CURATOR OF THE WORLD FAMOUS A.E. Seaman Museum in Houghton, Michigan, Robinson is a geologist with a degree from Queens University, Ontario, Canada. He is a Research Associate at the New York State Museum. Robinson has over 80 publications to his credit including the best seller, Minerals, and is Associate Editor for three professional journals.

EDUCATION:

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FOSSIL:

Hargrave excels in cabbing, faceting, carving and metal craft. His creative designs in high karat gold won him eight AGTA awards in the national Cutting Edge and Spectrum competitions. He combines carving with faceting and has designed several popular cuts.

DECEASED:

Herald and Mary Lou Sparks. This couple founded the William Holland School of Lapidary Arts in Young Harris, Georgia. The school was founded in 1983 and they ran it until their deaths. Open every year from late April through October, the school is open to anyone interested in lapidary, offering classes in cabochons, carving, intarsia, chain making, beading, faceting, channel jewelry, enameling, stained glass, wire work and silver and gold smithing. Costs are nominal.

LAPIDARY:

Dalan Hargrave. A jeweler and master lapidary, Hargrave excels in cabbing, faceting, carving and metal craft. His creative designs in high karat gold won him eight AGTA awards in the national Cutting Edge and Spectrum competitions. He combines carving with faceting and has designed several popular cuts.

JEWELRY:

Frank Daniels. An amateur paleobotanist, has amassed a world class collection of some of the finest specimens of petrified wood in existence. An accomplished lapidary, his vivid complete rounds are highly polished. He has written two books, Petrified Wood: The World of Fossilized Wood, Cones, Ferns and Cycads and a revised expanded second edition.

EDUCATION:

Diane Dare. A prolific writer on mineral, fossil, gem and lapidary subjects, Diane has helped many dozen bulletin editors. She is a past president of AFMS and is the author of a junior activities manual. Her varied interests have led to her being involved with rules, paleontology and publications.

M.R.I.A. Region 5 Newsletter

Volume 57

October, 2004
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IT'S BEEN AN HONOR

This is my last message as your president...it has been a great year, and I'm going to miss writing these monthly messages, and so is Kitty!

Several exciting things have happened this year. I will start with the one that tops the list!!! Through the efforts of Jim Bruce Thompson, our Junior Activities Chairman, he has put together a merit badge program for our clubs with AFMS Future Rockhounds of America (FRA). It is similar to the Boy Scouts merit badge program. There are 9 merit badges, and a "Rockhound Badge" that will go to youth members who earn 6 of the 9 merit badges. I want to encourage the clubs that have junior members to enroll them in this program, and clubs that do not have junior members to do all they can to interest juniors in joining. Most of all, I want to thank Bill for all the time and effort he has put into this project and I'm very happy to see this happening!

As reported by Dee Holland in his September message in the AFMS Newsletter, the AFMS Scholarship Fund was enhanced by three $500.00 donations each from the Lincoln Orbit Earth Science Club of Springfield, Illinois, the Gem and Mineral Society of Syracuse, (the host club), and Ye Old Timers Club of Livermore, CA.

The AFMS Endowment Fund is now richer by $4,143.50. Thanks to not only what the raffle brought in, but thanks are in order to Ye Old Timers Club, who donated $500.00, which added to the cause, to make this the most money ever taken in on the raffle. My thanks to Joy Bourne for all her time and effort. Speaking of the raffle, they say that lightning never strikes twice. Kitty won the opal gem tree that we had donated to the raffle, and turned it back, saying she would take the next prize. The next prize was the most awful ugly necklace you have ever seen. you noticed, she didn't say "No!" to the opal tree!!!

I have appreciated all the support I have received during my term, and want to thank all the very dedicated AFMS officers, committee chairs, committee members and regional officers. With their support they have made the job a lot easier. I especially want to thank Bonnie Gismann, who even though she has been fighting cancer for some time, has done a yeoman's job with the "Club Rockhound of the Year". She has been a real "trooper"! I want to wish our incoming president Bill Smith, the best in the year ahead, and hope you will support him as you have me.

Now, I would like to leave you with something to think about. I have observed over the years (since 1963), that although a club is vigorous and successful in all of their activities, it is invariably the same people that do all the work. We must find a way to encourage younger people to participate more fully in club activities. Are they not participating because they feel they are not needed? Is it because some of the "senior citizens" who are reluctant to give up the "reins", because they feel they will fail? That they don't know what to do, if that is the case, then we are Remiss if we are not helping them, and showing them the "reins"! It's harder and harder to find "DEDICATED" people nowadays, but we must try.

An "inactive member" really isn't a member. The question is 'who are they really cheating?' I have not been cheated, because I've met many WONDERFUL people, and learned many aspects of our hobby. You have all heard, and probably have done the HOKEY POKEY. you know, you put your left foot in, and the last stanza is, You put your WHOLE SELF in, and you put your WHOLE SELF out... well I am asking you to PUT YOUR WHOLE SELF IN, BUT DON'T PUT YOUR WHOLE SELF OUT!!! KEEP YOUR WHOLE SELF IN, AND ENCOURAGE OTHERS TO DO THE SAME!

And now, I want to thank you for the opportunity to be your President, it has been a "great ride", and I have enjoyed every minute of it.

Sincerely,
Marve

TRAVELING WITH BILL

by Bill Smith, President-elect

After departing the big show at Syracuse, N.Y. we spent a couple of days touring the beautiful Finger Lakes region. Most of the time was spent driving around Seneca and Keuka Lakes visiting many of the wineries. (Yes, we also collect wine labels). Then a couple of days at the Carnegie Museum of Natural History, Pittsburgh, PA. The lapidary display is a must if you are passing through the area.

Then on to the Northwest Federation Show in Boise, ID. Great displays and many dealers with beautiful material. Flew back to Kansas on Sunday so I could meet our daughter and grandkids arriving from Alaska. Spent two weeks with them and collected the famous Salt Plains Selinite crystals with the hourglass sand inclusions. The area is located near Cherokee, OK. This is the only place in the world where hourglass shaped sand inclusions may be found in most crystals. We also collected Petrified Wood, Agate, Jasper and fossils in Barber Co. Kansas that were deposited by the rivers during the melting of the Northern glaciers. Have just finished a workshop at the University of Kansas and on up to Des Moines, IA to visit Janet's brother.

Hope everyone is doing some collecting and that your travels have been safe.

Bill
What to do with the American Lands Access Association was the topic of discussion at a meeting held during the AFMS Convention this summer. Much concern was voiced over the inactivity of the organization during the past few years. Those in attendance voted unanimously to start over, reorganize the association and elect new officers and directors. Peggy Blickfelt of Boise, Idaho was elected President.

Peggy has been a director of ALAA since 2002 and a member since 1999. She has been an active rockhound since 1973 and is very actively involved in BLM planning meetings in Idaho. Peggy and her husband Chris, have been working with BLM to review plans to make sure that rockhounds have access to digging sites on BLM lands. The Blickfelds have taken BLM leaders and members of Congress out on rock hunting trips to show these officials what’s out there and what rockhounds do. They were very impressed and indicated that they want the BLM leaders and members of Congress to continue to work with them to make sure that rockhounds have access to digging sites on BLM lands.

In order to have a voice in what happens to the future of our access to public lands we need to grow as an organization. Please get your friends and anyone concerned in keeping gates open to join ALAA. Dues can be sent to our treasurer, Toby Cozens and remain at just $25 per year.

If you have any ideas or want to help the organization, please contact Peggy directly.
LEWIS & CLARK CELEBRATIONS
from Clarence & Maria Turner

During our summer vacation we toured the Lewis & Clark Expedition at the Jefferson Memorial Missouri History Museum. The exhibition is tremendous and is well worth the time spent viewing it. It is in St. Louis until Sept. 6, 2004. Then it goes on a tour to 4 other areas. We thought you might publish these dates so any Rockhound in the area could attend.

Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia
Philadelphia, PA.
November 6, 2004 thru March 21, 2005.

Denver Museum of Nature & Science
Denver, CO.
May 6, 2005 thru August 21, 2005

Oregon Historical Society
Portland, OR.

National Museum of Natural History,
Smithsonian Institution, Washington, DC.

Clarence and Maria Turner are members of the Lodi Gem & Mineral Society and the Stockton Lapidary & Mineral Society (CFMS)

AFMS SCHOLARSHIP FOUNDATION UPDATE


This auction has been ongoing since 1985 when the Intermountain Faceter’s Guild began auctioning off gemstones from the members to enhance the AFMS Scholarship Foundation’s program. During the early years, only loose stones auctioned off. In more recent years, Dick Gismann, a member of the Guild has been setting the stones in 14k gold and this has created a larger interest in the auction.

Ed Romack, past NFMS & AFMS President has been the auctioneer since 1987 and has “squeezed” every ounce of money from the audience. During most years the auction has produced an average of approximately $3,000. per year.

Donations to the AFMS Scholarship Foundation should be sent to your Regional Federation Scholarship Coordinator.

All monies donated are invested and only the interest earned from these investments is used for scholarships.

AFMS CODE OF ETHICS

I will respect both private and public property and will do no collecting on privately owned land without the owner’s permission.

I will keep informed on all laws, regulations of rules governing collecting on public lands and will observe them.

I will to the best of my ability, ascertain the boundary lines of property on which I plan to collect.

I will use no firearms or blasting material in collecting areas.

I will cause no willful damage to property of any kind - fences, signs, buildings. I will leave all gates as found.

I will build fires in designated or safe places only and will be certain they are completely extinguished before leaving the area.

I will fill all excavation holes which may be dangerous to livestock.

I will not contaminate wells, creeks or other water supply.

I will cause no willful damage to collecting material and will take home only what I can reasonably use.

I will observe the “Golden Rule”, will use “Good Outdoor Manners” and will at all times conduct myself in a manner which will add to the stature and Public “image” of rockhounds everywhere.

AFMS NEWSLETTER - OCTOBER, 2004