

Volume 9, no 7 ~ March 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 September 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.

# MARCH -- TO THESE EVENTS.....

MARCH 4 - APRIL 2: 8th Annual Gem and Mineral Show, G.R. Public Museum  
 WED., MAR. 8, 8 p.m., Regular Meeting, G.R. Public Museum  
 MON., MAR. 13, Board of Control, Marion Jennings, 1446 Bridge St. N.W.  
 WED., MAR. 22, 8 p.m., Mineral Group, Mrs. Vicena Warren, 2745 Madison S.E.

## PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Our February meeting certainly turned out to be another excellent one with Mr. Miller Siegel's outstanding display of precious gems and his apparently unlimited histories and information about many of them. Hope he will be with us again in the future.

My friend Tim Knab and I thoroughly enjoyed your reception of our ancient sea bottom mural. Wish my Marian could have been there too, since she painted with us on one of those stormy, snowy days. For those who didn't see it, you might be interested in knowing that except for two of the animals, everything was painted with either sponges or fingers.

Your display reservations are coming in, but hope to hear from many more of you soon, and see you filling all the cases on March 4.

*Mellie E. Ward*

## DID THIS EVER HAPPEN TO YOU?

On meeting night she's a woman of fashion.  
 Her makeup's right and she is real dashin'.  
 Each curl is set, each hair in place,  
 All dressed up to kill 'em in silk and lace.

She greets me with a familiar air.  
 I know I've met her, but when or where?  
 I look at her, and I rack my brain  
 Till my mind's awirl with added strain.

My mind's a blank and my memory demolished  
 Until she says, "Did your rock get polished?"  
 Aha! I have it! The last field trip.  
 This must be the dame who looked like a drip.

Her hair was windblown, her face was dirty.  
 Nothing about her would make you feel flirty.  
 Metamorphosis for sure! "Oh, can this be  
 The gal who dug rocks along side of me?"

--ROCK TALK via GEM-LOGIC

### BRINGING HOME THE GYPSUM

EVERYONE -- and that means between 50 and 60 members -- had a marvelous time at the night field trip to the gypsum mine at Mich. Natural Storage Co. last month. The main complaint seemed to be: "It's so hard to carry all this stuff out!"--which certainly indicated ample material, anyway. Did you know that there are six miles of passage-ways in the mine, and that it is 85 feet deep? Now that you have all that pretty pink and white stuff, you might like a little more information about this typsum. We are indebted to the GRAND VALLEY CONGLOMERATE NEWS for this-- they had a similar field trip recently, and their editor did some homework:

Chemically gypsum is hydrated calcium sulfate,  $\text{CaSO}_4 \cdot 2\text{H}_2\text{O}$ . It is a widely distributed form of sedimentary rock, formed by the precipitation of calcium sulfate from sea water, and is frequently associated with other saline deposits, such as halite and anhydrite, as well as with limestone and shale. Gypsum is produced in volcanic regions by the action of sulfuric acid on calcium-containing minerals, and it is also found in most clays as a product of the action of sulfuric acid on limestone.

America's "Little Sahara", White Sands National Monument covers over 200 square miles and is composed of shifting dunes of almost pure gypsum, gleaming like white granulated sugar.

A striking feature of crystallized gypsum is the very easy cleavage that enables the crystals to be split parallel to the plane of symmetry, and to yield thin polished sheets, like sheets of mica but not elastic. Crystals of gypsum are usually clear and colorless, often with a slightly pearly luster which, from its resemblance to moonlight, has led to the name of SELENITE being applied to this variety. A fibrous variety in which the crystals are long and thin and grouped in a close parallel aggregation is called from its silky luster SATIN SPAR. There is also a compact massive kind known as ALABASTER which, because of its fine texture and its softness, is much used for carved objects. Gypsum is usually white or light shaded grey, flesh-red, yellow or blue.

Michigan's gypsum lies near the top in her stacked bowls of rocks, being of the Michigan formation of the Mississippian system. Outcroppings of the bowl rims are at Grand Rapids and Tawas City.

Processed gypsum has countless commercial uses, in addition to gypsum wallboard. The material is a filler for toothpaste and paper. It is used as a clearing agent in the brewing of beer. The mockups created by automobile, aircraft and missile stylists in new designs are made of gypsum. Four percent of all Portland cement, for quick hardening, used in many types of construction, is gypsum.

Mining operations at the Grand Rapids site started in 1907 and ended in 1943. The unique storage operation which is now set up in the old mine is noted throughout the country. In the storage section, which is kept cooler than mine temperature but which benefits from the even temperatures underground, are stored potatoes, peanuts, cheeses, spices, nuts, fruits, pickles and poultry as well as other edibles, in quantities to service the whole area.

## " -- The Way You Looked That Night..."

.....or that day -- anyway, the March program should be fun, if not downright hilarious; when Bob Rozema shows slides of the pictures he has taken during Museum shows and other club occasions of yester-year. Since Bob takes mighty good pictures, there'll be more than fun involved, but a chance to see many outstanding displays produced in the past. This program will be particularly interesting with the displays of the 1967 show on hand for comparison. So it's Old Home Week on Wed., Mar. 8 at 8 p.m. at the Museum. And if you've ever said, "You ought to be in pictures"--this is the night when you probably are!

\* \* \* \* \*

GETTING TO KNOW YOU: Congratulations to the Casey Doornbos's, who were married 44 years as of Valentine's Day.....Nina Rozema probably has only one consolation for the broken ankle she suffered from a fall on the ice-- it really made Bob appreciate everything she does at the shop, when he tried to do it all without her!.....Elaine Smith was another casualty of the ice, but she recovered in time to accompany Dr. Bob to Holland for a joint talk to the friendly and enthusiastic new rock club there.....

...Lloyd Heaton, who recently won that fine opal necklace, was the good sport who in turn donated the Montana Agate necklace won by Joe Parrish last month. Joe--"Lucky", we call him--also won the black jaspilite donated by Don Craffs; while Davena Lett got the Montana Agate given by Frank VanLoon; and Marion Jennings won the Lace Agate donated by Bob and Nina Rozema.....We note that Mr. and Mrs. Hollis Merrick of the G.R.M.S. were guests at the annual dinner meeting of the Michigan Gem and Mineral Society in Jan. This must be our Horace Merricks from Muskegon Heights-- did you have a good dinner and a good time?.....Our secretary sent a friendship card to William Matheson, who is very ill.....

...Dorothy Waterman's display and talk on fossil development for the Grand Valley Rock and Mineral Society at Ionia was much appreciated by that group.....Speaking of the Ionia club, their Editor read our Glacial Drifter article on the doctor in Peru who extracted fuel oil from artificially mummified bodies, summarized it for his readers, then added, "Anybody for being self-propelled?".....Sights we'd like to have seen: Nellie Mead's newspaper delivery boy getting so interested in the show mural she and Marion and Tim Knab were painting that he grabbed a felt marker and did some of the outlines himself!.....The Ken Simons are back from a 3-week Christmas trip to British Samoa where they visited their daughter and her husband and brand new twin grandsons. We'll be hearing more about this journey at a future meeting.....It's a pleasure to welcome the Jim DeZwan Jrs. back to the club--they're the kind of members you'll want to know. So get out a pencil and add them to your new Directory:

DeZwaan, Mr. and Mrs. James, Jr. 243-3711  
1656 Andrew S.E., Grand Rapids 8  
(James G., Susan, Thomas, Janice, Lorri)

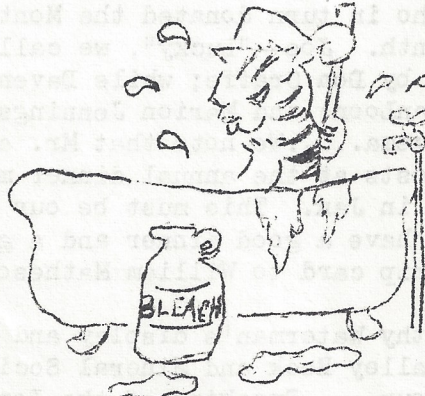
CHECK YOUR TRAVEL AGENT -- or merely dream a little -- "Classic Tours" has scheduled two tours of special interest for rockhounds. One, to Brazil, Peru and Argentina, mostly for emeralds, Mar. 3 or Aug. 4, for three weeks, cost \$1246. The other, to Australia and New Zealand, mostly for opal, Apr.10 and Oct.2, 28 days, \$2182.

WORTH SHARING -- This refreshing description from a recent edition of the "Mesabi Media", from the column, "Ernie Sez --"

"A few mornings ago I got up to be greeted by a picture that only a rockhound can appreciate. I had to pinch myself lightly to make sure I was awake. I can't stand much pain, so I pinched myself real easy twice. It was still there!

"Massive milky quartz on the roof tops! Sparkling drusy quartz on the grass, clear faceting quartz on a small water puddle! The station wagon looked like a doublet with the faded blue reflecting through the frosted coating like pale amethyst. It looked like someone had tried his luck casting with polyester resin and had goofed. And wow! When I bravely poked my snozzle out the back door, I was met with a blast of pure, unpolluted, un-adulterated frigid Arctic ozone that left me gasping. It was so fresh I could smell the Polar bear hair and walrus blubber..."

BLEACHING TIGEREYE: Sometimes, when Tigereye has too much brown color, removing some of the iron oxide which produces it will expose more of the fiber and give the stone more life and chatoyancy. The bleaching process is not too difficult. First, get some granular oxalic acid from the drug store. Dissolve one heaping tablespoon to each cup of warm water, using a covered Pyrex dish. Clean all matrix and oil from your Tigereye slab, immerse it in the acid bath, and place in a 200° oven for 12 - 24 hours or until the desired results are obtained. This process removes the brown color and also enhances other colors which were suppressed by the iron oxide. After removing the Tigereye from the acid bath, soak it in warm water to clean off excess acid. (Of course we are assuming that the Tigereye has been cut properly in the first place -- bleaching won't help if the cutting has been done in the wrong plane.)



-- Geo-logic via "Rockfinder"

DAFFYNITIONS GOING THE ROUNDS:

- TUMBLER -- One who falls down a rock pile.
- ROCK CHISEL--One who chisels someone else's pickings.
- AMATEUR--One who keeps his mouth shut and his ears open.
- QUARTZ--Two pints of rocks.
- ZINC--Where you wash your tired feet.
- ZINCITE--A small zinc.
- APATITE--What you get on a long field trip.
- GARNET--What you say when a rock drops on your foot.
- CONGLOMERATE--A group of rockhounds.
- PETRIFIED--What you are when you see just what you were looking for.



## MIDWEST FEDERATION PROJECTS FOR YOU

Your Board of Directors, voting unanimously to maintain membership in the Midwest Federation of Mineralogical and Geological Societies, brought forward several Midwest projects in which we can all participate. One is Stamps for Food--something so each that everyone could help! Simply save all your cancelled postage stamps, just clip them off the mail every day, leaving  $\frac{1}{4}$  inch around them, and bring them to Marion Jennings at the meetings. These stamps are sent to a national collection area where they are redeemed at a bulk rate, the funds going to provide milk for needy children. Stamps that can't be used for this are sent to an Eastern Star chapter in Canada; they in turn send them to Germany where the dye is extracted. Last year \$1,000 was received in this way, all used for cancer dressings and cancer research.

Another project worth special effort is saving all of your Betty Crocker coupons...get your friends and neighbors to save them, too, and bring them to Marion Jennings. Each coupon is worth  $\frac{1}{2}$  cent to the Midwest Scholarship Fund, and they brought in nearly \$3,000 to the fund as of last year. A club reaching 100% (the equivalent of \$1. per person) is given a certificate. At 20%, 300 and 400\$ it receives seals, and at 500% is awarded a plaque. A Federation (regional) reaching 100% receives a plaque. So far, one Federation and three clubs have plaques, and one of these clubs is over 1500%. Cash donations to the fund are also welcomed.

**IDENTIFICATION SERVICE:** The Federation has recently prepared a list of persons qualified to identify, or help to identify, minerals. With so many amateur mineralogists or rockhounds trying to give names to their discoveries, identification, especially of the more rare or uncommon materials, is becoming a serious problem. Only a professional mineralogist is properly qualified to do this.

Any club member planning to send a specimen should first be sure he has exhausted all local sources of help. A self-addressed, stamped envelope should be enclosed with the request. This letter should accompany, if possible, the specimen being sent. Specimens should be large enough to make identification easier, and more than one sent if possible. No request should be made for the return of the specimen. A brief but accurate description of the source, location and other pertinent data should accompany the specimen or be included in the letter. No request should be made concerning the monetary value of the material. And finally, be sure to give the name of your club. In other words, this is to be strictly identification only, with no returns, all costs to be born by the sender, and planned for Federation members only.

With this understanding, the following have graciously agreed to accept requests and to give whatever help they could: In Michigan--

Dr. Kiril Spiroff, Dept. of Geology, Michigan Technological University, Houghton, Mich. 49931; Dr. J. P. Dobell, Dept. of Geology, Michigan Technological University, Houghton, Mich. 49931; or Dr. H. B. Stonehouse, Associate Professor, Natural Science Building, Dept. of Geology, Michigan State University, East Lansing, Mich. 48823.



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W e l c o m e   t o   t h e  
GRAND RAPIDS MINERAL SOCIETY 8th ANNUAL GEM AND MINERAL SHOW

March 5 through April 2, 1967

Grand Rapids Public Museum

S C H E D U L E   O F   E V E N T S

DEMONSTRATIONS:

Sunday, Mar. 5, 2-5 p.m., Gerald Morris, Lapidary  
Thursday, Mar. 9, 1-3 p.m., Dr. Richard Rose, Lapidary  
Saturday, Mar. 11, 2-5 p.m., Henry Tchozeski, Lapidary  
Sunday, Mar. 12, 2-5 p.m., Silver-smithing  
Thursday, Mar. 16, 1-3 p.m., Dr. Robert B. Smith, Lapidary  
Saturday, Mar. 18, 2-5 p.m., Gordon Williams, Lapidary  
Sunday, Mar. 19, 2-5 p.m., August Post, Lapidary  
Thursday, Mar. 23, 1-3 p.m., Cornelius Doornbos, Lapidary  
Saturday, Mar. 25, 2-5 p.m., Junior Lapidary Group, G.R.M.S.  
Sunday, March 26, Easter, no demonstrations  
Thursday, Mar. 30, Vacation, no demonstrations  
Saturday, Apr. 1, 2-5 p.m., Junior Lapidary Group, G.R.M.S.  
Sunday, Apr. 2, 2-5 p.m., Richard Damstra Family, Lapidary

IN THE AUDITORIUM:

Sunday, Mar. 5, 2:30 p.m., Slides, "Rock Hunting in Bancroft, Ont."  
Sunday, Mar. 12, 2:30 p.m., Slides, "Grand Rapids Mineral  
Society in Action", Robert Rozema  
Sunday, Mar. 19, 2:30 p.m., Slides, "Geology of Michigan",  
Dr. Richard Rose  
Sunday, Apr. 2, 2:30 p.m., To be announced

HOSTS AND HOSTESSES:

March 5, Mr. and Mrs. Max Ross; March 11, Mr. and Mrs. James VanVuren;  
March 12, Mr. and Mrs. James VanVuren; March 18, Mr. and Mrs. Joe  
Parrish; March 19, Miss Marie Spielmacher, Miss Marion Jennings;  
March 25, Mr. and Mrs. James Waldron; March 26, Mr. and Mrs. Don Crabbs;  
Apr. 1, Mr. and Mrs. Glenn Marvin; Apr. 2, Mr. and Mrs. Casey Doornbos.

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



Mrs. Bernice Wienrank Rexin  
6935 W. Herbert Ave.  
Milwaukee, Wis. 53218