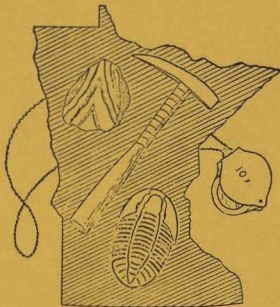


Summer 1974



NEWS

Geological Society of Minnesota

FIRST CLASS

MINNEAPOLIS, MINNESOTA



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Summer, 1974

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SCIENTISTS FIND LOST CONTINENT

NEW YORK (AP)—British and American scientists, drilling into the past in the floor of the South Atlantic, have found the last piece of a great continental jigsaw puzzle, it was announced Thursday.

It is the final piece of evidence that South America and Africa were once part of the vast, supercontinent Gondwanaland, along with Australia, New Zealand and Antarctica.

The scientists found a finger-shaped extension of the Falkland Plateau, under two miles of water and sediment, reaching 750 miles from the South American mainland.

"Some 150 million years ago, the scientists determined, it was cupped snugly along what is now the southeastern coast of South Africa," it was announced Thursday.

Rocks dug up from the sunken continent by scientists from Columbia University and the University of Birmingham aboard the research ship Glomar Challenger, are believed to be more than 600 million years old—the oldest ever brought up from the bottom of any ocean.

"It completes the puzzle," said Prof. Ian A.D. Dalziel of Columbia. "All the other points along the Atlantic contours of the two continents had been proven by various scientific means to have been joined long ago.

"Now, with deep sea drilling, we've identified a large area of foundered continent, and the last piece is in place."

Daniel and Peter Barker of Birmingham made their discovery as cochief scientists on the recently completed 36th leg of the Deep Sea Drilling Project, which ended in Rio de Janeiro May 22.

The project is being run by the Scripps Institution of Oceanography of the University of California at San Diego for the National Science Foundation.

The Falkland Plateau extension fills in what had been an unknown gap in the reconstruction of Gondwanaland, which began breaking up 200 million years ago.

This piece of the puzzle remained dry land with a Mediterranean climate for 50 million years as the continents gradually spread apart in the continuing process of continental drift. Then it began to sink.

"It went down relatively quickly, as a geologist would say, and reached its present depth about 80 million years ago," the professor from Columbia said.

From The St. Paul Pioneer Press, July 19, 1974

FIELD trips

Sat. and Sun., Aug. 10-11
Northern Minnesota Early
Precambrian Geology
(Vermillion District)

Beauty - interesting geology - excellent leadership - liesurely bus travel - scenic boat trip down Lake Kabetogama - and an easy chance to get better acquainted will characterize this excursion.

The earliest known geologic history in Northern Minnesota goes back to a period of submarine volcanic activity. We will give close attention to the volcanic pile built up during this period. Extruded lavas, iron formations, layered explosive debris, and various other volcanic sedimentary materials accumulated in this pile. (Review Ely Greenstone, Lake Vermillion Formation, Soudan Iron Formation, etc. in Dr. Southwick's lecture notes from the winter schedule.)

Some time later, during the Algonian Orogeny, great stresses deformed and warped the volcanic pile. More or less simultaneously pulses of hot magma were injected from below, which later cooled to large granite-like bodies of great dimensions, producing the Giants Range Batholith to the south and the Vermillion Massif to the north. At a late stage, the region was split by large faults, and huge regional blocks tilted, slid past one another, and were variously altered.

We will be studying this intricate puzzle under especially fine leadership. Dr. David Southwick has specialized professionally in the early Precambrian of Minnesota, and we look forward eagerly to next weekend.

Members and guests are welcome. If you are interested and have not been telephoned, please call John Snell for more information (711-8144).

Sat. and Sun., Sept. 28-29
Northwoods Audubon Center, Sandstone, Minn.

This will be a very pleasant weekend at a beautiful time of the year. Michael Link, Director of the Northwoods Audubon Center, will lead us on a trip in his area which has many interesting Pleistocene and bedrock formations. Inexpensive accommodations will be provided at the Center, and Mr. Link will present an evening program to the group.

Those who are unable to get away for two days are invited to drive up for either Saturday or Sunday. If you are interested and John Snell does not have your name on his list, please call him at 711-8144.



STATE FAIR EXHIBIT WILL HAVE MORTON GNEISS

A large, polished slab of Morton Gneiss will be a featured part of this year's G.S.M. State Fair exhibit according to Mary Kimball, Exhibits Committee Chairman. The slab is a fine example of this ancient Minn. Valley rock (3.5 B.Y.) and well known Minnesota decorative building stone. It comes to us for display purposes through the courtesy of the Kohlman Monumental works of St. Cloud and the Lohmer Monument Company of Stillwater.

The G.S.M. again will have a booth in the Education Building during the State Fair, Aug. 23 to Sept. 2. Plan to stop by to see the display.

ANNUAL MEETING TO BE SEPT. 30

Be sure to mark your calendar now for Monday, Sept. 30. This is the date of the G.S.M. Annual Meeting, to be held at the Viking Village Smorgasbord. Check the next Newsletter for more information.



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LONG-TIME MEMBERS PASS AWAY

G.S.M. members were saddened by the recent deaths of two of its founders and influential long-term participants, Hal E. Mewethy on Feb. 28 and Elmer H Brown on June 14.

Both of these men had been active in planning and directing the G.S.M. throughout its entire history, and have served over the years in many capacities as committee chairmen, directors, officers, and field trip leaders. They continued their interest in the Society, and maintained a role of active support as long as they lived.

The G.S.M. today is a vigorous organization of enthusiastic members because of the work of Mr. Mewethy, Mr. Brown, and the others who carefully built the Society upon a framework of high standards of learning. They will be long remembered and greatly missed.

welcome

NEW MEMBERS:

New members of the G.S.M. are welcomed into our organization. They include the following people:

William E. Miller
425 S.E. 13th Ave., Apt. 403
Minneapolis, MN 55414 (331-3263)

Mrs. Mary Storlie
23449 Dodd Blvd.
Lakeville, MN 55044 (469-2739)

Mr. & Mrs. Henry Gangl
2925 Sumter N.
Minneapolis, MN 55427 (545-3912)

Robert D. Mitchell
1581 Beechwood Ave.
St. Paul MN 55116 (699-2951 home)
(373-2368 office)

Address corrections should be made for the following members:

Sister Joan Kain
St. Luke's Convent
1035 Summit Ave.
St. Paul, MN 55105 (225-3000)

Miriam Antilla
tel. correction (377-8205)