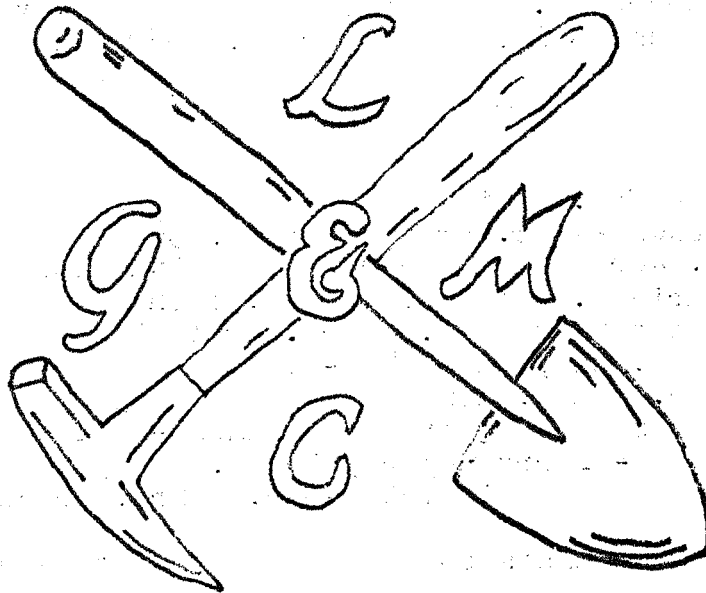


THE PICK & SHOVEL



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

NOV 1968

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
2nd Vice-Pres. - Louise Baugher, 7415 Englewood Dr., 68510	433-4274
Recording Secretary - Jerrold Kohn, 4944 Washington, 68506	483-4547
Treasurer - Ralph Ulrich, 3909 Pace Blvd., 68502	423-0419
Board Member - George E. McGinnis, 3444 Somerset Ave., 68504	466-4878
Board Member - Frank Rule, 6333 Kearney, 68507	466-0453

APPOINTMENTS:

Liaison Officer - Mrs. Marie Taylor, 910 New Hampshire, 68508
Historian & By-Laws - Mrs. Frances Tracy, 3601 South Street 68506
Librarian - Mrs. Dorothy Engelhart, 4130 Witherbee Blvd. 68510
Program - Mrs. Marie J. Carveth, 2526 S. 11th St., 68502
Hospitality & Guest Book - Mr. & Mrs. Ewald Paul
Education - Gene L. Eno, Phone 423-6157
Refreshments - Mr. & Mrs. Lynn Wells, Phone 435-6753
Scholarship Coupons & Commemorative Stamps - Helena Baegl
1968 Show Chairman - Larry Rupert, 351 S. 26th, phone 435-6069
Publicity for Show & Club in 1968 - Mr. & Mrs. Bruce Simon, ph 423-2984

Other appointments to be announced as they are made.

BULLETIN STAFF:

Editor - Phyllis Parks, 2435 S. 19th St., 68502, Phone 423-6798
Assistants - Mrs. Norma Miller and Jim Parks
Club News - Mrs. Marie J. Carveth, 432-9100
Reporters - ALL Club Members

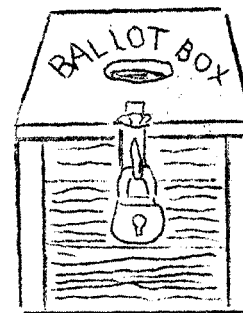
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affiliated with

MIDWEST FEDERATION OF MINERALOGICAL AND GEOLOGICAL SOCIETIES
AMERICAN FEDERATION OF MINERALOGICAL SOCIETIES

Editor - Member National Bulletin Editors Association

ANNUAL MEETING....Election of Officers
 Time7:30 PM, November 23rd
 PlaceWOW Bldg., 734 S. 27th St.



IMPORTANT.Election of Officers
 See report of nominating
 committee in this bulletin

PROGRAM. . .This month we will have a
 "Slide and Conversation" presentation
 by several L.G.M.C. members who attended the
 Normal, Illinois Show.

Marie J. Carveth, Program Chairman

REFRESHMENTS..Hosts...Maurice & Frances Tracy and Lloyd Baugher
 Mr. & Mrs. Clyde Miller, Mr. & Mrs. John Lewis

DOOR PRIZES...to be donated by Paul Greenwade, G. W. McKinney and
 Frank Rule

CHRISTMAS 1968...Festivities begin at 5 P.M. on December 15, at the
 regular meeting place, WOW Bldg., 27th & Randolph.
 This is to be our covered dish supper with coffee and
 drink furnished by the club. Come, bring the family
 and your own food service. Entertainment and arrange-
 ments are in the hands of Marie Wells, Phyllis Parks,
 and Marie Taylor.
 For our gift exchange each person who brings a package
 containing rock, mineral or related items, value \$2.00,
 will receive one in exchange. Will the ladies please
 bring lady's gifts wrapped in red, gentlemen's gifts
 in green, and children's wrapped in blue.

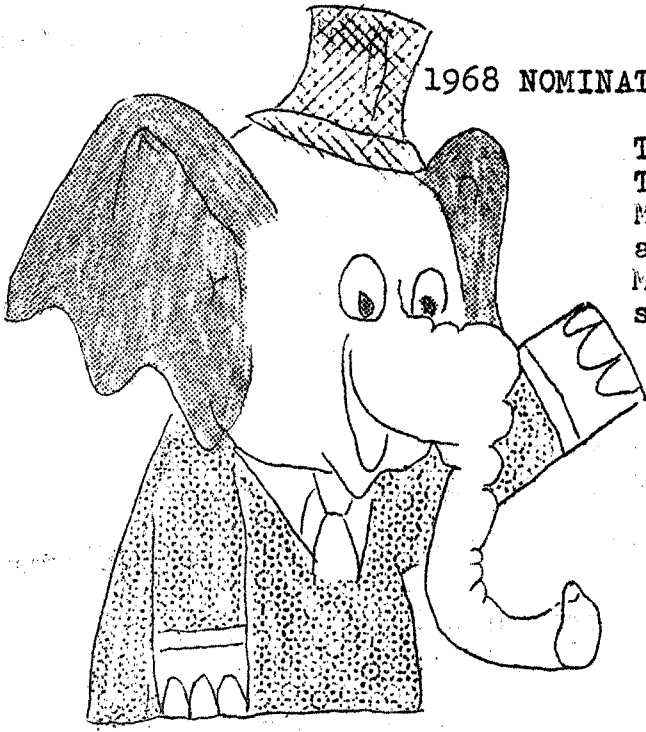
NOTE: Club member, Harry Gragg, has been hospitalized at Veterans Hos-
 pital, 600 S. 74th St., Ward 1A, 68510. Cards and visitors are
 welcome.

NOTE: Late conference call from Tom Simmons who is hunting in Fort
 Robinson area with several friends provided the news of one down
 and three to go.

CALENDAR: Christmas Party, Dec. 15th, 5:00 PM, regular meeting hall
 Mar. 7 - 9 Greater Kansas City Gem & Mineral Clubs Show
 National Guard Armory
 Mar. 15-16 St. Louis Rock Hobby Clubs 8th Annual Rock Show
 Moseley Auditorium, St. Louis, MO
 June 12-15 Midwest Federation Field Trip & Convention,
 Murdo, SD
 June 19-22 National Gem & Mineral Show & Conventions of
 American & Rocky Mountain Federations,
 Salt Lake City, Utah

remember: for your holiday meal preparations use General Mills products
 and save the coupons for our scholarship fund.

1968 NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT



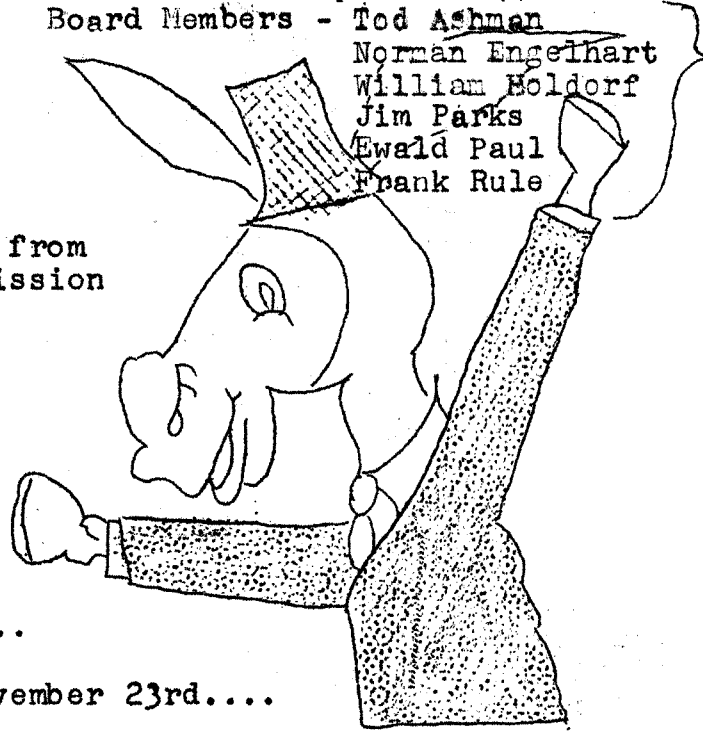
The Nominating Committee, consisting of Tom Simmons, Phyllis Parks, and Norma Miller, have, according to the By-Laws and Constitution of The Lincoln Gem & Mineral Club, prepared the following slate of officer candidates for the year 1969:

President - G. W. McKinney
 1st Vice-President - Louise Baugher
 2nd Vice-President - George E. McGinnis
 Recording Secretary - Gene Eno
 Evelyn Ulrich

Treasurer - Ralph Ulrich

Board Members - Tod Ashman
 Norman Engelhart
 William Holdorf
 Jim Parks
 Ewald Paul
 Frank Rule

Two
 to
 be
 elected



Please remember ---
 Nominations may be made from
 the floor with the permission
 of your candidate!

SUPPORT YOUR CLUB!...

GET OUT AND VOTE!...

YOUR VOTE COUNTS!...

VOICE YOUR OPINION
 BY BALLOT.....

SEE YOU AT THE POLLS November 23rd....

REALGAR

In Jerry Blair's "One by One" column in the November GEMS & MINERALS we read of some excellent realgar specimens found in Washington State recently. They are bright red, almost clear enough to facet, and are groups of well formed crystals. They do not appear to be light sensitive as the ones Jerry saw had been above ground over a year and were not visibly altered. Jerry went on to tell of their discovery by two teen-age high school boys exploring an abandoned mine. After identification, several of the best pieces were sold to the Smithsonian for the national collection. He mentioned that the boys were reported to have realized enough from the sale of the material to finance their college education - in earth science, incidentally.

(Real gar-reat wouldn't you say?)

THE PRESIDENT'S PAGE

Fellow Rockhounds:

The year of 1968 is slowly coming to a close. The month of November is half way over. Thanksgiving Day is near and we should pause and give thanks to our Heavenly Father. We all have so many things to be thankful for; good health, happiness, and many more. We, as a group of the Lincoln Gem & Mineral Club, have so many things to be thankful for. We have had wonderful meetings and many field trip outings this past summer. We have also had a wonderful Rock Swap, and a successful Rock Show. I am sure we all have made friends with someone through these outings and shows. I certainly have, and hope to keep them as my friends as years go by.

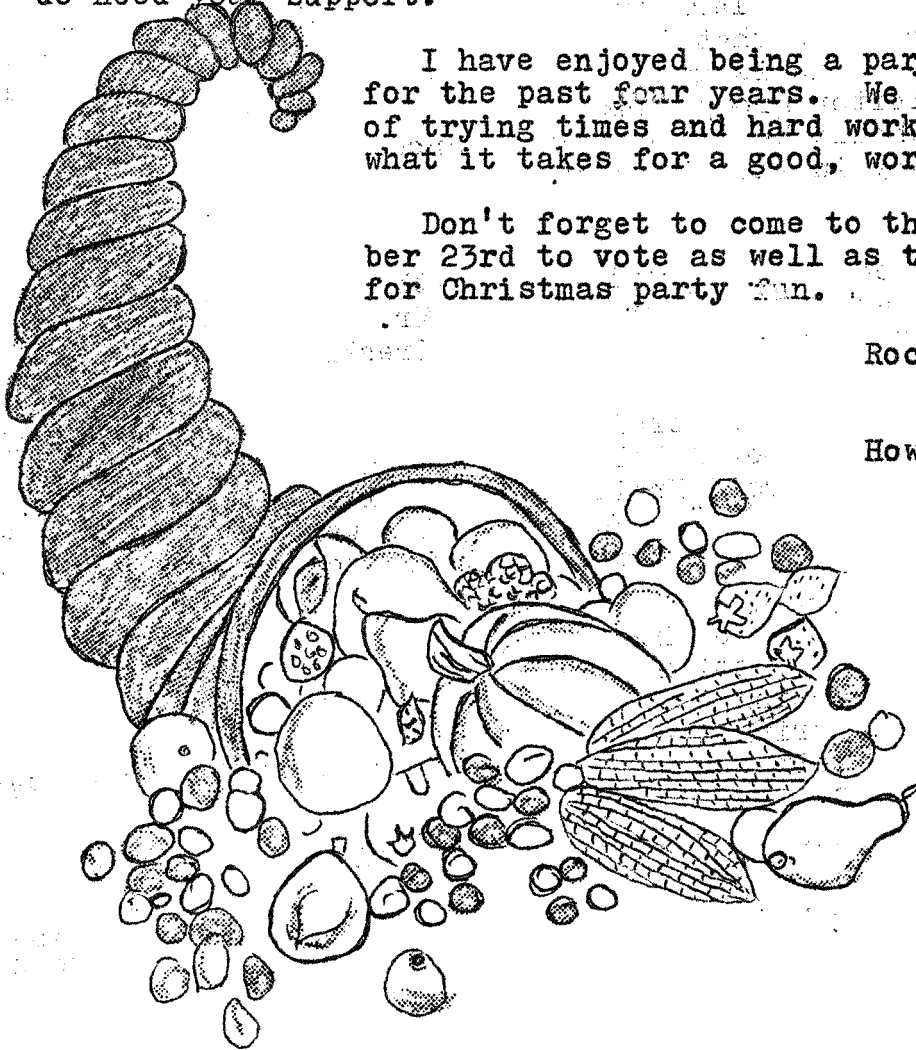
We will have our election of officers at our November meeting. I hope to see you all there to vote and make this as successful as our national election turned out to be. We do need your support.

I have enjoyed being a part of the board for the past four years. We have had a lot of trying times and hard work, but this is what it takes for a good, working club.

Don't forget to come to the meeting November 23rd to vote as well as to hear plans for Christmas party.

Rockingly yours,

Howard Taylor



RESUME

The regular meeting, Oct. 26, was well attended. Treasurer, Ralph Ulrich, gave his report on the results of our '68 Rock Show held in September, and stated a written report would be in the members hands in the near future.

Reports on the National AM & MW Federation Show and Convention in Normal, Illinois, were given by Jim Parks, Ralph Ulrich, Louise Baugher and Helena Baegl. With their glowing words still ringing in our ears we are anxious to see the accumulated slides of that show at our next meeting. To those of us who were unable to attend perhaps the viewing of them will motivate us to proceed with interest and energy in preparation for the show in '74.

As members in LGMC we seek certain satisfactions. Some of us find satisfaction in field trips and the collecting of fossils and minerals; others wish to share the materials they collect and the products of their lapidary skills through our rock shows and displays. The main purpose of exhibits and shows is to learn and to share. Each society has a definite responsibility to its members who wish to increase their knowledge and abilities. And, as in fields of business and industry, growth and development are largely due to competition. In view of this, our president informed us that in the near future we may have some Rules Study groups. This is good because once the fear of Rules, and of categories and exhibitor groups has been dispelled by familiarity and understanding, it should be a pleasure to proceed with confidence in preparation for entry in the Big Show.

N. Miller

= = =

Thanks go to these people who provided us with delicious cookies and lots of good, hot coffee at our October meeting: Mr. & Mrs. Ewald Paul, Harold Eno, Mr. & Mrs. Larry Rupert and our 1968 refreshment chairmen, Mr. & Mrs. Lynn Wells.

We were privileged to welcome several guests, including some membership applicants. From Lincoln Bob & Nelba Oliver, Hazel Bigley, Brian Mawhiney, Willard Swenson, Harold Kreiger, Linda Plock and Mr. & Mrs. David McFarling and their tiny "Opal". Welcomed also were Davenport, Nebr. residents Frank and Estella Williams. Its nice to see new and interesting faces in the group.

Bragging rocks were brought to the meeting by several people and much interest was apparent as questions were asked and envy expressed for a rock or the fun of collecting it. If you neglected to bring your goodies in October, remember to bring it in November. That is one thing "Rockhounds" never tire of seeing. Each specimen is just different enough to be interesting to others.

Door prizes at the October meeting were generously given and the lucky recipients were: Howard Taylor, Bob Fast, Virgil Carveth, David Rupert and Mrs. David McFarling for the rock specimens. Mrs. Chester Baggs, Garry Heedick and Mrs. Perry Miller each received five tickets to use on the new amusement slide at 48th and Leighton.

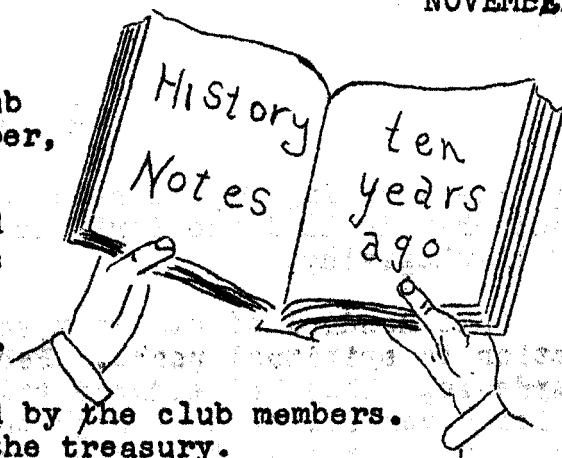
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FLASH: Terry Weber, son of Mr. & Mrs. Everett Weber, has enlisted in the military service and has been gone for two weeks. At present he is at Ft. Lewis, Washington, and then will be sent to Ft. Monmouth, N.J. This is really seeing the country from coast to coast. The Weber family are looking forward to Christmas as Terry will get home for the holidays.

The Lincoln Gem and Mineral Club met at Morrill Hall for their November, 1958 meeting.

C. Ray Waddle, Helena Baegl and Helen Dodge were elected to serve on the nominating committee.

Irl Everett acted as auctioneer and Dick Hedges as cashier for the auction of gems and minerals donated by the club members. A total of \$15.85 was received for the treasury.



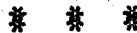
--from the notebooks of Historian, Frances Tracy



Lapidary Tips...from Magic Valley Gem News, Twin Falls, Idaho

To clean fragile crystals or hard to reach recesses in mineral specimens try "Crew" a product of Johnson Wax. Spray it on, a foam covers the area and floats out the dirt. Let stand a few minutes then rinse with water. Be sure specimen is safe in water! It's safe on all material including calcite and fluorite.

via SKAGIT GEMS



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DID YOU KNOW?

Thanksgiving Day is peculiarly our own. It was born on our soil when in 1621 the Puritans of Massachusetts set apart a Day of Thanksgiving.

This handful of stalwart souls had come through great tribulation to spiritual peace. Behind them was a winter of bitter hardship. They had endured cold and hunger and sickness. Their faith never faltered, though they buried their dead in the darkness of night lest the enemy lurking in the shadowed forest learn of their weakened numbers and fall upon them to destroy them. Now they gathered a harvest and made tight their homes, and their hearts were filled with gratitude for God's goodness.

It must have been one of those lovely autumns which only New England knows: A high blue sky with fleecy clouds, cool sweet air, soft as the down on the breast of a swan, light in a flood of glory pouring through the crimson and gold of the forest until the place was like a cathedral reared to the honor and praise of Almighty God. In that setting and in that spirit, the first Thanksgiving Day was celebrated. So it was that a great American tradition was set to become deep rooted in the minds and hearts of countless generations. No man lives for himself alone. Divine law decrees that each life shall touch the next on down through the ages, so that the good men do is compounded, and the evil reduced to nothingness. If there was harshness in the Pilgrims' way of life, that was also spiritual strength and beauty, and these have come down to us. If selfishness and narrowness limited the spirits of the Founders, their vision and their love of liberty were unlimited, and these also have come to be our own. If in the hearts and minds of our leaders there has been ambition for place and power, there was also faith in our country's future, love for its institutions, respect for its standards. These, too, have come down to us. Through the years this rich inheritance of courage, faith and power has been ours. This compound of good has enriched and beautified our lives.

Let us resolve that we in our turn will pass on to those who come after us a tradition of faith in our way of life, of courage, of human decency, and spiritual living that will prove us worthy of the great American tradition.

A Happy Thanksgiving to You!

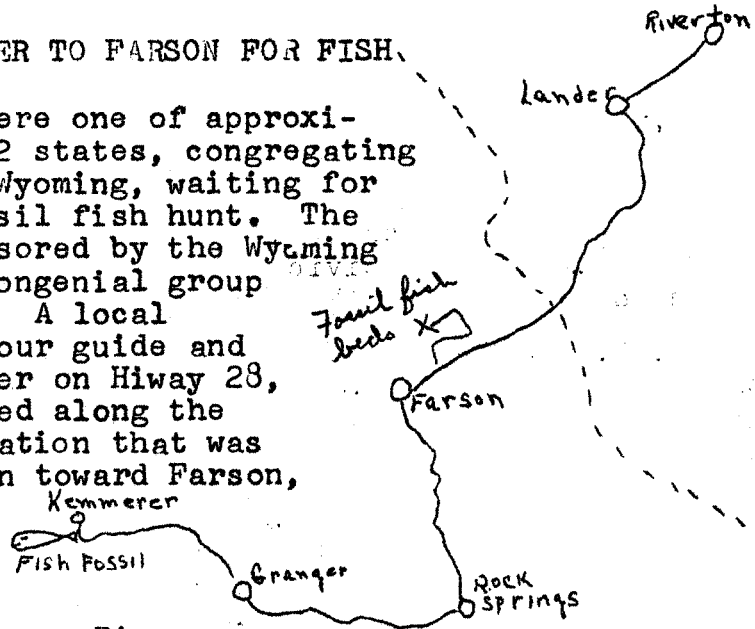
By Angelo Patri -

submitted by Marie J. Carveth



FROM LANDER TO FARSON FOR FISH.

It was June 16th and we were one of approximately 30 cars, representing 12 states, congregating at the high school in Lander, Wyoming, waiting for the signal to start on the fossil fish hunt. The folks on this field trip, sponsored by the Wyoming State Rock Show, were a most congenial group and all got at least one fish. A local member of the Lander Club was our guide and leader. We headed out of Lander on Hiway 28, through a lovely valley, stopped along the roadside to view a mining operation that was in progress, and then headed on toward Farson, Wyoming, after crossing the Continental Divide. Beautiful, snow-capped mountains met the eye in all directions and off in the distance Big Sandy Reservoir could be seen.



We arrived at the hunting site, a sandy area capped with sagebrush and weeds. Fishing for the herring fish imbedded between layers of shale two feet deep in this red soil was a unique experience for Lynn and myself. If you are familiar with sagebrush you will know the roots are the toughest in the world. We had to clear the area for hunting so just pulled the roots loose and rolled them back. The recommended process for removing the fish was to clean an area 10 ft. square, to a depth of 10 to 20 inches to the first layer of shale. Tools needed for mining out the fish are shovels for digging, hammer and chisel for splitting apart the layers of shale, and a whisk broom for removing dirt and exposing the outline of the fish. The shale breaks easily and care must be taken not to destroy the specimens. The shale is damp and one needs to scrutinize it carefully or the big one could be thrown away. I did find several specimens in the throw-away heap. These herring ranged in size from 3 to 6 inches. When we got through digging, the area looked like a battlefield dotted with bomb-craters and twisted upheavals of monogrammed shale. We brought home 19 specimens and are ready to go back next summer to try our luck again.

The trip to the cane beds about 3 miles away proved to be disappointing to the group and only yielded two specimens to two lucky people. Lynn dug many holes so deep I could not even see his head. He really received some painful blisters on his hands but I was glad no one suffered a heart attack working like beavers in the thin air.

It was nearly sunset when we left the area and we arrived safely back in Lander, satisfied with the pleasant feeling of a successful day of hunting with new friends and congenial companions.

Lynn and Marie Wells

"Go often to the house of a friend,
For weeds choke the unused path." -Ralph Waldo Emerson via mjc

AUTUMN: The Greatest Show on Earth! mjc

THE ARTS AND ENVIRONMENT

The Lincoln Gem & Mineral Club was invited to join the Community Arts Council, consequently a member was appointed to meet at a noon luncheon meeting each 4th Monday of the month. The first meeting for that representative was Oct. 28th, and it proved to be a very interesting session. Sixteen civic organizations, each one associated with the arts in one form or another, were represented.

Mr. L. A. Enersen is making progress on plans for a conference on arts in the environment. He showed us scale models of a proposed Arts Center to be located at the southeast corner of 14th & N Streets. The proposal is to coordinate this with the present Lincoln Center Building and the Garden being developed by the Woods Foundation to the west of the Lincoln Center Building. While this might be difficult to bring about, it has been favorably received by the downtown business leaders and by the mayor. The plans include two major buildings; one a recital hall and the other a workshop. The workshop would include space for various associated organizations to practice their arts and also office space for those not having a "home". It now appears necessary to make a study of the needs of the associated organizations which might be housed in such a facility. At the present time it seems that the development might be too far distant to meet the urgent needs of the Lincoln Community Playhouse.

Mr. Harry Allen, Director of Institutional Research at the University of Nebraska, reviewed the existing facilities on the campus and presented an outline of future planning in regards to the arts environment for the future. Included in their plans is a "Center for Performing Arts" with a theater that will seat about 4,000 people. It would not be an all purpose auditorium but rather truly a theater for the performing arts. The schedule called for completion in the 1971-1973 period. Whether this will happen or not, is not known. They lost something in the neighborhood of 3 million dollars of Federal construction funds in the cut-back last year. At the present time Kimball Recital Hall is under construction, and will be an acoustically good hall for musical recitals. Also, a new facility for the department of Speech and Dramatic Arts with a small theater, is under serious discussion. It will include provisions for laboratory plays as well as regular productions, therefore it will replace Howell Memorial Theater. Of course, the sculpture garden near the Sheldon Art Gallery is now under construction.

All of the above facilities are planned strictly to fulfill major university needs but will have values to the community. It would seem desirable to have a transitional zone between the University Art Center and the community. This would be an area between "Q" and "R" streets, running from 11th to about 17th street.

One thing, other than art, that we have in common is the ever present lack of funds. Along that line the United Arts Fund is planning to conduct a fund raising effort in the spring of 1969.

You may be interested to know who was present and what organizations they represented, so for just this time I will include the list:

L. A. Enersen - President, Community Arts Council
Tom Carroll - - Secretary, Community Arts Council

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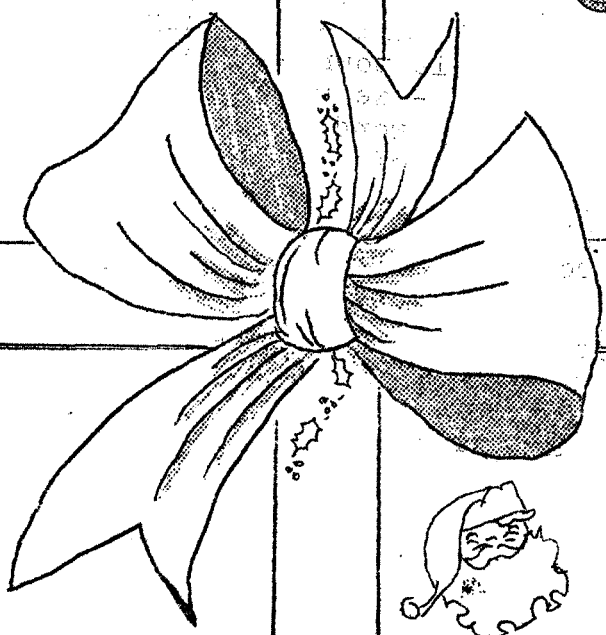
THE ARTS AND ENVIRONMENT (continued)

- Steve E. Cook - American Institute of Architects
- E. Keith Barrett - Barbershop Singers
- Mrs. Ralph Beechner - City Parks and Recreation Board
- Miss Norma Carpenter, Ross Elliott and Mrs. Virgiline Cronkite - Civic Singfest Committee
- Mrs. Richard Moulton - Junion League of Lincoln
- Mrs. Alex Booras - Jr. Women's Club
- Mrs. John Wolph - Lincoln Artists Guild
- Ralph Ulrich - Lincoln Gem & Mineral Club Inc.
- Arnold Schatz - Lincoln Musicians Association
- Mrs. Willard Cook - Lincoln Symphony Guild
- R. L. White - Lincoln Symphony Orchestra Association
- Floyd Peterson - Nebraska Wesleyan University
- Mrs. A. K. Donovan - Ten Pens
- D. W. Laging - University of Nebraska Art
- Emanuel Wishnow - University of Nebraska Music
- Robert Marveson and Fred Wells - Delegates-at-large
- Mrs. Norman Geske, Mrs. Mary Maness, Mrs. Helen Haggie and Harry Allen - guests.

Ralph Ulrich, Representative
Community Arts Council

THOUGHT FOR THE DAY: Rudeness is a man's imitation of strength.

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<p>COME OUT AND VISIT "THE DO-IT-YOURSELF SHOP"</p>	

WESTWARD HO !!

In the morning we packed our supplies for just a week-end - but we could have stayed a month, judging by the number of packages: Roast Beef - Baked Ham - Beans - Apples - Oranges - Freshly Baked Bread - A Lovely Mince Pie - You name it - we had it! And of course, lots of coffee!

"Tracey's Secundo", my pet name for the lovely, luxury trailer Maurice and Frances are proud to call their own, is truly a masterpiece in design - convenience - comfort and coziness.

We were hoping for sunshine, and instead we drove thru that liquid sunshine known by the Californians! But it was a nice drive at that.

We arrived at the site owned by the Overland Gravel & Sand Co., parked the trailer, and soon discovered other L.G.M.C. friends were arriving, all hopeful of finding some rare gem! The breeze sweeping across the various lakes in the area was rather brisk, and with the gentle rain to add moisture, it kept all of the rock-hunters moving. All bundled to keep warm it was a colorful sight. Dorothy Engelhart, you were bright and gay against the gray and brown tones of the autumn countryside; as was Marie Wells, and many others.

Soon we discovered the need for hot coffee, and bless you, Norma Miller for your delicious cake, with it the coffee really tasted good - Frances, your coffee hour was really appreciated by all. Pappy, I hope you got your socks "thawed and dried" out. And I must say "Hats Off" to Marge and Garry Heedick, you brave souls, tenting is for the sturdy ones, especially at 23°. And there were icicles about too! How did Patches hold up, by the way? (Patches hurt his foot and relaxed in the car.pnp)

In the evening when all was still in camp, and truly, the "silence is loud", out in the open countryside, a most beautiful moon appeared in the big, open sky - it was at its very best -- all bathed in silver - so beautiful we wished for all those we love and hold dear, to enjoy the sight with us. The amazing thing about it all - suddenly with the trailers - campers - the tent - we had a little town - a settlement - all of our own! Like the wagon trains of old - we were together, like the pioneers - Were there any Indians about, I wonder? Did we hear the lonely wail of a coyote? Did we hear the call of the wild geese on their southward flight for the winter? Dorothy E. enjoyed the view from their camper so much she was inspired to name their camper the "Engelhart Penthouse"- Real sharp, Dorothy!

In the morning the whole world was enveloped in FOG! It was ceiling Zero! The effect was awesome - a white world with a ghostly shadow or two - To some it is a lonely thing - this fog- it makes some feel blue and sad and dreary. Not me! I like it - its quiet and all the world is a little more quiet, and we were warm and cozy. A time for reading-relaxing-quiet meditation.

We all had slept so well, we had rested just fine so we were enjoying breakfast much earlier than anticipated. So on to more hunting-some lucky fellow, namely Tom Simmons, came up with his usual fairburn-this is true! Virg Carveth found a beautiful specimen of petrified wood, Marie Carveth found a branch of driftwood in a perfectly shaped "W" so Winnebago it is. Norman Engelhart found a beautiful piece of driftwood also. Millie, thank you for all the little round stones of quartz for my project "My Happy Little Squint Stones." And Millie and Bob Bainbridge, your trailer is just real nice too. By your happy faces we know you are enjoying it very much.

(continued)

WESTWARD HO!!! (continued from previous page)

By mid-morning (Sunday) more Lincoln folks arrived and the crowd was growing, which is again proof the rock hounds just like to get out and go regardless of weather, wether or not!

I must mention the people wanting tumbling material should have had a great time - the supply was unlimited. Lots of jasper, schist, quartz, agate and so forth. By noon-time some of the members led by able Tom Simmons moved on to the Drew area. Some stayed at the original site and enjoyed the sun which decided by mid-afternoon to make an appearance.

No one had a merrier time than a little Pixie, a little brown lady, namely "Coco" Tracy! The happy disposition of this little French poodle is a real delight. Such fun! And a little star, I am positive we have some good pictures of her.

Linda Parks, I am positive you are the sweetest little Pebble Pup! (You should have seen her on the top of every size gravel-hill up at Drew's pit, Marie, she was a very joyous little adventurer with her thoughtful friends the Eno youngsters. Some change from her first trip to the same area at the age of three months. Personal thanks from this editor to Sally and Karen Eno for their consideration of Linda.)

Driving home in the early fall evening with a beautiful Nebraska sunset to view, we were closing the curtain on a good week-end. Good conversation among true friends is a very enjoyable thing, and especially when it is spiced with a touch of good humor, true, Frances? A fitting climax to a wonderful summer, this week-end trip to the Aurora-Fullerton area.

Until next time, Marie J. Carveth

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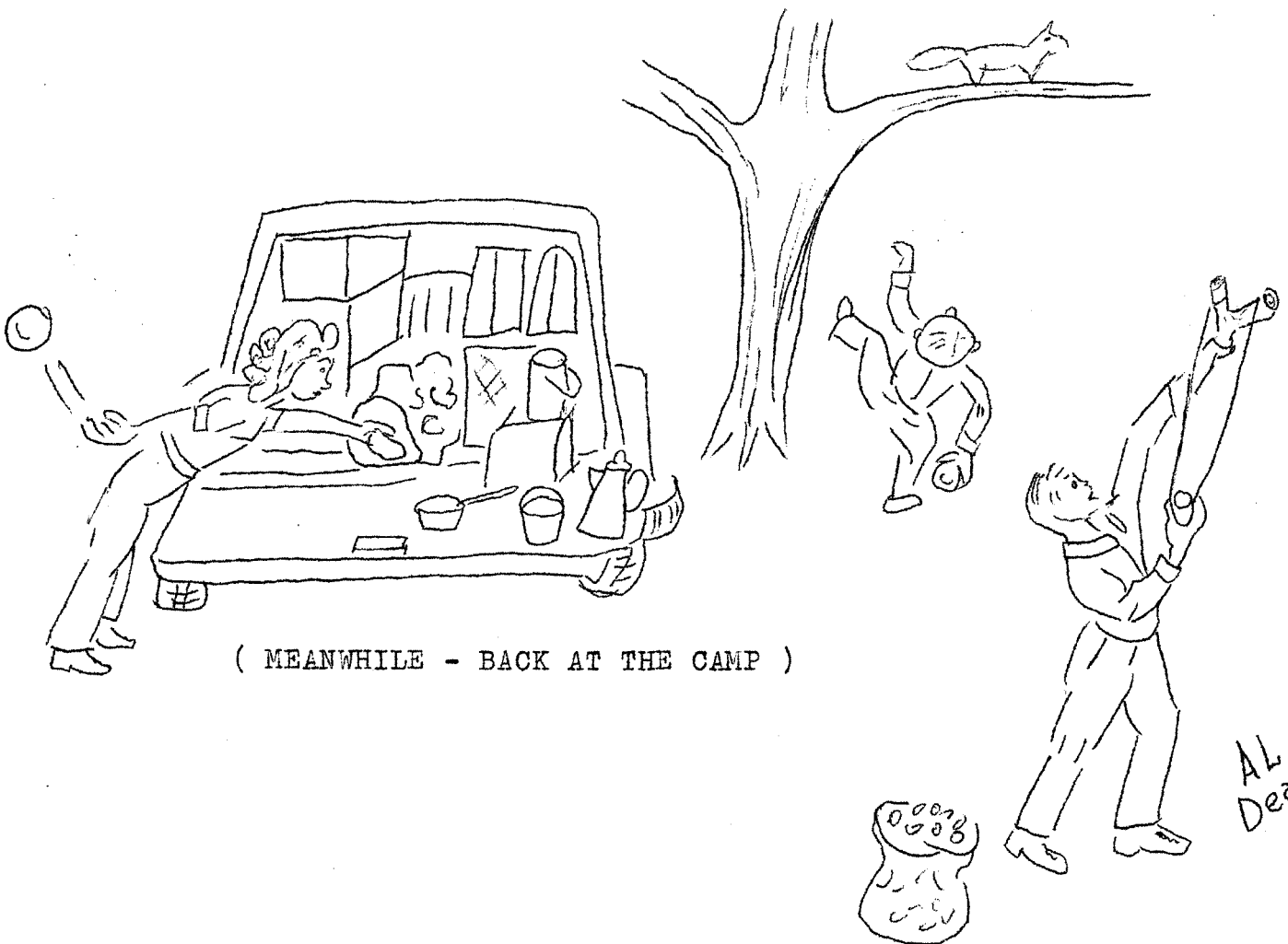
CLUB PROPERTIES!! The move was made! Sunday afternoon, October 27, a cold blustery day with several attempts at rain. This didn't dampen the energy and spirit of cooperation among the 17 LGMC boosters. Providing muscle, vehicular transportation, or both, were Howard Taylor, Jerry and Rick Kohn, Chester Bagg, Harry Gragg, Larry and David Rupert, Virgil Carveth, Tom Simmons, Ralph Ulrich and nephew Glen Ulrich, Jim and Phyllis Parks, Ewald Paul, and Norma Miller. Mr. Gragg amazed all of us by the amount of club properties he stuffed into his Cushman truckster for the move.

Decisions as to the possessions which might be needed for future shows occupied much time and the whole event took several hours. Exclamations of sorrow were frequent as the city dump won several items of past use which held sentimental value for many of us. Between loads everyone was refreshed with coffee or tea provided by Tom and lots of do-nuts provided by Norma and Phyllis assisted by Linda Marie.

At the final count 40 of our club's Wichita cases and all table sawhorses, plus various other small items, were carefully packed into the small storage room atop our meeting hall. The magnificent revolving center display found a corner on the stage, and Jerry provided space for the large signs, some tables and other large pieces below his store. We might add a special word for Brian Mawhiney, a newcomer and membership applicant who helped a great deal, at the same time becoming acquainted with club members.

Howard expresses his sincere thanks for all help.

You sure are going to have a GOOD supply of rocks after yesterday and today.



AL
Dean

NEWS TO NOTE

John Dugan, son of Lynn & Marie Wells, is recuperating as well as can be expected at Veterans Hospital here in Lincoln, after undergoing surgery for bone graft. The recovery period will be a long, patient (or impatient) struggle and we are sure cards and letters will be appreciated to help pass the time.

Frank Rule reports the acquisition of a new 19 ft. Forester trailer, fully equipped with shower, furnace, hot water, etc. He is really enthused and is just itching to get out in the country for a week-end. When the weather clears you can bet Frank and family will be out enjoying the great outdoors.

November 12 -- just three weeks until Norma and Perry Miller take off on their big excursion - destination Johannesburg, South Africa. Preparations are almost complete; passports, visas and shots all in order and a very fascinating itinerary ready under the expert guidance of Lincoln Tour and Travel. New York-Amsterdam-Brazzaville. Ten days in Johannesburg as guests of The Taverners. December 14th, the wedding of Brian Taverner who spent his senior year in University High School as an A.F.S. student while living as the Miller's son, is the highlight of the trip. Return flight stops will include Athens, Rome, Vienna and Paris. This should fill a lot of pages in future bulletins.

The "Best of Luck" and a very happy, safe trip to you both, Norma & Perry.

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MYSTERY OF THE TEKTITES

by Mary Leitch

Scattered about the ground in several parts of the world are smooth glassy stones that once rained on the earth from the sky. These black stones are called "TEKTITES". The name comes from the Greek word for "molten". Where tektites came from has baffled astronomers for many years. From the moon? Possible. Yet some scientists think that they were once part of our own planet.

Tektites have been known for many years. One scientific account of them goes back to 1787 and describes them as a kind of volcanic glass. Other people have thought that tektites might be rocks that had been melted by forest fires. Still others wondered if tektites could be solidified "drops" from the sun, or fragments of another planet.

The biggest known tektites are about the size of a baseball. If you hold one up to a lamp or sunny window, you can see light through its edges.

Tektites are named after the places in which they are found. Dr. Brian H. Mason, one of the world's busiest tektite collectors, has visited Australia's desert regions (where they are called australites) three times during the last three years to search for the puzzling black stones. On his three expeditions Dr. Mason and two others collected 3,000 australites.

Tektites found in Australia resemble small buttons trimmed with a thin flange, or rim; Tektites found in other parts of the world are shaped like balls, teardrops, dumbbells, or irregular chunks of rock. Over the years, they have been worn smooth by the action of wind, rain and sand.

Some scientists theorize that tektites may be portions of rock splashed off the surface of the moon when the moon was showered by giant meteorites. Since the moon has practically no atmosphere, these vast objects smashed into the lunar surface with great force. Some astronomers believe that the moon's craters are king-size holes blasted in its surface by huge meteorites. The force of the crash of a large meteorite might melt some pieces of the blasted moon-rock and launch them into space. The pieces of melted rock, according to this theory, were splashed so far away from the moon that they were captured by the earth.

Some scientists theorize that tektites have gone from the earth into space. It appears that giant meteorites have crashed into the earth, as well as into the moon. Craters have been found in Arizona, Canada, Siberia and elsewhere. Some think these large meteorites crashed into the earth, splashed them up through the atmosphere, where they orbited the earth and eventually landed. Different groups have different ages, which would indicate that each group was formed by a separate meteorite collision with the earth.

As fascinating as these two ideas are, no one knows for certain where tektites came from, and it will take a lot more scientific detective work to find out.

--from GEMS, Kalamazoo, Mich. Oct.-1967

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A MESSAGE FROM OUR NEW PRESIDENT

Acceptance Speech of June Culp Zeitner on receiving the President's Jade Gavel of the Midwest Federation at the National Banquet at Normal, Illinois.

No individual reaches for the Jade gavel alone. The responsibility symbolized by this precious gavel would be too great, were it not for the more than 12,000 helpful members of the Midwest Federation who have placed their confidence in me. I thank each member, and I humbly accept this gavel, with the hope that together, through understanding and communication we can achieve an expanded base for the future.

The greatness of this hobby lies in many things. The Scotch have a delightful word for a pile of stones representing a landmark. It is cairn. I sometimes think that we are all busy building stone by stone, a cairn for tomorrow. We each have our own talents, our own ideas, our own stones, as it were to add to that ever increasing cairn. Some of us will add stones labeled companionship and recreation, and it is one of the blessings of this age that we may do so without guilt. Recreation is at last respectable. Do I date myself when I admit I remember when grandmas wouldn't let children play on Sundays because pleasure was synonymous with sin? Others of us, devoted to the organization of man's knowledge, and to research for truth, will add stones labeled science. Still others, believing that beauty is truth, and seeking to interpret science to the senses of man, add stones labeled art.

We have an obligation to choose with care the stones we add to that cairn for tomorrow. We must literally use everything that we find or acquire of this earth's vanishing resources to add to man's happiness, or to his knowledge, or to his culture. Although it took this federation 28 years to reach 200 clubs, we may double that

number in half that time. We don't want to have to apologize for our collections of today, but rather we want their truth and beauty to stand recommendations of our generations.

As I see it, we have but one major danger facing the integrity and beauty of the structure we are building for tomorrow. That is intolerance. I know field trippers who refuse to attend a scientifically oriented meeting. I know mineral collectors who smugly say to the Lapidary, "We are serious collectors", and I know lapidaries who sneeringly say of a mineral specimen, "What's that good for?" And I know newcomers to the hobby whose most constant remark is, "How much is this worth?"

The fact is we should be a more cohesive force than any other similar organization in the whole world, because what we have in common is more basic; the love of nature, which combines recreation, art, and science. Our mutual hobby is based on this planet of rock we inhabit, and rock is the timeless symbol for all that is solid and enduring. Our greatest need is to understand each other. United, there is no limit to what we can accomplish. This year I wish we would make a great effort to understand other phases of the hobby, besides our own specialty. Goethe said, "Whatever you cannot understand, you cannot possess". My motto for this year is "Understanding, through education, is the builder of tomorrow."

OUR HISTORIAN NEEDS YOUR CLUB HISTORIES

Each of us enjoys his club because the people in it are our friends and what they do concerns us. Each of them is a small part of us. That is the real reason that we read our club bulletins. But they are not the only friends we might have through the club. Behind today's members stand many interesting people who once belonged to

A WORD FROM OUR RETIRING PRESIDENT

On November 1, 1968, another fiscal year -- the 28th in our Midwest Federation history-- comes to an end. At that time the curtain will drop momentarily as the 1969 cast comes upon the stage, and then, quickly it will rise for these new administrators who full of ideas and enthusiasm usher in the year that lies ahead.

During the past year it has been a privilege to have served the Federation as president. Too, it has been a pleasure, though the skies were not always cloudless. And now, before I surrender the reins of leadership on November 1, I would like to direct a final challenge to each of you. In the year ahead, set your goals high, for yourself, your club, and your Federation. Remember, we can never reach the top of the mountain if we aim only at the half way mark.

"Think big and your deeds will grow!
Think small and you fall behind.
Think that you can-- and you will!
It's all in the state of your mind."

Records were made to be broken. Years of achievement are simply the foundation for the even greater achievements of tomorrow. It is hoped that by working together during the past year we have added a few more foundation stones-- a few more stepping stones-- to the progress that will be made in the future. Whatever success we have had has been due to the willing co-operation of my team of workers-- the elected officers, the committee chairmen, and the State vice presidents and their assistants-- who have served so loyally throughout the year. To them all, I express my heartfelt thanks.

To the many clubs within the Federation, again I must say it is regrettable that time has made it impossible for me to see or visit with all of you. Because of this it is my hope that others on my team have served your needs-- and that the new team, as it comes onto the field, will continue to serve you.

Thank you all, from your out-going president.

Ellis W. Courter

Historian... con't from page 1

the club and whose services made it what we enjoy today.

Do you know that one Midwest club grew out of a Sunday School class, that another got its start in sending packages to World War II soldiers overseas and that a third owes its bulletin to a woman's chance vacation in the Michigan copper country? Most clubs began because of a person and a circumstance collided and every member of a club is a little richer for knowing about it.

What started your club, what has it contributed to the hobby, to the community and to the federation of which it is a part, what leadership has it developed and shared with the Federation movement, where does it meet, what have been its triumphs and struggles, its field trips and shows and rockramas and conventions, and its publications?

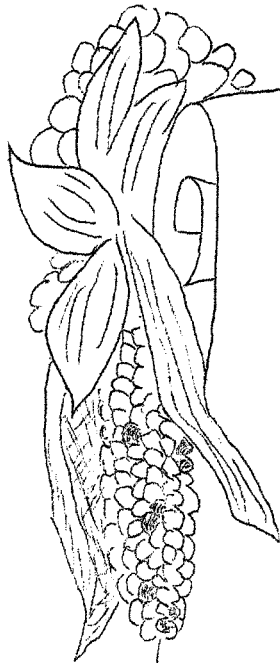
A well written history not only is a token of the club's maturity but it also shares friendships and accomplishments of the group with all other rockhounds.

A number of Midwest federation clubs have responded to the Historian's appeal for club histories. They are the substance of the federation itself, for it is what its clubs are and have been. How about your club history as a Christmas, 1968, present for the federation files? Maybe they'll be in a book someday.

(Send your histories direct to our Historian, Russell P. MacFall, 721 Foster Street, Evanston, Illinois 60201.)

AMERICAN FEDERATION OFFICERS FOR 1968-1969

President: Calvin Simmons
Vice President: Leslie Darling
Secretary: Paul Seal
Treasurer: Ed Immel
Regional V.P.: (Midwest) Katharine Steinbrenner
Regional V.P.: (Northwest) Dorothy Lee



OLD-TIMERS

Author Unknown

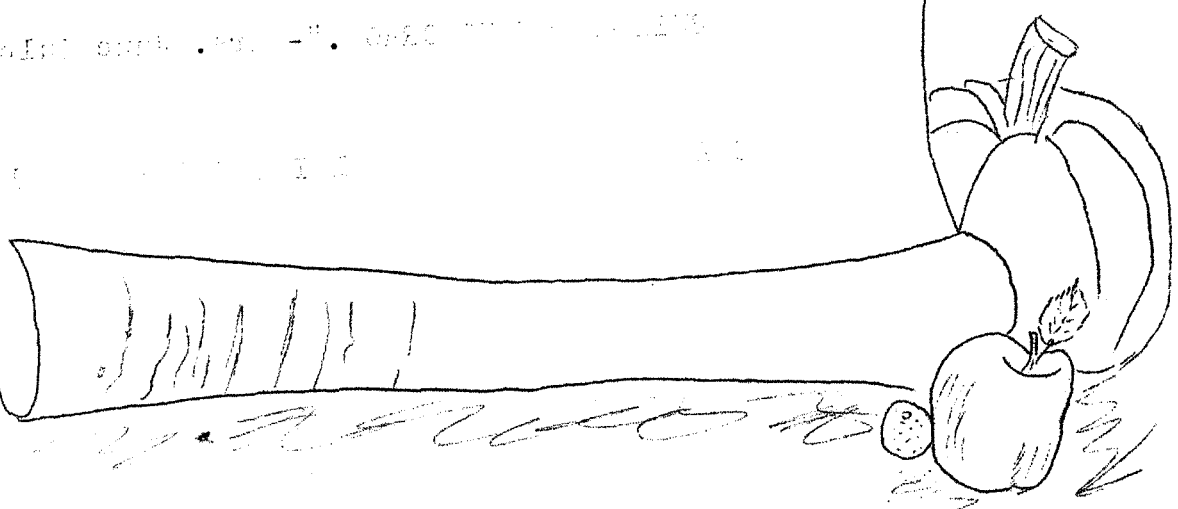
Don't laugh at the old-timers,
Although you may have cause,
For they have fought the battles,
And they deserve applause.

And youth may do tomorrow
A lot of things that pay
Because old-timers thought them out
And tried them yesterday.

We know the world is changing,
The ways of clubs are new;
Men put new labels on their rocks,
Use new machinery, too.

But still the old foundation
That our old-timers laid
Remains the cornerstone of all
The progress we have made.

adapted from "IDEALS"
pnp



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