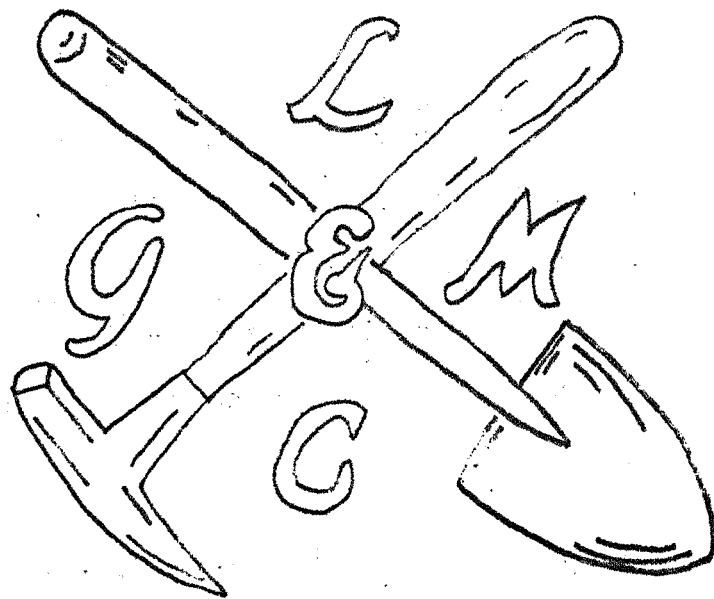


THE PICK & SHOVEL



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

Lincoln, Nebraska

Feb 19 68

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.

1968 ELECTED OFFICERS

| | |
|---|----------------------------|
| President - Mr. Howard Taylor, 910 New Hampshire, 68508 | 432-3707 |
| 1st Vice Pres. - G. W. McKinney, 6720 Ballard, 68507 | 466-0196 |
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| Treasurer - Ralph Ulrich, 441 Jeffery Drive, 68505 | 434-6757 |
| Board Member - George E. McGinnis, 3444 Somerset Ave. 68504 | 466- 7987 4-878 |
| Board Member - Frank Rule, 6333 Kearney, 68507 | 466-0453 |

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Historian & By-Laws - Mrs. Frances Tracy, 3601 South Street
Librarian - Mrs. Dorothy Engelhart, 4130 Witherbee Blvd.
Program - Mrs. Marie J. Carveth, 2626 So. 11th St., 68502
Hospitality & Guest Book - Mr. & Mrs. Ewald Paul
Education - Gene L. Eno, Phone 423-6157
Refreshments - Mr. & Mrs. Lynn Wells, Phone 435-6758
Scholarship Coupons & Commemorative Stamps - Helena Baegl

Other appointments will be announced as they are made.

BULLETIN STAFF:

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Assistants - Mrs. Norma Miller and Jim Parks
Club News - Mrs. Marie J. Carveth, 432-9100
REPORTERS - All Club Members

Editor - Member National Bulletin Editors Association

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.

T H I S M O N T H

Regular Meeting - Saturday February 24, 7:30
 Roberts Dairy Party Room, 211 South 20th St.

PROGRAM & AUCTION: Our program for February will be very interesting to all of us. Mr. Bill Moore will show slides of our big show "The Rockrama" held last fall at Pershing Auditorium. Bill will show the slides, the commentary will be from any member wishing to offer same. Showing immediately after the business meeting.

Following this an auction will be held of the rocks owned by Mrs. Griffith and shown by Mr. Earl Andrews of Nebraska City, Nebraska. This represents a collection of 25 years, so come one and all.

-Marie J. Carveth, Program Chairman

REFRESHMENTS: Your host and hostess for February will be Mr. & Mrs. Virgil Carveth and the cookies will be provided by Mr. & Mrs. James Atikins, Mr. & Mrs. Robert Bainbridge and Mr. and Mrs. Fred Claus.

-Mr. & Mrs. Lynn Wells, Chairmen

DOOR PRIZE; Courtesy of Mr. George E. McGinnis - wood, petrified that is.

NEW MEMBERS: Mrs. Evelyn Ulrich
 Glen Ulrich
 3521 So. 48th St. 68506
 488-9051

LAST CHANCE: You only have until March 1st to pay your 1968 dues if you have not done so. Be sure and see Ralph Ulrich at the meeting or mail a check to him at 441 Jeffery Drive, Lincoln, Nebr. 68505. Dues are \$3.00 per adult member, \$1.00 per member under 16, or \$7.00 for the entire family. This entitles you to membership in the Lincoln Gem and Mineral Club, subscription to the Pick & Shovel, and also affiliates you with the Midwest Federation of Mineralogical and Geological Societies, and the American Federation of Mineralogical Societies.

OPEN HOUSE: The Frank Rules invite all their friends in the club to stop by Sunday afternoon, February 18, between 2 and 5, on the occasion of their 25th wedding anniversary. The club wishes to extend sincere good wishes to you both.

DATES FOR FUN IN 1968:

| | |
|-------------|--|
| Mar. 8-10 | Gem & Mineral Show, Assn. of Earth Science Clubs, Kansas City |
| Apr. 6-7 | Annual Benefit Hobby Show and Handicraft Exposition Nebraska State Fair Grounds, 1PM to 10PM each day |
| Apr. 19-21 | Central Nebr. Rock & Mineral Show, Hastings, Nebr. |
| May 18-19 | Cedar Valley Rocks & Minerals Show in connection with All-Iowa Round-Up, Cedar Rapids, Iowa |
| June 8-9 | Rocky Mountain Federation Show, Tulsa, Okla. |
| Aug. 22-25 | Combined American Federation-Midwest Federation Show and Convention, Normal, Illinois |
| Sept. 28-29 | Lincoln Gem and Mineral Club 10th Annual Show, Lincoln, Nebr. |

HOSPITALITY REPORT: The January meeting proved to be a very good one with several members present who had been missing for some months. A total of 55 members and 11 guests as well as some prospective members were in attendance. Guests were Rick Durfee, Walter W. Dring and Son, Wayne Fleming, Mr. & Mrs. James Brinn, Mr. & Mrs. Eldon G. Bright, and Ray & Gary Plouzek, all of Lincoln; and Don Gless of Ames, Nebr.

-submitted by Mr. & Mrs. Ewald Paul

- - - - -

LINCOLN HOBBY SHOW -- This year the Lincoln Hobby Club will once again hold a hobby show and handicraft exposition at the Coliseum of the Nebraska State Fair Grounds on April 6th and 7th. Information and application blanks for entries are available from the Lincoln Hobby Club, Lincoln Hotel, 9th & P Streets, Lincoln, Nebraska 68501. This is an excellent opportunity for all to share our fascinating hobby with people from all over the area. It also affords a perfect opportunity to view other interesting hobbies as the show will be open from 1 to 10 both Saturday and Sunday.

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TURQUOISE AND SILVER -

This is a follow up on last month's program on Silversmithing by Lee Stachura. The talk and demonstration was most interesting and presented very well by Lee; and again we say "Thank You very much."

Many of us think, too, of Indian silver work. It is widely known and usually thought of as an ancient craft. Actually it is one of the most recent to be adopted by the tribes of the southwest.

The Navajo - Typical Navajo work is noted for its massive quality and its simple design. Turquoise is used primarily to enhance the beauty of the silver. Also, recently, some new techniques have been added, such as overlay. Usually we think of the Hopi in connection with this method - the Channel we associate with the Zuni. Now the Navajo silversmiths are producing this style also. Sand casting began in 1875, continues to be popular along with the hammered, filed, and stamped (chasing) work.

This reporter fell in love long ago with Indian silverwork. This writer can understand the Indian's true love for the beautiful, chunky turquoise used in the rings, bracelets, belt buckles and so on.

We understand after a little money to live on, the Indian is happy to have his investment in the truly beautiful jewelry - this craft, fashioned of silver by such talented hands. Somehow we can understand the desire to be happy and satisfied with the magnificent silver work we have had the pleasure of seeing.

Next month - more interesting notes - on the Zuni silverwork.

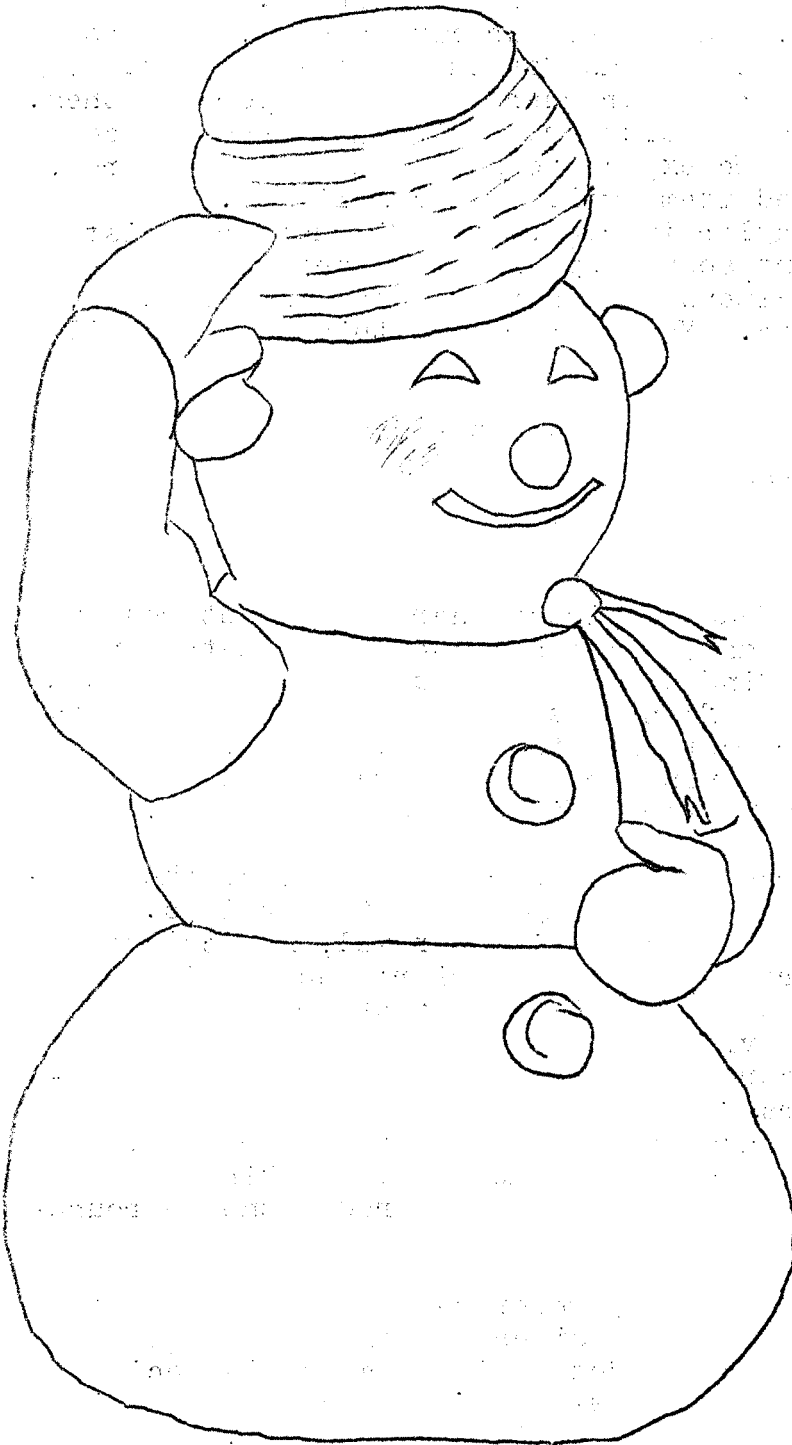
-submitted by Marie J. Carveth

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KEEP SMILING ! !

This will keep everyone guessing as to what you are up to!!

THE PRESIDENTS PAGE



Fellow Rockhounds:

It made me feel real good to see so many members and guests at our January meeting. I hope this will continue in the months to come.

The time and place has been decided for our 10th annual Rock Show. It is to be Sept. 28 & 29, 1968. The location is to be at Pershing Auditorium. Mr. Larry Rupert will be our 1968 Show Chairman. I am sure in the very near future he will start naming some of the committee heads. If you are asked to help I hope you will all cooperate with Larry and help him to have a big show in 1968.

One thing I would urge all members to keep in mind is a new home for Lincoln Gem & Mineral Club meetings. As of Sept. 1st we will no longer have the use of Roberts party room for our meeting place. Anyone who has a lead as to a place for our meetings, please contact G. W. McKinney.

I personally want to thank Mr. Stachura for a job well done on his lecture and demonstration of silversmithing.

The only way to win the door prize is to be in attendance at our meetings.

Come on out and try your luck
...Febr. 24th at 7:30 P.M.

Sincerely,

Howard Taylor

ATTENTION ALL MEMBERS -----

Among items discussed recently at the board meeting was a forthcoming inventory of club property. The President expresses appreciation to those who have been kind enough to store club items.

Now we need to take a count! These are our club assets! The board voted to ask each member storing such items for the Lincoln Gem and Mineral Club, in their home, shop, garage, or where-ever to report to them. A house-cleaning and re-organizing of club properties will take place soon at our rented storage area. We expect to gain space in this area, hence a compact storage of related items will be accomplished.

Please cooperate with Mr. Taylor in regard to this matter - list items and turn in to our President soon - by the next meeting if possible. This will include any specimens of minerals, any lumber, cases, lights, club flags, standards, etc. Your efforts in this endeavor will be greatly appreciated.

Thank You - Committee

KING OF COLORED GEMS -----

In the January issue of the Readers Digest there is an interesting article titled "King of Colored Gems", written by Scott and Kathleen Seegers. They report the recent find by four gem hunters of a 33-pound, dark-blue aquamarine crystal in the flinty earth of Brazil's Minas Gerais backlands. Nearly 500 jewels were cut from that single stone, the finest of its size ever discovered. Seven particularly magnificent gems totaling 123 carats were cut from it for a Middle Eastern monarch.

Brazil produces about 90 percent of the world's supply of the semi-precious stones - aquamarines, topazes, amethysts and tourmalines. Unlike diamonds, which in Brazil are found in river gravel, the colored stones are scattered lavishly throughout the interior: aquamarines of a dozen subtle shades of blue; tourmalines in a riot of greens, blues, purples, pinks, yellows and reds; violet amethysts; glowing, sherry-brown imperial topazes - and a score of other decorative but less valuable gems. Free-lance gem hunters find many of the stones in the plains around low mountains, where they have been washed by the torrential wet-season rains. Sometimes others are found actually sticking up out of the tops of such hills, where rain and wind have eroded the surrounding earth.

The article tells in detail how a jeweler named Stern (King of Colored Gems) became involved in the gem business at the early age of 16 and progressed to the world's largest dealer in these semi-precious stones. A real success story and one you will enjoy reading. You will also enjoy viewing the gems in color accompanying the article.

-contributed by Norma Miller

The Association of Earth Science Clubs
of Greater Kansas City

Invite you to the 1968 Gem & Mineral Show, Friday thru Sunday, March 8-10 at the Kansas National Guard Armory. One of their features will be glass blowing by our own Lincoln expert, Mr. Lloyd Moore.

10 YEARS
AGO

The February 1958 meeting of the Lincoln Gem and Mineral Club was held at Morrill Hall. Dr. Robert Gibson was introduced as a guest.

Everett Wykle showed specimens and spoke on "The Mineral and Gem Stones of North Carolina." He stated that more than 400 mineral and gem stones are found in his native state of North Carolina.

-from the notebooks of Historian Frances Tracy

* * *

HALITE...THE SALT OF THE EARTH

So previous was this mineral that in Roman days, a special road was built for the delivery to their capital. The name, salt, derives from the word for salary. The Roman soldier was given an allowance for the purchase of salt. The expression "He's worth his salt", may also come from this source. In the days when it was a costly commodity, it is said that one could judge his prestige by whether he was seated above or below the salt at dinner.

The spilling of salt has long been considered bad luck...unless the spell is broken by throwing a pinch of it over the left shoulder.

via CHIPS OFF THE OLD ROCK

* * *

advertisement

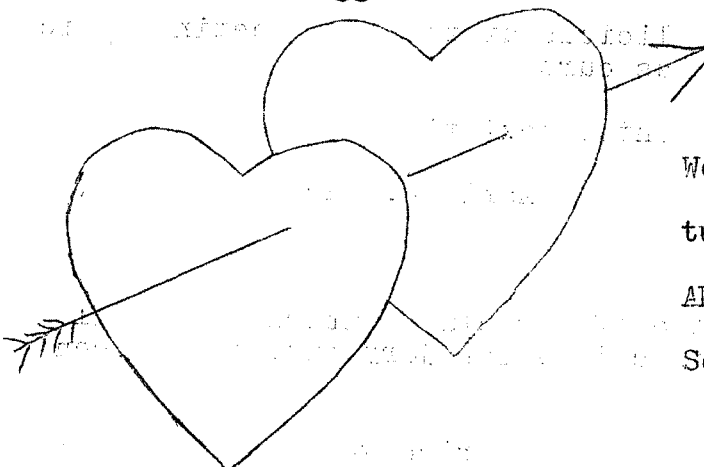
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February's Birthstone is Amethyst.

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DID YOU KNOW ?

Mr. & Mrs. Frank Rule will hold open house on Sunday afternoon February 18, to celebrate their silver anniversary. Friends are invited to call without further invitation. All members of the Lincoln Gem and Mineral Club extend many good wishes to a fine couple and an active member, Mr. Rule. (Otherwise known as "Lefty.")

Virg Carveth enjoyed a nice visit at Lewellen, Nebr. recently with the fine dealer and friend, Mr. Fred Pennick. Mr. Pennick, who has been ill, has recovered nicely, is enjoying his work and his hobby again. He spent Christmas in California, too.

Happy Birthday Greetings, late, but none the less sincere to Virg Carveth, a big Valentine. And Louise Baugher too, on Feb. 14!

February 10 was a happy day for our club members in Edgewater, Md. Mr. & Mrs. Joe E. Barker's son returned to Maryland after a year and a half in Vietnam.

Our salute to the United States Navy and our own Chief, Thos. Simmons. Last Monday evening we witnessed the taking of the oath to serve God and Country by four young men. Among these, our dear nephew, John. Among the witnesses including parents, aunts and uncles, was Grandmother, a mere eighty years young. Our tribute to her - a truly gracious lady, her keen interest in the activities - This is one of many grandsons already serving in our country's forces, and the sixth in the Navy. A more courteous "crew" we could not find - the men at the Navy headquarters in Lincoln, Nebraska. Thanks for being so courteous and kind and respectful to our "Mom" and to all Mothers!

It was interesting to note via the recent copy of "Prairie Rockhound" that our friends Harvey and Howard Kenfield are now editors of the bulletin. A nice job, good reading and Good Luck to you!

A board meeting was held recently at our President's home with "much interesting discussion." New members are coming into our LGMC and they are always welcome.

Wasn't our "Birthday Cake" delicious at the last meeting? Nice to belong to an organization such as ours!

Until next time

Marie J. Carveth

LATE NEWS --

A different experience for two of our club members as Lucille Hedges and Maurice Tracy were both called for jury duty this recent session.

We hope for a quick recovery for Kay Ulrich who traveled over half of Europe, across an ocean, by air, and sea, and land with no mishaps only to suffer a fall and end up on crutches soon after she arrived home.

EDUCATION - "PLEEZY" CONTINUES TO INTEREST MANY

Lincoln Gem and Mineral Club's school appearances are moving further afield. In fact they almost reached Illinois. Five hundred enthusiastic students from Middle School, a junior high in Bettendorf, Iowa, were treated to "The Pleezy Story" on February 9th. The Blackhawk Gem and Mineral Society were taking advantage of the Gene Eno's appearance at their club meeting to add a little extra to their school program.

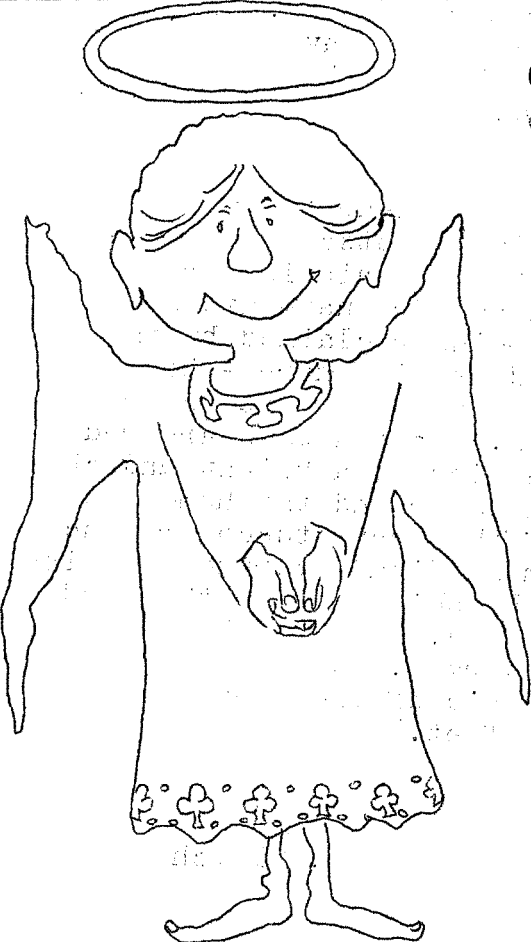
This turned into a busy weekend for Gene and Janis for he also appeared on a TV interview on Channel 8 in Moline, Illinois, besides visiting their friends, the Schrodgers and the Lundquists.

Dorothy Engelhart accompanied the Eno's as far as Des Moines where she was the house guest of Ed & Mary McNamar. The club at Ames, Iowa, hearing of her impending visit promptly scheduled Dot to give "The Monster Dig" at the Friday meeting of the Ames Rock & Mineral Club. Dot came away from Ames quite pleased with their reaction. Two Iowa State professors were quite generous in their praise of the photography and the script. This takes on particular significance when she found their respective fields were Photography and English.

The only complaint about this sojourn into Iowa from Dorothy and the Eno's was the weather. It was too cold to hunt rocks.

-From the Committee on Education

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FROM THE ULRICHS....Back in the States....

I am flooded with experiences and memories that need to be sorted and put in order! The flight from Frankfurt to Chicago was wonderful, but such a long day! It was sunshiny away up there, the sky a bright, October blue! I saw Greenland, and icebergs, and the mountains and waters of Labrador. I thought of rock-hounding as we passed over Labrador.

I spent two days and nights with my brother in Chicago before coming on to Lincoln. I had left Frankfurt at 1:20 Central European time and arrived in Chicago at 3:35 Central Standard Time. I went to bed that evening at 9:30 Central Standard Time but my watch and my body said 4:00 A.M. It took me four days to get my body rearranged to the time change.

On January 9, I left Frankfurt for Hamburg. I was there 3 days, took a city bus tour, saw the Reeperbahn and St. Pauli's Ave., only from the bus! These areas were quiet but in the summer they are roaring with the life of the waterfront - sailors and shoremen, girls and shows of all kinds. Plenty of clip joints. I also took a boat tour of the harbor. Lots of snow when I was there. I had new heels put on my boots while here - from Dec. 26 to Jan. 10th I had walked them away! I went to see Der Widerspenstigen Zähmung (The Taming of the Shrew) at the Schauspielhaus in Hamburg. Old on the outside but very elaborate inside - red velvet box seats and loges! I sat in the balcony! The dialogue was in German but having seen the stage play twice in English and recently the film, I could easily follow the dialogue. It seemed a little more bawdy in German.

From here I went by train to Norden, near the North Sea, in the territory of Ostfriesland. Platt Deutsch is the spoken dialect here. Platt means flat and the terrain is very flat here with dikes to hold back the sea and drainage ditches to drain the farm ground. New land is being reclaimed by the building of more dikes. Some Hollanders live here - big red brick homes, dairy houses and barns. The dairy houses are built as one with the living quarters. Most houses are red brick, and with the snow cover it was indeed a bright and cheery atmosphere. No fences and locked gates around the homes as in middle and southern Germany. Few of the gray stucco or concrete buildings that make these areas seem so dismal during the winter. Here I visited cousins and aunts of Ralph's step-brother and step-sisters. They were wonderful to me. We got along quite well as some of them did speak high German. As one cousin said, "When we couldn't get along with the aid of the Wörterbuchen (dictionaries) we used our hands and feet."

Continued next month...

K. Ulrich

YOUNG VIEWPOINT

I don't have too much news this month, but what I have I will gladly share with you.

As some of you might know, Sandy Wasserburger is here in Lincoln, at the Orthopedic Hospital. For those of you who might recognize the name, her parents are Mr. & Mrs. Eli Wasserburger of Crawford, Nebraska.

Crawford is the site of the President's field trip on Labor Day weekend in September.

Sandy has been in Lincoln since January 4th, and hopes to go home by at least the 10th of February. (Before going to press we discovered that Sandy was able to go home on February 9th.)

On her first day in Lincoln, she went to see the State Capitol building. She said, "It was a lot of fun, and if I lived in Lincoln, I'd be up there every day!"

Ricky Kohn participated in a State Chess Tournament on Saturday, February 10. This was a state school contest.

Judy Weber underwent surgery at St. Elizabeth Hospital this week. We hope she will have a quick return to good health.

So until next time,

Susie Taylor

Junior Reporter

- - -

Junior or young adult members wishing to contribute items of interest for Susie to report on her page please contact her at 910 New Hampshire, 68508, or call her at 432-3707. News of the members, their activities, or interesting rock-facts will be very welcome.

DOWN IN THE DUMPS

Those who hunt old dumps for purple bottles and such will be interested in a bit of information taken from Utah's Mineralscoop. If you wish to know if your clear bottles will turn purple without exposing them to sunlight, place them under a BLACK LIGHT and, if they fluoresce green, they will turn purple when exposed to the ultra-violet rays of the sun. This phenomenal change is due to small amounts of Manganese which were the ever-present traces of iron, which gave the glass the common aqua color.

This element enables bottles to capture and absorb the ULTRA-VIOLET rays of the sun, giving us Desert Glass. This is the same mineral which produces some of the dendrites in our gem stones, hardens steel, and dates our clear glass before 1918 when the supply was cut off from Germany during World War I.

via the ROCKHOUNDS CALL from CHIPS & TIPS

* * * * *

VISIONS OF FIELD TRIPS

With no definite field trip chairman appointed it might seem like a lost summer but that should not be the case.

It is hoped that those who are interested in group trips to any certain localities will let the members of the board know so that they can be planned as the time and weather permit rather than schedule a lot of dates that will perhaps not fit in anyone's calendar and thereby be a big disappointment to those heading them up, as well as to the rest of the club.

A rock swap is definitely being planned early in August and we hope that several will be able to coordinate their time to have a nice group trip to Eden Valley area.

Naturally we still expect to have the yearly trek to Crawford as no summer would be complete without it.



AMETHYST

By Mary McNamar

The word amethyst is derived from the Greek word "amothustos" meaning "not drunken" and was construed as a prevention for drunkenness. In ancient times, amethyst was called "the beneficent stone", it was the good luck charm of lovers, businessmen, sportsmen and hunters. It was thought to have the power to control evil thoughts, to assure victory over enemy soldiers, to develop sharp intellect, and to protect the wearer from contagion. When worn as an amulet, the wearer was protected against the stings of scorpions and insects and from violence of thunderstorms. If engraved with certain inscriptions, the amethyst amulet was an antidote for pains and gave protection from hail and locusts.

In ancient French verse, there is the legend of Baccus, the god of wine, who in avenging an insult, swore that the first person whom he met should be devoured by his tigers. The beautiful maiden, Amethyst, on her way to worship at the shrine of Diana, was the first to approach, but as the beasts sprang at the girl, Diana turned her to pure white stone. Baccus became repentant and as a liberation, poured the juice of grapes over her body giving the stone a beautiful though streaked violet hue.

The formula is SiO_2 . Chemically, amethyst differs from other varieties of quartz, containing a relatively large amount of Iron Fe_2O_3 . It has a hardness of 7, specific gravity of 2.7, fracture ripple, cleavage rhombohedral, is hexagonal-trigonal trapezohedral. Prism faces are usually horizontally striated, terminal faces usually exhibit alternating development of larger and smaller faces, thus indicating the rhombohedral rather than hexagonal character of the mineral.

Amethyst is the most desired of all quartz. Once highly priced (classed equally with diamond), amethyst lost much of its value after the great Brazilian deposits were found in the early 1800's. Gem quality amethyst is transparent quartz, ranging from almost colorless to deep, rich purple, in comparatively evenly distributed color, deep purple being preferred. The color rarely is distributed uniformly in the crystal, although it may appear to be in a well-cut gem stone, and ordinarily is in very thin layers or bands parallel to the external crystal faces. It also occurs in irregular patches. The color frequently is darkest and internal flaws are less frequent toward the apical part of the crystal. One theory is the depth of color is proportional to the iron content. Another is that the color of Brazilian amethyst is attributed to hydro carbons of Titanus and Manganese. Some amethyst does not contain Manganese. The color of amethyst is perceptibly different in material from certain localities, ranging from bluish violet to a reddish violet, and at times to smoky shades, at the same general intensity of coloration, and the response to heat treatment and to irradiation isn't necessarily uniform.

The range in color of amethyst is apparent in crystals from Madagascar and Porkura, Hungary which tend toward a blue-lavender or bluish violet color, with dark amethyst from Iredell county, North Carolina or from occurrences such as Guanajuato, Mexico and Creede, Colorado, which incline toward a reddish violet. The amethyst from Uruguay and most other localities ranges between these extremes. The amethyst from Bahia,

Amethyst (continued) by Mary McNamar

Brazil tends towards reddish or brownish red tones. A smoky cast of color is shown by the amethyst from Upper Providence township, Pennsylvania, and from some pegmatitic occurrences. The Madagascar amethyst also tends to be smoky. It may be caused by a superposition of amethystine color on a natural citrine, or smoky color.

Sceptre crystals of amethyst occur on colorless, milky, or smoky quartz and parallel overgrowths of amethyst crystals on other varieties of quartz are common. Amethystine phantoms occur within colorless crystals of quartz, and alternate zones of colorless, smoky and amethystine quartz have been observed in single crystals. More commonly, the outer zone is amethyst, and colorless and smoky zones alternate inwardly. Close-spaced or extremely thin zones are best seen in polished sections cut perpendicular to a rhombohedral face. Specimens from Coos County, New Hampshire, have been found with as many as ten narrow alternating bands of amethyst and smoky quartz. The crystals often are densely aggregated into crusts, and then show only the terminal rhombohedral faces. When individual crystals are broken from such crusts, they taper irregularly toward the point of attachment, and are striated latterly because of interference with adjoining crystals. Usually the lower parts of such crystals are flawed and poorly arranged, with a milky appearance.

Amethyst virtually always shows polysynthetic twinning on the Brazil Law. Untwinned crystals have been noted though. The amethyst color may be equally developed in successive twin plates, but often alternate thin plates of the same hand, either right or left are selectively pigmented. Some descriptions note the pigment only in right handed twins. When color banding is marked parallel to the rhombohedral faces, the colorless or relatively faintly pigmented bands also show the twin structure. The liquid inclusions in amethyst also may be rhythmically arranged like the twin plates.

Amethyst can be decolorized, or changed in color to citrine or a grayish green or grass green color by heat. The tendency to become green seems to be only in amethyst from certain localities, and some from Montezuma, Minas Gerais, Brazil was found to become green when heated to 510°. The amethyst color of bleached or citrine color can be restored by irradiation with x-rays.

Amethyst crystals generally are small in size, rarely ranging over 4" or 5", unlike giant crystals occasionally found in smoky and colorless quartz. Of course the Mexican specimen the Ontiveros' had at the '62 show in Des Moines is an exception. One was found in Brazil in 1946 showing rhombohedral termination with edges about 5" long and weighing 8 lbs. Crystals weighing as much as 50 lbs. have been found, but for the most part are milky and translucent, and badly flawed, and with only local areas transparent and of good color. The West Bend Grotto has a Brazilian amethystine geode 24" x 30", valued at \$5,000. and said to be the largest in America.

Amethyst occurs in deposits of varied nature. It is widespread, although generally of quite pale color, in hydrothermal veins formed at relatively low temperatures where it is associated with barite, calcite fluorite, sulfides and at times zeolites. A well-known occurrence of

Amethyst (continued) by Mary McNamar

this type is at Guanajuate, Mexico, where drusy crusts of amethyst occur with calcite and apophyllite in silver veins. The most important manner of occurrence of amethyst is in the basic igneous flow rocks, chiefly basalts, where it is found in cavities, and is often associated with agate and zeolites.

Commercial amethyst is chiefly obtained from Uruguay and the state of Rio Grande do Sul in southern Brazil, where it occurs with agate in large almond shaped cavities. Typical specimens show circular layers of agate lining the walls with an inner cavity partly, or completely filled with crystals of amethyst or colorless quartz with amethystine tips radiating inward. The amethyst also occurs lining large open geodes and other cavities. At Serro do Mar, Rio Grand do Sul, Brazil a single cavity 33 feet long, 5½ feet wide and 3 feet high was lined with brilliant, deep violet amethyst crystals averaging about 4 cm across.

Amethyst of the finest quality is mined in the Ural mountains of Russia where it occurs in quartz veins in granite. Also fine stones are found in gem gravel of Ceylon. The term Siberian amethyst is now generally applied to any cut stone of rich, deep color, regardless of locality. Massive vein amethyst with a cockscomb structure has been found in Puy-de-Done, France and cut in slabs for ornamental purposes. Light colored crystals and aggregates with chalcedony and zeolites in basalt occur along the bay of Fundy, Nova Scotia. It also occurs abundantly in the Thunder Bay region of the north shore of Lake Superior in Ontario, Canada. Amethyst in pockets in pegmatite also are found in several counties in New Hampshire. Drusy crusts of small amethyst crystals are found at various zeolite localities of New Jersey. Fine crystals partly gem quality occur with colorless and smoky quartz at numerous minor localities in pegmatite or loose in the soil in Delaware and Chester Counties, Pennsylvania. Fine gem material and specimens are found in North Carolina, Virginia and large crystals with liquid-filled cavities almost 1" in size from Georgia. Amethyst occurs in hollow trunks or casts of petrified trees on Amethyst Mountain, Yellowstone National Park, Wyoming. Fine composite crystals have been found at Cripple Creek, Colorado. Also amethyst partly of gem quality occurs with hematite and apatite in cavities in Quartzite at Four Peaks, Maricopa County, Arizona.

The most popular cutting usage for amethyst is brilliant and step cuts in faceting and for cameos and intaglios, to say nothing of the enormous amount of tumbled baroques used for making jewelry.

(Editor's Comment---My thanks to Mary McNamar, Des Moines, Iowa, who so graciously permitted us to use this article. Mrs. McNamar is active in two clubs in her area and a real rockhound.)

THE INGREDIENTS OF AN ARROWHEAD

-E. Raymond Ring, Jr.

The American Indian wasn't fussy about what he used to make an arrowhead so long as it could be shaped to suit the need.

Throughout the ages the Indian's choicest material for arrowheads was flint and the flint-related rocks such as chalcedony, agate, novaculite, jasper, opal, etc. He liked obsidian too. These are the silicon dioxide "glass" rocks of nature, and like glass, they flake beautifully in conchoidal fractures and shape easily into sharp cutting edges. Quartzite, which is a more granular silica rock was used quite extensively but it was more difficult to shape.

The Indians of the Eastern Seaboard were starved for good flint-type rocks and their arrowheads are the ugliest of all, being made of slates, quartzite, trap rocks, schists, and all forms of rocks which a Wyoming Indian would have written off as worthless junk.

I have heard rumors of Wyoming jade arrowheads, but this I refuse to believe. The Indian was much too smart to wrestle with a tough, unsuitable rock like jade for projectile purposes. True, I once saw a white man make three jade arrowheads. They would have served their purpose but they were thick and clumsy--and terribly hard to make. The Indians of the Valley of Mexico make beautiful jadeite human sacrificial knives. But they didn't flake them. They abraded, honed, and polished them into shape.

Probably the most spectacular "arrowhead" ever found was a fabulous fluted Early-man Clovis point struck out of a large quartz crystal. This diamond-clear point was found by a farmer in North Carolina who then took it home to strike against steel to start his kitchen stove fires!!!! The now damaged point presently rests in the Smithsonian.

Some arrowheads and spear points were made of wood, especially stunning arrows. Many were made of bone, antler, and tusk. The various Indian tribes bordering the Gulf of Mexico used gar fish scales extensively. And all Indians everywhere loved to make arrowheads of wine bottles, telegraph insulators, and other glass articles. But best of all they liked to make arrowheads, spears, and knives out of the white man's iron. Barrel hoops were a favorite source, but any old blacksmith's iron stock was satisfactory.

Also the Indian traded beaver pelts and other choice items to the white man for steel arrowheads. Pierre Choteau's men brought the first of these to Wyoming in about 1822 from St. Louis. These steel points were somewhat diamond-shaped with a thin saw-tooth stem and they were almost always stamped with a St. Louis factory trade mark.

-The Turritella Telegram

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



CHANGES IN AFMS MAILING PLAN

The Midwest has been asked to obtain information from each member club concerning AFMS mailing. The request from Bob Hagglund, AFMS Newsletter editor, reads in part:

"Member clubs of each Regional Federation will be asked to choose a responsible member to act as their receiving agent for the number of copies of the AFMS Newsletter to which they are entitled. . . 2 copies to be given to officers of their choice, plus one copy for the bulletin editor of those clubs which publish one.

The member chosen, not necessarily an officer, should be one who can be depended upon to see that the Newsletter copies are delivered to the proper persons.

Regional Secretaries are requested to publish this plan and to see that the requested addresses are forwarded to the Newsletter editor immediately.

The information should include: the name and address of the member who is to receive the Newsletter copies for his club; the name of the club; the correct zip code number; the number of copies to which the club is entitled (2 copies for each club, plus one copy if the club publishes a bulletin."

Please send this information to the your Midwest Secretary, Jean Reynolds, 107 Tuttle Ave., Clarendon Hills, Illinois 60514 as soon as possible so you will receive all your AFMS information for 1968.

SIOUX EMPIRE GEM AND MINERAL SOCIETY

has set April 20 from 10 A.M. to 9 P.M. and April 21 from Noon to 6 P.M. as the dates for their first Sioux Empire Rock Show to be held in the Odd Fellows Temple in Sioux Falls, S.D. Dealers and exhibitors should contact Robert Johnson, Route 3 - Box 230, Sioux Falls, S.D.

Issue No. 82 - February 1968

THE 1968 MWF DIRECTORY

will be published very soon and the Directory Chairman, Olive Ellersick, is now sending out the forms in search of the information from each club to be included in the new directory. When you receive the information request forms will you see that the officer or club member responsible for getting this information, recording it on the form, do so as quickly as possible and get the form returned to our secretary, Jean Reynolds, in the self-addressed envelope included with the form. This cooperation from each club will enable the directory to be printed and sent to our member clubs on time.

THE WORD "ROCKHOUND"

is mentioned three times in the February 1968 issue of Woodall's Trailer Travel . . . in the "letters to the Editors" and in the articles "Camping With the Apaches" and "A Home In the Desert", according to word from our Education Chairman Gail Alexander.

WE STILL NEED

your Betty Crocker / General Mills coupons for our Scholarship Foundation. Your response has been wonderful but we are still collecting them to continue the work which has been started.

KEEP THIS ONE ON YOUR CALENDAR

The American Federation - Midwest Federation combined show will be in Bloomington-Normal, Illinois on August 22-23-24-25, 1968. It's the BIG ONE for 1968.

HUNTING ON PRIVATE PROPERTY

-by Ellis Courter, MWF President

-an editorial in the Conglomerate, bulletin of the Michigan Mineralogical Society.

Listening to the gossip emanating from some of our rockhound gatherings, I can hear rumblings about some of the admission charges that collectors are assessed for the privilege of entering privately owned collecting grounds.

Admittedly, during the past season or so, some owners have "upped" their "diggin" fee to a point where it may seem high-- BUT-- before we condemn them or go into any tirade about the whole thing, let's give it a fair look.

Let's suppose, for instance, that you owned property that yielded gems or minerals. Would you feel justified in granting everyone free collecting privileges merely for "the good of the cause"? Of course not! Certainly the owner of any such property is entitled to a benefit--and this benefit should bear some relation to the value of the material involved, along with equal consideration for his investment, cost of operation, risk of property damage, accidents, vandalism and what not-- and if it doesn't, you'll have to admit the man isn't a very smart operator.

Let me go back a few years and cite a striking example of over generosity. Nearly every rockhound who has been around for any time has heard of the famed Priday Ranch out in Oregon. For years, this ranch, which spreads over several thousand acres, was open to the collecting public without charge. But then, as its fame spread-- and the hobby expanded-- it became necessary to hire someone to supervise things. At the same time, a nominal charge of \$1.50 was effected for each visiting car. For this fee, you could stay as long as you liked, dig anywhere, and enjoy free camping and firewood. For ten years this went on. And then came the day of reckoning-- when Mr. Priday decided to sell his ranch holdings and divorce himself from the operation. And herein lies the point of my story.

During his ownership, it is claimed that the collecting public dug up-- and carried away-- no less than \$150,000 worth of rough gem material. And what did Mr. Priday get in return for all this? It is said that his entire life work on the ranch netted him less than one half of this amount. In short, the public with no investment or any responsibility, received over twice as much as did the owner of the property.

Today, the Priday ranch location is still one of the most noted collecting spots in the west, and even yet, it is a very generous producer. Under the new owners, however, the collecting fee has been hiked considerably. Even so, the privilege granted is a bargain considering the speculative aspects, as some of the rough material gathered from these wide spread acres has sold upwards of \$10 per pound.

Maybe this is an extreme case, but I'm inclined to think not. I venture to say that in the majority of cases the public collector is very likely to profit more than the private owner.

In some cases the owners may even be denying themselves a financial gain in offering this kind of a service to collectors. They could, for instance, lease the area to wholesalers, or work it themselves and sell in quantity to wholesalers. Either way, it is likely that the overall consideration would be greater, the return realized more quickly, and all brought about with less bother.

Most of us are inclined to forget about the things for which an operator has to pay in granting us collecting rights. We forget his responsibility in protecting the public he serves. This, by itself, usually requires the payment of a substantial premium to offset unforeseen accidents or injuries that sometimes occur when careless or reckless people forget their manners. Nor is it all for public protection. With vandalism on the rise, some must to protect his own property from those who are wont to bespoil.

Again in areas where heavy digging is required, it may be necessary at frequent intervals to bring in heavy equipment to turn over the ground and expose new and more fruitful working areas-- and while this can lighten the pick and shovel work of collectors-- it is expensive for the owners.

Some dissent might come from those who claim that too often the pickings are skimpy-- that they seek but do not find. Naturally, no owner can ever guarantee a bonanza. He doesn't put or distribute the minerals in the good earth nor can he be expected to gather them and tne sprinkle them atop the ground to be picked up like potatoes.

In a few places, good material may be lacking-- but of the better known localities, just how often do you pay a fee in vain. Rarely does a visitor leave a noted collecting ground empty handed-- at least not if he lets his fate be known. Usually the owner upon hearing of any collector's ill luck will present him with enough material to equal the admission fee.

Another consideration that we often forget is the convenience of it all. A collector on vacation with only a limited amount of time can be assured of reaching an established site and by paying the going rate can enjoy the fruits of a popular "diggings", have protection from undue risks, and in the shortest possible time be on his way to the next stop. Count your time as dollars, and you can't lose. Nor will you drive a couple hundred miles seeking some out-of-the-way spot only to find a water-filled hole when you finally get there-- or be confronted with a bold sign that says "Keep Out", "No Collecting" or the like. Yes, I'd much rather go where I'm welcome-- and where there is something reasonably sure in the offing-- even though it may require the payment of a collecting fee. All this, of course, is reserved for those times when I'm in a hurry!

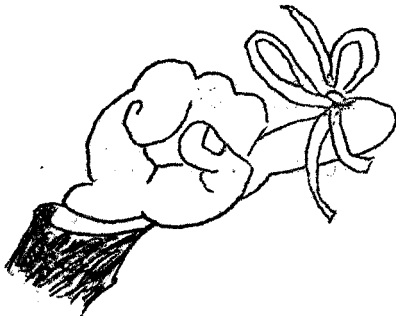
ROCKHOUND

by Dan Printup

With head bowed down and back all bent
and posture quite awry,
I must appear to other folks
a most peculiar guy.
You'll find me on a rocky slope
or some old gravel bars
As mumbling to myself, I search
for stones that shine like stars.
I know not of the world around,
the trees, the birds, the skies,
But flashing bits of crystal
light up my old tired eyes.
To reach my house you stumble
through a boulder littered yard,
And everywhere that you would sit
a stone is there sharp and hard.
The lawns too rocky to be mowed,
so I am spared that chore.
I've rocks enough to fill the house,
but still I bring home more.
I'm old, I know, perhaps it's true,
my mind's a bit unsound,
But what would you expect of me?
I'm just an old rockhound.

from Cedar Valley Rock & Mineral and
Bear Gulch Rock Club Inc.

via THE GEM NEWS, North Las Vegas Gem Society



REMEMBER

DUES ARE DUE

From

LINCOLN GEM & MINERAL CLUB
% Mrs. Phyllis Parks, Editor
2435 South 19th St.
Lincoln, Nebr. 68502



TO

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

SAVE GENERAL MILLS COUPONS - Worth one-half cent for scholarhiip.

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"UNITED WE STAND" - Motto from Ellis W. Courter, MWF President

H E L P E L I M I N A T E L I T T E R P L E A S E

August 22-23-24-25, 1968 - THE AMERICAN-NATIONAL ROCK SHOW to be
held in conjunction with the MWF at Normal, Illinois.