

Volume 9, no 6 ~ February 1967



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.

A GEM OF A PROGRAM -- FOR FEBRUARY !

FEBRUARY						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			8			
	13		15			
	20		22			

Wednesday, Feb. 8, 8 p.m. at the Public Museum-- we will all have a chance to hear a professional jeweller talk about gemstones from a jeweller's point of view. Miller Siegel, a certified gemologist, will present a half-hour sound movie on the "Story of Diamonds", and then will talk about gems himself, illustrating his remarks with items he will bring for display. Questions from the audience will be invited. This is a rare opportunity to hear an expert in his field and our hobby, so don't miss it!

WED., FEB. 15, 8 p.m., Lapidary Group, R.B. Smith, 1445 Breton S.E. The turnout last month was small, but those present decided to try and make a replica of our emblem as a focal point for a special club display at the March Show. Various members are doing parts of the emblem now, and they will be assembled at the Feb. 15 meeting--so come and help. Beyond that, unless more interest is shown, the group will be disbanded for now.

MON., FEB. 13, Board of Control, Don Crabbs, 1827 Millbrook S.E., 8 p.m.

MON., FEB. 20, 8 p.m., Field Tripp, 1200 Judd S.W. (See Page 7)

WED., FEB. 22, 8 p.m., Mineral Group, Nellie Mead, 334 Briarwood S.E.

NEWS OF OUR NEIGHBORS: On Tuesday, Feb. 21 the Indian Mounds Rock and Mineral Society is holding a Silent Auction at Rogers High School, starting at 7:30 p.m. We are all invited to attend.

MEMBERSHIP DIRECTORIES READY: With our paid up memberships now over 100 families and individuals, it is time that we all had an accurate membership list. New directories will be mailed to members this month -- and a big vote of thanks to the Van Vurens for doing this big job.

JUNIOR LAPIDARY GROUP IS ACTIVE

Our Pebble Pups, under the enthusiastic leadership of Larry Fegel and Dick Damstra, are continuing an active program of study and interest. The group plans to put on two demonstrations on Saturday afternoons during the Museum Show, and they are always among our most popular demonstrators. They are also working up an exhibit for the show.

The Juniors enjoyed a recent field trip to the gypsum mine and got some really good material, too (adult club members take notice--we go Feb. 20). Their meetings both before and after the field trip were related to gypsum, so the group is now well grounded on that subject. Incidentally, adults are always invited to drop in on the Junior Group meetings and observe the activities; you'll find it an interesting Saturday morning.

WHEN DOCTORS use Latin in prescribing medicine, it is not to keep us from finding out what the medicine is, but rather, since Latin is a dead language, it will remain constant in meaning and subject to the same interpretation, world wide. In part, the same applies to mineral descriptions. They are not meant to sound impressive, but rather to assure that future generations will understand what we have said.

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Attorney Peter Price's outstanding photography of the Canadian Rockies will long be remembered by the large group attending the January meeting.

It is late to be mentioning this, but I have just learned with sorrow of the death of Virginia Franzen last July. She was a fine, active member of our group, and the one who first told me about G.R.M.S.

Your Board of Control welcomed Joe Parrish to its membership this month, since he has agreed to finish Arnold Wendt's term as a board member. For the seven years I have known him, Joe has been a most willing and enthusiastic member.

Needless to say, the Museum Show, March 4 to April 2, was the most important subject discussed at the Board Meeting. I would like to urge each and every one of you to give the various chairmen full cooperation. Call Davena Lett (Ch.3-6588) and volunteer your services as host or hostess for a Saturday or Sunday afternoon. No previous experience needed--just be there and wear a ribbon. Dr. Robert Smith is looking for those willing to put on demonstrations on Sat. or Sun. afternoons from 2 to 5 p.m.--lapidary skills, mounting technics, silversmithing, fossil cleaning and classifying, or whatever--these "live" demonstrations are a tremendously important part of our show, so call him at 949-4093 if you can help. Or, could you volunteer a small exhibit of some kind to put in a show case at your favorite branch library or even a bank window to advertise the Show? They do help.

The new mural (4'x20') depicting an ancient sea bottom is partially finished, and will help balance the dinosaurs painted two years ago. Bob Bush of the Museum staff is a wizard at creating corals and sea plants with a sponge and paint.

Now it is up to all of you to turn in your entry blanks stating what you would like to exhibit and how much room you will need--whether it is 6 inches or an entire window. Extra blanks may be obtained at the Feb. meeting. Happy exhibiting!

*Nellie B. Mead*

THEY'RE WINNERS! At the January meeting, Lloyd Heaton was the lucky, lucky winner of the opal pendant in handmade silver setting, donated by the Damstras. The rhyolite donated by Vi Warren was won by Gladys Keyser; the Canadian specimen given by Pete Boogaart was won by Sandy Fergoli; and the Simcoe's agate from the Anderson Mine in Arizona went to Lucille Pearl.

NEW RULE AT CRANBROOK: The fabulous exhibits at Cranbrook Institute of Science in Bloomfield Hills were to have been the object of one of our winter field trips, until we found that group appointments (and individual visits, too) may be made for only one hour, at the end of which time you must leave. Since this would not be enough time to see thoroughly even the high points of the exhibits in which we are especially interested, it did not seem worth that long a trip. It's still worth seeing if you happen to be in the neighborhood, but don't plan on a long visit.

## BIGGEST SHOW ON "EARTH"!

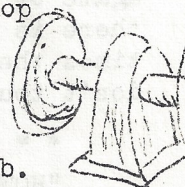


Hurry, hurry! Get your displays ready! Fill out the entry blank in this "Drifter"! Sign up to help one of the committees! The Grand Rapids Mineral Society's Eighth Annual Gem and Mineral Show goes into the Public Museum on Saturday, Mar. 4 and will be on display until Sunday, Apr. 2. And you--yes, you--should take an active part!

Pres. Nellie Mead is so experienced at show details that she is heading up the general arrangements. Dorothy Waterman is working with the various schools on educational displays. Gerry Morris and Charlie Moore are handling newspaper publicity. Betty Tchozeski will see to the coffee and cookies for exhibitors not only on closing day, but on opening day when everyone is working so hard putting up the displays (and of course you'll help furnish some cookies, right?) Davena Lett will be calling you to act as hosts and hostesses. Dr. Robert Smith is to arrange the demonstrations; while Marion Jennings and Don Crabbs are to handle the popular Sunday movie programs. Bob Rozema is our official photographer; and Joe Parrish will assist in assigning exhibit space.

So you can see that show details are in good hands--but there still won't be a show unless we have many good exhibits...collections, specimens, fossils, lapidary work, silver work, educational themes. There are so many aspects of our hobby that you can surely plan something that the public will enjoy seeing. Even just one or two prized pieces will help--we always have several cases where a number of exhibitors are combined, each properly identified, of course. Remember, your displays will be protected, in locked cases. They will not, however, be insured--if you think insurance is necessary, you should arrange for that on an individual basis.

Because we believe that many persons who come to the show wish to know more about the possibilities of going into this hobby--which means they want to know more about the necessary equipment, costs, etc.--any rock shop dealer who is a dues-paying member of our club will be offered a full window on the south side of the museum in which to display such things. It is hoped that they will try to present the equipment in an interesting and educational manner. The dealer's name signs will be of uniform size and appearance, as provided by the club. Since our dealers are also experienced craftsmen and topnotch collectors, these equipment windows will be in addition to any lapidary or mineral displays they might wish to show.



The Museum staff is, as always, giving us cooperation above and beyond the call of duty. Miss Allen has offered to make our display posters. Mr. Bush will do the backgrounds for our new mural on prehistoric undersea life. And the many "props", pedestals, back-cloths, hangings, shelves and other equipment available to us give our displays the professional finish that makes every case a special attraction.

Every exhibitor will be awarded a ribbon signifying his participation in this 1967 show...and a new feature this year will be a system of service stripes or stars to indicate how many years each exhibitor has participated.

NOW--turn to the last page, fill out your entry blank, bring it to the February meeting or mail it immediately to Mrs. Nellie Mead, 334 Briarwood S.E., City 6. You'll be glad you did, because it's really fun to be in the show.



YOUR MANNERS ARE SHOWING

While it's fine to enjoy being a Rockhound, you will win more friends for yourself and for our hobby if your manners show some pedigree. Here are a few tips, culled from the reports and bulletins of many other clubs, on do's and don't's which particularly apply to rock hobbyists:

WHEN SHOWN a brightly polished stone, the usual reaction of the uninitiated is to rub a finger over it to feel the smoothness. This always results in a smudged fingerprint that dulls the bright surface--no permanent harm done, but the owner must wipe off the smudge to restore the stone's beauty. If it is a facted stone this is no small job.

HANDS OFF!

A guest never handles cut stones or mineral specimens unless he is invited to do so by the owner, and it is better to wait for the owner to hand them to you. If he does, extend your hand, palm up and slightly cupped, so that he can lay the specimen in your hand--and hold your free hand just below. There is usually no advantage in removing it from the cupped palm. If you must raise a stone to observe the transparency, handle it by the edges and keep the other hand cupped below. Touch a mineral specimen only where it will do no harm, not on upper surfaces. Fingerprints are difficult to remove from mineral surfaces, and some crystals are so fragile they will break at the touch of a finger.

If you take children along to view a collection you must see that they also observe the rules of etiquette. This can be difficult because children have a natural curiosity, especially about rocks, but it can cause trouble with a mineral collection.

There is little one can say, and nothing one can do, when a beautiful agate or an exquisite crystal lies shattered on the floor. To the collector there is something more than the money value involved; the difficulty, sometimes the impossibility of replacement is still only part of it. "Look, but don't touch" is the safest general rule for all.

\* \* \* \* \*

"HOW IS THE ROCK COLLECTING business? Oh yes--I heard about that! Too bad he had to post his land. He's really a nice person, but he let someone in to collect rocks and they busted up his property. The way he looks at it, no NO ONE gets in, so there'll be no more busted up property."

How many times have you heard something like this? How many times has a quarry or other collecting area been closed because of the thoughtless, careless actions of just one individual?

Sometimes the damage is done by "amateur commercial" collectors who are out to make an easy dollar. Sometimes it is improperly trained collectors. Sometimes it is the "Wanger-on" who is interested in the fruits of the hobby but not in any of the responsibilities. Sometimes it is just the rotten apple who creates havoc wherever he goes. Yet all of it is in the name of the "Rockhounding Hobby".



## (MANNERS - 2)

Nor do these spoilers inflict all the damage upon the collecting area. They have little regard for any other collectors; little desire to conserve scarce materials. As long as anything remains it is gobbled up regardless of use or need, the only restrictions being those imposed by the limits of his vehicle. Then there's the smart guy who finds a 4-wheel drive works real good when cutting across a plowed or planted field or chasing cattle across range land. And the lazy kind who don't bother to fill in the holes they dig. Or the trespasser who "lost his way" inside a locked gate.

We must protect our hobby from those who would destroy it by willful or negligent actions. Rightly or wrongly, the good rockhounds have to pay for these deprivations. Years of good community relations are often destroyed overnight. The AFMS Code of Ethics is voluntary, but a club can make it mandatory and exclude any member who is guilty of misconduct in the field. Club members can make plain their own disapproval of such conduct, and help train young people and new members accordingly.

\* \* \* \* \*

ISN'T IT FUN to travel about, visiting other areas, and rockshops and hobbyists in other areas? It pays to remind ourselves of a few things, however. Do we treat other's belongings with respect? Do we absorb with thankfulness the information or tips they provide us? Are we able to leave them with the feeling that we are nice people, who would be welcomed back?

Most rockhounds we know do this. A few, perhaps with the feeling of "they'll never see us again" seem to leave god manners home as excess baggage. Here is how a Minnesota rock club member expressed it:

"...To start with, your visit to any rock shop must not be for the purpose of purchasing anything; rock shops are operated only for the pleasure of handling precious rocks and minerals.

"Next, you must make the owner feel you are very well versed in all things pertaining to rocks and minerals. If he shows you something he thinks might be of interest, your first and instantaneous remark should be, 'Oh, you should see the big one like that I saw out West', or, 'So and so has a piece twice that large!'

"You must be critical of the merchandise, because of course you are not going to buy any of it, so you have to immediately set up your reasons for taking up his time in a friendly visit. That agate has a tiny fracture; this one is not genuine; that one has something else wrong.....And if anyone with you acts like he might possibly buy something, tell him quickly you can get it for less, or a finer one at another place.

"Study these tips carefully so that you may always be welcome as a visitor and club member wherever you go. And all the time you are doing these friendly things, just keep asking yourself, "Am I acting NATURAL, or am I just making a bloomin' donkey out of myself."



"OH, DO THIS ROCK FOR ME"

I bought myself a diamond saw, and Boy! Was it a honey!  
I figured long and late and hard before I spent the money.  
But now it's worn, the blade is dull--I think I was a bit too free--  
Too oft I yielded when they said, "Oh, slab this rock for me!"

I bought an arbor, "double-barrelled", with bearings made of balls,  
And every time I view it now a teardrop forms and falls.  
The wheels are worn down to the hubs, and now I clearly see  
The grit was spent for those who said, "Oh, grind this rock for me!"

I made a lap and was I proud to see it smoothly run!  
I visioned bookends nicely made, and hours of rockhound fun.  
And now it rattles, the disc is thin, and sorrowfully I see  
Too oft I heard that old appeal, "Oh, lap this rock for me!"

To those who've never spent a dime for saws or wheels or laps,  
A word from one who's suffered long may do some good. (Perhaps.)  
Those whirling things cost lots of dough, so e'er you make your plea,  
Think of the cost your friend incurs to shape those rocks for thee!

from "Agate Pete Stories & Poems" by Harry Zollars

ACCORDING TO A REPORT given at a recent board meeting of the Michigan Gem and Mineral Society, the quarry at Clay Center, Ohio is now closed to all collecting -- due to Vandalism.

HAVE YOU HEARD about the Green Mountain, N.H. state fire tower watchman who put up a sign asking tourists: "PLEASE TAKE ALL YOUR LITTER WITH YOU. MY WIFE IS COMING UP NEXT WEEK AND I DON'T WANT HER TO THINK I KEEP AN UNTIDY MOUNTAIN."

"HOBBY LOBBYIST"

Though Henry invited us over to sup,  
He's riding his hobby and won't let up.  
We've viewed all his minerals (each with its label)  
Spread over our laps and the dining room table;  
We droop and we wilt while Henry assorts  
His mica, his granite, his best rosy quartz;  
And ever our hunger dims his affection,  
Till we're ready to eat his entire collection.  
How we YEARN for a host who hasn't a stock  
Of shale from Nevada, or rock from Bangkok,  
Which he forces on guests in shoals and showers,  
For hours and hours and hours and HOURS.

-- Harriet Labarre

It has been reported that denture cleanser, the kind you soak dentures in, is just the thing to clean polishing powder residue from cabochons after polishing. Works well on minerals, such as quartz crystals, too.

YESTERDAY is a cancelled check; tomorrow is a promissory note; today is the only cash you have.



WHAT! A FIELD TRIP IN WINTER?

You bet! The temperature at the site of this field trip is the same winter or summer--a warm (cool) 52°. And you can take away all the specimens you can carry, making this a wonderful chance to build up "trading stock", too. You've guessed it--our perennial favorite, Michigan Natural Storage company and the old gypsum mine in which it is located.

Because the light as well as the temperature is the same night or day in the mine, this trip is being scheduled for Monday evening, Feb. 20, from 8 p.m. until about 9:30. Tour guides are being provided, and the group is to descend to the mine promptly at 8 o'clock, so be on time! A charge will be made of 75¢ each for adults and 25¢ for children, and we must have a minimum of 25. However, the owners would like to have some estimate of how many will attend, in order to determine whether extra guides will be needed. So please sign up at the next meeting, or call Marie Spielmaker, LE4-5629, to make your reservation.

If you have not seen the storage part of the Mich. Natural Storage Company, you should--it's a fascinating, eye-opening and truly unique operation. It doesn't take long, and you needn't worry about missing out on the gypsum because once you get to the mine shafts that is abundant and easy to get. You will need rock bags and flashlights. This is the beautiful, salmon-pink gypsum, the pencil varieties, the alabaster of the ancients, some crystals--almost any type. Big pieces and little. At Houghton last summer it was the hottest trading item in the place--how we wished we had more of it! It is also soft, and easy to carve, and good for flower and rock arrangements.

The address is 1200 Judd S.W. Judd St. goes north off Chicago Dr. at the 1300 block (between Godfrey and Burlingame). There is a small Mich. Natural Storage sign at the corner. Go to the end of Judd and turn right; stop at the red "Tours" sign. You can't miss it -- we hope.

## EASY DIRECTIONS

When telling me how I can get there  
 Leave nothing to gamble or guess.  
 I won't be upset  
 If the directions I get  
 Assume I'm a moron or less.

So - give me some street names to cling to,  
 Or draw me a map I can scan.  
 And be quite explicit  
 YOU, maybe, can't miss it,  
 But brother, believe me, I can!

(Thanks to St. Louis Mineral & Rock Club)

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GRAND RAPIDS MINERAL SOCIETY  
EIGHTH ANNUAL GEM & MINERAL SHOW

March 4 - April 2, 1967  
G. R. Public Museum

Again the members of the Grand Rapids Mineral Society have an opportunity to show the community what 'rock hounds' do. We can share with others our knowledge and our prized possessions, and at the same time interest others in our hobby.

Our theme will be E D U C A T I O N.

There will be room for a single piece or a complete display. You name it and the Committee will fit it into the show.....ENTER NOW so we can plan the space.

NAME \_\_\_\_\_ PHONE \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

Type of Exhibit: Mineral ( ) Lapidary ( ) Fossil ( )

Geological Oddity ( ) Educational ( )

Space Requirement \_\_\_\_\_

I WILL HELP: Arrange a neighborhood display ( )

Demonstrate ( ) Be Host or Hostess ( )

Bring Cookies - Mar. 4 ( ) Apr. 2 ( )

Fill in this blank as soon as possible and give, or send, to

Mrs. Nellie C. Mead  
334 Briarwood S.E.  
Grand Rapids, Mich. 49506

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(Remember that the Show Committee will not be able to insure exhibits this year. If you are displaying something which you feel must be insured you should arrange for this yourself. All display cases at the show are locked, but especially valuable items should be in the wall cases.)

## U L T R A G L O S S

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 concerned with some phase of the rock  
 hobby. Ads must be written out, signed, and  
 mailed to the editor.

The Grand Rapids Mineral Society  
Mrs. R. B. Smith, Editor  
1445 Breton Rd. SE  
Grand Rapids, Michigan 49506



U T R A S T  
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mailed to the editor.