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the

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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.

NOVEMBER

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

- Wed., Nov. 2, 8 p.m., Lapidary Group, R.P. Smith, 1445 Ireton S.E., 249-4093
- Wed., Nov. 9, 8 p.m. sharp, REGULAR MEETING--Silent Auction. The first table will be closed at 8:15, and every 5 to 15 minutes thereafter.
- Monday, Nov. 14, 8 p.m., Board of Control, Casey Doornbox, 1917 Rosemont S.E.
- Wed., Nov. 30, Mineral Study Group, Fay Reed, 425 Lafayette N.E., Gl. 9-6048

D A T E S O F I N T E R E S T

Nov. 5, 6--Mich. Mineralogical Society Gem & Mineral Show, Community Arts Bldg., Mich. State Fair Grounds, Gate 22, Detroit; Opens at 10 a.m.

S T U D Y G R O U P S A D D I N T E R E S T

Every member of the G.R. Mineral Soc. can find increased interest and more friendly enjoyment in some phase of rocks and minerals by joining one of our informal study groups. The Mineral group is devoting itself to the study of fossils this year, using the book "Essentials in Earth History".

If you like to polish stones, or think you might like to and are looking for information and tips on equipment and technic...if you want ideas on new ways to make up polished stones, including tumbles...if you would like to improve your lapidary technic and bring it up to exhibition standards...then you may enjoy the Lapidary group. Everyone attending is asked to bring some of the work he or she has done over the summer. This month's meeting will also feature an idea for a special display using tumbled stones with other materials.

P R E S I D E N T ' S C O R N E R

With the first two fine programs already history, GRMS is really off to a busy season.

The field trip to the Coit Gravel Pit was well attended in spite of it being a windy day. Due to my gardening job, I was late arriving and found Jim VanVuren hunting by himself, and even he departed soon after.

Glenn Marvin volunteered at the October meeting to join Jim and Marie Spielmaker in planning additional trips. They have some interesting outings in mind, but if you have some field trip ideas, make your wishes known to this committee. I should also mention that we appreciate the help Mr. and Mrs. Lloyd Heaton are willing to give us in putting out the "Drifter" when needed.

The November meeting is traditionally the Silent Auction, our one money-raising project, and since all items are donated by our members, the results are only as good as we make them. It's truly a fun evening if everyone participates, and often members acquire really finds for their collections. See you there!

Nellie B Mead

JUNIOR ROCKHOUDS--Have New Plans, New System!

Registration for the Junior Rockhound group will be held on Saturday, Nov. 12 from 10 a.m. until noon in the auditorium of the G.R. Public Museum. This year, however, membership will be limited to 40 members, 6 years and older, so registration will be on a first-come, first-served basis, with late-comers going on a waiting list. Membership fee is \$2 for the year. A field trip by bus is tentatively scheduled for Nov. 19. During the year the group will be divided into 4 or 5 sections in order to give each an opportunity for lapidary work (6 at a time) during the afternoons. For further information, call Dick Damstra, 454-2217.

FIELD TRIP MEETS (WIND) RESISTANCE. About 30 people showed up at the field trip held Saturday, Oct. 22 at the Coit Ave. gravel pit. They found lots of good specimens, including plenty of pudding stone and some agate, and everybody had a good time. But the wind got the best of us, so nobody stayed long. -- Jim Van Vuren, Chairman

IMPORTANT! Have you paid your dues? Dues will be delinquent after the November meeting...and only those whose dues have been paid will be listed in our handy new Membership Directory, to be issued soon. Treasurer Marian Jennings is the one to see -- dues are \$3 per year per family, \$2 for a single adult, or \$1 for students under 16 years of age (if not included in family dues).

DID YOU KNOW that the G.R. Mineral Society has a portable long and short wave ultraviolet light, complete with special case (made by the late Les Pearl) and club emblem, which is available free to club members? It will be on hand at our Nov. auction for use in checking out fluorescent materials. Anyone wishing to borrow it may do so by calling Henry Tchozeski, Em. 1-1405. A word of caution, however: it is not for children to play with, as these rays can be dangerous. Follow directions carefully, protect your eyes, and do not expose your hands to the light for any length of time.

WOULD YOU LIKE TO TAKE A MORE ACTIVE PART in the Mineral Society? When retiring president Dick Damstra accepted the society's "thank you" gift of a pen set, his words on getting to know each other through participation came from the heart. Helping to plan and put on the programs and activities is really much more fun than just sitting in a chair and listening. If you would like to have an active share in club activities, don't hesitate to speak to President Nellis Mead about it. There are always projects where we can use an extra hand, and we'd like to get to know you all a little better.

MANY COLLECTORS use hydrochloric acid for cleaning brown iron stain from quartz crystals but this usually leaves a residue of ferric chloride which requires prolonged washing to remove. Tartaric acid comes in crystal form, and while slower, will clean as well and its residue is easily washed off. Place a spoonful or so of the crystals in water and immerse the specimen. Tartaric is stronger than oxalic, milder than hydrochloric.

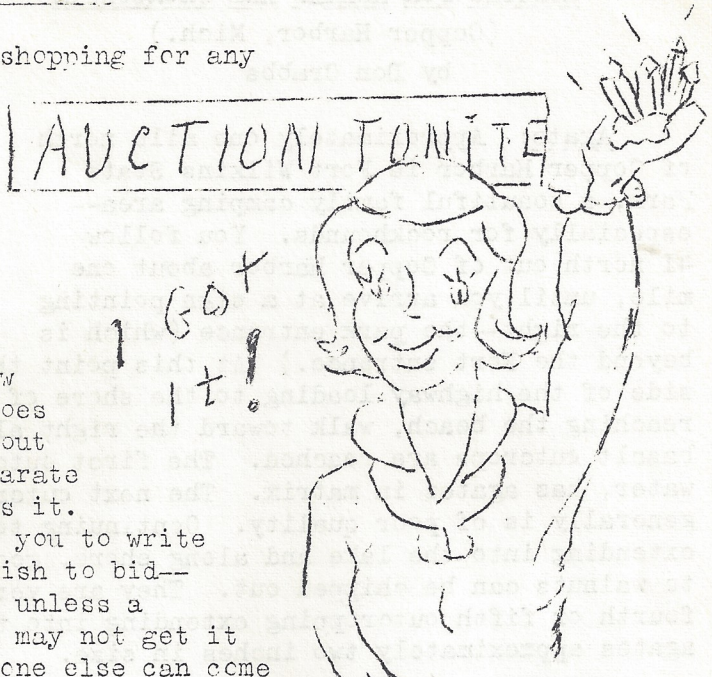
TALK UP SILENT AUCTION

Christmas is coming--and shopping for any rockhounds on your list will be easy at our annual NOVEMBER SILENT AUCTION! Here is your chance to get good buys on choice specimens, excellent cutting material, fine fossils! Invite your friends to join the fun!

In case you don't know how our silent auction works, it goes like this: materials are put out on tables, each piece on a separate sheet of paper which identifies it. There is room on the sheet for you to write your name and the amount you wish to bid-- bids often start as low as 10¢ unless a minimum bid is specified. You may not get it for that, however, because anyone else can come along and write his name below yours, with a higher bid (by at least 5¢⁰⁰ no pennies). So you have to watch the sheets and make sure yours is the last bid on the list before the table is "closed". And nobody knows which table is going to be closed next!

1 GOT IT!

1 GOT IT!



★ NEW FEATURE THIS YEAR! ★

New this year will be a Connoisseur's Table -- items on this table will have a minimum bid of at least \$3 or more, as specified by the donor. If an item on this table has not been sold by the end of the evening, it may be reclaimed by the donor at that time. In the past, a number of our members have hesitated to give really worthwhile material only to see it go at a fraction of its worth. The Connoisseur's Table will prevent this, yet still give all of us a chance to secure really fine material at a really good price.

WE NEED YOU TO BID AND BUY...TO DONATE AUCTION MATERIAL...
Oh yes, and to donate cookies, too!

Free coffee will be furnished during the auction, and we would like to have cookies to go with it, to be sold for 5¢ each. So please, could you bring along some cookies to donate to the refreshment table?

Bring good material for the auction.*

Bring money to buy other material.

Bring paper bags or other containers for your loot.

Bring a batch of cookies.

Bring your friends.

* Our hard-working auction chairmen need to have as much of the auction material as possible ahead of the meeting. If you cannot get your material to Henry Tchozeski, 2941 Edgewood N.E., Em.1-1405, or Jay Baar, 1941 Englewood S.E., Gl.2-2702 -- call them or any of the board members listed inside the cover of this "Drifter" and arrange to have it picked up.

HUNTING FOR AGATES AND THOMSONITE

(Copper Harbor, Mich.)

by Don Crabbs



Agate: Approximately one mile north of Copper Harbor is Fort Wilkins State Park, a beautiful family camping area--especially for rockhounds. You follow 41 north out of Copper Harbor about one mile, until you arrive at a sign pointing to the right--the park entrance (which is beyond the Fort entrance.) At this point there is a path on the left side of the highway leading to the shore of Lake Superior. After reaching the beach, walk toward the right along the shore until the basalt outcrops are reached. The first outcrop, extending into the water, has agates in matrix. The next outcrop has vein agate which generally is of poor quality. Continuing to the next outcrops--both extending into the lake and along shore, good agates the size of acorns to walnuts can be chipped out. They are very colorful. About the fourth or fifth outcropping extending into the water there are some agates approximately two inches in size.

Across the bay you will observe a lighthouse situated near a basalt formation. There is a large vein of quartz in this formation in which some amethyst has been found.

Thomsonite: About 3 to 5 miles before reaching Copper Harbor on Highway 41 you will see a sign on the right side pointing to French Annie Creek. Take the next road to the right after passing this sign. Go down this road for approximately 200 feet, until you get to a little pull-off to the right. At this spot you will see an area of broken rocks (from rockhounds). You will find basalt boulders in the sand--some under tree roots--with Thomsonite. This is not generally Minnesota quality, but is colorful.

Thomsonite - Minnesota

Take Highway 61 north out of Duluth approximately 120 miles to Cascade State Park. This park has somewhat primitive facilities but is a beautiful place to camp, with a friendly ranger named Bill Anderson.

From this campsite there are two popular spots to look for Thomsonite. One is public and one is private, requiring a fee. Go north approximately $1\frac{1}{2}$ to 2 miles to the Thomsonite Beach Co. (a large, year-round home on the right side of the highway). Drive in, go to the office, and look at beautiful polished Thomsonite specimens. You will meet a Mr. Feigel (I think that's how it's spelled), the manager. He will explain the fees, etc. and give you directions to his Thomsonite areas. Be sure to tell him you want to go to the area where the green Thomsonites are. They are beautiful, but difficult to get out. Work around them by at least 6" to 12". Take them in the matrix and saw them out at home.

The public area is about $3/4$ of a mile further north. You will come to a curve to the left. As you go around the curve you will see a large sandstone roadcut on the left side, overlying a basalt formation. On the right will be a scenic pull-off with a geological marker explaining the

geology of the rock cut and area.

The harbor you will see is Good Harbor Bay--home of the beautiful Thomsonites. Look down at the shore from this pull-off and you will see large basalt boulders all along the shore. These are full of Thomsonites. Most of the ones on the surface are very small, but there are larger ones inside.

From this pull-off, follow the guard rail further north until it ends (about 200 feet). About five feet beyond is somewhat of a road leading down to the shore. You can drive down it and load up with rocks. You can't see this road from the highway unless you know it's there, but it is. I know. I've used it the last six years. Have fun, and say "hello" to Bill Anderson if you stop at the park. Tell him "the Thomsonite man" sent you.

EDITOR'S NOTE: In the last two issues, Casey Doornbos and Don Crabbs have shared their adventures and their valuable knowledge of how to get to collecting areas which they have enjoyed. Their stories are worth keeping for the day when you, too, may be able to make such a trip. They were written in the hope of encouraging others to do the same. So--who's next? We'd all like to read about one of YOUR favorite rock collecting trips.

* * * * *

ROVING REPORTER ASKS: "What's the best rock find you ever made?"

"70 trilobites in one afternoon, in the Medusa Quarry, Sylvania." (C. Doornbos)

"A 4 $\frac{1}{4}$ lb. chunk of jade along the Grand River at Bridge St." (H. Tchozeski)

"Beautiful geodes at the Gray Quarry in Hamilton, Ill." (Marie Spiekma)

"Lepidodendrum, in the gravel quarry outside Cascade." (Elaine Smith)

"Thomsonites, 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ "-3" in diameter, with good eyes, 5 miles south of Grand Marais, Minn." (Don Crabbs)

"Geodes at Hamilton, Ill., and copper at Copper Harbor." (Jim VanVuren)

"A 4 $\frac{1}{2}$ lb. piece of petrified wood, in a vacant lot in Grandville, Mich. (although it's Arizona wood)." (Virginia VanVuren)

"Fern fossils at Terra Haute." (Nellie Mead)

"A huge L. Superior Agate, in a gravel pit west of Grand Rapids." (Marian Mead)

LAPIDARY JOURNAL subscription rates are going up, so if you are planning on subscribing to this magazine you will save money by doing it right away. Call Casey Doornbos, 949-5069, and he will send in a subscription for you--which will give the club a nice rebate, too.

SPECIMENS which have become black or otherwise stained by lying in stagnant water may be cleaned by soaking them in peroxide, which can be purchased at dairy supply houses. It will not hurt hands and can be used full strength.

MIDWEST FEDERATION NEWS

Did you know that Earth Science Magazine has printed a booklet composed of reprints of their articles on fossils. It is called "Fossils of the Mid-Centinent of North America" and is profusely illustrated. Copies may be obtained for \$1 each from Earth Science Magazine, P.O.Box 550, Downers Grove, Ill. 60515. Or, turn in your money to Club Treasurer Marian Jennings and she can order them in a group. "Earth Science" is the official publication for the Midwest.

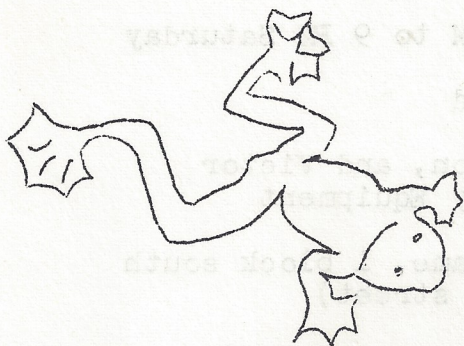
In 1967 our Midwest Convention will be at Davenport, Iowa, with the Illowa Gem & Mineral Soc. as hosts. All member clubs are asked to have club exhibits at this show.

The Midwest is investigating the possibility of having reprints made of the North West Federation safety manual, which gives the do's and don'ts of good collecting and which should be with every collector's equipment. Another possibility under discussion is the idea of establishing some type of identification bureau to which rockhounds could send specimens for identification.

The Lincoln Gem & Mineral Club of Nebraska has donated to the Midwest a 93-slide program, "Field Trip to the Tri-State Area", which takes one on a tour through the mines and caves from which the famous tri-state minerals come. It includes interior shots of marvelous crystal-filled rooms, and closeups of many minerals. This is the second slide program the Lincoln club has prepared and donated to the Midwest library.

A continuing program in which we all can participate is the American Federation Scholarship Foundation. How can we participate? By the simple means of saving Betty Crocker coupons! Bring them to any meeting and turn them over to the treasurer. They are sent to the Scholarship Foundation, along with any cash donations, in any amount, which may be given. Each year a Scholarship Award for outstanding achievement in the field of earth science is given. It consists of a placque to the winner and a two-year grant to an institution selected by the winner to establish a scholarship in his name. This year the award was granted to Dr. Frederick H. Fough, best known to most of us for his book, "Field Guide to Rocks and Minerals". Dr. Fough selected his own alma mater, Harvard University, for the grant. The student receiving the grant is Richard A. Bideaux of Tucson, Ariz., a graduate of the U. of Ariz. in geological engineering. The grant will enable him to continue his work for his Master's Degree. Richard has been a private collector of minerals for 18 years and was the winner of the AFMS National Trophies I and II in 1965. Goal of the Scholarship Foundation is \$50,000. At last report it now has \$27,552, and there were in the treasurer's hands 50,000 Betty Crocker coupons worth \$250.

LAPIDARY HINTS: Oxalic acid, mixed with tin oxide, forms a hard finish film on soft minerals such as alabaster, marble, and travertine.....When using either chrome oxide or tin oxide for polishing jade, mix it half and half with vinegar and water.....Selenite and gypsum may be washed in a weak solution of Lux or Ivory soap. Beware of detergents that contain bleach.....To antique silver jewelry, paint the places to be darkened with raw egg yolk. Rinse off the egg and rub highlights with Linde A.....Denim Iron-on patches from the dime store make excellent polishing discs. They will adhere to surfaces where ordinary glue and adhesives will not.

FOSSILS THAT COME ALIVE

In 1825, workmen sinking a pit near Leeds, England, found a live frog in the center of a large piece of coal 78 yards below the surface. When found, the frog was very dark in color but two days later it was becoming like the everyday species and was very lively. The seam of coal from which it was disinterred was saturated with water and probably this sustained its half-torpid life through countless ages.

Workmen laying the foundation of a house had to split a large stone from the millstone grit and discovered a dark, spherical mass about three inches in diameter in a cavity in the stone, which it had filled. It was a toad, larger than the common species and darker in color. At first it was torpid but soon began to show signs of life. In a few hours, it began to hop slowly and moved about the yard for several days. Then the men stopped watching it and lost track of it. The workmen laid one-half of the stone in the wall to show the cavity.

During the 1920's, live frogs were found among the bones of mammoths and saber-toothed tigers in a sand and gravel pit near Frederick, Okla. They were encased in clay balls hardened to rock, which had to be broken open with a sledge hammer. (It has been written that frogs burrow between rainy spells and sometimes a flash flood rolls them in clay which the sun hardens, imprisoning them.) Some of the rock-like clay balls from Andy Helleman's gravel pit contained dead frogs and some live ones, their mouths grown shut through the centuries. They were without pigmentation and so transparent one could see their hearts beating. Sudden exposure caused some of them to burst, but if quickly immersed in water they continued to live, some as long as a month.

According to scientists from the Smithsonian Institute, these frogs were living at the time of the mammoths and saber-toothed tigers, among whose bones they were found.

--From an article in FATE Magazine, as reprinted in GEO-LOGIC.



NOMINATED FOR EXCELLENCE in public relations: Harney County, Oregon. They send out a fascinating colored brochure with maps, a separate folder on rocks of Harney County, an outline of current matters of interest that would make any rockhound drool, and a list of tourist accommodations including rates, phones, etc. If you're planning on going that way, you'll want to see this first. Sample hint from the rockhound folder: "When rock hunting in Harney County, if you are in doubt about a rock, throw it away. Some wiser Rockhound will come along and pick it up."

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