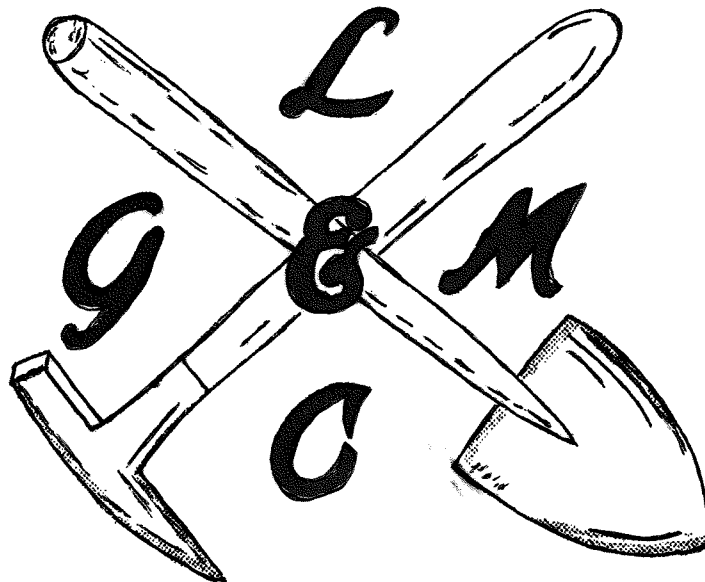


*Dec 1964*

# 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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Historian . . . . .	Mrs. Maurice Tracy 3601 South Street
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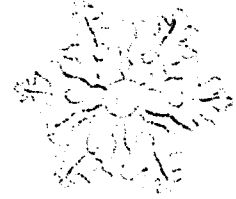
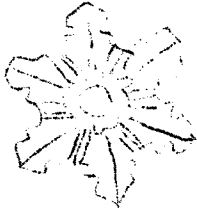
Midwest Federation of Mineralogical and Geological Societies

American Federation of Mineralogical Societies

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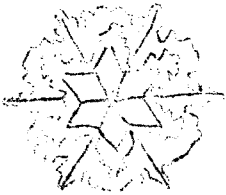
LANDSCAPE IN SNOW

Snowflakes are drifting from heaven  
That frost the landscape today;  
Myriad scenes of real enchantment  
Border long stretches of highway.

Cozy houses are wood blocked in white  
While woodsmoke ascends like prayer;  
The rugged hills wear lacy shawls  
As if in an etching rare.

Old red barns are now magical,  
Tall, bare oaks stand in filigree;  
Pines and hemlocks wearing fine lace  
Are, oh, so beautiful to see.

Cold streams are shining ribbons  
Beneath a pewter-gray sky,  
And the countryside is inspiring  
Now that Christmas snowflakes fly!



- Earle J. Grant

## THE PRESIDENT'S PAGE

Your 1964 elected officers are taking advantage of this page to say "Our hats are off to all who have worked so hard to help us make 1964 a good year." We hope you will agree with us that it has been a good year and the re-election of several of our group make us believe you've been satisfied.

Now, specifically, we'd like to say "Thank you" to each and every person who has helped in any way, whether by acting as Corresponding Secretary, Historian, Librarian, Editor of the Pick and Shovel, or any other appointed chairman of one or more of the committees without which the Lincoln Gem and Mineral Club could not function and progress.

We particularly wish to express our gratitude to the Editor for her tireless devotion toward putting out the best club bulletin possible. We know the membership also appreciates the time she has given to the Pick and Shovel and is sorry that she wishes to pass it along this next year, and hopes that she will have just as great a success of her next project for the club. We, the officers, hope her successor will put as much of herself into the work as the past two Editors have done.

In October our President expressed thanks to all who helped make the 1964 Show a success but we'd like to go on record as saying "Thank you" to those who put in unscheduled hours to replace those who could not function and to those who spent hours making each of our publicized features successful.

Thanks are due the faithful members who have arranged that each meeting night would go smoothly with coffee and cookies, drink for the Junior Members, chairs, and anything else possible needed to make the meetings pleasant for the rest of the club. May we note that many times the same people were providing this comfort. In the same line "Thanks" to those who helped put the hall in order after each meeting, especially the Junior Members.

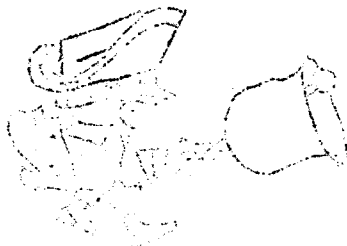
Last of all may we say "Thanks" to those members who while not heading up a committee or volunteering hard labor have helped us immensely with ideas, suggestions and encouragement in our various activities.

Best of Luck to the 1965 Officers and Committees and our sincere hope for a very fine year.

-Thomas Simmons  
Everett Weber  
Bruce Simon  
Jim and Phyllis Parks

\* \* \*

D U E S      A R E      D U E



SATURDAY - DECEMBER 19, 1964

Covered dish supper and meeting - 6:30 P. M.

NAVAL RESERVE TRAINING CENTER  
1625 North 10th St.

(Use north side parking lot and the east door to enter, sign log.)

We are having our annual Christmas covered dish supper. Bring your family, dishes, silverware enough for your family. We will put the food on a large table and all eat together as we have done in the past. Coffee, cream and sugar will be furnished by the club.

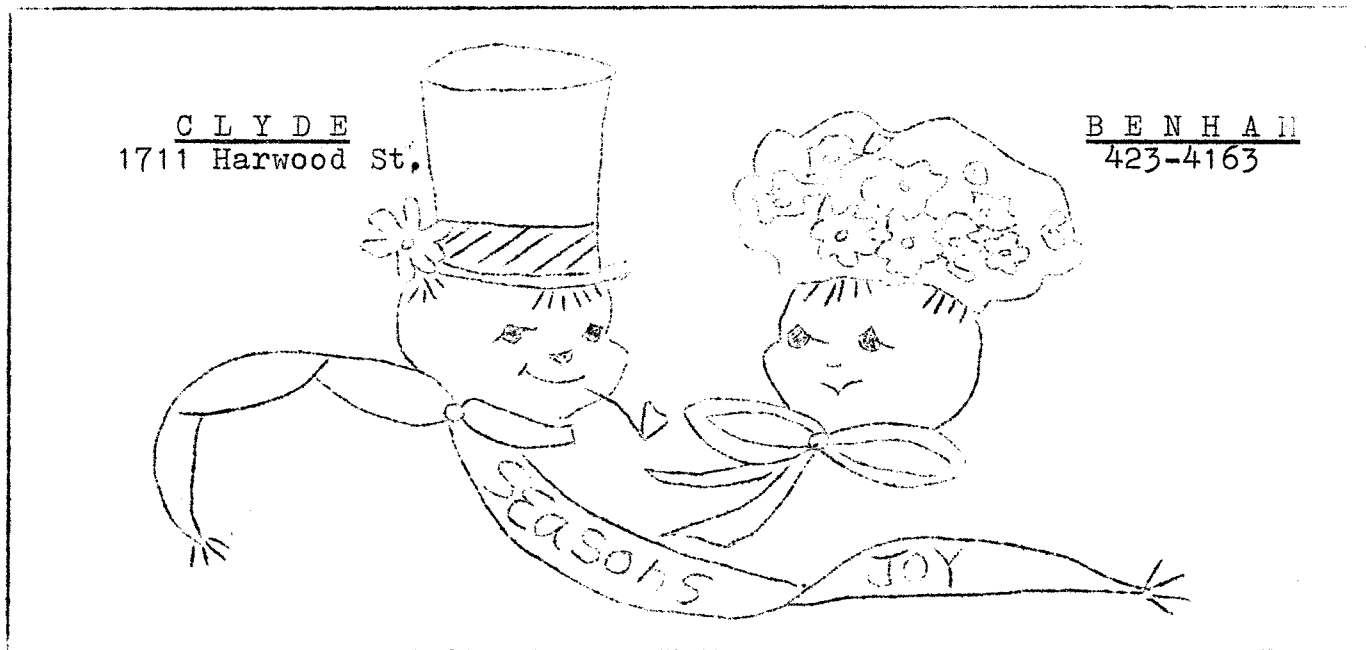
GIFT EXCHANGE - Gems, minerals, slabs, rocks, mountings. Please mark all Junior Members exchange so they will be placed separately from adult packages. Any member and their family may enter in the gift exchange. If your wife or child are not members but will be at the party and would like to receive a package all they have to do is place one under the tree.

CHAIRMAN - Mrs. Dorothy Engelhart  
488-5383

\* \* \*

Study Mineral of the Month - Turquoise - (See following page)

\* \* \*



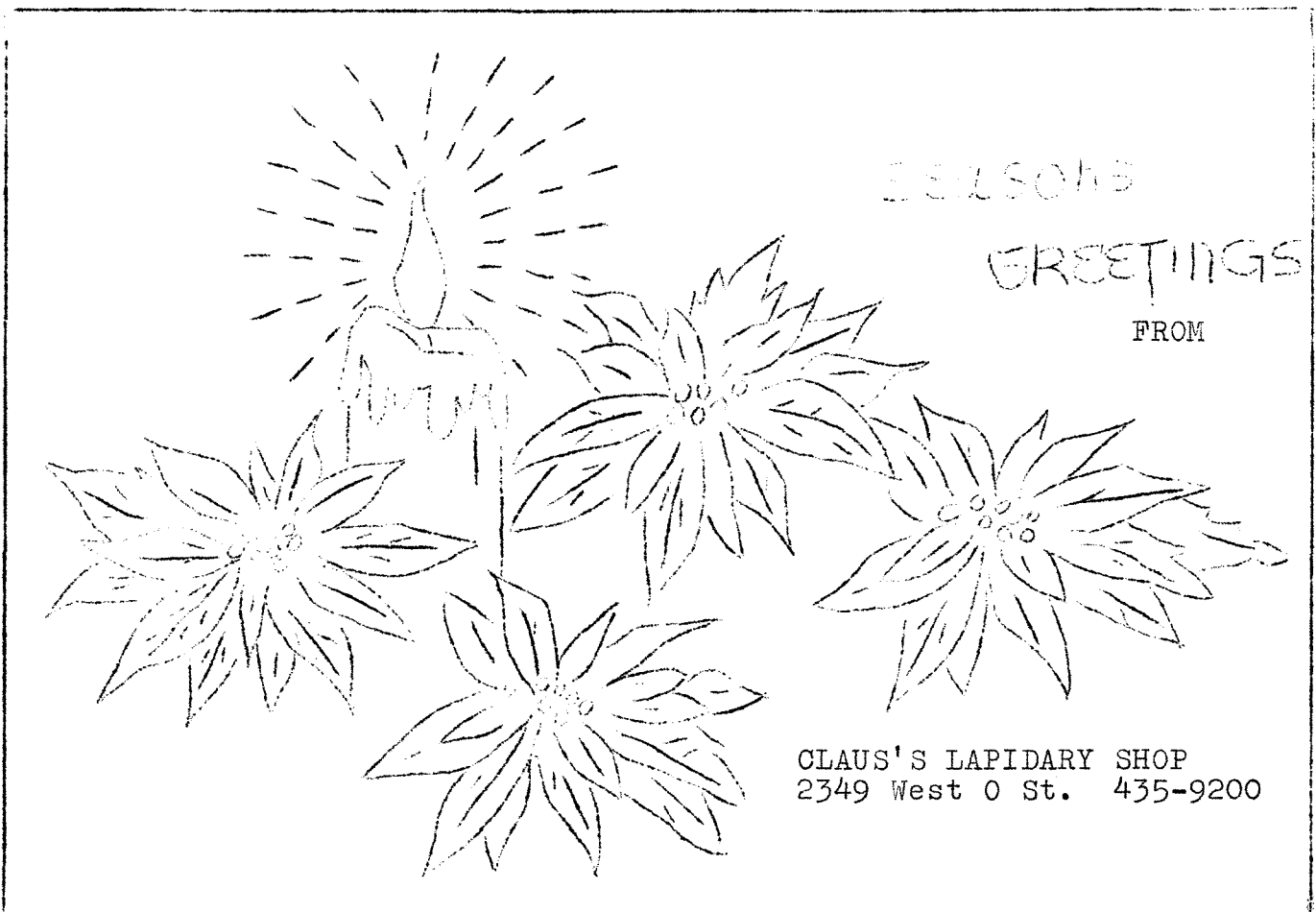
TURQUOISE  
Mineral of the Month

Turquoise, the December birthstone, ranks highest of all opaque stones among lovers of precious gems. From the 13th century when the name turquoise was first employed, we read that the stone possessed the power to protect the wearer from injury by falling, especially from horseback. Also, horses having a bit of turquoise fastened on the bridle, mane or tail were always sure-footed. The earliest records of mining the gem go back as far as 5500 B. C. The oldest known jewelry is said to have been a set of bracelets of gold and turquoise.

The name of the mineral is said to come from a French word meaning Turkish, and arises from the fact that the gem stone first reached Europe by way of Turkey.

The composition of turquoise is a complex phosphate of aluminum and copper, containing a small amount of water. The blue color is due to the copper constituent, and the predominance of iron may cause greenish shades. The finest variety is known as Persian, and is the fine deep blue. Turquoise is valued for its color entirely, as the variations of color affect the value appreciably. As the turquoise fractures easily and lacks hardness, it should be given care in wearing, and it should never be allowed to come in contact with soap, grease, or other materials which might discolor it.

\* \* \*





THE DIGGING IS DONE

Anyone who reads the local newspaper, watches television news, listening to the radio or gossiping over the back fence knows by now that the Monster Dig has been brought to a successful conclusion—at least for now. For the record we did not dig up a pleseosaurus. I'll bet that comes as a shock to most of you. We did however dig up a pleseosaur. Have I lost the rest of you? Now watch this next statement. All pleseosaurus are pleseosaurs but all pleseosaur are not pleseosaurus. Give up yet. Pleseosaur is the name of the whole group of them there things with paddles. There were however different types of pleseosaurs. Pleseosaurus was one of these types which lived in Jurassic times! What we have is a Cretaceous Age pleseosaur of the Elasmosaurus type! We will not know for sure just what it is exactly until further study is undertaken. Who knows, maybe we have a new type. There is a good possibility that the worlds foremost authority on pleseosaurs from the University of California will have a look and do some study on it. Maybe we can find out a little more about it by then.

Whatever it finally turns out to be it was over forty feet long. We got the tip of the tail and we got the skull. There were however, a few pieces missing here and there as we traveled in between. Dr. Schultz still jokingly claims one of us rock hounds made off with the gizzard stones. Scouts honor, Dr. Schultz, they must have washed down the creek.

Even though we didn't find 100% of the bones which were there when our pleseosaur died about 120,000,000 years ago we did find enough that the Museum can eventually make a mounted specimen from our efforts. What we did find was in pretty good shape and articulated. That big word in the last sentence means that the bones were in the exact relative position which they occupied when he was alive. In other words the skull bone was connected to the neck bone, the neck bone was connected to the neck bone, was connected to the neck-bone, etc. for some sixty-odd times. They weren't really connected but they were lying there in the same position they were in when they were connected. Paleontologists have grown used to finding bones laying around as if they were the remains of the main course of an alcoholic barbecue held during a cyclone so you can see how pleased they might be to find it in the position and condition it was. Dr. Schultz and Lloyd Tanner of the Museum were especially pleased with the condition of the skull. As most of you know this was the last piece uncovered. This must have been the reward for clean living and hard work. Anyway after following the neck back into the bank for about 20 feet and removing 15 feet of overburden we were lucky enough to find the skull in pretty good condition. We had been led to believe that it would probably be in small fragments since the bone is so thin. Larry Martin said that a person who makes a practice of restoring pleseosaur skull should be good at jig saw puzzles.

THE DIGGING IS DONE  
(continued)

Since ours was found in such good shape great care was used in casting and removing it. The skull itself was about 2 feet long and was cast with the last 10 vertebrae. This made a cast over four feet long which weighed over four hundred pounds. It took six of us to carry it to the truck.

Now that he is out of the ground we have been asked to help with the preparing of the pleseosaur or maybe we asked to help. Anyway some of our members under the supervision of Don Martin and Ivan Burr, the Museum staff preparators, are in the process of preparing the bones.

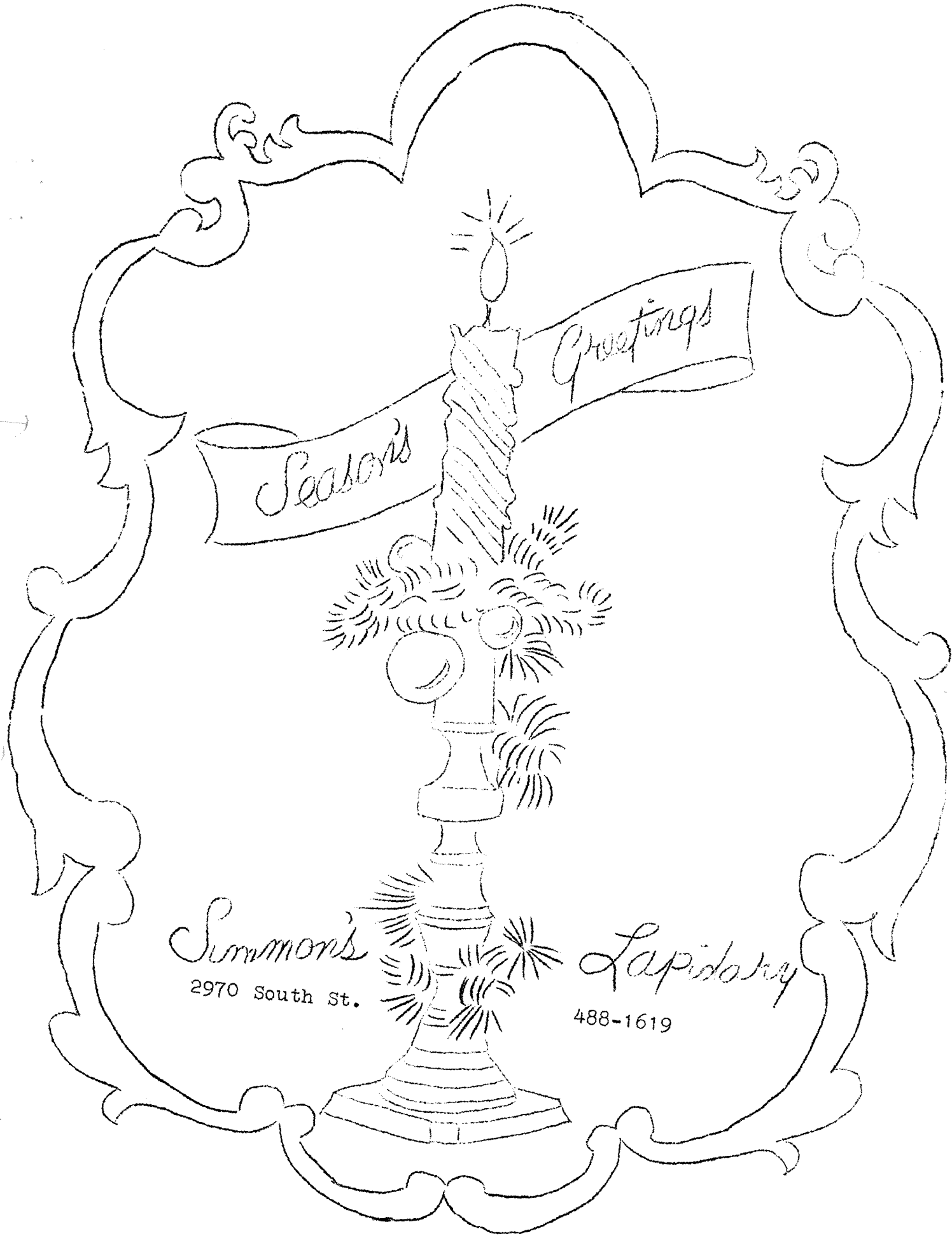
First the excess matrix is removed from the back of the cast. Then a coating of plaster and a 2 by 8 are placed on the back for reinforcement. The cast is then turned over and the top sawed loose. You then have the specimen in much the same position you had him in when you first uncovered him. That is if you made a good cast. The dirt and matrix are removed from the bone carefully. In our case we have to harden it first. The shale matrix dried out very fast. This makes the whole works very brittle to the touch. In order to proceed with any safety we have to give it a generous coat of shellac, alcohol, and acetone. This hardens up the bone and lets a person work without messing up what nature has preserved for 120,000,000 years.

The only sad note about this project is that right now the Museum does not have space in which our specimen can be mounted and displayed as one whole skeleton. This will have to wait until the proposed dinosaur hall addition becomes a reality.

Looking back at this project in retrospect I feel that we have accomplished many things. First we have provided the Museum with a valuable specimen for very little cost. We have made a host of new friends for our club. We have directed a bit of professional attention to the Cretaceous outcrops in the state and as Dr. Schultz says, "They're so close to home too." I feel that we have proved to ourselves that we are capable of larger projects than we have tackled in the past. For the record, 37 of our members put in a total of about 1000 man hours on this project. We have received publicity which borders on the fantastic. Hundreds of people have heard of us for the first time.

I would be remiss if certain acknowledgements weren't made. I'm not going to mention the names of the thirty seven members individually. Some did a lot of work, some did a little, but it all added up. Thanks to you all. Special thanks should also go to Adolph Rezac and his family who let us dig on their land and kept such close watch on the diggings when we were not there. For those of you who have not met them, they promised to be at our Christmas party. Get to know them. They are wonderful people. Larry Martin from the Museum also should be mentioned. He was our baby sitter through the whole project. I hope we didn't drag him away from his studies too much.

-Gene Eno



*Season's*

*Greetings*

*Simmons*

2970 South St.

*Lapidary*

488-1619

UBI IBAS. QUOD FECISTI

It is usual for the last issue of the year to be loaded with thanks and credits by the various officers and committee chairmen. Somehow or other I just can't force myself to sit down and write the stereotyped blurb usually printed to accomplish this as the title might already have suggested.

Speaking of the title, contrary to what you might think it is not the names of the president and prime minister of one of the new African nations. If you want to know what it says, look it up. I'll give you a hint. It is Latin. I'll also give you an incentive. The first person who calls me and tells me the exact translation will be presented with a gift certificate in the munificent sum of \$2.00 at the local rock shop of his choice.\* You might be able to make an educated guess if you read the rest of this piece, but to win the translation must be exact. Now that the fun and games are out of the way lets get down to business.

Serving as your Field Trip Chairman for the past season has been an interesting and rewarding experience. Allow me to impose upon you and travel back in print and review the trips that were taken and the things we did.

We started out the year at Fullerton giving the oversize pile at Mr. Drew's gravel pit a thorough going over. I don't think there was a piece of cutting material or mineral specimen left on the pile at the end of the day. We collected jasper, agate, petrified wood, calcite and celestite in concretions, and a box of bones for Lloyd Tanner. The one thing I will remember concerned my son John. Seems he smuggled a garter snake into his pocket. The day having been a little too much for him, he fell asleep and did not notice the fact that it escaped from his pocket. We discovered it when Art Bloyd opened the door when we got home. As he did so it crawled up the door post in the front seat. It is a good thing that Art was riding with me that day and not some other people I know. We probably wouldn't have found them yet. \*\* (How right you are-pnp)

The Haith Quarry near Holmesville was the site of another of our trips. Here the picking up and licking was abandoned for the whamming and examining. A lot of work was done with sledges and hammers that day, but it was worth the effort. The vugs we collected contained pyrite, barite, calcite, and quartz. Here is a place where good manners and no litter policies have paid off. Mr. Haith was heard to have mentioned later that he could not find so much as a cigarette package in the quarry after the trip. As most of you know this location is not open to local people because of the mess they leave.

Marysville, Kansas and its pink gypsum nodules received a visit by our group. Here we dug into a soft shale at the base of a cliff right at the edge of a small stream. Satin spar gypsum was a dividend to those who went. Some specimens had satin spar seams running through the pink nodules. All who went got plenty of material. In some cases I think it was more than they wanted to carry across the creek to the cars. As I recall more than one fell victim to the slippery rocks we crossed on and were deposited in the creek. After collecting a good bit of the day we also visited a spot a few miles south and collected some chalcedony nodules. A brief stop at Glen Hawkins rock shop east of Marysville ended the day.

UBI IBAS, QUOD FECISTI  
(continued)

It required some personal visits by your president and myself but we were able to prevail on the United Mineral Company at Weeping Water to allow us to collect in one of their quarries. This is another spot where access has been denied in the past due to the action of people who preceeded us. We started the day by visiting Bill Sass at Springfield. I thought for a while that we wouldn't get all of the people out of Bill's place, he has so many interesting things in his collection. Empty stomachs and the thought of the picnic at Louisville finally took care of it though. The afternoon was well spent collecting at the quarry. Invertebrate fossils of many types were found. Calcite in rhombohedral crystals lining vugs and pyrite clusters and cubes were collected. Some chert with fusulinid inclusions was also located and brought home.

July found us at the Able Gravel Pit at Fremont for an afternoon's collecting. It was hotter than it needed to be that day but a lot of nice cutting material was found in spite of the heat.

At the request of several of our members a trip was arranged to Hamilton, Illinois to collect geodes the weekend of August first. The seventeen adventurous souls who went camped at the Nauvoo State Park, at Nauvoo, Illinois, just north of Hamilton where the quarry is located. Gerald Jones of Fort Madison acted as our guide and host for the two days which were spent there. We collected geodes of all sizes and descriptions. Some of us swapped for some which we didn't find. I believe in spite of the heat and some minor discomforts a good time was had by all. It is a place I have marked down as deserving a visit again sometime.

The President's trip to Crawford I'll have to describe from hearsay for I was unable to go. However Tom Simmons did his usual fine job as guide and host. New areas were visited, lots of rock was found, and everybody came home happy.

The last field trip of the year was quite an operation. You might say it was a number of field trips in one. I'm referring to the Monster Dig which was just completed. I will not go into detail for it is described elsewhere in this issue but it does show what a group of rockhounds can do if they put their mind to it. Incidentally the club is helping to prepare this specimen for the Museum. Call Velma Bloyd or Dorothy Engelhart if you are interested in giving a hand.

In retrospect the club has quite a record in the field this year. If you attended all of the field trips you have logged over 2,500 miles. You have been in the field through 100 degrees of temperature range (106 to 6). You have helped dig up over 40 feet of pleseosaur and donated it to the Museum. If you count the last effort as one trip you have been in the field eight times as a club. This is a record that not many clubs can match. I am personally very proud of you. My thanks to you all.

-Gene Eno

\* The deadline for deciphering the headline is December 19th at the Christmas Party.

\*\* Added by the typist.

Congratulations and A Successful Year to our new officers who were elected at the November meeting. For those of you who were not able to be present at that meeting we'd like to introduce:

- President . . . . . Everett Weber
- First Vice President . . . . Bruce Simon
- Second Vice President . . . . Gene Eno
- Recording Secretary . . . . Miriam Forbes
- Treasurer . . . . . James Parks

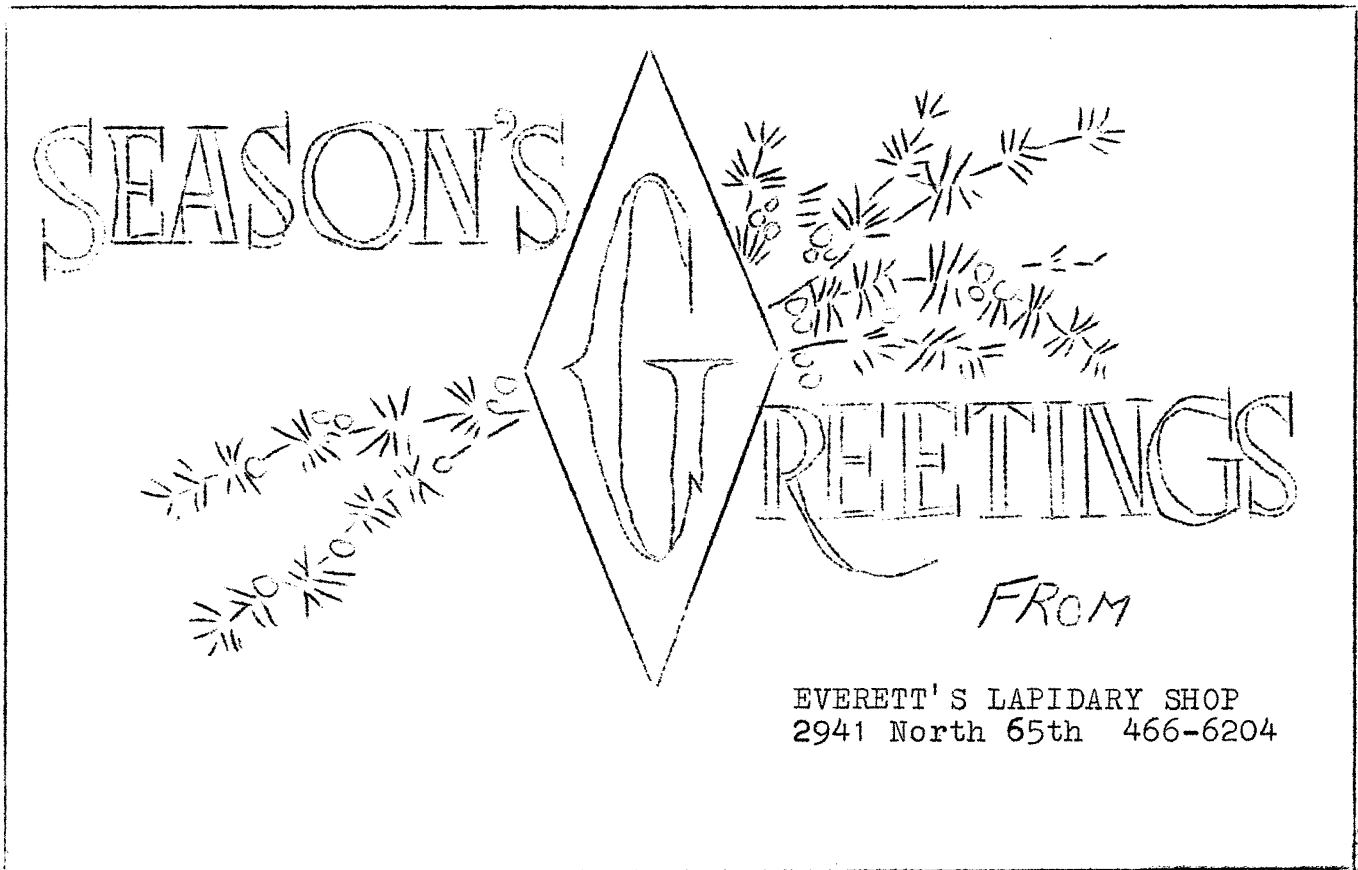
\* \* \*

We understand that "Plesy" has been laid to rest for the time being with the last cast removed for the Press and TV on Tuesday, December 8th. The diggers were so pleased with the results of their toil and so used to being together every Sunday that they joined together for a turkey dinner at the home of Mrs. Perry Miller and Leslie. Conversation didn't lag as this field trip gave material for many an evenings entertainment.

\* \* \*

D U E S     A R E     D U E

\* \* \*



## BUT I KEEP ON COLLECTING

We haven't any basement  
 In which to store my stones,  
 But I keep on collecting  
 I even have some bones.

We've got them round our fireplace  
 And the headboard of my bed,  
 When you've seen those in the front yard  
 There's lots more in the shed.

The choice ones rate the showcase  
 That used to display pies,  
 Dad says I still have plenty more  
 Just behind my eyes.

-Ellis Wilhite  
 Rocks and Mineral Magazine

\* \* \*

I wish to express my thanks to the officers, committees,  
 and hard-working club members for the efforts and achievements of  
 the past year. We hope the next year will be as good. My family  
 and I wish you all A Very Merry Christmas and A Happy New Year.

-Everett Weber

\* \* \*

It takes more than an Editor to publish a bulletin. Without  
 the members there would be no articles, poems or fillers and without  
 a bulletin staff the editor could not produce the finished product  
 you receive each month. I now express my thanks to each member who  
 contributed to The Pick & Shovel and to my hardworking staff, may I  
 say I have enjoyed working with you. Words cannot convey the thanks  
 you have coming to you. It is now my pleasure to print my staff for  
 the last two years.

Phyllis Parks - Asst. Editor, Typist  
 James Parks - Proof Reader  
 Dorothy Sincebaugh - Typist  
 Dorothy Engelhart, Gene Eno - Reporters  
 Norman Engelhart - Researcher

-Velma Bloyd

\* \* \*

Coupons for Scholarship Chairman Helena Baegl wishes to  
 remind all of you busy holiday cooks that we want to keep the  
 General Mills Coupons coming into each meeting. She hopes to send  
 in a large number of them after next meeting. Each coupon is  
 worth a half cent toward the scholarship fund.

\* \* \*

DUES      ARE      DUE

Midwest Federation's "LETTER-A-MONTH"  
By Olive and Howard M. Knight

## CLUB BULLETINS

This is not directed just at the editors of bulletins though they are very much involved, but to ALL members, as these bulletins can be, and are, very essential to the success of a club.

A bulletin can be very simple yet it can be more important to a club than any other thing. It can mean all the difference between a group that can quickly lose interest and fall apart, and a society that has purposes, aims, plans, etc., and that has stature in the eyes of others.

The object and purpose of a bulletin is to help its club. Don't worry about making it a state or nationwide publication. Concentrate on publishing the plans and doings of the club. The MWF Bulletin Contests have used as the ideal bulletin one that would be of maximum benefits to the club. This can be a single sheet reproduced by a gelatin duplicator or multipage using a mimeograph, depending upon the size and activities of the club.

Keep the bulletin as attractive and readable as possible and be sure that the following essentials are included:

The object and purpose of your club.  
A list of your officers and where they can be reached.  
Your meeting place location, and date and time of meetings.  
A list or calendar of coming club and Federation events.

See that copies of your bulletins regularly are given to the local schools and libraries. As the principal aim of a club should be to acquire and share knowledge about the earth sciences (this includes the lapidary art), it is necessary that others should know of your endeavors. The bulletin is a good way of accomplishing this.

The editor should be an officer of the club so he can be aware of all plans and purposes and can help their fulfillment through the bulletin. He needs LOTS of help and cooperation and this helping is good for the club as the more members who help, the better the bulletin AND the club.

-Olive and Howard M. Knight

\* \* \*

25th ANNIVERSARY SILVER JUBILEE

FEDERATION CONVENTION & SHOW

JULY 29,30,31, AUG. 1, 1965

EVANSVILLE, INDIANA

\* \* \*