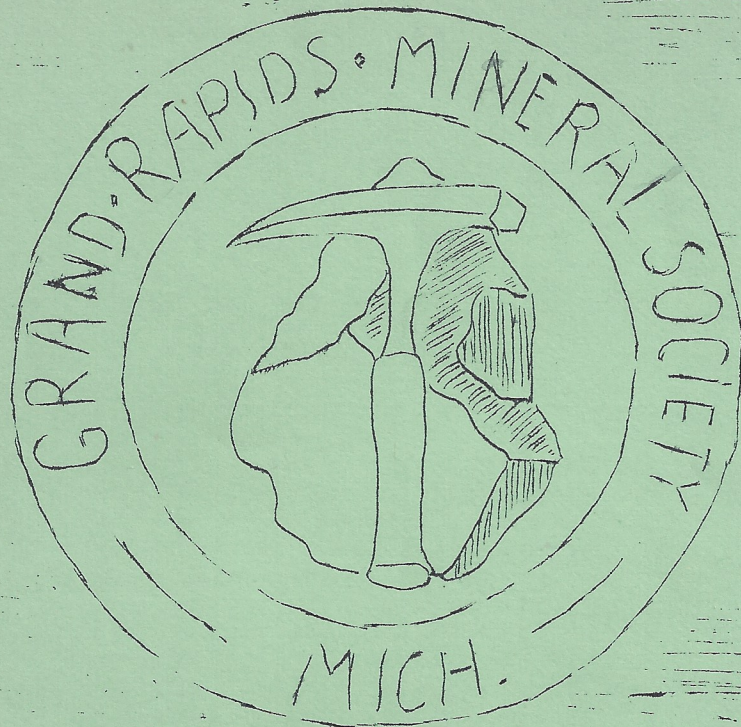


Volume 7, no. 6 - February, 1965



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.

F E B R U A R Y M E E T I N G

The February meeting will be held at RIDGEVIEW Junior High School, Burton at Rosewood S E, on Wednesday, February 10, beginning at 8:00 P.M.

Our speaker for the evening will be Mr. Edward M. Burt of Rockford Michigan. Mr. Burt is a very well known GROUND WATER geologist, and serves as a consultant to various engineering firms in this part of the country. The program will cover this very interesting subject, and will be illustrated with film. You sure won't want to miss this one.

This meeting will be your last chance to get a ticket on that nifty horizontal lap unit which Joe Parish built. The lucky number will be drawn at this meeting.

We hope several of you will bring cabs for the Lapidary Contest. Judges will be Dr. Rose and Augie Post.

Our secretary, Miss Jane Cichaniewicz, will be on hand with Club Emblems for those of you who do not have them. They are only 75¢ each.

Mrs. Lucile Pearl, our treasurer, is anxious for those of you who have not paid your dues to do so at this meeting. Let's get with it!

Dick Damstra, Board Member
in charge of February Program

SUBSCRIPTIONS

Mrs. Dorothy Waterman, on her return trip from Japan, had the pleasure of meeting Bill Allaway of the EARTH SCIENCE magazine. She had a very interesting conversation with him with the results that he gave her many good specimens. She in turn is offering to give them to the first 12 subscribers or renewals for the EARTH SCIENCE Magazine. Any offers????

The LAPIDARY JOURNAL has given the clubs a chance to make a little money for the club. If you subscribe through the club secretary, either new or renewal subscription, the club will benefit. Rates for this magazine are 5.25 for 12 issues, 10.00 for 24 issues, and \$14.75 for 36 issues. Anyone care to make some money for the club?????

Jane Cichaniewicz, Secretary
809 Franklin S E
Phone GL 2-0814

N O T I C E !!!: WANTED - Six painters to help with posters.
Call Nellie Mead, Phone GL 9-2016

THE PRESIDENT'S CORNER...

Greetings!

What was written by Jim Waldron last month and what is written this month by Dick Damstra leaves very little to be said.

We have had some wonderful results from our various chairmen - Marie Spielmaker's trip thru the local 'tater celler and another trip scheduled for Lansing - Dick Rose still slugging for help at the Museum - and Nellie Mead making a kick off for your annual show at the Museum.

For the man of the month - Joe Parish - not only did the masterful carpentry on the two sanders donated to the girls at Villa Maria and the one we auction off at the meeting, but also donated the plywood used for the construction of these units. To Joe we give our heartfelt thanks.

By the time this goes to print, Nina Rozema and Esther Hall will have been to Villa Maria and demonstrated how to make bracelets and necklaces out of oodles of jump rings.

Any one else want to demonstrate a craft?

Show time is close - lets make it a whopper!

Jerry Morris

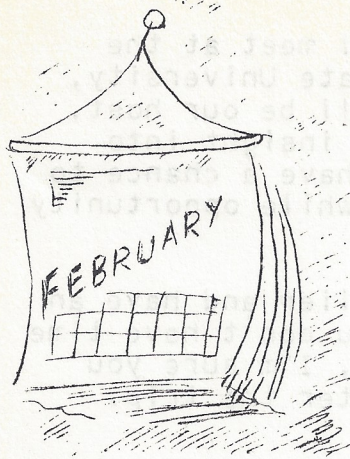
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MINERAL STUDY GROUP

Bad weather and ill health prevented several of the regulars from attending the January meeting of this group. So that all will have an opportunity to discuss chapters 4 and 5 of our study book these chapters will be the basis for the discussion at our February meeting with Mrs. Nellie Mead in charge.

We will meet at the home of Mr & Mrs Casey Doornbos, 1917 Rosemont S E at 8:00 P.m. on Thursday, February 25. We hope to see all of our old faithfuls and any others who are interested in learning about our wonderful hobby.

We will be happy to give you a call to remind you of the date if you will let us know of your interest. Mrs. Nellie Mead can be reached at phone GL9-2016 or Mrs. Rozema at 454-1010



CALENDAR of EVENTS

- February 10 - Wednesday - Regular Monthly meeting, 8:00 P.M.
Ridgeview Junior High, Rosewood and Burton SE
- February 15 - Monday - Board of Control Meeting at 8:00 P.M.
home of Mr & Mrs Gerald B. Morris 1315 Griggs SE
- February 25 - Thursday - Mineral Study Group meeting at the
home of Mr & Mrs Casey Doornbos, 1917 Rosemont SE
- February 26 - Friday - Deadline for receipt of entry blanks for
the 6th Annual Show. Mrs. Nellie Mead, chairman.
- March 6 - Saturday Set-up day for the displays
- March 7-28 - 6th ANNUAL GEM & MINERAL SHOW at the Grand Rapids
Public Museum
- March 28 - Sunday 5 P.M. Close of show. Time to dismantle
all cases and remove materials from Museum.
PLEASE be prompt.
- July 29-30-31 and August 1 - MWF 25th Anniversary - Silver Jubilee
Evansville, Indiana
- July 1966 Field Trip Convention sponsored by Copper Country
Rock and Mineral Club, Houghton, Michigan
- July 1967 Annual Meeting and Show of MWF at Davenport, Iowa
hosted by Illowa Gem & Mineral Society
- August 1968 Corn Belt Lapidary Society in cooperation with the
Illinois State University have offered to host the
joint meeting and show of the American and Midwest
Federation on the Illinois State Campus at Normal,
Illinois the last weekend of August.

FIELD TRIP FOR FEBRUARY 7

On Sunday, February 7, all field trippers will meet at the Geology Building on the campus of Michigan State University, East Lansing, at 2:00 P.M. Dr. Stonehouse will be our host. We will tour the geology department to get an insight into what a geology student learns. We will also have a chance to view their collection. This is a well-worth-while opportunity which we hope all of you take advantage of.

Lansing isn't too far - so get out of bed earlier and have an early dinner so you can meet us there. If you don't have time for dinner after church and before meeting us, I'm sure you can get by with a sandwich and have dinner after the trip.

I'll be looking for YOU.

Marie Spielmaker,
Field Trip Chairman

* * * * *

OUR JANUARY 16th FIELD TRIP

The day was bright, the air crisp, as about eighty of our members met at the gypsum mine. The elevator was large so it only took two trips to get all of us below. Our guide who is the son of the owner was very accomodating. He took us on a tour of the storage area first to show us how they store potatoes, cheese and nuts. He led us into a huge freezer room full of turkeys and other good things. The mine tunnels have a temperature of 51° the year around.

After the tour we got down to business. You should have heard the hammering. There was plenty of loose gypsum so everybody took all they could carry. I saw some pretty nice specimens carried out. Everyone had a good time and I hope we can have this good a turn out again.

Marie Spielmaker, Field Trip
Chairman

* * * * *

JANUARY DOOR PRIZE WINNERS

"Michigan" shaped Petoskey stone - donated by

Jerry Morris - won by Edna McDowell

Sphalerite & Galena specimen - from auction

won by Ruth Steele

Manganese specimen - donated by the Fotters

won by Dick Jamstra

Washington Petrified wood donated by R B Smith

won by Arthur Ferguson

* * * * *

LAPIDARY AWARD OF THE MONTH

The Lapidary Award for January was presented to Doug Moore who entered a fine tigereye cab. Kreigh Tomaszewski ran a close second. The Juniors are improving as this month's entries attest. Senior Award was won by Arnold Wendt, Jr. with a very fine pipestone carving.

Richard W. Rose, Chairman
Lapidary of the Month Committee

CAT ROCKS I HAVE MET

For the benefit of the uninitiated, "cat rocks" are rocks that are of no use except to heave at the more vocal cats in the still of the night. Every rockhound and lapidary has accumulated quite a few of these in the ordinary course of cutting up rough into slabs. A chunk of rough that looked just beautiful from the outside may turn out to have nothing inside. Thus you have generated a cat rock.

The kind of cat rocks I am thinking about are the ones my friends collect for me. They go on vacations and no matter where they are someone is sure to exclaim, "Just look at that pretty rock. I'll bet my friend would like that one." So they pick up the piece of ordinary granite and put it into the car trunk. Come ten or twenty rocks later, after the rear deck of the car has developed a sag, they decide to call it a day and bring the lot home.

Then, with the enraptured expression of a small dog who brings in a very dead rabbit and lays it at your feet, they carry in a carton of rocks, drop it on the seat of one of the best chairs and exclaim, "Hi, we brought you some rocks. Of course, we don't know anything about rocks, but some of them must be good. Just see this pretty pink one and this black and white one is beautiful when the light strikes it just right. I do hope you can make something out of them. If you have time will you cut one and polish it for us?"

Well, what are you going to do? Common courtesy inhibits you from throwing the whole load out the front door and besides they might pick up a hunk of apple green jade some day or a piece of turquoise in the matrix or a ten carat rough diamond in Wisconsin, so you graciously thank them for the assorted collection of granite, chert dolomite, fractured jasper and that one small agate nodule that might be worth having.

Then there was the woman who brought in a few garnets clutched in her hot little hand. She had found them in one of the southern states and they were not even good garnets, but she was sure they were rubies and probably worth a fortune. I suspect she counted them before and after I examined them.

I showed her that they had the typical crystal form of garnets and that a synthetic ruby would scratch them with ease, but she had made up her mind that they were rubies and she didn't want to be disillusioned. So she left with the "rubies" still clutched tightly in her hot little hand.

You have to watch your step when you toss these cat rocks. One night I threw some at a cat that was hitting high C. Shortly after there was a crash and the front window caved in. The cats were throwing them back.

(by Colin Kyle as originally published in the FOX VALLEY ROCKS & MINERAL SOCIETY bulletin FCX ROX NEWS)

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(this article is continued from the January issue)

The third great period of gold production came in the years from 1890 to 1915. In this time came the gold discoveries in Alaska, Yukon, and Transvaal. The United States held the first place in world's gold production until 1898, when the rise of the Witwatersrand mines in the Transvaal area of Africa took the area which is now generally made up by the Union of South Africa into the first place in the world, a place which Africa has held on to even in the 20th century. In general the gold mines in and around the city of Johannesburg are those that produce more gold than any other mining area in the world. Gold mining is also carried on on quite an important scale in Ghana. Many of these mines have been established with American and European money. Today Africa is the leading gold producer in the world. For example, in 1945 over one half of the world's gold output came from this continent and the production has not gone down even today. The present rate of gold turnout would seem to indicate that gold production will be still sustained at a high level for a number of years. We must remember, however, that a great portion of Africa is still relatively unknown, and there is no telling whether the next "gold rush" may not be in the "dark Continent".

In 1851 another gold rush came about as gold was discovered in Australia. Curiously enough here, like in the case of the great gold rush in America, the gold fields were to be found far across the uncultivated wastes in the western side of the continent. Again, as in America, the great plains between the "civilized" eastern side and the western gold fields failed to stop the prospectors. Just as in California, these prospectors were attracted to the new gold finds not only from the settled areas of the same continent, but also from other countries. As a matter of fact, so great was the drawing power of the new Australian gold fields, that between 1851 (when the discovery of gold was made) and 1861 - just ten short years later, the population increased from 405,000 to 1,146,000. Soon this country rivalled the United States in gold production. Less than half a century later, the so-called "Golden Mile" was producing the world's greatest yield of gold. This area included such famous places as Kalgoorie and Coolgardie besides eleven other mines. Since World War I, however, the output of the Australian mines has lessened considerably and consequently the area is now much less important as a gold producer. The low-grade ores from the "Golden Mile" mines still produce gold, however, and there are other rich gold mines scattered in the country. For this reason, while Australia has yielded up its place as a leader in the world's gold production, it still considers gold as one of its more important minerals.

In Russia large scale gold mining began early in the 19th century. Contrary to other nations where gold was suddenly discovered, Russia never had a "gold rush" like - for example - the 1849 one in California. The large gold deposits in the mineral-abounding Ural mountains were not thrown open to the average man upon discovery. The government promptly claimed all the new gold finds. Large scale gold mining was established, it is true, but there was a absence of the large migration of prospectors to the new gold fields that we saw elsewhere. (continued next page)

THE METAL (continued)

Gold in this country was something to serve the government and nobility, and not destined to improve much the fortunes of the common man. Today, though under a different type of government, the picture is much the same. Nobility, it is true, is "out", but the People's Government promptly claims and utilizes all the gold mined, while the common man only get the privilege of working in the gold mines for a meager pay. We know that Russia is rich in minerals, but the record of gold production in the Soviet Union has been irregular in the 20th century. This is chiefly due to wars and revolutions, and is especially true under the present government which is reluctant to release any figures or information of any sort.

Large scale gold production in Canada belongs principally in the 20th century. Some gold mining took place earlier, but it is only in the last half century that Canada has come out as one of the leading gold producers in the world. The same is also true in the Phillipines and New Guinea. New Guinea is the place of the latest gold rush in modern times, being the most recent major gold discovery. The place presents an interesting geological problem in that this area is completely unassociated with any nearby productive district.

The above, then are the world's major gold producing areas with a brief historical notation on each. As for the order of importance of the above countries, at the present time, the leading producers are as follows:

1. Union of South Africa
2. Russia
3. Canada
4. United States
5. Australia
6. Ghana

The richest gold fields in the world are the Witwatersrand mines in the Transvaal area of southern Africa. In the western hemisphere the Homestead mine at Lead, South Dakota, is the largest. On the other hand the Mother Lode gold fields in California for many years supplied the greatest amount of gold. South Dakota currently leads the states in gold production with Utah, California, and Alaska being in second, third, and fourth places, respectively.

Taken in total volume of all-time gold production through 1958, the four leading states are California, Colorado, South Dakota, and Nevada. (From U. S. Government data GOLD IN THE UNITED STATES, exclusive of Alaska and Hawaii). Breaking the data down to individual districts, the eight leading districts in all-time gold production in our country are:

(concluded next page)

DISTRICT	Total production in ounces, through 1953
Lead, South Dakota	23,875,000
Cripple Creek, Colorado	19,088,000
West Mountain, (Bingham) Utah	10,184,000
Grass Valley - Nevada City, California	9,822,000
Comstock, Nevada	8,620,000
Mother Lode - East Belt, Calif.	7,507,000
Columbia Basin, California	7,500,000
Hammonton, Yba River, Calif.	4,387,000

Altogether, since the discovery of America, and up to 1961, the world in total has produced 2,112,000,000 troy ounces of gold. This is quite a production and comes from all the above mentioned places as well as less important gold finds that are not listed in this article. If all this gold were put together and shaped in a cube, this cube would measure 49 feet on each side. This is quite a volume of gold produced, but never in all the history of mankind has man been satisfied with the amount of gold he has held. This metal, dreamed about and fought for, has always made man wish for more and more by means fair or foul.

* * * * *

THE FOSSILS

At midnight in the museum hall
 The fossils fathered for a ball
 There were no drums or saxophones
 But just the clatter of their bones,
 A rolling, rattling carefree circus
 of mammoth polka and mazurkas,
 Pterodactyls and brontosaurus
 Sang ghostly prehistoric choruses.
 Amid the mastodonic wassail
 I caught the eye of one small fossil.
 Cheer up, sad world, he said, and winked
 It's kind of fun to be extinct.

from Carnival of the Animals by Saint-Saens

Suggested by Marian Mead, one of our Juniors.

* * * * *

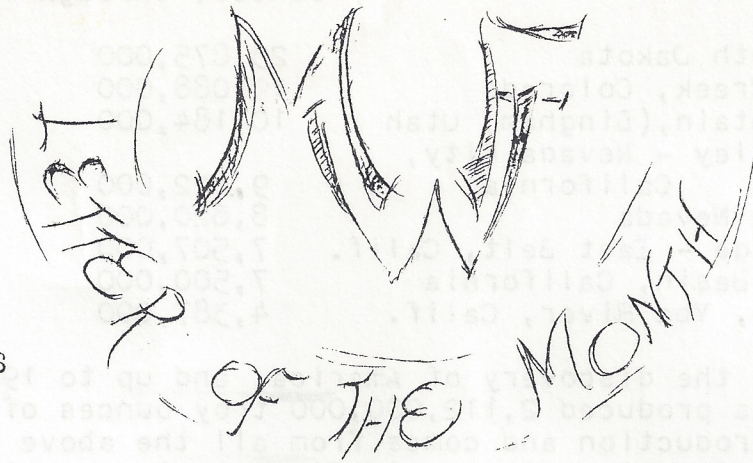
Dear Junior Readers:

In just one more month we will be preparing our cases for the Annual Rock and Mineral show. Here's hoping we will see a lot of junior participation. After all, it is your show, too!

Also, I would like to mention the wonderful field trips coming up. Sure hope you will be taking part in them. After all, this is how we learn about our favorite subject (rocks).

See you at the next meeting, I'm hoping someone will surprise me with a jotting, PLEASE!

Mrs. Marilyn Damstra



ARCHIVES
PROJECT

FEBRUARY
1965

The Midwest Federation of Mineralogical and Geological Societies has now attained the ripe maturity of 25 years of service to earth science and lapidary hobbyists. It is now old enough to have a history. Dr. Ben Hur Wilson, the Federation's Honorary President, has suggested that an archives of pictures of conventions and prominent Federation personalities, of shows, rockrama and convention programs, of club bulletins and books about the Federation and the earth sciences, be formed. This would be safely housed in some place accessible to scholars and interested persons where it could be safely cared for, with the hope that it would become the nucleus of a national archives of such material.

This might be done under the sponsorship of the American Federation of Mineralogical Societies or exist as an individually financed library and archives.

Toward the realization of this purpose, clubs and members of the Midwest Federation are asked (1) to give any such historical material, including correspondence, badges and other memorabilia in addition to the above mentioned material, to the Federation through its historian, so that the Federation may have as complete a collection as possible of its written and printed record, and (2) that clubs that have sponsored conventions make available their scrapbooks for photostating of material and newspaper clippings. This should be done by writing the historian and making individual arrangements, before sending along the scrapbook or having the work done under club auspices.

Ultimately it is hoped that the archives will become the repository of gifts of books and pamphlet material on the earth sciences and perhaps of mineral and fossil specimens. Its scope, however, will depend on the acceptance of the archives project by the Federation.

Material and communications on the archives project, which is now under consideration by the Federation's executive committee should be sent to the historian, Russell P. MacFall, 721 Foster Street, Evanston, Illinois 60201

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