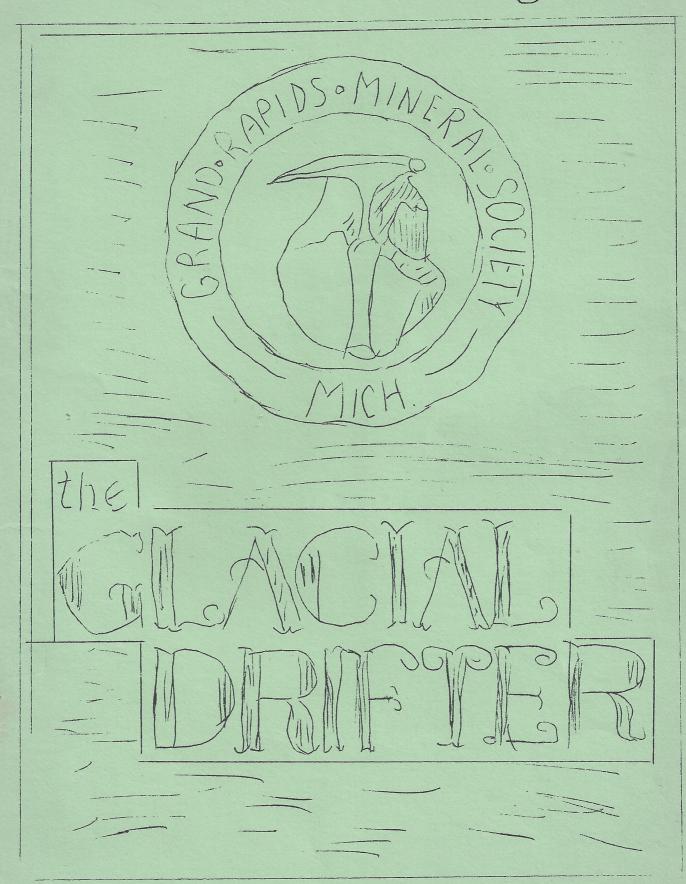
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may 1965



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The Grand Rapids Mineral Bociety is a Non-Frofit Corporation affiliated with the Midwest Federation and the American Federation of mineral Societies.

Meetings are held the 2nd ..ednesday of each month at 8:00 P.M. at RIDGEVIE. JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL, Rosewood at Burton S E (Sept. thru May) summer meetings are at various parks as announced.

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 pf the month preceding publication, unless notified of an earlier closing date.

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

Member - Bulletin Editors Association.

Annual Meeting - May 12th Cliction of Officirs - Potluck Dinner

Wednesday, May 12, is the date of our Annual Meeting which will be held at Ridgeview Junior High School Cafeteria. As has been our custom for the past few years, the meeting will be preceded by a potluck dinner, arrangements for which are in the capable hands of wrs. Betty Tchozeski - dinner at 6:30 PM.

Election of officers and board members for the coming year will take place at 8:00 PM. Nominations were made at the April meeting.

AND for our program we will have wir. Von Del Chamberlain, staff Astronomer at the Abrams Planetarium at Michigan State University. He will talk on METEORITES, especially the Michigan finds. He will explain how to identify a meteorite and tell us how we can help with a project at MSU on wichigan meteorites.

Joe Parish tells us that he has some excellent door prizes.

Mrs. Tchozeski requests that reservations for the dinner be made no later than the 10th. Either send in the reservation blank included with this DRIFTER, or call her at 361-1405. While this is a potluck, the club is furnishing dinner rolls, coffee and milk and Betty must know how much of these items to purchase. PLEASE help to make her job easier by getting YOUR reservation in as early as possible.

MINERAL STUDY GROUP MEETING

The April meeting of the Mineral Study group was held at the home of Mr. & Mrs. Fay Reed with Mr. Joe Parish giving the lesson. We were happy to have the Reed's Daughter and son-in-law with us. They showed slides taken on a recent trip to Mexico. Of special interest to the rock enthusiasts were the buildings with the large mosiac murals of natural stone. We felt that this would be a good use for some of our materials, but, of course, on a much smaller scale.

The May meeting of this group will be at the home of Mir & Mirs Joe Parish, 2212 Thornwood S W at 8:00 FM on Thursday, May 27 with Mrs Lucile Pearl giving the lesson on chapter 8 of Zumberge's ELEMENTS OF GEOLOGY.

All interested in learning the basics of our hobby are urged to meet with us. Please consider this as YOUR invitiation to join us.

Page 2 Jur President's Corner

hell, the annual selection of candidates for the next year has been completed under the capable supervision of Casey Doornboassisted by Joe Parish and Russ Girard, and a nice job was done resulting in an excellent slate of candidates.

Betty Tchozeski came forth with a most welcome assist and is chairman of our annual potluck. Thank you Henry for the loan of your gal for this occasion.

wlarie Spielmaker has plotted out some field trips that promise to be dandies.

Vacations are under way with warmer weather and we want to wish all voggers good trips and best of hunting.

Hope to see you at the Annual election.

Jerry Morris, President

ARNOLD WENDT III YOUTH TALENT WINNER

Word has just reached us that Arnold wendt III is the first prize winner for his gypsum carving in the Youth Talent Show being held at the Museum. He carved the prize-winning figure from a piece of gypsum collected on the club field trip to the Michigan Natural Storage Company mine earlier this year. Our congratulations to this junior member. Keep up the good work. We are proud of you.

PARDON THE OMISSION, PLEASE

Our apologies to Barb Roys for not using the next part of her article on THE METAL OF MAN'S DREAMS in this issue of the DRIFTER. This will appear in the September issue. We are running a two-part field trip report by Joe Parish in this and the June issue as it will prove of interest to members going on vacation to the areas that Joe visited on his three-month trip last summer. Hope some of you will write articles for next fall publication on your summer vacations. This is one way for you to share your experiences with your fellow members.

meet with us. Please consider this as YOUR invitiation to join us.

Calendar of Events

- May 12 Mednesday 6:30 PM Potluck Dinner, Mrs. Betty Tchozeski in charge. 8:00 FM Annual Meeting with election of officers and board members followed by program on METEORITES presented by Mr. Von Del Chamberlain, Staff Astronomer at Abrams Planetarium at Michigan State University
- May 17 Board of Control meeting at 8:00 PMat the home of wir & wirs August Post, 8200 Thornapple River Drive Caledonia
 - way 27 Thursday, at 8:00 PM Mineral Study Group weeting at home of Mr & Mrs Joe Parish, 2212 Thornwood SW with wirs. Lucile Pearl giving the lesson
 - Way 29-30-31 Three Day field trip. Details may be obtained from Miss Marie Spielmaker, Field Trip Chairman, at the Annual Weeting or calling her at her home, Phone LE4-5629
- Park. Bring a picnic supper and use the time before the meeting, which will begin at 8:00 PM, to visit with our members
 - July 14 Wednesday, Regular Meeting at Caledonia County
 Park
 - July29, 30, 31 and August 1 Widwest Federation Convention and Silver Jubilee Show at Evansville, Indiana
 - August 11 Wednesday REgular meeting at Townsend County Park

warie Spielmaker, Field Itio Oddman.

September 8 - Wednesday - Regular monthly meeting and beginning of new year with new officers and DUES WILL BE DUE.

KENT COUNTY SCIENCE FAIR

On the afternoon of Tuesday, April 5, Miss Jane Cichaniewicz and I attended the Kent County Science Fair as judges for the Grand Rapids Mineral Society.

For the benefit of new members it should be explained that each year our club gives a "wish award" to the entrant at the fair with the outstanding mineralogical project. This is done by the club as a community service to encourage young people to enter EARTH SCIENCE EXHIBITS.

Each year for the past few years there have been more exhibits to choose from. This year there were approximately twenty. These were reviewed using the uniform judging rules as outlined by the Science Fair Committee. By this method the list was narrowed to six outstanding projects.

After a complete review of these projects, as to thoroughness, completeness of report and scientific intent, we decided to give our award for a project on CALCIUM CARBONATE PROPERTIES. We felt this project was very complete in detail and best symbolized the club motive in granting this type of award as it dealt with one of the primary minerals.

When our judging was completed we found this project belonged to Miss Anne Deckard of Plymouth Rd. S E. As a club we wish to congratulate her for an excellent project.

Incidentally, Anne was our award winner last year also. In addition to this Anne won an award in the General Judging for ger effort. This young lady really works hard on these projects and should be an inspiration for our junior members to work on and enter this type of exhibit in future Science Fairs.

For the Committee Jim DeZwaan

FIELD TRIPPERS

I have written to two places for information about their mines. I thought that Memorial Day week-end would give us three days so we could go farther. I wrote to the fluorite mine in Illinois and the sapphire mine in Ohio. If we don't get permission for a trip to either of these places, how about a trip to Hamilton, Illinois for geodes and Muscatine, Iowa for agates? (Provided the Mississippi is back down to it's normal level) I hope to have an answer by the night of the Annual Meeting, May 12th.

would all interested parties please give me their names and telephone numbers at the May meeting?

warie Spielmaker, Field Trip Chrman.

This article is the record of a green horn rockhound's travels and experiences on a trip that left Grand Rapids on June 17 and returned September 9, 1964, traveling with a 16 foot trailer. It is written to give the inexperienced traveler and rockhound some idea of camping facilities over the route that we traveled, and some directions to certain gemstone areas. To experienced travelers and rockhounds it is probably old stuff, although they might profit by saving some time in having directions to some hunting areas that took me a day or more to find. We are experienced travelers, having traveled in nearly all the states, so traveling did not bother us.

I found that it is a good idea to take along some good specimens of rocks and minerals for trading stock and gifts for people who do you favors, also for kids that you meet in camps and elsewhere who are interested in rock and mineral collections. I took Petoskey stones, and wished that I had some other Michigan kinds along, also some finished material. Be sure to take number one material as that will get interest right away in what you have. Be prepared for all kinds of weather and temperatures 30° to 100°. Have a good set of maps of all the states that you will visit. Most states will send you official state maps and a lot of other useful information including where to find rocks and minerals.

This account will have to be more or less on the order of a diary since we were moving from place to place. Life's record of the trip shows that we stopped in 41 campgrounds and covered 10,008 miles. We made mostly short hops between camps, 40 to 280 miles.

First camp was at Petoskey city camp ground, this is a good place, next Indian Lake State Park - very good, third might Ironwood city campground - good enough for over night. The next three days in Pattison State Park just south of Superior, Misconsin - very nice. Manitou falls here 165 feet high. So far it had been cold, windy and rainy. Clearing weather and we crossed the St. Louis river into Minnesota. This is beautiful fast stream over large boulders thru rocky hills. At Thomson picked up US route 210, mostly wooded hilly country, some farms, crossed Mississippi river at Brainerd; at Motley entered US 10 which we will follow hundreds of miles. Camped in trailer park at Madena that night. Good for tent or trailer.

Next morning we were on our way over 10 thru Detroit Lakes, a large resort area. Crossed the Red River of the North into Fargo, North Dakota. Here we got onto a 4 lane highway, US 94 and 10 for 140 miles. This is ranch country, rolling plaims and hot, beginning to see cottonwood trees. Arrived at Bismark about 3 o'clock. This was the dirtiest state capitol that we ever saw, hot, dry, strong wind, sand flying all over. Did not stop. Crossed Missouri River to Mandan where we turned south a couple of miles to Lincoln State Park campgrounds - sounds good but it was not. (continued next page)

THREE MONTHS (continued)

The level ground was covered with tall grass which was so full of bugs that you had to brush them off by the hands full. So we selected a place on a side hill with no grass. One feature was good cold water out of a pump. After the hot day we had, I couldn't get enough. Our neighbors that night were school teachers from North Carolina and after dark we went with them to the Fort Lincoln Museum.

June 25 was another hot day and our destination was Medora and the campground in the Theodore Roosevelt National Memorial Park. This is in the Bad Lands of North Dakota, very colorful formations that can be seen on a circle tour thru the park, also a couple of prairie dog towns. This is a very good campground on the Little Missouri River, Lectures at night by the park rangers. Next morning we stopped at the visitors center to hear a lecture and view pictures of the surrounding country. Them on the way again. HOT, so we stopped at a roadside ice cream stand which had a few rocks also. Another customer turned out to be a rockhound from New Jersey who gave me some sharks' teeth and I gave him a nice Petoskey stone - also gave one to the pretty girl in charge of the stand. This was at Beach a nice little city just inside the western border of North Dakota. Two miles out of Beach we entered Montana and were approaching my goal - rockhunting country. Forty miles brought us to Glendive. Stopped at the information booth and they gave us a large envelop containing lots of information on Montana. We were surprised at what was in it, even a polished Montana agate and a lot of other things by the Cow Belles of Montana.

Glendive is on the Yellowstone River. The river was high and fast due to heavy snow in the mountains the winter of '63 and '64 and heavy rains in April and May. Natives said no agate hunting in the river till late July. Parked the trailer in city campground on bank of the river. Arrived at 1 o'clock so had choice of space, under a large cottonwood tree and next to a high enbankment. This proved to be a good choice for what happened the next night. Nice camp ground except toilet accommodations were very poor, better get acquainted with a nearby gas station. A pump with lots of iron in the water which I liked but friend wife didn't. Caretaker of the camp also operates a rock shop. Stan's Agate and Gift Shop.

June 27, Very Hot. Books and magazines say that the Montana agate country is along the Yellowstone River from Forsythe to Sidney. We were up river from Sidney so decided to go there and look over the country on the way for placed to find agates. I had no idea what a Montana agate in the rough looked like so saw an ad for a rock shop in Sidney and headed for it. Had the radio on and a special announcement of a very severe thunder storm with heavy winds was coming our way and would strike Glendive in late afternoon. A short distance out of Sidney we came to a rock shop run by a rancher. The stopped in to see what he had. There were lots of agates and a good chance for me to see what they looked like in the rough. Purchased a few to study then started back towards camp to get there ahead of the storm. (continued next page)

Ficked up a few rocks that looked like they might be agates in a dry stream along the road. A terrific wind, dust and thunderstorm struck about 8 o'clock and we were glad of our sheltered place.

Cooler weather, only 70°, next morning. A dealer from near Mil-waukee was washing rocks at the pump. He and his family were after agates and said they had picked up two bushels the day before. Le went over to his trailer to see them and I told him I was a regreenhorn at rock hounding and would like him to look at what I had picked up the day before, one out of the lot proved to be fairly good. He then told me where they had found theirs since they were leaving for Sidney and vicinity that afternoon. I gave him about six pounds of Petoskey stones for his information. He then gave me another variety of rock that they had picked up at another part of the state. A friend of his who was traveling with him showed me a lot of small agates that he had picked up and said "don't pass these up as you may be surprised what you will find in them." He showed several finished pieces that were made from the small ones. Beautiful!

I decided to take off right then for the creek bed they had told me about. After a hurried lunch took Wontana 16 about 8 miles northeast to a graded road that angles to the left off the pavement A landmark on the right of 16 is twin elevators a little distance ahead. Follow curving graded road past end of fenced in land on right for about 1/8 of a mile to near creek bed. This stretch of creek bed had been worked by seven people the day before so did not expect to find much but some experience. ..ith rock scoop and two ten-pound burlap bags went down to the creek. Right away began finding agate but mostly the clear type.. Being a greenhorn I picked up most everything, at least I learned how to spot agates from other stones. Look for stones with a white coating on them. Then it is just like spotting Petoskey stones after you know what to look for. Petrified wood was plentiful also and I found a few small pieces of opalized wood. Filled the bags and found an old pail and filled that and then back to Glendive, there I sorted the material and found that not too much was good, so planned to try again the next day.

Back to the stream bed again, turned off graded road to the right at the end of fence, drove about $\frac{1}{2}$ mile along fence and parked on high bank above creek. Down to creek level and thru about 150 yards of sagebrush, expected snakes to be here and this is where your rock scoop comes in handy as you can feel your wayahead of you at base of brush and rocks so that if there are snakes present you would be liable to get action, and you have a good weapon. I also found that it helps climbing steep slopes and also acts as a brake coming down. This part of the stream had not been worked by the other group so I found better material and filled two bags again with agates and wood. Just as I was ready to start back to the car I discovered a beautiful piece of opalized wood about the size of a bushel basket. Boy did I want that, but I couldn't even roll it over. I was a half mile down stream from the car and had to climb a steep 50 foot bank to get to it., (continued next page)

So I sadly left it lay and I imagine a lot of others did for the same reason.

June 30 on to Miles City, Augie Post's agate headquarters. Camped in the city trailer park just across the Tongue River from the city park and down town section. All accommodations here. Cottonwood trees were shedding their cotton. Every day now is hot.

Next morning visited the Montana Agate King's place, Klapmeier Agate and Silver Shop. Boy, does he have nice finished pieces of agate with beautiful scenes in them and excellent mountings. You can buy them for \$20.00 to \$50.00, I could only look. If you go that way and want something beautiful start saving your dollars now. I did buy some rough material, his price \$1.50 to \$6.00 a pound and some he wouldn't sell at any price. I compromised and bought the \$3.50 type.

Augie had told me of a man near Kinsey whowas a guide for agates. So next day I headed for Kinsey. It is on the north side of the Yellowstone River. Take first paved road to right off Wontana 22 after crossing the river. You will pass thru a hilly country then down to a valley for about twenty miles to the town, a store and a few houses. Stopped at the store for informtion and a cooling drink and found that the guide was away from home for some time. Storekeeper told me about a creek four miles farther along the road that produced agates every year after the spring high water was down. A boy in the store who lived on a ranch nearby said that he and other ranch boys hunted agates for dealers every spring who paid them 1.00 per pound mine run. He said he would take me to their spot the next day. So back next day only to find that my guide had to go to town with his parents. However, he gave me directions to the creek which was about four miles farther on. This was a wide stream bed with but only a very small amount of water in it. I hunted nearly all day finding a quantity of wood and a number of . fair agates. The time to be on these small streams is just after the spring floods are over. Then you will hit the jackpot. When I got back to camp my wife said that the caretaker's wife was a rockhound and wanted to show me her collection. She had quite a nice collection, a lot of which was given her by travelers who stopped in their park. She had a quantity of tumbled agates and told me to help myself. This I did and then brought out my Petoskey stone bag and told her to help herself. So we spent an evening with rocks.

July 3, on the way to Billings up the valley of the Yellowstone, where we found a campground west of the city near the river. It had all the facilities but was right out in the open with no shade at all. This was not for us as that old sun was really pouring it on. we had heard of a camp at Laurel about 17 miles farther west that was recommended to us by another camper at Miles City. It is a good idea to check with other campers who are coming from the direction that you are going as to campgrounds ahead of you. When you get beyond the Mississippi and a native tells you that there is a large campground at so and so don't expect it to be large like we have in 'the state parks in Michigan (continued next page)

It may be anywhere from 5 to 20 campsites. Of course, there are exceptions such as in the national parks. Oregon has the finest campgrounds of any state that we have been in ex cept Michigan. Our camp at Laurel was on the bank of the river and had lots of cottonwood trees for shade plus plenty of mosquitoes as in most of the camp grounds along the river. This was called Riverside Camp and had good water and good toilets and showers. Laurel is a city about the size of Zeeland and the next day was the 4th of July and was celebrated with a parade, a very good one, and a barbeque. Ranchers and families from all around came to the city to see the doings. It was extra special as 1964 was the centenniel of Montana's admittance into the Union. The governer was there also. In fact he was the third person ahead of us in the chow line. So I guess we were Governor Romney's Michigan representatives. It was amusing to see the local politicians try to out do each other for the governor. Our next door neighbors that night were from Nebraska and were returning from a trip to Alaska and they gave us a very good account of their adventures along the way.

At Laurel we were at our nearest point to the Custer Battlefield. It was about a hundred miles so got an early start and drove over there. I had wanted tosee it ever since I was a little kid and read about the battle of the Little Big Horn. It was very interesting to me. There is a museum there with relics of the battle and a large number of dioramas picturing scenes of the battle and Indian life. On a tour of the battlefield you see the spot where Custer and his 200 men made their last stand and the positions of the rest of his regiment that held off the Indians until helparrived.

Next day we were on our way to Livingston still following the Yellowstone valley. Here we located a camp called Geyser, about three blocks off US 10. It is privately owned and had all facilities. A group of college girls from Michigan came into camp a little Later that evening. We were directly north of Yellowstone Park at this place, so decided to drive there and tour the north loop of the park. To me the best part of the drive was along the Yellowstone from Livingstone to the park entrance. Mountains were on both sides with the sun shining on their snow covered tops, it was a beautiful sight. Peonies in full bloom all along the way. Dinner at Canyon Vallage Lodge then over Dunraven pass thru snow to Tower Falls. Bears, dder and moose along the way and down grade all the way back to our camp. Tired out!.

July 10. Up early and on the way to Butte, over our first pass (Bozeman). We wondered what the car would do with the heavily loaded trailer behind it. Over the top easily and all the other passes that were on our route, most of them in high, a few in second except when slowed down by switchbacks or held up by a truck crawling up. I found it easier to control car with the trailer on when going down grade than with car alone. But be sure all of your brakes are in good condition. Just before we got to Butte we crossed the Continental Divide over Pipestone Pass. Arrived at Butte at 1:30 and found a place in a trailer park with spots for overnighters. Went down town for our first mail stop. (continued next page)

Butte, the wife's diary says is "dirty, crummy and old". There are still a lot of nice places in the town. Around the mining section called "the richest hill on earth" are the first settlements of Butte and like any other city they are not so good. Guided trips can be taken thru the mining operations both underground and open pit. The School of Mines Museum claims one of the greatest mineral collection in the world.

The next day we drove to Virginia City, an old gold mining town, now restored as a tourist attraction. Drove along Alder Creek which now runs between huge piles of gravel and rock thrown up by dredges which dug for gold in the gulch in the old days. Millions of dollars worth were taken out of here. On the way back to Butte we saw a rockshop sign in Alder so had to find it. It was operated by an old lady who was an old timer in that section. Bought some peacock ore (bornite) and swapped Petoskey stones for marcasite and lead ore specimens from the Butte area. At night our neighbot from California brought out his portable TV and the campers gathered around to see Lawrence welk and Gunsmoke. Camping is the place to find neighborly people.

Had read an article in the Lapidary Journal, April 1961 (also see August 1964) about the sapphire diggings near Phillipsburg so decided to have a look. Take US 10 six miles west of Butte, then 10A thru Anaconda, 31 miles to Porters Corners, turn left here on Montana 38, a gravel road, for about 8 miles then turn right on first road that follows Rock Creek. Stay on this road for about 15 miles and you will see a number of buildings and a parking lot and campground on the right. This is the headquarters of the sapphire mine owners. Drive in and they will give you the story and show you sapphires cut and inthe rough. You will probably get the fever then and if you have the digging and washing ability they will furnish you tools if you do not have them and show you where to The fee is 5.00 per day. So start early. You can camp right here, a limited amount of groceries can be had in the store. If you don't want to dig they have 12 quart pails of soil from the diggings that they sell for 1.00 each. They will give you a screen and you can wash it right there. It was getting late when I got there so I just bought a pailfull and took it back to camp. I did not have much hope of finding anything in it but to my surprise about a dozen small sapphires of warious colors appeared. I intended to go back and dig but plans were changed that night. In checking our schedule we found that we're running behind and as we had a date to meet the last week in August in Colorado a new schedule was drawn up. Utah was taken off the trip.

In a pamphlet put out by the advertising department of the Montana Highway Commission they mentioned an amethyst mine about 20 miles east of Butte, north of US 10. I decided to investigate this so got an early start and tried to locatethe dirt road mentioned. After a few false starts I finally picked a road that I thought must be right and travelled on this several miles around and up and down hills but no signs of a mine or diggings of any kind. Then drove back to a ranch house that I had passed a short distance from the

highway to inquire about the mine. A half dozen dogs greeted me so I stayed in the car. A lady finally came out and I told her why I was there. She was real friendly and said she didn't know of such a mine near there but that she had a friend who was a rock hound and who lived on the highway back towards Butte. I gave the ranch lady some Petoskey stones which was something she had never seen before. I drove to the place she directed me but no one was at home. I gave it up then and went back to camp. Along in September a package of Montana rock specimens arrived from these rockhounds who said in a letter that the ranch lady had given them some of the Petoskey stones and they had polished them and were very pleased with the results. I am getting together some wichigan specimens to send to them. My trip that day was not fruitless after all and now have three new rockhound friends. Their letter said be sure and stop if I ever came that way again.

Our schedule said move on and we started about 2:00 PM for Spring-hill campground in the wilderness country a few miles west of Anaconda. It was a beautiful place if you like the forest. I do. Anaconda is just as clean and new as Butte is the opposite. A rockhound could spend two weeks or a month in this vicinity to visit all the places to search and dig for minerals. The Anaconda Chamber of Commerce puts out a folder that lists dozens of places. I want to go back there. This campground would be a good place to make headquarters.

Again we had to move on and leave all this good territory. ...e planned to camp somewhere near Missoula and passed within a few miles of the sapphire diggings and came back to US 10 at Garrison. We followed 10 to Wissoula along the Clark Fork River, You don't see any more beautiful scenery than is along this river. I have pictures to prove it. After passing thru Wissoula we again left 10 to turn north on 10A and made camp at Ravelli in a private campground back of a store. Nice green grass and all conveniences. The owners were very accommodating and nice people and told us of the National Bison Range a few miles out of town and said we : should be sure to see it. Next morning got the car lubricated and checked over to make sure that everything was OK. In the after@ noon drove to the Bison range, a number of bison were in a 10 acre enclosed field that had a road around it so that one could get a close-up of the animals. Elk and antelope were in another enclosure. At 3:00 o'clock a park employee conducts a car tour of the 1 range eachone driving his own car. The trip took two hours and on it you can see the bison in their wild state, about 300 of them. This was a rugged drive around sharp U turns and up to the highest A wonderful view from here north over a flat valley dotted with farms as far as the eye could see and a snow covered mountain range to the east. Down hill using second and low gear around the sharp curves and steep slopes. A herd of antelope raced across the range near us. Don't miss it if you are out that way.

(the balance of this article will appear in the June issue of the DRIFTER.

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