

Volume 9, no 2 - OCTOBER 1966



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 second Wednesday of each month at 8:00 PM at the Grand Rapids Public Museum, Main Building. Summer meetings at various parks as announced.

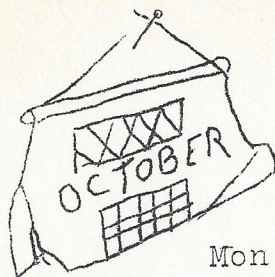
Membership dues are \$3.00 per year for a family, \$2.00 for single adult, and \$1.00 for students under 18 years of age. Dues are payable to Treasurer-year is from Sept. 1 through August 31 of the following year.

Advertising in the GLACIAL DRIFTER is at the rate of \$3.00 per issue, September through May only.

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

Permission to reprint articles appearing in the GLACIAL DRIFTER IS HEREBY GRANTED, PROVIDING PROPER CREDIT IS GIVEN.

Member--National Bulletin Editors Association.



D A T E S T O R E M E M B E R

- Wed. Oct. 12, 8 p.m. Regular Meeting, G.R. Public Museum
- Mon. Oct. 17, 8 p.m. Board of Control, Mrs. Davena Lett
1111 Walsh S.E. Ch 3-6588
- Thurs. Oct. 27, 8 p.m. Mineral Study Group, Mrs. Nellie Mead,
334 Briarwood S.E. G19-2016

DATES OF INTEREST:

- Oct. 1, 2--Elkhart's Club Show, Natl. Guard Armory, 2313 S. Oakland, Elkhart, Ind.
- Oct. 14, 15, 16,--"Rocks A-Go-Go", Natl. Guard Armory, 2500 S. Washington, Lansing.
- Oct. 22, 23--Flint Club Show, Natl. Guard Armory, 1101 Lewis, Flint
- Nov. 5, 6--Mich. Mineralogical Society Gem & Mineral Show. Community Arts Bldg., Mich. State Fair Grounds, Detroit, Gate 22.

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

After a summer of working in almost 70 gardens it was delightful to meet again with the many wonderful people who attended the September G.R.M.S. meeting. We all enjoyed Mary Jane's talk, and join in wishing her and the Museum much success with the development of Blandford Nature Center. We can all take pride and delight in such a project. Your Board of Control has voted to send a check to the nature center building fund in Mary Jane's name, as our "thank you" for her fine program.

Arrangements for the club's two study groups are under way. Do plan to join one of them, lapidary or mineralogy (which includes Geology). They combine worth while information with a chance to get to know each other better. No previous knowledge of either subject is required.

My sincere appreciation and good wishes to Larry Fegel who has volunteered to donate his Saturdays to leading the children's mineral and lapidary classes at the Museum this year. Dick Damstra, who will assist, tells me the program is all organized and ready to go. I call this true devotion to a hobby.

Joan Afton, another of our younger but faithful members, has offered to help our treasurer, Marion Jennings, with the membership renewals. Only new 1966-'67 membership card numbers will be used for door prizes at the October meeting. Incidentally, donations for door prizes and raffles will be gratefully accepted by Mr. and Mrs. Max Ross, who are in charge this year.

Our deepest sympathy goes to Mr. & Mrs. Paul Rumps, whose Marine son was recently killed in Viet Nam.

Any ideas about field trips or other club activities will be gladly accepted. What can you suggest?

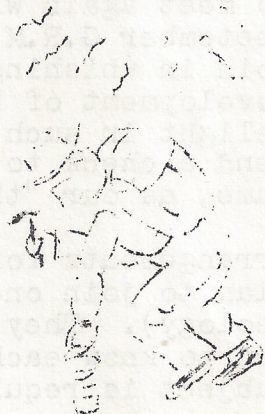
Nellie E Mead

FIELD TRIPS TO VISIT OTHER SHOWS

For a take-it-easy kind of field trip, Chmn. Marie Spielmaker is proposing that we visit "Rocks A-Go-Go", being held in Lansing at the National Guard Armory, 2500 S. Washington Ave., on Oct. 14, 15 and 16. Such a trip can provide unusual observation or collecting opportunities without any of the usual exertion--and a good chance to see what other clubs are doing, get ideas for our own displays and spring show, identify or acquire new materials, find a new method. Among the advertised attractions are gems, minerals, swap area, fossils, door prizes, dealers, sildent auction, free parking, lapidary work, special displays, light refreshments, and live demonstrations. Admission 25¢, children 12 and under free. Hours are Friday, 5 p.m.-10 p.m.; Saturday, 10 a.m.-10 p.m.; Sunday, 10 a.m.-6 p.m.

LET'S SHARE CARS AND GO TOGETHER, Saturday or Sunday. Come to this month's meeting prepared to say when you'd like to go, and your field trip chairman will try to arrange a time when a number of us can meet and enjoy the show together. (IF YOU CAN'T MAKE LANSING, WORK UP A GROUP FOR FLINT OR DETROIT.)

IF YOU THINK THIS WOULD BE TOO MUCH TROUBLE**
read what one club bulletin advised its members to bring to a field trip this month: "Plenty of drinking water, in containers small enough to carry to the fossil digging site. Foam kneeling pad is helpful, whisk broom, hammer, small and medium size SHARP chisels, empty egg cartons, news-paper or kleenex (to wrap specimens in), small bottle of Elmer's glue (fast drying and clear), spray can of lacquer for spraying fragile bits to help hold them together until you can work on them, and if you have a light weight pick and small broom these will come in handy. But don't forget a bucket and DRINKING WATER. This seems like a lot of equipment, but very handy to have."



REPORT ON AUGUST FIELD TRIP

A field trip was held Saturday, Aug.20 at Cheney Limestone Quarry, Bellevue, Mich. Approximately 15 people were present. It must have been a successful hunt because the cars left the quarry loaded up with lots of beautiful specimens. An added attraction was the opportunity to see some dynamiting being done. About 16 to 18 dynamite charges were set off. Rocks and dirt were sure flying high. A good time was had by all.

Jim Van Vuren
Field Trip Chmn. for August

!!! TRIPLE FEATURE AT
OCTOBER MEETING !!!

WEDNESDAY, OCT. 12, 8 p.m., G.R. PUBLIC MUSEUM--that's the time and the place to find a variety-filled evening of education and fun.

- ! - We will tour the museum's Hall of Minerals, with expert commentary on these fine displays.
- ! - We will see slides and movies of the Houghton Field Convention. (Do you have any? Call Don Crabbs, 452-3586, so he can plan on them and arrange for whatever projector you might need.)
- ! - We will have a panel of experts (more expert than most of us, at least) who will try to help you identify any rocks or minerals or fossils you have found and would like to know more about.



Sound interesting? You bet -- see you there!

REMEMBER NOVEMBER.....

Plans for our famed annual Silent Auction are already underway for the November meeting. But it can only be a success -- both as our main money raising project, and as a good annual source of specimen and cutting material -- if everyone contributes some of that material. Each of us surely has, or could get, at least a few pieces to put in.

Identify each piece as to material and source if possible. Put on a minimum valuation if you wish. D^U it now, bring it to the O^Utober meeting, and we'll store it for you for the month...but don't let that stop you from adding more later! Or, get it to Auction Chmn. Henry Tchozeski, Em.1-1405. If necessary, he'll find someone to pick it up. Bidding sheets must be filled out for every item, so we do need to have the materials before auction night.

Now's the time to go over those boxes and bags of rocks, slabs and similar vacation souvenirs, and get out as much as you can spare -- of the kind you'd like to get, not the kind you're GLAD to give away.

IF YOU HAVE A TUMBLER --

--you're pretty sure to have some extra polished stones around. Would you give some of them for a good cause? Patients at Maple Grove Medical Facility could use, and would greatly enjoy having small, colorful polished stones--no larger than 1/2" to 3/4"--to use in craft projects. If you have any to spare, please bring them to the next meeting, and our president will see that they are delivered to the hospital.

GRAND RAPIDS MINERAL SOCIETY
FINANCIAL REPORT 1965-1966

BALANCE IN BANK SEPT. 1, 1965 \$310.99

RECEIPTS SEPT. 1, 1965 THROUGH AUG. 31, 1966

Memberships	\$319.00	
Advertising in Glacial Drifter	54.00	
Sales: Club emblems	3.00	
Rock Table	3.20	
Chances	96.05	
Subscriptions	2.50	
Silent Auction	221.02	
Miscellaneous	<u>103.08</u>	
TOTAL RECEIPTS	<u>\$801.85</u>	<u>801.85</u>
RECEIPTS AS OF AUG. 31, 1966		\$1112.84

DISBURSEMENTS SEPT. 1, 1965 THROUGH AUG. 31, 1966

Glacial Drifter expense	\$232.29	
Program expense	112.49	
Annual rental	185.80	
Subscriptions	2.50	
Annual Show expense	43.42	
Midwest Federation Dues	30.25	
Mich. Corp. & Securities Comm. (filing fee)	5.00	
Conservation scholarship	36.00	
Office Supplies	1.00	
Donation-Memorial Lowell M. Palmer	50.00	
Miscellaneous	<u>84.00</u>	
TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS	<u>\$792.75</u>	<u>\$792.75</u>
BANK BALANCE AS OF AUG. 31, 1966		\$320.09

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SPECIAL ARTICLE - SPECIAL NOTICE

The September, 1966 issue of "Lapidary Journal" contains an article by June Culp Zeitner discussing official "state" stones, and including Michigan's Petoskey Stone. Which leads us to the point that if you take out your subscription to this magazine through the club, you will help our treasury--and that helps support our Conservation Scholarship, our young people's classes, and even the "Glacial Drifter". Subscriptions received at any meeting.

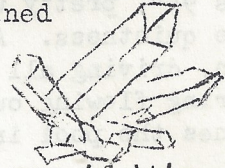
Incidentally, the July-August issue of Mich. Conservation magazine also featured a Petoskey Stone article, by Edward Kirkby of the Geological Survey.

ECHOES FROM THE MIDWEST FIELD CONVENTION

Was it worth the trip? The beautiful Keeweenaw Peninsula alone is worth the trip. The weather was delightful. Black flies were competing with mosquitoes. The original plan had been to avoid "caravanning" the lines of cars for the field trips...but when about 1400 people had registered, and the ten different lines of cars (each directed to a different collecting site for a specified period of time) stretched clear across the field and far down the street, the local population resigned itself to solid traffic. Collecting was fun, and if you didn't get a choice cabinet specimen off one of the mine dumps, you could make up for it at the continuous swap sessions (digging up the copper embedded in the city blacktop was frowned upon). John Sinkankas' slides and talk on the gemstone-filled caves of San Diego County had all the fascination of buried treasure, although the preliminaries of the evening were discouragingly long. At least 80 clubs were represented. The Copper Country Rock and Mineral Club is to be congratulated on the fine way they handled a big job.

We were all particularly proud of the tremendous showing which our own club members gave to the Silent Auction, in memory of Lowell Palmer. By the time everything was assembled, our material filled tables which stretched from one end of the sales arena to the other, and the amount realized was over one-seventh of the total realized by the sale. It was the kind of cooperation and support that would have made Lowell proud.

Well, all this was three months ago, and we won't take space reporting the details now. But we think it would be helpful if our club membership had a chance to see the kind of materials which can be obtained at field trips and at such conventions as this. So will those of you who attended the Houghton outings bring to our October meeting representative samples of whatever they acquired either by collecting or swapping (but identify them accordingly, please)? Let's have a great display--even if it's only those pretty beach rocks that were so plentiful on "agate" beach! (PERSONAL NOTE: your editor's family left a movie camera in a rockshop, lost a watch out of a pocket, got both back. Great people up there!)



ANIMOSITE BECOMING MORE PLENTIFUL -- Two years ago we defined animosite as stones thrown in anger. We hoped they would be rare enough to maintain some value as collector's items. At that time and at our request, our embassy in Moscow favored us with a specimen of Animosite, sub-species "Embassyite". While Embassyite has not flooded the market recently, other varieties have become kicking common in some of our "best" neighborhoods.

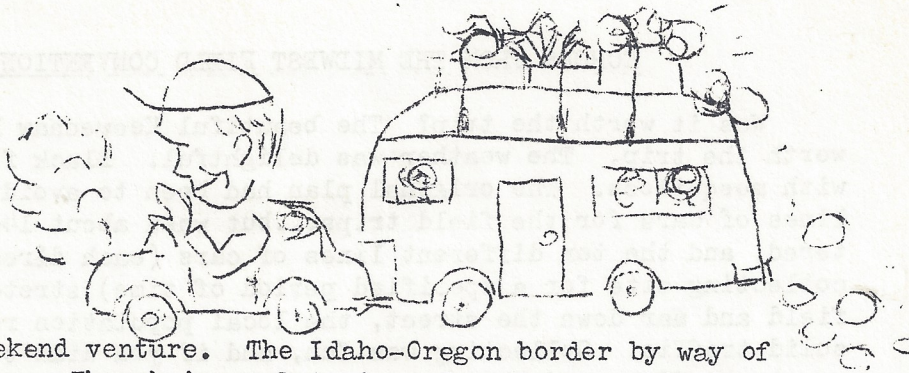
The difficulty with the specimens is that they must be identified by an eye-witness and graded according to effectiveness. The old rules of hardness, streak texture, luster and color do not apply. If our field trips have been too tame for some, perhaps our Field Trip Committee should consider this area for the action hounds.

--Grand Valley Conglomerate News

TRAILER TALES

BY

Casey
Doornbos



An Idaho-Oregon field trip is not a weekend venture. The Idaho-Oregon border by way of US80 is about 2100 miles. Though incomplete in a few places, this is one of our great highways, with modern rest areas and liberal plantings.

You go through southwest Nebraska, rich in fossil materials; Wyoming for jade; a side trip north to Gurney for that colorful chalcedony called "Youngite". Continuing on US80 you pass the fish fossil beds west of Kemmerer (may recount my experiences there later). You're soon in Idaho--we passed up a lot of good collecting areas. We were interested in the Homedale area near the Oregon border--a convenient point from which to reach collecting areas. Malhuer and Owyhee Counties have an abundance of jasper, fossils, petrified wood and thundereggs.

We chose to go directly to Sucker Creek, taking highway 201 west out of Homedale about 8 miles, then south on Sucker Creek road about 18 miles. You take it easy on the road, it is maintained (minimum) but rough. The campsite is just before you enter the canyon. A large cottonwood tree and the canyon walls provide the only shade. Next day the temperature was 90°, pretty warm for May. The "chuckers" and mourning doves break the quietness. As the sun goes down the cool breeze blows down the canyon, driving all the heat ahead of it. Fresh water is available at the spring flowing out of the canyon wall about $1\frac{1}{2}$ miles south. Watercress lines the pool in which you dip your bucket; stones in it make a bridge.

Other rockhounds were at the campsite including a party of six from California. They were already supplied with the thundereggs that have made this area famous. Contrary to general belief, these are not found in the creek bed--rather, near the top of the canyon walls. We were fortunate to be invited by the Californians who had a jeep. You can pack them down, but the easier way is the better way. With the jeep we crossed the creek and drove to the top of the canyon from the rear. There are thundereggs all over the place. There was a pile dug by someone and left behind. Invariably you dig more than you can handle. The eggs near the top are the size of golf balls or green walnuts, and they get progressively larger the deeper you dig. The Californians were interested only in the muskmelon size--they stood in a hole 6 feet deep. We sacked about 160 lbs. and left the rest.

There were yet many other agate and thunderegg beds to be visited... so to the freight house at Homedale for shipping. That trailer and car would be carrying quite a lot of loot with places like Burns for colorful obsidians, and a few days at Prineville. What's at Prineville? More thundereggs, and a lot of other rocks in case you get tired of thundereggs.

ROZEMAN'S ROCKPILE
776 Leonard N E ('at Eastern) Grand Rapids, Michigan
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