

FREDERICK C. NIEBAUER  
174 E. Cleveland Road  
South Bend, Indiana 46637

**FIRST CLASS MAIL**

# THE ROCKFINDER

NOV 1976



MICHIANA ROCK AND GEM CLUB, INC.  
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THE MICHIANA ROCK AND GEM CLUB, INC., a non-profit organization, is affiliated with the MIDWEST FEDERATION OF MINERALOGICAL & GEOLOGICAL SOCIETIES and with the AMERICAN FEDERATION OF MINERALOGICAL SOCIETIES.

REGULAR MEETINGS

<b>TIME:</b> 2:00 P.M.	<b>PLACE:</b> Nature Center
Fourth Sunday of Each Month	Rum Village Park
June - Field Trip Meeting	2626 So. Gertrude Street
July - No meeting	South Bend, Indiana
August - Annual Picnic	

DUES

Individual - \$3.00 per year    Family - \$5.00 per year    Junior - \$0.50 per year

ROCKFINDER STAFF

Editor.....	Fred Niebauer	174 E. Cleveland Rd. So. Bend, Ind.	46637
Asst. Editor...	Sherry Russell	27911 North St. No. Liberty, Ind.	46554
Staff Members..	Club Members		

All contributions for publication should be in the hands of the editor by the 5th of the month, of publication.

Permission is hereby granted to reprint, at any time, items published in the ROCKFINDER, provided due recognition is given.

# THE ROCKFINDER

Volume 16                      Number 9                      November 1976  
Published by Michiana Rock and Gem Club, Inc.                      South Bend, Indiana

## Regular Meeting:

November 28, 1976

Time:    Doors Open 1:30 P.M., EST  
         Meeting     2:00 P.M., EST

Place:   Nature Center  
         Rum Village Park  
         2626 South Gertrude Street  
         South Bend, Indiana

Program: Business Meeting  
         "Australian Opals"

## Hospitality:

Jim & Sherry Russell  
Germaine Lifke  
Mary Miller

## Educational Meetings:

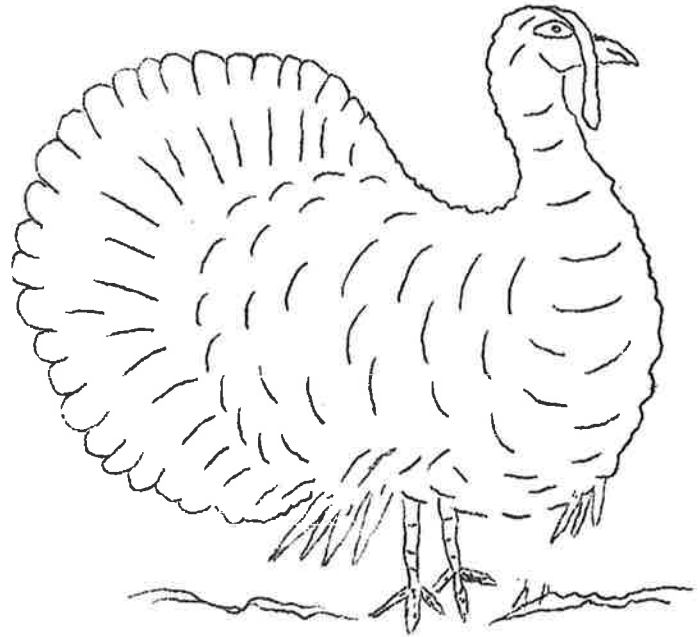
Time:    7:00 P.M., EST

Place:   First Bank Basement  
         Corner of U.S. 31 North  
         & Cleveland Rd, South Bend

Program: Friday, Dec. 3, 1976  
         To be announced at business  
         meeting of November 28th.

Program: Friday, Dec. 24, 1976  
         No Meeting - Christmas

We all enjoyed the Nov. 12th Friday night meeting on the "New Found Land" and the "Not so solid Earth". Sorry that some of you could not have been there to see these outstanding films.



## Calendar:

Dec. 5    Our Christmas party and  
         meeting at the Pin Hook  
         Pavillion in South Bend.  
         1:00 P.M to 5:00 P.m.

Meat will be furnished by the Club. Each family is to bring one dish for each two persons and their own table service. Also, please bring a wrapped nice gift for each member of your family and guests to be used for Rocko prizes.

## For Reservations Call:

Niles	683-6920
Plymouth	935-5417
South Bend	272-4834
	289-7446
	234-2658
	232-6849



President's Message:

Greetings,

We are fast approaching that time of year when we pause to give thanks for the many blessings which have been bestowed upon us. Many individuals, however, have a tendency to say "what have I to be thankful for?" These are the individuals who tend to always look upon the dark side of things and events - never on the brighter side. As members of the Michiana Rock and Gem Club, I am sure that individually, and as a club, we have much to be thankful for. Some examples I can think of are:

Membership: We have lost members during the past year either due to death, transfer to other jobs, or just "drop outs", but we have maintained our membership through recruitment of new members.

Rock Show: This is behind us now and represented a great amount of hard work by many individuals, but it was a successful show, particularly from the standpoint of our dealers. There were many nice remarks by the dealers relative to the friendliness and degree of cooperation which they obtained from the membership.

Rum Village Nature Center: We did have to amend our constitution and by-laws altering our meeting time from the second to the fourth Sunday of the month, but we did obtain a well-kept, more centrally located meeting place at no charge to the club.

Executive Board: This is one of the things for which I am personally thankful. The executive board met on the third Friday of each month to consider presentations and requests of the membership. We had a good, cooperative board this past year, and I truly appreciate the way in which it was conducted during my period of illness.

President's Message (continued)

Membership: A cooperative, hard working group. I can only say at this time of Thanksgiving may "God Bless" everyone of you for your devotion to the Michiana Rock and Gem Club and to your fellow members.

George E. Kelsheimer

Library Notice:

The following books have been taken from the club library and are six months or more overdue.

<u>Book</u>	<u>Withdrawee</u>
"Field Tripping in Illowa Territory" - S. Kile	
"The Book of Agates" - C.H. Mortensen	
"Gem Cutting A Lapidary Manual" - Gordon Wesel	
"Gem Cutting A Lapidary Manual" - John & Shelly	
"Encyclopedia of the Earth" - Jessee Jordan	
"Mineral Rock and Precious Stones" - L. McHugh	
"Evolution of Life" - Wayne Lilley	

George E. Kelsheimer

First Bank Display

We need more display material for our club display at the bank. We are not going to be displaying until January, which seems a long ways off, but it will be here before you know it. Let Elza Brockenhamer or Fred Niebauer know what it is that you would like to display. Phone 272-2830 or 272-1086.

Our Visitors:

We were glad to have as our guests at our October meeting,  
 Mary Woodruff  
 Clyde Watson  
 Loretta Watson  
 Paul Valentine  
 Chirest Oden





Minutes of the October Meeting:

The Michiana Rock and Gem Club met on October 24th at the Rum Village Nature Center. The meeting was called to order by president George Kelsheimer. Minutes were read and approved. Treasurer's report was read and approved for audit.

Hostesses were Reuben and Virginia Mast, Kenneth and Leeta Stout, Rene and Jeanette Blondia.

Library: George Kelsheimer read a list of books taken out of the club library several months ago that haven't been returned. Please contact George if you have a library book.

Sunshine: Pauline Kelsheimer sent a card to Ed Hoover and a plant to Mary Mast.

Jim Russell introduced new members Peggy Forrest, Cuy and Eric.

Marie Bybee of the nominating committee presented the slate of officers to be voted on at the November 28th meeting. Other members of the nominating committee are Bill Crull, Lawrence McHugh and Catherine McHugh.

Slate of officers:

President	Jim Russell
Vice President	Joe Charles
Secretary	Betty Jordan
Treasurer	Merl Lechlitner
Liason	Molly Elwell

New Business: President Kelsheimer read the list of items needed at Rum Village Nature Center. Jim Russell reported the board had decided to purchase books, since the clubs' purpose is education. Russell Randolph suggested the amount saved in rent each month be considered in the amount used.

Jess Wise moved \$100.00 be appropriated to purchase books for the Nature Center. Marie Bybee seconded. Discussion followed, motion carried.

Bess Wise moved to purchase a table for \$50.00. Joe Joachim seconded, carried.

Minutes (continued):

Elza Brockenhamer suggested we could do more for the Center at a later date.

The Christmas party will be December 5, 1976 from 1:00 to 5:00 P.M. at Pinhook Pavilion. Meat will be furnished by the club. Each family is to bring one dish for each two persons and own table service.

Rocko will be played. Bring a wrapped nice gift for each member of your family and guests to be used for Rocko prizes.

Mary Miller moved to appropriate \$25.00 to be spent toward special door prizes and Rocko game. Merle Lechlitner seconded, carried.

Jim Russell will place the four club cases on display for a month at the Warren Township School.

Jess Wise was commended for his work in preparing the club cases.

Door prizes were won by Jo Kytta, Jeanette Blondia and Lori Russell.

Attendance

Members 46

Visitors 5

A very interesting program on "Artifacts" was presented by Mr. Bill Mangold.

Secretary Pro Tem,  
Nina Hassler

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New Members

At the October meeting we had the following new members join our club:

Clyde Watson  
Loretta Watson  
Mary Woodruff

Let us all extend to them a welcome hand.





The Ontonogon Copper Boulder

This was on display at the Detroit International Gem & Mineral Show (Oct. 15-17) on loan from the Smithsonian Institution. Members of Michiana Rock and Gem Club saw this famous boulder on Oct. 17th. It was first seen by an English adventurer in 1765, but they failed to find extensive copper deposits. The reason was this boulder had been transported by glaciers for some distance from the copper veins.

Indians worshipped this copper boulder and many white men wanted it, but it was 3,000 pound mass, hard to move.

A Detroit hardware merchant heard of the seemingly immovable rock and determined he'd succeed. He planned his strategy for 16 years. He got to the Lake Superior region and bought the boulder from Chippewa Indians, on whose land it stood for \$150.00.

On third expedition in 1843, he took along a portable railway and car and obtained a permit from U. S. Mineral Agent to mine section where rock was. To his chagrin, he found the land already belonged to Wisconsin miners.

He had to buy the rock again. This time he paid \$1,365.00. It took his 21 men a week to haul it up a 50 foot hill by the river. Then through valleys, ravines, forests where path had to be cut, this railway was laid and the boulder was taken  $4\frac{1}{2}$  miles. A boat awaited and copper boulder lowered on to it and it was carried over lower rapids to the lake.

Alas, more trouble! The secretary of war had it seized for transportation to Washington, claiming he had no right to it but would be reimbursed for his trouble and expense not to exceed \$700.00.

Congress was appealed to and after 3 years he did get \$5,664.98.

The Ontonogon Copper Boulder (Con't)

Such large masses of native copper are no longer found, so this is a unique specimen we viewed.

Excerpts from article from the Smithsonian Press, Wash. D.C.

Submitted by Lucy Miller

Lapidary Tip

Don't throw away that anti-freeze you drained out this spring. Save and use it instead of water to mix with the grit for your lap. It will hold the grit in place much better than water.

From Ozark Earth Science News

Trees Bear Jewel Fruit

Jewels actually grow on trees. In the coconut, pearls of vegetable origin have been discovered. They have corresponded in appearance and composition to the ordinary pearls found in oysters. A specimen of the coconut pearl is stored in the Museum of Kew Gardens, England.

Minute pearls also have been taken from flowers of the jasmine and michelia.

The bamboo is another jewel-bearing plant.

In India, Burma, and China opals are sometimes found in the hollow centers of reeds. Analysis have indicated that these are true opals, both in composition and character.

In all the vegetables, however, the stones do not appear to have been produced in sufficient quantities to have warranted special cultivation.

From Grit

Submitted by Lucy Miller



# Midwest Federations NEWSLETTER



Published monthly except July and August as a service to members clubs.  
All news, articles, subscription orders and requests for information concerning publication  
should be sent to the Editor, Haydon Peterson, Parrot Printing, 2125 Forest, Des Moines, Ia. 50311

November 1976 - Issue No. 169

*Here are your Midwest officers for 1977*

## MISS HAZEL KUNTZ IS YOUR MIDWEST PRESIDENT

Again in 1977 our Midwest Federation will be led by an experienced set of officers. The Midwest has an advancement program wherein a second vice president moves into the first vice president position and then on to president.

The 1977 president is Miss Hazel Kuntz, Quincy, Ill. Hazel is well qualified for the position of Midwest president. She was a commercial artist specializing in pen and ink layout work before her retirement. She is a member of two clubs, The Worthen Earth Searchers, Carthage, Ill. of which she was program chairman, and the Gem City Rock Club, Quincy, Ill. She has been a State Director for Illinois and her main interest is in minerals with some work in lapidary when the time permits.



*Miss Hazel Kuntz*

The first vice president of the Midwest for 1977 is Paul Good, Griffith, Ind. Paul has served on the Bulletin Editors committee and showed outstanding leadership in this field. He served as president of his local club and as show chairman for local shows. He is an expeditor for a large manufacturing plant.

Second vice president is Mrs. Betty Crawford, Mansfield, Ohio. Betty has also had experience in Midwest procedures and is very well qualified for the position of second vice president. She has been Uniform Rules Committee Chairman for 1976.

Milford J. Sharp continues as treasurer of the Midwest for 1977. He lives in Fairview Park, Ohio. Milford has been a State Director for Ohio. He has had financial experience as local treasurer of his union. He is now a teacher in training of workers in installation and operation of switching equipment for Ohio Bell Telephone Co.

Miss Jean Reynolds continues as secretary of the Midwest for 1977. She has served in this capacity for ten years. Jean lives with her mother in Clarendon Hills, Ill. and has been with the Federal Reserve Bank in Chicago for 31 years. She is a senior cost accountant. Jean is a graduate of Northwestern University.

## OGDEN MAKING PLANS

The Golden Spikes '77 Empire of Gems Show, to be hosted by the Golden Spike Gem and Mineral Society for the Northwest Federation of Mineralogical Societies, will be the National show next year. Show Chairman, Ivan Rudd, says plans are falling in place to make the AFMS and Northwest convention events outstanding and memorable for the four day show which runs from August 18 through August 21.

The show will be held at Weber State College, Ogden, Utah. Ogden is a city of nearly 100,000 on the edge of the beautiful Wasatch Mountains, with Great Salt Lake not far to the east.

Special attractions, programs, meetings, and exhibition plans will be announced in the AFMS Newsletter at later dates. Ogden is located on Interstate 80N. There are many excellent motels and campgrounds. Utah is a state with exceptional vacation opportunities, including several spectacular National Parks and Monuments, and magnificent National Forests.

## ALL AMERICAN AWARDS FOR 1976

The November AFMS Newsletter has the new All American entry blank. Please see that the proper officer in your club gets it so the entry can be filled out and mailed by the March 31 deadline. Midwest last year had the largest number of entries of any Federation, more than half of the total of the entire nation. We had 5 AFMS trophies and 13 Midwest Merit Awards. (Merit Awards use same entry as AFMS All-American.) There were also 7 AFMS honorable mentions.

This is an excellent program, enabling us to keep track of the worthwhile activities of our neighbor clubs, to keep our own history, and to let others know our accomplishments. The program originated in the Midwest under Katie Steinbrenner and Merton Young, with June Zeitner serving as first chairman. It was adopted nationally when Bernice Rexin was President of AFMS. Joe Bloom was first Na-

*Continued on back page....*

YOU'VE GOT A DATE IN DAYTON (Ohio) JULY 21-24, 1977 - MWF SHOW AND CONVENTION

*Continued from front page....*

tional Chairman. Midwest has had a consistent record of participating in this program better than any other Federation. Judges for the current contest will be announced soon.

If any club does not get its entry form or has any questions regarding their entry please write me at once. Can we top last years record of 96 entries? I think we can. Thank you all, and congratulations to these fine clubs. June Zeitner, Merit Award Chairman, Mission, South Dakota, 57555.

## **THE OGDEN SCENE**

*by June Zeitner*

When the Golden Spike Gem and Mineral Society hosts the National Show next year for the Northwest Federation in beautiful Ogden, Utah, federation members will have a fine choice of activities before and after the show, which is scheduled for August 18-21.

Ogden Valley is a scenic resort area with rolling hills and a backdrop of pine-covered mountains, with lakes and streams providing excellent fishing. At the mouth of dramatic Ogden Canyon a sporty golf course is situated. Not far away is Great Salt Lake, the nation's great inland sea. In historic Mormon Country, Ogden's Tabernacle is noted for unique architecture. History buffs will want to visit Promontory, west of Ogden, where the golden spike linked America's transcontinental railroad route.

Ogden is a city of dynamic growth, an agriculture and livestock center, a tourist center and transportation center. There is also manufacturing and there are two defense installations. The show will be held at Weber College, a four year modern college in a garden-like setting. The city is situated on the Weber and Ogden Rivers. Ogden was named for a representative of the Hudson Bay Fur Company, who trapped in the area in the early 1800's.

Of geologic interest in the area is the Wasatch fault exposed above the bench marks of ancient lake, Bonneville. Utah is a state with a remarkable variety of minerals, rocks, gems and fossils. Members of the Golden Spike Club have been working several years on plans to make their big show a truly outstanding event for all who attend.

## **A MAMMOTH GIFT**

*by June Zeitner*

Although it was a mammoth gift, it really was a mastodon. Peter and Neal Larson and James Honert of Black Hills Minerals, Rapid City, South Dakota, made the largest presentation ever made at a rock club banquet, when they highlighted the South Dakota Bicentennial Rock Clubs Banquet with the presentation of a mastodon to the Museum of the South Dakota School of Mines. The Rosebud Sioux Tribe joined the young men in making the presentation to the Museum. The mastodon was found by the three men in Todd County last spring. Willard Roberts accepted on behalf of the Museum. It is expected the finders will help with the restoration and that the mastodon will become a feature display.

The South Dakota event was held in the Wall Drug dining room in connection with the state Bicentennial Field Trip. The story of the mastodon has appeared in newspapers and magazines from coast to coast. A rare species, the Gomphother, is much older than the mammoth, which is also found in South Dakota.

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## **NEW ASSISTANTS IN INDIANA AND KENTUCKY**

Charles J. Walker, the new state director for Indiana and Kentucky, has named Dr. Garry Bolinger, Indianapolis, Indiana, and Miles M. Smith, Frankfort, Kentucky, his new assistants. R. Dee Rarick, Bloomington, Indiana will continue as an assistant.

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## **FOSSIL EVIDENCE SHOW LAND BRIDGE**

*By Russell MacFall*

Scientists have announced at a recent meeting in France that they have discovered fossil evidence of a land bridge which once spanned the North Atlantic connecting North America with Europe.

Dr. Robert West of Milwaukee's Public Museum and Dr. Mary Dawson of the Carnegie Museum, Pittsburg, said that the fossil mammals and birds of Canada's Ellsmere Island, have been found to match similar remains found in western Europe. Fossil evidence leads some scientists to believe that North America and Europe were joined and gradually split apart and the space between was filled by the Atlantic. The theory is that the last continental connection stretched between the northernmost tips of the two continents by way of Greenland, Iceland, and Spitsbergen, an island north of Scandinavia. The split could have been 45 to 48 million years ago.

Plant fossils found at Ellsmere Island indicate a moderate climate. Sequoia trees once grew there. Animal fossils indicate the area was swampy. Among the animal fossils have been mammals, alligators, salamanders, turtles and birds. Ellsmere Island is located above the Arctic Circle, west of Greenland.

## **OVER 150 MILES OF PASSAGES MAPPED IN CAVE**

The Indianapolis Star reports the story of the link between the Floyd Collins Flint Ridge Cave System and the Mammoth Cave Complex of Kentucky, which makes this cave system the world's largest. Over 150 miles of passages have been mapped by spelunkers who have explored here for the past century.

A new book "The Longest Cave" by Grucker and Watson, tells of the contemporary cavers who formed the Cave Research Foundation dedicated to exploring connections between the great caves of Kentucky.

Although we often hear that the earth has been completely explored there are several frontiers left for adventurous trained explorers in our times. Besides caving these include underwater exploration and exploration of the Arctic, Antarctic, and Polar regions.

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**IF YOU MOVE...**

*please send your new address to our Secretary, Jean Reynolds, 107 Tuttle Ave., Clarendon Hills, Illinois 60514*