

ROCK BLAST

Newsletter of the K-W Gem and Mineral Club

Volume 1 No. 3.

December 29, 1965

President - Prof. Stuart A. Harris, 268 Lincoln Rd. Waterloo
Secretary and Editor - Gord Saunders, 41 Forest Hill Dr., Kitchener

Regular meetings held on first Wednesday of each month except July and August
Room 3 E 10, New Arts Building, Waterloo Lutheran University
Next meeting, January 5, 1966 at 8 P.M. Highlight - Talk by jeweller W. Ruge on
setting of Gem Stones.

Minutes of meeting December 1, 1965 - Attendance, 25.

Minutes of the November 3, meeting were adopted as set out in Rock Blast
No. 2.

Correspondence - part of the Scarborough Club's 'Strata Data' read to show
how their Junior Group has grown in one year from twenty to seventy-five members.

On motions duly made seconded and carried, the constitution and by-laws
were adopted as presented with minor changes and additions.

Note that the name of the Club is now K-W Gem and Mineral Club rather
than K-W Rock and Mineral Club.

Harry Gardner was appointed auditor.

February, 1966 has been suggested as the month for the Club to have a
display in the Kitchener, Library. A committee was formed to arrange the display,
with S. Nagy as chairman and F. Caesar, G. Downing, W. Mielke and A. Wickson as
members.

The committee is to report on progress at the January meeting, at which
time the necessary funds are to be authorized.

Under other business, Howard Bell suggested that the Club needs a project
for members to work on together. Suggestions will be welcomed.

Geoff. Downing gave an amusing talk on tumbling, showing his equipment
and pointing out pitfalls for the beginner from his own experiences.

Floyd Caesar then showed some of his own colour photos of mineral
micromounts. His outstanding work illustrates the real beauty to be found in
these small crystals.

Thanks are due to both men for presenting an excellent programme to the
meeting.

Welcome to the following paid-up members:

Dave Bergen	49 Courtland Ave. E. Kitchener	742-6926
Geoff. Downing & Family	136 McKay Cres. Waterloo	744-9390
Chris Ludin	291 Kenneth Ave. Kitchener	745-3037
Alec Wickson	152 Alvin St. Waterloo	744-3269
Ralph Comfort	213 Victoria St. N. Guelph	822-8957

The Gem and Mineral Club of Scarborough has announced a cabochon contest to be held in March, 1966. Details will be read from their bulletin at the January meeting.

Further scraps of information from our local paper -

At a highway excavation site near Cleveland, fossils of 25 formerly unknown specimens of fish were discovered. The prize find was a four-foot long ganoid of a variety that usually is only three to five inches long.

Prof. A.H. McNair of Dartmouth College was curious about a ledge of rock on Victoria Island in the Canadian Arctic, last summer. As a result he may have found the oldest animal remains yet studied. The clamlike brachiopods, one half inch across showed highly evolved and efficient digestive, locomotive, respiratory skeletal and nervous systems and yet by radio-dating are at least 720,000,000 years old. This is 120,000,000 years earlier than previously known advanced species.

Dinosaurs only appeared 200,000,000 years ago, mammals 60,000,000 years ago and human beings some one to two million years back.

By contrast archeologist Theresa Gaell has spent 14 years researching and 10 years digging at the 2000 year old tomb of Antiochus I in Southeastern Turkey.

An article worthy of a rockhounds attention appears in the January 1966 issue of the National Geographic - 'Finding Rare Beauty in Common Rocks'. An article and photographs by Lorence G. Collins Ph.D.
