

THE ROCKFINDER

Michiana Gem & Mineral Society
Tom Noe, Editor
305 Napoleon Blvd.
South Bend, IN 46617



Happy Thanksgiving



THE ROCKFINDER

November, 1997

MICHIANA GEM & MINERAL SOCIETY

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The purpose of the Michiana Gem & Mineral Society is to promote interest in and study of the earth sciences and the lapidary arts, and the sharing of knowledge and techniques.

General meetings are held the fourth Sunday of each month, 2:00 PM, EST, at Our Redeemer Lutheran Church, 805 S. 29th St., South Bend, IN. Exceptions include field trip meetings, May (third Sunday), June (field trip), July (no meeting), August (club picnic) and December (Christmas party).

Board meetings are held the second Wednesday of each month at 7:00 PM, St. Joseph County Public Library, basement level.

The annual club show is Labor Day weekend.

The Michiana Gem & Mineral Society, a not-for-profit organization, is affiliated with the Midwest Federation of Mineralogical Societies and with the American Federation of Mineralogical Societies.

The Rockfinder is published monthly except July and August. Staff: Editor, Tom Noe, 305 Napoleon Blvd., South Bend, IN 46617. Co-editor, Herb Luckert, 221 Marquette Ave., South Bend, IN 46617. Reporters, Bob Heinek, Herb Luckert, club members.

All contributions for publication should be in the hands of the editor by the 10th of each month. Call 289-2028 or 282-1354. Permission is hereby granted to reprint any original *Rockfinder* articles, as long as due recognition is given along with the reprint.

Yearly Membership Dues (Payable by January 1)

_____ Individual \$6.50 per year
 _____ Family \$10.00 per year
 _____ Junior \$2.00 per year

Please send your dues and this form to
 Michiana Gem & Mineral Society
 c/o Margaret Heinek

7091 E. East Park Lane, New Carlisle, IN 46552

Please indicate areas of special interest.

General Geology___ Beads___
 Gems & Minerals___ Silversmithing___
 Fossils___ Artifacts___
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Name_____ Birth Mo/Date_____
 will attend meetings, yes ___ no ___

Name_____ Birth Mo/Date_____
 will attend meetings, yes ___ no ___

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 will attend meetings, yes ___ no ___

Name_____ Birth Mo/Date_____
 will attend meetings, yes ___ no ___

Name_____

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Wedding Anniversary Mo/Date_____

City,St.,Zip_____

Phone_____

THE ROCKFINDER

Newsletter of the Michiana Gem & Mineral Society

Volume 37, Number 9

November, 1997

Meeting: Sunday, November 23, 1997
Doors open at 1:30 p.m.
Meeting at 2:00 p.m.

Place: Our Redeemer Lutheran Church
905 S. 29th (29th & Wall)
South Bend, IN

Program: Sapphire Hunting in Montana
Larry and Brian Hess

Hostesses: Gladys Pacholke, Pat McLaughlin



December Birthdays

9 Margaret Schultz
10 Marge Hawkins
11 Molly Elwell
24 Clayton Merrill
24 Joan Rosback
29 Bob Heinek, Sr.

December Anniversaries

22 Bob & Judy Heinek

GLAD TIDINGS

All members of the club are cordially invited to attend our annual Christmas dinner (replacing the regular December meeting). The festivities start December 7 at 1:00 P.M. in the church basement, the usual meeting place. Dress in some festive clothes and bring your own place settings. Also, wrap and bring a hobby-related gift if you would like to participate in the gift exchange (value \$4-\$5). See you there!

Everyone is welcome to bring canned goods for the needy.

INDIANA CALENDAR

The Indiana Geological Survey is selling a 1998 calendar illustrated with photos of state caves, fossils and geological features. The full-color calendar costs \$12.50 (includes shipping, etc.) And can be ordered from

Janis Fox
611 N. Walnut Grove
Bloomington, IN 47405-2208
ph. 812-855-7636
fax 812-855-2862

TAKING CARE OF BUSINESS

As the end of the year approaches, all memberships are up for renewal, and we are preparing a directory for 1998. Club dues should be paid to Pam or to the newly elected treasurer before December 31. You may pay through the mail by check or in cash at one of the meetings.

Please check your current listing in the directory. If it is incorrect in any way, please call Bob Heinek.

Also, **EVERYONE**, please include your birthday and anniversary dates when you pay your dues (not the year, just the date). We need to revise our list, so we're starting over. We want to mention your special dates in *The Rockfinder* each month, but we are missing quite a few. Just send this information, along with your dues, before December 31.

NOTE, see Margaret's column for more information on dues.

UP AND COMING

November 28-30 Geodon Gem Shows, Wheaton, IL.
December 7 Club Christmas party and dinner.

MARGARET'S COLUMN



This month I have many things to bring up, for you to think about. We attended the Midwest Federation annual meeting in Iowa. Marie Crull was our delegate and she will give a report on the meetings. The MWF has increased its dues to \$2.00 per person and \$.50 per each junior member. We have been paying \$1.00 per member and \$2.00 for all the juniors (regardless of how many juniors we had, 1 or 20).

Our club's membership dues of \$10 per family or \$6.50 per person do not cover the cost of MWF dues, printing and mailing *The Rockfinder*, the money we give to our delegate to go to the MWF convention once a year, the meat for the Christmas party and the picnic, any donations we make, any programs we pay for, and any money we spend on door prizes. We always have depended on the profit we make at the annual show to pay the transportation costs for our educational field trips.

Our dues have not been raised for many years, and since the profit at the show has dropped we must think about a dues increase. All clubs are having the same problem--lower attendance at their shows, and now the dues increase from the MWF. The MWF has been trying to run the federation on \$.25 per person, which is impossible. They have lost quite a bit of money each year, and have had to take from their savings, and no one can keep doing this and stay solvent. Therefore the dues increase. Think about an increase in our club dues. We will have to revise our bylaws, since they say, "Regular Membership \$6.50 a year, Family Membership \$10.00 a year." I will have some figures to hand out at the meeting.

Our picnic next year has been changed to August 23rd. This is due to the AFMS/MWF show and convention that are being held in Copper Country in the Upper Peninsula in August. More on this show later. There will be some good field trips planned there for this convention.

Kathy Miller notified me that the Christmas tree decorations that were stored at the church have disappeared, so we will have to replace them, if we want a tree at our party. I am sure we all have extra

lights, decorations and tinsel that we can spare. So bring them to the November meeting, and plan on going to the church on Saturday in December before our dinner to help decorate the tree.

The November meeting will include the election of the 1998 officers, so it is important that we have YOU at the meeting to elect them, and if you have nominations for any office to do so. You must ask the person if they would be willing to serve. We also need to discuss the dues increase. We need your input!! Remember to bring tree trimming ornaments.

Bob and I attended the AFMS Convention in Mississippi last month and took a first place trophy on our case of petrified wood. There were only two cases of wood, but they both took trophies. Bob & Kathy Miller were there representing both the MWF and AFMS. Having retired as the 1997 AFMS president, I am glad the term is over. It has been a long 6 or 7 years in various offices.

I will have to attend the convention in Houghton next August, since I have the Past President's Case, stones from past presidents of the AFMS, which I will take and display at the show. Then my tenure is over, and if I want to go to conventions I can go for the fun of it. No meetings, unless I want to attend them.

Happy Thanksgiving.

1998 OFFICERS WILL BE ELECTED AT THE NOVEMBER MEETING

The nominating committee has proposed the following slate of officers for next year:

President--Margaret Heinek

Vice-President--Sr. Jeanne Finske

Treasurer--Diane Gram

Secretary--Marie Crull and Pat McLaughlin

Liaison--Mike Slattery

The election will take place at the November club meeting, and all members are urged to be present. Nominations may also be made from the floor at that time. If you wish to nominate someone, please check to see whether the person is willing to serve in that office. Note: current plans involve moving the monthly meeting of officers from the second Wednesday night to just before the club meeting on the fourth Sunday.



NOTICE OF BYLAWS CHANGE

The officers of the club have discussed an increase in club membership dues for 1998, and have made a proposal for presentation to the members. The proposal will be discussed at the November meeting, and will be voted on at the December Christmas party. In simplified form, these are the proposed changes:

Single membership, \$10.00 per year

Family membership, \$15.00 per year

Junior membership, \$1.00 per year

Subscribing membership, \$7.50 per year (This is for members who want to receive *The Rockfinder* but live too far away to attend meetings.)

The reasons for the increase will be explained at the November meeting. Since we will also be electing 1998 officers at this meeting, please plan to be there and vote!

SAPPHIRE STEMS NOW FAVORED BY DENTISTS

Dentists and dental technicians in the U.S. have been slow to accept them, but sapphire stems to hold replacement teeth are favored over metal implants, oral surgeons say.

Sapphires, a gem usually found in expensive jewelry and more recently used in microchips, are ideal for use as a dental implant. The man-made colorless sapphires are chemically identical to the real gems. They are more tolerant to mouth tissue and transmit hot and cold sensations at about the same degree as a tooth would to the nerves in a bone.

Results of a five-year study showing that the synthetic sapphire is successful in almost 95% of the cases examined were discussed at an international meeting of oral implantologists in San Diego. The implant operation using synthetic sapphire costs about the same--\$400.00 to \$500.00--as one unit of bridgework.

The operation involves a thin sapphire post or

stem measuring about one-quarter inch; this is screwed or wedged into a socket in the jawbone where cracked or decayed teeth once were.

Researchers found that, within a few weeks, the gum grows around the sapphire post that acts as a support for a crown, which is added later to complete the replacement of a tooth. Within a few months the jawbone also grows around and develops an affinity for the sapphire.

In contrast, an implant made of metal is often rejected by the body or causes an infection and has to be replaced.

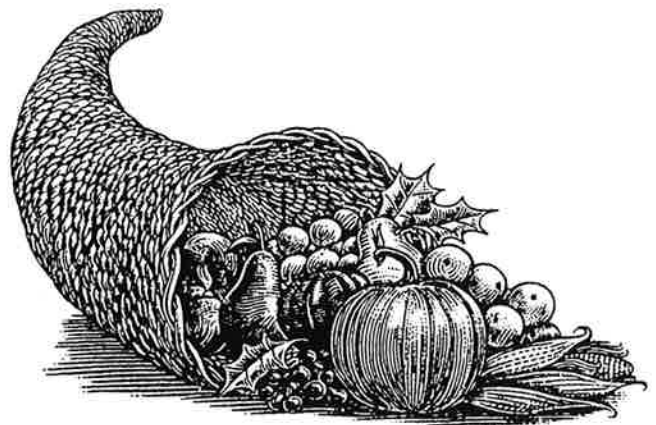
The sapphire stem has been used in Japan for 15 years and has been approved for use by the United States Food and Drug Administration for the last five years.

From *The Glacial Drifter*

STRESS! STRESS! STRESS! (on ways to relieve stress)

Pop some popcorn without putting the lid on.
When someone says "Have a nice day," say that you have other plans.
Make a list of things to do that you have already done.
Get even with the IRS by filling out your tax form in Roman numerals.
Bill your doctor for time you spent in his waiting room.

From *Oregon Hi Stories*, published by L. J. Klein



Making Slab Stands from Drapery Pleaters

Slab holders can easily be made from old drapery pleater hooks. The hooks used are made from three pieces of approx. 11 ga. round wire as shown in Figure 1. Note that the center (hook) wire is soldered on one side of the two 2 inch "U" shaped wires. These solder joints will not withstand any bending. The tools required are a pair of regular pliers, and a pair of wire cutters.

First, grasp the drapery pleater, with the standard pliers, so as to hold both solder joints at the "U" portion of the two wires. Grasp the hook (center wire) and pull away from the plane of the two "U" shaped wires as shown in Figure 2. This center wire is not needed, so cut it off.

Keeping the pliers at the same spot, bend the two center wires in the same direction as you bent the hook. Bend these wires to about 45 degrees from the two other wires. Spread these two wires apart to about the same width as the unbent wires. You now have a four-legged stand.

Mark the two unbent wires approx. 3/8 inch to 7/16 inch above the tips of the two wires as shown in Figure 3.

With the regular pliers, grasp the wires at the marks just made (one wire at a time), as shown in Figure 4. Make 90 degree bends away from the other two wires to form the feet that will hold the slab.

The 3/8" to 7/16" bend is for the thickness of the slab. Feet and legs can be adjusted to hold most small to medium size slabs or even small mineral specimens. The finished slab stand is shown in Figure 5.

- Rol and Doris Snyder
MMLSD Advanced Lapidary Study Group

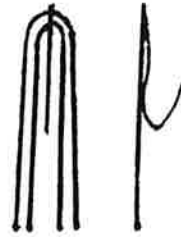


Figure 1.

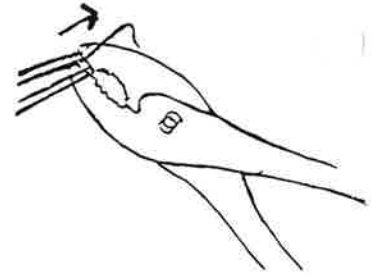


Figure 2.

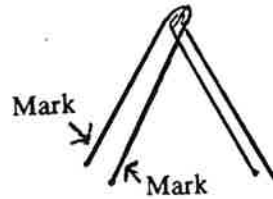


Figure 3.

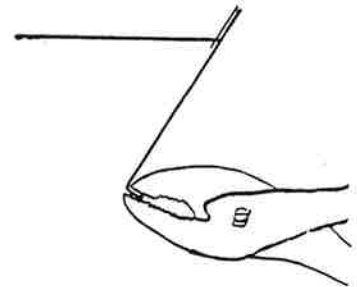


Figure 4.



Figure 5.

PUTTING THE EYE IN TIGEREYE

By Carny Hound

First the slab must be cut parallel to the fiber. A difference of 2 or 3 degrees will make a difference in a proper or improper cut. Look across the slab at a 60 degree angle.

You should see half of the slice toward you, either dark or light, and see that the other half is opposite in color. Mark the dividing line between the dark and light areas, lightly with pencil. Rotate the slice, end for end, and hold it in the same place. If the light side was near you before, it should still be near after you rotate the slice. Mark the dividing line again and hope your lines are in the same place. Now turn the slice so the top side becomes the bottom, and you see the reverse of the lighting effect. If the light side was near you before, the dark side should be near you now. When you see the dark side toward you, you are looking at what should be the top of the finished stone. Cut the stone with a high dome and you will have a floating eye.

From The Puget Sounder via Rock Rollers (Oct., 97)

RAIDERS OF THE LATEST T. REX

By Tom Noe

Notre Dame paleontologist Keith Rigby, who lectured on dinosaurs at our club's fall show several years ago, is trying to excavate a huge *Tyrannosaurus* skeleton in Montana. The skeleton is bigger than Sue, the *T. rex* which was recently auctioned at Sotheby's and purchased by the Field Museum for millions of dollars. Unfortunately, legal problems, land disputes and outright poaching have turned this fossil dig into a media event.

Here's what happened. Keith is associated with Earthwatch, a group of backers and amateur diggers who help him do his work. Last year the group uncovered a number of dinosaur bones at a site in Montana, including the *Tyrannosaurus*. Keith had gotten digging permission from the Waltons, whom he thought were the landowners, and had hired two members of the family as cooks for the summer expedition. Later, Keith found out that the land legally belonged to the federal government, since the Waltons had defaulted on a loan from the Farm Service Agency. (The Waltons say that the default is an error, but that is too complicated to get into here.) Anyhow, Keith also got permission for his dig from the feds.

By last July, the team had excavated about 20% of the *Tyrannosaurus* (if it's a *T. rex*, it is the largest in existence). Then they covered the site and planned to complete the excavation in the summer of 1998. On September 14, though, the local sheriff and the FBI (where did they come from??) found the Waltons at the site with heavy farm equipment, and parts of the lower jaw were already missing. Whoa there, pards.

Later, it became clear that the missing jaw was OK. A local museum worker had heard that the Daltons...uh, Waltons were about to start hacking at the skeleton, and he convinced them at least to let him jacket it in plaster to minimize the damage. The jaw has now been sent anonymously to the FBI.

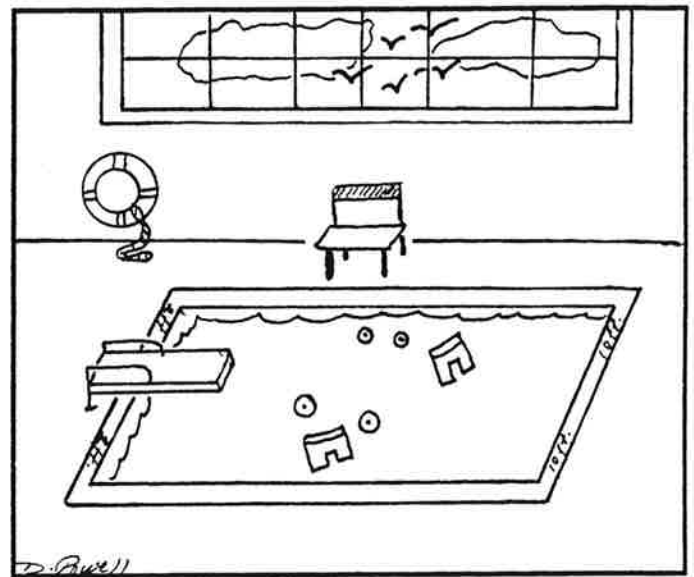
So, Keith started rushing to excavate as much as possible before winter set in hard. The bones are being stored in Fort Peck, awaiting further developments.

This case--like the multimillion-dollar

Sue--will certainly affect the controversy about collecting on public lands (even though this fossil may have been found on private land). Our ALAA Fossil Preservation Bill would protect the rights of the public to collect fossils, despite the attempts of federal land managers to restrict or deny these rights. The bill sets guidelines for collectors: scientists, dealers, amateurs. More than likely, stories of fossil-hijacking will cause a kneejerk reaction by the public, which may support more restrictions.

As we know, restrictions on fossil collecting only insure that more fossils will be destroyed, since the weather will break them up long before the few professional paleontologists can find them.

The problem is not the collecting of fossils; it's the improper, destructive collecting of fossils. The media doesn't seem to make that distinction, and many people are getting the impression that professional scientists are the only ones who can be trusted to excavate fossils. We know that's not true. If we want to preserve our right to collect on public lands, we need to become familiar with the issues and make our views known, especially in regard to the Fossil Preservation Bill.

Crystal Faces by Darryl Powell

Hal Halite and Cal Chalcantite thought they'd go for a swim. It was a bad idea from the beginning.

A Glacier Passed This Way

Just a few years ago, geologically speaking, a glacier passed this way, and that's why North America has a unique 1,200-mile lake chain, containing about a third of the world's freshwater area. The sequence of geologic events resulting in the formation of these Great Lakes is an interesting though very complex story. Possibly we'll never know the complete history. . . .

The interpretation of the landscape of the northern United States has been evolving for a little more than a century. Once it was thought that a great flood from the north washed debris of clay, sand, and gravel southward, and that the large erratic boulders were rafted in by drifting icebergs. Hence, the origin of the term *drift* — now denoting all materials deposited by a glacier. Today available geologic information allows a fairly comprehensive understanding of glacial geology, but many questions remain unanswered. . . .

One of the foremost riddles of the Great Lakes today concerns their basic geologic structures. Until the bottoms are thoroughly explored, we can only speculate as to the nature of the underlying bedrock foundation. Information on the shape of the lake bottoms and the nature of the sediments and glacial materials deposited in them is also quite limited. . . .

Was There a Glacier?

Can we be sure a glacier passed this way? Today's glaciers are hundreds of miles away from the Great Lakes. The ice fields of North America are mostly in the mountain ranges in the Northwest. Let's examine the evidence. Studies of existing glaciers reveal the nature of glacial deposits. A thorough investigation of Michigan soils has proved their glacial origin. For example, one of the most distinctive deposits left by a glacier is an ice-deposited material called *till*. Till is a mixture of rock materials of all sizes from boulders to clay with few characteristics of sediments deposited in water, such as stratification or size-sorting of particles. Till is a dominant surface deposit in the Great Lakes region.

Another characteristic of glacial drift is that it is comprised of a great variety of rock materials obtained from widely scattered geographic areas. When these materials are boulder-size, they are called *erratics* and become excellent markers for re-tracing the glacier's advance. A good example is jasper conglomerate, a distinctive puddingstone rock

formation exposed at the surface only in Ontario north of Lake Huron. Yet fragments are scattered in the drift throughout eastern and central Michigan, and elsewhere. On the other hand, in southwestern Michigan we find erratics that originated in the copper and iron formations of the western Upper Peninsula.

In non-glaciated regions, soils are formed *in place*, from weathering and decomposition of bedrock. Frequently the bedrock is covered by its own soil, and this combination is so marked that the soil is the key for mapping the underlying bedrock. This relationship, however, does not prevail in

Michigan, or in any other glaciated region. The ancient bedrock formations in Michigan are generally covered with an average of 200 to 300 feet of drift — in places, more than 1,200 feet. Michigan soils are relatively young and their occurrence so scrambled only a gross pattern is apparent on a soils map. The drainage pattern is also very haphazard and immature — another characteristic of glaciated regions.

During the Great Ice Age, glaciers came and went four or five times. Between ice invasions, moderate climates like the present prevailed and soils devel-

oped. In Michigan, records of the earlier stages have been obliterated or buried and we refer mostly to the last major advance and retreat of the glaciers, called the Wisconsin Glaciation.

The geologic history of Michigan immediately prior to the Pleistocene Epoch remains almost a total mystery. There is practically no record at all for the entire 200,000,000 years comprising the Mesozoic and Cenozoic eras. The situation is somewhat like a book in which some of the chapters have been removed. About the only thing that can be said now is that the area may have been above sea level much of the time, allowing great rivers to erode valley systems coinciding with the present lake basins. . . .

— Excerpted from *The Glacial Lakes around Michigan*, by R.W. Kelley and W.R. Farrand. Published by the State of Michigan as Geological Survey Bulletin 4 (1967). (In the public domain.)



— Graphic by Carol Werner
The Conglomerate. Bulletin of the Michigan Mineralogical Society, 4/95

ROOTS, STEMS, CALYXES - DO NOT A PLANT MAKE! - by Patricia O'Brien

Although crinoids are called sea lilies, they neither belong to the lily family nor the plant kingdom. Crinoids were and are marine animals belonging to the phylum echinodermata or echinoderms.

In the fossil record more than 1,000 genera have been identified. Since fossilized remains often are concentrated over a small area, it is surmised that large numbers of crinoids commonly lived together in colonies. Most species of crinoids grew attached to some object for all or part of their lifetimes, but some were free floating. Crinoids lived from shallow water to the deep dark reaches of the seas.

The animal was composed of hard and soft parts, but only hard parts have survived in the fossil record. These parts consisted of the roots/bases, stems/stalks, calyx and the arms/branches.

Crinoid species had varied types of roots/bases. Some had root-like structures that grew into the mud or sand of the ocean floor. In other species the stalk grew into a thick plate that cemented itself to a shell, a coral, or other hard surface. Still others grew a thick bulb-like plate that not only allowed the crinoid to float with arms downward in the water, but also permitted the crinoid to attach itself to the rocky bottom. These root/bases were called hold fasts.

Attached to the roots/bases was the stem/stalk. These were composed of a series of flat columns which were fastened face to face and which gave little room for movement. On their surface were ridges which provided additional strength to the stem. Stems had varied shapes and

sizes. They could be elliptical, round, star-shaped, and some were even crescent-shaped. Often they changed shape during growth. It is believed that these stems had little room for movement, but some could sway from side to side in the ocean currents.

Located between the stem and the origin of the free arms was the calyx which supported the body of the animal. The calyx was covered with a series of plates. The lowest ring of plates was connected to the stem and the uppermost surface contained the food grooves leading to the animal's mouth.

From the top of the calyx was the point of origin of the free arms/branches. These arms were a direct outgrowth of the central body area. The arms had a variety of sizes and lengths. Some species had a single set of arms and others had multiple sets. The arms were used to direct food into the food grooves and then into the mouth of the animal.

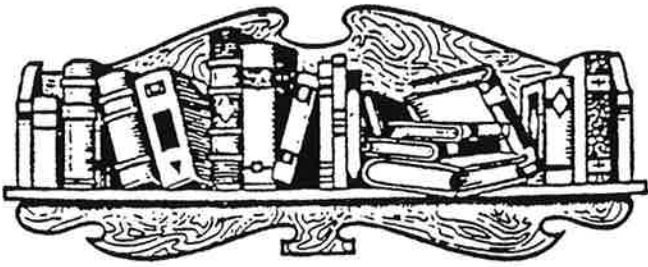
Slightly over one hundred genera of crinoids exist. About twenty-five genera are stalked and the remainder are free floating. Free floating crinoids are called feather stars. Today crinoids are found in tropical and temperate seas as well as in the frigid waters of the arctic and antarctic.

from Gneiss Gnews 6/97

References:

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2. Fenton, Carroll Lane & Mildred Adams. The Fossil Book. N.Y.: Doubleday, '89.
3. Matthews, William H. III. Texas Fossils. Austin: University of Texas Press, '63.
4. Plummer, F. B. The Carboniferous Rocks of the Llano Region of Central Texas. Austin, University of Texas Publication. 1943





FOR FURTHER READING....

The world's largest collection of dinosaur footprints has been uncovered in Western Australia. The prints were made between 115 and 120 million years ago, and range in size from just a few centimeters to 1.7 meters. They cover more than 80 kilometers of coastland to the north and south of Broome, but their exact locations are being kept secret. Last year, thieves used a jackhammer to drill out the world's only *Stegosaurus* footprints from a site nearby.

New Scientist (July 19, 1997)

Bangkok geologists spent a week removing a thick layer of black mica from a big, black rock found in Madagascar five years ago. What they found underneath was a group of 127 medium green emeralds weighing 167 pounds, or 380,000 carats, worth \$50 million. It's the world's largest known emerald cluster. The owner of the cluster lives in the United Arab Emirates and will probably sell it to a private collector or a museum.

Rocks Digest (June, 1997)

The oldest shark scales have been found 30 miles from Colorado Springs, Colorado, in a sandstone formation. They're 450 million years old--50 million years older than any shark fossils whatsoever. The scales are one-twenty-fifth-of-an-inch-long teardrop shapes found in clusters of up to ten. They're hollow, with internal canals that are unique to sharks, proving their identification. The immense age, long before the time of the oldest shark teeth, indicates that the first sharks had no jaws.

Rocks Digest (June, 1997)

When the Precambrian fossil impressions of *Kimberella* were first discovered in the 1940s, scientists thought they were ancient forms of jellyfish--relatively simple critters. Recently, though, more than 30 specimens have been uncovered near the White Sea in Russia. In the August issue of *Nature*, an article describes *Kimberella* as more like a mollusk, with a strong shell, able to creep along the ocean floor. The newfound complexity of *Kimberella* helps to bridge the gap between the Precambrian forms and the Cambrian forms. Cambrian forms have always appeared far too complex, when compared with the fossils which immediately preceded them.

Science News (Aug. 30, 1997)

Were Neanderthals part of our ancestry? DNA research on the original Neanderthal bones found in Germany in 1856 suggest that we are distant cousins, not immediate family. Neanderthal DNA differed from ours in 27 of 328 positions in the sequence which was studied, while modern humans differ from one another in the same sequence by an average of only 8 positions. This lends more support to the theory that modern humans arose in one location (presumably Africa about 150,000 years ago), and then spread from there around the world. Other theories are also being considered, too.

New Scientist (July 19, 1997)

Recent discoveries of fossil DNA have officials at the Food and Drug Administration worried. F. D. Acepeaker, speaking for the FDA, is warning paleontologists and the public to cook all dinosaur fossils to an internal temperature of at least 180 degrees before preparation. Uncooked fossils should not be allowed in contact with cooked fossils. An especially pernicious strain of bacteria named *T. coli* has been isolated from Cretaceous fossils, and no known antibiotic has had any effect on it.

The Science Blurb (Oct., 1997)

