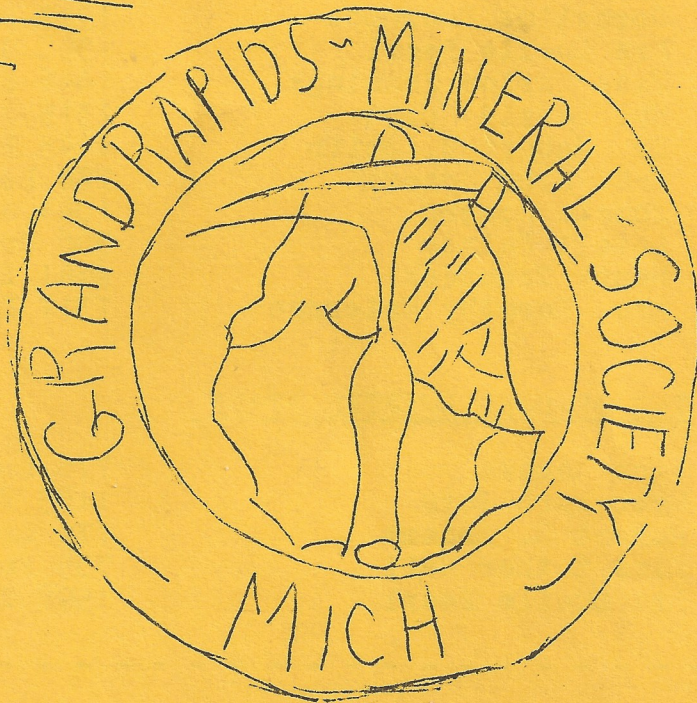


Volume 8, no 3 ~ November 1965



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 (September through May) Summer meetings are at various parks as announced.

Membership dues are \$3.00 per year for a family, \$2.00 for single adult, and \$1.00 for students under 18 years of age. Dues are payable to treasurer - year is from Sept. 1 thru Aug 31 of following year.

Advertising in the GLACIAL DRIFTER is at the rate of \$3.00 per issue (Sept. thru May only)

All material for publication must be in the hands of the editor no later than the 25th of the month preceding publication, unless an earlier closing date is announced.

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

Member - Bulletin Editors Association (National)

Sh!! Sh!! Silent Auction

Yes, Annual Auction time is here again, as you will see when we meet at Ridgeview Junior High School on Wednesday, November 10 at 8:00 P.M. Eldon Waivio will have charge of arrangements, and is in need of material for this auction. He will be assisted by Henry Tchozeski and Robert Rozema. Larry Fegel will have charge of the children's table. August Post will be master of ceremonies. Mrs. James Waldron will be in charge of refreshments. Treasurer Lucile Pearl will be on hand to collect the money.

There won't be time for door prizes, but Mrs. Waterman will be looking for some donations for our December meeting. Remember, if you were lucky enough to win at a previous meeting it is your turn to donate a door prize for a future meeting.

ROCKS AND COOKIES NEEDED

Eldon Waivio is in need of rocks, minerals, fossils, cutting material, books, equipment, finished jewelry, or what have you for the auction. If you can't get your donations to him before the meeting be sure to bring it that night. Your donations will be picked up if you will call Eldon, or any of the board members.

Mrs. Waldron is in need of cookies for the refreshment table for this meeting. Please call her at CH 3-1474 today and let her know that you will contribute a batch of cookies.

* * * * *

DUES ARE PAST DUE

1965-66 dues were due in September. If you haven't paid your dues be sure to take care of this at the November meeting. All delinquent members will be dropped from the mailing list after this issue of the DRIFTER. Be sure to contact Lucile Pearl, treasurer, without delay.

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MINERAL STUDY GROUP MEETING

The Mineral Study Group will meet on MONDAY, November 29 at the home of Mr & Mrs Arnold Wendt, 439 Parkside N.W., at 8:00 P.M. Mrs. Nellie Mead will present the lesson. Anyone interested in learning about rocks, minerals, or fossils, is invited to join this group.

ROCK SHOW IN DETROIT

You won't want to miss the Greatest Show on Earth which will be held in Detroit at the State Fair Grounds on Saturday and Sunday, November 6 and 7. Open from 10 to 10 on Saturday and from 10 to 6 on Sunday.

FROM THE PRESIDENT'S BENCH

ROCK AUCTION! What a fun time we are going to have, IF! That's right, IF! The auction can be a success only IF our members support it. This means donations from you of good quality material, and all you can spare of it. It means that if you don't have any good stuff, that the purchase of a couple of good pieces for donation is certainly a swell way to show your support for the club. So let's see lots and lots of fine quality specimens or cutting material rolling in from our members to provide a really outstanding Auction in '65.

Donations may be brought to, or will be picked up by Eldon Waivio, 2565 Belfast S E, GL 2-1785, or by myself at 1561 Perkins NE, 454-2217. If you forget to do this in advance, bring materials along the night of the show.

Our congenial M C will be none other than A. (for agate) Post, one of our past presidents.

Our thanks to Dr. Robert Smith and family for the fine fossil display at the last meeting. It was certainly educational for the many people who viewed it. Watch for a terrific Thomsonite display in December by Roger and Florence Hawkins. They promise to disclose some of their secret locations for finding this attractive material.

Brief mention of our Annual Show, to be held March 6 thru 27, 1966. We are looking forward to some swell new displays by you, our members. Only four (4) months to go, better start planning and grinding. For those members who are not lapidaries or specimen collectors, we would sure like to see some educational displays, models, etc. of volcanos, glaciers, mining operations, ways that minerals contribute to our everyday life, and things of this type. Make it a family project, it will really be fun.

See you at the Auction, November 20, Be sure and bring guests, they are welcome.

Dick Damstra

WE ARE HAPPY TO REPORT

- that Mr Henry Nordheim is looking as chipper as ever after having spent the entire month of July in the hospital
- that Mrs. Marilyn Damstra is progressing very well after her surgery and is back home again.
- that Mr. Joseph Martin also is doing very well after his stay in the hospital
- that Mr & Mrs Fay Reed had a good trip and are willing to share it with us in the form of the article which appears in this issue.
- that Gus and Tess Beuker were in Michigan this summer and were able to attend one of our picnic meetings.
- that Bill and Eva Brimmer were back for a visit from their home in Arkansas, and both are looking fine.
- that Charles and Bert Sweet paid a flying visit to GR from their home in California.

Calendar of Events

November 3 Wednesday, 8:00 P.M. LAPIDARY GROUP meeting at home of DR & Mrs. R F Smith, 1445 Breton Rd, S E. This is the second meeting for this group. If you missed the first, don't stay away from this one. We welcome all interested members.

November 6 - 7 Saturday and Sunday - Michigan Mineralogical Society Gem Show THE GREATEST SHOW ON EARTH, at Community Arts Center, State Fair Grounds, Gate #2, State Fair Road (between 7 and 8 Mile Roads, east of Woodward Avenue, Detroit, Michigan

November 10 Wednesday, 8:00 P.M. ANNUAL AUCTION. Come one, come all, and be sure to bring your donations and of course, money to pay for your purchases. Also Bring a friend.

November 15 Monday, 8:00 P.M. Board of Control Meeting at the home of Mrs. Lucile Pearl, 1598 Gridley N W

November 25 Thursday - A Happy Thanksgiving to all.

November 29 Monday, 8:00 P.M. MINERAL STUDY GROUP meeting at the home of Mr & Mrs Arnold Wendt, 439 Parkside N W. Mrs. Nellie Mead will present the lesson.

December 8 Regular monthly meeting

December 13 Board of Control Meeting

* * * * *

OCTOBER MEETING REVIEW

Mr & Mrs Joe Krebs of the Central Michigan club did a swell job when they appeared before our group at the October meeting as the exchange program. They brought some specimens of materials collected by them on their vacation last summer, and from the slides which they showed we learned that the best materials are not found on top of the ground ready to be picked up, but have to be dug for, even in 100° temperatures. We certainly appreciated their program and hope they will come back another time.

LAPIDARY GROUP MEETING

"Well, what should be do? Should we take various members of one mineral family, such as the feldspars, and produce a cab of each kind so that we have good experience in that group and a complete display on that type?" "We could do a group of stones polished by hand." "How about this for something different - we each do a string of "beggar beads" of different kinds and shapes -- it doesn't take much material of any one kind, and there'd be lots of variety."

Thus the newly formed Lapidary Group explored possibilities as they passed around the coffee and cookies and looked over the mineral and lapidary specimens and various types of lapidary equipment available at the R. E. Smith home. Some of those attending were experienced lapidaries; one showed some beautiful stone carvings she had done, some had never polished anything. A stone came out of a pocket: "Why can't I seem to get anywhere on this?" "Your center is too low -- you'll either have to round the top more, or lap it flat." "I learned something."

The group decided to meet thereafter on the first WEDNESDAY of each month, with the next meeting set for Wednesday, November 3 at 8: P.M. This meeting will also be held at the home of Dr. and Mrs R. E. Smith, 1445 Breton Rd. S E; later meetings will be held at other members' homes, giving a better idea of a variety of types of equipment and experience.

Anyone interested is invited to attend, but every member of the group will be expected to start actively polishing stones (not at the meetings). Admission on November 3 will require a finished cab from each person attending last month (under penalty of presenting next month's program). Newcomers may come anyway, although they are encouraged to bring examples of their work. Members are also encouraged to bring examples of unusual types of materials or techniques, or questions as to problems, or information needed. Be prepared for a quiz - ungraded, but designed to stimulate thought and discussion.

See you at the Smith residence, 1445 Breton Rd, at 8:00 P.M. on Wednesday, November 3.

* * * * *

OUR MEMBERS GET AROUND

The club should be especially proud of three good members who have been spreading the rockhound gospel recently. Lowell Palmer loaned his Herkimer diamond exhibit for the Geology section of the Science meetings at the recent Michigan Education Association convention in Grand Rapids. At the same meeting Dorothy Waterman put up a display of fossils that fascinated the folks who saw it, and explained something about the collection. Dr. Richard Rose was the main speaker of the meeting. He brought his volcano model and talked to the assembled teachers on geology in Michigan. The evaluation cards handed in at the end of the meeting were unanimous in rating the speaker as tops, and suggested either that he be asked to speak again next year, or that someone else who would be as informative and entertaining be obtained - if such a miracle could be brought about. Dick has also presented two programs in Ionia recently, and is slated to represent our club in the exchange program with the Lansing group. Nice going, everybody!

OUR EASTERN TRIP

by Mr & Mrs Fay Reed

At last we were off on the trip we had been planning all winter. We had had one delay after another from sickness to visitors to business. We were to spend a few days in Connecticut with our son and his family, then a day or two at the New York Fair, then a visit to Washington and the Smithsonian Institute.

Connecticut is a beautiful state, with rugged rocky hills worn down from ancient mountains, old estates with mansions dating from colony days, winding roads, huge beaches covered with shells, and beautiful rocks and pebbles. One can plainly see how the forces of nature worked on the great masses of rock that line the roads. They have been squeezed and tilted and pushed out of place. They are dark and drab looking until the sun lights up the mica which resulted from this pressure.

The Fair was a "dud" as far as we were concerned so one day was enough. Instead we visited the Museum of Natural History in New York City to see their collection of rocks and minerals. As we entered we saw the cases in which the stolen star sapphire and star ruby were displayed. To our surprise, these gems were back in place.

The large dark room had dimly lighted cases, much like those at Michigan State University, in two widely separated rows, the full length of the room. Next to these toward the wide center aisle were brightly lighted cases filled with small gem stones from all over the world. In the center aisle were massive chunks of colorful tourmaline, beryl and topaz weighing from 300 to 1000 pounds each. Each was glass enclosed and standing on a pedestal. As we were looking at them the sun lighted them up briefly and it was breathtaking. Then our attention was drawn to the far end of the room where a block of massive copper, as tall as we were, was enclosed in a glass case. Spectacular patterns in deep blue and green were on all four sides. We were proud to see that it came from Michigan Keewanaw Peninsula.

Another surprise was a case filled with beryl, garnets, tourmaline, and other gem stones from Connecticut and donated by John D. Rockefeller. We learned that there were many pegmatite quarries there in which these colorful specimens are still found. Another case contained gems, fossils, and colorful rocks collected under New York City when the subways were built.

Along the inner wall were glass cases reaching from floor to ceiling, filled with crystal specimens, and cave formations. Nearby was a case with replicas of the various crystal formations found in nature.

In contrast to this room was the exhibit at the Smithsonian. We learned from Nina Rozema, after we reached home, that it had just been re-arranged and modernized. It had just been re-opened on October 1st. If we had gone when we first planned to go we would not have seen it.

As we entered our eyes were caught by a display in a case that filled one side of the room. In it was a replica of the "Cave of Swords" in Mexico. Many slender blades of selenite from 3 to 4 feet
(continued next page)

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A WORD FROM YOUR RETIRING PRESIDENT MERTON A. YOUNG

Our Year as president of the Midwest Federation is ended. To us it has been a wonderful year filled with challenges and opportunities. Because of these we have accumulated treasures of memories and friendships denied to all except those who serve. For the privilege of serving, we thank you, the one hundred sixty, and more, societies and the more than ten thousand members and local officers.

No retiring president has owed more to his staff of co-workers, his fellow officers and chairmen of divisions and committees. To all of them goes our sincere thanks and expression of appreciation.

The Silver Jubilee Convention and Show with the Evansville Lapidary Society as hosts was a fitting memorial for the twenty-fifth anniversary of our great Federation. For the first time Indiana was honored as the host state. For the first time all the twelve state flags stood together alongside Old Glory. It was impressive and indicative of the unity of purpose and ideals of our membership. For the first time honors were publicly given to societies rendering special services to their communities. All these we thank, for to bring honors to yourselves is to honor all of us.

I quote from a letter received from one of our most active members. "When I read about what wonderful things our societies have been doing, I'm so proud I nearly burst." This is my feeling, I'm proud to be a Rockhound.

I feel required to leave you with both a word of clarification and a warning. This is due to a voluminous attack from outside the Federation. Much of the purpose of this is good and will have beneficial results given proper attention and thought by "men of good will." However, good will has been obviously lacking and many untruths and misinformation have been printed with the result that most of us are confused. The editorial written by Dr. George Williams, president of the Northwest Federation, in the Northwestern News Letter sets forth the facts. (We hope a copy may be made available to all who wish.)

Here are some clarifying statements:

First, the argument is about the naming of Lapidary material. The question is whether the long list of names be made a required list, or whether a short list, as now used, be required to be used for labeling. This does not apply to minerals, fossils, educational classes or any other division not containing lapidary labels. Therefore, the attack is not upon the rules as a whole, but only the labeling of lapidary.

Second, the chairman of the rules committee of the AFMS serves for only one year and no one has ever served longer than one year. Each of the three members move up toward the chairmanship each year as the chairman retires and a new member from another Federation is appointed. (This year the new member will be from our Midwest and by 1968 will be chairman) Six representatives, one from each

(continued next page)

Federation, plus the three AFMS members make up the Rules Committee, so it is obvious that there never has been, nor never can be, any one-man control.

The format, or lay-out of the rules has been improved, but still leaves much to be desired. This is a question of printing and of printing costs. It will be improved when the money is appropriated to pay the extra costs, and remember the income of the AFMS is not much larger than the income from our largest local societies.

Rules, as such, have come a long way in the less than eight years of their existence (and still will be improved every year). They make the most important contribution to the appearance and content of the displays of all our shows, and a non-competitive display is much better for having considered the rules of lighting, showmanship arrangement, quality, variety, etc. that would be required of competitive displays.

What then should be our attitude? Let us not be led by those who have a personal axe to grind. Let us not attack our own membership because some one outside our Federation seeks to gain by this attack. Let us give in our shows as was done in Yakima this year, the place of honor to competitive displays, both individual and societies. Let us not condone inferior workmanship or quality of materials, or improper labeling or sloppy arrangement with the statement, "This is just a hobby and we are all Amateurs." May I remind you that those who take part in Olympic games are also AMATEURS.

And most important of all, let us listen to the portions of this attack that are true and that could be used to improve our rules and better our displays, and make use of them.

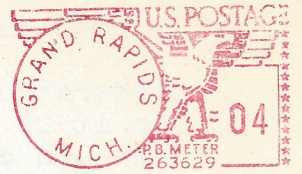
To me Truth, Beauty, Sunrises and Sunsets are more important than bread and butter alone. These values acquired through the effort necessary to rise above the subsistence level are basic American values. We have attained them through competition.

Because I believe this, I have consented to be the representative of the Midwest on the AFMS Rules Committee for the next three years. I shall need your support, yes, even your criticism, and I earnestly solicit your letters. (Our Federation will continue to be represented on the six-man team, so to him your suggestions will be most welcome also.)

This has been the year "To Learn and To Share". I have learned much, I have tried to Share. I am proud to have been your servant and remain proud to be a fellow Rockhound.

Next month we will bring you the Message from our 1965-66 President

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