

## L.G.M.C. History

The Lincoln Gem & Mineral Club was founded in 1955, the first meeting being held on Jan. 15 at the YWCA. There were eleven charter members with Maurine Tracy as president.

Del Everett was founder of the club. He first became interested in rocks after attending the Museum at Merrill Hall when his daughter Janet wanted to purchase a Mineral Kit there.

There are two remaining Charter Members, Frances Tracy & Del Everett.

Through the interest of the club members the membership has grown to the present \_\_\_\_\_ (can't find 1980 who who)

The meetings have been held at various places. Besides members homes there was Merrill Hall at the University, YWCA, Many Center, Hollywood Bowl, Union Bank, Rebelle Dairy Party Room, Welfare Society Hall, Naval Reserve Training Center, W.S.W. Meeting Hall, the S.O.S. Hall, and at the present meeting place, Traber Hall.

The number of club members responsible for making this club a success are too numerous to mention, but to each one we say a big "Thank you".

We want to mention some of the highlights of the Club's activities over the years. (2)

The Club was incorporated in 1959, the same year we held our first club show. Also the first edition of the club directory was printed.

In 1963 the L.G.M.C. presented two picnic tables to Fort Robinson.

In 1964 the partial remains of a Cretaceous age dinosaur were discovered on the land of Adolph Rezac of Valparaiso, Nebr. These bones were preserved for 120,000,000 yrs. Members of the Rock Club spent many hours helping dig & later help the Museum staff preparators in preparing & preserving the "glee" bones. At present it is displayed at the Uni. Museum at Morrill Hall.

Much work has been done in making displays & presenting programs to the Lincoln Public Schools.

There are the usual aid cases, called "Travel cases" which are loaned to the schools. A fossil case was presented in 1965. We also have a Gemson Location map case that is available.

The first Rockrama for the L.G.M.C. was held in 1967. The year was the Centennial of Nebr. statehood. All efforts put forth resulted in Nebr. largest ever rock show attended by over 7500 people including over 40 buses filled with 1200 students from area schools. There were a total of 532 displays from 15 states. The majority of the Club members

were in Centennial costume. A "Miss Rockrama" was chosen. 3

In 1970 many hours of planning went into the Founders Day Program by the committee, Mr. + Mrs. Virgil Corith, Mr. + Mrs. Irl Everett, Mr. + Mrs. C. Ray Waddle, assisted by Mr. Bill Foxwell + Mr. + Mrs. Les Gibson.

The program was a journey thru the years -- "This is Your Life"; Lincoln Gem + Mineral Club Membership ribbons were then awarded. Following these honoraries, Life Memberships were presented to Mr. + Mrs. Maurine Tracy, Mr. Clyde Berkam, + Mr. Irl Everett. They received walnut + brass plaques created by Mr. Waddle. Space will not permit giving all of this very meaningful program.

Roger Pabian, our Club President has written 2 books for the University of Nebraska -- "Record in Rock", a handbook of Invertebrate Fossils of Nebr., illustrated by Sally Heald, also Minerals + Gemstones of Nebr. An excellent contribution, Roger.

The "Pick + Shovel" is the official paper of the Gem + Mineral Club and Editors over the years have done a super job in making it a winner of Top Awards. The present Editor is Evelyn Ulrick.

The junior members are called "Pebble Pups". Marie Wells has been sponsor of the first 4-H Rock Club in Lancaster Co.

We have a continuing participation in the scholarship

fund.

In 1974 the MWF-AFMS National Show + Convention and Nebr. State Shows was held in Lincoln on the State Fair grounds. Irl Everett was Show director. 46,000 were in attendance with 733 displays (largest on record). One of our club members, Frank Krejci was National award winner in his class. The First Day Issuance of the Mineral Heritage Stamp also took place at the National Show. Many club members put in long hours along with the help of other clubs across the state which was very much appreciated.

Now, again, in 1980 the L. G. M. C. is hosting the National Show <sup>to be held at the Bob Devaney Sports Center</sup> Howard Taylor, past Club President and Past President of the Midwest Federation is Chairman of the show. At this writing plans are progressing very satisfactorily. Truly there is great satisfaction in being able to host the National Show for the second time. Thanks to each one who is putting their shoulder to the wheel to make another successful show.

If I have failed to give credit where credit is due, please accept my apologies.

Irl Everett  
Historian