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the

GLACIAL

DRIFTER

W. R.

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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 August 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 closingdate is announced.

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

Member - Bulletin Editors Association (National)

DR. LUCKE TO BE PARCH SPEAKER

March 9, at 8:00 P.M. members and guests of the Grand Rapids Mineral Society will be treated to a trip to the COASTS OF NORWAY AND GREECE when Dr. John Lucke of G.V.S.C. conducts this armchair tour from the All Purpose Room at Ridgeview Junior High School, Rosewood at Burton, S E.

A Lapidary Contest is also scheduled for this meeting. Contestants will be divided into two groups, Juniors (16 and under) and Seniors. There will be a prize given in each group for the best CAPOCHON in that group. Mrs. Davena Lett and her committee will be judges for this contrast.

SATURDAY, MARCH 5, SET-UP TIME FOR SHOW

When the Museum opens on Saturday morning, March 5, all members displaying materials in the 7th Annual Gem and Mineral Show will be on hand to get their displays in the cases. Mrs. Dorothy Waterman is in charge of Display, assisted by Joe Farish and Casey Doornbos.

Dr. Robert B. Smith, in charge of demonstrations, has lined up a varied program of events for each Thursday, Saturday, and Sunday afternoon during the Show.

Miss Marion Jennings has secured a number of excellent movies which will be shown in the Auditorium each Sunday afternoon.

The Show will open on Sunday, March 6, at 2:00 P.M. and will be open during regular Museum hours thru March 27th.

At 5:00 P.M. on Sunday, March 27, all exhibitors are to be on hand to remove their materials from the cases. Please be on time so that the Museum personnel will not have to stay too long after the close of the Show. Coffee and Cookies will be served to all exhibitors during dismantling time.

MINERAL STUDY GROUP TO MEET ON MARCH 21

Monday, February 21, saw a devoted group of hobbyists learning more about the earth's history when Mrs. Max Ross presented the lesson at the home of the Rozemas,

This group will meet again on March 21, Monday, at 8:00 P.M. at the home of Mr & Mrs Fay Reed, 425 Lafayette N E to continue the study, with Nina Rozema presenting the lesson.

Those of you who keep moaning that you wish you knew more about our hobby should attend these meetings. They are designed for learning.

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LAPIDARY GROUP GETS AROUND

The February meeting of the Lapidary Group was held at the home of Mr & Mrs James Waldron. It is apparent that nobody has more vacation fun combining camping and rockhounding than the Waldrons. They had prepared displays of numerous Lake Superior agates from Michigan, and Iowa, Thomsonites from Minnesota and the upper peninsula, amethyst and other trophies from Canada. Downstairs were more of the same, plus abundant evidence that it is possible to make your own lapidary equipment, saw, lap, tumblers, etc. Jim Waldron's wood-working skill was particularly apparent in the construction of the tumblers, and such details as a special wood extension switch on the lap to avoid any electrical shock. Add to all this a superabundance of delicious home-baked coffeecakes, and one has the ingredients of a wonderful evening.

The quality of the stones presented is getting better. One member who hand-polished his first stones now comes up with a nice opal which he finished with his Christmas present. A pair of 15 carat garnets were noted. Much interest centered around several Montana agate 'picture' stones. The competition is getting keener. That is as it should be.

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, March 2 at 8:00 P.M. at the home of Mr & Mrs Casey Doornbos, 1917 Rosemont S E. In case you haven't been there before, this is north off Burton, east of Breton. Even though this is close to the opening of the Show at the Museum, perhaps we can have a preview of a few displays. Do come!

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FEBRUARY FUN NIGHT

A Crazy Clapidary Time was had be all at the February meeting.

Diane Wendt with a wacky rockhound hat of about 100 stones, won first acclaim, and her young brother, Jerry, was next, while pretty nearly losing part of his face with a porous sea slag nose ring.

Dorothy Waterman, naturdaaly, with a set of fossiliferous teeth and a hat to match won first cheers among the adult entries.

More than twenty joined the goofy contest, and after the 'line up' the rest enjoyed voting for the most 'way off' makeup.

Among the women, odd looking hat decorations were most common and the men went for batty bolas. Roger Hawkins, who is spending a couple of months in Florida, sent in a comic table model, "The Seawhat?". Mrs. Gordon Williams showed a stony platypus, with a very interesting write-up. This suggests that in another year the fun could include various 'oddments', that need not be worn, but just looked and laughed at.

It was agreed at the meeting that the Crazy Clapidary Collection of 'whodunits' would be placed on view at the March Show, as an extra inspiration to all to do better or even worse.

Lowell Palmer, Goofychairman

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- March 2 - Wednesday, 8:00 P.M. LAPIDARY GROUP meeting at home of Mr & Mrs Casey Doornbos, 1917 Rosemont S E
- March 5r- Saturday - Set-Up time for cases at the Museum
- March 6 - Sunday - 2:00 to 5:00 P.M. First day of the 7th Annual Gem & Mineral Show at the Grand Rapids Public Museum.
- March 9 - Wednesday, 8:00 P.M. Regular monthly meeting at Ridgeview Junior High School, Rosemont at Burton S E
- March 14 -Monday, 8:00 P.M. Board of Control Meeting at the home of Mr & Mrs Henry Tchozeski, 2941 Edgewood N E
- March 21 - Monday 8:00 P.M. MINERAL STUDY GROUP meeting at home of Mr & Mrs Fay Reed, 425 Lafayette N E
- March 27 - Sunday - 5:00 P.M. Time to remove displays from the Museum
- May 7 & 8 Cedar Rapids Iowa Gem and Mineral Show
- May 29,30,31 - Kalamazoo Geological and Mineral Society show, Rock Age Gem-Joree, Recreation Center Building, Lake Street, Kalamazoo, Michigan
- June 16, 17, 18, 19 Midwest Federation Field Trip Convention Houghton, Michigan

For a schedule of events in connection with the 7th Annual Gem & Mineral Show, see list on page 4

THE GRAND RAPIDS MINERAL SOCIETY
7th Annual Gem and Mineral Show
March 6th through 27th, 1966

March 6th - Sunday

Demonstration of Petoskey stone cutting - Mr. Jerry Morris
Movies - 'Rockhounds' and 'Petrified River' in color - Auditorium

March 10th - Thursday

Demonstration of lapidary arts - Dr. Robert B. Smith

March 12th - Saturday

Demonstration of lapidary arts - Mr & Mrs Gordon Williams

March 13th - Sunday

Demonstration of silversmithing
Movies - 'Jordan Valley' and 'Fossil Story' in color - auditorium

March 17th - Thursday

Demonstration of lapidary arts - Mr. Casey Doornbos

March 19th - Saturday

Demonstration of lapidary arts - Gary and Sherrie Damstra

March 20th - Sunday

Demonstration with color slides of lapidary arts in the
Auditorium - Dr. Richard W. Rose
Demonstration of lapidary work on agates - Mr. August Post and
carving in stone - Joyce Kennedy

March 24th - Thursday

Demonstration of lapidary arts - Dr. Richard W. Rose

March 26th - Saturday

Demonstration of lapidary arts - Mr. Henry Tchozeski

March 27th - Sunday

Demonstration of lapidary arts - Junior Lapidary Society
Movies 'Gift of the Kings' and 'Glass center of U. S. -
Auditorium

FROM THE PRESIDENT'S WORKBENCH

SHOW TIME! We hope that all of you have completed your exhibits, and are ready for the "Really Big Show". What a wonderful opportunity for each of us to share the joys of our hobby with others. We encourage each member also to attend regularly, to assist in greeting and answering questions.

Wasn't that a wonderful program last month by Mr. Winar? The subject of bedrock geology is certainly an interesting and informative one to many members. The stimulating question and answer period sure shows that we amateurs were pretty well informed.

And that Lowell Palmer! Who but he could conceive of such a terrific thing as the crazy clapidary contest. The many entries showed originality, humor, and artistic ability. We hope that all participants will bring their entries to the Museum to be displayed in a special case. Our thanks to Lowell, the craziest clapidary of all.

Looking forward to the Lapidary Contest at the March meeting. This time the contest is for serious lapidaries of all ages. Two classes, 16 years and over, and under 16. Only one prize will be given in each class, but these prizes will be gem quality material, and each will be worth approximately \$5.00. The contest is for unmounted cabochons only, and judging will be based strictly on excellence of workmanship.

That's it for now, see you all at the Museum on set-up day, Saturday, March 5th.

Dick Damstra

MUSINGS WHILE GRINDING

To scrape, to slice, to carve, to peel (I don't want the 'a' which has to do with a bell), to burnish, to grind, to sand and to polish. That's a lot of verbs without a subject or object. Hence, I can have no sentence. Maybe the housewife can help us out. We can scrape a carrot, peel an apple, slice the bread or carve a turkey. We could 'sand' (not salt) the spinach, grind the hash or polish the silver. But what about burnish? Webster says this means to polish by friction - metal on metal. Steel wool on the aluminum pan maybe?

And what does this have to do with the lapidary who is trying to polish a rock? Whether one cabs or laps, one should think through these verbs. If one takes a knife and holds it at right angles to the surface and moves it parallel to the surface this would be scraping. This would remove the thin skin of a carrot but would leave a rough abraded surface. To peel, the knife is held at an angle less than a right angle to the surface and moves it parallel to the surface. Try it on an apple or potato, it leaves a smoother surface. To slice, the knife may be held at various angles to the surface and is moved down and across at the same time. In other words the knife may move in two or three directions at the same time. It gives a much finer smoother surface and cuts much more easily.

Let us relate this to grinding or sanding. Let us note that the knife is held and moved. However, we must now hold the stone and move the grindstone or sand paper. If the stone is held (continued on page

MUSINGS (concluded)

against the grindstone we will let the grindstone scrape. If the stone is moved across the grindstone or with or against the direction of the stone but at a fixed angle we are peeling, However, if the stone is moved in two or three directions at once (up, across, and around) all at the same time ~~we~~ are slicing. If one wants a smooth surface, a scrape is worse than a peel and a peel is poorer than a slice.

When it comes to lapping the picture is complicated by the fact that the grinding surface is moving in two directions; linear and curved, at the same time. As if this is not enough, the grinding medium (grit) may vary in vertical thickness. If you can analyze a three directional grinding surface applied to a three directional movement of the grinding object and come up with anything more concrete than 'it's the feel' please put it in writing so simply that I may understand.

P. S. While trying to figure this out at the same time I was grinding a five pound stone for an ash tray, the stone bounced off the grindstone and mangled two fingers. A word to the wise: Don't let your attention wander when you are working with high speed tools.

Dr. Robert R. Smith

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HARDNESS VARIATIONS

The work of Kraus and Slawson has shown that the hardness of diamond varies materially with the crystal surface on which the cutting or polishing is done. The hardness of diamond is least upon planes parallel to faces of the cube. It is greatest on planes parallel to faces of the octahedron, and such planes can be worked only with great difficulty, if at all.

The reason for the variation in hardness of diamond, as well as other mineral species, can be explained in terms of atomic structure. The manner in which the atoms in a crystal are arranged will cause at least a slight variation in hardness as measured in different planes of the crystal structure.

NEW OPAL FIND

R. I. Martin of Saratoga, Wyoming, has made a new find of common colorless opal which shows a strong green fluorescence under most sources of ultraviolet light. The material was found near Saratoga.

The specimens, which are slightly translucent, show a remarkably strong and beautiful greenish color, equal to that of the common opal from Virgin Valley, Nevada.

(Both of the above articles were taken from the August, 1939 issue of the Mineralogist magazine)

Fluorescence and Phosphorescence are probably phases of the same phenomenon.

MORE NEWS FROM THE DRIFTERS

Mountain Home, Ark.
February 12, 1966

Dear Nina & Bob:

Thankyou so much for the nice notice in the DRIFTER and also for sending us a copy. Clive brought it to us last Thursday evening at the meeting. Makes me kinda homesick to read of the doings of the club.

Our club is growing and with Howard Knight as our program chairman this year there is more interest. It was announced at the last meeting that we now have a membership of 38. When Bill and I joined in April of '63, we were numbers 20 and 21. A good share of our members never had any interest in rocks until they moved here and they joined the club to have something to do. If a monthly field trip was just a picnic and sightseeing trip, with no rock hunting or geology involved, that suited them fine.

Another couple from the same group Howard and Olive belonged to is now living here and before long there will be still another couple from the Chicago area so things are looking up for us. We can't afford to bring in speakers so I have no idea what Howard is planning on doing, other than our monthly films, after another few month

Weatherwise this has been a lousy winter. We had a long and beautiful fall - right up until almost Christmas. Then on New Years eve and day we had 5.63" of rain. Lake Norfolk rose over 9'. The follo following week it turned cold and we had a couple of nights that wen went to 0 and -1. Last year we would get a few cold days and then warm up into the 50s and 60s so we could go trout fishing. This yea year it just stayed cold. Only had those two days that went below 10 degrees, but it didn't get really warm in between. Didn't even get out of the 20s a number of times. Last week we had a silet stor storm and although the driving was bad for only a couple of days, the ice stayed on the trees and shrubs for 5 days. It was beautiful when the sun shone. Started to rain Tuesday night just about the time we left the rock meeting and before it stopped on Wednesday, we had another 4 inches. Lake Norfolk is now above power-holding stage. The highest it has been since 1960 or 61. Had a couple of warm days in the 60s last week and went fishing on the river for trout, but no luck. Even if it gets that warm again now the lake is so muddy and full of debris, that the fish can't see the bait.

We were so sorry not to be able to get back to see Bob when we were in Michigan last August. That was the maddest three weeks we ever spent. It was wonderful to be able to see our friends, but we were kept on the move every minute and then had to skip some we would have liked to have visited with. I amsure you two had a wonderful vacation. We hope to come up to Michigan sometime next fall if all goes well.

This summer, early, we arehoping to go out to Colorado. We have never traveled in western Colorado and would like to see that area. We also want to go back to Bryce Canyon again. Don't know what we are going to do with our dear doggy while we are gone. If we have to leave her with neighbors, we will have to limit ourselves on the time we are gone I suppose.

Hope this finds both of you as well as we are.
As ever, Bill and Eva

GET-WELL LETTER FROM A ROCKHOUND TO A FRIEND IN THE HOSPITAL
A FEEBLE FABLE (at rock bottom)

Dear Lolita:

Once, long ago, years ago, ages ago, aeons ago (an aeon being to years what a light year is to miles), a steaming, viscous mass of minerals cooled out of the searing whirlpool of gases in which it had started, but still so hot that only a crust of it was settled - at one point this magma swelled into a boil, the bubble burst, and the heated syrup was hurled as high as possible in the blackened domes and cracks above it. When we see this happen, as it still sometimes does, and the glowing mass pours thickly over the edge of a crater, we call it lava. Sometimes it shoots high, cooled and and freed so quickly that it becomes glassy obsidian.

But this bit of magma could not get that far, and settled instead into an opening some hundreds of feet under the crusted surface. Here it cooled more slowly, gradually hardening into an accumulation of just plain, homely, ordinary rock. Perhaps, if rocks have any sense of self at all, it felt complete and whole and therefore beautiful. But from the outside it had little of beauty or interest, so that, ages later, when heat and wind and frost and rain, and perhaps steam shovels and bulldozers had brought that piece to light, an observer would have said "That? That's nothing. Just a hunk of basalt." It could be summed up in one word, you see. A real nothing of a rock.

But this rock, while still deep in the earth, was not left undisturbed. The tremendous forces of heat and pressure, now far, far, beneath the surface, were still at work and one day, with tremendous travail, with explosion and grinding and upheaval, the unimaginable tons of rock and surface were lifted and shifted, some flung up, some slid downward and our basalt, too, was twisted and split into cracks and seams. A little later, following the newly opened splits and hard-won avenues to the freedom of the skies, the molten liquid from below came rushing upward, pushed with the explosive force of emotions by the super-heated gases below. It poured like scalding tears into the cracks and furrows of our rock's face. Once in it was trapped and stayed, cooling oh, so gradually. There was time now for this magma in a by-way; time for the minerals in it to develop their own distinctive form and life, time for the quartz crystals to form their six sides and their clear structure, time for the epidote to refine to its clear green, time for the rosy pink, angular crystals of feldspar to separate themselves from the shiny plates of mica - time, in fact, for each part to separate out in its own cooling and crystallizing process, until the awful evidence of destruction in our rock became instead the setting for a beautiful display.

For all I know, the little rock still complains of its fate and mourns the troubled times which put seams and furrows in its face. Perhaps it would rather still be a little nothing of a rock, complete as it was. But an observer who seeks to understand the inter-relationship between nature's processes and God's plans might say that it was only by the withstanding of those events that it took onto itself a more beautiful aspect.

ALL of which is far too moralistic for the rock, and no doubt for the reader, too. But I had to think of some reason for sending you 'just some hunks of rock'. You get a bonus. The pieces of rock from which I usually tell this story (without morals of fable) are large and not polished. So I must send you several to illustrate at least some of the materials which such a story might bring about.

Rockspectfully yours

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WYOMING

MICHIGAN

1966 FIELD TRIP CONVENTION

Despite a 109 inch snowfall which has blanketed the area so far this winter, the Copper Country Rock and Mineral Club is busy preparing for the Midwest Field Trip Convention to be held in Michigan's Copper Country on June 16 thru June 19. Here is a brief resume of the plans so far.

Headquarters for the Convention will be located on the campus of Michigan Technological University at Houghton, Michigan where much of the activity, outside of the field trips, will take place. The host club is fortunate in having the wholehearted backing of this world famous engineering school. It would have been a monumental task for the small host club to stage the four day excursion without the backing of Michigan Tech.

So far plans include the use of the athletic field for parking trailers and campers, Sherman Gym for meetings and showering facilities, spacious enclosed Dee Stadium for a Rockrama and Swap Sessions, and Wadsworth Hall for the Saturday evening banquet and program.

A total of 15 field trips to different areas have been outlined so far by Chairman Prof. Joseph Dobell. This will be increased to 20 depending on the registration. Many of the trips will be scheduled to different old mining rock piles, some to agate beaches, and the rest to inland locations containing vein and nodular agate specimens. It is in one of these wooded sites that Florence Mihelich, the club secretary, stumbled on a 17-pound nodule. It is planned to feature a picture of it on the cover of the May issue of Earth Science magazine.

Tours of the copper smelting mills of Calumet and Hecla is also on the agenda, and Michigan Tech's famous museum of rocks and minerals will be open during the convention.

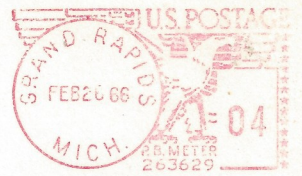
The convention brochure is ready for printing and will be in the mail some time in March. It will include a host of information besides a listing of motels for those seeking lodging, and information on nearby campsites and parks.

From the inquiries that have already been received, it is estimated that some 1500 field trippers will be on hand for the four day excursion in June. Future articles will include more details regarding the convention and the rundown of the most common of the 63 rocks and minerals native to the area.

A. Rosendahl, Publicity Chairman

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