Rocks In Our Head

ACTION UPDATE: Last week we reported we could locate no local lapidaries. This week we know of several.

Lincoln Gem and Mineral Club president Ralph Ulrich says there are probably several dozen in the club. He suggests anybody interested in getting custom lapidary work done contact one of the following:

Ralph Ulrich, 3909 Pace Blvd. 423-0484.
Tom Simmons, 2970 South. 488-1619.
Frank Krejci, 215 No. 27th. 432-6286.
Mrs. Irl Everett, 2941 No. 54th. 466-6204.

Another spot for custom lapidary work is the Territorial Imperative Lapidary Shop, Box 5, Ceresco 68017. 6653747. And two Hickman residents called to inform us Walter Moser of Hickman operates a shop.

Local butterfly collector leaves a colorful legacy

BY TOBY MANTHEY
Lincoln Journal Star

Orville D. Spencer caught the butterfly bug.

For about four decades, he collected about 4,000 of the creatures, donating them in 1988 to the Smithsonian Institution in Washington, D.C.

"Precise. Exacting. Rational. Kind. Caring," is how his son described Spencer, who died Thursday of heart failure at Madonna Rehabilitation Hospital. He was 88.

Spencer had no formal training as a lepidopterist — a specialist of a large insect order that includes butterflies and moths. But Harvard biology Professor Carroll M. Williams once credited the cecropia moth cocoons Spencer collected as playing a "critical role" in developing new types of nontoxic pesticides.

Spencer donated his collection to the Smithsonian because "there's no romance in buying butterflies or selling them," he once told the The Lincoln Star.

Cousin Lineah Johnson of David City said Saturday that Spencer hunted for two of each kind of butterfly so he could display both front and back.

Despite such care, he turned to faceting gemstones and never saw the butterflies again after they were driven to the Smithsonian, said his wife, Eunice, Saturday.

"We'd (collected) them for years already," she said.

Born April 9, 1915, he graduated from Lincoln High School and attended the University of Nebraska for a year-and-a-half, Eunice Spencer said.

Spencer worked for 25 years in the engineering department at Lincoln Telephone and Telegraph Co.

As a child, his interest in butterflies lasted until he discovered girls, he once said. His interest was rekindled when his daughter, Cathy, at about age 4, brought home a butterfly larva.

The Spencer family spent most vacations looking for butterflies, taking trips to at least eight Western states and Canada. In his basement, he raised butterfly larvae.

His son, Alan Spencer, 54, of San Diego, said the butterfly hunting vacations taught him to enjoy fishing and the outdoors in general: "It gave us a chance to go to un-

See SPENCER, Page 2B

■ Spencer

Continued from Page 1B

usual spots — into mountains and inaccessible locations in New Mexico, California and Arizona where (butterfly) habitats were still intact."

And Johnson remembers Spencer taking his children, radios in hand, into plum thickets to look for butterflies.

On the radio: Husker football.

"He was interested [illegible]

thing," she said. "He was one of my favorite cousins."

A member of Eastridge Presbyterian Church, Spencer is survived by two children, several grandchildren and a great-granddaughter.

Services are scheduled for 1 p.m. Monday at Lincoln Memorial Funeral Home, 6800 S. 14th St.

Eunice Spencer thought fondly Saturday of the trips she'd taken with her husband of 65 years. Among other places, they traveled to Tahiti, Rio de Janeiro and other spots before his 1993 stroke. And Orville Spencer also was an award-winning ballroom dancer, excelling at the waltz, she said.

In recent years, he suffered several complications from his stroke but "he was really good until the day he died," she said.

"I miss him terribly."

Reach Toby Manthey at 473-7395 or citydesk@journalstar.com. Journal Star archives contributed to this report.

Local woman dies in Bahamas; details unknown

BY BETTY VAN DEVENTER
Lincoln Journal Star

A 44-year-old Lincoln woman who worked as a mentor to Lincoln Public Schools students died Tuesday afternoon while swimming with her family off the Spanish Cay Island in the Bahamas.

Pam Killion was swimming in water about seven feet deep, apparently either snorkeling or scuba diving, when she died, according to accounts from her family and friends.

The cause of her death was not yet known to family in Nebraska early Wednesday evening. Details of the death were not available from police or U.S. embassy officials in the Bahamas Wednesday night.

Killion's mother, Jane Killion of Big Springs, said a physician told her daughter's husband, Renan Rieur, that drowning was not the cause of her death.

Jane Killion said in a telephone interview that autopsy results would not be available until today. She said it was difficult for Pam's husband to contact them because the island where they were staying is in a remote, primitive area that storms had hit.

Jane Killion said Pam and her husband had traveled to the island to celebrate Rieur's parents' anniversary and had planned to be there 10 days. Rieur's parents have a home on one of the islands, and the family traveled there frequently. Jane Killion said her daughter had always enjoyed the time she spent there.

Pam Killion was a member of the Lincoln Gem and Mineral Club, a local astronomy club and a chess club. She was a mentor at Sheridan Elementary School and Irving Middle School.

Pam Killion was active from the time she was a child, her mother said, recalling Wednesday how difficult it used to be to keep up with Pam and her brothers and sisters when the family shopped.

Jane Killion said Pam Killion and her husband rarely left their children, now ages 7 and 11, at home with a baby-sitter.

"She and her husband together tried to fix it so they were with their children," Jane Killion said, adding that they either took the children with them or they stayed home.

Jane Killion said her daughter had suffered from scoliosis since she was a child and had undergone surgery twice, first when she was 13 years old.

"It seems like a bad dream," Jane Killion said. "We can just be glad for the years we did have her."

Pam Killion moved to Lincoln to attend the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, graduating with a bachelor's degree in fine arts. She and her daughter, Emily, were active in the Lincoln Community Playhouse.

Rieur is a video engineer with University Television at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln.

Lincoln woman died of collapsed lung

Pam Killion of Lincoln, who had lost the use of one lung due to scoliosis, died Tuesday when her other lung collapsed while she was snorkeling in the Bahamas, relatives said Thursday.

Killion's parents, Paul and Jane Killion of Big Springs, said they learned the cause of death from their daughter's husband, Renan Rieur, during a telephone conversation Thursday. Rieur and his wife had been visiting his parents in the Bahamas.

Killion, 44, was a mentor to Lincoln Public School students and active in several community activities.

Killion and Rieur were snorkeling off the Spanish Cay Abaco Island when Killion died, according to relatives and island authorities. Killion lived at 3425 N St. in Lincoln.

Funeral arrangements are pending.

Killion's scoliosis, a curvature of the spine, was diagnosed when she was 13, her mother said. She was a graduate of the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. Rieur is a video engineer with University Television at UNL.

PHOTOS BY JILL PIETZMEIER/Lincoln Journal Star

David Heffelbower (left) and Wayne Buchholz staff Heffelbower's opal table at the Lincoln Gem and Mineral Club's show on Saturday afternoon.

Beauty by the hands of God

'On the Rocks' show attracts rock hounds to Pershing Center.

BY JILL PEITZMEIER
Lincoln Journal Star

Tucked away in the corner, back by the ladies' room and the drinking fountain, the table looks small compared with the others that fill the large, basement room for the Lincoln Gem and Mineral Club's annual show.

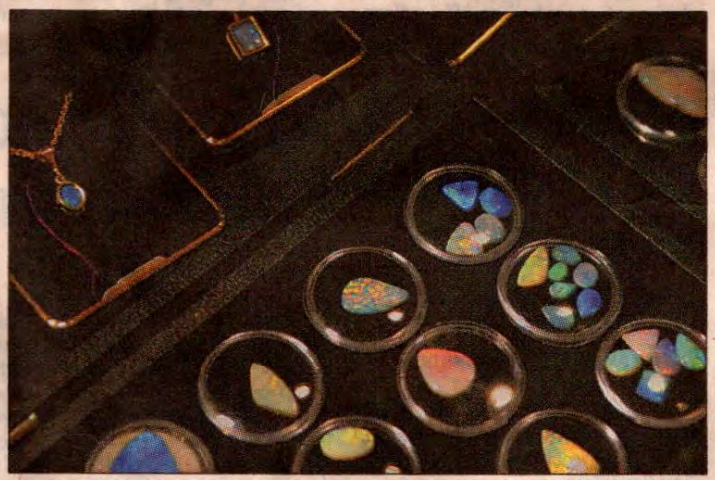
In a room filled with vendors selling all types of gems, the corner table offers only opals, nothing else.

But that makes sense.

Opals are David Heffelbower's favorites.

"There is no magic in a diamond, just the way it's cut. It is colorless," Heffelbower said. "But an opal is made by God. That's the way it was formed. I can detract from an opal; I just can't add to it."

An opal can be any color of the rainbow, and Heffelbower has a wide variety in his collection. The most prized are black opals, but the true value of an opal depends on how bright it is, Heffelbower said.



David Heffelbower sold both loose and mounted opals at his booth at the Lincoln Gem and Mineral Club's annual show at Pershing Center.

The magic of an opal — what sets it apart from all other gems — is that it refracts light, rather than reflecting it. It is refraction that makes opals glow.

And they're valuable, too. Opals are among the top five most precious jewels, No. 3 on the list with emeralds, rubies, diamonds and sapphires, Heffelbower said.

A few shoppers wander by Heffelbower's display. He looks up from the crossword puzzle he's working in pen to answer questions or offer comments. Keeping him company is friend and fellow gem enthusiast Wayne Buchholz. Buchholz wears a large silver ring, topped off with a large opal.

"I'm just an old rock hound," Buchholz says.

The rock hounds met long ago in rock lovers clubs. Rocks used to have a large following, Heffelbower said, with clubs in nearly two dozen cities across Nebraska. Today, there are only a few.

Heffelbower attributes the decline to a loss of interest.

"People were intensely interested in all sorts of things after the second World War," Heffelbower said. "All of those people got older and died off, and so did their clubs. Their children didn't think it was important to have activities outside themselves."

But the rows of tables supporting the thousands of precious minerals at the show are perhaps a testament to the hold that shiny, beautiful pieces of rock still have over many people.

And Heffelbower and Buchholz are still sitting behind their table, telling all who care to hear of the wonder of opals.

"Rock hounds never die, they just petrify," Heffelbower said.

Reach Jill Peitzmeier at 473-2629 or jpeitzmeier@journalstar.com.

'Hounds learn from their rocks

A rock is a rock is a rock — or is it? To the rockhounds of the Lincoln Gem and Mineral club a rock represents a key to another world. Within it may be the knowledge of the universe or the "ugly" rock can be transformed into an item of beauty such as jewelry.

Curiosity about what the world and the intrigue of discovering what kind of stone or gem is inside of a rock are what motivates the rockhounds in their search for rocks, said Larry Bigley, president of the club.

Bigley said he classifies rocks in four categories to help him identify and study them.

The first class is the ordinary kind of rocks seen everyday, such as agates, sandstones and limestones, he said.

Semi-precious stones such as turquoise and precious stones such as diamonds and opals make up the next two classes, Bigley said.

The last class consists of minerals. He noted some gems are cut from minerals.

Another way to differentiate between gems and minerals is the way in which they are used, according to Mrs. Lois Everett, club historian.

Various purposes

Gems are usually cut, polished and faceted into stones for jewelry or other artistic pieces while minerals are usually used for collection and show purposes.

The club started in 1955 when Irl Everett decided to see if there were any other interested rockhounds in Lincoln.

Mrs. Everett said her husband started collecting minerals when they took the children to a museum and one of them spotted a mineral kit he wanted.

"Irl then started hunting fossilized coral from Weeping Water," Mrs. Everett said.

Examining some of the rocks and minerals in the Everett's lapidary show are (from left): Larry Bigley, John Harrison, Irl C. Everett, and Lois Everett. (SUN Photo by James Buttke).

To find out whether there were other people interested in his hobby, he went to the library and looked up the names of people who had checked out books on gems and minerals, she said.

Increasing membership

Eleven members formed the Lincoln Gem and Mineral club in 1955, said Mrs. Everett. Since then, the membership has increased to 152 members, including 27 junior members.

Four of the original members — Irl Everett, Marice and Frances Tracy and Clyde Benham — are still with the club, she said.

The purpose of the club is to study, promote an interest in, and disseminate knowledge of lapidary (cutting, polishing, or engraving gems) and various earth sciences including but not necessarily limited to geology, paleontology (study of fossils and ancient life forms) and mineralogy, according to Bigley.

"We also provide education in these fields to members of the club, the general public and youth and student groups," he said.

Annual show

An annual indoor show is held in Lincoln where club members exhibit their displays, explained Mrs. Everett. This year's show will be held March 26 and 27, at the new state fair agricultural hall.

Bigley said members of the club find their rocks through rock hunts, swaps with other people, and wholesalers. Some members of the club, like Irl and Lois Everett, have their own private shops.

Some of the minerals Bigley said that can be found within a 50 mile radius of Lincoln are: Calcites, pyrites, selenites and barites.

Lake Superior agates, cherts, flint and horned coral, a fossil which can be cut, polished and carved can also be found in the eastern part of Nebraska, Bigley said.

Indian artifacts are constantly being plowed up and washed ashore in streams, said Bigley. He said people who discover such artifacts should notify geologists at the University of Nebraska so they can be preserved, dated, and cataloged so researchers can determine which tribes they belonged to and the history of the culture in question.

Bigley, who said he likes to collect minerals and cut and facet rocks and gems, said there are a variety of different hobbies and aspects of rocks and minerals that are collected and studied by club members.

For example, Mrs. Everett said she enjoys collecting Mexican agates, lapidary work and finishing stones that have natural scenes within them while her husband likes collecting minerals best.

Anyone who is interested in collecting rocks may join the club as long as they have someone in the club to sponsor them, Bigley said.

LIKE A ROCK

■ Hunting stationary but elusive prey helps cement the Killion-Rieur family together.

By Bob Reeves
of The Lincoln Star

When Pam Killion and her husband, Renan Rieur, take their two children on a family vacation, they have a special way of dealing with restlessness in the back seat.

If the kids start asking, "How much farther?," the parents are likely to stop the car and make everybody get out and start breaking up rocks with picks and hammers.

That's not a form of cruel-and-unusual punishment. Sifting through rock piles and chipping away at boulders are part of the family's favorite hobby: rock collecting.

"When we go on vacation, we always pack our boots, our picks and our rock hammers," Rieur said. "Everybody has their own pick. We like to be prepared because you never know what you'll come across."

The family has lots of finds to show for their travels.

They have garnets from Nevada, geodes from New Mexico, milky-pink topaz and rock-candy barite from Colorado, lead ore from British Columbia, and non-gem quality emeralds from Georgia.

WHEREVER THEY GO, even as close to home as Weeping Water or Branched Oak Lake, they find interesting and colorful rocks.

"It's a real family activity," Killion said. "Everybody can do their own hunting and bring home their own treasures. The real fun is in the hunt."

Rockhounding is one type of hunting where the prey sits still instead of running away. But sometimes rocks are just as hard to find as a camouflaged animal.

Among 8-year-old Emily's most prized possessions are several petrified shark's teeth, which she found while on a field trip with the Lincoln Gem and Mineral Club's youth group at a quarry in western Lancaster County.

"I was getting tired and angry because everybody else was finding shark's teeth and I hadn't found any," she said. "All of a sudden I looked down and there they were."

Three-year-old Renan Junior enjoys playing with pieces of petrified wood, quartz crystals and agates from their various trips.

"TRAVELING IS an important part of these kids' education," his mother said. "Instead of T-shirts or knickknacks, we bring home rocks."

Often when they're driving alongside some bluffs or a roadway cut where geologic strata are revealed, they stop to do some hunting. When they come to a town, they look for the local gem and mineral shop to ask about nearby rock-hunting sites.

"The thing to do is talk to the natives," Rieur said. "We go to a rock shop and buy something first. Then they're willing to talk."

> ***"Traveling is an important part of these kids' education. Instead of T-shirts or knickknacks, we bring home rocks."***
>
> —Pam Killion

They also take along detailed maps showing Jeep trails and other interesting side roads that might lead into good rockhounding country. Most states have gem and mineral guides that give county-by-county descriptions of the best locations.

You don't have to be an expert in geology to get started in the hobby, Rieur said. He's a video engineer at Nebraska Educational Television and Killion is a mentor for highly gifted students with Lincoln Public Schools.

RIEUR'S INTEREST in rocks is an outgrowth of panning for gold. He introduced his wife to the sport and, as the kids came along, they each got their own gold pan and joined in the fun.

"We've found gold in most of the places I've panned," Rieur said. He has small vials containing bits of gold dust from California, New Mexico, Colorado, Wyoming, South Dakota, British Columbia and Georgia.

Gold panning led to a related activity — panning for diamonds in Arkansas. That, in turn, led to some serious rock hunting at a quartz mine near Hot Springs.

"Luckily, we were in there on a rainy day," Killion said. "It was easy to find the quartz pieces because the rain made them glisten."

Now when they travel, they're always discovering places that other tourists might breeze right by. Like Garnet Hill in Nevada, where rockhounds paw the ground in search of pebbles looking like raisins, which really are unpolished gemstones; or Rockhound State Park in New Mexico, where you can pay a $2 fee and spend a weekend hunting for geodes — dull-colored spheroids with sparkling crystals inside.

THE FAMILY JOINED the Lincoln Gem and Mineral Club to learn more about rocks and to meet others who shared their interests. "I was hesitant at first to join the club because I thought they'd all be experts, but there are lots of people like us who are amateurs," Killion said.

Now Killion heads the youth rock-hunters club, which has its own special activities and projects.

Emily achieved recognition earlier this year with an article in the club newsletter, "Pick and Shovel," in which she described her trip to the Arkansas quartz mine. Her article won first place in her age category in a national contest.

"It's a hobby people of all ages can enjoy," Killion said.

Harold Dreimanis/Lincoln S

Renan Rieur, Pam Killion (back) and kids Emily (left) and Renan with rocks

Just The Facts

Becoming a rockhound

- The Lincoln Gem and Mineral Club meets at 7:30 p.m. on the fourth Saturday of each month at the Nebraska Center for Continuing Education, 33rd and Holdrege streets. Youth rockhound's club meets at 7 p.m.
- The club sponsors field trips throughout Nebraska, plus trips to rock exhibits and museums.
- The Lincoln Gem and Mineral Show is held each March. Club newsletter, "Pick and Shovel," has information about upcoming meets.

Tools for the hunt

- Basic equipment includes a rock hammer and pick, available at hardware or sporting-goods stores; a small hand trowel; a brush or whisk broom for cleaning small specimens; and small bags or clear plastic containers with labels.
- Specialized tools include pans and insulated rubber gloves for gold panning, or a battery-powered ultraviolet lamp for hunting fluorescent rocks at night.

Gems of wisdom

- You'll need a basic rock-identification book, with color illustrations of the major gems and minerals. Some good ones are "The Audubon Field Guide to North American Rocks and Minerals" and "The Simon and Schuster Guide to Rocks and Minerals."
- Most states have their own local guides to rock and mineral sites. Topographic maps and detailed county maps are available from state departments of geology and natural resources.
- Good introductions to Nebraska's geologic wonders are "Record in Rock" and "Minerals and Gemstones of Nebraska," both by Roger Pabian, geology professor at UNL.
- For a list of more than 50 publications on Nebraska rocks and minerals, write Conservation and Survey Division, University of Nebraska-Lincoln, 68588-0517 or call Judy Otteman at 472-7523.

KELLY BENSON/DN

Bruce Bailey works to clean the spine of The Baldwin Plesiosaur at Morrill Hall on Saturday afternoon. Bailey, along with University of Nebraska State Museum preparator Shane Tucker, worked for two weeks to uncover the fossil that is named for Mike Baldwin, who discovered it near Center.

FOSSIL FRENZY

Relic preparation draws large Morrill Hall crowds

By JOEL GEHRINGER
Daily Nebraskan

Standing on their toes to peek over the edge of the table, a group of children watched as Shane Tucker used a flattened needle and a toothbrush to carefully chip away rock from the rib of a 70-million-year-old plesiosaur fossil.

The children all spoke at once, asking Tucker questions even their parents wouldn't know to ask.

With patience, Tucker thoroughly answered every question while both the children and the adults listened attentively, amazed at the process occurring before them.

Tucker, a highway salvage preparator with the University of Nebraska State Museum, performed a live preparation of the plesiosaur fossil with Highway Salvage Paleontologist Bruce Bailey on Saturday at University of Nebraska-Lincoln's Morrill Hall.

Bailey and Tucker carefully prepared the fossil, a process which involves uncovering the bones embedded in rock and making them available for research and display.

The two worked to uncover the base of the plesiosaur's neck, the beginning of its rib cage and the upper part of one of its "flippers."

Mike Baldwin, a science educator from Brownsville, Texas, discovered the fossil in 2001. He had been looking for sharks' teeth along a road near the small town of Center when he saw two vertebrae sticking out of a hillside.

The fossils turned out to be the bones of a plesiosaur, a dinosaur that scientists believe lived in the ocean that once covered what is now Nebraska.

The specimen is only the sixth plesiosaur fossil discovered in Nebraska.

Tucker said the creature was probably one of the last of its kind because it died about 5 million

see FOSSIL on 5

FOSSIL:

continued from page 1

years before the species became extinct.

In October 2002, after a primary dig uncovered six more vertebrae, UNL paleontologists decided to conduct a full excavation to see what else could be found.

"It could have stopped another foot in," Tucker said, "but there was no reason for us to think it didn't go in further."

In June of 2003, excavation of the fossil began.

"We dug a hole that we thought would be big enough to include everything, including the head," Tucker said.

Paleontologists never found the head, but they eventually uncovered a large portion of the creature that spanned from its neck to the middle of its body.

"Something, probably a shark, separated the head," Tucker said.

Splintering at the end of neck suggested something had attacked the creature at some point.

But Tucker said the theory was only speculation, because no evidence of a predator was found.

After everything had been uncovered, the fossils were cased with plaster jackets and removed from the site for preparation.

Tucker said parts of the neck have already been prepared and taken to Ashland, where the fossil will be on display this summer when it is fully prepared.

About 340 children and adults visited the museum, many of whom stopped to watch the preparation and ask Bailey and Tucker questions.

Tucker said he enjoyed performing the live preparation because it gave the public a chance to learn about his profession and see just how fossil-rich Nebraska is.

"It's not all just tracing across Egypt," he said. "There's a lot of good stuff in our own backyard."

Greg Brousek of Wahoo brought his daughter to the event. He saw it as a learning opportunity.

"It's very impressive how the university allows families to come in and give these experiences to the children," Brousek said.

Brousek's daughter Carly also enjoyed seeing the preparation.

"I thought it was really cool because it was over 17 million years old," she said.

Her father corrected her.

"Yeah, 70 million years old. I've seen fossils like this before in Ashfall (Fossil Beds), too," she said.

Bailey said it was the enthusiasm of both children and adults that made the live preparation enjoyable.

"The knowledge that young people have is a lot of fun," Bailey said.

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AURORA
News-Register

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 8, 1998

Buried treasure

Beauty is more than skin deep when it comes to rocks

by Sue Beach

When they say beauty is only skin deep, Joe Stanislav of Aurora would probably agree.

At least if you are talking about rocks.

To the ordinary eye, his workshop has a stockpile of rocks. Almost 1,500 pounds of rock, a little dusty, and in different shapes and sizes.

But Stanislav can pick up any of those rocks, name it from its outside appearance, and tell about the beauty that's locked inside.

He began his journey into the "underworld" of rocks about 20 years ago. At the time, he was undergoing treatment for cancer.

It was a time of change in his life. Besides the cancer treatment, he was also retiring from actively working on his Central City farm.

"I told my wife, Rosie, one day as we were driving by Henrich's Rock Shop in Chapman, that if I ever had the chance, I was going to try working with rocks," he said.

He got his chance, and began a hobby that he's enjoyed ever since.

To transform a rock into a jewel to is a process that can take several hours, beginning with slicing the stone into the width he needs.

If he's lucky, what he finds inside is something special. Sometimes, he's disappointed by a rock that has enough flaws and cracks to make it unusable.

But through trial and error, he knows enough just by the outside appearance of a rock to usually pick a winner.

Agates of all types will go into earrings, necklaces and bolo tie clips. Malachite polishes into a beautiful striped stone. Petrified woods can be made into larger or smaller pieces, depending on what Stanislav finds inside as he cracks open the rock.

Although home until a year and a half ago was Central City, this area isn't a natural place to start a rockcutting hobby. Gemstones just don't lay around found in the fields of central Nebraska.

Mrs. Wilma Henrichs was responsible for teaching Stanislav the differences in rocks -- how to judge what's inside from what you can see outside.

Mrs. Henrichs and her husband, along with Stanislav and his wife, Rosie, took many trips years ago to the places where rocks are found in abundance for polishing. They've sifted through sapphire fields in Montana, and picked up agates in New Mexico and Arizona.

There are areas of Nebraska that do yield some treasures. Near Crawford, they dug down almost four feet to find Chalcedony Roses, an odd-shaped rock that doesn't convert well to jewelry, but has a unique rough shape that makes it pretty on its own.

Nebraska even has a state rock, the Fairburn Agate, although Stanislav hasn't acquired one yet.

Some of the rocks are purchased at shops and shows instead of picked up in natural areas. One particular find was a dinosaur bone fossil the couple picked up for $2.

"I saw it and thought my granddaughter would like to use it for show and tell," he said. "They didn't put much value on it because the outside of the stone seemed to have cracks and flaws."

Once he got it home, he decided to slice open the rock so his granddaughter could show what the inside looked like, too.

But instead of the usual fossilization, the inside had opalized instead, and made it a prime stone for jewelry cutting, probably worth about $180. "Sometimes you get lucky like that, but sometimes you buy something that isn't worth what you give for it either," he said.

After the rock is sliced, Stanislav looks inside the surface and determines which areas have the most beautiful natural patterns. He traces on a shape, and the jewelry making process begins.

He uses a hard wax to attach the rock to a small dowel, and works his way down with the rock through a series of grinders, each bearing a diamond edge surface with finer and finer grits.

The final polishing is on a leather side wheel with diamond bits imbedded into the cowhide, and the rock has been transformed into something shiny and beautiful.

A stockpile of settings sit on a shelf in Stanislav's workshop, ready to hold his stones. He calls most of them cabochons, which have a flat back and a polished front to fit into the forms he's chosen.

Some of the work he does is much more delicate. He also facets stones, synthetic and natural, into smaller jewelry, usually one-carat in size.

Most rock cutters today do their faceting work on computerized equipment. Stanislav uses an more antique method, directing cutting angles by changing hand meters and manually holding the stone on the cutter.

Faceting cuts are done to exacting standards, Stanislav said. If done correctly, a brilliant cut results that reflects light. Done incorrectly, at the result is much like a piece of ordinary glass -- the light passes on through without any reflection.

Considering it takes about a two and a half carat stone to begin with to become a carat stone, Stanislav is careful to make each stone turn out well.

Some tiny sapphires he and Rosie have found look like pieces of big gravel at first. The Stanislavs stop at a sapphire dig, where for about $20 they're allowed to sift through and search for the stones.

The weight is what makes the difference in natural gemstones, he said. Those sapphires sift to the bottom, and as they separate, they're easier to distinguish.

"You don't think you could ever tell the difference at first, but you get a feel for them, and you can tell what kind of stone it is by the look and the weight," he said.

He also enjoys working with synthetic stones, like cubic zirconia. "They really are pretty when they're all faceted, and the only way you can easily tell the difference between them and a real stone is that the natural stones, like diamonds, will weigh more."

Stanislav made the move to Aurora a little more than a year ago, and brought his workshop full of equipment and rocks along. He's been busy with some remodeling and repair in his new home, plus a lot of brickwork in his house and yard, so he hasn't done much stonecutting lately.

"It's a hobby I've usually done more in the winter," he said. "I like to spend more time outdoors when its nice."

He and Rosie occasionally go to shows to visit with other cutters and buy more rocks. It seems to be a hobby for older people, he said, with most of the expense in setting up the shop.

"I think I've got enough rocks stockpiled that I could work about a hundred years," he laughed. "I don't need to buy too many more."

Once he transforms the rocks into jewels, they become gifts for others.

"I don't sell things, I just give them away, although I keep a log with a name of the 400 people who've gotten them as gifts. And my five granddaughters usually have a lot of things in mind and enjoy getting them as gifts. And I enjoy giving them away, too."

News-Register/Sue Beach

Just a pile of rocks? Not to Joe Stanislav, who can findsomething different and special inside each one.

News-Register/Sue Beach

It takes a special saw, complete with diamond-edged blade, to make the slow cuts through rocks, slicing them to the thicknesses Joe Stanislav needs as the first step in making jewelry.

LINCOLN JOURNAL
www.journalstar.com

'It's something really amazing to think of a living thing turned to stone.'

— Howard Kenfield, petrified-wood artist

PHOTOS BY ERIC GREGORY/Lincoln Journal Star

Howard and Harvey Kenfield display some of the elaborate artwork they have created using petrified wood that is now displayed in the Petrified Wood Gallery in Ogallala.

OGALLALA'S WOODEN WONDERS

Twins have spent 50 years making petrified art now displayed in the museum.

BY JOE DUGGAN
Lincoln Journal Star

OGALLALA — To untrained eyes, a hunk of petrified wood looks like nothing more than a rough old rock.

But Howard and Harvey Kenfield look at petrified wood and know all about the surprises that hide inside. They imagine oxidized manganese, aluminum, beryllium and the pinks, yellows and purples the elements produce. They know with a saw cut and about a week on a polisher, they can show others the beauty of petrified wood, too.

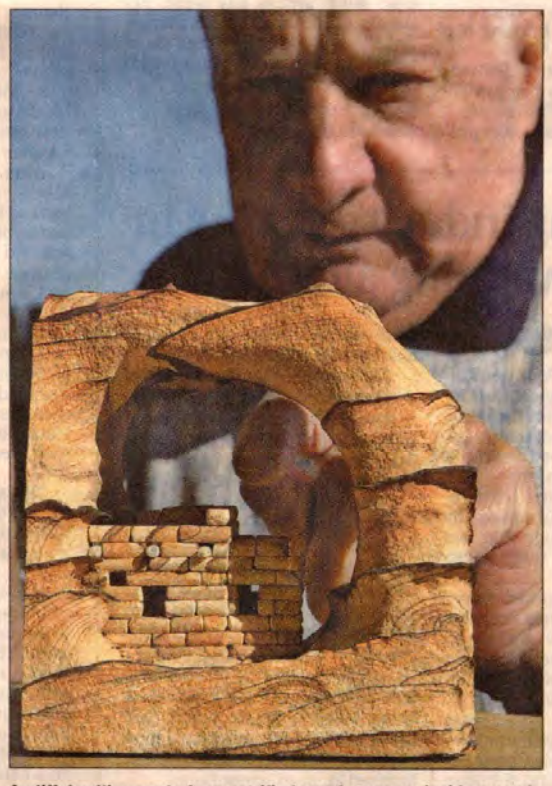
Howard Kenfield shows off a sphere made from a piece of petrified oak, one of about 70 in their collection that took from 30 to 80 hours each to make.

That's what the 77-year-old twin brothers have been doing for five years with their Petrified Wood Gallery on the east end of Front Street, a sort of strip mall along U.S. 30 in Ogallala built to look like the business district of an 1880s boomtown.

From the outside, the gallery looks a little like a tourist trap, the kind of place that never quite meets the hype that caught your attention and got in your wallet.

But the inside of this attraction, just like a hunk of

See PETRIFIED, Page 2A



A cliff dwelling made from petrified wood emerges inside a sandstone bookend under Howard Kenfield's skilled hands as he works on the patio behind the Petrified Wood Gallery in Ogallala earlier this month.

If you go

The Petrified Wood Gallery is open from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday through Saturday and noon to 6 p.m. Sunday. The gallery closes in the winter but can be visited by appointment. For information, call (308) 284-9996, or go to www.petrifiedwoodgallery.com.

The gallery will host the 5th Annual Cowboy Capital Art Festival from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. July 8-9. More than 30 artists will attend, displaying their art, and some will demonstrate their skills. The event is free and open to the public.

■ Petrified

Continued from Page 1A

petrified wood, is a marvel.

With tile floors, adobe-like plaster walls and soft track lighting, the space truly is an art gallery. The rooms provide a tasteful setting for dozens of wood and glass cases that display the brothers' handiwork.

The cases hold a 50-year collection by two of the state's most accomplished rockhounds. The Kenfields once displayed their collection at their homes south of Ogallala, but in 2000, they gave it to the local community foundation on the condition that it stay in Ogallala.

The gallery shows off crosscuts of petrified black walnut, Douglas fir, elm and pine polished to a luster that almost looks wet. The cases also display petrified bamboo, palm fronds and exceedingly rare whole pine cones. They found some of the samples in Nebraska, but most came from Wyoming, Idaho, Oregon and Washington.

"If you listen to the paleontologists, they'd say you're talking from 20 to 100 million years old," Harvey says. "I like to say they're the first trees on earth and let other people put the dates on them."

The gallery also displays a collection of nearly 70 ornamental spheres the brothers cut and ground and polished from prehistoric wood and other rocks. Each sphere required from 30 to 80 hours to complete.

Visitors can check out an impressive display of Native arrowheads they collected five decades ago near Lake McConaughy.

But what gallery visitors enjoy most are the Kenfield originals, miniature, three-dimensional buildings and objects the brothers fashion entirely out of petrified wood. They have created a small city of houses, grain elevators, grist mills, churches, wagons and even ice cream buckets out of narrow, brittle strips that look uncannily like weathered barn wood.

The brothers simply call them "pictures," of which they have created about 600. Some they mounted in cottonwood knots, others in frames.

But the most popular sit atop music boxes, each with a song that suits the object. For example, the church music box plays "How Great Thou Art," while the wagon plays "Country Road Take Me Home." And for the outhouse? "Alone Again Naturally."

The Kenfields, who have visited dozens of rock shops and shows across the West, say they never have encountered anyone who creates "pictures" like theirs.

While most twins share a special bond, some have completely different personalities and interests. The Kenfield brothers, on the other hand, have done practically everything together.

After school, they fought in Korea together, they both worked for 42 years in manufacturing plants and they both got married for the first time in middle age. And, of course, they rock-hounded together.

They stumbled into the hobby when a friend told them to keep an eye out for petrified wood while they hunted for arrowheads. When they found their first piece along the South Platte River in the mid-1950s, they were fascinated with the stuff.

"It's something really amazing to think of a living thing turned to stone," Howard said.

A couple of years later, they walked into a rock shop in Wyoming and offered to hire the shopkeeper's son to teach them where and how to find petrified wood. That teaching session led to years of vacations in Wyoming collecting petrified wood on public property managed by the Bureau of Land Management.

On other vacations to Oregon and Washington, they brought spectacular and rare examples of wood to add to their collection.

Along the way, they assembled the tools and skills to practice lapidary, the craft of polishing stone. More recently, they have been making miniature cliff dwellings out of sierra sandstone from Utah. But even those feature petrified wood details.

The Kenfields still make pieces, which they sell for hundreds of dollars in the gallery's gift shop. They keep half the profits and give the rest to help cover the gallery's expenses.

The gallery charges no admission, but it accepts donations. The gallery employs one full-time curator, but otherwise, the Kenfields are two of the many volunteers who greet visitors and answer questions.

The gallery also hosts a free Junior Rockhound Club, which provides rocks and activities for about 100 area kids.

Looking back, the brothers seemed destined to become petrified wood artists. They both have the right combination of patience, precision, work skills and artistic flair.

"We always liked manual training in school, I guess you'd call it shop class," Howard said. "And we always liked art awful well."

Reach Joe Duggan at 473-7239 or jduggan@journalstar.com.

ernment. He cited such issue

PHOTOS BY ERIC GREGORY/Lincoln Journal S

■ **Total loss:** Dave Heffelbower (below) watches as firefighters battle a blaze that destroyed his house at 1819 Washington St.

Blaze destroys couple's 99-year-old house

BY ART HOVEY
Lincoln Journal Star

Wrapped in a blanket, Dave Heffelbower watched from across the street Tuesday as firefighters tried to save his home of the past 24 years.

But the fire, which started with an electrical short in the laundry room, "shot up the wall" into the attic, destroying the two-story home at 1819 Washington St., fire inspector James Ellis said. He said the loss totaled nearly $95,000, including $63,000 for the 99-year-old home.

Firefighters were on the scene for hours, and smoke consumed the entire block, neighbors said.

Wilma Heffelbower had gone to work and her 64-year-old husband awoke shortly before 9 a.m. to "a little curl of smoke coming out of (his upstairs) bedroom floor."

After getting up, Dave Heffelbower hurried downstairs to check on the couple's two cats. "I opened a door to see if the cats were all right, and I got a ball of fire in my face," he said.

Heffelbower initially suspected the cats might have knocked some paper close enough to an electric heater to start the fire. He assumed both cats died. "I saw one come out, and it got scared by the firemen and went back in," he said.

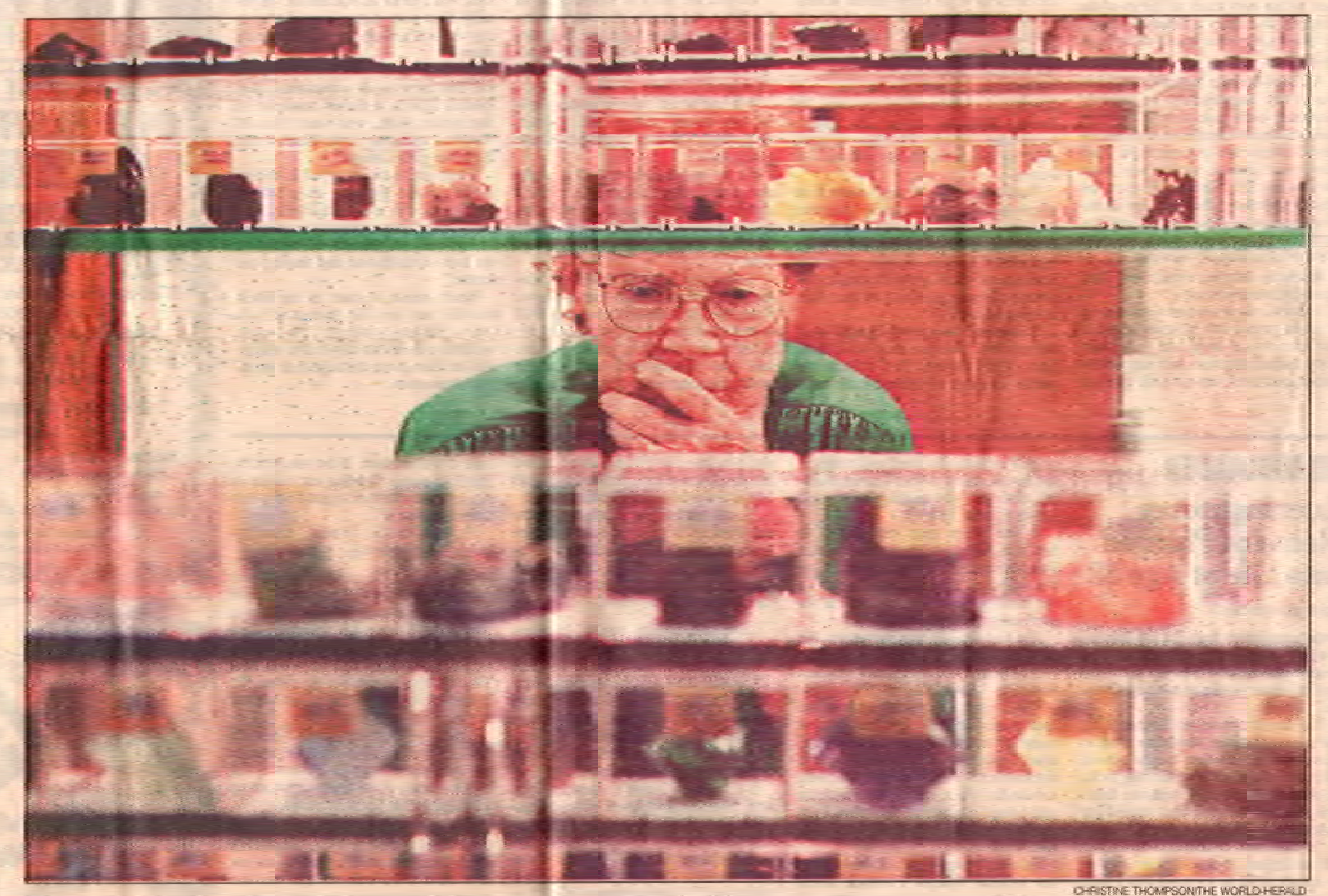
Smoke detectors on the first floor of the 1,202-square-foot house are probably what woke him, Heffelbower later told firefighters.

Heffelbower, whose hair was singed on the right side of his head, was treated, then released from BryanLGH Medical Center West, Ellis said.

Next-door neighbor Judy Wilson said she heard "frantic ringing on the door" as Heffelbower arrived to tell her what happened.

"Just the thought of them not living here anymore is tough," Wilson said. "They've been here for so long. They know so many people and so much stuff."

Lincoln Journal Star reporter Jason Williams contributed to this story.



CHRISTINE THOMPSON/THE WORLD-HERALD

COLLECTOR: Florence Lueninghoener has spent hundreds of hours cataloging the Gilsonite Mineral, Petrified Wood and Fossil Collection at Midland Lutheran College.

Facets of a Full Life

Florence Marie Lueninghoener knows about poetry, science, aviation, teaching and other aspects of the good life. Honored by Midland Lutheran College, she continues to share her gifts at age 82.

BY KRISTI WRIGHT
WORLD-HERALD STAFF WRITER

Fremont, Neb.— The world and its wonders have forever fascinated Florence Marie Lueninghoener.

In her 82 years she has traveled the globe, studying its shape and seeking its treasures. She learned to fly and soared across the skies in races from coast to coast. She served as a secretary and scribe for one of the country's great writers. And for 45 years, she shared her enthusiasm and curiosity of life with students.

Midland Lutheran College honored Lueninghoener this year by presenting her with an honorary doctor of science degree for her work and dedication to the college.

"Florence Marie is a fine woman and a gracious human being," said Carl Hansen, president of the college. "She's the kind of person who is always there for people. She is a great friend."

"She was a super teacher," said Tom Lutzi, a retired math and engineering teacher who was in Lueninghoener's classes in the 1950s. "She took pride in her students. Aviation was one of her main interests .... So we often talked about airplanes."

Lueninghoener often can be found among the minerals, fossils and pieces of petrified wood housed in the Swanson Hall of Science on Midland's campus. The college received the collection in 1997, and Lueninghoener has spent hundreds of hours sorting, arranging and attempting to identify the samples.

"We're getting them pretty well arranged, but we really need a key to tell us where everything is," she said inspecting the shelves for the pyrite and marcasite samples. "Did you know marcasite and pyrite have the same chemical composition but different crystalization patterns?"

"Florence is our treasure," said Gary Carlson, professor of earth science at Midland, whom Lueninghoener is assisting.

PRIZED: Lueninghoener received this charm bracelet when she raced in the International Ninety-Niners Powder Puff Derby, a cross-country race for women pilots. Lueninghoener received a charm for every state she landed in.

Lueninghoener's relationship with Midland started in the mid-1980s after the retired Lincoln middle-school teacher married Gilbert Lueninghoener, a longtime professor of astronomy, geology and earth science at the college.

"Gilbert was Mr. Science, Mr. Geology, Mr. Astronomy," Hansen said. "He touched a lot of lives here."

Hansen said Gilbert's first wife was active in the Midland community as well. A few years after her death, Gilbert asked Hansen for his permission to marry Florence Marie.

"I asked him why he wanted my blessing, and he said that his first wife had not been gone all that long, and he didn't want to do anything that might be a discredit to this institution," Hansen said. "I gave him my blessing. He married Florence Marie, and she came to Midland by marriage. She's a brilliant woman. She's a pilot, a scientist. She's had all these great experiences."

Florence Marie's eyes light up at the mention of Gilbert's name. The couple had six years together before he died in 1990. They toured the West, exploring petrified forests and rock formations and studying the skies and stars.

"We went on 25 field trips," she said. "I think he knew every inch of the Southwest and Northwest. He loved the Colorado River and the Grand Canyon. He was also fond of the Black Hills. We went to Glacier National Park, and he let me drive on that wonderful road, the Sun Highway. All those twists and turns, it was most spectacular."

But even before Florence Marie married Gilbert, her life was full of adventure.

She was born in Avard, Okla., and when she was in preschool, she said, her father, an auditor for the Santa Fe Railroad, moved the family to the Oklahoma Panhandle.

"We lived in a tarpaper shack. I will

See MIDLANDER Page 2

Book explores history, locations of agates

Lincoln Journal Star

A new book by a University of Nebraska-Lincoln geologist and others provides a primer on the origins, structures, uses and collecting of agates.

The British Museum of Natural History, one of the most prestigious in the world, published "Agates — Treasures of the Earth" in the United Kingdom in June and released it in North America this fall.

Agates are among the most beautiful gemstones. They often have rich coloring and banding that resembles abstract art. They have been highly prized for millennia, but their origins and distribution have generally not been well understood until about the past 50 years.

Roger Pabian, a retired geologist with UNL's School of Natural Resources and the book's lead author, has advanced the understanding of agates as much as any scientist in the world, according to the British museum, and so was chosen by the museum to head up the writing.

He and co-authors Brian Jackson, head of mineralogy at the National Museums of Scotland; Peter Tandy, curator in mineralogy at the British museum; and John Cromartie, an expert on Scottish agates, have created an encyclopedic guide to agates worldwide.

"I wanted to connect the scientific, historical, cultural and artistic material and get it under one cover," Pabian said. "My interest in agates goes back to my freshman year in college. A friend let me cut

See AGATE, Page 2B

■ Agate

Continued from Page 1B

and polish a Mexican agate, and I became fascinated with them."

Soon after Pabian retired, the museum contacted him about writing the first complete handbook on agates as part of its series on precious or popular minerals. The series includes books on diamonds, gold, amber, crystals and other gemstones.

As he began researching them, the Institute of Agriculture and Natural Resources researcher noticed that the published material didn't agree with what he saw in the field, he said.

In particular, he began to work out the conditions common to their formation across volcanic, marine and continental sedimentary environments.

The 184-page book is illustrated with photographs and diagrams on nearly every page. After notes on mineralogical, geological, trade and colloquial names of agates, the book explores their formation, mineralogy and visual properties, especially coloring, veining and other inclusions, and explains how these eye-catching properties formed.

The main part of the book explores, region by region, where in the world they are found, the geological environments in which they occur and the history of the use of each type of agate.

One of these areas is in far northwestern Nebraska and eastern Wyoming, where so-called blue agate, Nebraska's state gem, is found in the Chadron Formation of the Oligocene age.

The book is available through the UNL School of Natural Resources for $35. Ask for item number MP-48. A shipping and handling fee may apply, and Nebraska residents should add city and state sales tax.

To order, or for tax, shipping or further information, e-mail requests to: snrsales@unl.edu; or write: Nebraska Maps and More; 101 Hardin Hall; University of Nebraska-Lincoln 68583-0961; or call: (402) 472-3471; or fax: (402) 472-4608. It can also be ordered online at: nebraskamaps.unl.edu.

PHOTOS BY TED KIRK/Lincoln Journal Star

University of Nebraska-Lincoln geologist Roger Pabian (above) explains how the sandstone outcropping next to him was formed. Pabian has published a field guide to the geology of Pioneers Park. (Below) The different colors in this sandstone found at Pioneers Park come from iron oxide.

Pioneers Park full of geological gems

BY AL J. LAUKAITIS
Lincoln Journal Star

Anyone who has ever visited Lincoln's Pioneers Park remembers Smoke Signal — the 15-foot-tall statute fashioned in the likeness of Chief Red Cloud atop a jagged outcropping of rock.

What they probably don't know is the geological history of that outcropping. It is a rich history that dates back 95 million years, when sediments poured off mountains and uplands and settled into a shallow sea.

Gravity, wind and other forces of nature transformed that sediment into Dakota sandstone, which is now visible to anyone who walks below the 50-ton concrete statute with the missing feather.

Roger Pabian, a geologist with the University of Nebraska-Lincoln's Conservation and Survey Division, can tell you more than you ever wanted to know about Dakota sandstone.

He can tell you where it came from and why it was important to the early settlers who came to Lancaster County searching for water. He can show you areas of wind-blown loess deposits. He can point to a spot where a small stream called Haines Branch used to meander a century ago and tell you how glaciers churned up the land and when dinosaurs walked this small piece of earth.

It's all written down in a 19-page booklet entitled: "Geology of Pioneers Park, Lancaster County, Nebraska." The no-nonsense title is just like the booklet. Inside, a reader will find photos, charts and maps showing the park's place in geological time along with a written history that extends far beyond Lancaster County — in one instance — down to the Mississippi Delta.

"I purposely took my time doing it," Pabian said during a tour of the southwest Lincoln park last week.

"It's easier to turn out a mediocre product pretty quickly."

He believed Pioneers Park deserved better, and so he wrote and rewrote until he was satisfied. It took some time.

The on again-off again project took about 25 years to complete.

See PARK, Page 5B

More information

Anyone who picks up a copy of "Geology of Pioneers Park, Lancaster County, Nebraska," a booklet written by Roger Pabian, a geologist with the University of Nebraska-Lincoln's Conservation and Survey Division, will be amazed. Copies are available for $7 plus postage and handling from the UNL Conservation and Survey Division at (402) 472-7533.

Pabian will be on hand to answer questions at a July 22 show sponsored by the Lincoln Gem and Mineral Club at the Pioneers Park Nature Center. Native stones and minerals will be on display beginning at 1 p.m.

Park

Continued From 1B

A lifelong resident of Lincoln, Pabian recalled visiting Pioneers Park at a very young age, attending church picnics and swooshing down the biggest slide in town.

Throughout his career, he watch the park's development with interest, especially the straightening of the Haines Branch channel over the years after a disastrous flood a half century ago. The park's surface features have been altered but its geology hasn't changed since the last glaciers receded from the area about 12,000 years ago.

"One of the things that stands out in the park is that the geology is pretty straightforward," Pabian said. "There are no folds or faults like in Richardson County. . . . This is textbook kind of geology."

Underlying its geological simplicity is the park's diversity.

"You get to see so many different kinds of geologic settings in a 1½-square-mile area," said Pabian, who has been with the Conservation and Survey Division since 1969.

Geology students from the university come to the park on occasion for field work.

"A lot of them are really amazed that there is so much to be seen in such a small area."

Reach Al J. Laukaitis at 473-7243 or alaukaitis@journalstar.com.

Francis Belohlavy reheats a metal bar at the forge in his Elmwood blacksmith workshop. Belohlavy, an employee of UNL's Conservation and Survey Division, teaches metal-working and blacksmithing at demonstrations and to Boy Scout troops.

DAVE CAREW/For the Lincoln Journal Star

Man builds blacksmith skills at Elmwood shop

BY DAVE CAREW
For the Lincoln Journal Star

ELMWOOD — Visitors to Stove Creek Forge, Francis Belohlavy's metal-working shop, may feel like they have entered a time machine. The shop is full of anvils, hammers, chisels, punches and more — basic tools that haven't evolved much from blacksmith tools found in archeological sites.

But Stove Creek Forge is also of the 21st century; it uses a modern gas-fired forge with an electric fan, instead of a coal-fueled model of days gone by.

Big and brawny, Belohlavy fits right in at the shop. By day, Belohlavy works with the soil survey program at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln's Conservation and Survey Division. So far, metal-working has been a part-time hobby, but Belohlavy said upon retirement he hopes to spend much more time in the shop.

"I've always had more hobbies than most people," Belohlavy said. "But blacksmithing and metal-working have become my main focus the last few years. I would like to spend time developing some art pieces I have in mind."

Belohlavy's apartment in Lincoln doesn't lend itself to metal-working, so he bought two Quonset huts in Elmwood to house his activities and tools. They also have room for his rock collecting, polishing and jewelry-making hobbies. When he retires, he plans to move from Lincoln to Elmwood to be closer to his work, he said.

Raised on a farm near Creighton, Belohlavy learned some metal-working skills while repairing his family's farm equipment, he said. In 1989, he attended a blacksmithing school at Grand Island's Stuhr Museum and started volunteering there. He helps with Stuhr's special events, like Civil War re-enactments, each year.

"I found the demonstrations were not only fun to do, but the enjoyment of those watching made it doubly satisfying," he said.

Belohlavy also participates in Rendezvous, or re-enactments of get-togethers of the 1800s where frontiersmen, trappers and others exchanged goods and services. The re-enactments feature demonstrations of skills, such as blacksmithing, by people in period clothing.

After one demonstration, Belohlavy was asked to show his work at a Boy Scout campout. Many Scouts since have produced simple products like "S" hooks with Belohlavy's help. Belohlavy and other members of the Prairie Blacksmiths Association, which works to preserve the blacksmithing heritage, put on special schools where Scouts can earn their blacksmithing merit badge, he said.

Lloyd and Bev Gray own and operate Elmwood Auto Care, near Stove Creek Forge. They bought the business three years ago, about the same time Belohlavy bought his property, and have marveled at the work he does there.

"I can't believe all the things he makes," Lloyd Gray said. "I admire the work he does with kids, the Boy Scouts especially."

Belohlavy said he enjoys sharing his craft with others.

"There's a need for a place where people can try blacksmithing. For now, I am serving that need by bringing my equipment to and setting it up at re-enactment sites," he said. "I'm hoping in the future to hold blacksmithing classes."

Belohlavy also hopes to share his craft with others into art.

"My other goal is to convince the art world that smithing is as much an art form as wood-turning, glass-blowing or pottery-making," he said. "I've seen flowers made of metal that rivaled nature in their beauty."

Bev Gray said she's seen work by Belohlavy that does just that.

"Francis brings in metal flower reproductions that look so much like a rose or an iris that you are tempted to sniff them."

Reach Dave Carew at (402) 994-2445.

Favorite part of Jones' hobby is discovering

Many adults might not know the difference between a brachiopod and trilobite. But Brent Jones, an eighth grader at Lefler school, not only knows the difference, he keeps some of each around the house.

Instead of letting his "pets" swim around the family fish bowl—an environment that is the closest thing most homes have to the creatures' natural habitat—Brent keeps them packed away in small plastic boxes. But then, his brachiopods are mostly from the Pennsylvanian era (about 300 million years ago) and like the trilobites (which are extinct) they are fossils.

Many minerals

The fossils are just one thing Brent, son of Dr. and Mrs. Gary Jones, 5816 Sunrise rd., collects. He also has obsidian, galena, quartz, feldspar and a variety of other minerals. As the president of the Petrified Pebble Pups 4-H club and an active member of the Lincoln Gem and Mineral Club, Brent could be accurately labeled as a rockhound.

He has a collection of minerals and fossils so large that he said his mother fights a constant battle to keep the collection confined to one room of the family basement. Although he admits to being lax about cataloguing specimens, his current listing includes about 150 different fossils and minerals.

But his collection is almost certainly larger than the 150 specimen catalogue would indicate. Dozens of uncatalogued rocks lie scattered about his work area and he is modest about those that have already been catalogued.

"You're not supposed to list the same type of mineral more that once, but sometimes I do it anyway," he laughed.

Collecting's the fun

Just as he neglects the finer details of displaying his collection, Brent also said he has a hard time understanding those who collect rocks just to make things out of them.

At one time he started work on a space village made from fossils. Space ships and land rovers, the only remaining remnants of the project, are still piled in his uncatalogued specimens.

For him, the fun of collecting minerals and fossils lies not in owning and displaying the collection, nor in making things from the stones, he said. For Brent, the fun is in the actual collecting.

He said he usually goes rock hunting with his family about once a month, and now with summer here, the 4-H group plans to start making field trips. He has a favorite area along the road bed near Unadilla where he finds most of his fossils.

At the gem and mineral shows he frequently attends, Brent said he takes part in another type of rock hunting.

He explained that most such shows have a swap session where collectors can trade their surplus gems for that rare stone they've never been able to find, but somebody else has two dozen of.

While most such shows host dealers who have stones to sell, Brent said a lack of funds usually prevents his buying any. Instead he's concentrated on improving his swapping skills and has worked to learn what minerals are "good" for trading.

Organizing fossils... Brent works on a display for the coming National Gem and Mineral show. (SUN Staff Photo).

Two displays

Besides collecting, recently he has been working on two displays for the National Gem and Mineral show which will be in Lincoln this year, from Thursday through Sunday, June 13-16, at the state fair grounds.

One display shows examples of magnetic and non magnetic minerals, while the other display features some of the fossils he has collected near Unadilla.

Although he said he first became serious about rock collecting when he joined 4-H about three years ago, Brent has been collecting for a lot longer time.

"When I was about five, I used to tag along with my grandpa and an older guy when they'd go out rock collecting," he said.

It was through minerals his grandfather gave him that Brent started his own collection. And, although both his parents and his younger brother also do some collecting, he is the most active rockhound in the family.

He credits this to his work with 4-H under the guidance of Marie Wells, the Pebble Pups adult leader who is herself an avid rockhound. Although he has been president of the club for the past few years, he doesn't seem to have gotten big-headed about the position.

Asked if he were elected president because he knows so much about collecting, he said, "No, I think it was because nobody else wanted the job."

Brent's collection...A cupboard in the Jones' basement serves as a storage case for Brent's rock, mineral and fossil collection. (SUN Staff Photo).

Clinton clean-up set

STAR PHOTO

ROCKHOUND . . . Doug Groth.

Youth in Action

Doug Doesn't Mind Life's Rocky Roads

By PATTY BEUTLER
Star Staff Writer

Doug Groth doesn't mind if life leads him down a few rocky roads. He'll simply stop along the way and collect some samples.

This 7th-grader at St. John's School had a chance Thursday to package his geological pickings for the school's annual science fair, held for the first time at Gateway Auditorium.

Doug's exhibit was among 84 individual projects prepared by 7th- and 8th-graders.

Although Doug got into his rockhound hobby about a year ago, he geared up for his science fair exhibit by collecting samples of native rock from each of the 50 states.

Letters to the lieutenant governors in each state brought him bits of at least 25 state rocks just for the asking.

Some Didn't Answer

Other states sent him information only, while some didn't even bother to respond to Doug's request. But this determined rockhound found other ways to complete his 50-state collection.

Doug enlisted his friends in the search. One brought back a geode from his grandfather's place in Iowa, while another donated some Hawaiian lava.

As a last resort Doug had to turn to local rock shops for specimens such as petrified coral from Florida — one of his favorites.

That adds to the expense of the hobby. Doug admits, but sharing a paper roiute with his brother and summertime mowing boost his buying power.

The son of Mr. and Mrs. Alvin Groth, 1720 N. 52nd, Doug does some of his best rock-hounding during family pheasant hunting trips.

One Year Shy

"We always get a gun for our 13th birthday," said the youngster who is one year shy of that mark. So while his family flushes out pheasant, Doug keeps his eyes sharp to the ground for geological game.

Pawnee and the Branched Oak Lake region are Doug's prime target areas. "Most of the time you have to go into open country and around lakes," he said of the best rock-hunting locations.

Winter is a slow time for rockhounds. Doug confided. When bad weather keeps him indoors he does experiments with the geology lab he got last Christmas. He's also got a second batch of polished rocks in the works and he uses some of these to make jewelry.

Doug says he doesn't know of other kids his age who are rock collectors. "I can't trade rocks with friends or build up my collection," he complained.

His stamp collecting, however, is a hobby he can share more readily with his friends.

While school projects are often short-term for students, Doug was proud to say, "I'll still be collecting when this science fair is over."

Column A

Lobbyists Come In All Shapes

Lobbyists come in all sizes, shapes and forms, and represent a wide variety of interests. Some spend money on senators, but some do not.

That's the report a team of Lincoln Star writers will give in Column A on Page 1 Monday morning.

Today's Chuckle

A real bore is a guy with a cocktail in one hand and your coat lapel in the other.

Omaha May Receive $3 Million Job Bonus

Omaha (AP) — An unexpected $3 million for public service jobs probably will be made available to Omaha in the next 30 to 60 days, an official said Friday.

'Rockiest' Places Sought By Gem Club

By GORDON WINTERS
Star Staff Writer

When a certain group of Lincolnites band together to do some traveling they head for the rockiest places they can find.

It is also true that they may have rocks in their heads, because thoughts of a rare and beautiful find are probably in all the minds of the members of the Lincoln Gem and Mineral Club.

The rockhound hobby is one of the most contagious hobbies and one of the fastest-growing, according to Tom Simmons, a member and past president of the club.

His basement is crammed full of his finds. Display cases and shelves hold symmetrical crystals that range from yellow and purple to black, minerals that are iridescent, rocks formed of brightly-colored minerals that have been formed into intricate patterns and fossils that may be millions of years old.

Refused $500

"I turned down $500 for this Montana moss agate," he said, pointing to a purple, slightly translucent rock.

"Look down here. If you block off this one corner you have a three-dimensional picture. And if you've got a little imagination, it's the Garden of Gethsemane. See the crosses and the path leading up the hill?"

Although the finds are often beautiful, the experience of a

Special Report

field trip is one of the most enjoyable aspects of the hobby, according to Marie Wells, of 2940 Vine, current president of the group.

One of their field trips this year was what members call a "stop and go trip" that lasted for two weeks and went from Scottsbluff, into Wyoming, to South Dakota and to Crawford.

The term "stop and go" was applied because members could join the caravan of campers and autos for a time and then drop out.

Day Starts At 8

According to Marie, a rock-hunting day starts when Tom, an old Navy man, informs everyone over the speaker on his trailer at 7:55 a.m. that the expedition will start at 0800 hours.

It usually lasts until sundown and sometimes later she says.

"When it gets hot we stop for a beer, or iced tea or anything we can get," she said.

Going to where the rocks are has led to some adventures, she noted.

There was, for example, the time when melting snow raised the level of the Wiggins Fork River in the Absaroka Mountains in Wyoming and almost stranded the group from their camp.

"We came back from a 14-hour hike and found the river had risen," Tom said. "We found a log across the river but the last guy across, which was me, was in water up to here," he said, pointing to a spot about half-way between his ankle and knee."

"I left most of my pack on the other side of the river," he said.

Prefer Polishing

Marie noted that some of the rocks and semi-precious tamer aspects of the hobby, such as polishing and faceting the rocks and semi-precious minerals.

"It's a hobby for everyone," she said. "It attracts laborers, professional people, young and old and all kinds of people."

In addition to the field trips the 172-member club holds regular monthly meetings and sponsors an annual gem and mineral show at the Exposition Building on the State Fairgrounds. This year's show is slated for May 12 and 13.

How does one become a rockhound?

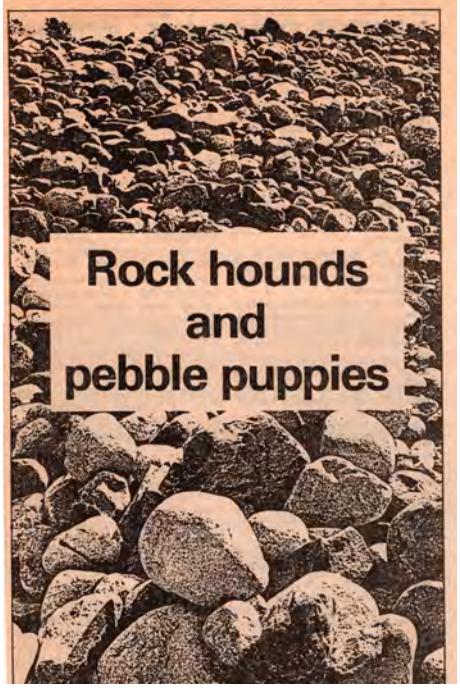
"Well, first you reach over and pick up a pretty rock," Tom said. "Then pretty soon you've got a bucketful. Then you get to studying them and you pick up a few books. And then you're half a rockhound."

STAR PHOTO

AMID THOUSANDS OF SPECIMENS . . . Marie Wells watches Tom Simmons at the polisher in the basement of his home.

Former employees gather

Five former employees of the Elgin Co. machine department (from left) Mrs. Ewald Paul, Mr. Paul, Chuck Stevenson from San Antonio, Henry Aguirre and Mrs. Aguirre, pose during a reunion Saturday, Sept. 20, of the 35 employees in the machine department. The Saturday reunion was the first such gathering since 1958 when the Elgin company moved its Lincoln operations to its headquarters in Elgin, Ill. (SUN Photo by James Buttke)



Plenty of 'finds' in Nebraska

There are no Egyptian ruins in Nebraska, but there have been plenty of memorable "finds" here by rock and fossil hunters, according to Roger Pabian, research geologist for the University of Nebraska's Conservation and Survey division.

His list includes some of the following highlights.

— A plesiosaur collected near Valparaiso in Saunders County has the longest neck of any creature known to have inhabited the earth.

— Todd Valley, a broad terrace-plain in Saunders County, marks the course of an ancient river.

— Chalk-Mine State Wayside Area is now a favorite picnic spot near Scotia in Greeley County, where chalk was once mined from rocks of an ancient era.

— Dinosaur remains were discovered from part of a duck-billed dinosaur near Tekamah.

— Remains of the largest known fossil elephant were collected from Pleistocene rocks near Brady in Lincoln County.

— Ash Hollow archeological excavations show that some of the earliest Indians inhabited this area.

— Rhinoceros once roamed much of Nebraska and their remains are found in rocks in Frontier and Hayes counties.

— A very well preserved fossil four-tusked mastodon was collected near Red Cloud in Webster County.

— The largest recovered meteorite in the world to have been seen falling was collected near Beaver City in Furnas County in 1948.

— Agate Springs National Monument in Sioux County is known throughout the world for its abundant fossils. The best known quarries, Carnegie Hill and University Hill, are in sandstones deposited in the channel of an ancient river.

— Toadstool Park in Sioux County shows the results of erosion that carved these interesting badland features from a series of bedded sandstones and clays.

— Scotts Bluff Monument and Chimney Rock in western Nebraska are prominent landmarks for pioneer travelers on the Oregon Trail.

— The remains of a large fossil beaver have been collected in Sheridan County.

— Some of the world's finest collections of vertebrate and invertebrate fossils and rocks and minerals are maintained by the University of Nebraska State Museum.

Rock hunters take note

Future rock hunters, take heed. If you're just beginning a collection, here are a few tips.

— A rock collection is probably best started by picking up stones from the ground near one's home. This first step is helpful in training the eye.

— Almost any recent general book on geology can help begin identifying the rocks.

— Comparing one's own specimens with those in a museum collection can also help you identify your specimens.

— If you decide to go further from home, be sure and take a geologist's hammer and a hand lens or pocket magnifier

— Other pieces of equipment that may help include a knapsack to carry specimens, paper sacks for individual wrapping, a notebook, pocket knife and knee pads.

— The most common stones found in Nebraska are: Agate, with a waxy luster and pock-marked surface; Jasper, colored red, red and yellow or yellow; and petrified wood, usually a charcoal gray to deep black with lighter streaks.

— Cigar boxes and corrugated cardboard boxes are good for simple storage.

— Remember to label specimens, including where the rocks were found.

— Trim rocks in the collection to a common size.

— Do not collect rocks in national and state parks where it is illegal.

— Search for unusual rocks in places you may not think to look, such as cemeteries.

— Join a mineral club or subscribe to a mineral magazine.

— You may want to refer to a geologic map, available at the University of Nebraska's Conservation and Survey Division. Pamphlets, maps and books available include: "Collecting Rocks," "Collecting Nebraska's Colorful Agates," "Creepy Critters from Nebraska's Past," "Nebraska's Gold Fields," "Earthquakes in Nebraska," "Minerals and Gemstones of Nebraska," "Record in Rock" and all sorts of geologic bedrocks maps of Nebraska regions.

Mary Kay Roth/Lincoln Star

Wells retired, took up rock collecting as hobby.

Mary Kay Roth/Lincoln Star

Pabian checks his equipment. He searches for fossils.

THE LINCOLN STAR / Saturday, July 16, 1983 / lifescape

'Stoop stompers' roam earth

By Mary Kay Roth
of The Lincoln Star

It is a gentle preoccupation, this poking and prodding of the earth, foraging for the small wonders of the world, curious little fossils and stones whittled away by time.

Sifting through the gravel piles, road ditches and hillsides of the state, they are kindred spirits following the lure of the rock.

They call themselves rock hounds or "stoop stompers." Their children are pebble puppies.

They watch for rattlesnakes and scorpions, but more likely encounter spiders and fleas.

They work in the calm of a dried river bottom, the quiet of a road cut. Or, one hot sultry day this summer, they scampered upon the bottom of an ancient seaway in Nemaha County.

"I want to find the remains of Fred Flintstone," joked Fred Holbert, a rock hunter prowling away the Saturday morning.

Knapsack on his shoulder, pipe in hand, he looked more like some exotic archeologist than a construction company salesman.

"It's a good excuse to get out of the house and chew tobacco — my wife won't allow it in the house," he said of his weekend hobby. "Hey, what's this little guy here? . . . Just a worm, aw, I was sure that it was part of an octopus."

Just a stone's throw away, Lynn Wells carried a rock pick, his eyes drawn to the ground.

A retired plumber, he was ordered by his physician to retire 20 years ago. He did. And then he took up rock hunting and gem collecting.

"My kids think I'm crazy, they wouldn't look at a rock twice. They water ski instead," the 65-year-old man said. "But I wouldn't get in their boat. This is safer, you can do it at any age. It just depends on how fast your back gives out."

Up ahead of the two men, Roger Pabian toted his favorite tool on the Lincoln Gem and Mineral Club expedition, a piece of an old car spring used to skim the surface of the ground.

A research geologist with the University of Nebraska Conservation and Survey division, Pabian was the peerless leader on the field trip. He was in search of fossils.

"I think there's something special about picking up something off the ground, evidence that something has lived here long before you, that stretches your imagination," Pabian said.

They all have different treasures in mind and different tools to use, but all of them are rock hounds. The thrill of the hunt lures them. The lure of the rock keeps them coming back.

"There's an art to collecting rocks and fossils; this area is rich," Pabian said, pointing to ancient crinoids, brachiopods and trilobites, organisms that roamed this ancient Nebraska sea bottom 220 million years ago.

"You know, this is about the closest to getting something for nothing you're gonna get," he said.

Well, almost nothing.

Pabian warned that Nebraska rock hunters must beware of rattlesnakes and scorpions.

But, "I still say the most dangerous part of rock hunting is riding to your site," he said. And, perhaps, fighting for territorial rights.

But despite 21 gem and mineral clubs now active in Nebraska, Pabian maintained that the state is still a choice place for rock hunters.

If you take time to look, he said, there are plenty of untapped happy hunting grounds along river banks and valleys, road cuts and quarries.

Years ago, the Lincoln Gem and Mineral Club helped uncover a plesiosaur skeleton from its prehistoric burial site near Valparaiso. More recently, the Agate Fossil Beds were found in northwest Nebraska and a Voorhies rhinoceros was discovered near Orchard.

Pabian stressed there are a lot of practicalities to rock hunting — historical significance, helping find oil or minerals and drilling for water.

But his ultimate dream has little to do with the mundane practicalities of life.

"Someday, I'd like to locate a complete dinosaur," he said; his eye twinkling. "I've got areas I check each year, where the deposits are right. Someday one will turn up and I hope it will be me that finds it."

For now, however, the rock hounds continued the search.

Holbert found "a natural terrarium" — a whiskey bottle with weeds growing inside. Wells stumbled upon mulberries and wild straw berries. And Pabian picked up a few choice agates and one tiny dinosaur bone.

"Well, maybe we can't find Fred Flintstone," Holbert admitted. "But we'll settle for Barney Rubble."

Northwest Lincoln SUN

15¢ per copy

Lincoln, Nebr., Wednesday, June 4, 1980 | All Depts.: 466-8521 | Volume 8—Number 24

Published weekly at 2145 No. Cotner blvd. Lincoln, Nebraska
All correspondence: P.O. Box 83289 Lincoln, NE 68501

National Gem and Mineral Show comes to Lincoln June 12-15

Latvian amber will be the big attraction at the 1980 National Gem and Mineral Show, scheduled to run four days, beginning Thursday, June 12, and closing June 15, at the Bob Devaney Sports Center in Lincoln. The show area covers some 66,000 sq. ft. and the combined display and sales booths will cover nearly two miles of walking to see it all.

The magnificent amber display, the first of its kind for a National Gem and Mineral Show, has its roots in Lincoln, and it should generate a great deal of local as well as national interest. The unique feature of the Latvian amber display is that it is not owned by a single collector but is made up of the finest amber pieces in the collections of many of the Lincoln area citizens of Latvian descent.

In addition to the amber display, Arijs Liepins, of Lincoln, will present several illustrated lectures on this beautiful material. The amber display will cover nearly 50 sq. ft. and will be staffed by Latvian people from the Lincoln area.

To honor the 25th anniversary of the hosting Lincoln Gem and Mineral Club, an excellent display of silver in its native form will be furnished by the Royal Ontario Museum, of Toronto, Ontario, Canada. This outstanding display will be brought to Lincoln by Dr. Josepeh Mandarino, of the Royal Ontario Museum, who will also lecture on mineral occurrences in Canada and will take part in the mineralogy symposium scheduled for Saturday, June 14, at 1:30 p.m.

The Lizzadro Museum of Lapidary Arts, of Elmhurst, Ill., will furnish a display of exquisite jade carvings, which will be under the direction of Russell Kemp, of South Holland, Ill. He will give several illustrated lectures at the show including one on scrimshaw, the whaler's art of the 19th century. Kemp will also present a program on cameos at the lapidary symposium scheduled for Sunday, June 15, 1:30 p.m. Kemp's wife, Doris, will give an illustrated lecture on diamonds, their occurrence, cutting and evaluation.

Solid jade statue of the Chinese Goddess of Mercy, Kuan Yin, valued at over $50,000 will be furnished by the Lizzadro Museum of Lapidary Arts, Elmhurst, Illinois.

Big diamonds

The adventurous will have an opportunity to dig diamonds at the show. The "Diamond Dig" consists of a four by four ft. sandbox with about a foot of sand in it. Rough diamond crystals are interspersed through the sand. Each person who gets an opportunity to dig diamonds faces the obstacle of the stop watch as each digger is allowed only about two minutes to make his find. Only one diamond per family can be won during the show and diggers must be age 8 or over to be eligible. Gary Svec of IDT Corporation, the firm furnishing this feature, reports that the largest diamond recovered from the dig weighed 4 carats. There is no charge for this.

University of Nebraska faculty members will be among the many lecturers at the show. Professor T. Myland Stout will present a lecture of vertebrate fossils and migrations of fossil animals.

Dr. C. Bertrand Schultz, director emeritus of the University of Nebraska State Museum, will deliver lectures on fossil camels and rhinoceroses of Nebraska.

Professor Roger Pabian, of the Conservation and Survey Division, IANR, of the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, will lecture on agates and how they form.

University of Nebraska alumni, who will play an important part in the show, include Dr. William Hanneman, of Castro Valley, Calif., who will present a talk on gem identification and will be one of the featured speakers in the gem faceting symposium that is being conducted by the Mid-America Faceters Guild.

The Cleveland Museum of Natural

(Continued on page 2.)

Gem, Mineral Show June 12-15

(Continued from page 1.)

History, of Cleveland, Ohio, will provide an exceptionally fine display of very colorful petrified woods from the United States. This display will be under the supervision of Paul Clifford, Mineralogy Curator of the Cleveland Museum. Clifford will convene the mineralogy symposium on Saturday.

Howard and Harvey Kenfield, of Ogallala, will show their famous petrified wood pictures and other works of lapidary art. They will be joined by a host of Nebraska rockhounds who will display some of Nebraska's fine gem materials similar to those featured in the May, 1980 issue of "Lapidary Journal".

Thirty-three members of the Lincoln Gem and Mineral Club will be counted among the more than 500 exhibitors from 46 states and as far away as the Union of South Africa and Guatemala. Lincolnites are: Jim and Rhonda Archuleta; Harold Eno; Marge Heedick; Glen and Flossie Litzenberg; Glen Lyman; Goerge and Glenna McGinnis; Earl Messelheiser; Roger Pabian; Ewald Paul; Dr. Hubert and Orma Paulson; Rev. Raymond and Mildred Pfeiffer; Dick Roberts; Julius and Myrtle Young; Dr. Harold and Helen Krieger; Bob and Mary Walker; Frank Rule; and Paul and Beverly Reuter.

Three other Lincoln Gem and Mineral club members have entered displays in the competition of regional and national trophies, but existing competitive rules do not allow their names to be given until judging of displays has been completed.

Camping available

For the visiting rockhound, the 1980 show will feature camping on the nearby campgrounds at the state fairgrounds. Most motel and hotel operators in the Lincoln area report that there are no vacancies for the show dates.

Bob Devaney Sports Center will be fully air conditioned during the show. Snack foods and hot dogs will be available in the show site. Restaurant facilities featuring full meals and beer will be available on the adjoining Nebraska State Fairgrounds.

The 1980 National Gem and Mineral Show promises much of interst to both the confirmed rockhound and the casual viewer. In these times of inflation, it would prove to be an inexpensive summer trip to see some of the world's finest gems.

Krejci demonstrates faceting on his home-made machine.

Rockhounds Display Gems at Armory Today

By Gwen Drake

They held up a delicately cut green stone before my eyes. It caught the light and shone with the richness of an expensive gem.

"What, -- it," I asked, "an emerald?"

"No," came the reply, coupled with a hearty chuckle, "It's a piece of cut pop bottle."

Even though it was just glass, the stone still served to point up the great skill and pride the Lincoln Gem and Mineral club members have in their hobby, rock-collecting.

The club is holding its annual show at the National Guard Armory at 1776 No. 16th today.

The wide range of exhibits on display include more than just "ordinary" rocks. Minerals, shells, and gems from all over the world are on display.

Versatility is another keyword in this year's displays. Frank Krejci of 215 No. 27th, is a prime example of an enthusiastic hobbiest.

Home-Made Machines

Krejci, who has been "rockhounding" for 25 years, has to his credit a beautiful collection of faceted stones as well as vases and urns made of rock specimens.

The stones were faceted by Krejci on his home-made faceting machine. He does all his work with equipment he fashioned himself. In fact, one machine has a main part from a Model A car.

Gem and Mineral club president E. H. Weber estimated the total worth of all the club displays at $175,000.

Best Exhibits

According to Weber, among the best exhibits of the show are: the world's largest quartz cluster; a $2,000 diamond, found by a Lincoln boy in the field; a large chunk of petrified wood; and a continuous demonstration of the steps involved in cutting a gem.

There is even a colorful floor show held in a small anteroom of the auditorium. The lights are dimmed and seemingly colorless rocks laying on a black draped platform burst to life under a fluorescent light.

Displays that will appeal to the youngsters are the collections shown by the junior members of the rockhunting society.

All in all, the show is a gem-dandy.

'Rockiest' Places Sought By Gem Club

By GORDON WINTERS
Star Staff Writer

When a certain group of Lincolnites band together to do some traveling they head for the rockiest places they can find.

It is also true that they may have rocks in their heads, because thoughts of a rare and beautiful find are probably in all the minds of the members of the Lincoln Gem and Mineral Club.

The rockhound hobby is one of the most contagious hobbies and one of the fastest-growing, according to Tom Simmons, a member and past president of the club.

His basement is crammed full of his finds. Display cases and shelves hold symmetrical crystals that range from yellow and purple to black, minerals that are iridescent, rocks formed of brightly-colored minerals that have been formed into intricate patterns and fossils that may be millions of years old.

Refused $500

"I turned down $500 for this Montana moss agate," he said, pointing to a purple, slightly translucent rock.

"Look down here. If you block off this one corner you have a three-dimensional picture. And if you've got a little imagination, it's the Garden of Gethsemane. See the crosses and the path leading up the hill?"

Although the finds are often beautiful, the experience of a

Special Report

field trip is one of the most enjoyable aspects of the hobby, according to Marie Wells, of 2940 Vine, current president of the group.

One of their field trips this year was what members call a "stop and go trip" that lasted for two weeks and went from Scottsbluff, into Wyoming, to South Dakota and to Crawford.

The term "stop and go" was applied because members could join the caravan of campers and autos for a time and then drop out.

Day Starts At 8

According to Marie, a rock-hunting day starts when Tom, an old Navy man, informs everyone over the speaker on his trailer at 7:55 a.m. that the expedition will start at 0800 hours.

It usually lasts until sundown and sometimes later she says.

"When it gets hot we stop for a beer, or iced tea or anything we can get," she said.

Going to where the rocks are has led to some adventures, she noted.

There was, for example, the time when melting snow raised the level of the Wiggins Fork River in the Absaroka Mountains in Wyoming and almost stranded the group from their camp.

"We came back from a 14-hour hike and found the river had risen," Tom said. "We found a log across the river but the last guy across, which was me, was in water up to here," he said, pointing to a spot about half-way between his ankle and knee."

"I left most of my pack on the other side of the river," he said.

Prefer Polishing

Marie noted that some of the rocks and semi-precious tamer aspects of the hobby, such as polishing and faceting the rocks and semi-precious minerals.

"It's a hobby for everyone," she said. "It attracts laborers, professional people, young and old and all kinds of people."

In addition to the field trips the 172-member club holds regular monthly meetings and sponsors an annual gem and mineral show at the Exposition Building on the State Fairgrounds. This year's show is slated for May 12 and 13.

How does one become a rockhound?

"Well, first you reach over and pick up a pretty rock," Tom said. "Then pretty soon you've got a bucketful. Then you get to studying them and you pick up a few books. And then you're half a rockhound."

STAR PHOTO

AMID THOUSANDS OF SPECIMENS . . . Marie Wells watches Tom Simmons at the polisher in the basement of his home.

By Robert Houston

IT'S HARD to beat a rockhound for devotion to his hobby. He'll travel thousands of miles and attempt to climb the highest mountain to add to his collection.

"It's not a sedentary avocation," says James T. Farris, president of the Omaha chapter of the Nebraska Mineral and Gem Club. "It takes you outdoors, and it's healthful and invigorating."

The Omaha club has a membership of 150, but there are many more Omaha collectors. Hunting for gems or fossils is often combined with vacation jaunts.

The Omaha group's members have an easy camaraderie and they are most active. Rock hunting trips are sponsored by the club during spring, summer and early autumn and are generally week-end excursions.

Some of the collectors take off Friday afternoon, others on Saturday morning, and they all get back home on Sunday evening.

Nine members made a trip to Keokuk, Ia., and the area around Hamilton, Ill., in May. They collected geodes, rocks containing quartz and calcite crystal cavities.

One night was spent camping within 50 feet of the Mississippi River across from Keokuk, and another night at the camping grounds of Nauvoo State Park near Nauvoo, Ill., a famed Mormon stopping place more than a century ago.

o o o

Trips to Iowa

MORE than 20 club members late in May motored to the Knoxville, Ia., area south of Des Moines to collect siderite and glauberite crystals from the strip coal mines. Sledge hammers were used to break rocks two feet in diameter in order to expose the crystals. A second trip was made to Knoxville in late June, and other week-end trips are planned throughout the summer and early autumn.

More than one hundred club members turned out for the annual picnic held recently at the John Hobscheidt farm south of Murray, Neb., and an auction was held to help the club's treasury.

An extensive trip in the form of a three-week vacation will be taken by some members into the Yellowstone Park area and Montana during the summer.

Then on October 5-6, the Omaha chapter will hold the Omaha Rock Hobby Show in the National Guard Armory at Mercy Road and Seventieth Street.

Messrs and Mmes. Farris, Goodwin and Sharp have car-top sleepers which they take on outings. Mr. and Mrs. Henry have a camper boat combination so that they can combine fishing and boating with their rock hunting. Several families have trailers, others have plastic mattresses for station wagon sleeping.

Gasoline lanterns are used at the

Continued on next page.

In foreground, Mrs. Charles Brown shows husband some calcite crystals and chalk she has found in the Queen Hill quarry east of Murray, Neb.

In Pursuit of Pretty Rocks

It's No Pastime for the Fellow Who Likes to Sit

Rockhounds are enthusiastic and alert. Mrs. Wilma T. Farris runs up to see what Mrs. James T. Farris (left) and Mrs. Claude Cline (center) are discovering.

Left—Linda Goodwin, Mrs Arthur Henry and Charles Brown look at some of the horn coral specimens.

Right—James T. Farris is about to cut a large chunk of petrified wood with his diamond saw.

—World-Herald Photos.

Rockhounds like to show their treasures and will trade some of them. Arnold Sundsboe displays some of his opal chips to a friend.

Search Never Ends

Continued from preceding page.

evening camp sites, and cooking is done on gasoline stoves. Some take a guitar or mandolin to help provide entertainment for campfire sessions.

The collectors have traveled near and far. They have found Nebraska to be a good hunting ground, and they have also gone to such areas as Wyoming, Montana, Texas, New Mexico and Arizona for agates and other semi-precious stones.

The Omahans are familiar with the Orella field of Fairburn agates in the northwest corner of Nebraska, a much visited place for many years.

The Queen Hill quarry east of Murray, Neb., where pictures shown on these pages were taken, is an excellent spot for hunters of fossils, some of which are 350 million years old.

Club members have found Montana agate south of Humboldt, Neb., celenite crystals around Spencer, Neb., and have visited sand pits around Kearney, Hastings and Central City.

"We swap various kinds of stones and fossils among ourselves," says J. B. Goodwin, club vice-president, "and we generally carry trading material on our trips, when we meet rockhounds from other parts of the country."

Many Omahans have extensive collections of petrified wood. Most of them also have some kinds of crystals and some agates.

Rock collecting can be an inexpensive or a rather expensive hobby. Grinding equipment is available from 40 dollars up. Many collectors have sanders, polishers and tumblers.

Some may start with a tumbler, a mechanism in which as many as two hundred rocks are shuffled around constantly in water for as long as seven weeks. By that time, they all have a gleaming polish. Diamond saws as large as 24 inches in diameter which will cut large chunks of agate and other material cost three hundred or more dollars.

What are these rocks and fossils worth?

"They're worth what somebody will offer to pay for them," says Maurice G. Sharp. "Estimating the value is a relatively unimportant matter to an amateur collector. He just takes pride in what he has obtained, and he always wants more and better specimens."

Some rockhounds are well equipped for camping. James Farris has sleeping quarters ready. Following suit are Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Henry and J. B. Goodwin.

The Lincoln Star Friday, June 14, 1974

STAR PHOTO

TWINS . . . Harvey, left, and Howard, right, and their art.

Duo Displays Petrified Art At National Mineral Show

Instead of double trouble, it's double talent for the Kenfield twins.

As an artistic team, Harvey and Howard create three dimensional works with a most unusual medium — petrified wood.

The brothers from Ogallala are in Lincoln this week exhibiting their handwork at the National Gem and Mineral Show.

Amateur rockhounds who began digging for arrowheads over 20 years ago, the Kenfields have graduated to a polished art form which they insist is just a hobby.

"If we sell all our pieces for money it becomes work," said Harvey, "You can do it just when you want to if it's a hobby," he contends.

The Kenfields get their petrified wood from Nebraska, Wyoming and Washington. Unlike the hunters for colorful, glassy specimens, these two search for a certain type of wood that will look like old lumber in their pictures.

"It's the kind of wood no one collects, so people bury the pieces back in the ground," Harvey explained. "It's getting harder to find," he added.

Equipped with a diamond saw blade and grindstone, the brothers seek to reproduce old buildings they've seen abandoned in small towns. Sometimes they design their own, but the authenticity remains.

Attention to detail, such as crooked steps, missing parts of houses and doors slightly ajar, makes the replicas startlingly real.

Reinforcing the desolate scenes are the carefully selected titles, "Deserted," "Abandoned" and "Mortgaged and Lost."

One work of a ghost town — "Rotten Boards and Dusty Streets" — was two months in the making.

While the Kenfields have sold some of their work, they hope they've "priced our pieces high to discourage buyers."

——

(For more on rock show, see Page 28.)

ROCKHOUND

Pedigree

THIS IS TO CERTIFY THAT

Clyde Benham

HAS RELENTLESSLY TRACKED DOWN AND DUG OUT AT LEAST A TRUCKLOAD OF PRICELESS PEBBLES, ROCKS, AND BOULDERS AND HAS THEREBY EARNED THIS HONORARY FULL BLOODED, BLUE-BLOODED

ROCKHOUND PEDIGREE

SIRE (ADOPTED)	DAM (ADOPTED)
"BOWSER"	"TRIXIE"
BAUXITE	TURQUOISE

AWARDED THIS 21 DAY OF Sept 19 57

AT Lincoln BY Gil Merritt

OFFICIAL

Krejci 'Body' Work Uncovered At Gem and Mineral Show Here

By JUDI LEE

When Frank Krejci returns home from a long day at his local auto body shop, he exchanges his sanders and power jacks for the precision tools of a jeweler and artist.

A priceless group of homespun, gemstone vases, delicately fashioned by Krejci's talented hands are a featured attraction at the fifth annual Lincoln Gem and Mineral Club Show at the National Guard Armory, 1776 No. 10th.

Krejci, who has been hiding his masterful skill for "about 25 years" has unveiled his unusual lapidary shop of home-made items for the first time.

Krejci's vases are made from such materials as green onyx, brown onyx, pink rhodocrosite and green malachite.

His malachite vases caused one observer to recollect the exotic urns and decor in Maximillian's palace in Mexico.

The vases are made on a turning lathe in Krejci's home and each takes about two weeks of Krejci's spare time to complete.

Krejci at work . . . faceting machine polishes gems.

With his hand-made faceting machine, he smoothes and shapes a variety of expensive mineral gems.

Krejci's rock collection, in a variety of sizes and quality, filled eight large display boxes.

1986

Gem and Mineral Show next weekend

The Lincoln Gem and Mineral Club Inc. will present its 28th annual Gem and Mineral Show from 9 a.m. to 8 p.m. Saturday and 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. next Sunday in the Agricultural Hall at the State Fairgrounds.

A National Trophy-winning display of cabochons cut by Thomas "Bill" White of Independence, Mo., will be on display. White has been a leader in attempting exquisite shapes of stones, including agate, jade, opal, jasper and sapphires.

White and Roger Pabian of Lincoln will conduct a lapidary symposium and show the tools and tricks that are needed to make exotic cuts.

White's wife, Betty, will display thumbnail mineral crystals, crystals that will fit into a one-inch cube.

Other displays will include Lake Superior agates, a log of petrified palm wood that weighs 162 pounds, malachite, Regency Rose agate, jewelry, fossils and lapidary work. Various demonstrations and lectures will be given throughout the show.

The Gem and Mineral Show displays will include **tube agate.**

Demonstrations will include steam castings, sphere making, silversmithing, stained glass and agate windows and glass sculpture.

Twelve dealers from eight states will have stocks of rough and cut gemstones, finished jewelry, findings, jewelry maker's and metalsmith's supplies, mineral and fossil specimens, and books for the rock enthusiast available.

Admission is $1.50 for adults, $1 for students and senior citizens with identification, and 50 cents for children under 12 with parents. Children under 6 are admitted free with adults.

Rock collectors to gather in Lincoln for 1980 show

Rockhounds from around the world will bring their wares to Lincoln June 12-15, 1980, at the National Gem and Mineral Show.

Roger Pabian, publicity director for the show, said Friday he expects 500 displays and 20,000 visitors.

One of the exhibits will be a 140,000 carat topaz from Texas.

At $2.50 a carat, that's about $500 dollars for a 60-pound gem.

But the show is not limited to those with expensive tastes and bulging pocketbooks.

"If there was a kid interested in rocks who had $2 to spend, he could probably find six nice things to buy and still have change for a Coke," Pabian said.

For those who can't wait till next year to rub elbows with rock enthusiasts, the Lincoln Gem and Mineral Club is having a Nebraska show this weekend at Agriculture Hall at the State Fairgrounds.

Gem-cutting displays, a scrimshaw (ivory and bone etching) demonstration, gold-wire twisting and tons of rocks on display from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. Saturday and 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Sunday.

Lincoln Journal
Thursday, June 13, 1974

Mastodon Choppers Displayed

Don Gless has got a set of teeth on display at the National Gem and Mineral Show.

Not his own of course, but those that belonged to a mastodon millions of years ago.

The Fremont rockhound is also showing eight complete woolly mammoth teeth, some of which weigh in at 10 lbs.

To keep them from falling apart Gless has simply shellacked the monumental molars; the enamel is still very well preserved.

With four-inch long roots, the mastodon choppers are quite a rarety, claims Gless. He found them in the diggings of a Saunders County gravel pit.

"The gravel companies won't let us in any more because of the insurance," complained Gless. He's afraid that many more specimens are being crushed by the equipment which brings them up from below water level.

How does this member of the Lincoln Gem and Mineral Club happen to have so many distinguished dentures?

"You've got to be there at the right time and you've got to know what you're looking for," Gless said. "And I've been lucky."

Scholarship Given in Honor Of Dr. Schultz

The American Federation of Mineralogical Society Scholarship Foundation has awarded a scholarship in honor of Dr. C. Bertrand Schultz, head of Morrill Hall Museum at the University of Nebraska.

Dr. Bertrand Schultz

Dr. Schultz received the Midwest Federation of Mineralogical and Geological Societies' Honorary award "for distinguished achievement in the field of earth sciences," The midwest area includes 14 states.

Mary Ann Turner of Indianapolis, Ind., who is completing her masters work this summer at the University of Nebraska, has been named by Dr. Schultz as recipient of a $1,500 graduate study grant. She will apply the grant towards her doctorate degree at the University studying the geologic history of the mastadon.

The award was presented at Northern Michigan University in connection with the American Federation's annual show.

1963

Gem Club Will Exhibit

The Lincoln Gem and Mineral Club's fifth annual exhibition will be at the National Guard Armory, 1776 No. 10th, from 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. next Saturday and Sunday.

Among exhibits will be a complete lapidary shop illustrating gemstone faceting, an artifact collection from Ogallala, and numerous individual displays of fossils, minerals, gems and jewelry.

A large location map of the United States with polished gemstones indicating areas of discovery will be displayed. Club member Frank Krejci of Lincoln will exhibit gemstone vases formed on equipment of his own design and manufacture.

The club project, a fluorescent display, is expected to be one of the largest in the midwest.

City 'Rock' Lovers Enjoy Sounds of Chipping Rocks

The Lincoln Gem and Mineral club was organized in 1955 by contacting people whose names appeared on library cards of books about rocks and gems.

Mrs. Marie Wells, 2940 Vine, president of the club, said there are some 140 members of the club who study and promote the interest of lapidary (polishing and cutting rocks) and various earth sciences.

The club recently was awarded an honorable mention for promotion in earth sciences at the Midwest Federation of Mineralogical and Geological Societies convention at Ishpeming, Mich.

The club has helped the University of Nebraska with projects and provided the manpower to excavate a Plesiosaurs found near Valparaiso which is now on display at the university's museum.

Formed Groups

The club also helped organize a rock club at Prescott school and the Petrified Pebble Pups 4-H club, of which Mrs. Wells is the leader.

Another rea___ for the mention, according to Mrs. Wells, is because the club gave free entrance to some hospital patients, nursing homes and all school children at the annual rock and gem show.

The club also helped to establish a rock and gem exhibit at the Chet Ager nature center in Pioneers Park.

"This is a good club for a family," said Mrs. Wells who, along with her husband, Lynn, have been members for five years. "Kids like to hunt rocks."

Besides lectures and films on rocks and gems and members bringing their "braggin' rocks" to the meetings, the Lincoln Gem and Mineral club hosts a large number of field trips.

Mrs. Wells stated the club has a "good turn out" for these trips and most of the members bring their families and their campers to camp at the sites.

Varied Interests

"Some members are primarily interested in fossils, some in wood, minerals, gems and some in lapidary," said Mrs. Wells.

Although Mrs. Wells said "Nebraska isn't as rich as some states" in its geological findings, there are still quite a number of specimens in the soil waiting for rock hounds.

Blue agate is the state gem.

"It's hard to come by, but you can find it," she said. "It's mainly hard to recognize it."

The Prairie agate has the honor of being the state rock and O'Dell diamonds can be found in small areas around, of course, O'Dell, which is southwest of Beatrice.

Fossil-Rich

Weeping Water is rich in fossils and crystals and celestite crystals may be hunted in Wymore, according to Mrs. Wells.

"Petrified wood can be found all about the state," she said.

The club will host the national convention of Midwest Federation and the American Federation of Mineralogical and Geological societies at the state fair grounds in June, 1974.

* * *

Mrs. Wells displays the inside of a geod or "bird's nest" which she and her husband found.

Gems on Display

Just one small part of the estimated $500,000 in gems and minerals on display at the exhibition hall on the State Fair grounds is this quartz crystal, admired by **Mrs. Lynn P. Wells**, Lincoln. This year's show will be open to the public until 10 p.m. Saturday, and from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Sunday.

Jeweled Elephant One Among Many Exhibits at Show

Color picture on Page 1 of FOCUS

The 14th annual gem and mineral show is all set for May 12-14 in the State Fairgrounds Exposition Building.

A major attraction will be an intricately carved ivory elephant owned by the Lizzadro Museum of Lapidary Art in Elmhurst, Ill.

The example of modern work from Ceylon is 10 inches high and is encrusted with over 250 precious stones: rubies, sapphires, emeralds, amethysts, cateyes and pearls.

The howdah (seat on elephant's back) and accoutrements are of gold.

The rock hobby is one that is relaxing, educational, fun and can be enjoyed as a family hobby by both young and old, say Lincoln Gem and Mineral Club enthusiasts.

The year round avocation encompasses outdoor and indoor activity covering the fields of geology, mineralogy, paleontology, lapidary work and jewelry making.

There are over 900 clubs and societies in the U.S. and Canada organized for people interested in rockhounding and the earth sciences.

On display at the Lincoln show will be minerals, gemstones, opals, sand plaques, kuan-yin carvings, jade dealers, agates, programs of educational value, working displays, jewelry and fossils, among other things of interest.

There are camping facilities available with lots of free parking, according to Gem and Mineral Club officials.

Hours for the show are: Friday, 10 a.m.-9 p.m.; Saturday, 10 a.m.-10 p.m.; and next Sunday, 10 a.m.-6 pm.

Working displays at the show here will include sand plaques created by Mr. and Mrs. Dan Finch of Des Moines and demonstrations of silversmithing by Mrs. Judith Goeke of Fort Collins, Colo.

Russell Kemp, vice president of the Lizzadro Museum, will present six programs about the Elmhurst museum and agate carving at Idar-Oberstein, Germany. Mrs. Kemp will present three programs on jewelry design.

The Lincoln Gem and Mineral Club expects individual displays will represent collections from about 50 Nebraska and out-of-state communities.

Entries for display are due May 13. There are classes for all who want to compete, regardless of federation affiliation, said a spokesman for the Gem and Mineral Club.

Minerals, Gems Seen By 3,000

An estimated 3,000 persons attended the two-day 11th annual Gem and Mineral Show Saturday and Sunday that featured displays ranging from pictures and explanations of moon rocks to a 2,000-piece collection of Indian artifacts.

The over 200 exhibitors were almost all from the Midwest, according to show chairman Lloyd Lederer, with some special exhibits from places as far away as Alaska and California.

One exhibit displayed several pieces of jewelry including a jade bracelet, ring and earrings made by Nebraska's poet laureate John G. Niehardt when he was a young man.

The jade jewelry set was patterned after Indian jewelry, a culture that has influenced and is present in much of Niehardt's writings.

The show was sponsored by the 120-member Lincoln Gem and Mineral Club.

THAT'S NO TEXAS TURKEY *bone Winter Texan Don Gless is holding. He brought his own prehistoric exhibit when he came to McAllen from Nebraska. The mastodon leg bone he is holding is 32 inches long and 32 inches around the large end. The large molars are from a two-tusk mastodon, and the small one (front left) is from a small, 4-tusk mastodon. The wooly mammouth molar, almost smooth, is center right front. (Photo by John M. Young)*

DONALD GLESS *uses his hand to show the size of the prehistoric teeth he found in a Nebraska gravel pit. (Photo by John M. Young)*

Winter Texan exhibits
Mastodon Bone

by John M. Young

There's a Winter Texan from Nebraska, living in northwest McAllen, who takes his own prehistoric exhibits with him when he travels about the country.

Donald Gless, from Fremont, Neb., a member of the Loup Valley Gem and Mineral Society of Columbus, recently had his exhibit on show at the Gem and Mineral Society show in Harlingen.

What he has are mastodon and mammoth remains in excellent condition for display. Don explains that they are listed on the National Register of special exhibits for this type of show — fossils and gem minerals.

He has the upper left front leg bone of a mastodon that stood about eight feet tall, according to experts at the University of Nebraska. The university scientists said these prehistoric elephants roamed the earth as recently as 12,000 years ago and dated back a million years or more.

The leg bone measures 10 inches at the small end, is 32 inches long and 11 inches at the larger end, which has a circumference of 32 inches.

Don said some of his friends were pumping water and gravel from a pit, using a 10-inch line, when the small end of the bone plugged the pump. The operator sent for Don because he knew he would be interested.

They also found molars from the mastodon and a woolly mammoth, both grass and plant eating mammals. Gless said one theory about what killed them off was the arrival of buffalo to eat up all the grass and starve them. These elephant-like animals reportedly came from Asia on the Bering land bridge.

Gless pointed to the teeth and said the animals had some cavities. The University of Nebraska scientists reportedly told him the larger teeth were from mastodons with two tusks, the smaller tooth was from a baby with four tusks and the smooth molar from a woolly mammoth.

Gless, who has been digging up fossils and rocks since 1933 (he was about 12 years old), said he also found a jawbone from a mosasaurs, a marine reptile similar to a crocodile, but much larger. These reportedly became extinct about 350 millions years ago.

He also found remains of some rhinos that became extinct more than one million years ago, according to the University of Nebraska.

Gless retired as a self-employed cabinet maker in Fremont and now has more time to spend with his main hobby, looking for gems, agates and fossils.

Fossil Fish Shown at Gem Show

Edward Shibata, Laramie, Wyo., shows **Mrs. Marie Wells,** president of Lincoln Gem and Mineral Club, fossil fish on exhibit at 14th annual Lincoln Gem and Mineral Show being held at State Fair Grounds Exposition Hall. The show is open from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. today.

Lincoln, Nebraska, Thursday, February 10, 1966

Published weekly at
2145 N. Cotner Blvd.
Lincoln 5, Nebr.

$3 Per Year

Youngsters from Park School listen closely as Mrs. Velma Bloyd explains how rocks and stones have been transformed into beautiful pieces of jewelry. Members of the Lincoln Gem and Mineral Club presented an assembly program to Park School students Thursday, Feb. 3. (SUN Staff Photo)

Gem and Mineral Club Visits Park School

The Lincoln Gem and Mineral club presented an hour-long assembly program to the upper grade students of Park School Thursday, Feb. 3. Presenting the program on behalf of the club were Mrs. Velma Bloyd, Mrs. Dorothy Englehart and Floyd Olson.

The youngsters were presented a brief talk on the proper clothing for a "rock hound", what to look for when going hunting for rocks and stones, and how stones are finished once they are obtained. To assist with the program, club members had more than 20 cases of finished gems and stones on display, along with tools and equipment used in the finishing process. Much of the equipment on display was homemade by club members, and all gem displays were property of the clup.

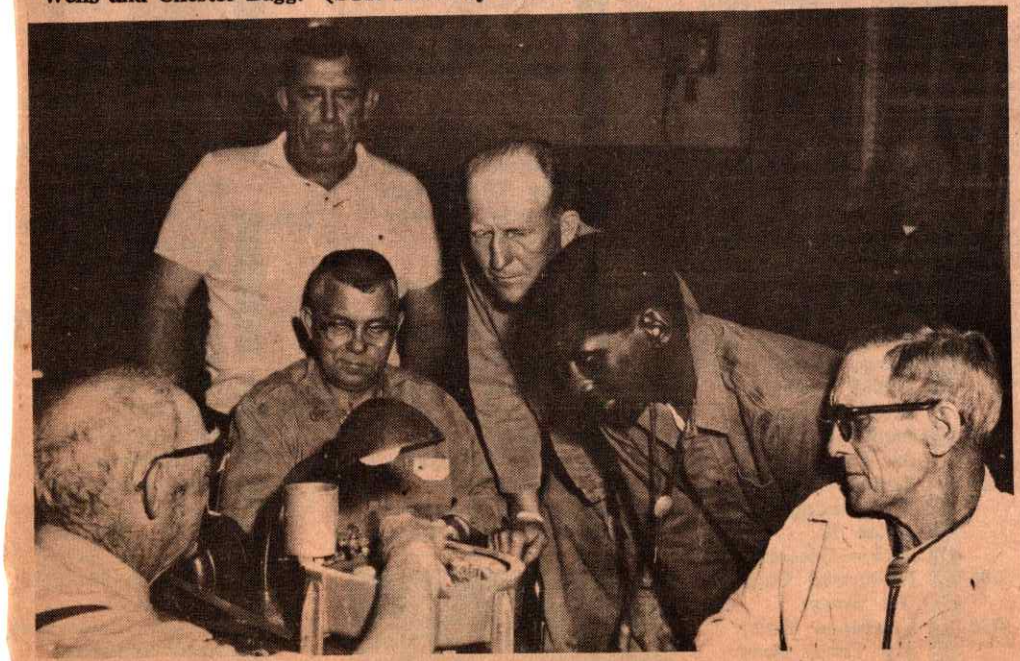
A film and slide presentation concluded the program. It gave the students a clear picture of how a fossil is found, dug up, how it is prepared in the laboratory and how it is put together in a museum. Members of the Gem and Mineral club assisted with the restoration of the dinosaur fossil discovered near Valparaiso and the film and slide program was based on this experience featuring club members and

Gem and Mineral Club Elects Officers

Outgoing president, G. W. McKinney, received a trophy from Mrs. Louise Baugher outgoing first vice-president during the recent installation of officers for the Lincoln Gem and Mineral club. New Officers are: Mrs. Phyllis Parks, president; Frank Rule, first vice-president; C. Ray Waddle, second vice-president; Ralph Ulrich, treasurer; Evelyn Ulrich, recording secretary; Irl Everett, Jim Parks, Roger Pabian, and Lynn Wells, board members. (SUN Photo by James Buttke.)

Demonstrate Stone Working

GIFTS PRESENTED . . . At the end of the demonstration, gifts were presented to the men attending the program. Shown are (from left) Elmer Riley, Jerrold Kohn, Lynn Wells and Chester Bagg. (SUN Photo by James Buttke.)



STONE POLISHER . . . Watching the stone polishing being done by Harry T. Gragg are: (from left) Howard Taylor, Arnold Wiswell, Maynard Rott, Richard Boykin and Oscar Speth. (SUN Photo by James Buttke.)

A collection of rocks and Lincoln Gem and Mineral club members went to the Veterans hospital.

The purpose of doing this was to demonstrate to the patients the process that a stone goes through from the time it is found until it is ready to be sold as a finished item. Club members cut, ground, polished, and tumbled the rocks for the interested men.

At the end of the demonstration each onlooker was presented with a "fidget-stone," a small, polished stone which one manipulates in his fingers. Several of the patients watching the process were so fascinated that they spoke of taking up rock work as a new hobby.

Although the members are anxious to inform others about their work, the extreme weight and clumsiness of their machinery makes frequent trips impractical. They have done shows for schools and other interested organizations upon request, however.

The club was organized in 1955 and incorporated in 1959. According to Mrs. Bobbi Allen, a member of the club, it is open to all who are interested in gaining knowledge about anything dealing with rocks. There are currently about 125 active members, and several junior members.

Activities of the group include field trips and instruction in new methods of finishing stones. The group also does some fossil work.

Gem, Mineral Club: A School Girl's Report Started It All

By BOBBIE ALLEN

A school girl's report on rocks which required research at the state museum was the first step toward bringing some 40,000 hobbyists to Lincoln next summer.

The girl's father was so impressed with what he saw in the geological displays at the museum that he began trying to find others interested in rocks. He finally went to the library, found a book on the subject, and began calling those people listed on the check out sheet at the back of the book.

While Everett cuts slabs of Mexican "crazy lace" agate on the saw his wife, Lois, finishes polishing a cabochon of green chrysocolla. (SUN Photo by James Buttke)

Idea That Grew

That select group was the nucleus of the Lincoln Gem and Mineral Club, founded in 1955. Members now number over 160, not including junior members, of which there are many, for this hobby is perfectly suited to family interests.

Commonly called rockhounds, some of the club members may more specifically be lovers of the out-of-doors, campers, specimen collectors, gem cutters, facetters, jewelers, mineralogists, geologists, crystallographers, petrologists, paleontologists or even archaeologists.

Irl Everett, the father of the little girl who started it all, became so engrossed in the hobby that he eventually supplied a lapidary shop in his basement where fellow hobbyists can find raw materials and equipment.

Everett has presided over the Lincoln club twice, and in 1970 the group honored him by bestowing active life membership.

From its inception the Lincoln Gem and Mineral club has considered education a major part of its purpose; members often give programs and demonstrate lapidary techniques for schools, hospitals and shut-ins. The club maintains several exhibits which are available to schools and student groups. Several years ago members excavated and mounted a plesiosaur for the University of Nebraska State Museum. A group of volunteers works regularly on fossils for the museum.

National Convention

No wonder this enthusiastic club was selected to host the 1974 National Gem and Mineral Show and Convention. For four years now a steering committee has been organizing to accommodate the many exhibitors, dealers, and feature displays which will comprise the national show.

The convention committee is chaired by Ralph Ulrich, with Howard Taylor as vice chairman and Bruce Simon, financial chairman. And the show director is—you guessed it—Irl Everett.

The mass of detail work necessary to correlate the many phases of such an undertaking is being handled by club members, with help from similar groups across the state. Several buildings are being readied at the state fair grounds to accommodate the hundreds of competitive and non-competitive displays, demonstrations by skilled craftsmen, special lectures and illustrated programs. Promotional packets have been sent to all 1,025 clubs in the American Federation of Mineralogical Societies.

"This will really be the grand championship of all shows," Everett declared.

Ever since prehistoric man placed pretty pebbles from a nearby stream on a ledge in his cave to admire, men have enjoyed the products of our planet.

"Hobbyists always want to interest someone else," Irl Everett believes, and he feels Lincolnites are fortunate to have the opportunity to view, next June 13-16, the exquisite products of the finest efforts of rock hobbyists from across the nation.

'Hounds learn from their rocks

A rock is a rock is a rock — or is it? To the rockhounds of the Lincoln Gem and Mineral club a rock represents a key to another world. Within it may be the knowledge of the universe or the "ugly" rock can be transformed into an item of beauty such as jewelry.

Curiosity about what the world and the intrigue of discovering what kind of stone or gem is inside of a rock are what motivates the rockhounds in their search for rocks, said Larry Bigley, president of the club.

Bigley said he classifies rocks in four categories to help him identify and study them.

The first class is the ordinary kind of rocks seen everyday, such as agates, sandstones and limestones, he said.

Semi-precious stones such as turquoise and precious stones such as diamonds and opals make up the next two classes, Bigley said.

The last class consists of minerals. He noted some gems are cut from minerals.

Another way to differentiate between gems and minerals is the way in which they are used, according to Mrs. Lois Everett, club historian.

Various purposes

Gems are usually cut, polished and faceted into stones for jewelry or other artistic pieces while minerals are usually used for collection and show purposes.

The club started in 1955 when Irl Everett decided to see if there were any other interested rockhounds in Lincoln.

Mrs. Everett said her husband started collecting minerals when they took the children to a museum and one of them spotted a mineral kit he wanted.

"Irl then started hunting fossilized coral from Weeping Water," Mrs. Everett said.

Examining some of the rocks and minerals in the Everett's lapidary show are (from left): Larry Bigley, John Harrison, Irl C. Everett, and Lois Everett. (SUN Photo by James Buttke).

To find out whether there were other people interested in his hobby, he went to the library and looked up the names of people who had checked out books on gems and minerals, she said.

Increasing membership

Eleven members formed the Lincoln Gem and Mineral club in 1955, said Mrs. Everett. Since then, the membership has increased to 152 members, including 27 junior members.

Four of the original members — Irl Everett, Marice and Frances Tracy and Clyde Benham — are still with the club, she said.

The purpose of the club is to study, promote an interest in, and disseminate knowledge of lapidary (cutting, polishing, or engraving gems) and various earth sciences including but not necessarily limited to geology, paleontology (study of fossils and ancient life forms) and mineralogy, according to Bigley.

"We also provide education in these fields to members of the club, the general public and youth and student groups," he said.

Annual show

An annual indoor show is held in Lincoln where club members exhibit their displays, explained Mrs. Everett. This year's show will be held March 26 and 27, at the new state fair agricultural hall.

Bigley said members of the club find their rocks through rock hunts, swaps with other people, and wholesalers. Some members of the club, like Irl and Lois Everett, have their own private shops.

Some of the minerals Bigley said that can be found within a 50 mile radius of Lincoln are: Calcites, pyrites, selenites and barites.

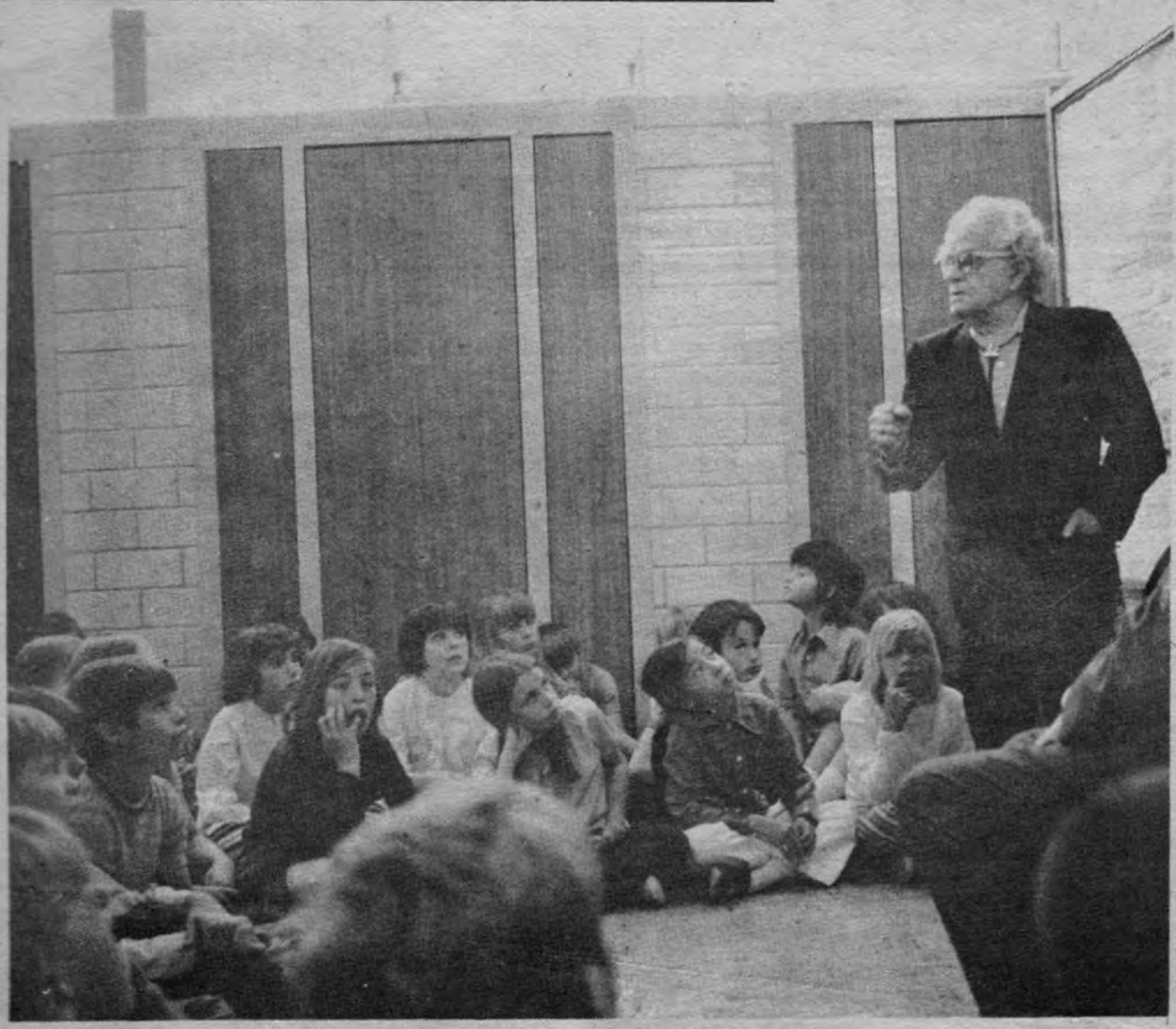
Lake Superior agates, cherts, flint and horned coral, a fossil which can be cut, polished and carved can also be found in the eastern part of Nebraska, Bigley said.

Indian artifacts are constantly being plowed up and washed ashore in streams, said Bigley. He said people who discover such artifacts should notify geologists at the University of Nebraska so they can be preserved, dated, and cataloged so researchers can determine which tribes they belonged to and the history of the culture in question.

Bigley, who said he likes to collect minerals and cut and facet rocks and gems, said there are a variety of different hobbies and aspects of rocks and minerals that are collected and studied by club members.

For example, Mrs. Everett said she enjoys collecting Mexican agates, lapidary work and finishing stones that have natural scenes within them while her husband likes collecting minerals best.

Anyone who is interested in collecting rocks may join the club as long as they have someone in the club to sponsor them, Bigley said.



Neihart Reads to Children

Nebraska's poet laureate, Dr. John Neihart (above), who recently appeared on network television, also has time for children. Doctor Neihart read excerpts from his work "The Death of Crazy Horse," and read a prayer he wrote for his granchildren to the fourth and fifth graders at Merle Beattie elementary school, 19th and Calvert st. The poet came to the school at the request of pupils Ann and John Stuart, the children of Mr. and Mrs. John Stuart, 1145 E st. (SUN News Service).

PHOTOS BY TED KIRK/Lincoln Journal Star

University of Nebraska-Lincoln geologist Roger Pabian (above) explains how the sandstone outcropping next to him was formed. Pabian has published a field guide to the geology of Pioneers Park. (Below) The different colors in this sandstone found at Pioneers Park come from iron oxide.

Pioneers Park full of geological gems

BY AL J. LAUKAITIS
Lincoln Journal Star

Anyone who has ever visited Lincoln's Pioneers Park remembers Smoke Signal — the 15-foot-tall statute fashioned in the likeness of Chief Red Cloud atop a jagged outcropping of rock.

What they probably don't know is the geological history of that outcropping. It is a rich history that dates back 95 million years, when sediments poured off mountains and uplands and settled into a shallow sea.

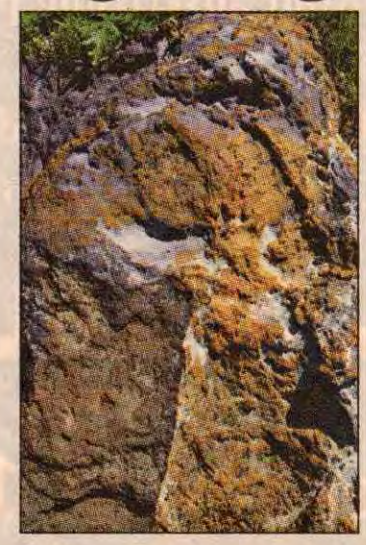
Gravity, wind and other forces of nature transformed that sediment into Dakota sandstone, which is now visible to anyone who walks below the 50-ton concrete statute with the missing feather.

Roger Pabian, a geologist with the University of Nebraska-Lincoln's Conservation and Survey Division, can tell you more than you ever wanted to know about Dakota sandstone.

He can tell you where it came from and why it was important to the early settlers who came to Lancaster County searching for water. He can show you areas of wind-blown loess deposits. He can point to a spot where a small stream called Haines Branch used to meander a century ago and tell you how glaciers churned up the land and when dinosaurs walked this small piece of earth.

It's all written down in a 19-page booklet entitled: "Geology of Pioneers Park, Lancaster County, Nebraska." The no-nonsense title is just like the booklet. Inside, a reader will find photos, charts and maps showing the park's place in geological time along with a written history that extends far beyond Lancaster County — in one instance — down to the Mississippi Delta.

"I purposely took my time doing it," Pabian said during a tour of the southwest Lincoln park last week.



"It's easier to turn out a mediocre product pretty quickly."

He believed Pioneers Park deserved better, and so he wrote and rewrote until he was satisfied. It took some time.

The on again-off again project took about 25 years to complete.

See PARK, Page 5B

More information

Anyone who picks up a copy of "Geology of Pioneers Park, Lancaster County, Nebraska," a booklet written by Roger Pabian, a geologist with the University of Nebraska-Lincoln's Conservation and Survey Division, will be amazed. Copies are available for $7 plus postage and handling from the UNL Conservation and Survey Division at (402) 472-7533.

Pabian will be on hand to answer questions at a July 22 show sponsored by the Lincoln Gem and Mineral Club at the Pioneers Park Nature Center. Native stones and minerals will be on display beginning at 1 p.m.

Park

Continued From 1B

A lifelong resident of Lincoln, Pabian recalled visiting Pioneers Park at a very young age, attending church picnics and swooshing down the biggest slide in town.

Throughout his career, he watch the park's development with interest, especially the straightening of the Haines Branch channel over the years after a disastrous flood a half century ago. The park's surface features have been altered but its geology hasn't changed since the last glaciers receded from the area about 12,000 years ago.

"One of the things that stands out in the park is that the geology is pretty straightforward," Pabian said. "There are no folds or faults like in Richardson County. . . . This is textbook kind of geology."

Underlying its geological simplicity is the park's diversity.

"You get to see so many different kinds of geologic settings in a 1½-square-mile area," said Pabian, who has been with the Conservation and Survey Division since 1969.

Geology students from the university come to the park on occasion for field work.

"A lot of them are really amazed that there is so much to be seen in such a small area."

Reach Al J. Laukaitis at 473-7243 or alaukaitis@journalstar.com.

STAR PHOTO

PATIENT PALEONTOLOGISTS . . . Kelcy, left, Randy scrape away dirt.

~~Youth in Action~~

14 Randolph School Students Patiently Put Turtle Together

By MILAN WALL
Star Staff Writer

Find a dozen youngsters interested in the earth's past.

Hand them a box full of several dozen pieces of a 35-million-year-old fossil turtle.

Put the turtle and the kids in one room and let the youngsters go to work with scraper and brush — first to clean the dirt away from the fossil remains and then to put the pieces of the puzzle back together.

If the recipe works, the result will be a group of excited youngsters who will learn a lot about geology and paleontology and have a barrel full of fun at the same time.

That's the recipe tried in a Lincoln school this fall. And from the reactions of a couple of the young scientists, the experiment was a success.

"We're thinking we might be the first kids in the world to work on one," said 11-year-old Randy Kirby of the school group's "turtle project."

"We learned we had to be careful," said Kelcy Nickerson, 12, who noted the fossil pieces are fragile.

The two Randolph School students are members of a 14-pupil special class which spent about five weeks this fall studying earth sciences.

The study included a number of field trips and presentations by invited speakers, among them a Lincoln "rockhound" who has an amateur interest in paleontology.

The youngsters' interest prompted Mrs. Dorothy Engelhart to donate to the class the fossil turtle, which was discovered near Crawford in an area which has yielded valuable fossil finds for years.

The students took several pieces of the turtle (dubbed "Dorothy" in honor of the donor) to the University of Nebraska's paleontology lab, where researchers said it apparently comes from the oligocene period of some 35 million years ago.

Although the special study unit has ended, the youngsters still find time to slip back in to work on the job of putting the pieces back together.

If they solve the puzzle by the end of the school year, the turtle will be donated to an area agency or group for use as an educational tool.

Randy described the earth sciences study unit as the "best of the year," at least thus far.

"We were learning and it was still fun!" he said with **obvious enthusiasm.**

Both Randy and Kelcy said they were pleased that they were given the freedom — and the responsibility — to take on the project.

And they said they have welcomed opportunities to share with other youngsters what they learned.

Teacher Bill Scherniklau said the pupils are now being used as resource people in the classroom, helping their peers in related studies.

"We learned quite a bit here," said Randy. "It's a great opportunity to be able to tell somebody about what we did."

UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA NEWS

Museum Notes

From the University of Nebraska State Museum, 14th and U Streets

Number 27 March, 1965

THE STORY OF A NEBRASKA SEA SERPENT

Fig. 1. Restoration of a plesiosaur. (Reproduced from LeConte's "Geology," D. Appleton and Company.) The skeleton from Nebraska had a proportionately longer neck.

An unusual skeleton of a 41-foot long plesiosaur, a Cretaceous marine reptile, has been added to the Museum's extensive fossil exhibits. The specimen was collected near Valparaiso in Saunders County only about 22 miles north and west of Lincoln. It was preserved in the Graneros (lower Colorado Group) shales, which date back in geologic time some 120 million years. This is the only skeleton of a plesiosaur so far found in the state although portions of a disarticulated skeleton were found in a Greenhorn Limestone Company quarry near Garland in Seward County in 1955. The Garland locality of somewhat later age is about ten miles from the site of the new discovery.

The Valparaiso skeleton, with skull and jaws attached, was found articulated and the vertebral column was complete from the first neck vertebra to the tip of the tail. Unfortunately recent erosion by a small branch of North Oak Creek eroded away portions of a few of the vertebrae, the ribs, and two of the four paddles. The skeleton in general, however, is in an excellent state of preservation.

The acquisition of the plesiosaur is an excellent example of cooperative effort on the part of various people representing a number of organizations. The skeleton was first discovered on the farm of Adolph Rezac in the spring of 1964 by Mr. Hal DeGraw of the Nebraska Geological Survey, University of Nebraska, Mr. Charles Osborn of the Bureau of Reclamation, and Mr. Phil Emory of the United States Geological Survey. These three geologists were examining the Cretaceous shale and limestone deposits along North Oak Creek valley when a few of the vertebrae and portions of two of the paddles were found exposed in a creek bank. The find was reported to the Museum but excavations could not be started because of lack of funds. It was not until November that the specimen was again called to the attention of the Director of the Museum by members of the Lincoln Gem and Mineral Club who offered to aid in the recovery of the fossils if the Museum would supply supervisory help. The site of the discovery was revisited and it was decided to undertake the project even though it was late in the fall. Museum staff members Lloyd G. Tanner, C. Robert Eisele, Larry Martin, and C. Bertrand Schultz were responsible for the supervision of the work and 22 members of the Lincoln Gem and Mineral Club helped in the excavating and preservation of the plesiosaur skeleton. Mr. Adolph Rezac and his family aided in many ways and also allowed unlimited access to the site by visitors as well as the excavators. Mr. and Mrs. Walter Behlen of Columbus, Nebraska, furnished funds which were used for miscellaneous expenses. Financial contributions also came from the Lincoln Gem and Mineral Club.

The weather remained mild during the field work, although the temperatures did get as low as 6° above zero at one time. A wooden structure covered with plastic sheeting was built over the fossil quarry for protection against the weather, and buckets of hot coals were brought into the excavation area so that the temperature could be raised enough to carry on work in a satisfactory manner. The temperature of the bone slabs had to be above freezing so that the plaster of Paris, which was used in the casting of the field blocks, would set properly. The last of the skeleton, which included a section of the neck vertebrae attached to the skull and jaws, was removed on November 25, the day before Thanksgiving.

The fossils from the plesiosaur quarry near Valparaiso were taken to the Museum's preparation laboratory on the third floor of Nebraska Hall, and the work of getting the specimen ready for exhibit was started at once. The preparation was carried on by volunteers from the Lincoln Gem and Mineral Club under the direction of Museum preparators Ivan

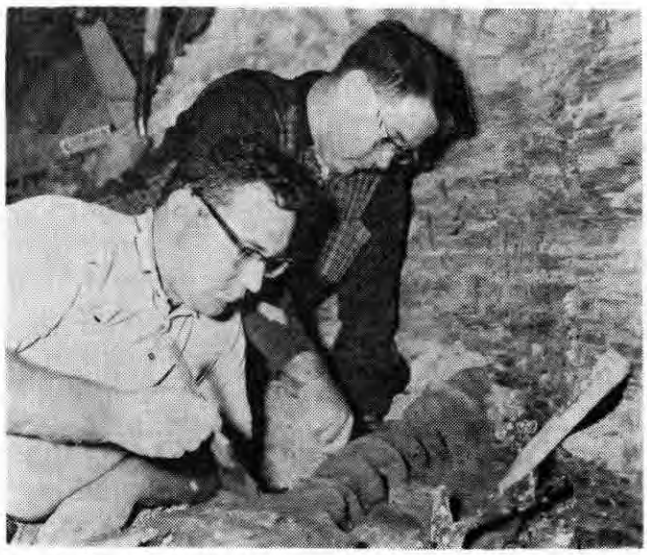


Fig. 2. Workers uncovering some of the articulated vertebrae of the plesiosaur at the quarry site on the Adolph Rezac farm in Saunders County.

Burr and Don Martin. It was decided to expose only the top side of the bones and leave the specimen in the field casts exactly as it was found. The skeleton was prepared in record time (five weeks), and a large portion of it was installed in a temporary display with two dinosaur (*Allosaurus*) skeletons in Gallery A on the third floor of the Museum.

Plesiosaurs, of the type found near Valparaiso, were reptiles which were well adapted to a marine habitat. They had a broad, flat body with a long neck and short tail. The pelvic and shoulder girdles as well as the limbs were modified for an aquatic life and long, paddle-like structures were developed for swimming. The articulations for the limbs indicate that the animal had unusually powerful muscles and apparently could swim backward as well as forward. The four paddles were like huge oars and the giant plesiosaurs literally rowed along rather than swimming like a fish. The long-necked plesiosaurs are usually classified as elasmosaurs and the short-necked forms are called pliosaurs. The skeleton from Saunders County had a neck about twenty feet long and would therefore be considered an elasmosaur.

The exact identity of the Saunders County plesiosaur has not been determined but it does appear to be similar to a skeleton of *Thalassomedon hanningtoni* described by a University of California specialist on plesiosaurs, Dr. Samuel Welles. This specimen was found in the Graneros shales of Baca County, Colorado, and is on exhibit at the Denver Museum of Natural History. Dr. Welles plans to come to the University of Nebraska State Museum to study the newly discovered Nebraska plesiosaur.

Parts of the giant fossil marine fish, *Portheus*, including a tail, miscellaneous vertebrae, and jaws, were found in the Saunders County plesiosaur quarry. The evidence obtained would indicate that some of the *Portheus* bones obtained belonged to a fish that measured some 12 to 14 feet long. For comparison, the Museum has on exhibit a complete skeleton of *Portheus* (measuring 12 feet six inches in length) from the Cretaceous of Kansas. These giant fossil fish are close relatives of the living tarpons and also of the herring, salmon, and trout. A number of fossil shark teeth and parts of another plesiosaur also were recovered in the Valparaiso plesiosaur quarry.

The newspapers, radio, television, and other news media gave the story of the plesiosaur find a large amount of publicity. The visitor population to the Museum increased noticeably, which led to the decision to prepare the specimen for exhibit as quickly as possible. Finding evidence of a "sea serpent" in the plains of Nebraska undoubtedly incited the imagination of many of the people of the region. There has been a tremendous amount of interest shown in the specimen.

For more than 100 years the region which is now Nebraska has been a famous collecting ground for fossil mammals, but few important fossil reptilian bones have been reported. Up until the present time only one dinosaurian bone has been reported from the entire state. This bone is the distal end of a well preserved femur of a trachodont or "duck-billed" dinosaur from the Dakota Sandstone (Cretaceous age) two miles south of Decatur, Burt County, near the Missouri River in eastern Nebraska. Dr. Erwin H. Barbour, former Director of the Museum, reported this discovery in 1931. There is a good reason for the absence of dinosaurian bones in Nebraska because of the scarcity of geological outcrops which might contain fossils of these reptiles. During the latter part of the Mesozoic ("Age of Dinosaurs") a great inland sea stretched over much of the Great Plains region from what is now the Gulf of Mexico to Southern Canada. It was in this tropical sea that the plesiosaurs, mosasaurs, fish, sharks, and other marine animals lived

Fig. 3. Preparation of the plesiosaur bones was carried on in the laboratory by volunteer workers and Museum staff members. The plaster of Paris field jacket was removed from the upper portion of the bones and then the specimens were cleaned and preserved with shellac.

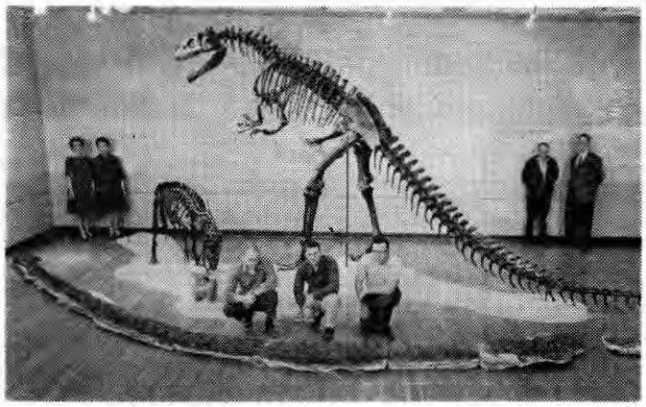


*Fig. 4. Plesiosaur skeleton (on floor in foreground) being installed in a temporary exhibit in Museum. Three Museum preparators in foreground and four volunteers from Lincoln Gem and Mineral Club standing in background to provide scale for exhibit. The two mounted dinosaur (*Allosaurus*) skeletons are from the Jurassic of Utah and were donated to the Museum by Mr. and Mrs. Walter Behlen of Columbus, Nebraska.*

in abundance. The sea stretched across all of Nebraska except for a few places in the easternmost part of the State. Many deposits of fossil oyster shells (*Ostrea*) and other marine invertebrate remains also are to be found in Cretaceous shales and limestones.

A "Hall of Dinosaurs" is being planned for the Museum in order to show the great diversity of animals which lived during the "Age of Dinosaurs." It is hoped that private or state funds for such an educational extension of the Museum's exhibits can be made available in the near future. This will allow the various scattered exhibits of Mesozoic life in the Museum to be displayed in one hall. Many other specimens now in storage also could be shown.

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C. Bertrand Schultz
Director of the Museum and Professor of Geology

Lincoln Gem and Mineral Club Members Who Aided in the Plesiosaur Project

Mr. Thomas Simmons was President of the Lincoln Gem and Mineral Club during the time the plesiosaur skeleton was excavated and prepared; Mr. Gene Eno was Field Trip Chairman for the Club; and Mrs. Velma Bloyd was Supervisor of the Club members who worked on the project. The following members of the Club contributed time to the "plesiosaur project" as it was called (names listed in order of the amount of time spent): Mr. and Mrs. Norman Engelhart, Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Ulrich, Mr. and Mrs. James Parks, Mr. and Mrs. Clyde Miller, Mrs. Norma Miller, Mr. Ray Sincebaugh, Mrs. Marjory Heedick, Mr. C. Ray Waddel, Mr. Roger Pabian, Miss Joan Baugher, Mr. Larry Pope, Mr. Glen Lyman, Miss Miriam Forbes, and Mr. and Mrs. Maurice Tracy.

THE LAST NICHE IN ELEPHANT HALL

Elephant Hall has a newcomer and as a result the last niche or exhibit case has been filled. The mounted skeleton of a fossil mastodont (primitive proboscidean) has just been installed in the Museum's world famous Hall. The specimen was found in lower Pliocene sands two and one-half miles south of Red Cloud, Webster County, Nebraska.

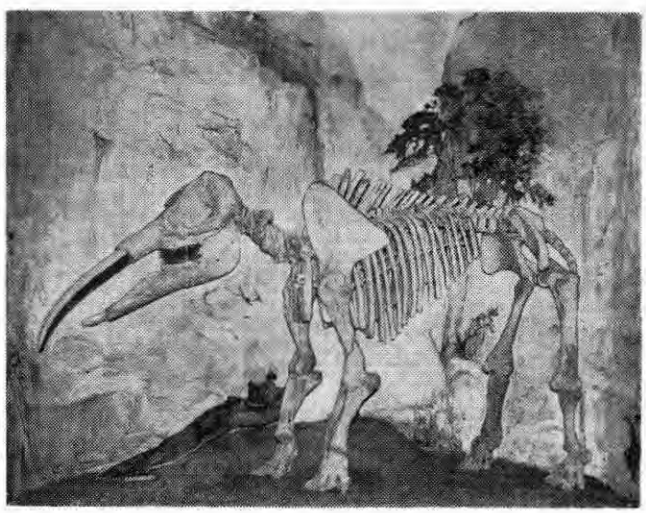


Fig. 5. The new, four-tusked, long-jawed mastodont from Webster County, Nebraska, now on display in Elephant Hall.

The new mastodont display adds another chapter to the story of the mastodonts and elephants (advanced proboscideans) in North America. The four-tusked, long-jawed mastodont in the exhibit represents the first type of proboscidean that migrated to the Great Plains region from Asia some 8,000,000 years ago.

There are now five mounted mastodont skeletons, representing different stages of evolutionary development, on the west side of Elephant Hall. Four of these are from Nebraska. On the east side are five mounted elephant skeletons, including the world's largest elephant, *Mammuthus* (*Archidiskodon*) *maibeni*, from the Late Pleistocene of Nebraska. A Wooly Mammoth, *Mammuthus primigenius*, is also represented, and one Recent African and two Asian elephant skeletons. At the south end of the Hall are two life-like mounts of Recent African elephants. In addition to these exhibits the teeth of mastodonts and mammoths from 88 of the 93 counties in Nebraska are shown. At the north entrance to Elephant Hall are four small exhibit cases. These contain fossil and modern ivory, and specimens of ancestral mastodonts from Africa which date back some 30,000,000 years in geologic time.

The first evidence of the new mastodont skeleton was found in 1959 by Mr. Delbert Lewis as he was

Sea Serpent 'Stones' Displayed At University's State Museum

Scientists at the University of Nebraska State Museum are studying a number of small stones believed to have been a part of the digestive system of a 120-million - year - old plesiosaur (sea serpent) found last year on the Adolph Resac farm north of Valparaiso.

Known as gastroliths, the stones were found on a routine field trip to the site by vertebrate paleontology students of Dr. C. Bertrand Schultz, professor of geology and museum director.

Dr. Schultz and the students were visiting the site where the bones of the 40-foot sea serpent were excavated when the small "gizzard" stones were observed.

Picked Up Stones

Scientists believe that plesiosaurs, as well as other reptiles, picked up stones on land surfaces much like the habit of modern chickens, which are themselves closely related to dinosaurs and other reptiles in the evolutionary line of development.

Dr. Samuel Treves, chairman of the department of geology, said the find was of particular importance since further study of the stones might give scientists an idea of just where the plesiosaur roamed. Preliminary investigations reveal that the serpent may have picked up some of the stones in what is now South Dakota or Minnesota at a time when the interior of the United States was inundated by an extension of the Gulf of Mexico.

Both the sea serpent and the associated gastroliths were excavated and prepared for display through a grant by Mr. and Mrs. Walter Behlen of Columbus and the assistance of the Lincoln Gem and Mineral Club.

Dr. Schultz said museum visitors may see still other gastroliths, found in Kansas a number of years ago, in the reptile section of the museum on the first floor.

Museum hours are Sundays 1:30 to 5 p.m. and Monday through Saturday 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Karen Kreycik, a graduate paleontology student from Wood Lake, and the gastroliths.

Tuesday, Nov. 24, 1964—

Artist's drawing of a 120-million-year-old Plesiosaurus, former inhabitant of Nebraska.

Marine 'Beastie' Is Major Fossil

Museum Director Says Reptile State's First Complete Example

By HAROLD SIMMONS

Valparaiso — Millions of years ago, long before man inhabited what is now North America, a great inland sea stretched from the Gulf of Mexico to the Canadian border.

During the Cretaceous Period, beginning about 120 million years ago, this sea reached the Rocky Mountains on its western shore leaving the state of Nebraska almost completely under water.

Inhabitating the Nebraska area during this period were fish, sharks and other marine life and some reptiles. One of these reptiles was a Plesiosaurus which became adapted to water. It was a relative of the well-known dinosaur.

The complete fossil of one of these reptiles called sea serpents was found early this year on the Adolph Resak farm, three miles west and two and a quarter miles north of Valparaiso.

It was discovered by Hal De Graw, Nebraska Geological Survey, Charles Osborne, Bureau of Reclamation, and Phil Emory, U.S. Geological Survey, while examining the banks of Oak Creek to determine soil strata for field analysis.

'Turtle-Snake'

Dr. C. Bertrand Schultz, director of the University of Nebraska State Museum, described the 120-million-year-old reptile as "looking like a turtle with a snake running through it."

He said the animal was about 40 feet long, and half of its length was taken up by its neck. He said its body was rather wide, thereby giving the appearance of a turtle with an extremely long neck. Attached to its tail was a flipper, similar to that of a seal.

Dr. Schultz said the reptile's ancestors were originally land animals that had been forced into the sea because of overcrowding on land. This happened to many animals at this time, he said, and some developed into our present day birds.

This is the first complete skeleton of a Plesiosaurus to be found in Nebraska. Dr. Schultz said they have been found in Kansas, but not in Nebraska because they are covered too deeply with soil and other debris.

About 10 years ago a piece of what was determined to be a Plesiosarus was found near Garland at the Greenhorn Limestone Co. quarry.

Such fossils as fish, shark teeth and leaves have also been found in the state. Leaves from tropical or semi-tropical trees have been found near Pioneers Park and the State Penitentiary and a dinosaur was found near Omaha.

Dr. Schulz said the skull of the reptile would be removed Tuesday afternoon. With its removal, they will have a skeleton about 36 to 38 feet long. This will end the excavations for this year probably to resume next spring.

Commending the Lincoln Gem and Mineral Club for their work in excavating the reptile, Dr. Schultz said, "Without their help, I don't know how we would ever have been able to remove the skeleton.

"Those people were wonderful," he said. "And Mr. Resak has been more than helpful."

Dr. Schultz said they removed the skeleton by covering sections with plaster of paris and lifting it free of the surrounding rock.

..He said they would display the serpent sometime in the future, after preparation and mounting work has been completed.

However, since they do not have an area large enough to mount and display the entire animal, Dr. Schultz said it would be mounted in sections.

Property Ordered On Rolls

Most Owned By Churches

State Tax Commissioner Forrest A. Johnson, who Monday declared Ak-Sar-Ben to be tax exempt. Tuesday ordered 31 other properties—mostly connected with religious organizations—on the tax rolls.

The properties involved are located in 15 counties as follows:

Colfax—Mission home belonging to the Benedictine Mission Home, Inc. Schuyler.

Dawes — Caretaker's house at the Museum Assn. of the American Frontier at Chadron and real estate and improvements located by Chadron but owned by the Northwest Nebraska Camp Meeting Assn.

Dodge — Teacherages owned by the Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church.

Hamilton — Teacherage owned by St. Peter's Lutheran Church of Hampton, teacherage owned by the Zion Lutheran Church, Inc. of Hampton.

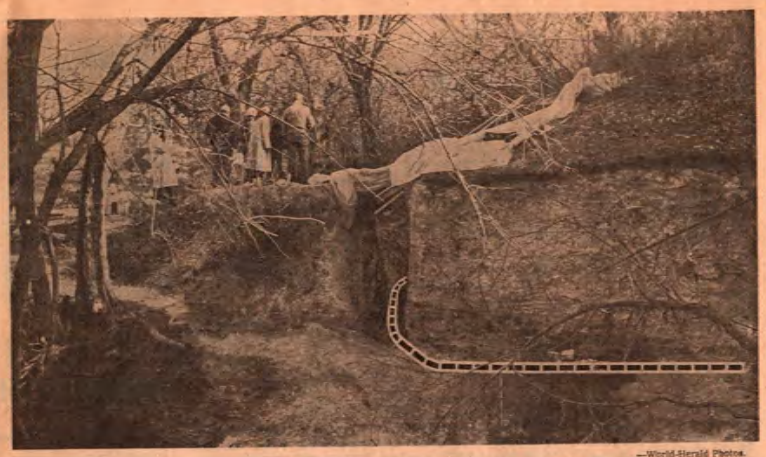
Jefferson — Teacherage owned by the St. Paul Lutheran Church of Plymouth.

Keith — Uncompleted arsonage owned by the Congregational Church of Christ at Brule.

Madison — Teacherage owned by the German Evangelical Lutheran St. Paul's congregation at Norfolk, teacherage owned by Trinity Evangelical Lutheran congregation at Madison, second teacherage owned by Christ Lutheran Church of Norfolk.

Martin shellacs sea monster's head to help preserve it . . . It once resembled drawing.

Dr. Schultz (left) . . . shows DeGraw and Mrs. Helen Miller monster's picture.



—World-Herald Photos.

Digging site on Oak Creek . . . Monster's 40-foot body uncovered along bank (dotted line) with tail at right and head in cut at left.

'Pet' Plesiosaur Is Tough to Budge From Valparaiso Farm

By Tom Allan
World-Herald Staff Member.

Valparaiso, Neb.—Piesy, a 41-foot, 25-ton "sea monster" and a pet of the children of Mr. and Mrs. Adolph Rezac, was still sitting pretty on their farm five miles northwest of town Tuesday night.

Final efforts to budge him before nightfall had failed, to the delight of David, 13, and the twins, Karen and Kathy, 10, and all the rest of the neighborhood kids, including the 10 pupils at near-by Oak Ridge School.

But a couple of days more won't matter.

Piesy, more scientifically known as Plesiosaur, has been sitting on the bank of what is now known as Oak Creek for 120 million years.

Although an adopted pet of the Rezac children, Piesy, as they call him, is a major and rare fossil find, according to Dr. C. Bertrand Schultz, director of the University of Nebraska State Museum. He said it was the first complete skeleton of a Plesiosaur found in Nebraska.

"And it is in a remarkably excellent condition," he said.

The fossil was one of the monsters that inhabited the huge tropical sea that covered Nebraska in the Cretaceous Age.

Some call it a giant sea serpent. Dr. Schultz described it as a marine reptile with a body shaped like a turtle without the shell and with a small dinosaur head at the end of a long neck. It had a stubby tail and propelled itself by four large flippers about six feet long. In the comparatively small head were rows of sharp interlocking upper and lower teeth.

The "monster" will be displayed after its reconstruction at the University of Nebraska State Museum.

If the specimen is rare, its discovery and excavation was extraordinary.

A geological party literally sat on it.

A year ago, Hal De Graw of the Nebraska Geological Survey, Charles Osborne of the Bureau of Reclamation and Phil Emory of the United States Geological Survey were following Oak Creek looking for rock formations.

"We sat down to rest on the bank where the creek had cut it away," Hal said Tuesday. "Phil idly picked up a piece from the exposed shale and was about to toss it away when we discovered it was a piece of vertabrae."

Their find was reported to the museum. But the museum was without extra funds to excavate.

The Lincoln Gem and Mineral Club, Inc., stepped in with an offer to provide labor if the university provided supervision.

Gene Eno, club field trip chairman, said club members began digging October 24 under the watchful eye of Dr. Schultz, Lloyd Tanner, his assistant, and Larry Martin of Bartlett, an undergraduate student.

Professionals directed the digging but enthusiastic amateurs provided the muscle. Even newsmen helped at odd jobs around the site Tuesday in an attempt to hasten the job.

It was quite a show. Mrs. Dorothy Ebgelhart, club secretary, said there were several hundred registered visitors.

Tuesday afternoon was supposed to be the climax, the unearthing and removal of the 24-inch-long head and part of the neck. But the diggers had to start chiseling as the shale became harder. One by one onlookers departed as darkness came.

Finally Larry, Gene and Hal, who had been in on the find and wanted to be on hand for the climax, had to give up. The three-hundred-pound head and part of the neck still couldn't be budged.

Mr. and Mrs. Rezak, who donated the find to the museum and who have been delighted by "all the company," said they will be almost as sorry as the children to see Piesy leave.

Earlier Tuesday, Mr. Rezak had an agricultural census taker call at his home.

For a moment he pondered whether to add to the list of his acres, cattle, hogs, chickens another item—one each Plesiosaur, 40 feet long.

Mr. and Mrs. Rezac and oldest son, Gene . . . watch diggers at work on family pet.

Dec. 5, 1964

Valparaisans' Fossil May Bear Their Name

A Valparaiso farm family may have a 120-million year old fossil sea serpent named after them.

University of Nebraska scientists said that the 400-foot long fossil recently found on a farm near Valparaiso probably is the first of its species ever found.

If it is a new species, Dr. C. Bertrand Schultz, Director of the University's State Museum, said he will propose that the species be named "Rezaci," after the Rezak family on whose property the fossil was excavated.

University scientists, under the direction of Dr. Schultz, are working to determine its genus and species. It already has been determined that the animal is a member of the Plesiorsauria sub-order of the Reptile class.

11-25-1964

Rock and Clock Too Much . . . Another Day Needed to Finish Off 'Plesie'

By JOHN LEE
Outstate Nebraska Bureau

Valparaiso — Shades of night fell Tuesday and "Plesie" still rested in peace.

By flashlight, Larry Martin, "The Baby Sitter," took a last whack at the chisel, then decided to give in to the surrounding darkness and the chill that engulfed the narrow valley.

Larry, getting his nickname from his fellow workers for the loving care he has shown toward the plesiosaurus fossil, had been chipping away at the black slate around the prehistoric reptile all afternoon.

He had hoped to get the final 53-inch piece of the 40-foot reptile's skeleton out before he went home to Bartlett Wednesday for Thanksgiving vacation.

Larry's a junior at the University of Nebraska, working on courses in geology, anthropology and paleontology, and "Plesie" is his main project.

Dr. C. Bertrand Schultz, director of the University's State Museum, had been there, too, earlier in the afternoon, working alongside his student on the meticulous chipping process. He had returned to the campus to deliver a lecture.

Cameras Can't Wait

With the announcement that the last section of "Plesie" — the local kids' nickname for the attention-getting Plesiosaurus skeleton —would be resurrected in the afternoon, newsmen had been crowded around the hole, cameras in focus, for the eventful moment.

That not coming according to schedule, most had taken their equipment and left.

The ten Oak Ridge school children and their teacher, Mrs. Marie Dunlap, had declared a holiday for the rest of the day, after watching the digging intently for a couple hours, and had gone home.

Adolph Rezac and his family, on whose farm "Plesie" rests, had gone to take care of the chores.

Members of the Lincoln Gem and Mineral Club, intensely interested in the final unearthing since they had handled the lion's share of the excavating, had stood by and taken turns with the rock picks most of the afternoon, but with little to do but watch, had also grown tired and departed.

Hal DeGraw, the conservation survey worker who, along with two colleagues, Phil Emery and Charlie Osborn, had discovered the skeleton a year ago when Phil sat down on

Continued: Page 6; Col. 5

Long Rest Bit Longer For Fossil

Continued From Page 1

a vertebrae, waited and helped dutifully until darkness fell, then left.

Gem Fans Stay On

As the last light of day disappeared from the western sky, only five were left — Martin, Gene Eno, field trip chairman of the Gem and Mineral Club, assisting with the digging, clubmember Mrs. Norma Miller holding the flashlight, and two newsmen doing odd jobs and attempting to cheer the weary workers.

The coffee was gone, three lonely apples had been split up among the workers and spectators, DeGraw's carrot sticks left over from dinner had been passed around, and "Plesie" was still firmly fixed in the toughest bed of shale the workers had run into on the project.

With great disappointment, Martin declared he was going to let the monster wait until another day.

Eno volunteered to chip away the final barrier on Saturday, and Mrs. Miller agreed to assist.

Fearing damage by vandalous grave robbers, Dr. Schultz, Eno, Lloyd Tanner and some stalwart club members planned to return to finish the job Wednesday.

The reptile was carefully covered to protect him from the elements, the warm fire extinguished, picks and shovels gathered up, and the diminutive group trudged up the steep creek bank.

So "Plesie"—the part of him that hasn't already been transported back to the University—still lies in his creek-side grave.

But what is another day to a monster who has lain so comfortably in the same spot for 120,000,000 years?

Joint Effort Unearths Giant Sea Fossil

By BOB SCHREPF
Star Staff Writer

A 120-million-year-old fossil, described as a marine reptile with a body shaped like a turtle and a dinosaur-shaped head, has been unearthed at the Adolph Resak farm northwest of Valparaiso.

The skull and a portion of the twenty-foot neck of the sea serpent were uncovered Tuesday afternoon bringing a joint effort by University of Nebraska scientists and the Lincoln Gem and Mineral Club near an end.

The workers encountered some hard shale late Tuesday afternoon and were forced to put off completion of the task until later, probably Saturday.

Dr. C. Bertrand Schultz, director of the University of Nebraska State Museum, identified the fossil as a plesiosaurus, a strictly marine specimen that lived during the Cretaceous period, during which Nebraska was inundated by a shallow sea.

Excellent Find

Dr. Schultz termed the discovery "an excellent find".

"We have been trying to find a plesiosaur for many years. We are very happy," he said.

The giant serpent fossil measures almost forty feet in length, and it could have weighed as much as twenty tons when alive, Dr. Schultz observed. He noted that although the plesiosaur was related to dinosaurs, it also is related to snakes that inhabit the earth today. The serpent assumed its marine habitat when it was forced from land areas because of an "animal population explosion".

Discovery of the fossil was made last fall during a routine survey by Hal DeGraw of the Nebraska Geological Survey, along with Charles Osborne of the Bureau of Reclamation and Phil Emory of the United States Geological Survey.

STAR PHOTO

DR. SCHULTZ . . . inspects head of unearthed plesiosaurus.

After initial digging, university scientists and other volunteers found that the fossil extended back into the creek bank more than forty feet.

It is estimated that at least twenty tons of earth was removed from the site, much of it excavated with a tractor driven by farm owner Resak's son, Gene.

Dr. Schultz said that this was an unusual discovery for Nebraska, because the fossil was so complete. The skull, vertebral column and one of the four "flippers" have been uncovered so far, he said.

Plesiosaur fossils have been found in Kansas, according to the nationally-recognized paleontologist, but the only evidence found in Nebraska until now was part of a fossil discovered at the Greenhorn Limestone Quarry at Garland, about ten years ago.

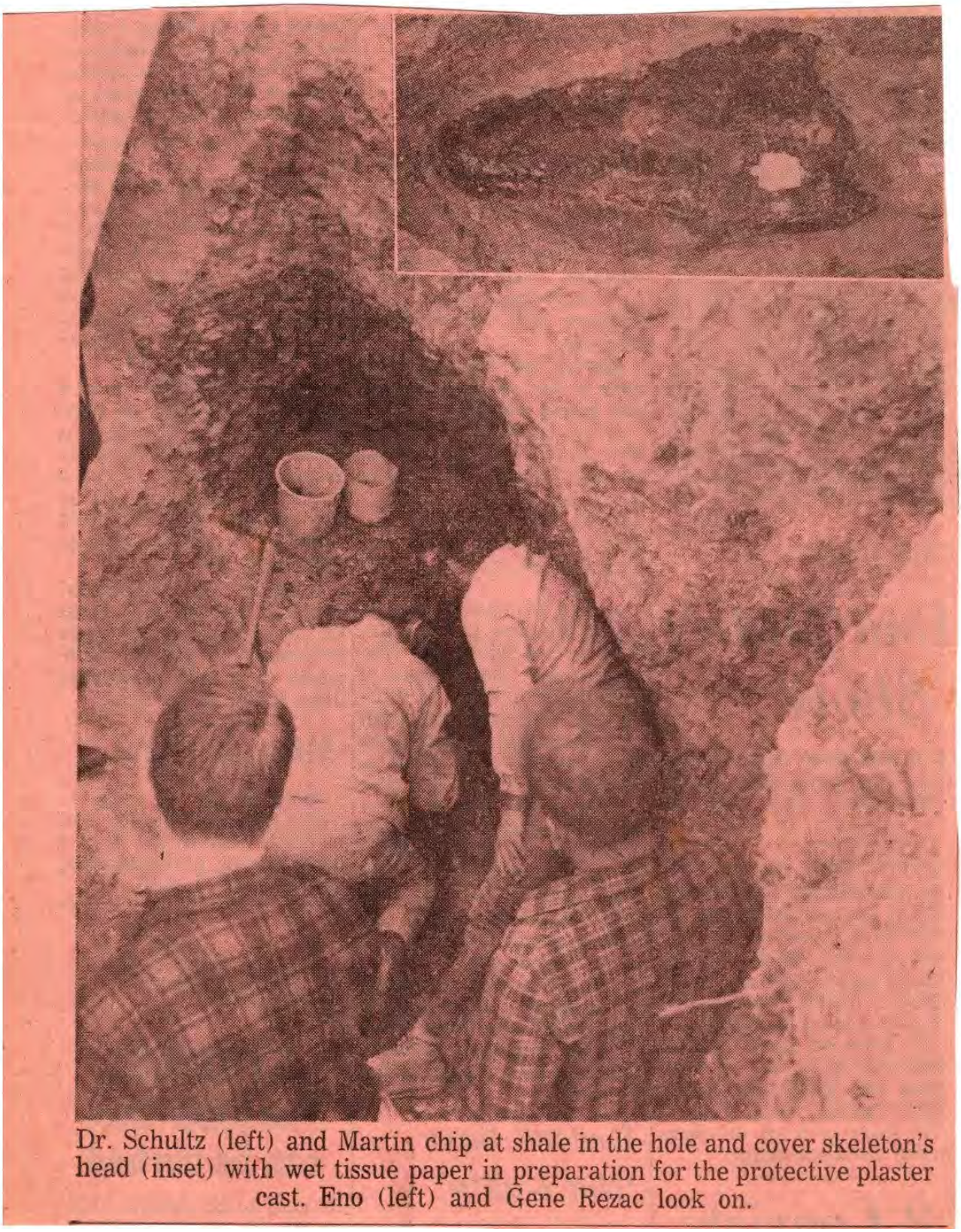
Museum personnel give the Lincoln Gem and Mineral Club much of the credit for removing the huge fossil from its bucolic graveyard. Faced with a shortage of time and funds, university scientists could not go ahead with the project until the Lincoln group enthusiastically volunteered its efforts.

"If it hadn't been for them, the fossil would still be in the ground," Dr. Schultz said.

The club's field project chairman, Gene Eno, said that club members, the university and the Resak family together put in more than one thousand man-hours on the project. Much of the supervisory work was done by Larry Martin, University of Nebraska undergraduate student from Bartlett.

Dr. Schultz said that the plesiosaur will be fully restored and put on display in Nebraska's world-famous museum.

11-25-1964



Dr. Schultz (left) and Martin chip at shale in the hole and cover skeleton's head (inset) with wet tissue paper in preparation for the protective plaster cast. Eno (left) and Gene Rezac look on.

Serpent To Live Again

Mounting At University Is Under Way

By HAROLD SIMMONS

Now that the 120-million-year-old sea serpent has been removed from its bed of rock near Valparaiso, the long and tedious task of cleaning and mounting it has begun.

The fossil, removed in sections encased in plaster of paris, is at Nebraska Hall on the University of Nebraska campus.

Dr. D. Bertrand Schultz, director of the State Museum, and members of the Lincoln Gem and Mineral Club are slowly scraping the skeleton clean of rock and dirt and shellacking the bones.

Tuesday they had the head and neck of the reptile, about 20 feet long, laid out in four sections. Vertebra of the neck were clearly visible and the head and jaw were cleaned sufficiently to show teeth about two inches long.

Dr. Schultz said that when the skeleton had been cleaned it would be mounted and kept for study.

New Species?

He said they are not positive of the genus and species of the reptile because it hasn't been uncovered enough to know exactly what it is.

He said he didn't know if it is a new species, but it is the first of its kind found in Nebraska.

However, if it is a new species, Dr. Schultz would probably follow the tradition of scientists naming newly discovered species and name it "rezaci" after the Adolph Rezac family on whose farm the reptile was found.

Mrs. Rezac said that naming the sea serpent after them would be "just fine."

Club Lauded

Of members of the Lincoln Gem and Mineral Club who have helped throughout the project, Dr. Schultz said, "Without them we wouldn't have had it out of the ground."

"And," he said, "without them we couldn't have had the reptile prepared this far."

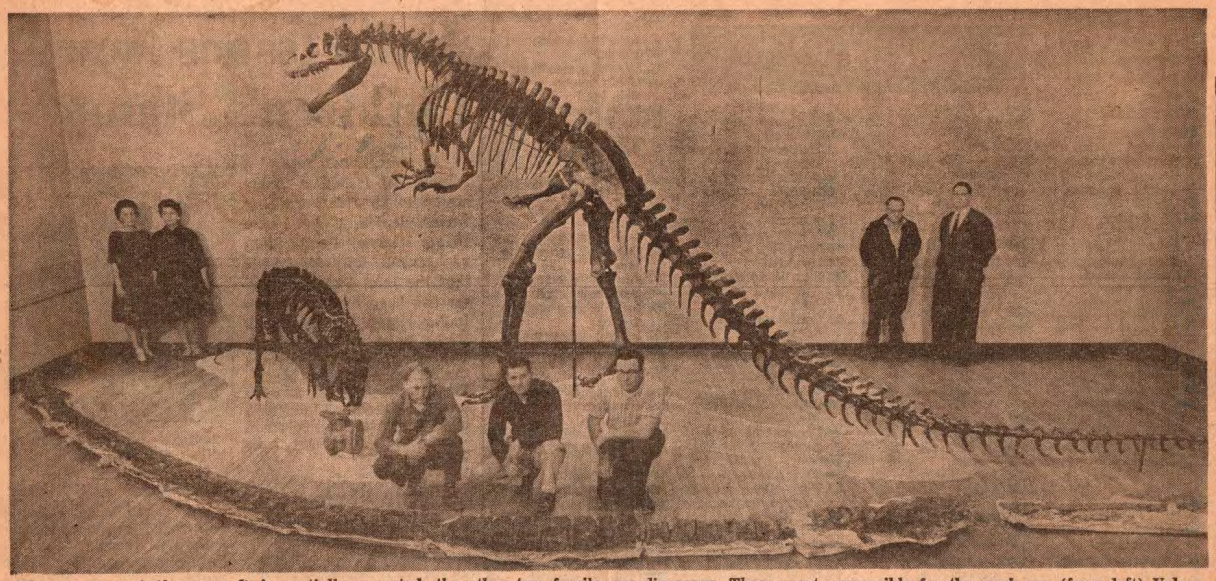
Gene Eno, field trip chairman of the club, said that during the past month about 45 members have worked on the project.

Some of the female members, such as Mrs. Velma Bloyd of 2818 No. Cotner, hired baby-sitters so they could help.

Eno said that during the time the sea serpent was roaming what is now Nebraska, this area was a shallow, tropical sea inhabitated by sharks, fish and other sea life.

He said the fossil of a fish 10-12 feet long, similar to the present-day tarpon found off the coast of Florida, was found near the reptile.

They also found a jaw bone of an unidentified animal, possibly another sea serpent, teeth of sharks and one layer of soil composed of small fish fossils, scales and invertebrate fossils.



The sea serpent (foreground) is partially mounted, the other two fossils are dinosaurs. Those most responsible for the work are (from left) Velma Bloyd and Dorothy Englehart, Lincoln; Ivan Burr, Don and Larry Martin, University preparators, Norman Engelhart and Gene Eno, Lincoln.

Sea Serpent Goes On Display Today

A number of special exhibits will be open to sightseers on the University of Nebraska campus during the days preceeding and following Christmas and New Years.

For the first time Sunday, the recently excavated 40-foot sea serpent discovered at Valparaiso, will be placed on display for the public at the University of Nebraska State Museum.

The 120-million-year-old fossil is mounted with two dinosaurs on the second floor of the museum. The hours: 1:30 to 5 p.m. Sunday; 8 a.m. to 5 p.m Tuesday through Saturday, with the exception of Christmas and New Years.

A special sky show, "Star of the Wise Men," will be presented at 2:30 and 3:45 p.m. today, and at 8 p.m. Wednesday at the Mueller Planetarium.

A selection of contemporary religious art will be hung in the Sheldon Memorial Art Gallery. The hours: 2 to 5 p.m., Sunday; closed Monday, Christmas and New Years; 10 a.m. to 10 p.m., Tuesday; 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., Wednesday, Thursday and Saturday.

An exhibition of the history of archeology in Nebraska will be shown at the Nebraska State Historical Society. The hours: 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. weekdays; 2 to 5 p.m., Sundays; closed Christmas and New Years.

Martin and Eno . . . excavate 120-million-year-old reptile for the State Museum.

Rare Fossil Reptile Found At Valparaiso

A reminder that Nebraska was once inundated by an ancient sea has come to Valparaiso residents this week as a rare fossil reptile is being excavated near the community.

Thanks to the work of the Lincoln Gem and Mineral Club, the University State Museum will receive the specimen for eventual display.

Dr. C. Bertrand Schultz, museum director, described the 120-million-year-old fossil as a marine reptile with a body shaped like a turtle and a dinosaur-shaped head. Approximately nine feet of tail and paddle have been excavated and removed.

The 125-member Club is working in shifts near Oak Creek north of Valparaiso under the direction of University paleontologists. The fossil is embedded in a shale and limestone formation exposed by a cut in the creek bank.

Schultz explained that the reptile is a rare find and that it will be the first of its species to be displayed in the Museum.

The fossil was discovered during a routin survey by Hal DeGraw, Nebraska Geological Survey, with Charles Osborne of the Bureau of Reclamation and Phil Emory of the United States Geological Survey.

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Restoring Sea Serpent at NU Museum Is Painstaking Task

Cleaning and preparing the skelton of the sea serpent is a painstaking task requiring much tim and patience. *In Photo 1*, Lincoln Gem and Mineral Club members (from left) Don Martin, Gene Eno and Ivan Burr gently raise the top half of the cast encasing part of the reptile's neck. *In Photo 2*, Ms. Perry Miller cleans and shellacs the neck vertebra. *In Photo 3*, the head is scraped clean, revealing the jawbone and teeth. And *in Photo 4*, the20-foot neck of the reptile is laid out in sections.

JAN 1, 1992
WORLD HERALD

Rock Hounds on Trail of Gems

By Gene Hornbeck
Outdoor Recreation Editor

Man's innate fascination with minerals, metals and fossils attracts thousands of people to the hobby of rock-hounding in Nebraska and the nation.

Roger Pabian, a professor in the Conservation and Survey Division at the University of Nebraska in Lincoln, said the hobby is popular.

"I don't think there are quite as many people involved in the rock and mineral clubs in Nebraska as there were 10 or 15 years ago, but those who are involved are much more active," Pabian said. "The Lincoln Gem and Mineral Club had about 120 members around 1980 and there are about 80 today."

Agate Collection

Pabian, who might be considered a professional rock hound, is a geologist who concentrates on agate in his personal collection.

"Agate, petrified wood, jasper and chalcedony in the quartz family are all fairly common in Nebraska and collectors can come up with some good quality specimens," he said. "Sioux and Dawes counties have some good agate and there is also a lot of the Lake Superior type agate found in southeast Nebraska.

"The most colorful petrified wood I know of in Nebraska comes from Duel County," Pabian said. "The Niobrara River Valley has a quite a bit of wood as well. It usually ranges in color from light gray to black."

Janet Wright, an instructor in the NU geology department, said rock-hounding is very popular with youngsters.

"I think the easiest people to get interested in collecting rocks are boys ranging from about 9 to 14 years of age," she said. "There is something about collecting rocks that appeals to them and I've seen quite a few get really involved in the hobby. I also believe that although many youngsters abandon the hobby for some time, they eventually return to it when they get older.

"Collecting rocks and fossils can be as involved as one wants to make it because of the tremendous array of material involved," Mrs. Wright said.

Fossil Deposits

Pabian said the hobby is pursued in a variety of ways.

"Some collectors gather and display the rocks just as they are found," he said. "They may clean them and add a little linseed oil to bring out the color, but they don't do anything else to them.

"Other collectors cut and polish gemstones such as agate and petrified wood they find," Pabian said.

"I really believe the rock hounds should limit their fossil collecting to the invertebrates such as clams and snails. These are commonly found in deposits of limestone or shale in Nebraska.

"The problem we find with amateur collectors is that many are what we call head-hunters," he said. "Some rock hounds only see and pick up recognizable fossil such as the head, jaws and teeth and often leave the rest of the animal there."

Selling and trading is brisk among rock hounds and some find a market for their rocks and minerals, said Ed Pharaoh, the owner of Custom Gems, a retail rock and gem shop in Omaha.

"The market for rocks and minerals changes somewhat every few years," he said. "Right now the crystal-bearing geodes are popular for decorating and display. We also sell quite a bit of cut and polished rock such as petrified wood and agate for bookends, paperweights and other uses. There also is a fairly stable market for jewelry made from these gemstones."

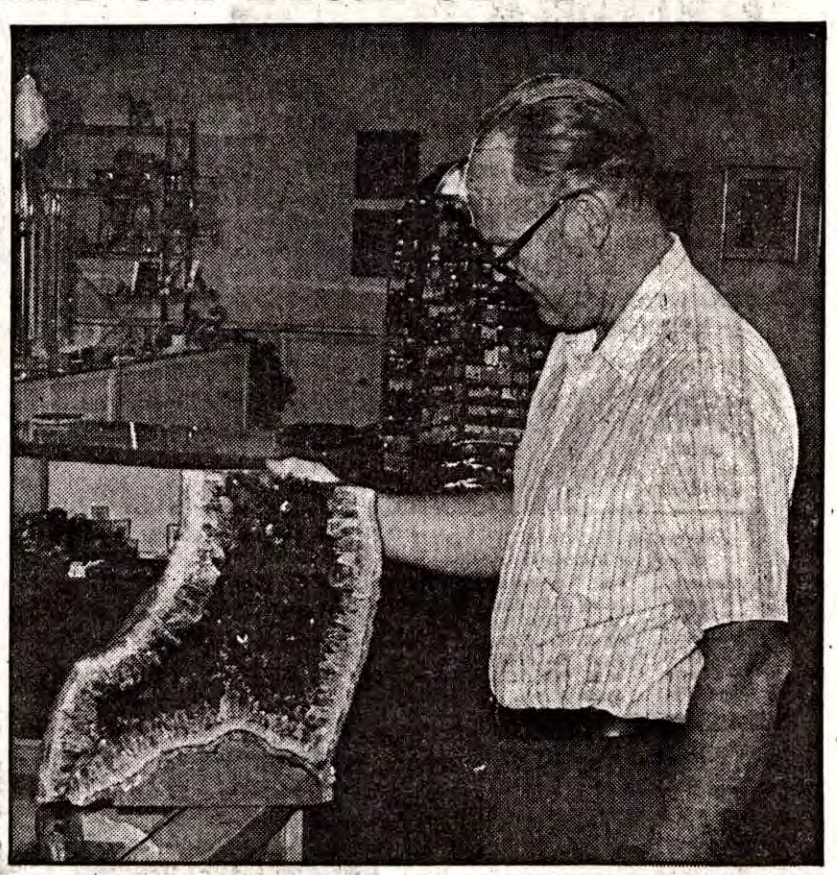
'Natural' for Outdoorsmen

Pharaoh said he has found that the hobby of rock-hounding ties in well with other outdoor activities such as hunting and fishing.

"Rock-hounding is a natural for those who hunt and fish," he said. "They spend a lot of time in areas where they come in contact with a variety of rocks and minerals and the hobby complements hunting and fishing."

Pabian said the Conservation and Survey Division at NU has a number of publications available to guide rock hounds. Details on those publications are available by calling (402) 472-3471 weekdays from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Information on the activities of the Lincoln Gem and Mineral Club is available from Janet Wright at (402) 488-1884. Omaha area fans can call Ed Pharaoh at (402) 397-9606 for details on the Nebraska Mineral and Gem Club.



Gene Hornbeck/World-Herald

Ed Pharaoh holds a geode lined with amethyst crystals from Brazil ... "The market for rocks and minerals changes somewhat every few years," he said. "Right now the crystal-bearing geodes are popular for decorating and display."

Young gem and mineral enthusiasts **Mike Welch** (left) and **Andrew Arnold** of Omaha studied these pictures made from pieces of petrified wood at the Gem and Mineral Show Saturday at the Fairgrounds. The pictures were created by twins Howard and Harvey Kenfield of Ogallala.

Rocks Around the Clock—Up to 6 p.m.—at Fairgrounds

More than 400 ploys for a rock hound's fancy are on display through 6 p.m. today at the State Fairgrounds Exposition Hall.

An estimated 1,500 spectators began the visual tour of Lincoln Gem and Mineral Club's 15th annual gem show Saturday. Groups from Omaha, Shelton and other parts of Nebraska were there to wheel and deal with dealers from as far away as Texas, California and Oregon.

Rock hounds, known for their propensity to travel for special rock finds, spoke Saturday of their fear that traveling times may be increasingly limited as the predicted gas shortage becomes a reality.

Fuel shortages will "certainly change the aspects of field trips," said Lincoln Gem and Mineral Club President Roger Pabian.

More Chartering

Pabian looks for more travel in large groups — more trips with five or six to a car instead of two or three, and more chartering of buses.

Traveling in large groups, he says, has the advantage of lower cost, but the disadvantage of slowness and the problem of landowners who often don't want large groups on their property.

Show Chairman Ralph Ulrich thinks the fuel problem will cut the number of people who travel across country by camper. Local collectors will be spending more time exploring gravel pits and river banks in Nebraska and less traveling out of state, he predicts.

"There's just as much collecting in Nebraska as in Colorado," he says. "The only reason you go to Colorado is to collect something different."

Getting that something different, he and Pabian agree, may soon mean more trading by mail. Some goes on now, they said. Or it might mean more rock swaps like the one the Lincoln group is planning for this August.

May Be Fewer

The fuel problem is real for people out in Shelton, too, but Harold Liggett of the MidState Rock Club came on down to Lincoln, anyway. He ventured a guess that some of the longer trips he and his group make — to South Dakota, Wyoming, Kansas and Texas, for instance — will be fewer than in the past.

Lincoln area rock hounds are fortunate, in the shadow of a fuel crisis, to have the prestigious national Gem and Mineral Show coming to their very doorstep next year.

The 1974 show, according to Ulrich, will be worldwide in scope. It will take four large fairgrounds buildings with some 112,000 sq. ft. of usable space to house it.

600 Camping Sites

Planners project that 35,000 to 40,000 people will attend and those who travel from distances afield will need some 600 camping sites.

So while the sand painting and the petrified wood pictures, the fossil sculptures and the jade carvings are special treats at this year's show, planners can assure that there's lots more to come next year.

Sept 30, 1962

Gem of a Mineral

Howard (Jim) Taylor Jr., 16, mounts $2,000 cocoa diamond he and his grandfather, Jacob Frick, found at Mufreesboro, Ark., in August. The 3½-karat, 48-sided diamond is now on exhibit at the Gem and Mineral show at the National Guard Armory. Jim is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Howard Taylor Sr., 910 New Hampshire. Today's show at 1776 No. 10th is from 10 a.m. to 9 p.m.

Rock Fans to Display $2,000 Diamond 'Find'

One of the most interesting displays to be found at the Lincoln Gem and Mineral club show Sept. 29 and 30 is a $2,000 uncut diamond found in a field in Arkansas by the Howard Taylor family of 910 New Hampshire.

The Taylor family, which includes two children—Jim, 15, and Susan, 9, — and their grandfather Jacob Frick, Sr., vacationed last summer in Arkansas and Texas on a rock hunting expedition.

A favorite site for many rock collectors of the South is the Crater of Diamonds at Murfreesboro, Ark. The crater is a piece of land owned by Howard A. Miller of Murfreesboro, who charges $1.50 for the right to hunt for diamonds all day. It is the only place in the United States where diamonds are found.

It was at this crater that the Taylors found their 48-sided brown diamond which, at about the size of a pea, is valued at $2,000. The largest diamond ever found at the crater is the "Star of Arkansos" valued at $85,000.

The Taylors have been members of the Lincoln Gem and Mineral club for about two years and have one of the finest "rock hound" collections in the city. Taylor has cutting and polishing equipment in his basement and turns many rough rocks into gem displays.

The annual gem show, expected to draw hundreds of rock and gem fanciers and collectors from all parts of the Midwest, will be held at the National Guard Armory, 1776 No. 10th, from 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. on the 29th and 30th.

Besides the many gem displays, there will be cutting and polishing demonstrations for the novice gem fans. President of the Lincoln club is John Lewis of 6225 Judson.

Jim Taylor, 15, a Lincoln high student, points to the pea-sized $2,000 diamond which will be shown at the Gem and Mineral club show. (SUN Staff Photo)