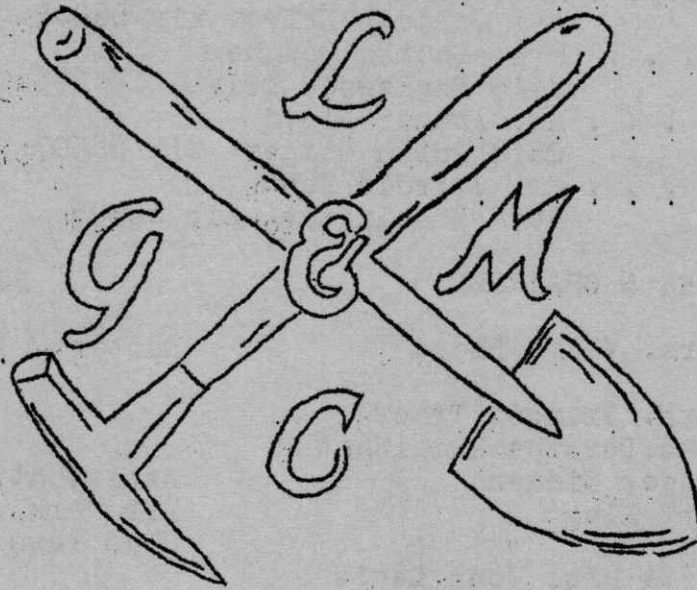


# THE PICK & SHOVEL



L I N C O L N   G E M   A N D   M I N E R A L   C L U B ,   I N C .

Lincoln, Nebraska

THE PICK & SHOVEL

Official Publication of

THE LINCOLN GEM AND MINERAL CLUB, INC., LINCOLN, NEBRASKA

The purpose of the corporation shall be to study, promote an interest in, and disseminate knowledge of lapidary and various Earth Sciences, including but not necessarily limited to geology, paleontology and mineralogy. It shall be a particular purpose of the corporation to provide education in these various fields to its members and the general public, particularly youth and student groups.

1967 ELECTED OFFICERS

President . . . . .	Mr. Gene Eno 2600 Garfield Zip 68502	423-6157
1st Vice President . .	Mr. Howard Taylor 910 New Hampshire Zip 68508	432-3707
2nd Vice President . .	Mr. G. W. McKinney 6720 Ballard Zip 68507	466-0196
Recording Secretary . .	Mrs. Katherine Ulrich 441 Jeffery Drive Zip 68505	434-6757
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Board Member . . . . .	Mr. Arthur Bloyd 2818 North Cotner Zip 68507	434-4781
Board Member . . . . .	Mr. Jerrold Kohn 4944 Washington Zip 68506	488-4547

APPOINTED OFFICERS & CHAIRMEN

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Liaison	Mrs. Velma Bloyd	Editor . .Mrs. Phyllis Parks
Historian & By-Laws	Mrs. Frances Tracy	2435 So. 19th Lincoln Zip 68502
Librarian	Mrs. Dorothy Engelhart	423-6798
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1967 ROCKRAMA	Howard Taylor	
1967 Float for Nebraskaland-	Ralph Ulrich	
Legislative	Frank Marsh	

News items and other contributions should be in the editors hands no later than the fifth of the month to be used.

Editor-Member Natl. Bulletin Ed. Assn.

affiliated with

MIDWEST FEDERATION OF MINERALOGICAL AND GEOLOGICAL SOCIETIES

AMERICAN FEDERATION OF MINERALOGICAL SOCIETIES

Articles published in THE PICK AND SHOVEL may be reprinted if credit is given and a copy of the publication is mailed to the editor.

# Midwest Federation's NEWSLETTER

Published monthly except July & August as a Service to Member Clubs.

Editor: Haydon Peterson, Route 5 - Box 229, Des Moines, Ia. 50317



## Please Note... New Mailing Address

Our new Midwest Federation Secretary is Miss Jean Reynolds who is in charge of keeping our mailing lists up-to-date. Whenever you move, or when your club changes officers, these changes should be sent immediately to her so that your Federation mail can reach you without any delays or costly expense in postage which results when we do not have your correct address. So . . . EFFECTIVE IMMEDIATELY . . . send these address and officer changes to . . .  
MISS JEAN REYNOLDS, 107 TUTTLE AVENUE, CLARENDON HILLS, ILLINOIS 60514

Issue No. 79 - November 1967

### UNITED WE STAND!

Midwest Federation President's Acceptance  
Speech Delivered at 1967 Annual Banquet  
by Ellis W. Courter

In accepting this gavel, which is symbolic of the ranking office of our Federation, I would like all of you to know that I am fully aware of the obligations and responsibilities that are involved. Quite simply, there is work to be done. There is much that has to be accomplished - much more that might be done. Although officially, my duties do not begin until November first of this year, when that time comes, I expect to wield this gavel with great determination. It shall be my intent to see that those needed jobs get done - so that the confidence which you have so graciously expressed by granting me the privileges of this office, shall not have been misplaced.

At this time I do not want to make any rash promises of unusual or outstanding accomplishments for the year ahead. If such be attained, they will result from work - not words. Besides, during the past year - in fact for several years now - the Federation has been under the direction of some very capable leaders whose accomplishments will be most difficult to top. Because of their successful efforts, the Federation has gained in stature. We have grown in numbers. We have prospered financially. Our public image has been greatly enhanced. For the records then, suffice it for me to say, that I shall endeavor to maintain the pace that has been set, to strengthen or repair the dikes wherever or whenever such may be necessary, and to maintain a constant

alert for new deeds or accomplishments that will further aid our cause.

Let me hasten to add, however, the tasks that lie ahead are not something that I can do all by myself. Nor can they be done by any one person. The success of the year ahead depends upon all of us working together as a team - our elected officers, our crew of State Vice Presidents, our committee chairmen and their working committee members. In fact, it even goes beyond this. If an effective job is to be done, we also need the help and co-operation of every one of our member clubs.

And speaking of member clubs, I would like to add - in fact - emphasize - this is your Federation. It has been organized and is being operated in your interest and in the interest of your hobby. Because of this, every one of our 195 affiliated clubs stands to gain - or lose - in accord with what we are able to accomplish. Thus, should we call upon your club for assistance of any kind - for information, or perhaps even participation - it is my hope that they will be quick to respond.

And so in the year ahead - the year when we will be host to the American Federation and the National Show - let's all lift our sails a little higher. Let's reach a little farther and work a little harder so that our hobby will keep moving forward.

Let's adorn our banner with the motto "UNITED WE STAND" - and then prove to all that we are united - by making 1968 a year that will go down in the records as the best yet!

## MERIT AWARD WINNERS

June Zeitner has advised us of the following winner of the Merit Awards for this year. "Citations" have been sent to each of the clubs.

**MICHIGAN GEM AND MINERAL SOCIETY,** Jackson, Michigan. This club was given an award for its outstanding contributions to its region in the field of education. They have worked through Junior Groups, schools, the YMCA, and the State Educational Association to raise the levels of earth science education and to promote knowledge of the lapidary arts. In all other respects this club qualifies as a top club.

**MINNESOTA MINNERAL CLUB,** Minneapolis, Minnesota. Among the many things which make the Minnesota Mineral Club a winner are their museum displays, their leadership in a legislative program to help save field trip areas, and their program of helping every member build an efficient lapidary shop within his means.

**CHICAGO ROCKS AND MINERALS SOCIETY,** Chicago, Illinois. The conservation minded Chicago Rocks and Minerals Club made special educational displays for Barat College's new Upward Bound project, and also in the line of education this active group has sent several crates of minerals to foreign Universities and museums.

**COLUMBUS ROCK AND MINERAL SOCIETY** Columbus, Ohio. Realizing the importance of interesting therapy in the treatment of ill or handicapped children, the Columbus Rock and Mineral Society made "egg carton" collections which were donated to a child psychologist to give to his patients. The society is also active in education.

**LAKELAND GEM CLUB,** Minogua, Wisconsin. A young club in a small town, the Lakeland Club has interested their entire community in the mineral kingdom by an active public relations program, and by building a tumbler for the local grade school, and by sponsoring well planned and conducted Junior Field Trips. They built signs welcoming all rock hobbyists to their

town and they entertain neighbor clubs at indoor field trips.

**BLOOMINGTON MINERAL CLUB,** Blooming, Minnesota. The Bloomington Mineral Club works with the School for the Deaf, the Council for Gifted Children, and furnishes Volunteers for Community Service, mainly volunteer Earth Science teachers. Among their public relations programs this year was a project of sending useful gifts to Marines in Vietnam.

**MICHIGAN MINERALOGICAL SOCIETY,** Southfield, Michigan. The Michigan Mineralogical Society Field Trip in conjunction with Cranbrook Institute was a model of a purposeful and useful trip. The clubs active Community Relations committee furnishes programs for civic and service clubs. The club is involved in several educational projects.

**MIDWEST MINERAL AND LAPIDARY SOCIETY,** Dearborn, Michigan. In keeping with a club rule, the Midwest Mineral Society donate 10% of all fund raising activities to the AFMS Scholarship Fund. This club has unusually good relations with its own community and donate materials as far away as the Minn. School for the Deaf. They held a special demonstration and display for the Ross Historical Museum Fair.

### DIRECTORY SUPPLEMENT

to the 1967 Midwest Federation Directory is now printed and being sent to all clubs, etc. Persons who purchased Directories may have a copy of the supplement by sending their requests to the Secretary, Miss Jean Reynolds, 107 Tuttle Avenue, Clarendon Hills, Illinois 60514.

## SCHOLARSHIP

Congratulations to the Chicaqua Rockhound Society for attaining their 100% status. We are still receiving 1/2¢ per coupon point from General Mills for each Betty Crocker coupon. It will be a great help to us if you will count your coupons before mailing them in and also keep a record of the number you send. Be sure that your name and address and the name of your club is in the package as well as the number of coupon points. Thanks to all for your fine support of the Scholarship Foundation

Kate Steinbrenner

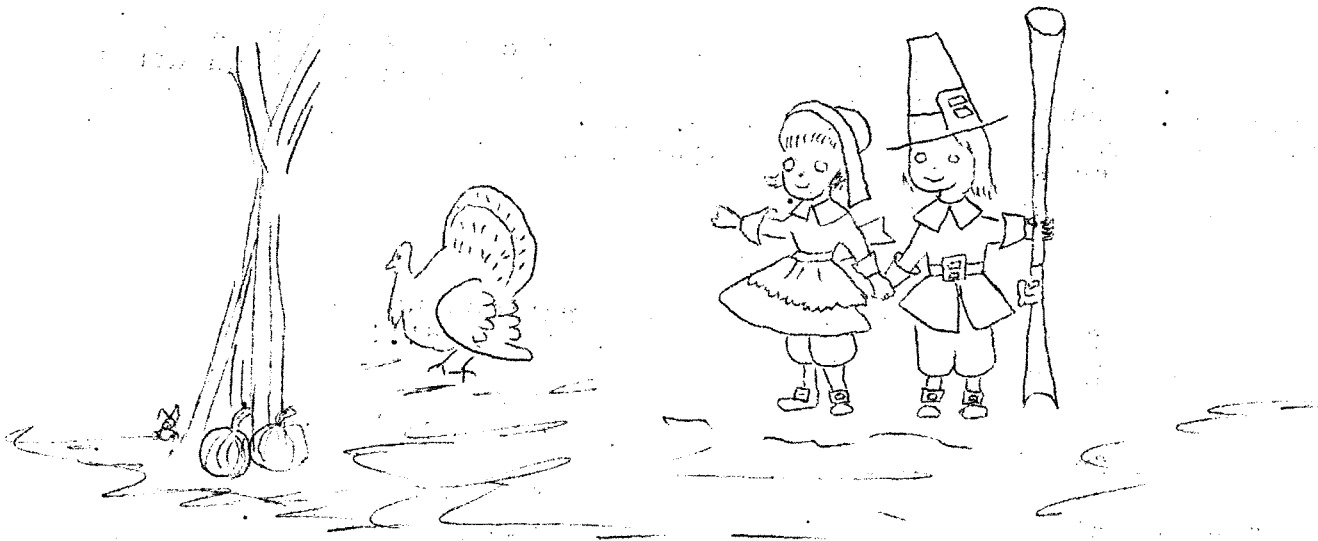
## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

At the November meeting of our club elections will be held to select the officers and board members to conduct the affairs of the Lincoln Gem and Mineral Club for the year 1968. A good slate of officers has been selected by the nominating committee. Others may be nominated from the floor the night of the elections. Keep in mind - you must be present to vote - and some of the recent years elections have been decided by only one vote. This is one place that your vote may make a difference. If you want your vote to be counted - be there.

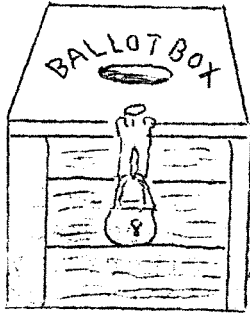
With the coming of the annual elections also comes the realization that the period of time in which I have been privileged to serve this club as an officer is growing short. As with all positions in clubs which are doing things constantly such as our club does, it does at times involve work. However working with the members of this club has been a pleasure for me because of your willingness to tackle the task and your enthusiasm in doing so.

Thanks to each of you.

Gene L. Eno



1967 NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT



The Nominating Committee, consisting of Irl Everett, Everett Weber, and Earl Amen, have, according to the By-Laws and Constitution of The Lincoln Gem and Mineral Club, prepared the following slate of officer candidates for the year 1968:

- President - Howard Taylor
- First Vice-President - G. W. McKinney
- Second Vice - President - Louise Baugher
- Treasurer - Ralph Ulrich
- Recording Secretary - None confirmed
- Board Members - George McGinnis, Frank Rule

Please remember - nominations may be made from the floor if permission has first been secured from your candidate. Other rules and regulations from the By-Laws were stressed in the October message from your 1967 President.

=====

In October a fellow rock hound, Mr. Garth Baker, of Manitoba, Canada, was visiting Lincoln, toured the museum and various places of interest and acquired the name and phone number of one of our club members. He was interested in swapping some material from Manitoba and was given the opportunity to do so at the Engelhart home where several members of LGMC swapped and gave him samples of their collections. Mr. Baker is a member of the Brandon Rock & Gem Club. If anyone is interested in swapping materials with Garth or his club you may do so by writing him at Box 394, Brandon, Manitoba, Canada.

=====

Mr. Harold Eno is recovering satisfactorily after extensive heart surgery. Many of you have been contacted regarding blood donations to replace the quantity used for Mr. Eno. This is the place where your time and effort would be appreciated as much more blood needs replacing at Bryan Memorial Hospital.

=====

REMEMBER--for your holiday meal preparations use General Mills products and save the coupons for our scholarship fund!!!

=====

Excerpt from 'Adventures in Nature', by Edwin Teale,  
via Chips Off The Old Block

"At one time or another, there comes to most of us a realization of how much will remain undone when the world ends for us. Even if we circle the globe, how many sights and sounds and smells we still shall miss. Even as we become acquainted with millions, how many possible friends we shall never know. Even if we devour whole libraries, how many volumes will remain unread. No matter how full, our lives inevitably must remain, in some respects, random and uncomplete....."

T H I S   M O N T H

Annual Meeting - election of officers  
 Saturday, November 25, 1967, 7:30 P.M.  
 Roberts Dairy Party Room, 211 So. 20th St.

PROGRAM: Nothing scheduled so will all members who were fortunate enough to secure good slides or pictures at the Rockrama or on your summer club Field Trips please bring them and share with those who had bad luck. We know that several were severely disappointed.

## THANKS FROM THE REFRESHMENT CHAIRMAN:

Mrs. K. Amen writes "My thanks to Mr. and Mrs. Lloyd Baugher for teh cookies and Mr. Baugher serving the coffee. Mr. and Mrs. Ray Waddle for cookies and Mrs. Waddle and Mrs. Carveth for being such gracious hostesses. Also thanks Marie for the cookies. Thanks to every one that helps, it takes "pull to-gether" to keep a club going."

NEXT MONTH: December is usually a special month for the club with special preparations, more appropriate place to meet, gift exchange, installation of new officers and so forth. This year will be no exception and plans are underway. Announcement should come at the meeting in November and we hope to get the bulletin out in time for you to make your plans. Sorry I don't have info. now.

NEW BOARD MEMBER: Remember Geo. E. McGinnis replaces Art Bloyd  
 3444 Somerset, Ph. 466-4878

NEW LIAISON OFFICER is Mrs. Marie Taylor, 910 New Hampshire  
 Ph. 432-3707, Lincoln, Nebr. 68508.

## SHOW DATES:

November 25-26 Anthony Gem and Mineral, Anthony Kansas  
 February 1-11 Border Gem Fiesta, McAllen, Texas  
 February 16-18 Tucson Gem & Mineral, 14th Annual, Tucson, Ariz.  
 April 19-21 Central Nebraska Rock & Mineral, Hastings, Neb.  
 June 8-9 Rocky Mt. Federation Show, Tulsa, Okla.  
 August 22-25, 1968 Midwest Federation Show  
 Bloomington-Normal, Illinois

NOW IS THE TIME TO START PLANNING FOR YOUR 1968 BIG SHOWS as

Vacations Dates are decided.

DEADLINE: All copy for inclusion in the December Pick & Shovel must be submitted before December 1. Your cooperation is respectfully requested. P & N

MWF BANNER FOR 1968: UNITED WE STAND by Mr. Ellis W. Courter

OPEN LETTER

October 31, 1967

TO: Members of Lincoln Gem & Mineral Club  
c/o Phyllis Parks, Editor

Dear Club Members,

We arrived in Phoenix about ten days ago and although our trip was full of events, none was too critical. These past ten days have gone fast as there is so much to be done in order to get settled.

Floyd and Helen Olson are living in a rented home at the time but they have found a nice home and have started to process their papers on it. We are still living at 3101 N. 34 Place.

Phoenix is a large place, much larger than I imagined it would be. In the six years since we have visited here it has grown considerably. Living here is different, it will take some getting used to. No one is in a hurry unless they are driving and then you must watch out for the other fellow more than you do for yourself.

Its pretty here. The town is surrounded by mountains and they usually appear on the lavender color. A lot of palms with evergreens mixed in. They use the male mulberry or China Berry tree for shade. Most of the homes have one or both in their yard as shade around the homes is a most important factor here. Flowers are abundant and every kind and color you would ever hope for.

We visited a rockhound last night. He is known out here as the desert rat but its certainly only a name. A real nice fellow who is truly a rockhound. His interest is in fluorescent material and has some of the most vivid material that was found here in Arizona you ever saw. Art, Floyd and this fellow are going rock hunting this weekend to remove some of the material from the sandy soil. They will have to do some back packing to get it but it certainly is worth going after.

There are six clubs in this area and two rock shows per year. One is in Scottsdale which is not too far from here. We have not visited any of the clubs as yet but plan to in the near future. The next show is to be held in Febr. here in Phoenix so I know that we will at least attend it.

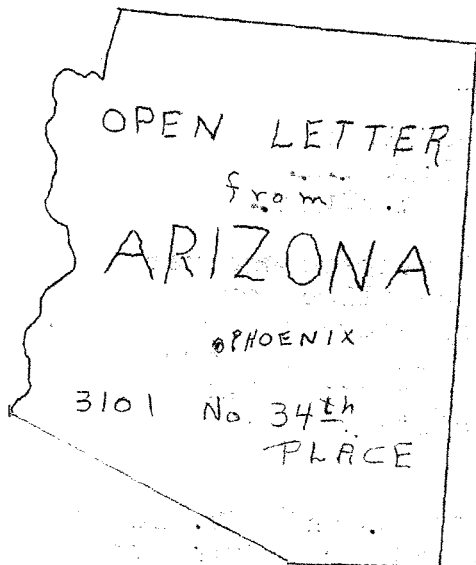
The weather here is wonderful. It is hard to believe that where you are it is getting cold now. You can sit out on the patio in the evening and with a light weight sweater for the women you can be most comfortable. We grilled two chickens Sunday out back and though the sun was a little warm, enjoyed ourselves immensely.

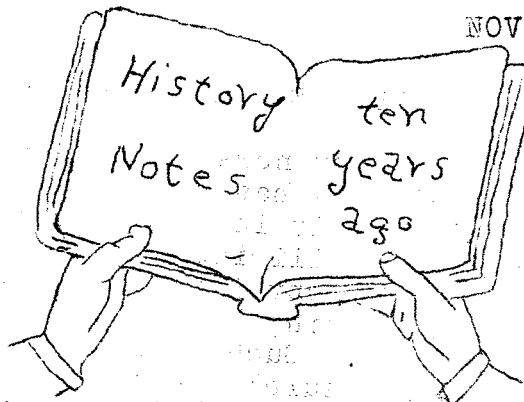
The schools here are large, they cover about a four block area. Cliff seems to like his school very much. They have to change classes here as they do in the high schools back home. They believe in the old method of punishment, spanking by the principal, and to get off the school grounds you must have a pass. Hours to go to school are longer but they are about a year behind the children in Lincoln. Cliff has had all the material they are teaching so he is having no trouble in school.

Everyone drop us a line. Even though its nice country for rockhounds it can get lonely here and a letter from home would seem pretty good.

As ever

Art & Velma Bloyd





Our November 1957 meeting was held at the home of Irl Everett. Mr. and Mrs. Virgil Carveth, Mr. and Mrs. Sam Lybyer and Evelyn Pearson were guests.

Irl Everett presented the program on the techniques of tumbling and mounting baroque stones.

Each member and guest was presented with a souvenir baroque attached to the napkin on their lunch tray.

+ + + + +

1967 LIBRARY ADDITIONS

The Fossil Book by Carroll Lane Fenton-Hildred Adams Fenton Presented to the club by Roger Pabian

Dana's System of Mineralogy - Set of four different volumes Club Purchase

+ + + + +

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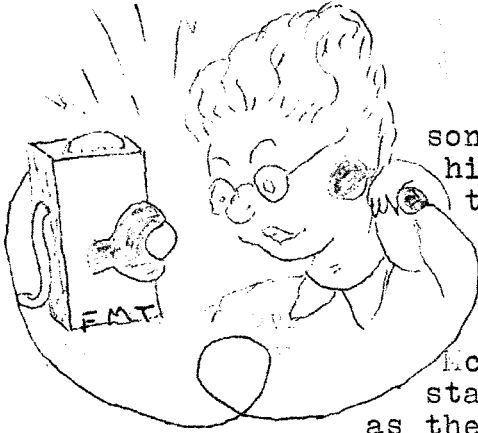
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DID YOU KNOW - - -



Happy news at the McGinnis home - their son-in-law has returned to the states, and to his family in Lincoln from a tour of duty in the Phillipine and Vietnam areas of the world. The happy father, who is with the Air Force, is seeing his little daughter for the first time. Such moments in a young couple's life must surely be treasured forever. Mrs. McGinnis tells me their children will be stationed at Eglin A.F.B., Florida, same post as the Larry Popes.

Frank Rule has undergone surgery. I am sure cheery notes and greetings of good wishes will help him along the way to good health again.

It was nice to see our friends, the Gibson Family, at the show. Maybe they will return to the club again when their busy schedule permits. We all sincerely hope so.

At a recent Convention of the Nebraska Barbed Wire Association, our own Judy Weber was crowned Queen! Her father, Everett Weber, was named Vice-President, and Irl Everett is Corresponding Secretary. Judy is now eligible to enter the National Contest, so Good Luck, Judy! Belated anniversary wishes to the Webers, many, many, more to you!

Ralph and Kay Ulrich are keeping busy with great plans on the forthcoming trip to Europe. Kay is sewing, reading travel books, etc. Ralph is looking forward to the visit at the world famous gem cutting capitol at Idar-Oberstein. Fred Ulrich, Ralph and Kays' son, is teaching at the International School - language dept. in Frankfort, Germany; and to spend Christmas in Germany will certainly be a high light for the Ulrich's. Kay informs me that they will be happy to contact any friends or relatives of anyone in the club - within a radius of 150 miles of Frankfort. Please inform Ulrichs if you have anyone there. A complete itinerary coming up in the December issue on this trip.

Happy Birthday, this month, to Susan Taylor! and also to Mrs. Howard Taylor! And to those we do not know about - Best Wishes too!

In this issue we shall enjoy a little more information on the cabochon our charter member and first President (1955) Maurice Tracy, was asked to create, and donate, to the now famous brooch of the "United States". An honor came to our club, and to Mr. Tracy, by this request, and he did not fail us. A sincere thank you from this reporter and all members of the Lincoln Gem and Mineral Club.

Recently it was such a wonderful experience to see, meet, and enjoy Dr. John Neihardt. A Grand Gentleman of the old school! But first things first --Mr. and Mrs. J.D. Young, of the LGMC, retraced with Dr. Neihardt, the old Indian Trails leading as far as Lemann, South Dakota, in September. Upon their return, just at show time, - Dr. Neihardt graciously offered to show his jade work (jewelry) at the Rockrama, beautiful and original work, indeed. To climax this exciting time, Mr. & Mrs. Young were hosts to several groups in their home, inviting us to visit with Dr. Neihardt. We listened - completely

(continued)

DID YOU KNOW - - - - (continued)

enthralled with the Poet Laureate of Nebraska! Dr. Neihardt answered questions, and told us stories of his experience with Black Elk. We were presented with personally autographed copies of Black Elks Prayer; he being a Holy Man of the Oglala Sioux. Such a delightful evening, it shall long be remembered. This reporter had the pleasure of meeting Black Elk while living in the Black Hills of South Dakota several years ago. Would Mr. & Mrs. Young be interested in giving us a program on this trip, I wonder - It would be interesting to the club members, we know.

Mr. & Mrs. Kenneth Dodge, former club members, have just returned from a trip around the world, and among the many exciting places, they list the beautiful gem cutting, goldwork and silver too, as seen in Athens, Greece. The Dodges take pictures, maybe we could invite them to give a program in the future.

Perry Hillers have been busy entertaining more guests from South Africa - It is getting to be a small world, with many friends traveling to and from faraway places.

A Happy, "Thankful", Thanksgiving to all.

Until Next Time

Marie J. Carveth

Late Bulletin: Frank Rule is doing nicely at Bryan Memorial Hospital.

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## "OUR MINERAL HERITAGE BROOCH"

On June 1, 1967, in the White House Rose Garden, Mrs. Lyndon B. Johnson was presented with the "Our Mineral Heritage Brooch" fashioned by Samuel Markowitz, a New York City gem designer and manufacturer. Members of the American Federation of Mineralogical Societies and its six regional federations shared in presenting the gift.

As they wanted at least one gem stone from each state, the Midwest Federation asked each of the State Vice-Presidents to appoint someone from their state to cut a stone. Dorothy Engelhart, Nebraska State Vice-President, asked me to cut and polish a stone from Nebraska. She says she chose me since I was a charter member, the first president of the Lincoln Gem and Mineral Club and the first instructor for the City Recreation lapidary classes, so she felt that I should have the honor.

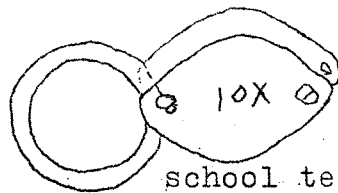
The size of the cabochon requested was a 3.5 mm. In a thank you letter from Doris Kemp, chairman of the Lapidary Division of the Midwest Federation, she said "This is a very tiny and beautiful gem. I have never tried to cut one this tiny, if I had it would have been solid fingernail-ite."

Of course, when we think of cutting material from Nebraska we always think of the beautiful prairie agate from north of Crawford. After looking over the many pounds of material in our basement we decided on moss agate. The state stone and rock had not yet been chosen so we didn't consider the blue agate but at least the state rock is represented in this beautiful brooch.

This brooch, also known as "The First Lady's Brooch", was on display at the National Gem and Mineral Show in Washington, D. C. from June 29 to July 1. It belongs to Mrs. Johnson and all future First Ladies and is on exhibit at the Smithsonian Institution. This one-of-a-kind piece of jewelry is large and really intended for display rather than for use. It is composed of 158 stones of many colors and is topped by a gold eagle with spread wings.

Maurice Tracy

Comment: Maurice was asked to write this article because he had been entrusted (very fittingly we feel) with this delicate task honoring Nebraska. Mrs. Engelhart tells us that this was the first stone received and accepted by the Midwest Federation very soon after the project was begun. Our sincere thanks for the completion of one more "assignment" from this sincerely dedicated member of the Lincoln Gem and Mineral Club.



VISUAL AID CASES

With the new school term calls began coming in for the use of our traveling Visual Aid Cases and "Pleezy". After the Rock-rama these were picked up by the 4th and 5th grade teacher at Willard Elementary School. The week of study included rock specimens brought by the teacher and the students, movie and slide programs concerning the Earth Sciences and a visiting "Rock Talk" by Mrs. Engelhart who was accompanied by Mrs. Parks.

Next appointment was all 4 of the 4th grades at Hartley Elementary School where Mrs. Engelhart was assisted by her husband Norman.

Early in November a very pleasing and pleased group of student Earth Science teachers joined the 4th grade at Prescott School with Mrs. Engelhart again giving an informal "Rock Talk".

Anyone who might be able to join Dotty, help carry her heavy case and bags of rock goodies (donated by various persons), provide an occasional ride, and marvel at the eager reception by these young students in their very formative years - please contact her -488 5383. We guarantee no boredom and you would certainly see that children and rocks, separately or together, are contagious and very interesting.

\* \* \* \*

WORKSHOP - Room 104 needs more colunteers to keep things rolling smoothly. Meeting each Wednesday evening, 7 to 10, Morrill Hall, cleaning and working with specimens, coffee and conversation always available.

\* \* \* \*

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## UP A STUMP

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Again it is time to say "THANKS". For all the blessings of a good and free country; for good health to enjoy and share family, friends and fellow hobbyists; for the privilege of taking part in the activities of Lincoln Gem and Mineral Club.

Thanks - for the honor of editing the prize winning bulletin this year - a combined effort of many club members, excerpts from exchange bulletins - without all this cooperation the honor would not have been ours. Thanks to all who shared by word or deed.

Very many thanks to Norma Miller who has taken so much of the typing, searching, planning, calling and mailing during this past year.

Thanks to my family for the patience, cooperation and help which made it possible for me to keep on as editor of the Pick and Shovel.

Now would be a good time to give further thanks for volunteer help and assistance - if it were to be offered. How about it?

Phyllis Parks, Editor

=====

Once again Thanksgiving's here,  
A thought-provoking time of year...  
Many think this year a bore, yet  
there were things to be thankful for.  
And if you stop and reconsider  
You realize all things were not bitter.

There were days of great excitement,  
days of quiet contentment,  
days of dark and gloom,  
days of beautiful bloom,  
days of falling rain,  
days of sun again.

And so - the same with all of life,  
Not always do things go "right"  
But in the end the good outweighs the bad,  
and each, in his own way, is glad  
to give thanks this Thanksgiving time.

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rm

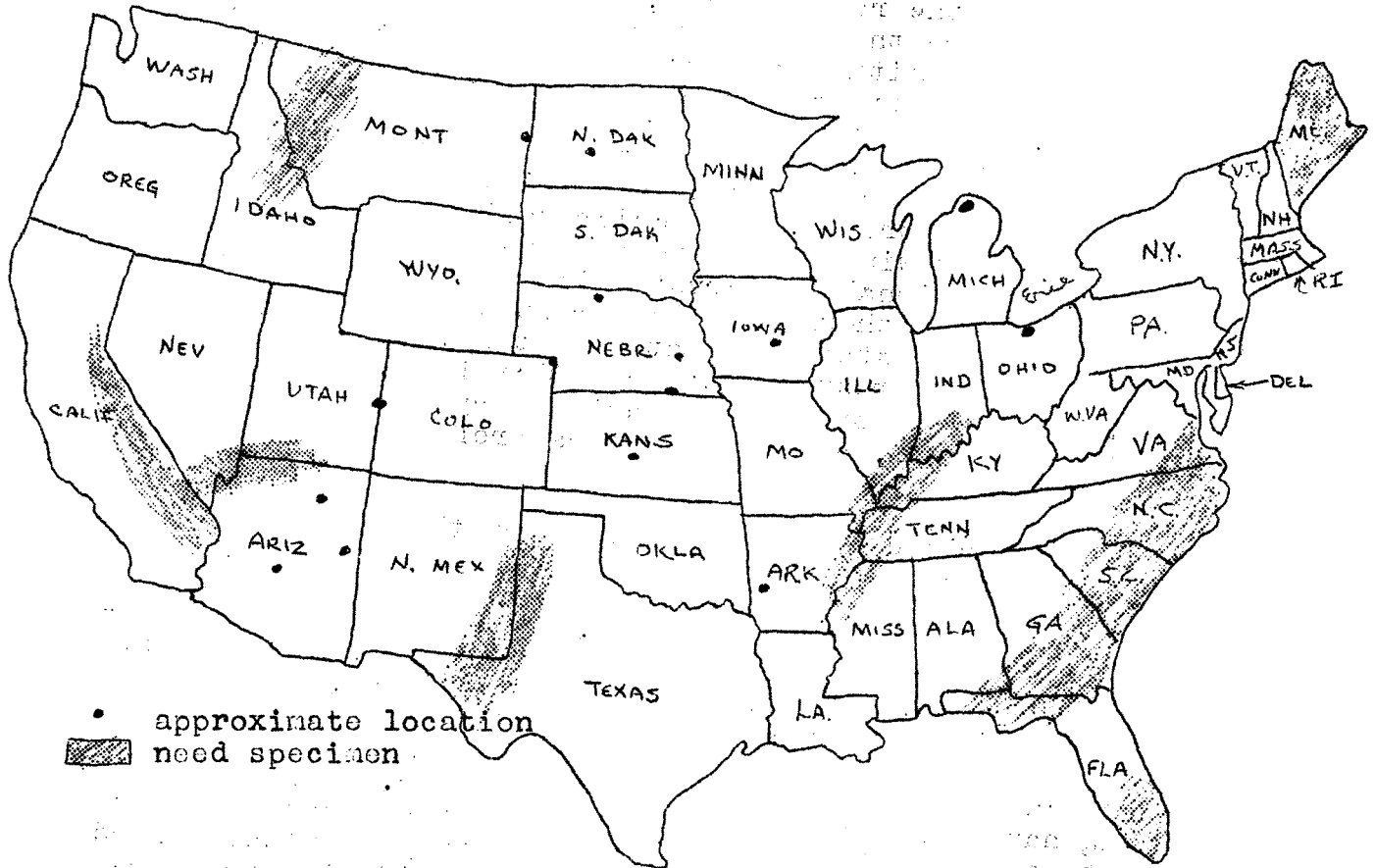
ROCKY NOTES: The name for the element nickel comes from the old German miners name for Niccolite. They called it Kupfernichel (copper nickel). Nickel was a disparaging name forimps. It would seem that its presence in other ores they mined must have caused them some difficulty.

Sillimanite-the aluminum silicate which sometimes when compact enough can be cut into a cat's eye cabochon- was named in honor of Benjamin Silliman, first professor of mineralogy at Yale University.

Courtesy of Gene Eno

Replacements Requested For Club Project

YOUR HELP IS NEEDED...several specimens of gems need to be replaced on our "Gems On Location" map. Listed below are the various stones missing and their locations are shown in the map. If any member has appropriate material and is willing to loan (?) his material, please contact a board member. These are cut and polished cabochons, faceted gems, or small polished slabs. The shaded portions have never been represented on our map.



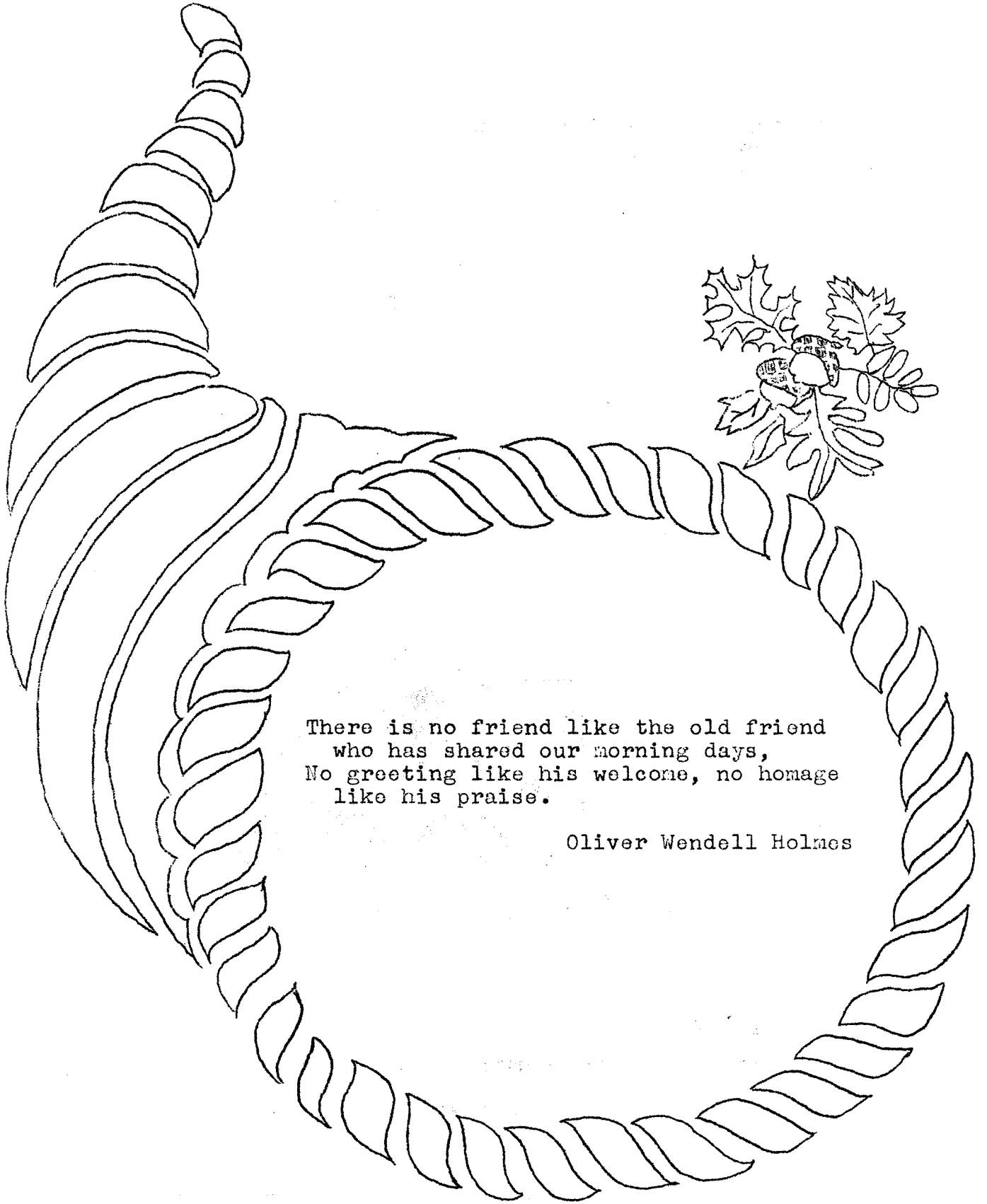
- Opal - variety wood, border N.D. and Montana
- Quartz - variety petrified wood, midwest N. D.
- Coral - variety petosky, Northern Michigan
- Opal - variety wood, northeast Nebraska
- Quartz - variety Lepidodrinodrun, mid Iowa
- Coral - variety Petosky, S. Lake Erie
- Quartz - variety pigeon blood agate, Utah-Colorado border
- Quartz - variety jasper - Ogallala, Nebr.
- Quartz variety jasper - mid-Kansas
- Quartz - variety fortification - Fairbury, Nebraska
- Quartz - variety Lake Superior, Lincoln, Nebraska
- Quartz - variety wood, north central Arizona
- Quartz - variety wood, mid eastern Arizona
- Obsidian - variety Apache Tear, mid central Arizona

## TOPAZ - NOVEMBER BIRTHSTONE

The true topaz is almost exclusively a gemstone of cavities in granitic pegmatites although small crystals of richest color are surprisingly rare, hence the esteem in which they are held. The brownish-orange specimens of best gem quality are today provided entirely by a series of small pegmatite veins near Ouro Preto, Minas Gerais, Brazil. Here the veins are exposed along the sides of steep gullies enclosed in decomposed rock which slumps badly during the rainy season, necessitating extensive clearing before the veins are again exposed. The crystals are associated with quartz and sometimes collectors obtain specimens of quartz crystals impaled by the slender topaz crystals. By far the greatest number of crystals are specimen quality only, being penetrated by numerous cracks, parallel to the prism and also by cleavage cracks which run across the prisms. The color varies from pale yellow to rich sherry wine yellow to yellow-orange or brownish-orange. Occasionally a crystal is found which is pink or purplish-pink although the latter hues can be induced in the ordinary crystals by gentle heating. Such "pinked" topazes are interesting but the color is not greatly different from that of some morganite beryls or tourmalines, or even kunzites, and most persons prefer the original hue.

Also prized for gem purposes are the blue topaz crystals which sometimes are deep enough hue to rival fine quality aquamarines and are occasionally cut and sold as such by unscrupulous dealers. Localities for blue topaz are numerous and include many in Brazil, Madagascar, Ural Mountains, Ramona, California and Texas. The latter state provides stream-worn pebbles of fine quality to gem hunters who obtain permission to hunt upon the ranch lands in which the gem bearing pegmatites occur. Ages of weathering have destroyed many of the pegmatites and released the topaz crystals to the soil where they eventually find their way into the stream gravels. Considering the percentage of faceting grade material found in the Texas gravels, this area must be unique in this respect.

John Sinkankas, C. G.  
Excerpts from 1964 issue  
LAPIDARY JOURNAL,  
via Michigan Gem News



There is no friend like the old friend  
who has shared our morning days,  
No greeting like his welcome, no homage  
like his praise.

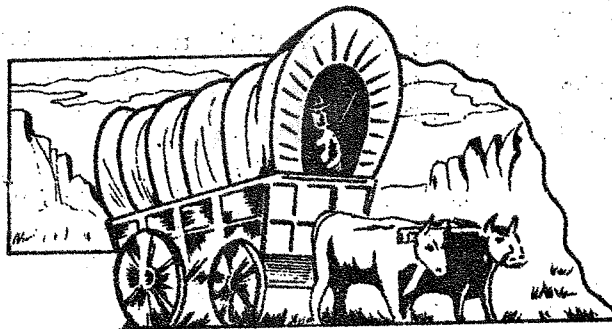
Oliver Wendell Holmes

Lincoln Gem & Mineral Club, Inc.  
Phyllis Parks, Editor  
2435 South 19th St.  
Lincoln, Nebraska 68502



T O

Mr. & Mrs. Maurice Tracy  
3601 South St.  
Lincoln, Nebr. 68506



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