



—Times-Union Photo—Ivan Conklin

Workmen lower huge boulder to mound of earth at home of amateur geologist Peter Menzie, 3539 Clover St., Pittsford,

next to Thruway. Boulder was moved from quarry in Penfield yesterday.

Just Right for a Mantel

By GRAHAM COX

Peter Menzie, 27, has a hobby. Not involving items you can take off a shelf or out of a drawer to display.

It's the sort a visitor is aware of the first thing when he pulls up outside Menzie's home at 3539 Clover St., Pittsford. It's the sort of hobby that needs a 70-ton mobile crane to carry home the collector's piece.

Menzie collects rocks. Big ones.

Yesterday he spent four hours taking home his collector's item, a granite boulder which weighs more than 35 tons.

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THIS WAS not just any old granite boulder. It took thousands of years for this boulder to get to this country. Menzie estimates that it traveled 400 miles from Ontario

on a glacier in the Ice Age.

When the ice melted about 10,000 years ago the boulder was dropped in Penfield. Since then the Dolomite Products Corp. has dug a huge quarry next to the boulder and moved out millions of tons of limestone from the site at Five Mile Line Road and Whalen Road.

The boulder, called by geologists an erratic, stayed where it was dropped by the ice until yesterday.

Menzie found it a year ago, and realized its significance to the geological world. He estimated it was the biggest granite erratic in the region and determined to save it from being dynamited by the quarrymen when it got in their way.

"Just say I'm moving it from obscurity to prominence," he said.

It took him a year, off and on, to make arrangements with the quarry to take the boulder away, to hire a haulage contractor and crane to move it and get permission from the state to carry it along the main roads.

Joseph Kolepp, in charge of the lifting operation for Gottry Corp., surveyed the erratic and told Menzie it looked only 20 tons.

The seven contractors, experts at moving some strange loads—"This is the oddest thing we have done," one said—took the boulder to the quarry weighing machine.

After a few miscalculations Kolepp jokingly announced: "It's bigger than I thought, it's about 46 tons."

Menzie smiled and said: "So long as it's over 35 tons, that's all I want."

As the crane was backed into the drive at Pittsford his mother, Mrs. Dorothy Menzie, exclaimed: "I've seen equipment like this on city center building sites but I never expected them to move into my garden."

The granite boulder was lifted gingerly off the trailer and put atop a 10-foot mound of earth overlooking the Thruway.

"How did I get interested in rocks? Well, we live in a cobblestone house and I guess that started me off," Menzie said.

Geological note: Menzie's boulder has a long way to go to beat the biggest granite erratic found in the country. This weighs about 4,600 tons, is called the Madison erratic, and is the center piece of a park in Conway, N.H.