



THE MINNESOTA GEOLOGIST

OFFICIAL BULLETIN
OF
THE GEOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF MINNESOTA

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NO. 3

MOST PEOPLE ARE AWARE THAT GEOLOGICAL SCIENCE
HAS MADE IMPORTANT CONTRIBUTIONS TO HUMAN WELFARE,
BUT FEW STOP TO THINK THAT A LITTLE KNOWLEDGE
OF GEOLOGY MAY GIVE LARGE AESTHETIC REWARDS ----
THE WORKS OF NATURE ARE MORE INSPIRING THAN
ANYTHING THAT THE ART OF MAN HAS PRODUCED.

RUSSELL C. HUSSEY,
ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR OF GEOLOGY,
UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN.

G E O L O G I C A L S O C I E T Y O F M I N N E S O T A

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The Society is devoted to the study of GEOLOGY,
MINERALOGY, and PALEONTOLOGY for their cultural value.

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MEETINGS : October to May inclusive, 7:45 P. M. every Monday
not a holiday, auditorium, Minnesota Museum of Natural History,
University of Minnesota, 17th Ave., S. E. and University Avenue.
Visitors welcome.

FIELD TRIPS : May until October inclusive.

ANNUAL DUES : Residents of Hennepin and Ramsey counties \$ 3.00
plus \$ 1.00 additional for husband, wife, or dependent family
members ; for students and non-residents, \$ 1.00.

M E M B E R

MIDWEST FEDERATION OF GEOLOGICAL SOCIETIES

* Deceased

EDITORS MEMO

MEETING TIME & PLACE : Perhaps the most important information we have to give you at this time is the announcement in our president's report on the change of meeting place for our Monday night lectures. We would like to add that in the future our lecture program will begin at 7:45 P. M. Please note the change of time and place listed on the first inside page of the Bulletin.

SYME BOOK COLLECTION : There are still a number of books from the Syme collection for sale. Why not check the list once again. Perhaps you will find just the book you've been wanting. Last but not least, you can, by purchasing these books, restore some attic space to your editors and increase the funds in our Society's treasury.

CONGRATULATIONS : Mr. Ralph Parkhill, a Society member of Rochester Minn., and several geologically minded friends were successful in starting a class in geology through the Adult Education Program of their school system late last winter. Dr. Duncan Stewart, Chairman of the Department of Geology at Carleton College, drove to Rochester from Northfield every Friday evening for twelve weeks to conduct this class. The attendance ranged from 20 to 34. Field trips have also been arranged for this summer. Congratulations Rochester, for your efforts in promoting and encouraging the study of geology in your community.

MIDWEST CONVENTION : Let's make our plans now to attend the annual Midwest convention at Davenport, Iowa. The dates again are August 26, 27 & 28. The Illowa Rockhound Club (our host Society) and the Midwest officers and directors have planned an extremely interesting program.



BULLETIN BOARD

- AUG. 6-7 ----- Bus trip to Mason City Iowa and vicinity.
LEADERS : DR. W. C. BELL and MISS ELSIE HINCHLEY.
- AUG. 21 ----- Redwood Falls Minn. and vicinity. Bus trip.
LEADER : MR. ERNEST LUND, graduate student in geology.
- SEPT. 17 & 18 - Jay Cooke State Park and Duluth area.
LEADER : DR. GEORGE H. SCHWARTZ.
- OCT. 2 ----- Glacial geology.
LEADER : DR. H. E. WRIGHT.
- OCT. 9 ----- Destination undetermined.
LEADER : DR. F. M. SWAIN.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Some forty of the members of our society have just returned from a 4500 mile trip to Mesa Verde, Taos, Grand, Bryce and Zion Canyons, Salt Lake City and the Black Hills under the leadership of Past President Chas. H. Preston. It was a delightfully worth while trip and the enthusiasm of those who participated is unbounded. But the report on this excellent venture must await the capable framing of Mrs. Henry S. Sommers and Mr. Preston. In this message to you, I would like to report briefly on the following matters which concern our plans for the coming year.

MEETING PLACE

The membership canvass on the question of a meeting place for next year resulted in a vote greatly in favor of holding our meetings in the auditorium of the Museum of Natural History of Minnesota (96 in favor, 15 against the move). Accordingly, our Board of Directors voted to make the change and the University authorities have been notified of our acceptance of their proposal. No major change of this kind can be made without encountering other problems to be solved. We have met at the Minneapolis Public Library for more than ten years ; we have stored there - the Burch collection of maps, books, 75 geological models, and rocks and mineral collection. We have also assembled other collections of books, rocks and minerals which have been presented to us from time to time. Plans are being worked out to secure for our society and the public, the maximum utilization that can be made of each item from this collection, having in mind also its continued preservation.

LECTURE PROGRAM

A committee headed by Vice President Merle Harris in consultation with Dr. Geo. A. Thiel, head of the Department of Geology at the University of Minn., has prepared the following tentative program for the season beginning October 3, 1949. A quick glance at the subject headings and you reach the correct conclusion that Minnesota geology is the main theme. All of us - new members and old members alike - will profit greatly by such a course. The names of the professional geologists who (we hope) will present the lectures have been tentatively assigned but are withheld until their acceptance of the assignment has been secured. Suffice it to say that at least four of the lectures will be given by Dr. Thiel. Our objective in thus presenting this program so far in advance is to give you an opportunity to interest your friends in our program. We need your individual cooperation in making this worthwhile program available to a greatly increased membership. Will you help ?

TENTATIVE OUTLINE OF LECTURES 1949 - 1950

- Oct. 3 Why Minnesota's 10,000 Lakes ?
 - 10 Minnesota's Mineral Heritage.
 - 17 Building Stones of Minnesota.
 - 24 Taylor's Falls State Park and Jay Cooke State Park.
 - 31 Minneopa and Ramsey State Parks.
- Nov. 7 Land Forms and Scenery (general).
 - 14 The Earth and Its Climates.
 - 21 Introducing Minnesota Geology (general).
 - 28 Minnesota and the World's Oldest Rocks.

- Dec. 5 The Ancient Iron Formations of the Lake Superior Region.
 12 Origin of the Lake Superior Basin.
 19 The Cambrian Rocks of Minnesota.
- Jan. 9 The Ordovician Rocks of Minnesota.
 16 The Devonian Rocks of Minnesota.
 23 Life in Minnesota Rocks.
 30 The Cretaceous Rocks of Minnesota.
- Feb. 6 Making a Geologic Map of Minnesota.
 13 Glacial Geology.
 20 Glacial Geology (concluded).
 27 Making Ice Sheet Maps of Minnesota.
- Mar. 6 Glaciation and Vegetation.
 13 Soils of Minnesota.
 20 Open.
 27 Open.
- Apr. 3 Open.
 10 Field Trip Lecture.
 17 Oceanography.
 24 Banquet.

Suggestions : The Use of Index Fossils in Oil Exploration.
 (Photomicrographs)
 Antarctic Geology.

PROJECTS

Each of the three projects toward which the club membership has contributed liberally is making good progress. We shall be able to report more completely on them in the September issue of the Bulletin. Approximately \$875.00 has been contributed by you toward these worthy projects.

PUBLICITY

Among other propitious activities for our fall and winter program is the increase in the personnel of announcement writers for our society. Mr. J. O. Engen will make his contacts with the Minneapolis press. Mrs. Henry Sommers will contact the St. Paul press and contiguous territory. Mrs. Sylvester Koontz who has had a wealth of experience in the field of journalism will act as general advisor. These activities will supplement the work which will be carried on in the pages of the Bulletin by the editors, and the work done in our public schools by Miss Gretchen Ware.

MIDWEST FEDERATION

PREPARE NOW FOR THE MIDWEST AUCTION ! James Montague of the Wisconsin Geological Society who has general charge of auction arrangements, sends this timely message. Please give heed. "Above everything else, the Midwest officers and advisory board are very desirous of putting the Federation in a good financial condition. The one BIG BOOST to attaining this position is a mineral sale to be held at the convention. If you have good specimens to donate send them to Auction Committee, 704 Brady St. Davenport Ia. Some outstanding specimens have been donated by interested persons. All specimens must be properly labeled with the name and the locality from which they came. Both mineral and fossil specimens are desired. For further information contact the Secretary, Mrs. Loretta E. Koppen.

Hal E. McWethy, Pres.

EDITORS NOTE : Dr. W. C. Bell read the following poem at one of our lecture meetings last winter. It was so thoroughly enjoyed by all who heard it that we felt it would bear repeating. Thus, with Dr. Bell's permission, we are passing it on to you.

THE GEOLOGIST'S LAMENT

Gather 'round me, hear my story
I'm a rock-hound in distress
I'm a rock-hound bathed in trouble
I'm an outcast, more or less.

I have fossils in the kitchen
I have crystals in the hall
I have minerals in the bathtub
I have relics on the wall.

I have tin oxide on the carpet
I have oil upon the floor
I have black light in the parlor
And I have bones behind each door.

Attic rooms are fairly sagging
Rocks pave the cellar floor
Pockets bulge with gemmy pieces
All of this and millions more.

Wife, she thinks I'm goofy
I dont know, she may be right
She insists it's silicosis
Or some contagious sort of blight.

Says my head is lined with agate
(a freak displacement of the bone)
Says my brain is just a nodule
And my heart has turned to stone.

Threatens me with separation
Storms about our rock-bound home
Says life to me is just a geode
Or a hunk of Mammal bone.

Are you rated as a fossil
Are you obliged to live alone
How do you maintain a hobby
And still maintain a happy home ?

Anonymous.



In the early hours of June 18, the big Jefferson bus had no sooner started from the St. Paul bus depot with its full complement of 35 members of the Geological Society of Minnesota, than warning shouts stopped it - oil was leaking from the Diesel tank. Ruefully we returned to Minneapolis for repairs, but our chagrin turned to thankfulness when we noticed there the precious loud-speaker, overlooked in the preparations. It and Mr. McWethy were the two factors that lifted the running of this trip into a smoothness hitherto undreamed. The loudspeaker made it possible for Mr. Preston to sit at ease in the front seat and talk on the geology of the passing country, with every member hearing, while Mr. McWethy took from the leaders shoulders the mechanics of the trip. Mr. Preston was freed to be the professional leader with Mr. McWethy the manager in charge of operations. Perfect camaraderie and much joshing enlivened the dual control, neither branch of which was ever out of adjustment with the other.

Our second setback came on a baking hot afternoon as we entered Colorado from the endless wheatlands of Kansas. Our engine broke down. There we were in the midst of nothing but space. Slim, our wonderful driver, set to work; our president got grimy as his helper, passing trucks stopped to offer aid, and gave it too, until after four hours we started ahead as cautiously as an appendicitis patient on his first walk. Later Slim paid tribute to the group, saying he couldn't get over the spirit in which they took the delay. He was used to a bus route - where a delay of a minute and a half would bring forth distressed appeals from grandmothers trying to beat the stork. We had grandmothers aplenty in the bus but they seemed most unconcerned about their progeny, present or prospective. (The last remark was not Slim's.)

The third and last delay came as we entered Arizona, - and were we outraged! The bus had to buy a license for a whole year - \$ 75 - and deposit \$ 30 more for something connected with the fuel oil. Telephone calls to Phoenix to explain our educational status didn't soften the Arizona heart, hard as its minerals, but they did delay us so that when we proceeded on our way not only was the bus company poorer by some \$ 100 but we were too late to visit the Petrified Forest. It was a major disappointment, especially to Mr. Porry, our expert polisher of rocks.

To turn from what we missed to the marvels we did see. There were the pottery makers of the San Ildefonso pueblo on the Rio Grande, where the Indians peered out from their doors to watch us enter the dusty plaza, there was Bandelier National Monument only a few miles from the atomic city of Los Alamos, in a deep narrow canyon with ancient pueblo ruins and beautiful modern cabins built by the CCC, there was Santa Fe where we were torn between the fascinating shops of Indian wares and the fine museum. When we reluctantly left that mountain world we crossed into the high plateau country where we walked entranced through the great pueblo of the Aztec Ruins Monument, then drove on to Mesa Verde, that high and wide-flung mesa with great cliff-dwellings hidden in its valleys. While we were not concerned lest we have to push the bus as we did last year, we were fearful this time lest the turns of the mountain climb up Mesa Verde would be too sharp for our big bus to take, but Slim swung it up without a quiver, though several members had hairs newly white when they reached the top. How many times on the trip we found this true: "If hopes were dupes, fears may be liars."

From Mesa Verde we drove past the Painted Desert to the great Meteor Crater where the owners still dream of mining the deeply buried meteor for its nickel and iron. Fragments of the meteor have been reached but they are so hard that drills cannot penetrate them. Our next stop was at the jewel of a museum at Flagstaff, where the leading authority on the Canyon Country, Dr. Edwin D. McKee, spoke to us briefly. His very manner, so authoritative and yet so simple, bespoke his caliber. Throughout the trip the geology was explained to us by local geologists and naturalists, beside which we had Mr. Preston, steeped in the geology of Arizona. He fairly loves not only every rock but every geological name, the latter of which he generously shared with us!

Next came Sunset Crater in the San Francisco peaks, a crater only 900 years old, its lava flow as desolate as when it first rolled down the valley. And that night we reached the Grand Canyon. Five ambitious members walked down it, staying overnight at the Phantom Ranch, 110 in the shade. On their return climb their water gave out and the heat was intense. The three boys, Paul Mandell, Peter Miller and Wesley Suhr, pushed ahead, often on all fours, with throats too parched to swallow, till they at last reached the top and were given a lift on the four mile hike to camp. With Dr. Mandell and water, they went back to aid George Rickert and Mr. Havill, who had finally crawled to the rim, helped in soul as well as body by the orange they found on the trail, left for them by the thirsty boys.

Five less ambitious members took the one-day trip to the bottom. A lunch of hard-boiled eggs, chicken sandwiches and a cup-cake, eaten in the burning heat by the river, was the undoing of Mrs. Chapin and Mr. de Nuci, but, though lighter for the trip, they finally got back, Elsie Hinchley joyously in the lead and Mrs. Becker and Mr. McFethy, satisfied the sore. The sad part was that Mr. de Nuci was not able to go on the next day and, with Mr. Perry went home by train.

A long drive through the strata of the successive geologic ages laid bare for all to see brought us to the parklike forests of the North Rim and the spectacularly beautiful outlook from the lodge which overhangs Bright Angel Canyon. One brief night there, when, to their shame be it said, the leader and several accomplices turned aside from the naturalist's lecture and played hooky at bridge, then on we went through the mighty red and white defile of Zion Canyon to lovely Bryce, with its fretwork of columns of many shapes and colors. There again we had hikers and riders aplenty but no misadventures. By this time Mrs. Chapin had taken over most effectively the assignment of rooms each night, relieving the leader of an annoying job. Mr. Preston was now pretty carefree and we drove on under his happy leadership through the lush green of the Mormon country, so ordered and industrious, past the shore of glacial Lake Bonneville to Salt Lake City. Though weary to the bone, we visited the famous tabernacle and several members went that evening to the rehearsal of the equally famous choir. A stock dinner popped us all up and next morning we turned east toward home.

So deep had the Colorado River carved its canyons into our consciousness that it was with a thrill we came, way up in Wyoming, upon a simple monument beside the Green River, marking the spot where Major John Wesley Powell, one-armed, on May 24, 1869, with four boats and nine men, started on that perilous first trip into the unknown dangers of that mighty river.

While at home our friends were gasping with heat we came happily thru the Black Hills till in the Badlands the heat smote us and kept on smiting to our very doorsteps. As we sat together that last evening at dinner in Huron, a burly policeman entered the room, seeking our most respected dental surgeon, Dr. Koontz. We burned with curiosity. Like Mulvaney's, our ears grew a yard with listening. The police had been broadcasting to have us stopped. A towel was missing from the Koontz's cabin at Rapid City. "Is there a Mrs. Lupient in your party?" "Yes, our treasurer." "Her room key is missing". "Have you a Mrs. Keller?" Abashed Dr. Koontz answered, "My sister." "Her room was not paid for." When the policeman was finally convinced that the towel was missing when the Koontz's took the room, that Mrs. Lupient never had the key, and that the roomrent had been mailed back earlier in the day, he allowed us to relax. The next day we struck for home, our police record, we hope, still clean.

A marvellous trip in beauty and variety it was, and most marvellous in geologic meaning. The least rock-minded person in the group could not but be aware that we had passed in succession from the Pre-Cambrian complex in the inner gorge of the Grand Canyon, up through the strata of the Algonkian and the Paleozoic in its upper walls, then through the Mesozoic and Cenozoic eras in Zion, Bryce and the Badlands of South Dakota, to the very youngest of the series, the glacial drift of our own green Minnesota. We had been privileged to travel up through the ages and to know that we were doing so.

Thank you, Charlie Preston.

And now, on to 1950 with fresh fields and pastures new. Only let them be rocky.



GEOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF MINNESOTA
Mrs. Mary Lupient, Treasurer,
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APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP

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ALGER R. SYME GEOLOGICAL BOOK COLLECTION

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