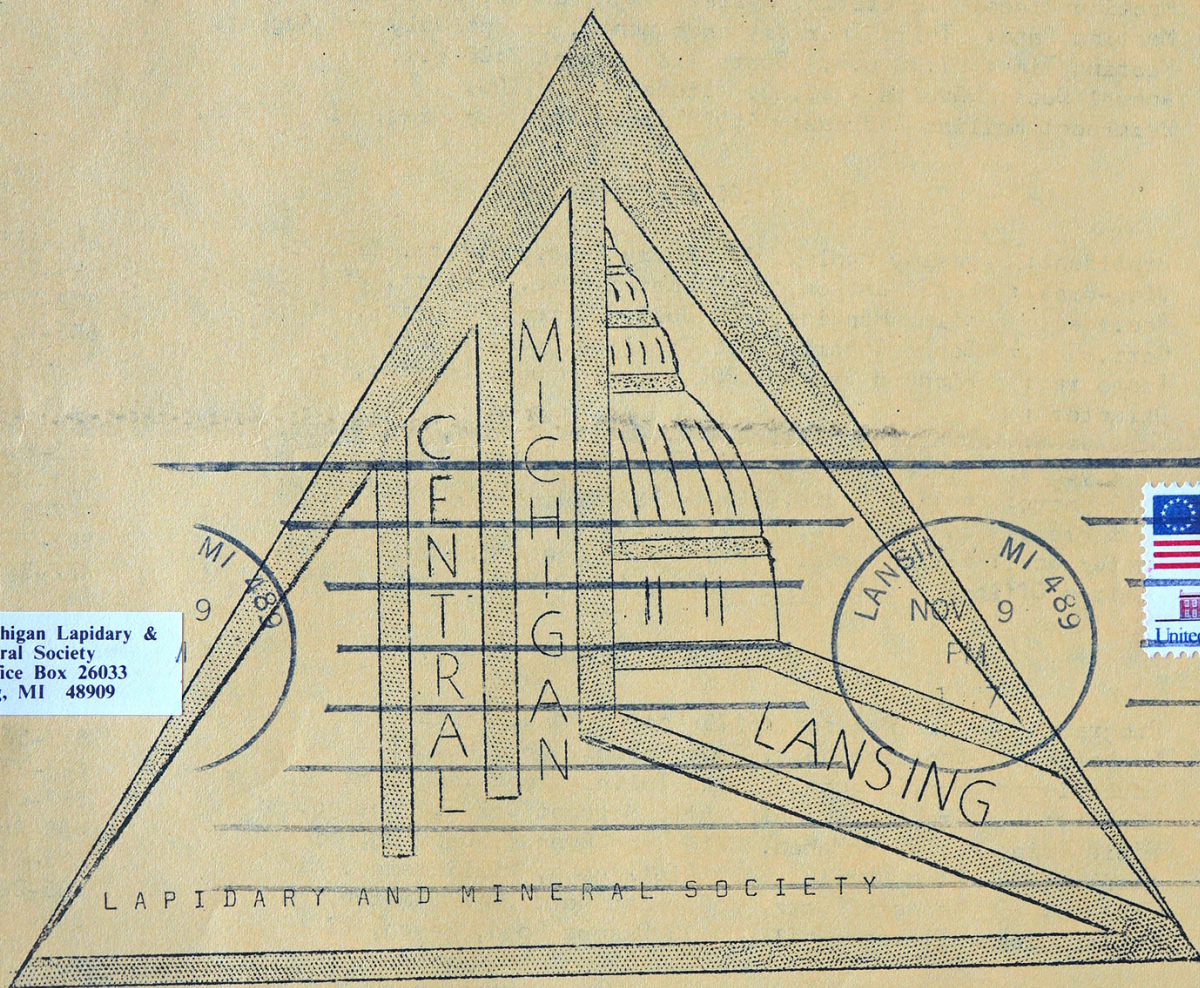


NOV. 1977

# ROCKHOUND NEWS



Central Michigan Lapidary &  
Mineral Society  
Post Office Box 26033  
Lansing, MI 48909

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

Ernest Fulton  
615 West Street  
Eaton Rapids, Mi 48827



## ROCKHOUND NEWS

This bulletin is the official publication of the Central Michigan Lapidary and Mineral Society of Greater Lansing, Michigan. It 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: Cafeteria, Everett High School, 3900 Stabler, Lansing, Michigan.

Meeting Date: Third Thursday each month, except July and August.

Meeting Time: 7:30 p.m. Doors are open at 7:00 p.m.

Annual Dues: Adults - \$3.00. Students - \$1.00.

Permanent Mailing Address: 14933 Brown Road, Lansing, Mi 48906.

## OFFICERS FOR 1977

President:	Wesley Manley, 700 Barry Road, Haslett, Mi	655-3854
Vice-Pres.:	Lola Pearson, 6975 Foster Road, Haslett, Mi	655-2554
Rec. Sec.:	Wilma Hopkins, 229 Julian Street, Lansing, Mi	372-2089
Corr. Sec.:	Bonna Roberts, 815 Hamilton, Lansing, Mi	882-1257
Treasurer:	Richard Saxman, 201 W. Cavanaugh, Lansing, Mi	393-1725
Directors:		
1 year:	Bessie Rogers, 234 W. Marshall Road, St. Johns, Mi	517-224-7596
2 years:	Irene Jane Brett, 2929 Manley Drive, Lansing, Mi	882-8376
3 years:	Walter Davis, 119 E. Syringa Drive, Lansing, Mi	393-3020
Past Pres.:	Eva Whipple, 6115 Marscot Drive, Lansing, Mi	882-8136
Roster Sec.:	Sally Barber, 3215 Karen, Lansing, Mi	882-7621
Liaison Officer:	Bettie Patterson, 14933 Brown Road, Lansing, Mi	482-3437

## COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN - 1977

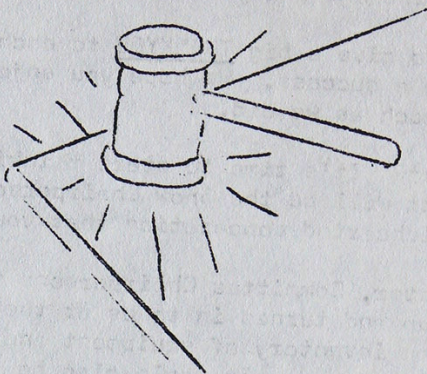
Program:	Lola Pearson, 6975 Foster Road, Haslett, Mi	655-2554
Membership:	Donaline Nutt, 2008 Ferrol, Lansing, Mi	882-5646
Education:	Martin Sotala, 1105 Tulip, Grand Ledge, Mi	627-2331
Library:	Preston Whipple, 6115 Marscot Drive, Lansing, Mi	882-8136
Field Trip:	E. W. McMahon, 2410 Leon Avenue, Lansing, Mi	489-4640
Display:	Nancy Smith, 3435 Dietz Road, Williamston, Mi	655-2736
Finance:	Kenneth Kurtz, 800 Frost Road, Williamston, Mi	655-2051
Publications:	Florence Hill, 3135 Okemos Road, Mason, Mi	349-3554

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## FROM YOUR PRESIDENT

Our big event, the annual Show, was a great success. As president, on behalf of the Board, the club members deserve great congratulations for the excellent leadership by those directing the activities and all the others who so willingly gave their time and effort. Participation was so excellent that all jobs were filled, and very well handled. We're all part of a great club that we can proudly support.



We extend a lot of support and thanks to Larry and Lorna Tripp for fine leadership as Show Chairmen for the 1977 Show. This job took unfailing leadership for the whole year, and with the Show's success we certainly appreciate their fine efforts.

Irene Jane Brett has agreed to chair the 1978 Show. We'll have another great Show in 1978 by giving our wholehearted support to her leadership.

A nominating committee is selecting a slate of officers to be elected at the November meeting. The new officers will be scouting to fill committee chairman positions. If you are asked to take a position, it means the president has confidence in your ability. Be sure to accept the responsibility and thus contribute to the strength of your club.

Wes Manley

(Wes modestly omitted the fact that he will be working with I.J. on the 1978 Show. With the combined efforts of those two, the Show will be off to a good start. Now it's up to the rest of us to offer our help as they need it.)

## PROGRAM - Lola Pearson

In October Larry Tripp, Show Chairman, presented a very interesting program, with a panel of Show Committee Chairmen giving us a look at what goes on behind the scenes in preparation for a show.

For November, Don Clarke will be with us with another of his exciting stories of the Keweenaw mining era entitled "Silver Islet." We are fortunate to have Don and his slides here for this program so don't miss it. It is a good time to get acquainted with some of the history of mining in the Great Lakes area. It will inspire you to take some of the books related to mining history from our library to read in the longer, cooler evenings ahead.

ROCK OF THE MONTH - George Westcott gave a short and very informative talk on opals at the October meeting. Thank you, George. Obsidian will be the rock of the month for November. Wayne Henderson will talk on that subject. Bring your obsidian to show!

DUES ARE DUE! And payable to Sally Barber. Mailing her a check gives her a little breathing time at the meetings. See your cover for amounts due.



## SHOW - Lorna and Larry Tripp

We want to give a big THANKYOU to each and every one of you who helped to make our 1977 Show a success. We hope you enjoyed your work for the show and during the show as much as we did.

Guess what? It's time to start thinking about next year's Show already. Irene Jane Brett will be the Show Chairperson for the 1978 Show. Please give her that same wholehearted cooperation that you gave us.

As a starter, Committee Chairpersons for the '77 Show should get their report written up and turned in to us at the regular club meeting in November. Please include an inventory of equipment and materials, with a note as to where these things are stored. It would also be helpful if you would estimate what needs to be done, or purchased before the '78 Show.

## CHILDREN'S TABLE - Sharon Davis and I.J. Brett

Many compliments were given to people working in the children's table at the show. People coming yearly to our show said this year's table had the best display of merchandise they had ever seen. These comments make all the months of work seem very worthwhile. The children's table chairmen would like to thank all of you who made this year's display what it was. We had many donations of quality minerals, a lot of good help in preparing them for sale and an abundance of eager salespeople to help sell at the show. A combination of all these factors helped make the children's table break sales records. This demonstrates how the efforts of many can make anything a huge success. Our thanks to all of you who helped in any way.

## TRANSPORTATION - Walt Davis

Just a short note to thank all of those who helped in transporting all of the club property to and from the Armory. Without the number of trucks volunteered to haul, and the people who are always there to help load and unload, and to handle the heavy loads, the transportation requirements would be a major problem. Again thanks to all who helped.

## DECORATIONS - Wilma and John Hopkins

We wish to thank all the workers who helped put the skirting on the tables for the Show, and all those that kept the cases clean and shining. The appearance of our exhibit hall has always been a matter of pride with us, and you are the ones who keep it so. A special thanks to those who spent the day mending and sorting the skirting paper before it was put away.

## CONGRATULATIONS AND THANKS FROM US TO US.

Each chairman has expressed appreciation for the help they were given, and each of us as club members thank all who were connected in any way with the Show. It's our Show -- we enjoy it and we're mighty proud of it.



## ROSTER SECRETARY - Sally Barber

I will accept your 1978 dues at any time now. Pay them in November and you won't be caught forgetting them in March.

Another of our members, Fred Bambrick, has passed away. Mr. Bambrick was a charter member, and a life member.

## CORRESPONDING SECRETARY - Bonna Roberts

Known ill are Frances Ridgley, who is recovering from surgery, and Bessie Rogers, home from the hospital at this writing. Nora DeLashmutt and Thea Mae Kurtz will undergo surgery soon.

## MEMORIALS - Nancy Smith and Sally Barber

Another fine representative of native copper has been chosen for a club specimen in memory of Floyd Castelein. This one is a half-breed of silver on float copper.

Float copper is found as loose surface material along stream beds and in glacial deposits. Masses of float copper are frequently found in the glacial drift in the lower peninsula. These were carried southward by the ice sheet which moved across the copper-bearing outcrops of the western part of the Upper Peninsula. The Ontonagon Boulder is perhaps the most famous example of float copper transported glacially.

## MEMBERSHIP - Donaline Nutt

We welcome a new student member, approved by the Board at its November meeting. He is William Schmidt, 3338 Grantsburg Drive, Lansing.

## FIELD TRIP - Mac McMahon

There will be no scheduled field trips for November and December, what with holidays and bad weather imminent.

It was gratifying to see the response to the October field trip.

## NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT

The nominating committee, consisting of Nancy Smith, chairman, Slim Barber and Walt Davis, have secured the permission of these fine candidates for office in 1978 to place their names in nomination:

President - Lola Pearson  
Vice-President - Richard Saxman  
Recording Secretary - Dottie Dyer  
Corresponding Secretary - Sharon Davis  
Treasurer - Eva Whipple  
Director, 3 years - Milo Hillis

The election will be held at the meeting November 17. At that time nominations may be made from the floor. It is requested that the consent of the person named be secured before the name is presented for nomination.

## FINANCE - Ken Kurtz

The finance committee will be working on a budget for 1978. Chairmen are requested to submit an estimate of funds needed for their committee.

## DISPLAY - Nancy Smith

The club display was exhibited at the Tri-County Club Show at Bay City. CML&MS was also represented by a good number of members attending the show, which was a very good one.

## EDUCATION - Martin Sotala

A carving group is meeting from 1 to 3 on Tuesdays at the home of John and Wilma Hopkins. For information, call 323-3332.

Wayne Henderson reports that Dr. Cambray and Dr. Stonehouse will be happy to set up a class tailored to meet CML&MS wishes.

Walt Davis took the club educational cases to a Boy Scout gathering at Camp Kiwanis near Mason Saturday.

Martin Sotala conducted a training session for Adventist youth leaders in earth science projects.



## LIBRARY - Preston Whipple

## New Material:

Creative Lapidary, by Frank W. Long, one of the few contemporary lapidary-jewelers qualified in all facets of the field. In addition to his fascinating gemstone design he has devised many new tools, techniques and adaptations which are explained in this book for the first time. He has compiled all the information you will need to engage in lapidary work, together with the aesthetic directions and inspiration that alone give significance. Among the expansive range of subjects are the following: Materials, equipment, the basics, specialized and advanced techniques, projects and design. Each subject is fully explained in step-by-step instructions and lavishly illustrated with over 200 halftones, line drawings, and color plates. No prior lapidary knowledge is assumed, making this book the perfect introduction for beginners. Professional lapidaries will be stimulated by the original methods and designs.

The Complete Book of Rock Tumbling, by Christopher S. Hyde and Richard A. Matthews. A complete book on the techniques of rock tumbling with chapters entitled Locating and Choosing Tumbling Materials, Selecting and Preparing Tumbling Materials, Equipment and Workshop Requirements, Building Your Own Rotary Tumbler, Vibrating Tumbler, Getting Started--Rough Grind, Intermediate Grind, Prepolish and Polish, "What's Going on in There," Tumbling Slabs and Preforms, "What Went Wrong," Setting Baroque Stones, Handmade Baroque Settings, Other Tumbler Uses and Auxiliary Equipment.

We have also received three more books from the TIME-LIFE Emergence of Man Series: THE NORTHMEN by Thomas Froncek, LOST WORLD OF THE AEGEAN, by Maitland A. Edy and THE ETRUSCANS by Dora Jane Hamblin. All are very well written and illustrated.

A new book giving current prices for minerals of various qualities is available at a special price if ordered through the club. You may see it at the Library Table.

## CONSTITUTION COMMITTEE - Eva Whipple

The constitution committee has been working on various changes proposed by the members, and will soon have some recommendations to make on needed amendments. If you know of a change or addition which should be made in our constitution as it now stands, please submit it to the committee.

## MORE IN APPRECIATION

Many people admired the "Magic of Minerals" tableau at the entrance to the exhibit hall at the Show. Much credit must be given to Laney Franz and Stuart Smith, the talented young cousin and nephew respectively of Nancy Smith. They worked closely with Lola Pearson and Nancy in planning and executing this beautiful theme portrayal.

Thanks must also be expressed to Ruth and Elmer Eckhardt, and to Grace Shappell for their gifts to the Society of minerals from their collections. The Eckhardts also presented magazines and books to the club library, and valuable memorabilia of the club's early years to the historian. CML&MS greatly appreciates these acts of thoughtfulness.

Rich and Lila Stevens wish to thank all the people who worked with them on the fluorescent booth at the Show, and the people who contributed specimens to make up the exhibit. Their willing cooperation is greatly appreciated.



## IS THERE A METEORITE IN YOUR BACKYARD?

You will find this letter interesting, coming from Steven Wilson of the Division of Geology, Michigan Department of Natural Resources.

Recently we received a most interesting letter from a Mr. Paul P. Sipiera. The topic was meteorite research and we thought you and your club members might be interested. His letter states:

'We would like to enlist your help and support for our Meteorite Recovery Project. In this effort, our College, in Cooperation with the Field Museum of Natural History in Chicago, is seeking to make the public aware of the scientific importance of Meteorites and to educate individuals on meteorite recognition. In dealing with meteorite recovery most specimens are discovered by individuals who have no scientific training but do possess a scientific curiosity. It is just this type of individual we wish to reach.

We hope that your organization would encourage its members to be aware of the fact that meteorites can be found almost anywhere and that they should be looking for them when in the field. We have free descriptive literature available and also offer a \$100.00 incentive for the finder of a previously unreported meteorite. We ask that those who are interested send in a stamped, self-addressed business-sized envelope when requesting the pamphlet.

Thank you for your cooperation and support.'

I wrote to Mr. Sipiera and requested that we be allowed to release this information to mineralogical and geological societies in Michigan. He willingly agreed and suggested:

'...You might mention that we also have speakers available and do occasionally check out reports that seem to be very promising. We are currently redesigning our information sheets and hope to have them available in the near future...'

We hope that this program, with your club's assistance, will help strengthen ties with those doing research in geology. This will benefit hobbyists as well as the academicians.

Please forward all information or inquiries about meteorites to:

Mr. Paul P. Sipiera  
William Rainey Harper College  
Geology and Physical Science  
Palatine, Illinois 60067  
Telephone (312) 397-3000

...We have a list of publications available from the Division of Geology. Although it is not directly related to this meteorite research, we would like to bring to your attention - Bulletin 5, METEORITES OF MICHIGAN. This publication contains valuable background information as well as specific siting information."

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TIP ... A good way to tell how solid a slab is - is to heat it in hot water. The surface will dry immediately. If there are holes or fractures, every one will be lined with water. These can then be marked with a pencil and used to orient your stone.

...from Tule Smoke Signals, via The Geode and Tulip City Conglomerate



## THE FIELD MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY, CHICAGO, ILLINOIS - Esther A. Middlewood

If you ever get to Chicago, don't miss a visit to the Field Museum of Natural History. I enjoyed such an opportunity on October 18 and it was well worth the time and energy.

I was panting for breath when I reached the top of the marble steps leading to the entrance of the Museum. After paying a nominal admission fee (Adults - \$1.50; Students - \$.50), I paused at the information desk. A pleasant young guide pointed past an exhibit of mammals and advised, "Rocks, minerals, and gem collections are located on the second floor, west side of the building." With a smile, I turned and started climbing more stairs.

As a typical female, I began my tour with the H.N.Higginbotham Hall and its gem collection. Slowly examining each case, I saw a variety of synthetic gems (sapphires or rubies, depending on their color), a specimen of Michigan silver, delicate moss agate (chalcedony) from the western part of the United States, the largest thomsonite specimen ever found (from the north shore of Lake Superior), and many other gems from around the world.

One outstanding specimen in the gem collection is the 5,890-carat Chalmers topaz. The teardrop-shaped gem is the largest faceted blue topaz in the world. Another outstanding display in the collection is an exhibit of replicas of some of the world's most famous diamonds.

From my contemplation of sparkling gems used for decoration, I preceeded to three halls of minerals and rocks--the practical, functional types. These halls contain exhibits of economic geology, physical geology, and minerals and meteorites.

Throughout these exhibit halls, maps indicated the sources of many of the minerals on display. Each specimen is clearly labeled. Among the many cases of excellent samples, I saw several samples from Michigan--mostly copper and iron ore.

Of particular interest is the William J. Chalmers crystal collection in Hall 35 (Minerals and Meteorites). The collection occupies several cases with specimens classified according to their crystal systems. One display case features common characteristics of natural crystals. Hall 36 contains a small fluorescent mineral exhibit, similar to the one featured at our rock show each year. There is also an informative display of minerals commonly mistaken for gold, including pyrite, chalcopyrite and marcasite.

Since I work for the Bureau of Mines, several other exhibits were of particular interest to me. There are maps and samples of sources of U.S. strategic raw materials; a display model of an Arizona gold mine; a model of the original petroleum refinery built by John D. Rockefeller at Cleveland in 1863; and a display classifying minerals based on chemical, crystallographic, and structural relationships.

As I wandered through the exhibit halls, I found myself thinking about the people responsible for gathering the many specimens on display. Many of them are probably no longer alive, but what a wonderful tribute to their interest and dedication to a fascinating "hobby" we share.



ALASKA NATIONAL INTEREST LANDS - Alaska Geological Society, Inc., printed in the July 1977 issue of the Alaska Pebble Patter

Here is an issue which demands our whole-hearted opposition. The Udall, HR 39 bill on Alaskan National Interest Lands will have a redical effect on all geologists - on most of us, an adverse effect. This proposal pending before the U.S. Congress would create 145 million acres of instant wilderness on Federal lands in Alaska. The lands will be labelled "national forests, parks, wildlife refuges, wild & scenic rivers", but legally they will become WILDERNESS.

The land classification of wilderness means that no one would be allowed to grow crops on the lands, drive across them with any motorized vehibles, fly over them at under 2000 feet, explore for minerals, collect fossils, build shelters, or cut trees. The only thing that man can do in wilderness areas, basically, is walk through it with his hands in his pockets without his geological hammer. 145 million acres is a long walk.

Another fact which many do not realize is that an inventory of resources has never been run on these lands in Alaska. How can a US House Committee lock up this much acreage without even conducting an inventory of what they are about to set aside for wilderness? How can a government deny all manner of uses when they do not even know what those uses are...and when you look at the basic fact that the few explored sedimentary basins in Alaska ALREADY have 30% of the proven oil reserves of the TOTAL US OIL RESERVES, the situation becomes absurd.

Over 70 million acres of sedimentary basinal areas underlie HR 39 land. The amount of petroleum exploration which has been conducted over that acreage is minimal. Its oil and gas potential is considerable. Similarly, the hard rock mineral potential of HR 39 land is already known to be immense, yet it, too, requires further exploration. The hydroelectric potential of the whole state would be eliminated by passage of this bill. And so on, and so on....

Most of the proponents of the bill live thousands of miles from Alaska. They invariably argue for its extreme stipulations in emotional terms, not realistic ones. They do not want to understand its true implications. Members of the Alaska Geological Society must be concerned by these implications. We should closely watch the current House Committee hearings being conducted across the nation. As opponents of the bill, we are being swamped by sheer weight of numbers in the hearings. For example, prior to the hearings, the environmentalist groups were able to generate the dispatch of 50,000 letters supporting the bill in a ten day period, while during the hearings, in Chicago, 337 witnesses testified for the bill with only 12 against. The percentages in Atlanta and Denver were about the same. Public hearings are almost completed, Seattle and Alaska were all that remain. John Sieberling, Ohio Congressman, chairs the subcommittee.

You may ask what alternative there is to Udall's HR 39---Alaskans in common with other Americans, believe in parks, forests, camping, exploration, etc. We believe that we can have multiple use land management, and we also believe that about 80 million acres of Alaska SHOULD BE WITHDRAWN into national interest lands, but not as wilderness. We need land that we all can use and we desperately need the undeveloped resources of those lands.

from the AFMS Newsletter



#### MARK YOUR CALENDAR.

Nov. 17, 7:30 p.m., Regular Meeting, Everett H.S. Cafeteria, Lansing.  
Dec. 1, 7:30 p.m., Board Meeting with Slim and Sally Barber, 3215 Karen, Lansing.

#### FARTHER AFIELD

Nov. 11-13...Ft. Wayne, Ind., Southtown Mall. Ft. Wayne Lapidary Guild Show.  
Jan. 15-Feb. 19.....Grand Rapids, Mich., Grand Rapids Public Museum. Grand Rapids Mineral Society Show, "Mineral Montage."

The shows, like the wild geese, are moving into warmer climes for the season. Take your mineral magazines with you if you, too, are making that trek, and take advantage of the opportunity of visiting shows in a different area.

#### AFMS NEWSLETTER

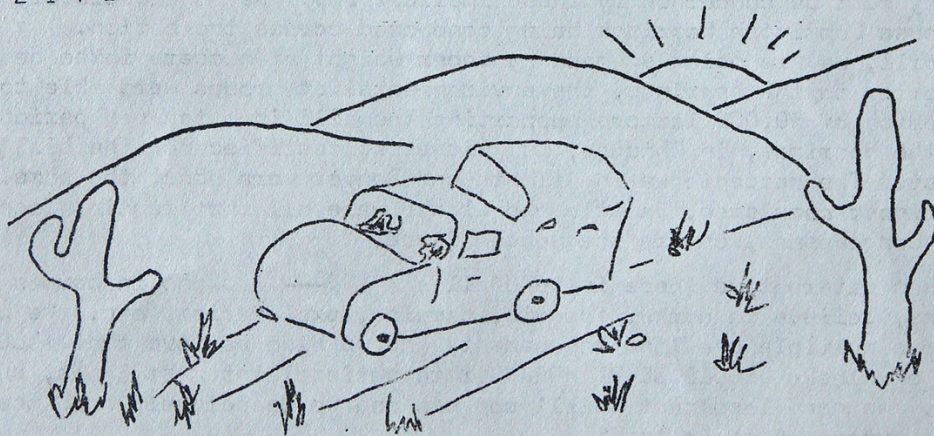
The AFMS announces another Slide Program contest, with the deadline for entry to be April 30, 1978. There will be three classes of programs -- Educational, Collecting sites, and Craftwork. For complete information ask to see the AFMS Newsletter for November, 1977.

This is also the time for the Bulletin Editors Contest and the All American Federation Club Award entries to be made out.

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Real South Sea pearls may soon be extinct, says J. Digby Matheson, in the Jewelers Circular Keystone. Matheson says oil spills and other pollution of the oyster beds of the South Seas are endangering the mollusc, *Pinctada maxima*, which produces the largest and most beautiful salt water pearls. The inevitable result of the rarity of these pearls, of course, is that their prices now rank them with the world's most precious gems.

#### QUARTZITE OR BUST !!



"No wonder we're lost, Larry! I'm reading my dress pattern instead of the map!"

from Pegmatite, via Crystal Cluster