

Fairfield medium rocks out with stones

A little background: Denise Poole has slept with more stones than a '70s groupie, though not any of them are named Mick or Keith. Poole, of Fairfield, collected more than 1 million stones when she lived in New Zealand, about the same time she discovered that she can make cosmic connections simply by touching the stones. So she began to bathe with them and sleep with them. And she wrote a book: "The New Stone Age - Earth Mother's Soliloquy," a collection of 134 "stone readings."

The book chronicles Poole's stone-inspired meetings with historical figures. (Bigfoot told her he was misunderstood.) She says she's spoken with Socrates, Shakespeare, John Lennon and Judy Garland (who regretted taking her own life). At first even Poole was a little tripped out by her talents. "I thought I was losing my mind," she said.

In the news: Poole, who has performed readings in private at her Fairfield home since her return from New Zealand several years ago, made her first public appearance earlier this month at the Des Moines Psychic Fair, where "I was booked solid from the minute it opened to the minute it closed." She doesn't like the word "psychic," saying instead that she has a connection with Earth that allows her to be a conduit for the stones' messages. She'll perform readings in Des Moines again on July 10 at the Atlantean, 315 East Fifth St.

Q: How did this all start?

A: This whole thing began by simply collecting stones for beauty. Over a 10-year period, myself and a friend collected over a million stones in New Zealand. And we brought these stones into our home, and each one was washed in our kitchen sink. . . . We had them in every room in

our house, and it just changed everything. We slept with the stones. We bathed in them. I used to put them in water and drink the water. I imagine this sounds pretty "wooga booga."

Q: Li'l bit, but go on.

A: By bringing that much of the earth into the house, that changed my perspective on things. It altered my whole reality. I dreamed about them, I sat and held them, and they just started telling stories. I heard things, I saw things in my mind. I was taken places.

Q: Why stones?

A: Stones record the history of the earth. The stones were here before man, before plant and before animal, and they're going to be around after we're all gone. So they hold everything.

Q: How large are these stones we're talking about?

Your suggestions

The Register each Tuesday will interview prominent people in the community. Readers are welcome to suggest topics for this feature by e-mailing Randy Essex at ressex@dmreg.com or calling (515) 284-8461.

A: I've got stones the size of a pea, and the biggest stone I have is about 3 feet by 5 feet.

Q: So any stone will do?

A: Even a stone from Iowa has something to say. It doesn't matter where they're from, all stones hold the history of the world.

Q: Why do you think you are able to have this ability?

A: Because I love the earth so much. To me it's my church. I can look at a tree or hold a stone and be filled with wonder. I'm a nature girl. Don't put me behind a desk in an office or I'll dry up and die.

Q: What sorts of people come to you for readings?

A: I've read for a lawyer, a college professor, a nurse. I've read for an ex-con, a woman who is losing her sight. I've read for all kinds of people from all walks of life.

Q: Do those people who are skeptical of you or consider you a quack bother you?

A: More often than not, they get up from a reading and shake their heads and say, "Well, you got it that time."

Q: What is the most shocking

or strange or surprising thing that has happened during one of your readings?

A: One of the most profound things that has ever happened to me was I was sitting with a stone. I was meditating with it, and I lost track of time and woke up four hours later. I had just been taken back to the beginning of time and I saw the Big Bang and the creation of the universe. I've been taken to other universes and other planets. I've experienced things like, believe it or not, Bigfoot, Nessie the Loch Ness Monster . . . they're just in another dimension.

Q: Explain your book.

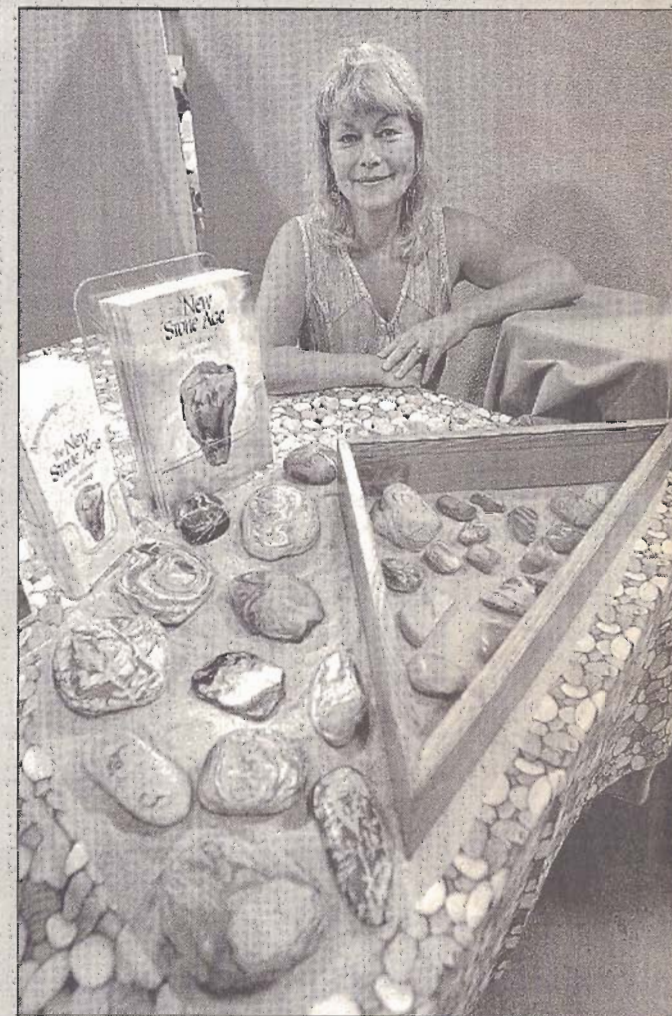
A: I wrote several hundred stories, I don't even remember how many exactly. As I sat and held the stones I received a lot of information. It's very esoteric, and yet very tactile as well."

Q: What were some of the things you wrote about?

A: I connected with prehistoric times. . . . I spoke with Mary, Joseph and Jesus, Mary Magdalene. I worked with dolphins and the whales, the role of pets in our lives, the charm of clouds and winds and volcanoes. Fantasy and reality, like Merlin, Alice and the Looking Glass.

— Tim Paluch

DENISE POOLE



HOLLY McQUEEN/THE REGISTER

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