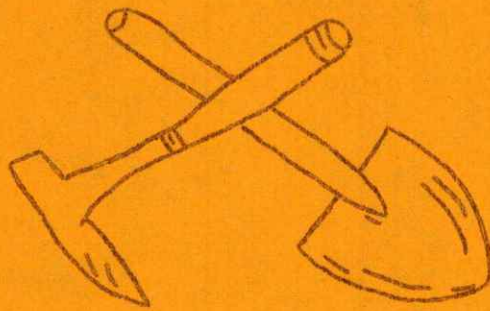


THE PICK & SHOVEL



LINCOLN GEM AND MINERAL CLUB, INC.

Lincoln, Nebraska



LINCOLN GEM AND MINERAL CLUB, INC.

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 Corresponding Secretary. Mrs. Frances Tracy
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* * *

MEETINGS - Third Monday - September through May

* * *

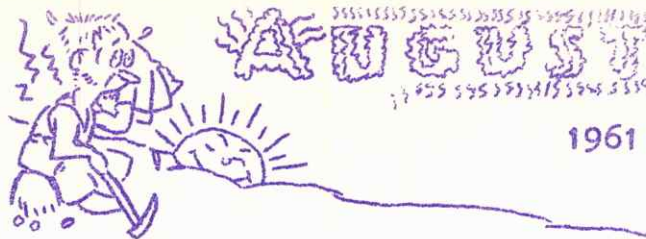
Affiliated with:

Midwest Federation of Mineralogical and Geological Societies
 Rocky Mountain Federation of Mineralogical Societies

* * *

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 3601 South Street
 Lincoln, Nebraska

Telephone IV 8-5341



THE PICK & SHOVEL

VOL. 2, NO. 8

LINCOLN, NEBRASKA

THE PRESIDENT'S PAGE

Dear fellow rockhounds,

It is just two months until the annual rock show. I hope you all are getting your material and cases ready to display. We still have plenty of those small 12" x 14" cases for sale, only \$1.00 each, glass and all. I will have them at the picnic this month, so if you have not gotten yours yet, you can pick them up at that time.

Another picnic seemed like a good idea, so we have scheduled one for Saturday, August 19, at 6:30 p.m. in Pioneer Park. We will have a swap table set up, so if you have something you'd like to trade bring it with you.

I will have the show tickets at the picnic, so you who want to get started on your advanced sales can get busy. I have printed up around 1000 this year, and if every one would sell at least 10 this would take care of most of these. Even if we don't sell all of them, just asking people to buy one will be good advertisement.

If you haven't made your reservation at Fort Robinson for the Labor Day field trip, better do it now. There is really some beautiful cutting material up there.

The Tracys and Gibsons took a hurried trip to Kansas in July and hunted in the chalk beds in the western part of the state. We picked up some nice pyrite concretions, a few sharks teeth, wood, and a little common opal. For the time we had, we felt the trip was very successful.

Don't forget--Saturday, August 19, at 6:30 p.m., Pioneers Park, cover dish picnic and swap table.

Rockspectfully yours,

R. D. Gibson

P. S. - We will plan to use the shelter house in the far west end. Cross over the bridge, to the last parking area. If it should rain and you are in doubt whether the picnic will be held call IV 8-9474 or IV 8-5341 for confirmation.



SATURDAY - AUGUST 19

PICNIC - PIONEERS PARK - 6:30 p.m.

SWAP TABLE

SEPTEMBER

Field Trip
Labor Day Week End - Fort Robinson

SEPTEMBER 15, 16, and 17

Plains Rock and Mineral Club Rock Show
4-H Building at Fair Grounds
Kimball, Nebraska

OCTOBER 7 & 8

Lincoln Gem & Mineral Club, Inc.
Third Annual Show
National Guard Armory
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Mount Rushmore is located in the Black Hills of South Dakota and is properly called the Shrine of Democracy. It is a great tribute to the conception, progress, preservation, and continuation of our American freedom.

Gutzon Borglum is the sculptor of these famous Americans, and to his imagination and great talent we owe this carving in ageless granite. Each visit was a wonderful experience to me and after a great number of visits to view this great work of art, I felt a debt of gratitude to this man and this poem was the result.

THANK YOU, MR. BORGLUM

As I gaze upon Mount Rushmore,
Does he know?
As humanity flows past,
Little children,
Tall men --
Gaze humbly
Upon his creation.
From up there,
A golden seat
Upon a golden stair,
Possibly a stately pine,
A boulder of granite
Standing guard.
Surely Gutzon looks down
With pride in his heart,
And humble, too,
At the joy he gave us
To look upon his masterpiece.

We, who stand, with awe,
With inspiration, with admiration
At such grandeur,
Such splendor,
Such magnificence--
For your masterpiece
We silently thank you,
Silently, each heart.
Surely you, Borglum,
Surely your hand was guided
By the Master's hand.
We pray you know
Somewhere in the Great Beyond,
The memorial to America
Will make us humble, grateful,
We thank you, Mr. Borglum.

--- Marie J. Carveth



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*the
Party
Line*

Dorothy Engelhart read about one man's luck in the "St. Louis Post Dispatch". Kermit Martin, 43 year old gem hunter, has found what some believe to be the world's largest pink sapphire, and the nation's largest ruby. Both stones were found recently in the Cowee Valley gem fields of Macon County, in western North Carolina's mountains.

The sapphire measures three by five inches and is three-quarters of an inch thick. It weighs 14 ounces and when cut, it is estimated the stone will run to more than 2,000 carats. Experts say the largest known cut sapphire is 916 carats. Mr. Martin will study the sapphire for at least six months before he takes a gamble on cutting it as he wants to get the biggest stone possible out of it.

The ruby he plans to cut immediately. While it is 10 ounces heavier and weighs 3,421 carats it shows flaws not apparent in the sapphire.

Dorothy says she would certainly like to have been there. So would we!!

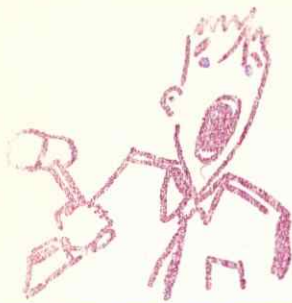
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Bob & Millie Bainbridge have found their first Fairburns. They left one Friday night after work with some friends, traveling all night. After eating their breakfast, and without any sleep, they immediately headed for the agate fields. It had rained and was very muddy so they couldn't get into the area too far. They came home Sunday with some very nice material, in addition to their Fairburns. Now they are really looking forward to the trip over the Labor Day weekend, and we are, too, and hope we find the other half of the chalcedony geode Millie left out there. We really did drool over the half she brought back.

* * *

The Bloyd's spent their vacation in the Black Hills. Their headquarters were at Rapid City. They spent one day at Belle Fourche going up one route and returning by another so they could see more of the country. They, of course, went to Mt. Rushmore. After hearing Dick Hedges talk on "Caves" at our club meeting, they were very anxious to see one, so they went to the Mt. Rushmore Cave, which they found most interesting. Black agate was their main find in the Badlands. They brought back quite a bit for tumbling and a few pieces for sawing. They stopped at the gold mine at Rockerville. This ghost town was very worthwhile to see. They went to Custer National Park and did some swimming at Hot Springs. On their way home they stopped to hunt Fairburns. They had no success in finding any. A dust and sand storm hit that day and sand even got inside their suitcases. They couldn't locate any lodging either at Crawford or Ft. Robinson so seven of them had to sleep in the station wagon. Some experiences!

* * *



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WE'LL ALWAYS GAB AWHILE WITH YOU AND YOURS FRIENDS ?

AMBER LORE
by
Lillian Mihelcic

From the MIDWEST GEOLOGIST, official bulletin of The Midwest Federation of Mineralogical and Geological Societies, Dec. 1960 issue.

Amber may be only a fossil wood but it has been a prime favorite with the peoples of all ages, extending well backward into the vast eons of time before Homer into the present age. Discoveries of amber in the barrows of prehistoric people indicate that it was regarded as valuable and as precious as gold. Here it was frequently found in the form of necklaces seeming to indicate that they were to be used by the owners in the world into which they had passed. These early beads were but lumps of amber with holes drilled through them.

Pliny states that it was regarded as possessing great medicinal value as a preventative of delirium, weak eyes and ailments of the stomach. The original purpose of amber mouthpieces was talismanic--a guard against infection. The ancients were aware of its electrical susceptibilities and gave it the name "electrum".

The Romans considered amber in high esteem as a talisman against danger and witchcraft (a danger considered then even more real than at the present time). These charms frequently took the form of figurines and if the amber contained an insect it was most highly prized.

Certain museums in Europe have in their possession complete cups made of amber. The Chinese frequently make an amber incense. The astrologers are not too positive of the place of amber but in most cases it is placed under the influence of Leo.

Mineralogically, amber is considered a non-metallic, in the same class as petroleum and asphaltum. Frequently a bit of sulfur in certain ambers is found, and at times pyrites are formed in it. Then, of course, there are the entrapped insects, twigs, feathers, and straws. What a study of botany and zoology is possible here!

Amber has been found all over the world. Some of it in the United States, in the green sands of New Jersey, for instance. But the most important source of all is the Baltic shore line, particularly along East Prussia. This amber is known as succinite, a source of succinic acid. It is the favorite trade amber of a yellow color. The ivory colored is known as bone amber. The most colorful is simetite, a Sicilian amber that may be deep red, blue, or green. Rumanite, a Rumanian amber found in carbonaceous sandstone, is frequently iridescent. Burmite amber comes from Burma. Jet, at one time, was considered a form of black amber.

Amber is light, insoluble in water and gives off an aromatic odor when heated. When crushed into a fine powder, it is soluble in sulfuric acid. It can be mixed with alkali to form a liquid soap.

The study of amber might well be the study of the ages.