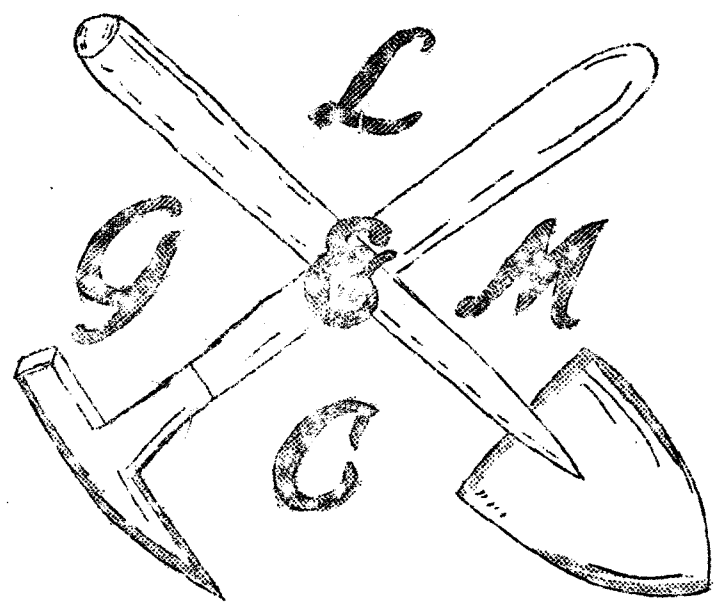


MAY 1963

# THE PICK & SHOVEL



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

LINCOLN GEM AND MINERAL CLUB, INC.

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4130 Witherbee Blvd.

\* \* \*

MEETINGS - FOURTH SATURDAY - SEPTEMBER THROUGH MAY  
Roberts Dairy Party Room - 211 South 20 th

\* \* \*

Affiliated with:

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

\* \* \*

BULLETIN EDITOR - Mrs. Velma Bloyd  
2818 North Cotner Blvd.  
Lincoln, Nebraska

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Articles published in THE PICK AND SHOVEL may be reprinted with no alterations, provided that full credit is given and that two copies of the publication, in which the reprinted article appears, are mailed to the editor of THE PICK AND SHOVEL.

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House Committee . . . . . Robert Bainbridge  
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432-2665

Thomas Simmons  
2970 South St.  
488-1619

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4109 Prescott  
488-9474

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910 New Hampshire  
432-3707

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2640 Everett St.  
423-0652

Dealers . . . . . Tom Simmons  
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488-1619

Admission . . . . . Mr. & Mrs. Clyde Miller  
6623 Cleveland Ave.  
466-7987

Kitchen . . . . . Mrs. Ewald Paul  
3097 "U" St.  
477-2347

These are your show chairmen. They will be calling on you for your support as a committee. If you wish to serve on a particular committee call the chairman, he will be glad to hear from you.

THE PRESIDENTS PAGE

Dear Fellow Members;

If the attendance and the jolly companionship is any indication of an interesting meeting, I am sure our April meeting was such. Our thanks to all and especially to the panel and all who participated.

Our visitors from California will be our program in May. These people are fellow rockhounds, who, we understand will also have swapping material with them.

From the reports coming in some fine plans are being made for the show. Committee chairmen were announced and these chairmen will in turn call on you for your help. Everyone is anxious and interested in the coming show, which is our challenge for the year.

About fourteen cases were shown at the Hobby Fair at the Lincoln Air Force Base. Thanks to those who took time to take cases out there.

A sad note, our friend and fellow rockhound, also a dealer, Mr. Harold Davis passed away on the 1st day of May in Omaha. Our Sympathy to Mrs. Davis.

A wonderful time was had by all attending the first field trip of the season at Fullerton, Nebr. Our thanks to Mr. and Mrs. Bloyd and Mr. C. L. Drew, who permitted the club to enter his grounds to hunt. Some very nice "finds" were made that day, and a good time was had by all attending.

Until the Meeting

Marie J. Carveth



## WYMORE, NEBRASKA

## Celestite, Quartz, Calcite, Barite

Wymore or bust, June 2, 1963, and bust'em you must, for those beautiful blue crystals are found in the hardest of shale. Sources say it lays in the Florence limestone, Grant shale, the Chase group, Permian series.

The beautiful blue celestite crystals is in Calcite and Quartz lined geodes. The crystals are small. Some are thin little snow-flakes, sometimes in little tufts. Perfect sky blue crystals against the frozen white colored background of quartz.

Celestite crystals resemble those of Barite in habit, commonly tabular, nearly perfect cleavage, with an uneven fracture. In color they are white often faint blue and sometimes reddish. The blue color of Celestite has been attributed to the presence of minute amounts of gold.

These blue crystals were reported by Dr. E.H. Barbour in 1903, in Vol. #1 of the Nebraska Geological Survey, but the will of the wisp kept eluding the Omaha Club. They did find them on a Easter vacation in 1957. I am glad they found the pot of gold at the end of the rainbow, to share it with other hobbieists.

According to Dr. Barbour, in his survey, there is a possibility of pink and reddish celestite in nodules at Roca, Nebr.

Other material found there at Wymore is vugs of Quartz crystals, thin shelled geodes (some quite large) with quartz and Calcite crystals. Some of these thin shelled geodes are filled with a off color purple quartz. Have had this tested at the University and they say it is a very poor grade of amethyst. If you wish to call it this as amethyst is a purple quartz.

Come on out and join us at Wymore, Nebraska and hunt to your hearts delight. There is something there for every rock hound.

Dorothy Engelhart

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## OUR "PUBLIC IMAGE"

Perhaps the most valuable asset we, as individual rockhounds, societies, and Federations, can have is a favorable "PUBLIC IMAGE" - which is simply good will; what others think of us. Industry spends millions of dollars every year to achieve this objective.

We can no longer live within our own clubs, our own areas, even our own Federations. We are faced with a constant stream of collecting area closures, of legislation being enacted, or pending, withdrawing areas or regulating collecting by rockhounds. The general public is little concerned by these closures or regulations because they know little about us and, at times, what they do hear is not too favorable.

If we are to continue to have collecting areas available our one best bet is to do everything in our power to increase the general public's opinion of us by engaging in beneficial community activities - and letting people know about it. Many clubs and individuals are already doing this in varying degrees. However, it will require the full cooperation of every member to build up and maintain the image we should have. We know that our members are the finest people on earth - we must convince others of that fact!

Here are some of the ways we can provide beneficial community services and help to increase our stature at the same time:

(1) Actively support the H.E.L.P. -- Help Eliminate Litter, Please -- project. This gives us the opportunity to beautify our country, save us, as taxpayers, many thousands of dollars each year - now being spent to clean up litter, and, at the same time build good will nationwide. PRACTICE IT! Influence others to join in! Use H.E.L.P. stickers to publicize it!

(2) Get behind the AFMS Scholarship Fund. Put in your 2¢ worth at every one of your club meetings. 2¢ isn't much, but multiplied by 50,000 it sure is! The future of our nation depends to a large extent on our trained scientists; and we can help so easily --TELL OTHERS ABOUT IT.

(3) Save your cancelled stamps and turn them in to your club to help provide milk and food for children who seldom have enough to eat. Contact your friends and enlist their aid. Let them know what you are doing. --As a rock hound group.

(4) Engage in all possible community activities. Work with young peoples organizations, science camps, Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, Campfire Girls, all junior groups, etc. Put on displays and programs for any organization requesting it. Work with your public library in setting up educational displays. Identify your club with your museum and help it in every possible way. These are just a few of the ways individuals and clubs can participate in community activities which are beneficial to all concerned. Many are already doing some of these; all should! LET OTHERS KNOW WHAT IS BEING DONE!

A word of caution: Rockhounds know how to conduct themselves on field trips and all other occasions; which should always be as ladies and gentlemen. The hobby has no room for those who do not do so! A careless act or remark may do irreparable harm; it effects not just one individual, but the rockhound hobby as a whole.

OUR "PUBLIC IMAGE"  
(continued )

As a citizen every rockhound has the right to express an opinion on legislation concerning withdrawal or regulation of collecting areas, if he so desires. However, be sure to have all the facts possible. Appoint a committee in your club to ascertain them; confer with other clubs in other areas; with Federation officers; with government officials and any others who might have information. If you then feel that an opinion will serve the best interests of rockhounds everywhere, express it in a courteous manner to the proper person, or persons.

If we have a reputation as a community minded organization, as well as a top-rated hobby group, our opinions will command attention and be more carefully considered; and we can enlist the approval and support of the general public if this seems advisable. Without this we have two strikes on us to start. No Federation can take part in any political activity; individuals can, but this privilege should be used with discretion and only after careful analysis of the problem -- and should represent the consensus of many different opinions, not those of one or two persons.

The highest possible public good will can not be built up overnight; it can not be built up at all if only a handful participate. It will require the full, nationwide cooperation of every member and from now on. Every member and every club can play a vital part in building up our prestige by engaging in the activities mentioned and others as well, and by making them continuous projects. This may not be the full answer to all our problems but it will, without any doubt, go a long way toward solving them. We will have a much better chance of keeping open both private and public collecting areas.

Lets all do everything possible to build up our "PUBLIC IMAGE" and to guard it as a sacred trust; IT MAY BE THE KEYSTONE TO OUR FUTURE.

Al Keen  
Vice-president, AFMS.

\* \* \*

When you find an error in this paper please consider it was put there for somebody's benefit. We try to place something in each issue for everybody and some of our readers are always looking for mistakes, so we even try to please them.

GEMS AND MINERALS  
May 1955

\* \* \*

PETROLOGY -- is the scientific study of rocks, and their mineral and chemical composition.

REAR TRUNK  
May 1963



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ALSO

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SIMMONS RENTAL & LAPIDARY  
SERVICE

# N-Blast Creates New Mineral

Creation of man-made minerals by the fire and fury of an American underground nuclear blast was reported Thursday, March 7, 1963.

And by ironic coincidence one of them is believed to be the artificial counterpart of muscovite -- a form of mica first found in nature many years ago by the Russians. Others included various lead containing minerals.

This nuclear-age variation of alchemy was reported by Leonard M. Gard of the geological survey who said it resulted as an unusual by-product of the Atomic Energy Commission's Project Gnome. This was the detonation of a nuclear device packing the wallop of 3,000 tons of TNT 1,200 feet below the surface in a thick salt deposit southeast of Carlsbad, New Mexico on Dec. 10, 1961.

Experts of the AEC said it was doubtful the new finding, of itself would lead to industrial applications of blast-created minerals. They said the types of minerals that can be created in a salt environment, like the site of the Gnome blast, are apparently limited, but the work demonstrates beyond doubt that strange chemical transformations can be achieved beneath the ground by the high pressures and temperatures of nuclear blasts and that conceivably:

1. Such blasts in materials richer in chemical elements than ordinary salt -- for example, in limestone, which contains nearly a dozen basic chemical elements -- might well lead to "something new and useful" in the industrial line.

2. Chemicals now used in industry might be placed inside a blast site prior to a detonation and converted into entirely new products having different applications.

Gard, a geologist employed at the Denver branch of the geological survey, was one of a group who studied the Gnome site before and after the blast.

In a report in the technical journal "Science" he said the blast produced veins of "black salt containing (manmade) minerals created by the blast" and that the veins resembled ore-bearing veins seen in western mining camps.

The minerals included such things as:

1. Quartz and mica derived from impurities which are present in the pre-shot salt and were caused to fuse with other chemicals under great heat and pressure.

2. Lead minerals, such as lead hydroxide chloride and lead sulfide -- with the lead coming from the melting of lead blocks used in the shot area to measure effects of the detonation. The molten lead then combined with chemicals in the salt.

Referring to the mica, Gard said studies showed it to be a "micaceous mineral -- Probably muscovite."



There is empty feet of space to recieve all the magazines and books from your closets, boockase and basement. All of you are doing that age old task of spring house cleaning. Go over your collection, perhaps some of the material you can share so that others can use it for study and the shear pleasure of reading about our special hobby.

Bring them! All of them! To the meeting so Dorothy Engelhart may put them on the 36 feet of shelves in the Lincoln Gem and Mineral Club library. 30 feet of shelving is waiting to hold them. Theres a truck at the meeting to take them to the library at 4130 Witherbee. The Engelharts residence, to make the adress simpler 42nd and J street. Where the door will swing open with a big welcome to the new and old members alike.

Be the leaders , not the tail of the best educated gem and mineral club members.

**SUPPLY YOUR LIBRARY NOW!**

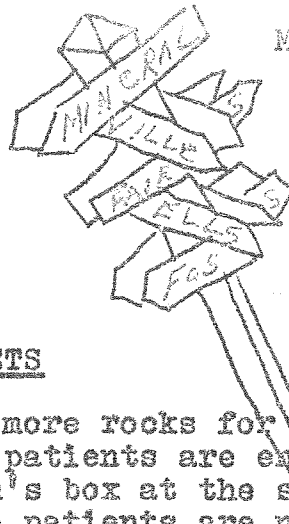
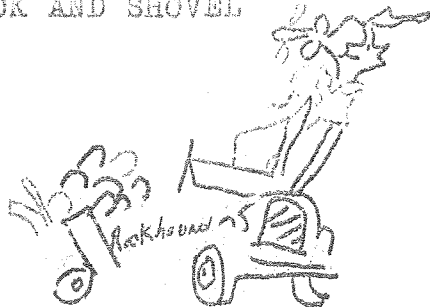
**USE YOUR LIBRARY NOW!**

**YOUR LIBRARY IS ALWAYS OPEN. BUILD NOW FOR THE FUTURE!**

\* \* \*



"A" Dean



### ROCKY NUGGETS

Tom Simmons would like to have more rocks for the State Hospital and from their thank you letter, the patients are enjoying cutting stones. So put a few boulders in Tom's box at the shop. Remember he has a truck, let's fill it up. These patients are not able to have the fun of rocking, so take a tip from Tracy, (He was at Fullerton picking up a few rocks for himself and some for the patients) and pick up some material for them too.

The Lincoln Clubs group project is now on display at the University museum. The University staff artist did our background and I must say he did a beautiful job. Some rockhounds from Stockton, California were there looking at the mineral specimens, our museum has and said it was a beautiful display of Nebraska specimens. The material that was in the case previously will be at the next meeting so it can be returned to you with thanks from the university of Nebraska. Have you taken the time to go see the new cases there? I have and I think you will enjoy it very much.

Wow! What a turn out for our Fullerton Field Trip. There were 89 people on hand this includes members and their families and their guests. Everyone had spring rock fever and before the day was over, those rock piles sure had been stirred up. The overnight campers at the Mormon Trail Park were the Johnsons, Tom Simmons, Mr. & Mrs. Clyde Miller, The Art Bloyds, Marjorie Heedick and the Engelharts. A very nice park for camping and we certainly loved the songs, the frogs and night creatures sang.

Lloyd Lederer, on his trip to the western part of the state found some nice fairburns and some white chalcedony with red spots that he is sure will make some beautiful cabs.

Dr. Gibson had Lloyd Lederer cut one of his first fairburns they ever found. It did not look like much from the outside but when it was cut, it was solid fairburn inside and in beautiful light colors.

Irl Everett made a trip to Chadron and from his letter I will quote, "Stopped there and mudded back into an area about  $1\frac{1}{2}$  miles. We did find about 6 good possible fairburns. Can't really brag till I know for sure." He also found a tomahawk head which is real nice.

Are you working on your ideas for our show? Would like to see quite a few cases there this year.

If you have gone rock hunting, let us know. For if you do not call us, we will be calling you.

Dorothy Engelhart  
488-5383

JUNIOR MEMBERS SPEAK

MY FAVORITE ROCK

My favorite rock is opal. I like it because it is very pretty. It is very pretty because it reflects many colors of light. Over the Opal is a kind of rock. Precious opal is found in Mexico and Australia. I polish it myself with a special sandpaper. Opal is my birthstone. That is another reason for me to like it.

Krista Johnson

\* \* \*

LOST? FOUND!

Found at the last meeting was a mans dress hat . Anyone who misplaced their hat may get in touch with Mr. & Mrs. Maurice Tracy, 488-5341.

\* \* \*

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MIDWEST FEDERATION  
L E T T E R - A - M O N T H  
for May 1963

Subject: GENERAL INFORMATION CONCERNING EARTH SCIENCE  
by: Dr. Ben Hur Wilson

### WHAT IS EARTH SCIENCE?

This is a question that we frequently hear asked, and furthermore just where does the Midwest, or for that matter any Federation come into the picture? This we shall attempt to answer as concisely as possible, while at the same time we shall endeavor to point out the many fine opportunities it affords for the advancement of both individual and community welfare.

It has been stated many times, without serious question, that there is at present, perhaps, no other field of important human knowledge, concerning which there exists such ignorance, among the well educated and cultured class, than there is concerning the fundamentals of ERDKUNDE - earth knowledge.

Not too long ago, should one have mentioned the subject before some sophisticated intelligentsia, ( high-brows to us ), more than likely they would have come back with the query; EARTH SCIENCE, - What is that - never heard of it? Happily, today, due to the splendid promotional efforts of our many fine Earth Science Hobby Clubs and Societies, and our Federations, this is no longer true.

Again we might ask the question, why is Earth Science, including all of its kindred facets one of the fastest growing hobbies in the country today? Some, indeed, may say even the fastest; - now running third only to photography and stamp - coin collecting hobby. If this be true there must be some good reason for its so being, no doubt, there are many. Let us now take a serious look at the picture and make a little retrospective and prospective analysis. Cause and effect one might say.

What is Earth Science you say. I say Earth Science is a comprehensive composite term which embraces all such subjects as are concerned with the physical and dynamic earth. This would include physiography, geography, meteorology and certain phases of the geological sciences including the science of the rocks, the minerals, crystals, fossils, etc. For, their study and employment as an avocational hobby, they have no equal.

It is therefore, one of the broadest of subjects, and by reason of the great breadth and versatility of its content can easily be made one of the most interesting subjects not only in the entire curriculum, but also as a cultural hobby as well. It, too, is a subject which lends itself readily to any and every local situation, and one need not go far away from his own home to find many excellent examples for study. In this respect, it also has for most individuals great carry over value into their actual living experience, which is always one of the best recommendations for any situation.

LETTER - A - MONTH  
( continued )

To begin with, the earth being definitely our home, in a larger sense, for the duration of our natural lifetime, we should come to know it intimately from every possible angle just as we should want to become fully acquainted with our own locality and its physical environment. Through the study of Earth Science, we should arrive at an awareness that we actually know the earth, and likewise into a realization that we are a part of it and it is a part of us, and that we should live in complete harmony with it. This in itself should make for a better and more rational living experience.

Furthermore, we are indebted to the earth for all of our natural resources. In other words, for all that we are, have, or make use of. It is that vast storehouse from which we derive, either directly or indirectly, all our food, shelter, and raiment, as well as our oil, fuel, building materials, and the raw materials for all of our industries. Is it not natural to assume, then, that anyone who goes through life without a true understanding of all this and how it came about, must be unnecessarily handicapped in his thinking and in the method of his attack on and solution of the problem of life? This alone is reason enough for individual interest and the broadening of his living experience.

Without begging the question further, let us make only a few pertinent statements outlining our point of view. These are They:

1. Earth Science encourages the questioning "why?" ( Scientific thinking. )
2. Earth Science develops interest in leisure-time activities.
3. Earth Science develops an interest in nature-environment.
4. Earth Science teaches living on earth, not teaching to live.
5. Earth Science adds through study of new terms, an appreciation of language.
6. Earth Science adds to enriched appreciation of world in which we live.
7. It is a stimulus to "rationalized living" and confines our thinking to things which are tangible.

In closing now let us ask, just where does EARTH SCIENCE Magazine come into the picture. In the first place while it is the official publication of the Midwest Federation, the Federation as such, has not one cent invested in the magazine and therefore, it is no burden upon it. It in itself is published solely as a hobby by six devoted Earth Science enthusiasts, and while it now consistently operates in the BLACK, every dollar of income is placed directly back into the magazine.

**WHY NOT SUBSCRIBE, OR RENEW YOUR SUBSCRIPTION TODAY!**

Dr. Ben Hur Wilson  
406 Graver St.  
Joliet, Illinois

KNOW YOUR FEDERATIONLET'S CALL A SPADE A SPADE

Why should we -- what's in a name, anyway?

A lot. A whole lot. Would you for one moment consider saying, "Johnny" when you're talking about that cute little gal of yours; or call your new split-level a barn? I think not.

Then how come so many of us, ( yes, me too), talk or write about MORRISONITE when we really mean JASPER, from Morrison's Ranch; HERKIMER DIAMONDS when we mean QUARTZ from Herkimer County; APACHE TEARS when we mean VOLCANIC GLASS; LAGUNA when we mean AGATE from Laguna, Mexico?

One may ask, what difference does it make?

A great deal of difference; for example --

1. When your dealer misnames material in his advertising, how will you know what it is he offers for sale?

2. When you describe a show or a display you've seen and admired how can you convey a picture if local nicknames are used?

3. When you correspond, or even talk with a fellow rockhound about his lapidary masterpiece or your lovely cabinet specimen, will either of you understand, for sure, what the other is saying?

4. When the Judges come to examine your display at the show, how many points will they take off your score because of several misnames?

-- And is this problem confined entirely to Mineralogists and mineral specimens? Not at all! -- experienced judges say that their biggest labeling problems arise among lapidary displays; nor is this hard to understand. The Mineralogist has only his mineral specimens to study and know; that's his first interest. But the Lapidary's first concern is his workmanship. Identification of his material can easily become a secondary consideration. ( How well I know )

Now let's not get the idea that the AFMS or your regional, by appointing committees, or through long hours of work, or by any other means, can do anything about it. That's strictly up to each individual. Only YOU can give yourself the knowledge you need to correctly describe and name the material your working on or placing into your collection.

The Federations can, and pestiferously will, keep poking at you about it and keep reminding you, but YOU are the only one in the whole world that can do something; -- and here's how ---

Your regional has been asked to suggest to your local club president that he appoint one or more of your own club's members as a local Nomenclature committee, ( and if he doesn't you get right after him). This committee will be the knowledgeable, old time collectors and/or lapidaries who already know at least half the answers. Their jobs on such committee won't be work - no meetings - no reports; only the one thing they like best, namely looking at and talking about ROCKS.

So you've got a piece of material -- you're not sure just what it is, you take it along to your next meeting and examine it with one of your committee members. If he's sure of its identity and of its correct name, ( and most of the time he will be ), you have got your answer. If he isn't, he'll know another member who may be. And if that fails, your club's (or city's) library can help. After all that has been tried without success, he still can write to his Regional, get the name of a University or similar agency ( list furnished the Regional by AFMS) to

KNOW YOUR FEDERATION  
( continued )

whom you can send the specimen for really authoritative identification.

Note carefully one thing though; YOU are the one that pushes the deal -- and how could it be otherwise? The world's foremost authority could be your next door neighbor, yet if you don't ask him, you learn nothing.

Just think about this a bit -- if your material is worth assembling, cleaning, displaying, cutting and polishing, and then admiring, surely it is worth knowing its name, its correct name, that is.

Take the unknowns one or two at a time as you go along, and first thing you know you'll have it. You'll be able to call your whole collection of specimens by their correct names, same as you do all your other friends.

LET'S CALL A SPADE A SPADE

\* \* \*

UNIFORM RULES

All changes, except for rewording to try to clarify or simplify the rules, were the result of a meeting of the American Federation Committee and all six of the Regional Rules Chairmen in Des Moines; or of suggestions sent in by Regional Rules Chairmen. The suggestions were circulated to all federations and voted upon. The new rules represent the majority vote of all federations.

If you still feel they need improvement, please discuss the matter with your Rules Chairmen (if he has been appointed). He will forward them to the AFMS Rules Committee and to all other Regional Rules Chairmen. Such suggestions will be considered in committee in Oklahoma City in June.

Some of the major changes are;

1. The unit area is now 12 square feet, not over 30" high ( inside measurement).
2. Judging percentages have been adjusted in several divisions.
3. There have been major changes in the Fossil Division.
4. There are two new classes for society competition: Petrified wood and fossils.
5. The micromount judging procedure has been changed so that the judges will pick ten specimens entirely at random.
6. A new lapidary class has been added: Cabochons in commercial mountings.
7. There are two new jewelry classes: Jewelry with faceted stones; Jewelry with cabochons.
8. Labels are no longer required for intarsia, mosaic, or novelties.
9. Numbers with corresponding lists are no longer acceptable for labeling.

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