

ROCK BLAST

Newsletter of the K.W. Gem and Mineral Club

Volume 2, No# 2

Oct. 25, 1966

Mailing Address - P.O.Box 841, Kitchener

President - Floyd Caesar, 745-3350 -- Corresponding Secretary - Fred Bender
745-4007

Regular Meetings held on the first Wednesday of each month, except July and August.

Next Meeting - Wednesday, Nov. 2nd, 1966 at 8 p.m. Room 379, Biology Bldg, University of Waterloo. Messrs Howard Bell and Bill Sillick will demonstrate lapidary work. Anyone who has any lapidary material is invited to bring such to the meeting for display. Of interest is any type of lapidary work particularly if source and the identity of the material is known.

Directions - Drive west along University from King Street until you come to the railway tracks in front of the University. Turn right immediately after crossing the track and go to the parking lot at the end of this road. (Behind the Physics Bldg.)

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The October meeting was held Oct. 5th, 1966 with an attendance of 45. The minutes of the September meeting were adopted as set out in the ROCK BLAST, Vol. 2, No. 1. During the evening talks were given by two of our members-- Larry Lamb and Reiner Mielke on the Minerals of the Dundas Quarry. A very interesting talk accompanied by slides was given by our President Floyd Caesar on Micro Mounts. It was announced that there would be a Micro Mounters Meeting and Display at the Hotel Kirby in Brantford, Saturday and Sunday, Oct. 22nd and 23rd. This would include speakers, an auction, etc.

FIELD TRIP A very successful trip to the Dundas Quarry on Saturday, Oct. 15th brought some rewarding specimens--Harry Gardner was the hero. Working in the old ore vein, Harry uncovered a beautiful piece of Galena, approximately 2" square. We hope the members who shared in this will bring their discoveries to our next meeting.

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Mailing Information: effective Oct. 19th, 1966 Postal Rates for Mineral Specimens

Parcels marked Geological Specimens are under the sample rate of postage. Parcels up to one pound may be mailed at 4¢ for 1st 2 ounces, 1¢ for each additional 2 ounces anywhere in North or South America, United States and its territories and possessions, West Indies and Spain. All other countries, the rate is 4¢ for 1st 2 ounces, 2¢ for each additional 2 ounces.

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ODD HAUF. PRIZED (From the Rock Vein, Bulletin of the Winnipeg Rock and Mineral Club)

Some funny looking rocks being dragged in with fishermen's nets off Nova Scotia are proving to be valuable geological finds. Two objects passed on to Dalhousie University by fishermen turned out to be teeth of mammoths and mastodons. Dr. Donald Swift of Dalhousie's geology department said the teeth show that the elephant-like creatures were at one time native to the area now covered by the ocean. This in turn gives some indication of the type of strata on the ocean floor. He said the fishermen are probably throwing away "many funny rocks" that are

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older than the teeth estimated to be about 18,000 years old--and bear the imprint of extinct clams and shells.

"These latter rocks are part of the sub-strata that the elephants walked around on, and compared to the age of the rocks, that of the mammoth is only yesterday. It's this same strata that may contain the oil so many people are looking for."

The long-haired mammoths and the mastodons were inhabitants of a vast coastal plain laid bare on the eastern coast of North America during the pleistocene ice age. Fishermen still haul up stumps from these ancient forests. Remains of the creatures that lived there have mostly vanished but teeth, more durable than porous bones, are likely to survive much longer. The tooth from the mammoth, about seven inches long, belonged to an animal similar to one recently melted out of Siberian ice, its meat still fresh enough to feed sled dogs.

Dr. Swift said the fossils dredged up by fishermen are not only valuable in determining the nature of the strata, but also in calculating the degree of rise and fall in the sea level of coastal areas.

Although the teeth and other relics have survived thousands of years beneath the sea they are extremely delicate once exposed to air.

The geologist said he wasn't hesitant about asking fishermen to pass on their "funny rocks." If there was only one good specimen in a flood of worthless matter, it was well worth the trouble, he said.

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WELCOME TO THE FOLLOWING NEW MEMBERS

Kim MacFarlane, 49 Bridgeport Rd., Waterloo

Mrs. Caroline F. Bender, P.O. Bamberg, Ont.

Don L. Salter, 203E Erb St., East, Waterloo

Mr. & Mrs. R.M. Davis, 3247 King St., East, Kitchener

Christine Raymond, 78 Laurel St., Waterloo

Wendy Wheeler, 43 Bridgeport Rd., Waterloo

Mr. & Mrs. R.G. VanHeeswijk, 63 Cardinal Cres., Waterloo

John R. English, 321 Dixon St., Kitchener