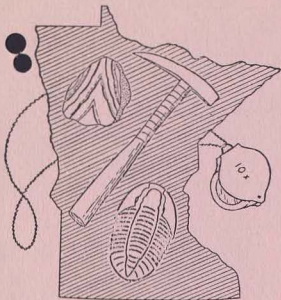


December 1970



Geological Society
of Minnesota

NEWS



Geological Society of Minnesota

Robert V. Leacock, Editor
1235 Brighton Square
New Brighton, Minn. 55112

FIRST CLASS



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Dec 1970

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Dr. & Mrs. Bert Carlson
3034-46th Ave. So.
Minneapolis, Minn. 55406

The GEOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF MINNESOTA is an amateur group that accepts Geology as an absorbing hobby. We solicit and welcome the help and direction of membership from professional ranks, but by and large our approach to the subject is that of the layman. Most of us are not true rockhounds, although we do collect minerals, rocks and fossils. Our main purpose is to promote interest in the study of Geology of the state of Minnesota.

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*May the wondrous
message of Christmas
bring joy and peace
to the whole world*

JANUARY - FEBRUARY - 1971

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Although I am serving the Geological Society as its President this year, I am a comparatively recent member and may, therefore, still be able to take a somewhat detached view of it. From this point of view, two characteristics of the Society seem particularly impressive: its continuity, and its fulfillment of purpose.

It is not surprising to learn that there are at least a half dozen charter members who are still active in the Society after 32 years, most of them still attending meetings, and some still serving with interest and enthusiasm on committees or on the Board.

According to the Articles of Incorporation, the general purpose of the Society is "to promote interest in the study of geology with special reference to the geology of Minnesota". Certainly, it seems to me, the Society has been fulfilling the purpose in our lectures and field trips, in our work in the schools, and in our sponsorship of the plaques marking points of particular geologic interest in the State.

The number of information-seeking letters the Society has received this year from as far away as New Jersey, attests to a significant latent reservoir of interest in geology - and in this continuity and this fulfillment of purpose. To maintain this continuity we should always try to involve the newer members in the decision-making or housekeeping processes, by asking them to serve, together with the older members on committees or the Board. And by continuing to have mature and challenging programs and field trips, we will, almost automatically, I think, continue to fulfill our purposes in all respects.

---Sam Mayo, President
Geological Society of Minnesota

"Keep Christ in Christmas"

TABLET INSCRIPTION #9

Geology of Minnesota

LAKE HARRIET REGION

The continental glaciers spreading over Minnesota during the great ice ages brought vast quantities of rock material from the north to be dumped indiscriminately during the recession of the ice. Old river valleys were filled and belts of hills were formed as conditions changed. The Lake Harriet landscape has such an origin.

Leaving the present channel of the Mississippi river at the Plymouth Avenue bridge a preglacial valley runs almost directly south beneath Lake of the Isles, Lake Calhoun and Lake Harriet to the Minnesota River at Bloomington. This valley was mostly filled but not completely obliterated by glacial deposits. The unfilled portions of the valley are now basins, which are filled by lakes perched high on the glacial debris. Lake Harriet lies directly over this ancient valley, its surface 250 feet above the valley's rocky floor, and is in a setting of hills piled up while the ice front paused here in its final retreat about 10,000 years ago.

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LETTERS

November 20

Dear Mr. Leacock -

What an interesting Bulletin - how alive the Society is -

I read it all and how I wished I could again be there -

Congratulations - Sincerely -
Helen G. Sommers

TABLET INSCRIPTION #10

Geology of Minnesota

INDIAN MOUNDS PARK

This point commands a view of one of the great water courses of North America. The stream which once filled this valley, named the River Warren was larger than any river on the continent to-day.

During the past million years, Minnesota has been covered by glaciers at least 4 times. The short summers and long winters of the great ice ages caused an accumulation of snow and ice to a thickness of several thousand feet.

As the climate moderated and glaciation came to an end, enormous quantities of water were released to flow in rivers away from the ice field. The valley of the Mississippi visible from this point was eroded by such a stream about 12,000 years ago. Scoured to a depth of 100 feet below the present river surface, the valley was later filled by sand and gravel as the force of the torrent subsided.

St. Paul, Nov. 15, 1970
Dr. Bert Carlson, Secretary
Geological Society of Minnesota

Dear Dr. Carlson:

The compliment of the Board of Directors in declaring us to be honorary members of the Society is appreciated and the title is accepted with pleasure. The Society is not indebted to us because it was through the study of geology that our activities were enlarged and our lives filled with interests and pleasures, that we could not otherwise have enjoyed. The picnics were merely incidental to the program by which we all learned to appreciate the beauty of the landscape and the companionship of each other. Thank you for attending the picnics and the honor you have conferred upon us.

Josephine and Laurence King

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