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LGMC- Early days
by
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1955- After interest was sparked by his daughter's school report on rocks, Irl Everett searched through library cards in books on rocks and lapidary for names of people to invite to a meeting to see if there was interest in a club. On January 15, 1955 a charter was drawn at the "Y". The first president was Maurice Tracy, VP- Irl Everett, and secretary treasurer- Frances Tracy.

'56- Twenty-six members. Silversmithing lessons were given by members of University Staff. The monthly Rockhound Grapevine was published until 1960.

'57- Twenty-eight members. A picnic is held to invite other clubs from Ks, Iowa and Nebraska. Study groups are held at individual homes.

'58- Thirty-eight members. There were rock swaps, travelogues and a field trip to Cowles Lake.

'59- Meetings held at Morrill Hall. There were field trips to Ft. Robinson area & the Orella Rock beds.

'60- Club was incorporated and the Pick & Shovel began publication. Several field trips, including one to Weeping Water which yielded many fine artifacts, including an arrowhead dated at 1500 years old.

'61- Eighty members, and all exhibited at the club's 3rd show, which was held at the National Guard Armory. Henry Reider of the museum played tunes on his bone-a-phone, a musical instrument made of dino bones.

'62- An exhibit made by members of the club, called "Gems on Location", won first in its class at the National Show in Des Moines, IA. A junior member, Jim Taylor, found a 3.5 carat brown diamond with 48 sides while on family vacation in Murfreesboro, AK.

'63- The club made specimen cases and became active in displaying and lecturing to city and county schools. A few members took a trip to Mexico, bringing back Topaz, Opal, and Fire agate. The club donated rough to the Regional Center for activities for patients.

'64-65- Plesiosaurus, a rare fossil reptile, is discovered on a farm near Valparaiso NE. In the next two years the club was busy 'babysitting' Plezy, chipping away plaster of paris, carefully moving surrounding rock, and helping move the 120 million year old Plezy to Elephant Hall at University State Museum.

'66- Members donate time to help museum staff prepare fossils and sort & catalog material.

'67- Party time! Centennial "Rockarama" is held. Members wore early pioneer costumes. Gov. Tieman declares the Blue agate as state gem, Prairie agate as state stone, and Mammoth as state fossil. Frank Marsh impressed the Great Seal of Nebraska on the proclamation. Petrified wood was one feature of the show. On display was the Linde Coronation Necklace, worn by Queen Elizabeth at Westminster Abbey in 1953. Then valued at \$25,000, it was an antique design of laurel leaves of green, yellow and white gold, with a ruby weighing more than 90 carats.

'68- Silversmithing classes are taught at Lincoln High, and Lapidary classes held at City Rec. Club is honored by the Midwest Federation for Public Service and Public Relations.

'69- Attendance at show this year was 3000. The photos of the moon bearing the Great Seal of the United States were on show to the public for the first time since the moon walk. Dr. John Neihardt, poet laureate, is made an honorary member of the club. A field trip to the Grotto of Redemption at West Bend, IA. was a marvel of gems and rocks.

The Seventies: With membership averaging over 100, these were field trip years. Some of the locations mentioned were: Weeping Water (fossils, minerals), Beatrice (agate, wood & bones), Cherokee OK. (selenite crystals), Norfolk (wood, brown chalcedony, Indian artifacts, mammoth bones, teeth), Plattsmouth (trilobites, asst. fossils, colored calcites), Fullerton (petrified wood, common opal & jasper), Marysville, KS. (pink gypsum, satin spar), Fairbury (selenite crystals & massive, carbonized limb casts, leaf fossils), O'Dell (barite roses, O'Dell diamonds), Wymore (colored calcites, various other minerals, and blue celestite geodes). The club donated an educational grant that allowed field guides to be created for students and amateur collectors. This was done in conjunction with the Nebraska Geological Society, and marked the first time a professional society and an amateur society made that type of educational material available to the public.

The club also supported a 4-H Petrified Pebble Pup group, providing volunteer technical support.

An 'Old Settlers Celebration' (6-73), a 'Summer Festival' at Madonna Care Center and 'Hobby Month' display at Gateway shopping center, both in July, '73, & a booth at the State Fair that year helped to educate several thousand Nebraskans.

In 1974 (and again in 1980) the club hosted the National show in conjunction with its regular shows.

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