COMING EVENTS

MAPS activities for the summer:

June 2nd  Meeting in connection with the All-Wisconsin Roundup, Green Lake Center, Green Lake, Wisconsin; 6 miles west of Ripon on Wisc. 23

July 14  Meeting in connection with the gem/mineral/fossil swap of the Edwards River Earth Science Club at Joy, Illinois; 1 mile west of Aledo on Illinois 17

August 4  Meeting in connection with the Midwest Federation convention and show, at Veterans Auditorium, 300 West Broad Street, Columbus, Ohio

Sept 1  Meeting in connection with the annual show of the Peoria Academy of Science, Geology Section, at Exposition Hall, Northmore Road, Peoria, Illinois

THE PREZ SEZ .............

I feel that the high point of the year, and one of the club's reasons for existence, was fulfilled at our National Fossil Exposition. Word about this activity really travels fast: already planning to be here for next year's exposition is Miguel Barbosa, of Lisbon, Portugal. Next year's exposition is scheduled for March 22 and 23, again at Macomb, Illinois. You too can now make plans to attend.

The MAPS summer meetings are being listed in the adjoining column of the DIGEST, and I hope to meet many of you there if gas available.

If I cannot make the August meeting at the Midwest Federation convention in Columbus, a local member will chair that meeting for me.

If there are ways that MAPS can serve you better, please let any one of your officers know.

Gil Norris

Late Note:

There will be NO field trip in June to the quarry at Speed, Indiana. We now find that company policy does not permit visitors. Sounds familiar, doesn't it?
President Norris called the meeting to order. The secretaries minutes were approved as printed in the DIGEST. Treasurer JoAnn Good's report (after the show at Macomb) showed a balance of $685.90, with the bill from WIU still outstanding. Report approved.

Secretary Alberta Cray read a proposal from the Executive Board, that "...the following persons be given honorary memberships in MAPS; Dr Merle Foster, Bradley University, Peoria, Illinois; Dr Fred Behnken, Augustana College, Rock Island, Illinois; Mr Harrell Strimple, University of Iowa, Iowa City, Iowa; Dr Gordon C Baird, Field Museum, Chicago, Illinois; and Dr Jack Bailey, Western Illinois University, Macomb, Illinois. After a short discussion it was moved, seconded and carried that these honorary memberships be granted.

Secretary Cray also read the following action from the Board's meeting: "Noting that election of officers is coming up in October, the president has appointed Ray Fairbank, Madelynne Lillybeck, and Wallace Harris to the nominating committee".

President Norris reported that the F M Fryxell Geology Museum at Augustana College has asked that MAPS put a display in Case #12 at the museum for a period of 6-months, starting in the fall. The Illowa Gem & Mineral Society has a display there now but will be removing it soon. Lloyde Rose moved that we accept this request, and that the president appoint a committee to handle this. Motion seconded and carried. Ray Fairbank was appointed as Display Chairman.

A field trip to Speed, Indiana on June 16 or 23rd was discussed. June 16th is the date of the Old Capitol Geology Club swap in Iowa City so Gil Norris will try to arrange a later date for us.

The president called for a delegate to the MWF convention and show in Columbus, Ohio on August 2 thru 5, 1979. The August MAPS meeting will also be held there on Saturday the 4th. Helen Asher reported that she was going and could act as our delegate. She also volunteered to attend the Editors Breakfast and could represent MAPS in that capacity also, if Madelynne Lillybeck is unable to attend. A discussion was held on paying the delegates luncheon fee; some felt our treasury was a bit "shaky" until we receive our bill from Western Illinois University. No decision was reached.

Helen Asher, AFMS Scholarship Fund Chairman, asked what the membership wants her to do, or how to raise money for this fund. MAPS had voted earlier to access each member $1.00 per year for this fund.

President Norris reminded us that a number of MAPS "iron-on" transfers are still available. The meeting was then adjourned.

Doug DeRosear, Program Chairman, introduced our speaker, Steve Good, of Augustana College. Steve told us of the MicroInternship Program that is offered by Augustana, in which he participated last summer. It is set-up as 5-weeks in an occupational setting. His 5-weeks was spent with the U. S. Geological Survey - Paleontology and Stratigraphy Branch, in its Denver office. He spoke of his good fortune to have been in a government situation, as there was an honorarium offered, and the man for whom he was working (a government employee) could not accept it, so it was offered to Steve, which give him another 5-weeks in the field. He spent this time in Wyoming with a Mr Larry Handley collecting fossils and having many unusual experiences. This was a most interesting program.

Alberta Cray, Secretary
EXPO - I Revisited

I think one more "echo" from EXPO-I, our National Fossil Exposition in Macomb, is in order.

It was really the displayers and the swappers that made this event such a big success. Without them, no, without YOU, the members of MAPS, this would have been a big fat nothing!

These members were displayers, and swappers as well:

Allyn Adams, Davenport, Iowa
Bill & Mimi Alston, Lake Forest, Ill.
Helen Asher, Peoria, Illinois
Marie Carruthers, Marshfield, Wisc.
Bud & Alberta Gray, Cedar Rapids, Iowa
Doug & Cheryl DeRosear, Donnellson, Iowa
Laura Fleming, Carthage, Illinois
Don & JoAnn Good, Aledo, Illinois
Robert Guenter, Shelby, Ohio
Wallace & Esther Harris, Macomb, Ill.
Robert Howell, Roachdale, Indiana

Dick Johannesen, Rock Island, Ill.
Rozaline Johnson, Napa, California
Dennis Knisely, Monroe, Iowa
Lloyd Millhorn, Sherrodsville, Ohio
Gil Norris, Rock Island, Illinois
Larry Osterberger, Bolingbrook, Ill.
Richard Rock, Crest Hill, Illinois
Lloyd Rose, Bettendorf, Iowa
Mildred Scheffel, Peoria Hgts, Ill.
Paul Yankala, Lockport, Illinois

And these folks went all-out for the swapping:

Carlos Bazan, Dallas, Texas
Dar Domrow, Wausau, Wisconsin
Rich Heinlich, Oak Park, Michigan
Richard Jackson, Champaign, Minnesota
Doug Johnson, Donnellson, Iowa

Judy Owyang, West Los Angeles, Calif.
Bob Schacht, W Terre Haute, Ind.
Jeff Shanks, Terre Haute, Indiana
Philip Zink, Lawrence, Indiana

And a few people brought fine displays, then just sat back, taking their ease, while the rest of us swapped:

Harley and Erma DeRosear, Donnellson, Iowa
Glenn and Mary Hanning, Huntsville, Illinois
Jeannine Nelson, Walnut, Illinois

So here's to all who "made" the show: THANKS FOR TAKING PART!

Dick Johannesen

Excerpt from the Minutes of the May 5th Executive Board Meeting

A discussion was held concerning the amount of dues to be paid by persons joining MAPS in, or near, the middle of our fiscal year. (Which starts on October 1st). It was generally agreed that April 1st should be the cut-off date for charging a full years dues.

There was a question about what to do about those persons who have sent in a full years dues since that date. Don Good suggested that we print a note in the DIGEST to the effect that "Persons who join, or have joined, since April 1st will be informed by a listing of their names in the September bulletin, that they will be credited with a half-years dues for the following year". This will eliminate the necessity of refunds at that time.
AN ECONOMICAL MINIATURE SANDBLASTER FOR PREPARATION OF FOSSILS

LLOYD F. GUNTHER, VAL G. GUNTHER AND J. KEITH RIGBY
28 North 2nd West Street, Brigham City, Utah 84302, 71 North 2nd West Street, Brigham City, Utah 84302 and Department of Geology, Brigham Young University, Provo, Utah 84602

INTRODUCTION

Commercially available conventional sandblast units for cleaning fossils, such as an Air-brasive, are relatively expensive and bulky. We have experimented with a simple air-driven eraser as an economical substitute for the larger equipment and have successfully adapted a unit presently on the market.

EQUIPMENT

An Air Eraser, manufactured by Paasche Airbrush Co., 1909 Diversey Parkway, Chicago, Illinois 60614, is the basic unit. It retails for approximately $35, and was designed to erase ink and paint from drawings, to prepare dental plates, to clean jewelry and fine instrument parts, and to work on plastics. The eraser, as marketed, is suitable for fossil preparation but we have improved, somewhat, upon the basic instrument for fossil preparation.

The greatest wear in a piece of sandblasting equipment, commonly, is the nozzle. We have added inexpensive hypodermic needles for the orifice and have virtually eliminated the wear on the original tool. To adapt the needles to the eraser, the outside of the standard nozzle was turned down on a lathe to reduce the taper so that plastic bases of hypodermic needles would fit snugly over the end of the tool. Some minor rings or threads around the reduced nozzle may help retain the plastic hypodermic needle bases, as well. The needles are merely held on by friction and their bases are stretched slightly to attach them to the eraser.

Various sizes of needles are available and

TEXT-FIG. 1—Air Eraser with an attached hypodermic needle (C) on the prepared nozzle (D). Air from the outside source (F) and abrasive flow from the tank (B) are adjusted with the screw (A) on top of the tank and with the finger lever (E) on the barrel.
An Economical Miniature Sandblaster (continued)

have been used as a measure for regulating the flow of abrasives. By utilizing the needles as reduced nozzles, the life of the original nozzle on the eraser is extended indefinitely, for the main wear, now, is at the tip of the needles. The "throw away" needles are inexpensive, generally costing only a few cents, and each will last from three to four hours of cutting time.

The Air Eraser may be used with bottled compressed air or nitrogen, with air from a small compressor, or with air from a compressed air line already established in a building. A moisture trap is necessary for use with small diameter needles if the air is moist. A moisture trap, for attachment to the air hose, may be purchased with the unit for a few additional dollars. The eraser operates at a pressure of 20 pounds for erasing on paper, but from 30 to 45 pounds for working metal or plastics. Higher pressures consume more abrasive but also allow greater speed in removal of matrix and fossil preparation. It is advisable to insert a reducing valve in the air line if pressure on the line is too high. Such a valve also allows control of the rates of cutting and consumption of abrasive materials.

Powdered starch, dolomite, pumice, and glass beads are all available from the same supplier as the Air Eraser, or from other suppliers of abrasives. We have found that most fine preparation is best done with dolomite, but that rapid removal of matrix is best accomplished using glass beads.

The tool can be used in an enclosed box with armholes and a glass lid, if the box is evacuated by a vacuum cleaner that traps the fine particles. We have also used the sandblaster outdoors but have protected ourselves with a simple dust respirator. Care should be taken to protect equipment if the blaster is used under a microscope. A large glass microscope slide or plate can be taped over the lens and other parts that might be frosted can be protected by wrapping in moderately thick plastic, such as a thick garbage sack.

Editors Note:

Lloyd F. Gunther is a member of MAPS and secured permission to reprint this article from the Journal of Paleontology, March 1979 issue. His cover letter to me reads in part:

"I believe many of our members would be very interested in this device.

Several individuals and college professors have already inquired about this unit, and I have provided or helped them set up. I bought several of these units and have the nozzles turned down so could help anyone interested set up if they have any problems finding a source of supply. I would gladly do this at cost should any of our MAPS members want to invest in one. I have the Air Erasers and hoses but not the air compressor or moisture trap. If any members want further details or have questions they could write to me. I am not soliciting business, only want to be helpful.

I have one of the original, expensive Air Dent machines but I prefer using the Air Eraser because it is so trouble-free and so economical to operate. I prefer using mine outdoors and wearing a respirator mask rather than having to work inside a closed box with a vacuum attachment."

The Fryxell Geology Museum at Augustana College has asked MAPS to put in a fossil display. What an opportunity to "show off" some of our prizes in the name of our society. I would like to have our display cover all the time periods, Cambrian thru Pleistocene, even pre-Cambrian if someone has a good item from that time period. If you are willing to "loan" a good display specimen for six months, please contact me and let me know what you have: genera, species, size, weight, age, location, and so on. I hope to put this display "in place" in early fall. I'm looking for your letters.

Ray Fairbanks, Display Chairman
3097 Tanglefoot Terrace
Bettendorf, Iowa 52722

319-359-8364
More than a hundred years ago, a Scotsman named Hugh Miller became curious about the red sandstone fossil deposits in the northern part of his country. Beginning some excavations, he found layer on layer of fossilized sea life. Myriads of fishes seemed to have met with a sudden and violent death. He found their remains in some very odd positions: tails wrapped about their heads, and fins wide-spread as if they had died in agony. Mr Miller also encountered specimens of Pterichthys, an extinct dish-like animal having projecting wings or arms. These had their arms held out in front of them as if trying to protect themselves from some enemy.

In this area of some 10-thousand square miles, every specimen of some ten or twelve different types of animals seemed to have died within seconds of each other. Not any part of the specimens had been gnawed by a predator. When a fish dies in its natural habitat some other fish eats it. But in this case, the predators died with the prey.

Some sort of illness could have been the cause of such a calamity, but an epidemic which attacks one species does not affect all species at the same time, nor would it have caused each animal in its path to die so violently.

If this catastrophe in Scotland were an isolated instance perhaps some sort of logical explanation would be forthcoming. But it seems that this area is only one of many, and in each spot death was violent and instantaneous.

When Miller's book "The Old Red Sandstone" was published, scientists were dismayed! The "Doctrine of Uniformity" as presented by science taught that the surface of the globe has continued to develop consistently and evenly from its conception, and that there were no explosive or violent changes. This doctrine remains unchanged today (1966) regardless of evidence to the contrary.

Millions of animals died in the Tanana Valley in Alaska under some very peculiar circumstances, and it seems that these same circumstances were responsible for the uprooting of great forests. The wood was actually splintered, and intermingled with the wooden shreds were the mangled remains of mammoths, bison, prehistoric horses, and mastodons. All of this debris was mashed together and then moved miles down the river.

Volcanic eruptions? Glaciers? No. Any volcanic action would have made charcoal of the forests in place, not torn them living from the ground. Pumice and lava would have enveloped the animal life, not shredded it and moved it miles away, and without any trace of the pumice or lava. And at this particular time there were no glaciers in Alaska.

Animals such as mastodons, mammoths and others are supposed to have become extinct because of starvation. However, most of the specimens found in Alaska and also northern Siberia had undigested food in their stomachs, and food was still in their mouths when sudden death came upon them. This food was analyzed and found to be a vegetation which grows in the southern part of Siberia, not the northern part. An investigation of the skins of some of these animals showed the presence of red corpuscles, which seems to indicate that they died of suffocation. These creatures, busily engaged in eating in southern Siberia must have been immediately suffocated either by gas, an explosion which removed all the oxygen in the air, or by unimaginable quantities of suddenly rising deep waters. Whichever of these was the active factor, it very likely was also responsible for moving these huge behemoths far, far to the north in a matter of seconds.
THE FOSSIL MYSTERY (continued)

Fossil animals have also been found in places where it would have been impossible for them to have existed when alive. For instance, in the British Isles reindeer from Lapland and hippopotomi from the Congo are found side by side in caves. These two species could never have lived in communal caves together, so far from their native habitats.

The whale deposits in Michigan occurred after the glaciers were gone. Whales are not land animals and Michigan is far from the sea. So scientists, when faced with these facts, countered by saying that the Great Lakes had once been part of the Atlantic Ocean, and the whales had been able to swim into the lakes. This position kept their Doctrine of Uniformity intact. They did not explain how it was possible for a whale to swim into Lake Michigan, which is 582' above sea level. A body of water large enough to enable a whale to swim into Lake Michigan would have wiped out the eastern part of the United States: there is no geological evidence that this took place. This leaves us with the question of what sort of immense power could transport giant whales from their home in the Atlantic and smash them to bits on land miles away and almost 600' higher. And in Scotland, destroy everything living in an area of more than ten thousand square miles! Possibly water. But if so, the oceans would have had to heave themselves from their beds and overflow the continents, driving uncountable living things before them with an incredibly swift and mountainously high wall of moving water.

In the well-kept records of some Tibetan monastaries we are told of a highly intelligent civilization that existed in some land of the Pacific Ocean. This vast land was also suddenly destroyed. These people had perfected atomic fission to the point where each atom was divided into four parts, each part called a zii. And legend has it that Atlantis was a victim of the same type of instantaneous disaster.

Many articles have been written about the uprooted forests of Siberia. These trees lie, flung outwards and upwards, as if some great explosion had tossed them about like matchsticks, into a circular pattern. A great force of water, had it been the cause, would have washed the trees all in one direction.

Albion W. Hart has discussed one of the areas he encountered when, as one of the first engineers to graduate from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, he was assigned to an engineering project in the interior of Africa. While he and his bearers were on their way to an almost inaccessible region, they traversed a great desert. At the time he was greatly puzzled, and quite unable to explain a large expanse of greenish glass that covered the sands as far as the eye could see. Later on, during his life in the United States, he passed the White Sands Proving Grounds area after the first atomic explosion there, and he recognized the same type of silica sand fusion which he had seen fifty years before in the African desert.

Are fossil remains spread over large sections of the earth the results of some prehistoric atomic fission? As yet no answer to this question had been forthcoming from the world of science.........so we still wonder. You have read the evidence. It is said that history repeats itself.

Are we the fossils of the future?

From The Psephite via The Rockpile
LOOKING FORWARD .......

The reins of the MAPS DIGEST, the voice of this excellent little MAPS organization, are about to be passed into the hands of a new editor.

Since the inception of this fossil club Dick Johannesen has been your voice. I have come to know Dick; he loves this organization. He is informed, curious respected. While poring over your applications for membership I discovered that many of you are members because of your contacts with him. He brings to the DIGEST his own style of intellectualism, and does what you have asked....discover articles which inform, pick up missing links, reinforce concepts. He has been an excellent editor and his contributions to MAPS are immeasurable. He assures me, however, that he is not leaving the organization, is just going to run around Europe and Florida for a while.

I do not know you as he does, that is, not yet. He has been exceedingly generous to share many things with me which will eventually be passed on to you. This year several of you have made major contributions to our DIGEST; the by-laws state that each of us as members is to do just that. There are many of you out there who are experts and authorities on various aspects of paleontology. Hearing from you would be stimulating for all of us. There are many of you who are "professional" amateurs, you have been collecting so long. Hearing from you would reinforce those new to this magnificent hobby, and your charisma and wisdom are invaluable.

There are many of you who are relatively new to the hobby but who are caught up in the excitement and awe in the discovery of God's early creations of life on this planet. There is yet a younger group; under "occupation" they say "student". I was delightfully impressed with one such student who answered the question "Why do you want to be a member of this organization?" with "I LOVE FOSSILS!!!!!!!!!". He speaks for all of us. This club will become more dynamic if contributions to the DIGEST come from all of you, no matter where you are in the development of your hobby. Contributions have a dual effect: not only do they help all of us learn but they introduce you as an individual to the rest of us, so we sooner become friends.

And so I am about to become your editor. A year ago I took a course from Dr Gordon Baird at the Field Museum, University of Chicago. His lectures were filled with words and terms I had to reach for. This year I heard him speak again, and was aware just how much I had learned in a short span of time. Like all of you, my appetite for this hobby is insatiable, my enthusiasm is limitless. One of the things I have been impressed with this year among you is the generous, patient way so many of you share your knowledge. It is an excellent group of people from all over these United States and several countries....and still growing.

In September you will receive my first edition as editor, and Volume 3 will emerge over the next year. My motto will be an old Chinese proverb:

Attempting the unknown teaches us to grow

Respectfully

Madelynne Lillybeck
1039 33rd Street Court
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Collecting 20 years. Homemaker. Will trade. Interested in trilobites, trace fossils and plant material

Collecting 7 years. Science teacher. Will trade. Interested in all types of fossils

Collecting 4 years. Geophysicist
Interested in trilobites, cystoids, crinoids, Permian & Silurian fauna

Collecting 30 years. Retired.
Interested in arthropods, particularly trilobites, and crinoids

No further information available

BOOK REPORT, by Diane Dare, MAPS member

"The rigid masks of fossils were once filled with pulsating life" says the introduction to *THE LANGUAGE OF ROCKS* by Fritz Berckhemer (translated from the German by Eleanor S Salmon) "Die Sprache der Steine", Frederick Ungar Publishing Co, New York, New York.

"And fossils are one of the most obvious expressions of the 'language of rocks'" he goes on. This beautiful little photographic book begins with a basic geologic clock and an explanation of Period names; then follows a description of each plate, the pictures are arranged in geological order. It begins with the trilobites and works up to an oak leaf. Each one is given it's common name, nickname, scientific name, period, locality, the size of the actual specimen in centimeters and inches, and a short paragraph about the type of life-form in the photograph.

There are 48 black and white plates, one to a page; page size is about 7½ by 10 inches. Most of the specimens are from Germany... and all are beautiful!

Included, for example, are a Lower Devonian starfish *Aspidosoma tischbeinianum*; a Tertiary teleost *Priscacara pealei*; and a Lower Jurassic armored crocodile, *Mystriosaurus* sp. But perhaps the most interesting is the "birth" of an ichthyosaur. The specimen is 55 centimeters (21½ inches), and shows the baby almost completely free of the mother, and between the ribs of the adult, the disarticulated vertebrae of more young.

A really special book; but if you like fossils you will really appreciate the illustrations.

From Dinny's Doins, January 1979
The Mid-America Paleontology Society (MAPS) was formed to promote popular interest in the subject of paleontology; to encourage the proper collecting, study, preparation, and display of fossil materials; to assist other individuals, groups, and institutions interested in the various aspects of paleontology. It is a non-profit society, and is incorporated under the laws of the State of Iowa.

MAPS is affiliated with the Midwest Federation of Mineralogical and Geological Societies, and with the American Federation of Mineralogical Societies. Membership in MAPS is open to anyone, anywhere who is sincerely interested in fossils and in the aims of the Society.

Family membership $6.00; individual membership $5.00; junior membership $3.00 (between ages 8 and 16); dealer membership (non-voting) $20.00.

MAPS meetings are held on the 1st Saturday of each month (2nd Saturday if inclement weather) October thru May, at 2PM in the Science Building, Augustana College, Rock Island, Illinois.

President: Gilbert Norris, 2623 34th Ave Court, Rock Island, Illinois 61201
Vice President: Douglas DeRosear, P.O. Box 125, Donnellson, Iowa 52625
Secretary: Alberta Cray, 1126 J Avenue, NW, Cedar Rapids, Iowa 52405
Treasurer: JoAnn Good, 410 NW 3rd Street, Aledo, Illinois 61231
DIGEST Editor: Dick Johannesen, 2708 34th St, Rock Island, Illinois 61201

Dated material - meeting notice