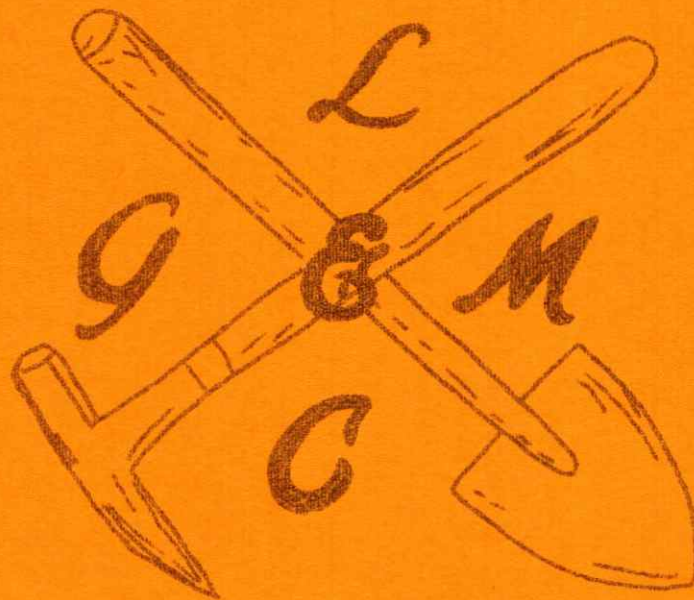


THE PICK & SHOVEL



MONTHLY BULLETIN OF THE
LINCOLN GEM AND MINERAL CLUB, INC.
LINCOLN, NEBRASKA



LINCOLN GEM AND MINERAL CLUB, INC.



- President. John A. Lewis
6225 Judson St.
- First Vice-President Mrs. V. A. Carveth
2526 South 11th St.
- Second Vice-President. Robert Bainbridge
1032 Charleston
- Recording Secretary. Mrs. John A. Lewis
6225 Judson St.
- Treasurer. Mrs. Arthur Bloyd
2818 North Cotner Blvd.
- Corresponding Secretary. Mrs. Maurice Tracy
3601 South St.

* * *

MEETINGS - FOURTH SATURDAY - SEPTEMBER THROUGH MAY
Roberts Dairy Party Room - 211 So. 20th Street

* * *

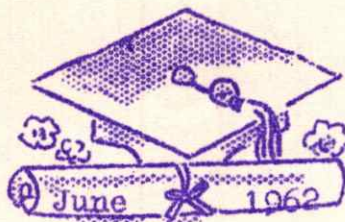
Affiliated with:

- Midwest Federation of Mineralogical and Geological Societies
- American Federation of Mineralogical Societies

* * *

BULLETIN EDITOR - Mrs. Maurice Tracy
3601 South Street
Lincoln, Nebraska

Telephone IV 8-5341

THE PRESIDENT'S PAGE

Dear Fellow Rockhounds;

Tonight as I sat in the 6th grade promotional exercises, and watched this large class, which will be even larger next year, I began to think of how the members in our rock club are all growing, not only in numbers but also in knowledge and skills. The September rock show is our Public promotion exercise to show the world that we are growing in knowledge and skills. I am sure that none of the sixth graders stayed home from this performance with the excuse that they are not important at the sixth grade level because others were going to be at the ninth grade level and some at the twelfth grade and some college. For the time they had spent they had advanced as far as they could have expected. The same is true of our show. No one should fail to display because he has not developed quite as far as someone else has advanced. We must show the world that there must be something to being a rockhound if the classes are so large and everyone is advancing and proud of the level he has reached. Start planning that case soon to show the public that you are on your way up the ladder of rockhounding.

Did you notice at the last meeting that there are still some pretty bare spots on our display map for the Federation show? There is still time to get a few more cabs on this map. Let's make our first effort a good one.

Rock hunting time is really here for sure now. Before you make that trip take a few minutes to check your equipment and practices. There are lists of "Do's and Don'ts" that are valuable to you, provided you don't feel that they were made just for the other fellow. Most important, I believe, is our own attitude toward rock collecting. Do you take unnecessary chances or rush in where angels fear to tread? Don't spelunk without proper equipment or training. Have you sufficiently instructed small children of the dangers before you reach the hunting grounds? Do you know your own strength so that you will not over exert in the field? And if something does happen are you equipped to handle the emergency with your first aid kit? Let's all have an enjoyable summer and come back with lots of terrific stuff to show at the rock show in September.

John A. Lewis



FIELD TRIP - SUNDAY, JUNE 24, 1962

We will have a basket dinner, family style, at 1:00 p.m. at the Fremont City Park. The park is located a few blocks north of the bridge on the main highway from Lincoln to Fremont.

At 2:00 p.m. we will leave by caravan to the gravel pits. Be sure you are there to leave with us because the gates are locked and you will miss out on this trip.

Just a reminder - Please stay away from the machinery. We would not like to have this area closed to us. Also adults and children must stay off the sand extending into the lakes. These lakes are very deep in spots so please be careful - we would not want a tragedy to happen to any of you or your family.

* * *

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ROCKY NUGGETS

Floyd Fellows and Jim York went to Red Oak, Iowa the week end of May 26. They met a fellow rockhound, Jerry Darrell, who belongs to the Red Oak Rock Club. Rice agate and beige, white, pink and brown agate were some of the items brought back. Found also was chert nodules and Lipa-don-drom wood. This wood is a fern wood located in coal mines. It is in the fossil class. Anyone interest in seeing it may stop over and see Floyd.

Clyde Benham went to Bridgeport, Nebraska and found some beautiful dendritic opal at an opal mine. He is also working on a 30x40 Jade cab for a brooch.

Has anyone seen Dick Hedges new rock scoop? He has a mountain climbers pick that has a two curved blade on one side, similar to the rock scoop, other side is a pick like a Geologist's pick. On the end of the hickory handle is a spike which could be used for working in voids. A handy tool for any rockhound to have.

If you have any rock news - call us.

Velma Bloyd
Dot Englehart

ID 4-4781
IV 8-5383

* * *

NOTICE! Many rockhounds use acid in cleaning specimens, and many do this cleaning in or around laundry tubs where bleach is also used. In view of this I feel that the following Illinois Bell Telephone Co. safety bulletin would be of interest.

WITCH'S BREW

Household bleach, sold under various trade names, is a solution of sodium hypo-chlorite. If any acid substance is added, it will release poisonous chlorine gas.

Re cently, two cases were reported where housewives were using a well-known toilet bowl cleaner. Not satisfied with the way the cleaner was working on stains, each of these ladies added some household bleach and stirred the mixture with a toilet bowl brush. Death came in a few minutes to one of these women--the other, younger, survived but needed a long period of hospitalization and treatment.

THIS COULD HAPPEN TO YOU OR ANY MEMBER OF YOUR FAMILY. To be sure that you NEVER combine cleaners and bleach, keep them stored in separate places--and keep both well away from food storage and medical supply areas. (Vinegar and other acids will also liberate chlorine gas from bleach). NEVER let children play with such compounds--they might accidently combine the two and add them up to tragedy.

(From "Home Safety", National Safety Council. Submitted by Jim Konecny and published in the monthly bulletin of the Earth Science Club of Northern Illinois.)

THE MINERAL LIGHT
by Dick Hedges

Are you going to the big show in Des Moines this summer? If you aren't you sure are going to miss a good time. I may be able to help a little to make the trip a little more fun. First the show, take along a few specimens of Nebraska minerals like horn coral, calcite and quartz crystals etc. and trade with those you meet. I like to go up to a total stranger who is not busy and just start talking rocks. Remember, he will be more interested in telling you about his favorite collecting sites and stones than hearing about yours. You know you often hear about good sites and consequently you get a larger collection. Also look the cases over for the ways that appeal best to you so you can make your case look better at our show.

Now about collecting in Iowa. Geodes are the big item in the mineral line. I have about ten or more different minerals in geodes I have dug, yes dug, from Iowa. The easy way to collect geodes is to take off your shoes and just wade in the creeks but the best geodes are the ones you dig yourself. Go just about any place in south east Iowa and get off the main roads and drive until you see a few rocks in a creek and then get out and wade or walk a little ways up the creek looking for water worn geodes. If there are any geodes in the creek there is a shale site upstream and all you have to do is hike up the creek to it. Then dig and sweat a little.

The best tools to dig geodes with are a big pick or mattock, a rock pick, a real small hammer and every small cold chisel you can find. Look for a natural crack and chisel along it. One or two good whacks are better than a lot of little ones. Also if the geode is for sure hollow it will ride better home uncracked than cracked. A shovel is indispensable. Take several stout sacks and a couple of boxes and lots of newspaper to pack those goodies.

I have found quite a few agates walking along the levies along the Mississippi River. Also the graveled roads in south east Iowa usually have a few in them.

Mineral Tip Of The Month - Go to the Des Moines Rock Show and look over all the exhibits and then go home and specialize in only one part of the rock hobby and get really good at that part. Good luck and good huntin'.



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NATIONAL GEM AND MINERAL EXPOSITION
July 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 1962
Des Moines, Iowa

The club has received the following forms:

Copies of the AFMS Uniform Rules as well as Rules for Juniors

MAKE YOUR RESERVATIONS EARLY

Hotel and motel reservation requests - listing the hotels and motels, their rates and map of location

Camping rates -

Tent - 75¢ per night

Trailer - \$1.50 per night

Advance ticket reservations

Adults - Daily rate 75¢

5 day season - \$2.50

Juniors - Daily rate 50¢

5 day season - \$1.65

Banquet reservation - \$4.00

To be held at the Fort Des Moines Hotel on Saturday,
July 28, 1962 at 6:30 p.m.

Seating capacity is limited - reserve early

Please contact me immediately if you are interested in any of the above forms.

Frances Tracy

* * *

The June issue of the Earth Science Magazine will contain the complete program of the combined Midwest and American National Gem and Mineral Exhibition. It is to be one of the finest issues published.

You will be interested also in the August issue as it will have a story about early animals of Nebraska written by Dr. C. Bertrand Schultz, of the State Museum.

The Earth Science Magazine is the voice of the Midwest Federation and published 6 issues each year. As members of the Federation, you are entitled to subscribe at the special club rates, which remain at:

1 year (6 issues) at \$2.00

3 years (18 issues) at \$5.00

You may subscribe through the club treasurer, Mrs. Arthur Bloyd. DO IT NOW, and don't miss the coming issues.

* * *

MIDWEST FEDERATION'S
LETTER - OF - THE - MONTH
for June 1962

Subject: Looking Back, A thank You, and an Invitation!

With this June 1962 issue of "The Letter-of-the-Month" we bring to a close another year of the "Letters"...and over two years of "Letters" during which time I have been your "Letters" editor. I picked up, at the request of our past President Floyd Mortenson, where our friend Gus Brown has left them upon his untimely passing. Gus had fostered the idea some months before and worked hard to put the idea "on the road" with the initial "Letters" of January 1960 thru the June issue of that year.

During these past some 20 issues we have had the wonderful support of many of our officers and friends in the Midwest Federation who have written many fine "Letters". It was the aim of the "Letters" from their beginning to bring a monthly item of interest of Midwest activity to all the members of the vast and growing Federation by the "Letters" either being read at the regular meetings of the various member clubs or printed in their monthly bulletins.

During the past two years, under the guidance of our fine officers and committee workers, the Midwest Federation has now grown to nearly 140 clubs...all united together to make the hobby of rockhounding one of the finest hobbies in the world today. At least two of our members ...Ellis Courter and Joe Bloom...have contributed material of such merit that it will be used by other Federations other than our own Midwest.

I want to take this opportunity to thank all of you who have been so gracious with your copy and have cooperated with our efforts to make the "Letters" of more value to our member clubs. Your suggestions and help is always welcome and you should feel free to offer it to your "Letters" editors. Here too, I want to say a thank you to our Federation Secretary, Katharine Steinbrenner, who has helped so much with the mailing of these "Letters" during this past year.

As most of you know, all of us here in Des Moines are looking forward to one of the finest conventions ever...the combined American and Midwest Federations Convention on July 27 thru 31. It promises to be a real TOP gem and mineral exposition. The host society, The Des Moines Lapidary Society, has left nothing undone to make it TOPS in every respect. All of us here in Des Moines are looking forward to this great show and to meeting and greeting the many, many rockhounds from all over the nation.

And now in closing, may I on behalf of all the Midwest Federation officers and Committee chairman, wish you a summerful of real old fashioned rockhound enjoyment and the hope that we may see you in Des Moines in late July!

Rockhoundingly yours,

Haydon Peterson
Editor LAM

KNOW YOUR FEDERATION

There are six committees whose duties we have not yet discussed here. These are all in the Service group.

Much has been written about the purpose in setting up Uniform Rules but it will bear repeating. The reason for these regulations for exhibiting and judging is to establish a standard that will be the same in Maine or California, Alaska or the Canal Zone. If you are visiting a show anywhere in the United States, operating under the U-R, and wish to enter the competition you will know that the rules are the same as you are accustomed to at home.

Regional federation shows using the U-R are privileged to carry the "AFMS Certification" on their ribbons. No mineral or gem exposition is forced to use them. The prestige of this certification is reason enough for exhibitors to prefer entering such competitions. In the short time since the Rules were put into practice the "certification" has become a coveted award--a status symbol.

The U-R are adaptable to large or small exhibitions. They permit the addition of special classes which are of purely local interest. Under certain conditions classes may be added but those covered by the U-R may not be changed.

The Federations Liaison Officer keeps in touch with all the regional federations so that he can, if called upon, aid the exchange of information about particularly outstanding services. Examples of this are the reports in March and this issue of the Bulletin.

We sometimes become so engrossed in our own affairs that we don't take time to look around us, or to see how to improve ourselves. We just get in a rut and stay there. The Liaison brings us word from other areas, gives us something new to thank about. These articles may point up a need in our own group that we have not recognized. Sharing your good ideas with others enhances their value. Do you have some to contribute?

Commemorative Stamp Committee. Some years ago it was proposed that the AFMS petition the Post Office Department to issue a stamp honoring some phase of the rockhounds interest. Although several different approaches have been tried, to date we have been unsuccessful in obtaining this objective. We have not been turned down. Neither have we been encouraged.

The committee continues to work diligently, and we still hope to come across the right person, in the right office, who will interest himself in our application.

The Boundaries Committee maintains a map showing the major areas of each regional federation. Each of these organizations has registered its borders with the committee, and abides by the agreement not to solicit membership outside of its designated area. Hawaii is in the California zone, Alaska is affiliated with Northwest, and the Canal Zone belongs to the Eastern.

(Continued)

KNOW YOUR FEDERATION Continued

The International Relations Committee was formed about three years ago. Its purpose is to promote friendly relations with rockhounds and rockhound groups outside the United States.

There is a federation of some 15 clubs in British Columbia and there was some effort made by nearby Northwest societies to support their shows with exhibits, and to organize joint field trips, etc. However, customs regulations were an obstacle that discouraged many people from participation in these activities.

Through the efforts of Al Keen, the first chairman, a report was drawn up on the regulations of both countries for taking displays or collections back and forth across the boundary. Now the committee is extending its efforts to other areas along both the northern and southern borders. Copies of the 1960 report were sent to all regional federation secretaries. As more information becomes available it will be distributed in the same way.

The Show Coordinator. This post was set up to eliminate the overlapping of regional shows. In the past the conventions often came so close on each other's heels that there were only three days between the end of one and the beginning of another. It worked a hardship on dealers whose livelihood depended on these meetings. It also inhibited attendance and in some cases seriously conflicted with representation at the American meeting.

It has taken time to get around to spacing these affairs at least two weeks apart, what with the advance scheduling it requires nowadays to reserve buildings, special exhibits, etc. But we are in the swing of it now and should have no more trouble on this score. The Show Calendar is in each issue of the Bulletin so convention planners can see at a glance what dates have already been chosen.

* * *

*Thank
you*

I wish to thank you for the many get well cards, flowers, visits and for the many other kind and thoughtful things that were done for me and for Frances while I was in the hospital. We both appreciate it very much.

Maurice Tracy