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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.

REGULAR MEETING



Wed., Dec. 14, G.R. Public Museum,
8 P.M. -- Our own Mr. and Mrs.
Richard Damstra will demonstrate
silversmithing and lapidary work,
showing some of the beautiful
jewelry pieces their family has
produced through this combination
of hobbies. Technics and mater-
ials will be simple--the kind of
silversmithing that anyone can do,
with the kind of information a
beginner might need--but the re-
sults stretch the imagination of
lapidary experts as well. This
is your chance to ask questions
and get first-hand information.
Guests are welcome.

WEDNESDAY, DEC. 19, 8 P.M., Board of Control
Henry Tchozeski, 2941 Edgewood N.E.

NO MINERAL OR LAPIDARY GROUP MEETINGS
this month. Next Lapidary group meeting
will be Wed., Jan. 4 at the home of Mr.
and Mrs. C. Doornbos, 1917 Rosemont S.E.

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

This November's Silent Auction should surely go down in GRMS history as one of its most successful ones--not only financially, but in the expert way Henry Tchozeski and his helpers handled it, and in the very generous cooperation from all donors and buyers. Even Museum Director W.D. Frankforter seemed pleased with his finds.

We were all saddened to learn of Mr. Newton Cairns' sudden passing in October. He was a loyal and active member of our group, participating in many ways, with interesting exhibits in our March show. We shall miss him.

Plans and committees are being lined up for our 8th Annual GRMS Show to be held in the Museum from Mar. 4 through Apr. 2. Emphasis is again on educational exhibits--though as always, lapidary and regular mineral collections are important too. Even with the busy month ahead, do take time out to at least formulate some idea for your entry. Last year over 7,000 people attended our show, and the more and varied the exhibits, the more successful each show will be.

Merry Christmas and a very happy New Year to you all.

Nellie L. Mead

HISTORY OF THE GRAND RAPIDS MINERAL SOCIETY

(A discussion on charter members at the Nov. Board meeting led to an examination of the secretary's books--and this report of the first year seemed so interesting we thought you all might like to read it.)

On Oct. 15, 1958, Mr. and Mrs. Robert Rozema came to discuss with Mr. and Mrs. Raymond Kerr the idea of forming a rock club in Grand Rapids. It was agreed that such a project could be successful, and plans were set forth for a meeting.

On Wed., Oct. 29, 1958, at about 8 P.M., an interested group met at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Raymond Kerr for the purpose of forming a rock club. Mr. and Mrs. C. F. Woolf were present. Mr. Woolf is president of the Kalamazoo Geological and Mineralogical Society and he was our advisor for the evening. The following persons were present and became the Founding Members:

Mary Jane Dockeray, Joe D. Hanna, Jr., Phyllis R. Hanna, Jane M. Kerr, Raymond E. Kerr, Tina Rozema, Robert R. Rozema, James Sherman, Jay L. Shook, Merle Shook, Henry Slater, Rosemary Slater, Henry Tchozeski, Russell Therrien.

The following were elected to office: President, Robt. R. Rozema; Vice-President, Richard Rose; Secretary, Jane Kerr; Treasurer, Henry Slater; Guide, Mary Jane Dockeray. The remaining ten formed the first Board of Control, appointed to serve for the first term.

The first general meeting was held on Nov. 12, 1958 at the G.R. Public Museum. A turnout of 250 people was estimated and 59 memberships gained. By the end of the first year the membership had climbed to 175, of which the largest share were family memberships.

The first bulletin was issued in December. In February 1959 the name "The Glacial Drifter" was selected for it, submitted by Mr. J. Simcoe of Cedar Springs. Mr. Hanna was appointed editor.

The club was incorporated under the law of the State of Michigan on Jan. 27, 1959, and joined the Midwest Federation of Mineralogical and Geological Societies shortly thereafter. An activities committee was set up to plan field trips and other activities. A directory of the complete membership, including children, was prepared and distributed. At several meetings the group divided into two discussion groups to accommodate those interested in lapidary work and those interested in learning identification of rocks and minerals.

Our first field trip was to the G.R. Plaster Co.'s mine. Other trips included a chartered bus trip to Cranbrook Institute, Vosburg Block & Gravel Co.'s pit in Ada, Coit Ave. Gravel Co.'s pit, the summer home of Mr. and Mrs. Louis Witte in Oceana County, and a weekend trip to Norwood.

Excellent speakers who covered many facets of club interest were obtained for our monthly meetings by Dr. Richard Rose. The first Annual Auction was held at the November meeting.

At the December meeting a mineral specimen was presented to the G.R. Public Museum, as a contribution to the community.

NOVEMBER AUCTION A REAL SUCCESS:

Brisk bidding and obvious interest resulted in every general auction item being sold, and an overall profit of \$266.32 for the club treasury, at the annual November Silent Auction. (Of the profit, \$13.57 came from the sale of cookies to go with the coffee provided by the club.) The fossils, mineral specimens and cutting material donated for auction were of high quality, and many a successful bidder rushed to claim his purchase with a smile of triumph over a good bargain. Special thanks are due to Chairman Henry Tchozeski and his helpers Jay Baar, Don Crabbs, James VanVuren, and Horace Merrick, who all spent a busy evening getting the specimens arranged for the tables and keeping the auction running smoothly -- and to Betty Tchozeski, who handled the coffee and cookies. Museum director W. J. Frankforter came to our rescue to provide stronger lighting for the tables--and became so interested he stayed to bid on an item. The Van Vurens overbid him just before the table was closed--whereupon they presented the specimen, a huge geode, to the museum. So everybody was happy--even though Jim Van Vuren is still looking for a big geode for his yard!

JUNIOR GROUP FIELD TRIP:

About 30 members of the Saturday morning Junior Rockhound group enjoyed a field trip to the Gillissee Gravel Pit on Veterans Memorial Drive in November. According to Leader Larry Ferrel, results were very good, with excellent brachiopods, horn corals and other fossils being found, as well as good conglomerates, quartzes and other polishing materials. James Van Vuren and Dick and Gary Damstra accompanied the group.

On the evening of Dec. 9, in connection with "Know Your Museum" Week, the Junior Rockhounds will be putting on a special demonstration.

LETTER FROM AN OLD FRIEND:

Dear Fellow Members -- You can't imagine how much enjoyment I get when I read the monthly "Drifter" put out by the GRMS. Being a charter member of the club, I like to keep in touch so to speak, even tho' I live in California and cannot attend your meetings. Here I belong to the Palos Verdes Mineral Society, a small club of about 60 members. I wish you could come and join us on our monthly field trips. We have a vast variety of material here. Tess and I are both well; I am working every day. Am enclosing check for 1967 dues. Am sorry I am late, please send me a copy of the membership list. Thank you.

--Gus J. Beuker, 1502 Carson #53, Torrance, Cal. 90503

CLUB NEWS NOTES:

From the sublime to the ridiculous? When Nellie Mead was given a 40"-long, copper-colored sledre hammer "gavel" upon her installation as president, she was heard to remark that she was going to need a smaller one than that. At the last Board meeting she got her wish--maybe--a 3-inch gavel presented by Casey Doornbos.

Some interesting and unusual field trips are being planned, some for winter, with the possibility of a really unique opportunity toward spring. You'll be hearing more on these.

November balance on hand in the club treasury--\$659.59. Membership dues paid include 57 families, 35 singles, and 3 junior members.

MILLIONS OF YEARS FOR PETROLEUM?

(The following excerpt is from a medical journal article dealing with the work of a physician in Lima, Peru. The doctor became interested in the field of paleopathology when asked to examine a fragment of shriveled mummified tissue to determine whether or not the presence of tuberculosis could be proved in it. By soaking the flesh in serum and formaldehyde to restore some of its natural fluids, and after painstaking microscopic examination, the tissue definitely proved to contain tuberculosis bacilli. This started a project of archeological excavations in the Chancay valley, where many ancient, mummified bodies are buried, in the hopes of discovering what diseases plagued the Indians of Peru before the arrival of the conquistadores. Along with this medical information, however, the scientists made an unexpected discovery):

While engaged in studying a skull the doctor found that it contained a mummified brain in a perfect state of preservation. On extracting it, he noticed that his hand had become stained with a brownish oily substance that did not wash off with water but was readily dissolved in xylol. Chemical analysis showed that it was a bituminous petroleum derivative. Comments the doctor: "This seemed to show us that it did not take millions of years, extreme heat and great pressure to transform organic matter into petroleum. If the process of bitumization had come about in a mere 700 years, why could it not be produced experimentally in a laboratory in much less time?"

With limited resources and rudimentary equipment, the doctor set out to answer the question. Placing a brain of an autopsied corpse in an airtight glass jar, he submitted it to carefully regulated heat, pressure and dessication in an improvised stove, succeeded in mummifying it in ten days. The same experiment was carried out with an entire corpse. When the mummification process was complete, it was practically impossible to distinguish between an authentic Indian mummy and the one "artificially" created in the laboratory. Organic human tissue, including the skin, was transformed into a bituminous petroleum-like substance which when heated released inflammable gases of the same nature as those released by heated petroleum. Carefully distilled and refined, it yielded a combustible similar to kerosene and gasoline.

This "fuel" was poured into the empty carburetor of a motor scooter carrying two riders, started up easily and propelled the vehicle for 12.5 minutes. A few days later, a 220 hp automobile smoothly rolled down the highway, its carburetor filled with the combustible identified by the university's Department of Biochemistry as a hydrocarbon compound of 4 carbon atoms, hexane isomers, and a molecular weight of 98, more inflammable than ordinary high octane gasoline. Comments the doctor, "Our experiment, born of a centuries old secret jealously guarded by pre-Columbian mummies, proves that organic matter, be it animal or vegetable, can be transformed into petroleum without having to wait millions of years."

DATOLITE

(This article, from Michigan Copper Country, prepared by Gunnar C. Nielsen, was provided by Mr. and Mrs. Archie Billings for the benefit of our readers. The Billings should know--they have found prize specimens of this rare material themselves--like the bola tie Archie was wearing at the November Auction!)

Datolite is the finest and most rare gem material found in Michigan, and it appears not to be found anywhere else.

COMPOSITION: Calcium, Boron and Silicate. HARDNESS: 5 - 6.5
 COLOR: Practically any--white, gray, pink, red, purple, green, turquoise, yellow and mixed colors, sometimes with copper.
 SIZE: Anywhere from pea size to 75 lb. (the 75-lb. Datolite is at Cranbrook Institute.) SHAPE: Any shape with knobby surface most common. Bigger nodules look like cauliflower.

Datolite is found in the old copper mine dumps; any of the old sumps that were mined before 1920 may produce specimens. They will not be found where mines are in operation, or on conglomerates dumps.

The mines in operation that produce Datolite are Caledonia, Centennial and Inoquois, but the miners will remove what they find and the rest will be pulverized with the rocks. So the only way to get any specimens from these mines is to buy or trade with these miners.

Dumps where Datolite has been found: Mass, Rockland, Isle Royale, Quincy, Franklin, Mesnard, New Arcadian, Old Seneca, Phoenix, North-western Amygdaloid, Pennsylvania, Star Clark and Central.

Few specimens are found today on surface dumps. Some digging must be done; it takes desire to dig deep enough. The Clark Mine is probably the one mine where these can be found with least effort. According to miners who have found Datolite while working in the mine, they can tell before they uncover one of these pockets due to the hollow sound when drilling. The material found with the Datolite in these pockets is like clay, mostly brownish-red, sometimes greenish.

Tips for beginners as to how to find Datolite: go to someplace where they have nodules of Datolite. Look at them and if possible feel the weight of some. Go to one of the above-mentioned mine dumps. Look for signs where other rockhounds have been digging, and if you don't find these then look for trees or bushes growing out of these dumps. Chances are if the dumps are deep enough that the roots are coming from the clay material. Be sure to break this clay open or you may be missing some nice specimens. You may also look for Datolite chips on these dumps; if some are found, chances are by digging you will find whole nodules. If nodules are found whole it will be impossible to tell the color; to be sure the true color schemes are brought out, the nodules should be cut as near to center as possible.

Enough has been written about cutting, grinding and polishing--however, we get the best result by finish arinding on 600 cloth, then using Linde R on leather (elkhide) for polishing Datolite.

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