

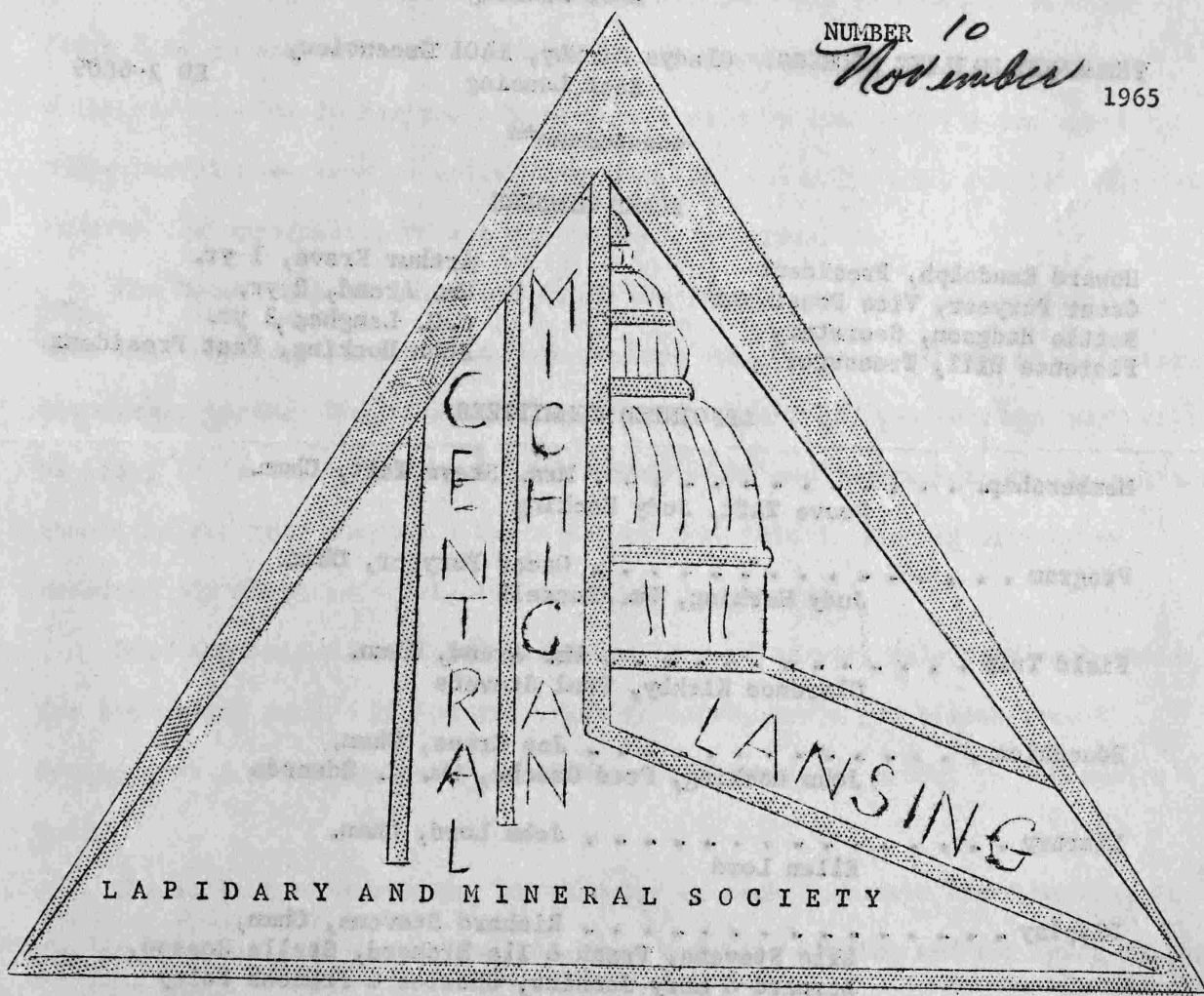
ROCKHOUND NEWS

VOLUME IX

NUMBER

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1965



AFFILIATED WITH MIDWEST FEDERATION OF MINERALOGICAL AND
GEOLOGICAL SOCIETIES AND
AMERICAN FEDERATION OF MINERALOGIST SOCIETIES

Meeting Place: Walter French Jr. High School Cafeteria
Meeting Date: Third Thursday night each month, except July and August
Meeting Time: 7:30 p.m.
Dues: \$2.00 annually for adults; \$1.00 for students (under 18 years of age).

OFFICERS FOR 1965

PRESIDENT:	Howard Randolph, R. #2, Box 62, Lansing	NA 7-2442
VICE PRESIDENT:	Oscar Puryear, R. #1, Dimondale	646-6779
SECRETARY:	Bettie Hodgson, 3421 Hagan, Lansing 17	IV 4-2210
TREASURER:	Florence Hill, 3135 Okemos Rd., Mason	ED 7-1005
LIAISON OFFICER:	Clarence Kirkby, 1401 Greenview, East Lansing	ED 2-6809
PERMANENT MAILING ADDRESS:	Gladys Kirkby, 1401 Greenview, East Lansing	ED 2-6809

BOARD MEMBERS

Howard Randolph, President	Arthur Krave, 1 yr.
Oscar Puryear, Vice President	Wm. Arend, 2 yr.
Bettie Hodgson, Secretary	O.G. Langham, 3 yr.
Florence Hill, Treasurer	John Hocking, Past President

APPOINTED COMMITTEES

Membership	Mrs. Steve Taft, Chmn. Steve Taft, Judy Hocking
Program	Oscar Puryear, Chmn. Judy Hocking, Wm. Russell
Field Trip	Wm. Arend, Chmn. Clarence Kirkby, Paul Stevens
Education	Joe Kreps, Chmn. John Hocking, Fred Gasche, Wm. J. Edwards
Library	John Lord, Chmn. Ellen Lord
Display	Richard Stevens, Chmn., Lila Stevens, Frank & Ila Rickerd, Stella Rossow, Bernard & Mary Jenkins, Charles & Frances Foley
Welcome	John D. Wilcox, Chmn. Grace Wilcox, Mr. & Mrs. Lloyd Conklin
Workshop	Francis Hyde, Chmn.
Publications	Nel Langham, O.G. Langham, Ethel Rathke.

November, 1965

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LETTER FROM OUR PRESIDENT:

Thanks to all of the people who helped make our auction last month such a huge success. A great BIG thanks to the many members who were so generous to share their material with us and also to the club members, friends and guests who purchased the material.

Thanks also to Mr. and Mrs. Norm Kunkel who were so gracious to open their home to many of the "Rock Club" members and show a movie Norm made while vacationing in Mexico. These movies made by the Kunkel's are equal to those travelogues seen on television, etc. and you only cheat yourself when you pass up the opportunity to see one of these programs!

Our Membership chairman can still use (and needs) more material for the rock bags that are presented to new members when they are presented with their membership cards. Now, that cold weather is coming and your outdoor work will be less, let's start sorting some of those rocks and donate some to the membership committee for this purpose. Don't forget that this is the way many of us received our first material ---- so PLEASE be generous!

Your nominating committee will soon be hard to work selecting club officers for the coming year. If you are asked to serve, won't you please accept? Consider it a privilege to be an officer or a committee member -- not just a duty.

The subject of publishing the minutes of each Executive Board meeting in the monthly bulletin was discussed at our November meeting and the Board members voted not to do so as most items would be repetitious. Most of the officers and committee chairmen have articles in the bulletin and cover topics discussed at the meeting in their respective areas.

Sincerely,

Howard (Randy) Randolph, President

MIDWEST FEDERATION'S NEWSLETTER -- Issue No. 59, November 1965

A WORD FROM YOUR RETIRING PRESIDENT:

Our year as president of the Midwest Federation is ended. To us it has been a wonderful year filled with challenges and opportunities. Because of these we have accumulated treasures of memories and friendships denied to all except those who serve. For the privilege of serving, we thank you, and the one hundred sixty, and more, societies and the more than ten thousand members and local officers.

No retiring president has owed more to his staff of co-workers, his fellow officers and chairmen of divisions and committees. To all of them goes our sincere thanks and expression of appreciation.

The Silver Jubilee Convention and Show with the Evansville Lapidary Society as hosts was a fitting memorial for the twenty-fifth anniversary of our great Federation. For the first time Indiana was honored as the host state. For the first time all the twelve state flags stood together alongside Old Glory. It was impressive and indicative of the unity of purpose and ideals of our membership. For the first time honors were publicly given to societies rendering special services to their communities. All these we thank for to bring honors to yourselves is to honor all of us.

I quote from a letter received from one of our most active members. "When I read about what wonderful things our societies have been doing, I'm so proud I nearly burst." This is my feeling, I'm proud to be a Rockhound.

I feel required to leave you with both a word of clarification and a warning. This is due to a voluminous attack from outside the Federation. Much of the purpose of this is good and will have beneficial results given proper attention and thought by "men of good will." However, good will has been obviously lacking, and many untruths and misinformation has been printed with the result that most of us are confused. The editorial written by Dr. George Williams, president of the Northwest Federation, in the Northwest News Letter sets forth the facts. (We hope a copy may be made available to all who wish.)

Here are some clarifying statements:

First, the argument is about the naming of Lapidary material. The question is whether the long list of names be made a required list, or whether a short list, as now used, be required to be used for labeling. This does not apply to minerals, fossils, educational classes or any other division not containing lapidary labels. Therefore, the attack is not upon the rules as a whole, but only the labeling of lapidary.

Second, the chairman of the rules committee of the AFMA serves for only one year and no one has ever served longer longer than one year. Each of the three members move up toward the chairmanship each year as the chairman retires and a new member from another Federation is appointed. (This year the new member will be from our Midwest Federation and by 1968 will be chairman.) Six representatives, one from each Federation, plus the three AFMA members make up the Rules Committee, so it is obvious that there never has been, nor never can be, any one-man control.

The format, or lay-out of the rules has been improved, but still leaves much to be desired. This is a question of printing and of printing costs. It will be improved when the money is appropriated to pay the extra costs, and remember the income of the AFMA is not much larger than the income from our largest local societies.

Rules, as such, have come a long way in less than eight years of their existence (and still will be improved every year). They make the most important contribution to the appearance and content of the displays of all our shows, and a non-competitive display is much better for having considered the rules of lighting, showmanship, arrangement, quality, variety, etc. that would be required of competitive displays.

What then should be our attitude? Let us not be led by those who have a personal axe to grind. Let us not attack our own membership because some one outside our Federation seeks to gain by this attack. Let us give in our shows as was done in Yakima this year, the place of honor to competitive displays, both individual and societies. Let us not condone inferior workmanship or quality of materials, or improper labeling or sloppy arrangement with the statement, "This is just a hobby and we are all Amateurs." May I remind you that those who take part in Olympic games are also AMATEURS.

And most important of all, let us listen to the portions of this attack that are true and that could be used to improve our rules and better our displays, and make use of them.

To me, Truth, Beauty, Sunrises and Sunsets are more important than bread and butter alone. These values acquired through the effort necessary to rise above the subsistence level are basic American values. We have attained them through competition.

Because I believe this, I have consented to be the representative of the Midwest on the AFMS Rules Committee for the next three years. I shall need your support, yes, even your criticism, and I earnestly solicit your letters. (Our Federation will continue to be represented on the six-man team, so to him your suggestions will be most welcome also.)

This has been the year "To learn and to Share." I have learned much, I have tried to Share. I am proud to have been your servant and remain proud to be a fellow Rockhound.

Merton A. Young
Past President MWF

A MESSAGE FROM OUR 1965-1966 PRESIDENT

Greetings to all members of the Midwest Federation of Mineralogical and Geological Societies.

We are so fortunate to have a hobby such as ours -- one that takes us to the great outdoors where we may enjoy the wonders and beauty that our God has created for us. At our Iowa Rock Swap this spring there was a motto by Harry Litwin, on the wall of the room where we had our meeting, that interested me. . . "Lay your hands on something that God has made and the troubles man has made will leave you."

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We not only have a hobby that will help us to forget our troubles but it is one that we can use to bring joy and knowledge to others.

This past year Merton Young has used as his theme "To Learn and To Share." At our banquet in Evansville, Merit Award Certificates were presented to eight of our member clubs. A great amount of learning and sharing went into the projects that earned for them their awards. There was also work and service involved for these clubs were all serving and helping others. So for this coming year we have selected SERVICE, especially SERVING OTHERS to use for our theme.

You are serving . . . when you accept and cheerfully, to the best of your ability, fulfill an office in our Federation or in your own club. My father, a small town doctor, firmly believed that we only get out of life what we put into it and he thoroughly instilled this philosophy in me -- that we each must pay our way through this world by serving and doing for others.

We are all serving . . . when we contribute to the American Federation Scholarship Fund, either with cash gifts or by saving and sending in the Betty Crocker coupons. How wonderful it would be if every member club would appoint an enthusiastic person to collect the gifts and coupons and mail them regularly to our Scholarship Treasurer. If this could be done, perhaps by the end of our 1965-1966 year we would have every one of our Midwest clubs proudly displaying their 100 percent certificate.

You are serving . . . When you present rock and mineral collections to schools and childrens camps. Also when you assist the science fair program and encourage our young students in the study of the earth sciences that they may become the scientists of tomorrow.

When you share your knowledge and willingly present programs pertaining to our hobby, not only to your own club but also to others.

When you prepare a display and take it to our convention and to club shows so others may see, enjoy and learn.

When you assist a museum or an archaeological group with their projects by donating hours of man power labor.

When you ask for commemorative stamps at the postoffice to use on your mail and when you save the used commemorative stamps you receive and see that they are sent to the Old Timers Club so a hungry child may receive food.

When you remember the "Help Eliminate Litter, Please" program and leave a camp ground or rock area in a better condition than it was when you arrived.

When you assist in our conservation program and help reclaim unused strip mine and quarry areas so they may be enjoyed by rockhounds as well as by others.

When you enthusiastically PARTICIPATE in and ENJOY the projects of both our Federation and of your own club.

Most of our clubs are serving in other ways. There is just no end to the ways that we can serve and so help others. We do hope that every club will respond when the information blanks for the Merit Awards are mailed this winter.

Then at the banquet next June we will all be amazed when the Awards for Meritorious Service are presented, at the many ways our clubs have found where they gave service.

As you make your plans for the coming year I wish to share with you a poem that came to me by way of Walt's desk:

"Make no little plans;
They have no magic to stir men's blood
And probably themselves will not be realized.
Make big plans;
Aim high in hope and work,
Remembering that a noble, logical diagram
Once recorded will never die
But long after we are gone
Will be a living thing,
Asserting itself with ever growing insistency."

Mrs. Wlaler H. Steinbrenner, President 1965-66.

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#### NOVEMBER 18th Program

Our guest speaker this month is Richard Rose, DDS, member of the Grand Rapids Mineral Society. His subject will be the "History of Michigan Geology" and he will explain some interesting and little known theories that differ from those we now accept.

Dr. Rose will also tell us about some of his field trips. The lecture will be accompanied by slides.

Program Chairman

#### WELCOME TO THE CLUB:

Norman S. Marsh, Gladys M. Marsh, John McLarty, Eleanor McLarty and Cheryl Miller

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#### A THANK YOU from Theodore Werle:

I am deeply grateful for the delightful page of signatures and good wishes which the members sent me while I was in the hospital. I am now at home and doing nicely, seemingly doing a bit better each day -- Thanks to the expert nursing of my wife.

Theodore Werle.

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On the Sick List: Mrs. Mildred Wilson, Highland, Michigan.  
Wm. Kirkby, 1033 Sanford St., Alma, Michigan.  
(Clarence's father)

Best wishes for a speedy recovery.



Rich Stevens is gathering specimens of Michigan minerals for the display case in the lobby of the State Capitol. If you are asked for a specimen, -- say, "Sure, glad to help out".

Some ramblings by one of our Club members:

Might talk about places to eat, good ones and somewhere we wish we hadn't (show you where right on the map). Or whether minimum elapsed time between two points on an Expressway equals a little more time on some secondary road -- "I travel this way only once." -- and a look-see at the country and hamlets and towns the whizzer roads miss.

Hill roads and their forks will always take you there -- ask any native, he knows -- "Jist b'yond that ridge over thar" -- he isn't lost. Like the day with the Kirkby's and Kreps in search of a rose quartz mine up at Bancroft, we wound up at a weather-beaten farmstead. Peaceful spot. While washing and refreshing ourselves by cupped hands with an old hand pump at a wooden stock trough, a lonesome horse trotted over and talked to us from a nearby pasture. Might have been trying to tell us how to find the place -- who knows? Wrong fork, but some keepsake pictures and a pleasant memory.

Case up the left fork, an old sawmill site, so try the middle one. Not much to go by, there was a parting in the grass and rocks. So, over the hill, down thru hub-deep water and around a bend in the bush, there it was -- the old workings and a whole nob of pink quartz. Next year, the Eckharts went in and due to increased beaver activity, they had to have an impromptu beach party to cross the water area and get to the mine. And when Elmer points out to a friend a particular specimen on his shelf -- it's probably -- Now, about that one ha! ha! ha!. Who says their efforts for the evening won't be as memorable as what they brought out that day.

Just out looking for stones.

Fred Gasche.  
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REMEMBER -- John and Ellen Lord, our Library committee workers have a very good assortment of books and magazines which may be taken out for a month. Why don't you stop by and see what "reading gems" they have for those long evenings coming up?

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GERMANIUM, used in Bell System transistors is perhaps the purest substance known. It is estimated at only 5 parts in 100 billion, roughly equal to a pinch of salt in 35 freight cars of sugar. You can compare that with the slight difference between marcasite and pyrite, according to another item which is said to be only one-half of 1% different in chemical structure.

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### TARTARIC ACID for Cleaning:

Many collectors use hydrochloric acid for cleaning the brown iron stain from quartz crystals. This cleans the crystals but usually leaves a residue of ferric chloride which requires prolonged washing to remove. Tartaric acid, while slower, will clean as well and its residue is easily rinsed away. Tartaric acid comes in crystal form. Place a spoonful or so of crystals in water and immerse the specimen. If action is very slow, add more crystals. Tartaric acid is stronger than oxalic but milder than hydrochloric.

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REMEMBER -- We still want the Betty Crocker coupons. These can be redeemed and help very much toward the Scholarship fund. Our coupons have been very slow coming in. Please remember to bring these along and pass on to Ethel Rathke.

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Everything is better with a little salt.

From a vast layer of salt 1400 feet below the surface of Wyandotte Chemicals Corporation's holdings comes an abundant Michigan resource to manufacturing -- soda ash. Of the hundreds of chemical products, soda ash is one the average layman is not likely to recognize because he seldom sees it in its natural form. The glass industry is the largest soda ash consumer. Other large users are the textile, paint, metal, and paper industries. In fact, almost every man-made product has at some time required this basic chemical in its manufacture.