

Chapter 2

Organization and Growth 1970 - 1975

Earth Science Growth

Earth Science education in Michigan was growing and vigorous with the start of a new decade. A survey (see Appendix B), conducted during 1970-71, reported at least 247 schools offered a one-semester or full-year course in Earth Science during the 1968-69 school year. More than 27,500 secondary students in the state were enrolled in these courses. In addition, some 37,700 students were in other courses that included some Earth Science units. And, more good news, 66 other schools were planning to introduce an Earth Science course during the 1969-70 school year.

For the Michigan Earth Science Teachers Association the 1970s started with a number of changes for the organization. First, publication of the *Michigan Earth Scientist* moved to the Department of Geology at Western Michigan University. Richard Passero at Western was instrumental in this change and the appearance of the newsletter jumped several steps in quality. Dick became the Assistant Editor and oversaw the preparation and production of the newsletter.

The first issue in March, 1970, took on a professional appearance in both the general layout and photo-

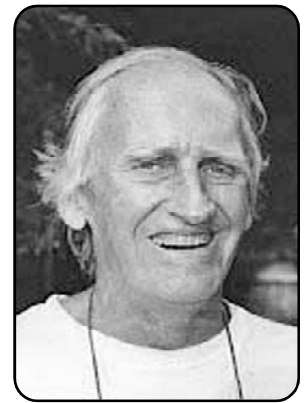


Rod Hall - home of the Western Michigan Geology Department

graphs. Western also hosted an Earth Science Conference that reviewed some of the Earth Science curriculum materials prepared using federal support in the early and middle part of the 1960s. However, Dr. George Mallinson, Dean of the Graduate School at Western Michigan University, cautioned that not all these efforts were successful.

The 1970 May issue of the *Michigan Earth Scientist* carried a report by William Romey, Director of the Earth Science Curriculum Project (ESCP). He summarized the status of Earth Science education in pre-college schools across the United States. As many as two million students were in an Earth Science course in grades seven through nine. Of course, many others were in General Science or Physical Science courses that included Earth Science topics. He stressed the drastic shortage of qualified Earth Science teachers and saw no solution to the problem in the near future.

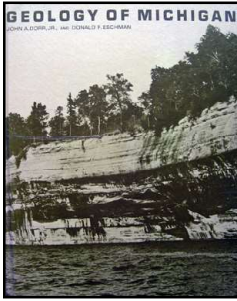
Romey continued with a discussion of the Earth Science curriculum materials and instructional methods. By the early 1970s the ESCP textbook and materials were being used across the country - some 135,000 copies of the book had been produced. He then reviewed various instructional methods and strongly lobbied for a more self-directed approach where the teacher's role is more like a research coor-



William Romey as he appeared in later years.

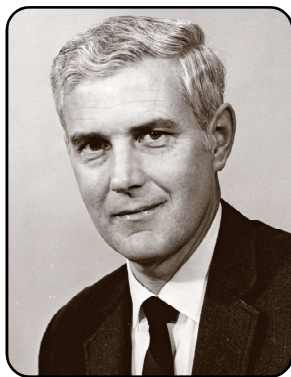


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dinator. The student would have a much larger part in deciding what he or she would study. For this to occur, there needs to be a major revision in the way teachers are prepared in college, the models for teaching were all wrong!

That same issue announced the publication of *Geology of Michigan*, by Dorr and Eschman at the University of Michigan Press. It was the first comprehensive book on Michigan geology and paleontology and has been a mainstay every since. It is still being reprinted and used as a reference although some portions are badly out-of-date. A review was subsequently published in the 1971 September issue of the *Michigan Earth Scientist*.



Donald Eschman's book became an important reference for Earth Science Teachers.

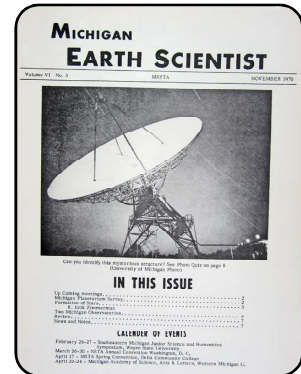
MESTA Growth

Ernie Fischer, MESTA Executive Chairman, reported on proceedings of the April 11, 1970 Annual Conference. Results of a questionnaire distributed to MESTA members were discussed and some former ideas were revived. One of these was to use field trips as a way to draw Earth Science teachers together and encourage membership. Trips should be planned in various parts of the state, possibly by sectional representatives who were urged to solicit professionals such as state geologists, oil company geologists or geology professors. Several changes were made in the MESTA Constitution Bylaws. Article VII dealing with amendments was modified to allow greater participation by MESTA members.

By the fall of 1970, a number of events had occurred that impacted the Michigan Earth Science

Teachers Association. Perhaps the most important was the interest that Harold Stonehouse, faculty member in the Department of Geology at Michigan State University, exhibited in MESTA. His lead article in the September issue of the newsletter was an excellent up-to-date report on the Precambrian geology of the Michigan Basin. He summarized four professional papers from the Michigan Basin Geological Society's Annual Field Excursion. It provided MESTA members with a valuable reference that could be used to bring Michigan geology into their classrooms. Stonehouse was to become a significant force in MESTA.

Ernie Fischer's new Earth Science Lab Classroom was also featured in that September issue. It demonstrated new thinking about how a classroom could be set up to effectively offer an Earth Science course. MESTA's emphases on field trips was again featured with a report on the Grand Ledge outcrop area, including maps showing locations of former mines.



The November 1970 issue focused on astronomy and featured two Michigan telescopes.

Stoney Arrives



Harold (Stoney) Stonehouse

During the 1969-70 school year an ad hoc committee met to discuss how Earth Science education could be promoted on both the state and local levels. Stonehouse was "Chairman" of this group and he reported several developments:

1. The Michigan Department of Education requested the committee prepare a statement

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concerning Earth Science education in Michigan schools to be used to assist school systems in establishing an Earth Science programs.

2. Establish informal in-service training by professional geologists, supported by the Michigan Basin Geological Society, and development of instructional materials relating to Michigan geology.

3. Establish a speakers bureau to provide professional geologists from industry, government and the academic community who would be available to give talks in schools — to be sponsored by the Michigan Region of the National Association of Geology Teachers.

4. Offer National Science Foundation supported institutes in Earth Science for teachers by Michigan universities.

Reflecting on this final item, the soon to be released Guest Speakers for the Earth Sciences was announced by Passero. This 20 page catalog of speakers and topics includes 114 speakers from five mid-western states. The November, 1970 issue of the *Michigan Earth Scientist* included the Speakers Bureau listing as an insert. In that same issue a survey of the 36 Michigan Planetariums, sponsored by MESTA and Lansing Community College, was reported.

More Growth

Membership in the Michigan Earth Science Teachers Association topped 100 in early December, 1970. Although a number of meetings of Earth Science education organizations and other Michigan science groups; National Association of Geology Teachers, Michigan Science Teaches Association, Michigan Academy of Arts, Sciences and Letters, were announced in the newslet-



Bryon Rempp

ter, no MESTA meetings were either held or planned.

MESTA elections were held in the spring of 1971 and new officers were chosen:

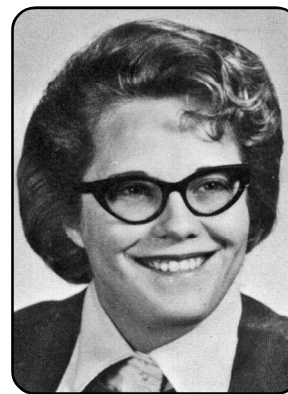
Executive Chairman: Bryon Rempp, Ithaca High School

Executive Vice-Chairman: Dan Gajewski, Geo. Daly Jr. High School

Treasurer: K R. Cranson, Lansing Community College

Editor: Dave Waltrip, Bloomingdale Middle School

Interestingly, the November, 1971 issue of the MES listing of MESTA Officers reports an Executive Vice-Chairman rather than an Executive Secretary -



Jan Woerner

was the Constitution changed? That issue was on the environment and two field trips were reported, one by Jan Woerner, an Earth Science teacher at Freeland Community Schools. Jan would become prominent in both MESTA and NESTA in the future.

In September, Dean Bredwell of Fowler Schools led a group of 36 Earth Science teachers on an MESTA sponsored field trip to the Grand Ledge outcrop area.

Results of the third Earth Science in Michigan Secondary Schools Survey was released. More than 360 secondary schools offered an Earth Science course during the 1970-71 school year. One hundred ten additional schools offer units in Earth Science as part of other courses with 17 schools planning to introduce a regular Earth Science course in their curricu-

image of Dean Bredwell

Dean Bredwell



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By January, 1972, an Editorial Board had been established for the *Michigan Earth Scientist*. Dick Passero, Western Michigan University, Harold Stonehouse, Michigan State University, and Cotter Tharin, Hope College, were listed as members. Western Michigan, Michigan State, Flint Community College and the Michigan Basin Geological Society provided financial support for the newsletter.

An MESTA meeting was scheduled at the Michigan Science Teachers Association Annual Convention scheduled for April 26 at Everett High School in Lansing. The January 1972, issue of the MES was dedicated to the New Global Tectonics as the concept of plate tectonics was new to secondary education. MESTA offered a report of the *Michigan Planetary Survey* for \$1.00.

Field Trips

After a tentative start it quickly became obvious that field activities would become a major component of MESTA's philosophy. These outings evolved into major events and would eventually be known as Field Conferences - often involving travel to many parts of the U.S. Seven MESTA sponsored field trips were held during May of 1972. These included:

Geology, Soils and Geography of Mt. Pleasant hosted by Hudson Keenan from Mt. Pleasant High School.

Glacial Geology of Parts of Jackson, Hillsdale and Lenawee Counties hosted by Ernie Fischer of Jackson Northeast Jr, High School.

Pennsylvanian and Pleistocene Geology in the Tri County Area hosted by Jan Woerner of Freeland Schools.

Pleistocene Geology of the Lansing Area hosted by K.R. Cranson and Richard Yarger of Lansing Community College.

Glacial River Channels - Geology in Northern Clinton County hosted by Dean Bredwell of Potterville Schools.

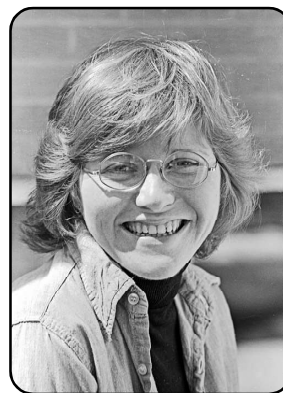
Geology between Plymouth and Kensington Park hosted by Joe Ditzhazy and Dennis Ellison of Thurston High School.

Glacial Geology of a portion of Southwest Michigan hosted by Dick Passero and Tom Straw from the Department of Geology at Western Michigan University.

The first sets of 35 mm slides with scripts for use in Earth Science classrooms were produced by the Michigan Basin Geological Society, developed in response to an earlier idea suggested by MESTA. They began with "**Uncovering Michigan**" illustrating the formation of glacio-topographic features related to the final melting of the Pleistocene Ice Sheet across the Southern Peninsula of the state. Cost was \$5.00.

The geologic history of Michigan is the topic for the 50 slides in "**Our Changing State**" at a cost of \$5.00. "**Grand River Perspective**" consisted of 64 slides illustrating the formation of the Grand River - Cost \$7.00. Twelve additional slides showing the history of the Grand River in Grand Rapids can be added for \$1.50. Each set was designed to make classroom presentations more personal as the teacher narrated and discuss each slide.

Outstanding Earth Science Teacher Award presented by the National Association of Geology Teachers (NAGT) was announced in the April, 1972 issue of the *Michigan Earth Scientist*. Ernie Fischer, former MESTA Executive Chairman, was selected as a sectional awardee (1970-71) and featured on the cover of the *Journal of Geological Education*,



Sue Kaschner

publication of NAGT. That same issue also included the first installments of two regular columns; "**Windjammer**" by Jan Woerner and "**Something Erratic**" by Sue Kaschner. The MESTA Annual Fall Conference with associated field trip was also announced setting the precedent followed in later years.

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By 1972 The *Michigan Earth Scientist* started accepting paid advertising to help support the cost of publication. Plas Labs, a Lansing based company that produced stream tables, was featured in ads on the back page of several issues.

New Positions

New MESTA positions were announced in the fall of 1972. Sue Kaschner became Acting Editor, Clare Albee was named Membership Chairman, and Dean Bredwell became Manager of Publications and Sales. October 14 and 15 was set for the MESTA Annual Conference at Western Michigan University. Topics included oceanography and marine geology with a Sunday field trip to Lake Michigan.



A MESTA Board meeting at Michigan State University's Geology Department - 1973.

Linda Dalrymple of Portage High School was named Michigan Outstanding Earth Science Teacher and co-winner (1971-72) for NAGTs East Central Section. She became the *Michigan Earth Scientist* Editor in 1973.

Several field trips conducted by MESTA members were featured and detailed in the spring issue of the *Michigan Earth Scientist*. Three days in the Lake Michigan sand dunes, a four-day expedition from Detroit to Marquette via Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore and Tahquamenon Falls, and using gravel pits to collect rocks and minerals.

Another regular column, "On The Go" by Rod

Cranson debuted in the Summer issue of the MES, featured two University of Michigan telescopes, a new 52-inch reflector and their 80 foot radio telescope near Pinkney. The MESTA Annual Fall Conference was held in conjunction with the Michigan Basin Geological Society at Delta College on September 15, 1973.



As the country, and Michigan, sank into the energy crisis of the 1970s, MESTA elected a new set of officers. These were announced in the Winter, 1974 issue of the *Michigan Earth Scientist*, they were:

President: Dan Gajewski Armstrong Middle School, Flint

Vice-President: Jan Woerner, Freeland High School

Secretary: Jane Bricker, Mason Junior High School

Treasurer: K.R. Cranson, Lansing Community College

Editor: Linda Dalrymple, Portage Central High School

Reorganization

It appears that the MESTA Constitution had been amended to provide for a President, Vice President, and Secretary. The association also named a number of Regional representatives and a representative to NAGT. All MESTA positions were listed for the first time under The Organization on page 2, a practice that would become routine in the future. It marked the beginning of the association becoming a strong organization.

Part 1 of Jan Woerner's account of a raft trip down the Grand Canyon (sponsored by MESTA?) and Dick Munson's annual spring field trip to Michigan's UP for his Thurston High School students were included in the 1974 Spring issue of the news-



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letter. Also included was a report of an Executive Committee meeting held on May 25, 1974 at Michigan State University. The following important items were discussed or decisions made:

The treasurer reported a balance of \$407.23 with a membership of 105.

Topics to be included and problems with publication of the *Michigan Earth Scientist* were discussed. The Spring and Summer issues will be mailed together and Stonehouse will direct the fall issue including its contents. The newsletter is being printed at Portage Central High School which provides the most reasonable financial arrangements.

A current MESTA membership list, request for nomination for the Executive Committee, and newly proposed constitution will be included in the Fall issue.

Several members were nominated for various positions including Sue Kaschner for Editor.

Details of the October 19, 1974 MESTA Annual Fall Conference were discussed. The theme was "Sunshine, Rain and Mud" and it will be held at Armstrong Middle School in Flint. The cost was set at \$5.00 which included registration, dues and lunch. In addition to a copy of *Geology of Michigan* and a rock hammer to be given as door prizes, a display of books, pamphlets, posters and slides were prepared.

Sue Kaschner assumed the editorship of the *Michigan Earth Scientist* with the Fall, 1974 issue. It included part 2 of Jan Woerner's account of the MESTA sponsored Grand Canyon Raft trip. The Annual MESTA Fall Conference Program, planned for October 19, was detailed and the first nomination form for the Best Earth Science Teachers Award was included. New MESTA slide sets were announced including; "The Earth in Your Community," "Fire Down Below: Volcanos," "The Great Lakes - Then and Now," and "Build a Beach - Erode a

Shore." The National Science Teachers Association registry for 1973 indicated that Michigan had 800 Earth Science teachers - however, only about 100 were MESTA members.

Minutes of the November 9, 1974 Executive Committee Meeting held at Michigan State University included the following important items that were discussed or recommendations made:

Seventy-five new members joined MESTA at the Annual Fall Conference.

Information on another trip down the Colorado River during 1975.

The 1975 Winter issue will feature mapping, including a centerfold, contour mapping exercise, map projections, and map resources.

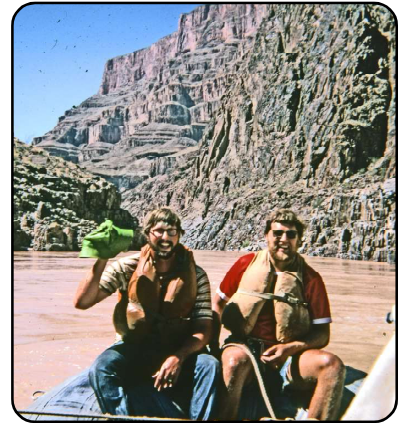
The 1975 Spring issue will have gems and minerals as a theme including Michigan Gem and Mineral Societies and their conference dates.

Tentative plans for the 1975 Summer issue map was to be titled "Tripping through Michigan, or Vacation for Resources . . . Tax Deductable."

A proposed theme for the 1975 Fall issue is "Witchcraft, Astrology and Ancient Astronauts."

Based on a letter from the National Association of Geology Teachers (NAGT), the Executive Committee voted to affiliate and Jan Woerner was selected to be the MESTA representative. After reviewing the outcomes of the 1974 Annual Fall Conference in Flint, the following ideas and suggestions for future conferences were made:

Saturday is a good conference day.



Ray Merrill and Steve Wessling rafting on the Colorado River with MESTA's 1974 trip.

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Hold at least one conference a year at a supporting university and if another is planned, select a secondary school.

Michigan State University was selected for the next MESTA Fall Conference to be held on a non-football game Saturday.

A spring MESTA conference was not considered necessary since the association would be well represented at the MSTA Convention on March 1, 1975 in Lansing.

A request was received to offer a lower MESTA membership fee for students. The \$3.00 annual fee was deemed a bargain and no change was planned.

The Treasurer reported a balance of \$514.06.



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