.

I'm still waiting to hear from the rest of you. How about it? Please send me your articles real soon.

Marilyn Damstra

HOW I STARTED A ROCK COLLECTION - Donna Potter

About five years ago all this business about rocks started. It first started at the idea of a science project at school. Our class was to go to the Science Fair in Grand Rapids. There I got some ideas about collecting and showing but I had to have a system also to start out. My system on "How to Get to Be a Rockhound" is, to be a rockhound one must, of course, collect rocks but there is more to it, one must plan. The best way is to start out with a pocketful of marbles and when an appealing stone is found, mark the occasion by tossing away one of the marbles. When another rock with possibilities is put into the collecting bag, toss away another marble. Follow this procedure in collecting until you have lost all your marbles - then without question you are a rockhound.

Also, I read books and got an idea of what I was getting into. I also sent letters to almost every state in the union and got a pleasing reply from each. Miss Mary Jane Dockeray also helped me. One letter which was of great help was to a Mr. Lawrence Eddy. He sent me specimens from Michigan and other states and countries.

During this same time, besides the science project I also had a 4-H project to think up, so rocks was it. This project required thirty Michigan specimens. I had at the time about three hundred specimens from all over. From the three hundred specimens I jumped one thousand but I found that I would have to lessen the collection in order to make room. So from some of my collection, I have helped others to start a collection, and learn about rocks.

(continued next page)

HOW I STARTED (Concluded)

Last year I was asked to do the window at school. I, of course, accepted the request. Besides collecting just specimens, I also like to make jewelry when I find time after studying.

In all of my rock work I have met so many nice people that I think it will always stay with me.

DOOR PRIZE WINNERS IN DECEMBER

- Jade Bola Tie - donated by Casey Doornbos won by Mrs. Van Zee
- Druzy Quartz on Barite - donated by Mrs. C. E. Ryan won by Mrs. Damstra
- Desert Rose - donated by August Post - won by Russ Girard
- Mexican Agate - donated by Ernest Gifford - won by Roger Hawkins
- Micaceous Hematite - donated by Lowell Palmer - won by Mr. Tunis

The Donation prize for the next meeting will be a sanding unit the frame of which was made by Joe Parish with Jerry Morris furnishing the discs and the club furnishing the arbor. Come prepared to get some tickets on this unit. Profit from this project will be used to run the club, as do all other monies taken in during the course of the year.

We are in need of a donation of some outstanding item for the March meeting. If you have something to donate please contact our door prize chairman, Joe Parish.

Joe Parish

DECEMBER PROGRAM A SUCCESS

In spite of many adverse conditions, Miss Esther Hall did an excellent job of presenting the December program. Just a few things went wrong for her - loss of a roll of film (which finally arrived on the Friday after the meeting) - breakdown of her camera in the midst of shooting some essential pictures - and then to top it all off - loss of her voice in the middle of the taping of the program. Mrs. G. Morris came to the rescue and finished the taping. Thanks, Dorothy. But these things only slowed down our Esther - they couldn't keep her from doing a good program and all who saw the "Diary of a Rockhound" enjoyed it and got a lot of laughs. We hope this program can be polished up and presented to other groups. We know they will enjoy it as much as we did.

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FROM THE AGA-TREE 3703 Taft S W

Its time again to look back with pleasure and sincerely
say "THANK YOU".

And time again to look forward and say "BEST WISHES" for
the coming year.

Ernest and Anna Gifford

THE METAL OF MAN'S DREAMS

Throughout the ages, ever since it was found, gold has played an important part in men's lives. It has occupied their minds, sent them from their homes in a search that as often as not proved futile, and made men engage in bitter wars where entire civilizations were likely to be destroyed as a result. Witness here the explorations and bloodshed in the New World by the Spanish conquerors, where the explorers sought and fought their way through the wilderness to the great Indian cities only to destroy them when the much sought-after gold failed to materialize, and destroying them likewise if the precious metal did turn up. Men have sought this metal on the basis of true stories of its occurrence and following just plain legends. One of the more famous the latter is the legend of El Dorado - the land so rich in gold it has the name "El Dorado" - "The gilded one". This land was so rich in gold that it was just as common here as sand in the desert. Men believed this legend and throughout the centuries many of them left their homes to find this fabled country. Many really thought they had. Fact and fancy mingled even in modern times when the rich gold discoveries in California, Australasia, Alaska, and southern Africa were at first thought to be the famous El Dorado.

Gold plays an important part in many legends, folk tales, and other early writings. Thus - for example - the well known tale of Jason and the Argonauts searching for the Golden Fleece has been explained as simply an exploring voyage, not necessarily peaceful, to some area rich in gold. Some authorities have suggested that it might be present-day Armenia. In this land miners supposedly recovered gold from gravel by straining it through channels or troughs lined with sheepskins. Water would wash away the dirt and leave the gold entrapped in the wool, thus forming the Golden Fleece. To release this treasure later was an easy matter, as the sheepskins were simply burned and the gold collected from the ashes.

Not only legends talk about gold. It is even mentioned in the Bible. Thus, for instance, the Garden of Eden was watered by a river which flowed through gold-bearing sands, as follows:

"And a river went out of Eden to water the garden; and from thence it was parted and became into four heads. The name of the first is Pison: that is it which compasseth the whole land of Havilah, where there is gold." (Genesis 2:10-11)

Gold... It has played an important role in many of man's civilizing activities. It has started explorations, brought about conquests, influenced commerce, opened new discoveries in science, and occasioned settlement in areas previously known as only wilderness. In explorations it played an important role in Columbus's voyages of discovery and sent Coronado on his hopeless quest after the Seven Golden Cities of Cibola. Perhaps the early explorers claimed to be setting out to discover new lands and broaden man's horizons; but for so many of the this precious metal was the will-o-the-wisp that sent them out to find the far and fabled lands of gold. This search for gold has sent men

running even as late as the present century. The gold rushes: California-1849, Western Australia-1888, Klondike-1897, and finally New Guinea-1926. All of these are witnesses of the power gold has to draw men to further explorations and settlement even in the modern times.

So much for legends and dreams. Going back in history it does appear that gold was known to man since prehistoric times. It has been listed as one of the prehistoric metals along with silver, copper, lead, iron, and tin. According to some theories gold may be possibly one of the earliest metals to be recognized by man. At least on this point various sources do seem to agree that this mineral can be properly placed in the hands of the cave man. This actually is not so surprising, since - like copper and silver - gold occurs native in the earth's crust. While rare, it is quite widely distributed. Shining nuggets in the river gravels in or near watercourses where the cave man carried on many of his activities would attract attention. As the primitive man loved ornaments, he would be quite likely to pick up these shining things for his crude jewelry. Different metals are acclaimed, however, as being the first to attract man's attention. While the above is mainly theorizing, it is known for a fact that gold was recognized and highly valued by the earliest civilizations, such as the Egyptians, Assyrians, Minoans, and Etruscans. This is proved by the ornaments and other articles that have survived from these periods. These objects are many and of an elaborate workmanship and great beauty. For example we have vessels made as early as 3500 B.C. These have been excavated at Ur in Mesopotamia - today Iraq. It is obvious from the skilled craftsmanship in these articles that the art of goldworking in this area was developed some hundreds of years before these objects were ever made. This early knowledge of gold working is not really surprising, since the softness of gold made it easily workable. Likewise the metal's unalterability made it a desirable material for ornaments and the other articles in which it was used. So durable and unchangeable is this material, that many of the objects that have survived from the earlier ages are just as perfect as when they were first made several thousand years ago.

Let us survey now briefly the leading sources of modern gold supply and their background. As mentioned before, gold - while relatively rare - is quite widely distributed. In economically recoverable quantities it is to be found all over the earth, and some amount of production has been reported from nearly every country, both ancient and modern. The people of the ancient civilizations obtained much of their gold from Egypt, Asia Minor, Transylvania, the Iberian Peninsula, Greece, Arabia, and India. The earliest traces of gold mining can be found in Egypt, which in general appears to have been quite in advance of the other civilizations of the time where mining and metallurgy were concerned.

The modern history of gold production begins with Columbus's first voyage of discovery. During the 1500's Spanish conquerors sought gold in the lands of the Aztecs in Mexico and the Inca lands in present-day Peru. Men fought for gold in and around this new world that had just been discovered. More ambitious ones went through the jungles of South America and Central America looking for the supposedly gold-laden Indian cities. Less ambitious men who did not care for

the hardships on land sailed the seas around the new continent. Famous pirates and privateers rose to raid and prey on the galleons carrying the Spanish gold from the Americas to Spain.

Gold production from the discovery of America to the end of the 16th century was largely centered in South America. This period was quite likely the greatest era of gold production that the world had seen up till then. Here New Granada - the area today covered by Colombia, Ecuador, and Venezuela - was the chief producer. Also leading producers at the time were Africa and Europe, with the Transylvanian area in the latter being the most productive. The importance of South America in general and New Granada in particular was increased greatly in the following century with South America (outside of New Granada) accounting for three-fifths and New Granada itself for two-fifths of the world's total gold output of the day. The importance of South America grew even more in the 18th century when about four-fifths of the world's production came from this area. Brazil - now arriving on the productive scene - at the time turned into the leading country in gold production with Colombia (one of the countries formerly comprising New Granada) running in second place.

The 19th century opened up new and exciting horizons in gold production and presented the second great era of gold output in the twenty-five years following 1850. The world now saw the rise of the United States, Australia, Russia, and the Union of South Africa as the leading gold producers. As we all know, the emergence of the United States as a leading gold producer dates from the discovery of gold by James W. Wadsworth in the gravels of the American River at Coloma in California. January 24, 1848, being the generally accepted date. This, however, is by no means the first discovery of gold in the United States. There had already been a long record of gold mining in the Appalachian area from Virginia to Georgia. As a matter of fact, gold mining in the United States started in the southeastern states around 1792 and the first gold rush occurred in 1828 in the state of Georgia. The great gold rush to California is, nevertheless, the most famous. The California gold fields rose within a matter of months to first place in world prominence and men and women came to California from all over the world. Thousands of prospectors came here and began the settlement of many communities. In the year following the discovery of gold about eighty thousand people went to California looking for a fortune. This unprecedented mass movement gave rise to the name - the "forty-niners". All time peak output was reached in 1852 and except for an interval of a few years, California has been leading the gold production among the states of the Union ever since. After 1860 other major gold deposits were found in the West, like the Comstock Lode in Nevada. These discoveries contributed greatly towards keeping up the United States gold production. Another significant result - a sort of byproduct - of the search for gold in the western states was the discovery and development of many silver, lead, zinc, and copper deposits in the West. From these developments gold was extracted as a sideline. As time went on the mining techniques were improved, and larger deposits of native gold depleted, "byproduct" gold took a place as a significant share of the United States annual gold turnout. In the last ten years - approximately - the "byproduct" gold has taken the greater share of the domestic gold output.

This article to be concluded next month --

MIDWEST - LETTER - OF - THE - MONTH

A Message from the President, Merton Young

Since the Convention in Muskegon all of our Societies have elected officers. We congratulate them on having had the services of this excellent group of retiring servants and

We congratulate the incoming officers upon the opportunity to serve the various societies and their dedicated members.

It has been asked, "what can the Federation do for me?" The answer is, "very little", but if you will change the question to "What can the Federation do WITH me", then the answer is "very much".

It was reported at the Executive Council meeting in Detroit, that certain Liaison officers decided arbitrarily what Letters-A-Month to bring before their Society and that certain Editors failed to either print, or read before the meetings, these communications.

Now that we have a New Year and new officers, let us break this bottle neck. Let us work WITH one another for the benefit of all.

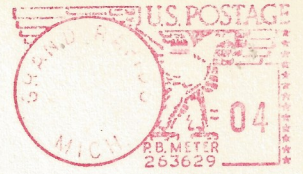
As an important part of the service offered, chairmen of various divisions of the Earth Sciences have been established. They are capable and competent people. If you have any questions or need any information regarding any of these subjects, write the following:

- Geology - Dr. Willard Parsons, 9295 Outer Drive, Detroit 19, Mich.
- Mineralogy - Dr. Benjamin Moulton, Science Dept. Indiana State College, Terre Haute, Indiana
- Paleontology, Jay Wollin, 8917 Austin, Morton Grove, Illinois
- Archaeology - John Phipps, 816 Grandview, Des Moines, Iowa
- Lapidary - Mrs. Doris Kemp, 16410 University Ave. South Holland, Illinois
- Education - Roy Crofton, 3100 Terrace Dr. Kokomo, Indiana
- Programs, Mrs. Cecilia Duluk, 6700 Amboy, Dearborn Heights, Mich
- Rules (exhibits), Tolson Radloff, 625 Winchester, Lincoln Park Michigan

In event your problem does not fall within any of these categories, write the president of the federation Merton Young, Michigantown, Indiana

<p><u>1965</u> - THE BIG ONE NEXT SUMMER - Convention</p> <p>25th ANNIVERSARY - SILVER JUBILEE - JULY 29-30-31, AUGUST 1</p> <p>EVANSVILLE, INDIANA</p>

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