

ROCKHOUND NEWS

VOLUME

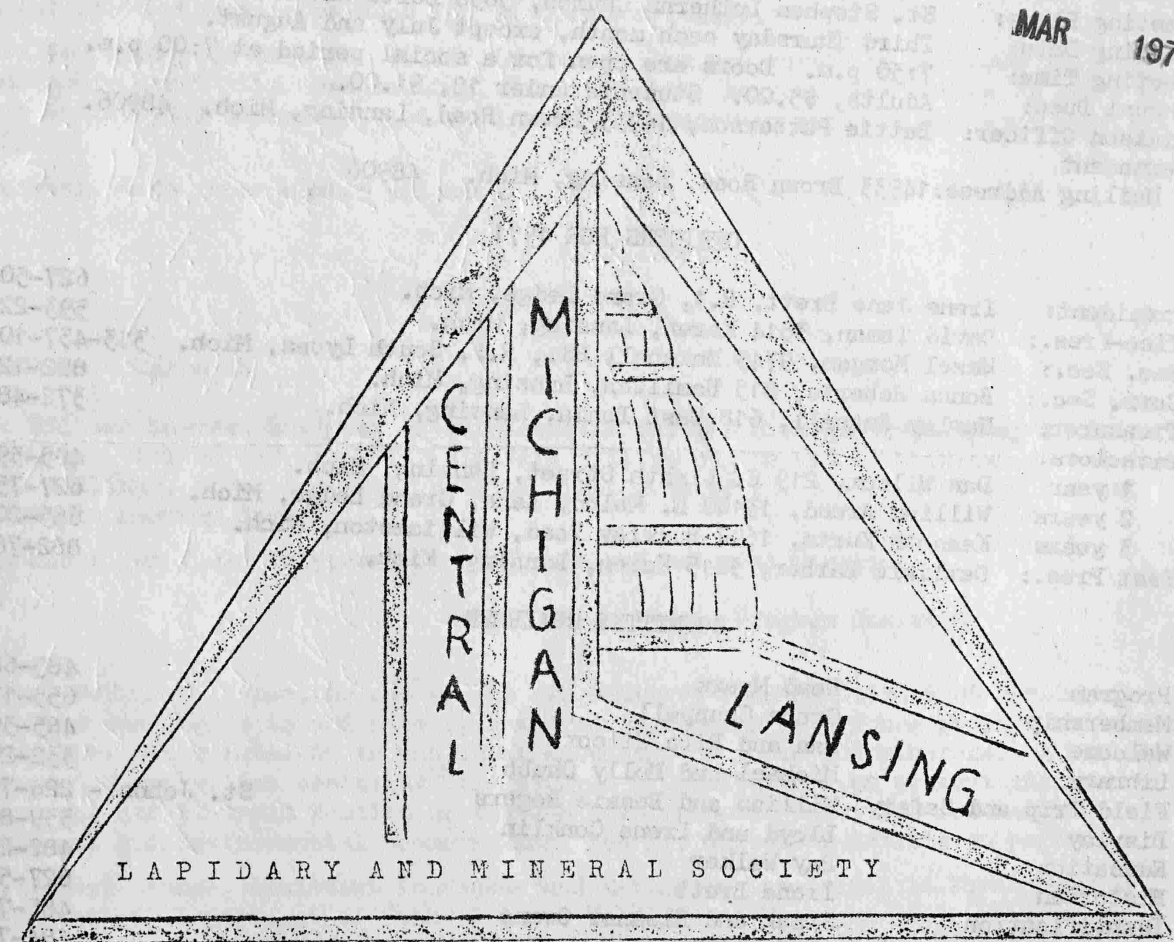
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AFFILIATIONS

MIDWEST FEDERATION OF MINERALOGICAL AND GEOLOGICAL SOCIETIES
AMERICAN FEDERATION OF MINERALOGICAL SOCIETIES

ROCKHOUND NEWS - 1971

This bulletin is the official publication of the Central Michigan Lapidary and Mineral Society of Greater Lansing, Michigan, and is published the second week of each month, except July and August.

The Central Michigan Lapidary and Mineral Society is a non-profit organization, meeting to promote interest and increased knowledge in the fields of mineralogy, geology, paleontology, and the lapidary arts. It was organized May, 1957.

Meeting Place: St. Stephen Lutheran Church, 3838 Delta River Drive, Lansing.
 Meeting Date: Third Thursday each month, except July and August.
 Meeting Time: 7:30 p.m. Doors are open for a social period at 7:00 p.m.
 Annual Dues: Adults, \$3.00. Students under 18, \$1.00.
 Liaison Officer: Bettie Patterson, 14933 Brown Road, Lansing, Mich. 48906.
 Permanent

Mailing Address: 14933 Brown Road, Lansing, Mich. 48906

OFFICERS FOR 1971

President:	Irene Jane Brett, R.1, Grand Ledge, Mich.	627-5058
Vice-Pres.:	David Toman, 3314 Karen, Lansing, Mich.	393-2247
Rec. Sec.:	Hazel Morgan, 9745 Marshall Rd., R.2, South Lyons, Mich.	313-437-1057
Corr. Sec.:	Bonna Roberts, 815 Hamilton, Lansing, Mich.	882-1257
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Directors:		
1 year	Dan Wilcox, 219 S. Eighth Street, Lansing, Mich.	485-3926
2 years	William Arend, 13100 E. Melody Lane, Grand Ledge, Mich.	627-7563
3 years	Kenneth Kurtz, 1694 Burkley Road, Williamston, Mich.	655-2051
Past Pres.:	Carlisle Barber, 3215 Karen, Lansing, Mich.	882-7621

COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN

Program	Read Myers	485-6686
Membership	Grace Chappell	655-1749
Welcome	Dan and Rita Wilcox	485-3926
Library	Michael and Holly Chubb	332-2970
Field Trip and Safety	William and Bessie Rogers	St. Johns - 224-7596
Display	Lloyd and Irene Conklin	339-8013
Education	Ray Walker	482-2529
Historian	Irene Brett	627-5058
Identification	Frank and Eleanor Owens	485-7965
Public Relations	Al Purtill	484-7196
Show	Lloyd and Lola Pearson	655-2554
Editor	Florence Hill	349-3554
Publishers	John and Wilma Hopkins	372-2089

Material in this publication may be used by others, provided acknowledgment is made.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Hurrah for field trips!! Our Sunday afternoon visit to the Myers, Chubbs and Conklins was a lot of fun. Thanks, Bill. We must do it again sometime soon.

Plans for our 6th Annual Show are rolling right along. What can you do to help? Just tell the Pearsons you want to help — then watch them put you to work. Preparing for the show is as much fun as the show itself.

Have you paid your dues for 1971? You have? Are you sure? Do you have your 1971 membership card? The next meeting, March 18, will be your last chance to get your name in the 1971 Directory, and even worse, no paper in April unless your dues are paid.

Remember, make a new member welcome.....

I. J. Brett

* * * * *

PROGRAM - March 18

Mr. William Sawyer, Engineer of Construction for the Michigan Department of State Highways, will be our speaker. His talk will be on the use of Michigan materials, mine tailings, etc., and their origins, that go into the building of our Federal and State Highway Systems.

Who knows, we field trippers may find some new collecting areas!

Read Myers, Program Chairman

At the February 18 meeting one of our own members, Lansing Gilbert of Hastings, revealed the degree to which he is involved in working with young people (and older) to further their interest in and their knowledge of rocks and minerals. His slides showed 4-H activities centering on this study. Mr. Gilbert is at present chairman of the Rocks and Minerals Section of the 4-H Developmental Committee for Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation. See Mr. Gilbert's article on page 7.

Dr. Robert George, Assistant Professor and Extension Specialist in Environmental Conservation, Department of Fisheries and Wildlife at Michigan State University, described the projected expansion of the 4-H program in Rocks and Minerals, and asked the club's assistance in working with young people.

* * * * *

WELCOME

If you wish to order a name badge, see me at the regular meeting. The price is \$1.85.

We'll try to find a more convenient place for the bulletin board, so bring your ads and clippings.

Rita Wilcox, Welcome Chairman

LIBRARY -- First of all, may I express the Club's appreciation for materials donated to the library by Mrs. W. J. Edwards. The publications are: Gemstones of the United States, The Exciting World of Rocks and Gems, and Grieger's Encyclopedia. All of these will be available at the April meeting.

The envelopes full of exciting materials clipped from our outdated Rock, Mineral and Lapidary magazines are ready for circulation. I'll bet you had forgotten it was even being done, but I've been clipping and stapling and sorting and filing a whole year! These envelopes will be available at the Library table for your browsing and borrowing. There are files on fossils, faceting, identification, lapidary tips, etc. as well as information on every state with regards to collecting areas.

The same regulations will apply to this material as for books -- the envelopes can be borrowed for a ONE MONTH period only, and the club member is responsible for its safety. These cannot be replaced so I am counting on every one feeling as I do -- they are just too valuable to misplace!!

And, now, isn't this the perfect time to remind you once again of the need for your old rock and gem magazines. I think you will agree that they can be turned into a valuable club asset once you've seen some of these files. So, please, donate your old magazines for library use, and if you know of someone looking for a good home for their collection, please let me know. I will even provide transportation!

Re: Purchases of books by individual members. Your librarian is willing and able to place orders for you. It will be speedy service, save you postage costs and earn bonus materials for your library. Ask your librarian for details.

See you at the library table next meeting. Ask me for help in finding a file of interest to you.

Holly Chubb, Librarian

SAFETY WHEN USING CHEMICALS

While doing lapidary work a rockhound sometimes has contact with various acids. Utmost care should be used in handling and using these toxic poisons. Avoid direct contact with the skin and with the eyes.

Apply these agents with a brush and wear rubber gloves and safety glasses.

If accidental contact results, wash immediately with soap and water. Irrigate the eyes with water only. If skin burns result, apply baking soda and sponge the area with a solution of soda. Seek the advice of a doctor.

Some individuals may find certain polishing powders and detergents toxic to the skin. Avoid their use or use rubber gloves and protective apron. Epoxy resins are also irritating to the skin.

Be on guard about excessive inhalation of chemical fumes and dust. Silicosis cannot be cured. Vapors from various cutting oils are an irritant to some persons and are also a potential fire hazard.

See to it that all containers of powders and dangerous chemicals are correctly labelled and stored. Remove the labels of old cans filled with something else. A can containing tin oxide but labelled baking powder, and used as labelled, can lead to trouble.

-Northwest Federation Safety Booklet via Michigan Gem News.

-Printed at the request of William Rogers, Safety Director

Hi Folks,

Well Sunday has come and gone. I think we had a good "round robin" field trip. I enjoyed it and I hope everybody else did. I know that most of you did because I heard some of your comments. I am glad and I want to thank all of you for turning out. We had forty-five members and guests present. Although we had that many I would like to see more of you participating. Why not try it? I think you will enjoy it.

I want to thank Read Myers for showing everyone his beautiful fluorite and other things. Also the Chubbs for showing their articles that they collected last summer. They sure did a beautiful job displaying it and most everyone commented about it. Also Lloyd and Irene Conklin. They had some nice displays and everyone talked about them. We had a nice coffee break and some very good cookies.

Thank you very much.

Your Field Trip Chairman, William Rogers

There will be a field trip to Michigan Natural Storage, 1200 Judd Ave., S.W., Grand Rapids, March 20, 1971. We will meet there at 10.00 a.m. and go down into the old gypsum mine.

The temperature in the mine is 50° all the time, so dress accordingly. Take flashlights and lanterns for light, tools such as hammer, chisels, picks, and something to carry your specimens in. Hard hats and rubbers are needed. I would suggest you carry your lunch and whatever you want to drink. Also it would be smart to carry extra batteries and bulb for your flashlight.

There is a \$1.00 charge for entrance to the mine.

Now here is something else. Irene Jane said we need gypsum for the kids' table so please bring back extra.

William and Bessie Rogers

Directions: Take I-96 to M-11 (Wyoming Ave., 28th St. West) at the east edge of Grand Rapids. Take M-11 west to Clyde Park St., a few blocks after passing over US131 bridge near Holiday Inn, turn right and go north on Clyde Park to the end. Turn left on Chicago Drive and go west about a mile to Judd St. (the 1300 block of Chicago Drive). Turn right onto Judd and go north to the end.

Juniors -- If you need transportation for this field trip, call Holly Chubb, 332-2970. She will arrange rides if you need one.

A SUMMER VACATION FIELD TRIP ?

Well we are going to start harping about this field trip up around Lake Superior with the Geology class on August 7-15. We would like to start at Sault Ste. Marie and work our way north to Wawa and spend one day there; then head west to Black Sand Provincial Park on Lake Nipigon. There we will spend 3 or 4 days. We should make several side trips of your own choosing which would consist of hunting through old gold mine dumps, and geology trips, and fishing, and picture-taking. After leaving here and heading southwest we can hunt for amethyst around Port Arthur, and then on to the Jack Rabbit Mts. to hunt for calcite. Then on south to the border to hunt for small "pea size" agates and thompsonites. After leaving here you will be on your own. You can go across to the Keweenaw Peninsula or go home. No accommodations will be arranged for anyone. Each person will plan his own.

Call Wayne Henderson or William Rogers for information on this.

REPORT OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE

The results of the opinion questionnaires marked at the February meeting were as follows:

Proposal 1 - 1/3 operational, 2/3 saved	50
Proposal 2 - 1/4 operational, 3/4 saved	3
Proposal 3 - 100% saved	0
Proposal 4 - 100% spent	3

Other suggestions were:

1/2 operational, 1/2 saved	14
2/3 operational, 1/3 saved	5
1/3 to 1/2 operational	2
Use what is needed	2
	<u>79</u>

The suggestions made for a long range program were:

Building or meeting place	7
Museum	2

Following are ideas for immediate or short-range programs:

Better programs for club and community . . .	10
Programs for juniors	2
Library improvement	1
Show improvement	1
Silent auction	1
Cases for Fenner Arboretum	1

One member also suggested that the members need more information on what we are now doing.

This information was given to the Board at their March 4 meeting for their consideration.

Lila Stevens, Chairman

BUDGET - President I. J. Brett appointed a budget committee to work out a budget for the year to come. Members are Carlisle Barber, chairman; Dave Toman, Harley Russell, Al Purtill.

SHOW - We are working out plans for a show which we hope will be enjoyed by all who attend. The following people have agreed to serve as chairmen of committees:

Jim and Bettie Patterson	Display and Special Display
Al Purtill	Publicity
Bill Rogers	Transportation and Safety
Howard and Margaret Randolph	Fluorescent Booth
Slim Barber	Door Prizes and Announcements
Oscar Puryear	Silent Auction
Bill Arend	Working Exhibits
I.J. Brett	Children's Table and Fossils
Art Chappell	Cleanup

There is still plenty of room for volunteers. If you would like to serve as a chairman or help in any way, please let us know. We welcome your comments and suggestions. We may not be able to use them all, but we do promise to give them serious consideration.

Loyd Pearson

HELP IS NEEDED for the children's table at the Show.

To be used on the children's table, a specimen of material need not be your best, but it must be identifiable and representative of its type.

You may bring your donations to the next meeting or call one of the committees and they will make arrangements to pick up the material.

The following are a few of the things we can use:

1. Styrofoam for mounting specimens.
2. Specimens of rough material, example - butt ends left after slabbing.
3. Slabs which you can not use.
4. Cabs that are not quite perfect.
5. Geode halves.
6. Tumbled stones.
7. Fossils of all kinds.
8. Minerals and crystals that can be sold as individuals or used in grab bags.

For pick-up, call Irene Brett, 627-5058, Holly Chubb, 332-2970, or Leona Platt, 337-2110.

MEMBERSHIP - The following names were approved for membership by the board March 4:

733 Marshall E. Davis 372-7760 3925 Barton Drive Lansing, Mich. 48917	736 Patricia E. Thompson 349-3722 4969 Campus Hill Drive, Apt. 301-C Okemos, Mich. 48864
734 Jay P. Lamson 393-0244 721 W. Holmes Road Lansing, Mich. 48910	737 Royal E. Olson 2756 E. Grand River, C-2 East Lansing, Mich. 48823
735 Gilbert W. Snyder 484-3622 S 114 Lancaster Lane Lansing, Mich. 48906	738 John Hasford 468-3641 739 Stella " 3506 Haslett Rd., R.3, Box 194A Williamston, Mich. 48895

We will greet these people at the March meeting.

Read Myers tells us that State Representative Russell Hellman of Dollar Bay is sponsoring a proposal in the State Legislature to name chlorastrolite the state gemstone.

IDENTIFICATION - COLOR

This month we want to start discussing the physical properties of minerals so we can learn the terms applied to them and understand what they mean. Then we can look up mineral descriptions in a book or use a chart and tell whether the characteristics listed match our specimens. A freshly broken surface should always be used for examination, as a weathered or coated surface would be misleading.

There are six mineral properties that can be determined just by looking at a specimen. The first three that we will discuss concern the contact of light with a mineral, and the second three concern the surface appearance of the specimen.

Let us first consider color. This is the kind of light that is transmitted or reflected. Color is usually the first thing we notice when we look at something. Some authors claim that color is not a very reliable characteristic, while others claim it

is one of the best. Many minerals occur in several colors, usually due to the inclusion of impurities, but as we gradually become familiar with the possibilities, color will be a big help. Some colors are good indicators that particular minerals are present -- e.g., bright green or blue usually indicate copper, yellow suggests sulfur, bright red or orange might indicate arsenic, and deep red often means mercury is present.

In some instances, when we have already determined what mineral we have, the color will help us to tell its variety. Quartz is a good example of this. Colors like the pink of rose quartz, the yellow of citrine, the violet of amethyst, the red of carnelian, and the brown or black of smoky quartz help to distinguish them.

Frank and Eleanor Owens

IN THE MAILBOX

The "Tulip City Gem and Mineral Club" wishes to announce their "Second Annual Gem and Mineral Show" which will be held at the Holland Civic Center on September 24 and 25.

Over 3,000 people viewed the exhibition in 1970 and compliments were plentiful as the cooperative efforts of club members plus assistance by neighboring clubs produced a fine show.

"Bigger and Better" will be the theme song for 1971 as Co-chairmen Chet Smith and Joe Moran are planning an enlarged show with more dealers, more special exhibits, and more features. They invite all fellow rockhounds to place a big red mark on their calendar around September 24 and 25 as a reminder to come to Holland for education, fellowship and fun.

We should like to call attention to other shows in the near future, at which some of you may like to exhibit. They are the Jackson Show, April 16-18, a new Exhibition of Military Heraldry and Educational Hobbies at the Lansing Artillery Armory on Marshall Street, April 18, and the Kalamazoo Show, May 15-16. Get in touch with Lloyd Conklin if you are interested in exhibiting.

PALEONTOLOGY CLASS -- March 6. Due to the snowstorm only five people were present. The meeting was a discussion and review of the Precambrian eras, and the Cambrian and Ordovician periods, arranged by our instructor. She also displayed specimens of Flexi-Calynene trilobite and blastoids that are descendants of the Cambrian period. The Rogers also displayed Middle Cambrian trilobites.

We would like to have more members present. Everyone is welcome March 20.

Ila Rickerd

Please note the new name and address of our Liaison Officer, Bettie Patterson, and the change in the club mailing address. Many rock club friends were in the group that gathered for the wedding of Bettie and Jim Patterson, Saturday, February 27. It was celebrated in perfect rockhound tradition, even to the amethyst crystals on the cake. The club wishes Bettie and Jim many happy years together.

Midwest Federation's NEWSLETTER

Published monthly except July and August as a service to member clubs
All news, articles, subscription orders and requests for information concerning publication
should be sent to P.O. Box 1130, Des Moines, Iowa 50311



Issue No. 113 - March 1971

A Note From Evelyn Hirsch

MIDWEST FEDERATION PROGRAMS

So far programming hasn't met with too much trouble. I do try to answer your letters the day I receive them. I would like at least a months notice for a program. I know emergencies do arise and I'll try to help if I can, but please do not make a habit of calling at the last minute. At times the pony express is faster than our (space age) mail of today. I'm trying at present to allow twelve to fourteen days for one way. That allows you time to get it ready for your meeting as all slides need to be transferred to your slide holders as our slides are only shipped in boxes and are only mailers. Do not be surprised if in a return letter I ask you "What's to hunt in your area?" I intend to have a little fun along with this big job.

EARTH SCIENCE MARCH-APRIL ISSUE

Ellis Courter begins a two-part article "Man and the Sea" in the March-April issue. The article is illustrated by an unusual map of the North Atlantic ocean floor. "Strange Creatures Inhabited Ohio", host state of the MWF convention in 1971, back in the Permian period. Drawings by a staff member of the Cleveland Museum of Natural History recreate them.

From Betty J. Crawford

UNIFORM RULES

Exhibit registration blanks are being mailed to the clubs this month, so we want to take this opportunity to encourage competitive exhibits at the show in Mansfield on July 22-25.

Our efforts to find the reasons for the discontent with the Uniform Rules resulted in only one letter of criticism and suggestions, although several did write to ask for advice on exhibiting. Yet we get gripes via the grapevine; several bulletins have carried rather caustic comments about the rules and judging but offer no constructive suggestions for improvement. It leads us to believe we have more of a "people problem" than a "rules problem". The condemnation seems almost always to come from people who choose to blame their low scores on the rules or judging, with the result that they discourage others from competition.

The Uniform Rules are not difficult to understand for one who is willing to make the effort. The Exhibitor's Manual is designed to further explain the rules and offer helpful advice on exhibiting. Whether a display is competitive or non-competitive, the exhibitor has a responsibility to the public, himself, the hobby and the

-continued on page 2, column 1

1971 CONVENTION AND SHOW NEWS

The schedule of Federation activities and meetings for other special groups is taking shape. Some of the meetings will be at Kingwood Center, a 47 acre privately endowed cultural and gardening center, conveniently located to the Fairgrounds. Kingwood is a showplace in itself and will provide a pleasant setting. Children, as well as adults, will enjoy the wild-fowl pond and small zoo.

This year, instead of the Bulletin Editors Breakfast, an Editors Seminar is scheduled for 9:00 a.m. on Friday. A meeting of State Directors and assistants will be at 1:00 p.m. Friday at Kingwood and this is followed at 2:00 by the Executive Committee meeting. For those attending both morning and afternoon meetings, there is a good restaurant within walking distance of the Kingwood meeting hall.

The Council will meet Saturday with registration of delegates at 9:00 a.m. and the meeting at 9:30. Location of this meeting will be announced.

A micromount symposium is set for Thursday evening at Kingwood. On Friday evening there will be an Exhibiting seminar, which is an expansion of the usual judges-exhibitors meeting, in the program area at the Fairgrounds. Banquet will be Saturday evening at 6:30 p.m. Program speakers and other events are being scheduled and will be announced in coming months.

Registration forms, exhibit entry blanks, and accommodation lists will have been mailed to all clubs by the time you get this Newsletter. If they are not available at your club meeting in March ask your President. Additional blanks can be obtained by writing to the show chairman, B. F. Parr, 1488 Marion Avenue Road, Mansfield, Ohio 44906.

From Lee M. Kirby, Second Vice President

PARTICIPATION AND THE FEDERATION

At Minneapolis, Minn. in July of 1970, ninety-six of the two hundred and nineteen clubs that made up the Midwest Federation of Mineralogical and Geological Societies sent delegates to the annual Council meeting. The only apparent conclusion that can be drawn from the foregoing statement is that fifty-seven percent of the member clubs are not interested in what is happening in the Midwest Federation.

Why? Perhaps, and I sincerely hope this is the reason, those clubs have simply overlooked the fact that they are the Midwest Federation. Perhaps if these clubs would look at their membership in the Midwest Federation as comparable to the deposit of money in a savings account, they would be more prone to participate. Membership in any organization is basically a matter of participation. The more one participates in its functions, the more benefits one receives in return. The feeling of satisfaction in accomplishment is available only to those who willingly extend themselves to the point of doing.

The theme of the Midwest Federation for 1971 is "Education". It is my sincere hope that the member clubs of this Federation will take advantage of this theme in the coming year and "Learn by Doing"! Let us not sit back and let "George" do it for us.

uniform rules... from page 1, column 2

Federation to label everything accurately and make his presentation as attractive as possible. Granted, a good display takes a lot of time, effort and planning, but the satisfaction of a job well done is worth it. No one thing does more to improve the quality of displays than competition.

Educational displays are a good field for competition and the rules in this division are not as restrictive. The possibilities here are endless, and we hope some of you can come up with some good new ideas.

Please support the convention with one or more displays... preferably competitive. The 18 trophies available are listed in the Supplementary Rules included with the red Uniform Rules book. An added incentive this year is free admission to exhibitors.

The following exhibiting aids are available from Miss Dorothy Gleiser, 1066 Griffith Road, Lake Forest, Ill. 60045. AFMS Uniform Rules Book (second edition) 40¢; AFMS Approved Gem List (not for mineral labeling) 25¢ or both for 50¢. AFMS Exhibitor's Manual 40¢.

Roger Pabian, Lincoln, Nebraska

NEW EDUCATION CHAIRMAN

Have you seen the new book Record in Rock that describes and illustrates all the major invertebrate fossils found in the state of Nebraska? This excellent and sorely needed book is the product of much research and

MIDWEST PROGRAM SERVICE

now has 39 slide programs and four movie programs available to clubs for their use. The programs may be booked by writing to Mrs. Evelyn Hirsch, Route 1, Mitchell, Ind. 47446

16 Clubs Reach New Status

SCHOLARSHIP FOUNDATION

Through their generous gifts and contributions of Betty Crocker coupons 16 MWF clubs have attained new percentage status in the Scholarship Fund. Sincere appreciation is extended to all clubs for their support of the Foundation.

- 1300% Peru YMCA Rocks and Minerals Club
- 700% Lakeland Gem Club
- 600% Midwest Mineralogical and Lapidary Society Show-Me Rockhounds
- 500% Illowa Gem and Mineral Society
Waterford Gem and Mineral Society
- 400% Blue Ridge Gem and Mineral Society
Wildcat Geological Society
- 300% Cincinnati Mineral Society
Flint Gem and Mineral Club
Lake Shore Mineral and Lapidary Club
- 200% Badlands-Sandhills Earth Science Club
Central Michigan Lapidary and Mineral Soc.
Elkhart Mineral Society
- 100% East Central Wisconsin Rock and Mineral Club
Sycamore Valley Lapidary and Mineral Club

STAMP PROJECT CORRECTION

In the February Newsletter the address given to which cancelled stamps were to be sent was incorrect. Your stamps should be sent to The Stamp Project, Washington-Idaho Council of Churches, 2005 - 5th Avenue, #210, Seattle, Washington, 98121.

The stamp project needs all foreign stamps, all commemorative stamps except recent Christmas stamps, United Nations stamps, duck and Upland bird stamps, certified mail stamps, large and small airmail stamps and any unusual denomination stamps. Do not send peeled or torn stamps. Cut stamps from envelope with about 1/4" border around stamps. They do appreciate having the stamps sorted as to types if possible.

work by the new Education Chairman of MWF, Roger Pabian, Lincoln, Nebraska. He is extremely energetic, talented and has ideas of education that can apply to everyone in the Federation from fossils to lapidary. If you have any questions or need any help in planning your club's education programs, contact him at: Roger Pabian, 300 Sycamore Drive, Lincoln, Nebraska.

One of the easiest ways to enjoy rocks is to build useful and artistic things with them using sand and mortar cement. Unlike the lapidary crafts you need no expensive equipment or flawless specimens. Rocks which are attractive but do not take a polish like colorful sandstone or strange shaped volcanic rocks make excellent material. Further you do not need to know a lot of technical names or geological data to create a beautiful stone planter or sparkling waterfall. With only a little instruction people of all ages can make interesting things on a budget that is pennies. There are few crafts requiring less cash outlay.

Once you learn to build with small rocks you can easily apply the same techniques and skills to building full scale structures. Rocks are currently status in home building and it is expensive work to hire done. You can build that long dreamed of cookout center, entrance pillars or other lawn features once you get the feel of working with mortar and rocks.

The basic mortar formula is so simple a young child can mix it. You can even buy small bags of ready mixed sand and mortar from your building supply dealer. In using the basic ingredients take one part of mortar cement (regular Portland cement also will work but is not as easy to lay up) and mix it with three parts of clean sand. Any metal or plastic container will do for mixing. Then add water and mix until you get a thick mud. You will soon learn what will handle well. You can thicken the mix by adding more dry sand and mortar mix. The mortar cement does not set too fast and you can work with a batch for about an hour before it starts to set too much. The quicker you get it in place the stronger will be your construction. It takes several days to really get full strength and you should keep the project moist while it sets to get maximum strength.

A piece of plastic over a board makes a good working place. You spread a layer of mortar over a spot and then set your first course of rocks in it. Then add more mortar and more rocks in whatever shape you wish to lay them. You can start experimenting with a small paper weight, ash tray, or flower pot base, and as you get confidence there are literally scores of things you can build. Children may wish to build mountains for their model layouts. Larger constructions can be kept lighter by using blocks of styrofoam in the center. It lays up just like rocks.

For attractive stone work try not to mess up the exposed rocks. Expose as much rock as possible. Keep mortar joints neat (pointed as they say in the masonry trade). You can let the project set overnight and clean up the spots with a tooth brush. When wet you will probably only create a smear. Final pointing should be done after the mortar has set partially.

You should avoid handling the mortar with your fingers. It is alkaline and may tend to make your hands rough and red. It is best to use rubber gloves. Make up some miniature trowels out of pieces of metal strapping and handle your mortar with them. A small spoon or spoon handle is handy. Plastic spoons of the stronger variety can be reworked into tools. The small pointing trowels used by masons are a bit large for all but the largest model constructions, so try making a scaled down version.

I'll be interested in knowing if any of the readers of this article try their hands at this interesting craft. I'm building a whole series of models to use with the 4-H Craft, Rock and Landscape programs and will have them on display at our Rock Lore Center west of Hastings. If you have any problems I'll try to help you. Write or visit me.

Lansing Gilbert, 5366 Gun Lake Road,
R. 1, Hastings, Mich. 49058

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

- March 12. . Geology, 7:00 p.m., Delhi Town Hall, Holt. Dr. Spooner will show a film and talk.
- March 18. . Regular Meeting, 7:30 p.m., St. Stephen Lutheran Church.
- March 20. . Field Trip to Michigan Natural Storage, 1200 Judd S.W., Grand Rapids. Meet there at 10.00 a.m.
- March 20. . Paleontology Class, 7:30 p.m., the Rickerds.
- March 26. . Geology Class, 7:00 p.m., Delhi Town Hall, Holt.

Is there a little red asterisk on your address label? If there is, you are one of the loyal members who have not yet paid your 1971 dues. This will be the only reminder you will receive, so make it your responsibility to get those dues in to Hazel Morgan, 9745 Marshall Rd., R.2, South Lyons, Mich. 48178, before the deadline.

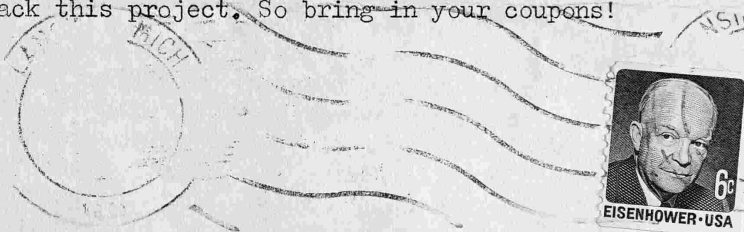
Printing of the Directory will begin immediately following the March 18 meeting, and your dues must be in the secretary's hands in order to have your name included. Be sure to include your complete address and telephone number, as well as any corrections in spelling, zip code, etc.

BETTY CROCKER COUPONS ARE STILL USEFUL TO THE AFMS SCHOLARSHIP FOUNDATIONS

W. H. deNeui, President of the AFMS Scholarship Foundation, sends out a communication to clear up a rumor that General Mills had withdrawn their Betty Crocker coupon support from the Scholarship Foundation. In answer to a charge that General Mills was capitalizing on the misfortunes ^{of the sick} they withdrew their support of campaigns to buy hospital equipment and machines. \$11,000 of the Scholarship Fund has come from coupons cashed, and General Mills will continue to back this project. So bring in your coupons!

ROCKHOUND NEWS

Florence Hill, editor
3135 Okemos Road
Mason, Mich. 48854



TIME VALUE

Richard Stevens
5889 W. State Rd.
Lansing, Mi 48906