

THE

ROCKPILE

Official Publication of the Midwest Mineralogical and Lapidary Society

AFFILIATED WITH • MIDWEST FEDERATION OF MINERALOGICAL AND GEOLOGICAL SOCIETIES • AMERICAN FEDERATION OF MINERALOGICAL SOCIETIES

January, 2016



SOUTHEASTERN - MICHIGAN

Midwest Mineralogical & Lapidary Society

2016 OFFICERS

President: Diane Kuzara (734) 675-5237
Vice President: Dan Gumina (313) 766-8944
Recording Secretary: Julie Knechtges (734) 444-9151
Treasurer: Doris Snyder (313) 291-2133
Corresponding Secretary: Julie Knechtges
(734) 444-9151
Liaison Officer: Peter Kuzara (734) 675-5237

COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS

Club Services: Don Baker
Door Prizes: Mike Bomba
AFMS Scholarship: Pat Rutkowski
Field Trips – Local: Bill Barr
Field Trips: Bill Barr
Education: Dave Hendershot
Insurance:
Historian: Tom Morris
Michigan Material: Tom Morris
Club Publicity:
Membership: Don Baker
MMLS Scholarship: Leonard Swisher
Program Coordinator: Mike Bomba
Property – Storage: Leonard Swisher
Property – Meetings: Leonard Swisher / Ken Slack
Sunshine Reporter: Velma Bradley
Refreshments: Janet Slominski / Kim Osborne
Web Site: Stacey Harper

ACTIVITIES

2016 Banquet:
2016 Swap: Lou and Cindy Talley
2016 Auction: Dan Gumina

STUDY GROUPS

Advance Lapidary:
Basic Lapidary:
Bead Study: Diane Kuzara
Faceting:
Mineralogy: Dave Esch
Paleontology:
Wire Study: John Lindsay
Silversmithing: Don Brown

PAST PRESIDENTS

Robert Ellison (interim) 1956
Louis Cox 1957
Robert Heldenbrand 1958-59
Ralph Gamble 1959-60
Fred Miller 1960-61
Bert Smart 1961-62
Leo Nieman 1963
Nicholas Rothenthaler 1964-65
Robert Fedoruk 1966-67
John Good 1968-69
Cecilia Duluk 1970
Stanley Franczak 1971-72
E. Donald Stinnett 1973-74
Ralph Goniea 1975-76
Norman Hanschu 1977-78
Thomas Gibbs 1979-80
Harry Nagy 1981-82
Elsbeth Gibbs 1983-84
Loretta Franczak 1985-86
Roland Snyder 1987-88
Jay Ross 1989-90
Tom Morris Jr. 1991-92
Diane Kuzara 1993-94
Bill Orban 1995-96
Glenn Swain 1997-98
Bill Peach 1999-2000
Diane Kuzara 2001-02
Cecilia Duluk 2003-04
Russ Ranker 2005-06
Dick DePodesta 2007-08
Rich Williams 2009-10
Leonard Swisher 2011-12
Mike Bomba 2013 - 14

The Rockpile Staff : Editor Peter Kuzara, dpkuzara@peoplepc.com, 734-675-5237

MMLS website – www.mmls.us Email - rockhounds@mmls.us

General Club meetings are held at 7:30 p.m. on every third Tuesday of the month (except July and August)
at the Democratic Club of Taylor, 23400 Wick Rd., Taylor, MI 48180

GUESTS ARE ALWAYS WELCOME

The President's Corner

Happy 2016 to all our MMLS members! A brand new year to rock hunt, attend meetings, study groups, club events. Learn how to cut cabochons, maybe hone your faceting skills and a bevy of other hobby related areas. Let's all get involved.

Our club is not as large as it was the last time I was president, that was back in 2001/2002. We are small but mighty. We are making efforts to bring back some of the events we had before, but we need your help and co-operation to do that. No one person can do all that on their own. Please make your ideas known to any and all board members, come to a Board Meeting or the General Meeting and offer your help. Join us and you will make new friends and help our club return to the great way it was.

Diane

The Minutes of the Board Meeting

Board Meeting Summary: November 13, 2015
Minutes of the October 16, 2015 meeting approved as printed. Meeting called to order at 7:36 PM. Treasurer's report was approved as read. Mike Bomba reported "Adventures in Mexico's Great Specimen Mines by Dr. Peter Megaw (35 minutes long) will be the November program. December is Christmas Party, and January currently scheduled Fossil DVD. The March General Meeting will be Lori Ackerman doing a hands on class on how to make a gem tree. Doris Snyder's committee report included two new members Barbara Tobin for reinstatement and new member Karin Taylor. The board voted and accepted the motion for membership to be presented and voted during the November General Meeting. Nancy Hassell passed away and Lillian Nadeau is in the Kinghaven convalescence lining center on King Road east of Allen Road. The auction raised \$2502. A display cabinet is available for purchase.

Summarized by Julie Knechtges, Recording Secretary

The Minutes of the General Meeting

General Meeting summary: November 17, 2015
Minutes of the September 15, 2015 meeting was approved with changes was approved. The Treasurer's for October 31, 2015 was approved. Two new membership Karin Taylor and Barbara Tobin (reinstatement). Mike Bomba reported the program for the November program is "Adventures in Mexico's Great Specimen Mines" by Dr. Peter Megaw (35 min. long). December is the Christmas Party. If interested in participating bring a wrapped rock related Christmas gift and a dish of goodies. March will be Lori Ackerman doing a hands -on class of how to make a gem tree. January current program is a Fossil DVD. The auction was successful. The club has a display case available for sale. 2016 officers were elected.

Summarized by Julie Knechtges, Recording Secretary

January Program:

A Fossil DVD entitled "Teeth Jaws and Claws" by Dale Gnidovec.

Welcome New Members.

Karin Taylor
PO Box 1180
Belleville, MI 48112
Email: Ktaylor2550@yahoo.com
Tel. 734-461-6277

Re-instatement:
Barbara Tobin
27637 Elba Dr.
Grosse Ile, MI 48138
Email: barbara.tobin@att.net
Tel. 734-676-3017

The song , Auld Lang Syne, is sung at the stroke of midnight in almost every English-speaking country in the world to bring in the new year!!!

From the internet

Address update:

Marge Collins: margecollins45@yahoo.com

Dates to Remember

Contacts for study groups

Bead study, Diane Kuzara, 734-675-5237

Mineral study, David Esch, 734-665-5574

Wirewrap, John Lindsay, 734-604-8561

Lapidary work shop, Frank Konieczki

734-323-2218

Sliversmithing study group meeting is cancelled until further notice

January 4, 2016 Lapidary work shop 2009 W.

Michigan Ave., Ypsilanti, Mi., 7pm to 10pm.

Fee is \$2.50 for each evening.

January 6, 2016 Wire Wrap Class, Call John

Lindsay for details

January 7, 2016 Bead study group will meet at

the Kuzara's, 20281 Thomas, Brownstown at 7pm

Mi. at 7:30pm.

January 15, 2016 Board Meeting and Rockpile

Deadline. At the Bomba's 1419 Gregory, Lincoln

Park, at 7:30pm.

January 18, 2016 Lapidary work shop 2009 W.

Michigan Ave., Ypsilanti, Mi., 7pm to 10pm.

Fee is \$2.50 for each evening.

January 19, 2016 General meeting will be held at

the DEMOCRATIC CLUB OF TAYLOR, 23400

WICK RD., TAYLOR at 7:30pm.

January 20, 2016 Lapidary work shop 2009 W.

Michigan Ave., Ypsilanti, Mi., 7pm to 10pm.

Fee is \$2.50 for each evening.

January 21, 2016 Bead study group will meet at

the Kuzara's, 20281 Thomas, Brownstown at 7pm

Mi. at 7:30pm.

January 21, 2016 Mineral Study Group will meet at Dave Esch's house, 227 Barton Shore Dr., Ann Arbor,

February 1, 2016 Lapidary work shop 2009 W.

Michigan Ave., Ypsilanti, Mi., 7pm to 10pm.

Fee is \$2.50 for each evening.

February 3, 2016 Wire Wrap Class, Call John

Lindsay for details

February 4, 2016 Bead study group will meet at

the Kuzara's, 20281 Thomas, Brownstown at 7pm

Mi. at 7:30pm.

February 12, 2016 Board Meeting and Rockpile

Deadline. At the Kuzara's, 20281 Thomas,

Brownstown at 7:30pm.

February 15, 2016 Lapidary work shop 2009 W.

Michigan Ave., Ypsilanti, Mi., 7pm to 10pm.

Fee is \$2.50 for each evening.

February 16, 2016 General meeting will be held

at the DEMOCRATIC CLUB OF TAYLOR, 23400

WICK RD., TAYLOR at 7:30pm.

February 18, 2016 Lapidary work shop 2009 W.

Michigan Ave., Ypsilanti, Mi., 7pm to 10pm.

Fee is \$2.50 for each evening.

February 18, 2016 Bead study group will meet at

the Kuzara's, 20281 Thomas, Brownstown at 7pm.

February 18, 2016 Mineral Study Group will

meet at Dave Esch's house, 227 Barton Shore Dr.,

Ann Arbor,

March 19, 2016 MMLS 44th ANNUAL METRO

ROCK SWAP at St. John's Lutheran Church,

13115 Telegraph Rd., Taylor, MI. 10am to 5pm. For

table reservations and information call Lou Talley at 734-837-8920.

Some Humor: Women and cats will do as they please, and men and dogs should relax and get used to the idea.

And the cardiologist's diet: If it tastes good spit it out. From the internet.

From the Editor: My two cents.

The first thing I would like to say is HAPPY NEW YEAR to all. I hope everyone found something interesting in The Rockpile this past year. You should have noticed that several of the articles that appeared in The Rockpile were submitted by club members. I would like to say thank you for their interest. I would like to see an original article submitted one of these months. I am also open to any suggestion to improve The Rockpile. The article following is an email received from ALAA's Tom Noe. Pete

From the ALAA

Good morning, editors,

Here is this month's ALAA excerpt to use in your rock club newsletters. A lot of rockhounds think the Sierra Club is so great because they love the outdoors, like we do. But the Sierra Club doesn't think rockhounds are so great, and haven't for a long time.

On a cheerier topic: Merry Christmas and Happy New Year in 2016!

Tom

Sierra Club Wants Roads To Rockhound Areas Closed

Below is an email sent out by Jim McGarvey of the Riverton Mineral and Gem Society. He is also the Wyoming State Rep for Public Lands Advisory in the Rocky Mt. Federation. I'm sorry to inform you that the Sierra Club is forcing the Forest Service to close roads to motorized travel in some of rockhounds' favorite collecting areas. Would you be happy if they closed the roads into the Wiggins Fork area so you can't go in and collect Wiggins Fork wood anymore? That's one of the areas that will be closed. It seems that the Sierra Club got something

like 23,000 letters to be sent to the Shoshone National Forest planners to close down those roads and many other roads in Wyoming. At a recent meeting a representative of the Sierra Club pointed to a map and told the Forest Service representative that these are the roads he wanted closed.

Rockhounds have got to start participating in these government decisions if they want to continue to collect rocks. This is not just in Wyoming, its happening all over our United States! What do YOU want to do about this? Rock clubs can't do much. It's up to the individuals in the clubs to act. We need a national response to this control of our hobby. I hope you can muster up the courage to fight this obstacle to our "pursuit of happiness"!

—from the July-Sept. 2015 *ALAA Newsletter*.

ALAA is the lobbying arm of the American Federation, working on behalf of rockhounds to keep public lands open and accessible to all, including the elderly and handicapped.

Asteroid that killed the dinosaurs had an accomplice, research says.

By Amina Khan

Los Angeles Times (TNS)

Many scientists have long blamed a single culprit in the sudden and violent mass extinction that took out the dinosaurs: an asteroid that came screaming out of the skies 66 million years ago. But it turns out this asteroid may have had an accomplice.

Researchers studying ancient lava flows in India have implicated the volcanic eruptions that they say turned massively deadly around the same time that the asteroid hit. They say having such massive volcanic flows around the same time as a devastating asteroid impact seems an unlikely coincidence, and that the eruptions, together with the asteroid impact, would have filled the air and covered the earth with toxic fumes and dust, driving countless species to extinction. The findings, described in the journal *Science*, bind two long held theories

Con't next page

about what killed the dinosaurs. Some researchers have argued that it was this massive event that actually killed off the dinosaurs; other have said the volcanoes had little impact compared with the asteroid.

"This is pouring gasoline on the debate," said Henry Melosh, a planetary scientist at Purdue University who was not involved in the paper.

The Deccan Traps in India have layer upon layers - about 9842 feet thick - of volcanic rock and are the remains of an enormous volcanic eruption. The amount of lava extruded "would correspond to something like a half a million cubic kilometers," said lead study author Paul Renne, a geochronologist at the Berkeley Geochronology Center. "It's enough to cover the entire Earth to a depth of something like a meter (or roughly 3.28 feet) or so. It's really big."

The volcanoes have been erupting before the asteroid's arrival, but researchers focused on a point where the pattern of lava flows seems to have dramatically changed.

The findings don't directly prove that the two events were linked. But they offer compelling circumstantial evidence Renne said.

But Melosh said he remains not persuaded. The extinction event appears to have been sudden, rather than gradual, he said, which matches with the asteroid impact. From the Detroit Free Press 2015

The Petoskey Stone

Some history, lore and facts about the "Petoskey Stone"

Wouldn't it be great if rocks could talk? For example, through legend and facts, a Petoskey Stone could tell you much about Michigan's history and geology.

Legend and history are often intertwined. Such is the case with the Petoskey Stone. The name Petoskey Stone likely came about because it was found and sold as a souvenir from the Petoskey area. The name Petoskey appears to have originated late in the 18th century. It's roots stem from an

Ottawa Indian legend. According to legend, a descendant of French nobility named Antoine Carre visited what is now the Petoskey area and became a fur trader with the John Jacob Astor Fur Company. In time, he met and married an Ottawa Indian princess. Carre became known to the Indians as Neatooshing. Eventually he was adopted by the tribe and was made chief.

In the spring of 1787, after having spent the winter near what is now Chicago, Chief Neatooshing and

his royal family started home. Enroute, the party camped on the banks of the Kalamazoo River. During the night, a son was born to the Chief. As the sun rose, its rays fell on the face of the new baby. Noting the glorious sunshine on his son's face, the Chief proclaimed, "His name shall be Petosegay (or Bedosegay, there are several versions). He shall become an important person." The translation of the name is "rising sun," "rays of dawn," or "sunbeams of promise". True to his father's prediction, Petosegay became an important person. He was a fur trader and merchant who acquired much land and wealth. His appearance was outstanding. His skin was smooth, his eyes sharp and deeply set, and he spoke English quite well.

Ultimately, he married the young daughter of Chief Pokozeegun, a great Ottawa Chief from the northern Lower Peninsula of Michigan. They had two daughters and eight sons.

In the summer of 1873, just a few years before the death of Petosegay, a city came into being on his land along the bay at Bear Creek. The site was a field overgrown with June grass. Only a few nondescript buildings existed. The population was no more than 50 or 60. The city was named Petoskey, an English adaptation of Petosegay. Thus they honored someone who gave his land, name, and the heritage of "sunbeams of promise".

Today, Petoskey is a growing city with all of the comforts of modern life and an appreciation of the past. This is where Petoskey Stones are found. For those who look, Petoskey Stones are along the

beaches, inland in gravel deposits, and sold in gift shops.

The most often asked question is, "What is a Petoskey Stone?" A Petoskey is a fossil colonial coral. These corals lived in warm shallow seas that covered Michigan during Devonian time, some 350 million years ago.

Almost a century after the founding of Petoskey, on June 28, 1965, Governor George Romney signed a bill that made the Petoskey Stone Michigan's official State Stone. It was fitting that Miss Ella Jane Petoskey, the only living grand-child of Chief Petosegay, was present at the formal signing. The legislation is very general. The bill simply states that the Petoskey Stone is the State Stone. The designation of Hexagonaria percarinata was made by Dr. Edwin C. Stumm in 1969. Dr. Stumm made this distinction based on his extensive knowledge of fossils.

Via The Pterodactyl 5/2015 Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (MI DEQ), Geological Survey Division (GSD) "The Petoskey Stone" web page

Touching Up A Bezel

Pumice wheels are good for touching up a bezel after you set the stone. The hardness is about 6 on the Moh's scale, less hard than quartz, so it shouldn't scratch any of your agates or jaspers. However, I'd avoid or be very careful of using pumice near the softer stones like turquoise, amber, how elite, etc. If you are unsure about hardness of your wheels, test them on a piece of glass. Glass is about 5 1/2 on the Mohs scale, softer than quartz. So if the wheel doesn't harm the glass, it's safe for use on the quartzes and harder stones.

Hint by Brad Smith taken from Michigan Mineralogical Society Conglomerate 3/2015
Via Rocky Trails 3/2015

Santa Claus has the right idea. Visit people only once a year. Victor Borge From the internet.

NOTICE DUES ARE DUE

Dear MMLS member:

It's that time again when you are asked to renew your membership for the year (2016) in the Midwest Mineralogical and Lapidary Society. (Membership runs from January through December each year.)

May we ask your cooperation by renewing now. Doing so will ease our Treasurer's job, save the cost of an extra mailing and assure your receipt of The Rockpile without interruption.

Just use the handy Membership Renewal Form. Complete the form, enclose your check made payable to MMLS and mail to our treasure:

Doris Snyder
9728 Pardee
Taylor, Mi. 48180

It's that easy! If you would like your membership card mailed to you, please include a SASE.

Midwest Mineralogical Lapidary Society

Adult Dues: \$15.00

Juniors (under age 18) \$1.00

Yes I wish to renew my/our membership in MMLS for 2016 and continue to receive The Rockpile

Name(s) _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____ Zip _____

Phone (____) _____

Email address _____

Enclosed is my check payable to MMLS for \$ _____

Dues paid after December 31st is subject to a \$3.00 Reinstatement fee. Add to your check.

Would you like your Rockpile sent to you by Email?
Yes _____ No _____

DO IT TODAY BEFORE YOU FORGET!!!!

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Why Does my Barite Smell so Bad?

Trimming or cutting barite can be an odoriferous experience. Barite, and other minerals, may be "fetid," or foul-smelling when broken or scratched. This phenomenon occurs because you are breaking open fluid inclusions within the barite crystal. Natural crystals are never completely pure. Many minerals form by precipitation from a water-rich fluid, and small amounts of the formational fluids can be caught up in the growing crystal. Geoscientists study fluid inclusions in quartz, calcite, barite, dolomite, and other transparent crystals because they preserve samples of ancient fluids and give clues to conditions (such as temperature and pressure) under which the mineral grew. Fluid inclusions are microscopic "vugs" trapped within a mineral crystal. These vugs are small liquid-filled pockets that may also contain gases and/or solids. Some fluid inclusions may be large enough to see with the naked eye, but most require a microscope. Many fluid inclusions are smaller than 0.1 millimeters across, and they can even be smaller than 0.001 millimeters in diameter. A mineral crystal may contain billions of fluid inclusions per cubic centimeter. This means that a one-inch by three inch by three-inch crystal can contain more than 10 billion microscopic fluid inclusions. Fluids in the inclusions are usually mostly salt water. Gases such as carbon dioxide or methane may occur in a gas bubble floating within the inclusion's fluid. Solids, such as crystals of halite (sodium chloride) or sylvite (potassium chloride), also can be found within some fluid inclusions. In fetid barite, the inclusions contain a small amount of hydrogen sulfide. This foul-smelling gas (it has the smell of rotten eggs) is liberated from fluid inclusions when fetid barite is scratched or crushed. The inclusions are very small in volume so the total amount of hydrogen sulfide released is very small. But your nose is extremely sensitive to hydrogen sulfide; you can smell the gas at the parts per billion (ppb) level. © Andrew A. Sicree, Ph.D. via Rocky Trails Oct. 2015

**Happy New Year To All From
The Rockpile Staff**

THE MIDWEST MINERALOGICAL AND LAPIDARY SOCIETY (MMLS) is an educational non-profit organization founded in 1956. The Society now has more than 100 members and is affiliated with the Midwest Federation of Mineralogical Societies and the American Federation of Mineralogical Societies. Significantly, MMLS has been recognized numerous times by the Midwest and American Federations with first place (gold level) awards in the annual All American Club Awards Program.

PURPOSE: The purpose of The MMLS shall be (1) to promote interest in and increase knowledge in the fields of mineralogy, geology, and paleontology, including lapidary and related arts; (2) to publish articles and information pertaining to these fields; (3) to encourage collections and to display specimens in these fields; and (4) to arrange field trips in support of the interests and activities specified.

GENERAL MEETINGS: the third Tuesday of each month, September through June, 7:30 p.m. at the Democratic Club of Taylor, 23400 Wick Rd., Taylor, MI 48180 GUESTS ARE ALWAYS WELCOME.

MEMBERSHIP: Applications for membership can be obtained at any general meeting or from any MMLS member. **DUES:** Entrance fee - \$3.00; annual dues - \$15.00 (adult), \$1.00 (junior) on a year basis. Membership expires each Dec. 31.

ANNUAL EVENTS:

March – Rock Swap and Sale November – Auction Coming is October 2016 our second Rock Swap and Sale!!

STUDY GROUPS: Special-interest study groups meet monthly, September through June. No additional fees are involved. Currently the following groups are active:

Basic Lapidary Advanced Lapidary Wire Study Bead Study Mineralogy Silversmithing (Silversmithing is now on hold until further notice.)

FIELD TRIPS: Several one day field trips and one longer (one to two weeks) field trips are conducted each year. Mostly, these field trips focus on the collection of mineral and fossil specimens at quarries, mines, and other known collecting sites in the United States and Canada. Field trips are restricted to MMLS members.

SCHOLARSHIP FUND: MMLS has established a scholarship Endowment Fund which provides scholarships to qualified students enrolled in an accredited college or university in southeastern Michigan who have completed at least their junior year and have a major in geology, mineralogy, paleontology or lapidary and related arts.

SEAMAN MINERAL MUSEUM: MMLS has designated the A.E. SEAMAN Mineral Museum at Michigan Technological University, Houghton, Michigan, as it's "adoptive" museum, pledging to support it with gifts to the museum's endowment fund and the donation of mineral specimens and services.

INTERNET WEB SITES OF INTEREST:

Midwest Federation: www.amfed.org/mwff/index.html

American Federation: www.amfed.org

American Lands Access Association: <http://amlands.org>

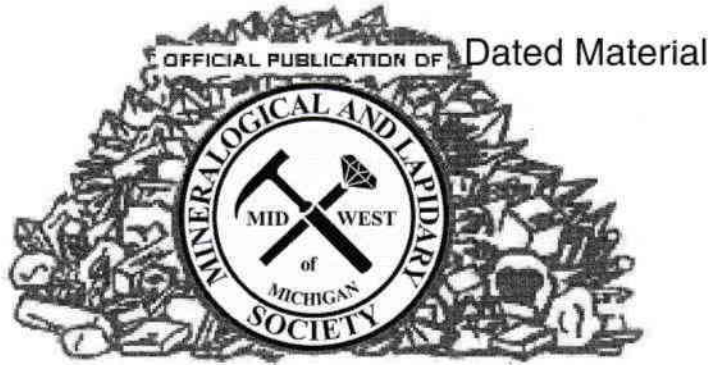
The Rockhound's 10 Commandments:

1. Thou shall not touch thy neighbor's minerals unless he places them in thy hands.
2. Thou shall not test the strength of crystals by pushing, squeezing or biting.
3. Thou shall not drop thy neighbor's fossils, for many do not bounce properly.
4. Thou shall not place thy neighbor's specimens in thine own pocket.
5. Thou shall not collect at a neighbor's land unless thy neighbor knowst he's there.
6. Thou shall not argue names of minerals too violently; for sometimes thou couldst be wrong.
7. Thou shall not climb above thy neighbor's head when on a field trip, lest thou art willing to spend the rest of the day digging him out.
8. Thou shall protect thine eyes, hands & feet, so that they mayst enjoy many future field trips.
9. Thou shall not encroach upon thy neighbor's diggin's, lest thy neighbor's hammer be dropped upon thee.
10. Thou shall not break uncollectable specimens.

Midwest
Mineralogical and
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Michigan

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48183

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The ROCKPILE

Bulletin Editor Contest Awards



1993 – 1st Place (Large Bulletin) AFMS
1991 – 1st Place (Large Bulletin) MWF
1990 – 1st Place (New Editor) AFMS
1990 – 1st Place (New Editor) MWF



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