

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

SEASON'S GREETINGS



DUES ARE DUE JANUARY 1, 1998!



MICHIANA GEM & MINERAL SOCIETY

1998 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Historian Ed Miller 498-6513
Sunshine Sister Jeanne Finske 284-5903
Publicity Tom Noe 289-2028
Field Trips Kathy Miller 291-0332
Membership All Members

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. Regular exceptions include 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 \$10.00 per year
_____ Family \$15.00 per year
_____ Junior \$1.00 per year
_____ Subscriber \$7.50 per year

(One-half these amounts after July 1)

Please indicate areas of special interest.

General Geology___ Beads___
Gems & Minerals___ Silversmithing___
Fossils___ Artifacts___
Cabochons___ Rockhound___
Faceting___ Crystals___
Carving___ Micromounts___
Other_____ Jewelry making___

Name _____

Address _____

City,ST.,Zip _____

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

Will attend meetings?

Name _____
Birthday _____ yes ___ no ___

Name _____
Birthday _____ yes ___ no ___

Name _____
Birthday _____ yes ___ no ___

Name _____
Birthday _____ yes ___ no ___

Date of Wedding Anniversary _____

Phone _____

THE ROCKFINDER

Newsletter of the Michiana Gem & Mineral Society

Volume 37, Number 10

December, 1997

Meeting: Sunday, January 25, 1998
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

January Birthdays

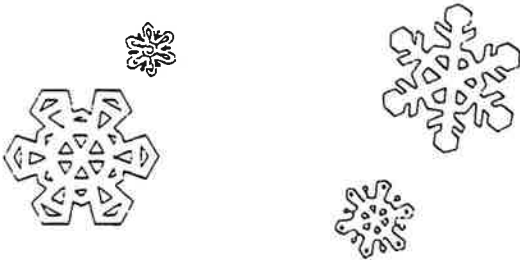
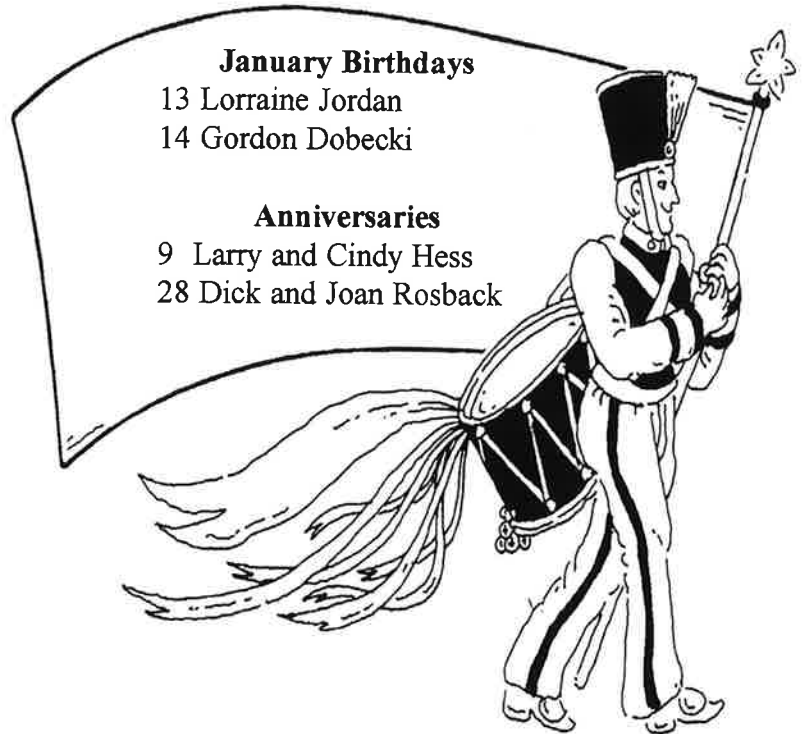
13 Lorraine Jordan

14 Gordon Dobecki

Anniversaries

9 Larry and Cindy Hess

28 Dick and Joan Rosback



NEW DUES DUE

A new schedule of dues was voted on and approved at the December Christmas party. Please look at the following categories and select the one that is best for you.

- ◆ Adult single membership (for those 16 years or older in the membership year) \$10.00/yr.
- ◆ Junior single membership (for those 15 years or younger in the membership year) \$1.00/yr., or \$7.50/yr. if a separate *Rockfinder* is sent.
- ◆ Family membership (includes any two adults plus all juniors who are between 4 and 15 years old) \$15.00/yr.
- ◆ Honorary membership--No dues.
- ◆ Subscribing membership (for nonparticipating members who will receive *The Rockfinder*) \$7.50/yr.



Dues for 1998 are payable **NOW**. Please make out a check to Michiana Gem & Mineral Society for the correct amount and mail it to Margaret Heinek at 7091 E. East Park Lane, New Carlisle, IN 46552. You can use the form inside the green cover of this issue of *The Rockfinder*. Please, please include your phone number. If you wish, your number will not be printed in the club roster, but Margaret needs to know it.

The club roster is prepared in January, so you will not be listed in the roster if dues are late.

MARGARET'S COLUMN



Merry Christmas, Happy New Year and Happy Hanukkah to one and all. Bob and I sincerely wish you the best of seasons and a wonderful 1998.

Our Christmas party, on December 7th, was a pleasant one, good food (as usual) and good conversation. BUT we missed so many of our members. Sorry you missed it, we sure missed you.

We had two adult guests and 3 junior guests. The juniors were grandchildren of the McLaughlin s.

As most of you know we had to make a decision on raising our dues. Since the notification was in the last *Rockfinder*, we could vote on the changes to the O Ps this month. There was a motion by Herb Luckert that the Board's suggestion on the dues raise be approved, seconded by Bill Nelson, and passed.

Dues for family- \$15.00; Single - \$10.00; Junior \$1.00 (with *Rockfinder* \$7.50); & Subscribing membership \$7.50.

Those that have paid their 1998 dues before the change, consider them paid. Thanks. For the others, DUES ARE DUE. We will pay our MWF dues and insurance by January 5th.

Marie Crull has informed me that, since she is away for most of the winter, she has decided to resign as secretary of the Michiana Gem Society. Gladys Pacholke will serve as our secretary.

Pat McLaughlin will serve as the Hospitality Chairman for the next year. Sally Peltz will be our Sunshine Chairman. If you hear of illness or anyone that needs a cheery card, let Sally know. Also Sally needs to update the birthday and anniversary dates and we still need some. Do we have yours? If not, you may get a call to obtain them.

We need other committees filled, and if you are interested in one of the following....please let me know;
publicity, programs, educational

Those that work with computers might find the article on "The Year 2000," and the problems, interesting. Or if you plan on the purchase of a computer, ask

how the new ones are equipped to handle this problem.

Hope to see you at the January meeting, and in the meantime have a very Happy Holiday.



NOT PROVERBS BUT ROCKVERBS

A start by Mel Albright

1. The weight of the prize rock you find increases as the square of the distance from your car.
2. The finest specimen in the cliff is 5 feet to the left of the last foothold and 10 feet above the base. (I remember one that I wanted-MH).
3. The fossil find of a lifetime will last only until you are standing over the nearest cement floor.
4. When you take a beginner on a field trip, they will discover the prize stone you have been hunting for 20 years.

Year 2000 Computer Problem Van A Wimmer, Sr.

Those of us that work with the computer are aware that a problem could be faced when the year 2000 comes. I have received an article on the computer date problem, and it appears that people who keep their business records such as Account Receivable, Tax Records, Inventory or Investment Programs. are in for trouble. Some software has an expiration date, so look out for these.

What is the problem? Computer hardware and software from the beginning of memory space shortages were designed to use only two digits for the year such as 97 for 1997. The clock in computers with this type of system starts keeping time on Jan 01, 1980 and goes to December 31, 1999. Remember that it sees the year only as two digits. When January 01, 2000 arrives these clocks will go to January 01, 1980.

This will wreak havoc with systems that are used for bookkeeping. Some systems will not work after December 31, 1999 and on some, the programs and data will be destroyed or corrupted to the point of being worthless. Analysts are predicting that this problem will have an effect on the business community that will be worse than the stock market crash. Many businesses that are unprepared will be ruined and go out of business because of the loss of their records or the corruption of them to the point that they will be worthless.

If your computer has a bios that recognizes the year as two digits, there is a software fix for soft BIOS (ones that can be changed with software). Some 386's plus 486's and Pentiums have soft BIOS. Computers built before the 386's such as the 8088 and the 286's have hard BIOS (one's that cannot be changed with software) and can not be fixed. You will have to use them for programs that are not date sensitive.

Microsoft started designing all of its software beginning with Windows 3.11 to recognize the year as four digits, such as 1997. Thank you Microsoft for doing something right for a change.

The businesses that are using custom designed software are going to be hardest hit. The large software manufact-

urer's will provide fixes or updates but many of the writers of custom software are already out of business or may be out of business by January 01, 2000. Start looking at all of your software now and if any of it is custom designed for you or your type of business, start making calls now to obtain the fixes or upgrades.

This just scratches the surface of this problem. It effects both hardware and software. You must look at each individual component and determine if you need to obtain a fix or up-grade or in the case of some older systems, a new computer. Now is the time to start looking at your system to see if you need to make any changes. Don't wait until December of 1999 and expect to find help or materials. If you would like to do some research on the problem and how it would effect you, here is a list of some good resources available on the WWW.

Compaq: www.compaq.com/year2000

Novell Year 2000 Frequently Asked Questions
www.microsoft.com/cio/articles/year2000faq.htm.

Novell Year 2000 Suggested Internet Sites:
www.novell.com/text/p2000/hotsites.html

Novel Year 2000 White Paper:
www.novel.com/text/p2000/wpaper.html

Yahoo Search:
www.yahoo.com/computers_and_internet/year_2000_Problem

Year 2000.com: www.year2000.com

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More Rockverbs -

5. When you show off your "bragging" rock, someone else will show you they have two that are bigger and better.
6. The finest fossils are found by your buddy two feet in front of you.
7. When you drop a stone in the workshop, it will hide behind the rear leg of your workbench.

Meeting of the Michiana Gem & Mineral Society - November 23, 1997

President Heinek opened the meeting at 2:05. Our new member, Karen Kreuter, was welcomed as well as two guests, Julie and Bill Blevins.

Pam Rubenstein gave the treasurer's report. Tom Noe motioned it be filed for audit, seconded by Tom McLaughlin.

Marie Crull gave her delegate report on the Midwest Federation's meeting held in Davenport, Iowa, in October. She told of the dues increase by the Midwest Federation. She suggested that juniors should start planning a case to enter in competition in Houghton, MI, in August, 1998. Since the AFMS Convention is in the Midwest Federation, a MWF junior with the highest score on their case is eligible for a special award, the *Lillian Turner Award*. Any questions contact Pres. Heinek.

Hostesses were Kathy Miller, Emily Johnson and Pat McLaughlin. Thanks to these ladies for the good treats.

Our library will be updated by Diane Gram. She asked that anyone that has books out should return them as soon as possible.

Mike Slattery reported he sent letters of appreciation to Cardinal Bus Co. for the nice driver we had. He also sent a letter to the motel thanking them.

Kathy Miller asked members to bring in decorations that can be used to decorate the Christmas tree. Set-up and decorations will be done on Sat. Dec. 6th at 9 AM.

Our Christmas Party will be held on December 7. It was suggested that members could bring food to be donated to the Food Bank/Pantry which has run out of food this year. If you bring a gift for the exchange, mark it for "man," "lady" or "junior."

Donations were discussed and voted on to donate \$50.00 to the following: the Homeless Shelter, Salvation Army and Hope Rescue Mission. A motion was made by Tom Noe, seconded by David Peltz, to do this, passed.

President Heinek brought up the need for a dues increase, explained why, and reported this will be voted on at the December party. Since some of our juniors

have turned over 16 this year, the members had questions as to their dues. A lively discussion followed, and the Board feels they have reached a good decision. The Board had suggested the following increase:

Family	\$15.00
Single	10.00
Juniors	1.00 under 16 yrs.
	(with <i>Rockfinder</i> \$7.50)
Subscription	\$7.50

Margaret reported she had received a letter from the South Bend/St. Joseph Co. Library about the *Science Alive*, asking if we could participate this year. A motion by David Peltz, and seconded by Emily Johnson, was made that we do this again. The event will be Feb. 6th and 7th, 1998.

President Heinek reported on a letter she had received from the Century Center on a change in policy. She will be contacting them in regards to shows held there. Margaret will have more information at a later date.

Tom Noe ran the election of officers for 1998. Nominations were Pres. Margaret Heinek, V-Pres, Sister Jeanne Finske, Secretary (May- Dec) Marie Crull, Gladys Pacholke (Jan-Apr.), Treasurer, Diane Gram, and Liaison, Mike Slattery. As there were no nominations from the floor, David Peltz motioned to accept, seconded by Phyllis Luckert, passed.

The program was given by member Larry Hess, on the trip to Montana that Larry and son Brian took to hunt sapphires. It was an excellent presentation.

Door prizes were won by Tom Noe, Mike Slattery, Tom McLaughlin, Sister Jeanne Finske, Phyllis Luckert and Leo Heynessens.

David Peltz motioned to have refreshments, seconded by Sister Jeanne Finske.

Attendance: Adults 26, 2 guests.
Secretary,
Marie Crull



**Don't Forget!!!
1998 Membership
Dues are Due!!!**

1998 MWF -- AFMS CONVENTION **HOUGHTON, MICHIGAN**

Steve Whelan, Show Chairman

COMBINE:

- ⇒ Lake Superior on three sides,
- ⇒ the A.E. Seaman Mineral Museum,
- ⇒ a beautiful forested landscape,
- ⇒ a unique set of geological circumstances providing marvelous field collecting,

AND WHAT DO YOU HAVE?

RED GOLD and TARNISHED SILVER, the 1998 combined MWF and AFMS Field-Trip Convention and show in Houghton, Michigan.

The Copper Country Rock & Mineral Club is hosting the upcoming event August 11 through August 16, 1998, in the Keweenaw Peninsula, heart of the beautiful Lake Superior Copper District.

CONVENTION ACTIVITIES will be held on the campus of Michigan Technological University, all sites within walking distance of one another. Federation meetings will be held Tuesday through Saturday, the Awards Banquet, open to any registered participant, is scheduled for Saturday evening on Tech's campus. In most cases field trips have been scheduled to accommodate delegates, and not preclude them from participation due to required meeting attendance.

FIELD TRIPS are our specialty. This field-trip-convention will present a unique collecting opportunity for the rockhound/mineral collector.

We have over 20 guided surface collecting trips in Baraga, Houghton, Keweenaw and Ontonagon Counties scheduled, and confirmed, for Monday through Saturday. Some of these will be to privately-owned rock piles that have been made available to us for this special event. At most locations we will be bulldozing the rock piles to expose fresh material before EACH trip. There will be a small fee per-person per-trip to defray the costs of dozing. As each field trip will be limited to a pre-set number of collectors, pre-registration is a must.

Arrangements have been made for 3 guided underground collecting tours at the working Caledonia Mine in Ontonagon County, the only remaining active mine in the Lake Superior Copper District. Again, pre-registration is a must. There will be a higher fee for these 3 trips: underground safety equipment is provided.

A complete list of collecting sites (including site maps, schedules, and distances) is provided on our Web site and in the registration packets.

EQUIPMENT to consider. Since this should be in Federation hands before Christmas, this would be a good time to ask Santa for a few indispensable items: safety glasses, hard hats, sturdy boots, leather gloves; not-so-necessary-but-nice: collecting bags, loupe, rock hammers and chisels; and, finally, very-very-nice: a metal detector.

TRANSPORTATION: every field-site is accessible by family car. However, for those needing site-transportation, arrangements have been made with M.T.U.'s Transportation Office to have 11-passenger vans available daily to transport to and from the collecting sites. Should pre-registration indicate that a sufficient number of participants require site-transportation (i.e. motorhomes without separate car, fly-ins, group transport from out of area, etc.), reserved seating will be available. A minimal round-trip charge (approx. \$2/person) will be necessary to defray costs. Be sure to indicate need when registering.

WEB SITE: www.portup.com/~swhelan/ccrnc/
Our Web site is up and running, provided by "The Portage" Internet provider in Houghton. Visit us to find: schedule of sites of Federation meetings; complete list of field trips including times, maps, collectible materials and fees; lodging; camping; restaurants, mineral photographs, and email link directly to the show chairman. You'll even be able to print your registration form to mail-in, avoiding the wait for information packets to get to your home/office.

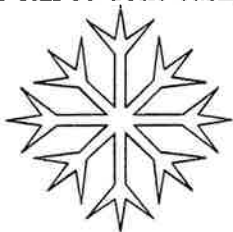
The site will be updated right up until the show in August so visit often to keep up to date.

SHOW: Friday through Sunday, August 14-16. The Gates Tennis Center of the Student Development Complex on the M.T.U. campus will be the 3-day home to 18 dealers, competitive exhibits, demonstrators, special exhibits, silent auction, and a swap area. On site you'll find ample free paved parking and refreshments.

SUGGESTIONS: If you have any suggestions or ideas to help (a favorite dealer, demonstrator, or desire to volunteer) we'd appreciate hearing from you. Please contact me at: Route 1, Box 406, Calumet, MI 49913; 906/337-2599 after 6 p.m.; email, swhelan@portup.com

COLLECTING SNOWFLAKES

You can add immensely to your enjoyment of the winter by observing and collecting snow crystals. This can be done easily by obtaining the following equipment and following this procedure:



1. Glass cover slides.
2. Plastic artists spray.
3. Black paper or velvet.
4. Toothpicks.

1. Spray one side of each slide with plastic spray. Store these slides outside or in your freezer.
2. When it's snowing, collect some crystals on black velvet cloth. Working outside, select those crystals you wish to keep and transfer them to the glass slide. Spray the slide with the plastic spray. Repeat after 15 or 30 minutes and let dry for one hour.
3. When dry, take your permanent show crystal inside for viewing.

From Trilobite, via Rock Rollers (Dec., 1996)

MAZON CREEK AREA FOSSILS

The Earth Science Club of Northern Illinois has published *Keys to Identify Pennsylvanian Fossil Animals of the Mazon Creek Area*. This work, together with its earlier companion publication, *Keys to Identify Pennsylvanian Fossil Plants of the Mazon Creek Area*, culminates years of effort by the Paleontological Study Group of ESCONI.

Uniquely illustrated with over 375 original line drawings, this is the first single-volume work to focus solely on all the animal phyla from the famed Mazon Creek deposit. It is designed to aid the user in identifying major Mazon Creek animal fossils. Employing 43 shape-form keys, the book leads the user to 96 genus classifications, 56 species identifications, embracing 12 different phyla.

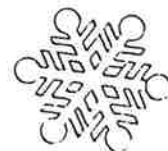
This large 8½ by 11 inch, 136-page book has line drawings of actual specimens as found in the field, reconstructions to illustrate how these animals looked in life, and detailed anatomical descriptions. Included are an animal glossary, a reference bibliography, a taxonomy listing, fossil collecting information and Pennsylvanian coal forest biota descriptions.

The book can be ordered from
ESCONI

P.O. Box 321
Downers Grove, IL 60515

or
Don Auler
623 E Highland
Villa Park, IL 60181

\$12.00 is the over-the-counter-price. Mail orders are \$14.00 per copy; tax, postage, shipping and handling included. The book on fossil plants (revised 1990) is also available (136 pp.) for \$8.00 over-the-counter-price or \$9.00 including shipping, etc. Total for both books is \$23.50.



LAPIDARY TREATMENT OF OPALIZED WOODS

The cutting and polishing of opalized wood is one of the gem cutter's greatest headaches. This is due to the fact that it is very brittle and far more sensitive to overheating than most of the other kinds of petrified wood. The problem can be solved by employing more than ordinary care and patience.

In slabbing the rough material, care should be taken to cut each individual chunk to get the best advantage of coloring, graining and possible "pictures." The most interesting cuts are usually obtained by cutting across the grain.

Pictures and scenic effects are not very common in opalized woods. They are found occasionally, however. When the lapidary is fortunate enough to come into possession of such a specimen, he will want to cut it in such a manner that he will get the best picture regardless of the graining.

Opalized wood saws easily, but since it is more brittle than other woods greater care must be taken in clamping it in the saw vise. Too much pressure will cause it to crack or a piece may break off while sawing and cause injury to the saw blade.

Slabs should have the saw marks removed on a drum sander with 120 grain grit or on a horizontal lap followed by fine cloth as needed. Do not rough grind on grinding wheels as the slightest unevenness of the wheel will cause bumping and may crack the specimen. The very slightest pressure should be used on sanders. While this method is slower, it is positively necessary for this type of material as it is opalized and contains water. Heat expands the water and the expansion cracks the material.

In cutting the cabochons it is best to trim away excess material with a trimming saw. When it is necessary to trim off some material on a grinding wheel, the wheel should be trued first so that it will run as smooth as possible. Each slab of material should be inspected under a strong light to determine the presence of small fractures not always plainly visible. Then cabochon blanks should be cut to eliminate the fractures.

Cabochons are polished with standard proce-

dures, but with greater care than is ordinarily required with jasperized woods. The first sanding may be done with coarse 120 grain grit which cuts rapidly, but does not dig in too deeply. The next step should be with 220 grain cloth (or 320 if the lapidary prefers) and the final sanding on nearly worn out cloth of any finer grained size. The final polish is obtained with a creamy paste of tin or cerium oxide on a well moistened felt buff.

These are a few **DON'TS**.

DON'T use much pressure in treating opalized woods.

DON'T trim cabochon blanks with pliers.

DON'T break large chunks with a hammer.

Avoid the above mistakes as any one of them will cause fractures. Natural forces have already inflicted many fractures; why add more?

From *Eureka News* (Nov., 1994)

SUE ARRIVES IN CHICAGO

Chicago's \$8.4-million baby is about to make her first public appearance in the Windy City. "Sue," the world's largest and most complete *Tyrannosaurus rex* skeleton, was unveiled last month at the Field Museum of Natural History.

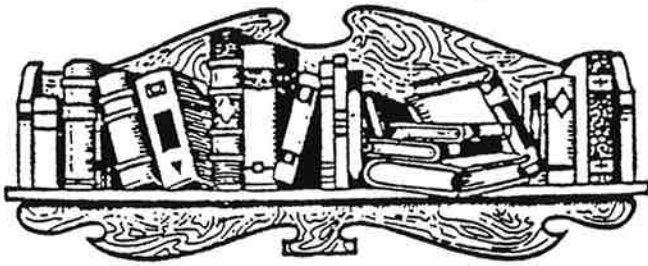
The exhibit, "Sue Uncrated," features several bones from the Field's prize catch and information on its discovery and eventual conservation. It closes January 11.

In the year 2000, Sue--named after the person who found the dapper 65-million-year-old in South Dakota--will return to public display, cleaned up and reassembled. Until then, museum visitors will be able to watch experts in a glassed-in lab prepare the 300+ bones for display.

Museum information (312) 922-9410

From *The Washington Post*

DUES REMINDER - It's that time of the year, where membership dues are due. The cost is \$10.00 for an individual membership, and \$15.00 for a family membership.



FOR FURTHER READING

More Ediacaran critters are turning up, this time in Namibia. Ediacaran fossils represent the first large, complex organisms to appear on earth. They predate the Cambrian explosion of fossil life, and paleontologists are still having a rough time deciding whether and how the Ediacarans are related to later forms of life. They are pretty strange, and may have all gone extinct. The recent finds in Africa include *Swartpuntia*, an organism about the size of a hand, with a central stalk and three vertical sheets like a revolving door. Scientists don't yet know whether these organisms are plants or animals or something else—a novel form of life.

Science News (Nov. 22, 1997)

Researchers in Yellowstone National Park have made Old Faithful say "Aaaaah." The October, 1997, *Geology* reports that a miniature video camera was lowered about 50 feet down into the vent of the most famous geyser in the world. The camera and other sensors revealed that the vent is not a smooth vertical tube, but a crack that thins and widens several times as it descends. Water enters the tube at several places within view, as well as from sources farther down. The new information suggests that the eruption cycles are rather simple to describe, not complicated events with numerous contributing factors.

Science News (October 11, 1997)

Kazufumi Gozo, a veterinary scientist from Kagoshima University, is attempting to use in-vitro fertilization techniques to re-create mammoths. He hopes to locate some intact DNA from frozen mammoths in Siberia, inject it into the eggs of African elephants, and then gradually hybridize a full-blooded mammoth (or why not two or three?). Other researchers are highly skeptical of the plan, but agree that it would be nice to find more frozen mammoths in any case.

New Scientist (Sept. 20, 1997)

IN THE BEGINNING

God created the heavens and the earth. Quickly he was faced with a class-action suit for failure to file an environmental impact statement. He was granted a temporary permit for the heavenly part of the project, but was stymied with a cease and desist order for the earthly part.

Appearing at the hearing, God was asked why he began his earthly project in the first place. He replied that he just liked to be creative.

Then God said, "Let there be light," and immediately the officials demanded to know how the light would be made. Would there be strip mining? What about thermal pollution? God explained that light would come from a huge ball of fire. God was granted provisional permission to make light, assuming that no smoke would result from the ball of fire, that he would obtain a building permit, and, to conserve energy, would have the light out half of the time. God agreed and said he would call the light "Day" and the darkness "Night." Officials replied that they were not interested in semantics.

God said, "Let the Earth bring forth green herb and such as may seed." The EPA agreed so long as native seed was used. Then God said, "Let the waters bring forth the creeping creatures having life; and the fowl that may fly over the Earth." Officials pointed out that this would require the approval of the Game and Fish Commission coordinated with the heavenly Wildlife Federation and Audubongelic Society.

Everything was OK until God said he wanted to complete the project in six days. Officials said that it would take at least 100 days to review the application and impact statement. After that there would have to be public hearings. Then there would be 10 to 12 months . . . At this point God created Hell!

From *A.L.A.A. Newsletter* (Sep., 1995)