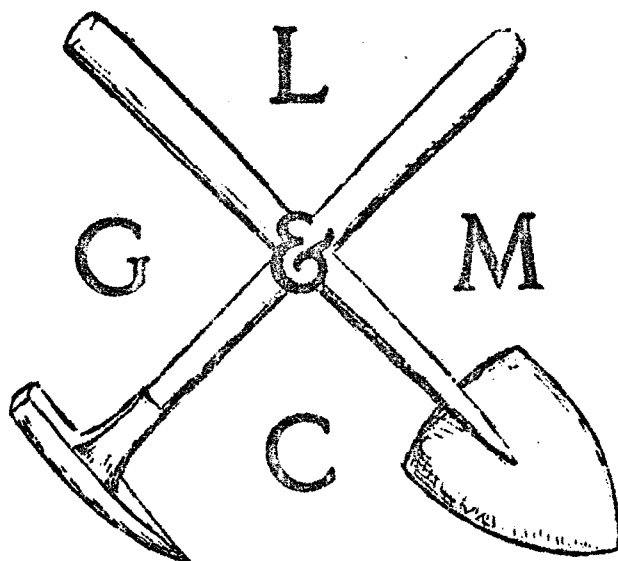


THE PICK & SHOVEL



DEC - 1973

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF

LINCOLN GEM & MINERAL CLUB

HOST OF COMBINED

MWF-AFMS NATIONAL SHOW AND CONVENTION
AND NEBRASKA STATE SHOW

JUNE 13-16, 1974
LINCOLN, NEBRASKA

*Greetings
1974 Board of Directors*



1st Vice Pres
Frank
Rule

President
Ralph
Ulrich

2nd Vice
President
Larry
Bigley

Secretary
Nelda
Olin

Board
Norma
Miller

Treasurer
John
Harrison

Board
Marie
Wells

Board
Tom
Simon

Board
Howard
Faylor

Merry Christmas!

CALENDAR

"You cannot cut Christmas out of the calendar,
nor out of the hearts of men".--Anon.



REGULAR MEETING.....Sat., Jan. 26, 1974. 7:30 p.m.
W.O.W. Meeting Hall
724 S. 27th St.

PROGRAM.....Will be announced in
January Pick and Shovel.

MUSEUM VOLUNTEERS....Friday evenings, 7:30, Nebraska Hall. Enter west
door. Take elevator to 4th floor. Any member
interested in preparing fossils for the museum is
welcome. You will be trained to do the work. A
fine learning experience.

* See notice below

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS..Ruthy Coleman, 4340 Witherbee, Ph. 489-0995
Burton Barnes, 715 Sierra Drive, Ph. 464-4462

CHANGE OF TELEPHONE NUMBERS

Please change the numbers of the following people
in your Who's Who to these new numbers, which
became effective December 1.

Duckett, Don (Arlene)....464-1269
Howlett, Art (Hazel)....464-2338
Kirby, Roger (Sue).....464-0502
Parks, Jim (Phyllis)....432-6798
Ridge, Edward.....464-6363
Stroud, Louis (Eileen)...464-7390
Weber, Everett (Ruth)....464-1169

DATES TO REMEMBER:

Jan. 10, 1974 Board Meeting-Room 122, Nebraska Hall, 7:30.
Febr. 7-11, 1974 Quartzsite, Arizona - 8th Annual Quartzsite PowWow
March 1-3, 1974 Kansas City, Kansas - Greater Kansas City Gem and
Mineral Clubs Show - National Guard Armory
June 13-16, 1974 Lincoln, Nebraska - AFMS, MWF and NAOESCI Show,
hosted by Lincoln Gem and Mineral Club -
State Fairgrounds

JANUARY BULLETIN: Deadline, January 5th. Let's have more contribu-
tions from members.

Betty Crocker Coupons help Scholarship Fund
Give coupons to Helena Baegl...

*NOTICE: Museum Volunteers workshop will be closed from December 21 through
January 14, 1974. from Dorothy Engelhart, Coordinator

Reminder -- DUES ARE DUE - Please send your checks to the attention of the
Treasurer for 1974, Mr. John Harrison by the first week in January so he can
have a full membership to report by the January meeting. P. O. Box 5342

Last Month The November meeting was held Nov. 24th at the W.O.W. Hall with 66 members and 6 guests present. The guest list included the following: Sarah Capek, Ruthy Coleman (now a member), Dale and Donna Nitz, Laurie Heedick, and Margaret Bonar of Falmouth, Ky. A report on the election of officers appears in another part of the Bulletin. The Club unanimously supported the Board's proposal to donate \$100 to the Neihardt Foundation as a memorial to Dr. John G. Neihardt, our late honorary member. Mrs. Julius Young gave a report on the Neihardt Museum Project, and very graciously shared copies of the Neihardt Foundation Newsletters and Memorial Service Programs with those who desired them.

The traveling trophy presented to our club by the Siouxland Gem and Mineral Club for the best display at their show held a place of prominence. We should be very appreciative of those Club members who made the award of this beautiful trophy possible for another year.

Frank and Tom Rule showed beautiful slides of petrified wood slabs and outstanding Show displays.

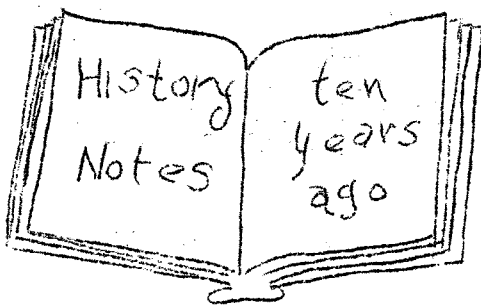
Refreshments were furnished by Marge Heedick.



THE FIRST CHRISTMAS

There was no tree with decorations,
No toys or stockings hung,
No candy canes or electric trains,
Just a mother and her Son.

--Written by a twelve-year-old girl



The Lincoln Gem and Mineral Club held its annual meeting and Christmas dinner at 1:30 on Sunday December 22, 1963, at the Welfare Hall.

The following were elected to serve as officers for the coming year; Tom Simmons, President; Everett Weber, 1st Vice-President; Bruce Simon, 2nd Vice-President; Jim Parks, Treasurer; Phyllis Parks, Secretary.

Marie Carveth, retiring President, presented a lovely flag she had made for the club. Gifts were exchanged and a slide program on Mexico was shown by our "Three Senors from Mexico."

from the notebooks of Frances Tracy, Historian

(Publisher's note -

The "Three Senors" were Virg Carveth, Howard Taylor and C. Ray Waddle who had that year completed a very enjoyable and rewarding trip to the Edinburg, Texas Festival and tour into Mexico seeking opals and other jewels. They had shared generously of their finds and tales of their experiences to the envy of many in the club. Those were the days, my friends! pnp)

LATE NOTE - Just received word that member Kay Ulrich has undergone surgery at Southeast Missouri Hospital, 1701 Lacey, Cape Girardeau, Missouri. She's in Rm.358.

FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK:

My year in office has certainly gone by fast, but not uneventful. My job has been made much easier because of the abundance and diversity of talent in Lincoln Gem and Mineral Club. To help matters out, all of this talent has been ready, willing, and able to work. Our club would be no place without Phyllis Parks who published the bulletin, Evelyn Ulrich who edits the bulletin, Art Howlett who manages publications, and all of the workers who "put it all together."

Thanks are due to Larry Bigley who so effectively led up all of our field trips this year. The field trip guide has been very successful and has been the subject of praise and envy of many other clubs. Larry's wife, Marita, did a real good job helping to recruit members and next years officers will have a whole lot of eager and able new members to help the operations of the club.

Many thanks to the refreshment committee who saw to it that coffee and cookies were served at every meeting. Thank you Carol and Bob Anderson. Many thanks to the Christmas Party Committee for helping get the annual shindig together. Thank you Art, Marie, Marita, Frank, Tom, Ralph, et al.

Thanks are due to the show chairmen for having organized the best one in the club's history. We had more displays, features, visitors, and comments on the 1973 show than on any previous show. Thank you Ralph and Don for your work here; also, thank you for your time and efforts on the board of directors.

Many thanks are due to the hospitality committee, Virginia Green. Many thanks are due to Marie Wells who arranged all of the programs, and Phyllis Parks who arranged the monthly rock features. Thanks are due to Frank Rule who took charge of club properties and got all of these inventoried. Many thanks are due to Tom Simmons for his work on the board of directors and for planning the areas to be collected at the President's Field Trip. Because of illness, Tom had to miss this extremely successful collecting venture—ammonites, agates, shark teeth, blue chalcedony and all. Wilfird Wittman and Nelda Oliver staffed the calling committee and Nelda distinguished herself as secretary of the organization.

Thanks are due to Don Carter for staging a successful swap. We had more than the usual amount of swappers and swapping. Thanks to the Oliver Polka band for the entertainment at the swap.

Thanks to Marie Carveth for her work on the Vaja con Dios committee. Her work is so vital to encourage those suffering misfortune. Thanks to Helena Baegl for taking care of the Betty Crocker coupons and commemorative stamps—some student will find his load a little bit easier.

We had several interesting and exciting promotions during the summer months. Thanks to John Harrison, Bill Hendrickson, Jim Marburger, Marita Bigley, for the help at the Hickman Old Settlers Picnic. The Bigleys, Norma Miller, Irl Everett, Frank Rule, and Marie Wells, and also Gaylon Shiel from Dallas, Texas were on hand at the Gateway promotion. Dorothy Engelhart, Virginia Green, Art Howlett, Eddie Ridge, Frank Rule, Marie Wells, and Julius Young helped our booth out at the fair. At Madonna Home, our booth was manned by Norma Miller, Ralph Ulrich, Frank Rule, Sally Heald, Marie Wells, and Lynn Wells. The club was exposed to over 100,000 people in these promotions.

Thanks to Don Carter, Frank Krejci, Norma Miller, Herm Spomer, Jim Parks and Lynn Wells for their help in making a winning club case for the Sioux City show.

We were all saddened by the death of one of our honorary members, Dr. John G. Neihardt. The club has chosen to donate 100 dollars in his memory to the Neihardt

President's Desk - continued

Center at Bancroft, Nebraska. This building will be a lasting tribute to the Poet Laureate of Nebraska.

Those persons who served on the board of directors for 1973 were all very helpful and constructive in handling the normal operations as well as special projects of the club. My thanks to Ralph Ulrich, Don Lawson, Nelda Oliver, Jim Parks, Don Eckel, Howard Taylor, John Harrison, and Tom Simmons for their many suggestions, proposals, and hours of labor.

For next year, I hope our membership will support the club and its officers to the same degree they have done so this year. The support of the membership this last year has made what could be a very difficult job an enjoyable job.

For next year, I look forward to heading up some interesting educational projects within the club. My past five years in the club have been spent on the board of directors and this limited my time to heading up any such projects. Last year, rather last September, the board did vote a few dollars to start some diversified educational projects. These will start in January with a paleontology group. We will expand and diversify as the need and interest arises.

I also will devote some time to writing some articles for our bulletin. I have not written any articles for the bulletin in several years, though several older items were reprinted during the past couple of years.

Also, I will be able to donate more time to the job of displays chairman for the 1974 show. With all of the other club work, this job has kept me pretty busy, but not so any more, or not as busy anyway. The work of several of the 1974 show committees has peaked now, but the work of the displays committee will probably reach its peak in late January or early February. Have we got displays lined up for this—170 exhibitors, 360 units, 1120 feet so far, and the entries have been coming in steadily.

It is exciting to look over this years accomplishments as a club and look forward to next years goals as a club. Many uncertainties have clouded the picture with an impending severe gasoline shortage, unstable national and global politics, an unstable economic picture to name a few. The effect these variables will have on the club in 1974 and later years can be immense. When I look over the depth of our organization, I become somewhat more optimistic as we have a good combination of experience, wisdom, strength, and youth to carry on the goals that were set some eighteen years ago when this club was founded. Our procedures may have to change with the times but our goals do not have to change with time. My one hope is that our clubs goals will expand and broaden with time.

To our members and their families, I wish to extend my hopes that all will have a happy holiday season, that Santa will be good to all, and the New Year will bring Peace, Prosperity, and Happiness

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

Roger K. Pabian,
President

LOOKING AHEAD

First of all I want to thank each and every one of you for the opportunity to serve as president of the greatest and most popular Gem and Mineral Club that I know.

The newly elected board of directors is one of the very best, and I appreciate and respect their qualifications, their ability, and their leadership. I personally feel that I am part of one of the most fertile and potent organizations I have ever known.

This is also a challenge, because each one will wish to be involved in some way--some to a greater extent and some very little. We will bear this in mind and attempt to come up with activities throughout the entire year. It is through involvement that the members develop a concern for the welfare of the club, and, even more, experience the personal satisfaction of knowing that they played an important part in the achievements of the club.

I have been talking to some of you about serving on the standing committees, and it is a pleasant experience. I have nearly all of the chairmanships accepted already.

Finally, to each and every one of you I wish a Happy Christmas and a New Year in which your fondest dreams will come true.

--Ralph L. Ulrich

EDITORIAL--1973 is fast drawing to a close. It has been a good year for L.G.M. Club. We've had an excellent president, and a fine board of directors to manage the Club's activities. We've had our share of honors, some of which are: A L.G.M.C. member, Howard Taylor, was elected NAOESCI president and 2nd vice-president of the M.W.F; our Pick & Shovel won second place in the M.W.F. bulletin contest; and we won the beautiful traveling trophy offered by the Siouland Gem and Mineral Club for the second consecutive year.

We have also engaged in many activities, some of which are: We had representatives at the A.F.M.S. Show at Charlotte, North Carolina, and at the M.W.F. Convention and Show at Cincinnati, Ohio. We've exhibited in many state and neighboring state shows. We had an exhibit at Gateway Shopping Center's Hobby Month Promotion, at the Hickman Old Settlers' Picnic, and at the Madonna Home's Summer Festival. We provided the Nebraska State Exhibit at the 1974 M.W.F. Convention. We helped finance the Field Guides published by the State of Nebraska. We also put out a field trip guide for our Club's use. Several of our Pebble Pups exhibited at the County Fair and each one received a purple ribbon; two received a blue ribbon for a second case exhibited. This all sounds like boasting, but it is gratifying to look back over our accomplishments.

The coming year should be a very challenging, exciting year. Challenging because we anticipate the most exciting and important activity in which our Club has ever participated--a National Show! We must all unite to make this the Club's most successful venture. We need the cooperation of every member. Let's all rally behind our Show Director, Irl Everett, and give him our most loyal support. It is our duty as members to do the most we can to insure the success of this "Mamoth Event".

Our Steering Committee, chaired by Ralph Ulrich, has laid the groundwork for a fabulous Show--now it's up to us to see it through.

--Evelyn Ulrich



GLENNA'S GLEANINGS

Don Duckett is a patient at Bryan Hospital for an extended stay, undergoing diagnostic testing.

Rev. & Mrs. Raymond Pfeiffer took a three-week tour through the southeastern states and reported a wonderful time.

Flossie Litzenberg went on a hunting trip with male members of her family and, shades of women's liberation, brought home "meat for the table" in the form of the largest deer bagged by the group. Congratulations, Flossie!

Christmas card time is here again, and don't forget our Veterans-Hospital-bound member, Harry Gragg, when you make your list.

Ask Frank Rule & Larry Bigley to show some of the "goodies" they acquired last weekend. Braggin' stuff!

Don't forget the Dec. 8th, 6:30 p.m. potluck dinner at the regular meeting place. Bring the dishes you are most famous for, to go along with the club-furnished turkey & ham.

Susan Taylor is sporting a svelte new figure lately. How about telling us your secret?

Spotted Floyd Fellows rebuilding his garage to fit the sporty new Suburban truck he has been driving recently.

Brent Jones, 4-H Pebble Pup member, won first prize in vaulting and second in free acts at the city gymnastics meet in November. Then, he proceeded to sprain his finger so could not continue to participate.

Joella Olson fell heir to a fabulous gem and mineral collection which has to be seen to be believed. Make arrangements with Joella to see it, if interested.

Clark Wells, son of Mr. & Mrs. Lynn Wells, is moonlighting from his regular job as painter for Howard Taylor to being assistant swim coach at East High.

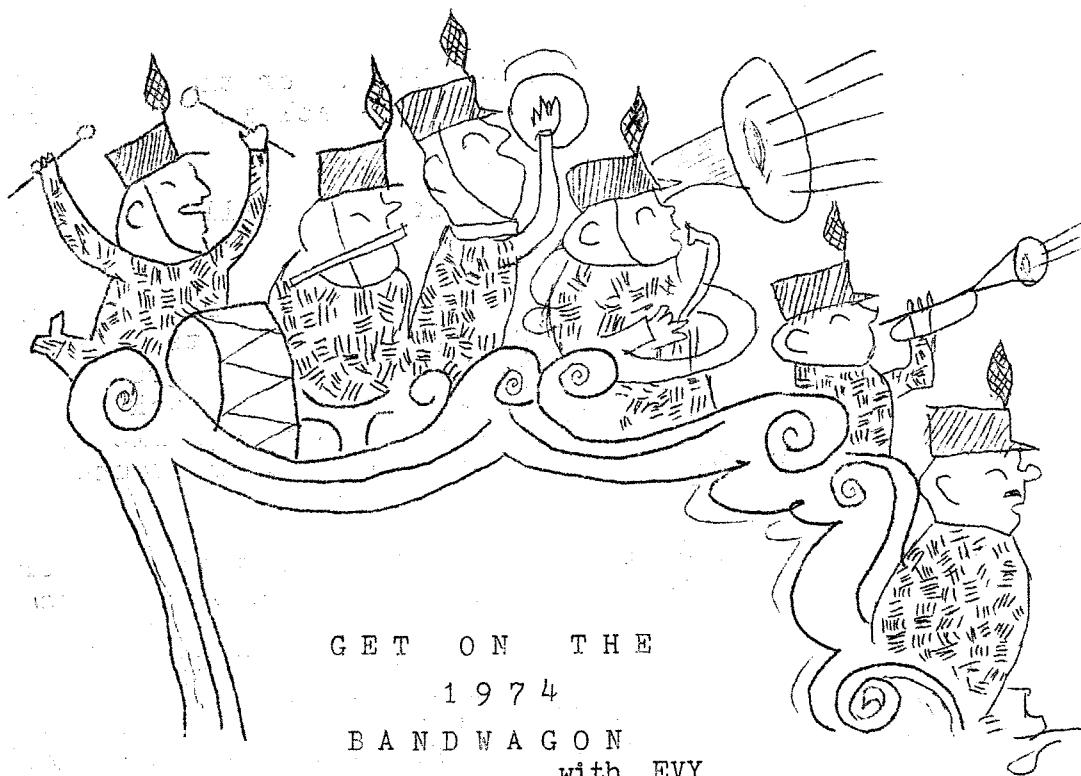
Due to Mac's premature retirement, and the uncertainty of our whereabouts in the future, I am turning over to Nelda Oliver the duties of "snoop scoop", with the hope she will enjoy it as much as I have.

Adios, and good hunting

--Glenna

TO L.G.&M. CLUB--Greetings from Cape Girardeau, Missouri

Our beautiful, colorful fall is about past--it was gold, yellow, brown and bronze, and the big oaks around my building were glorious! So the trees are turning grey, and I wonder how I'll like the "no snow" winter. People talk of it being cold, they buy boots and heavy coats, yet it seldom gets much below freezing. However, it is damp, so no doubt is "chilly". I'll learn! I wish for you each and all a Happy Holiday Season! Best regards,
Katie U.



To keep everyone posted and up to date I will cover one or two foods for thought.

As we all know, the gas situation seems to be in all the news. We are in a quandary on what the Powers to Be are up to. Will they ration? Will they close stations on weekends? What will gas cost? On and on go the questions. I have a couple of suggestions I want to pass on to out-of-towners who receive The Pick & Shovel.

One is a car pool. I know many times just my wife and I have gone to a Gem and Mineral Show alone in our car. I think that when we find out for sure what the gas set-up will be, we should plan our car pools. Most cars nowadays will seat four people and haul what baggage you will need. Doubling up will also cut the expenses in half.

The other idea is to check and see about a bus tour. Most bus companies will take charter reservations if you can get a busload. This would be one that no one but the driver would be in a hassle about.

These two ideas are something to think about. I'm sure that you Rockhounds will think of ways to come to our Show.

We have once again met with the Fair Board and have everything squared away. I have a feeling of great anticipation when I get out to the Fairgrounds. What a great potential we have in this site!

Our greatest worry was to get all the dealers in one building--the grandstand. I'm sure this will make everyone glad. We will have competition, non-competitive, and state displays in Bldg. A, which is the Exposition Bldg. Also, we have rented the Open-Air Auditorium for our swappers and other activities. We have rented the Administration Bldg. for headquarters, slide shows, and lectures, Judge's rooms and other

Continued next page

Bandwagon, continued

things. Of course, we still have the 4-H Bldg. for the wholesalers. You see, even though we have had a slight set-back in our gas thing, we have plunged ahead with our plans.

My own mail has been of such that folks are still writing for this and that.

Oh yes, I should note here that while at the Fairgrounds and talking to them, we asked about the campgrounds. They stated they can or have taken care of 400 or more campers. They have the grounds all in good shape--trees planted, road in, street lights up--hook-ups ready for 200 or so. Their mail, too, has increased for inquiries on trailer and camping space. If you are thinking of using their grounds, please write to them.

Well, I hope I've covered some of the items of interest for all concerned. Please feel free to ask any questions that might come up.

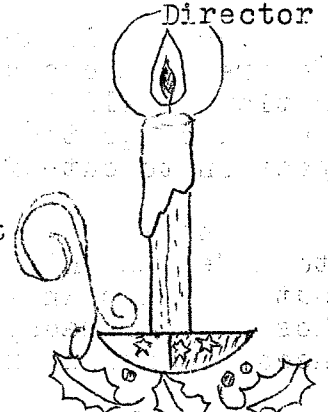
Oh yes, I need a volunteer for the Swap. Do you want to take this little chore? As we all know, George and Glenna McGinnis were going to, but after George had his heart trouble, he asked to be taken off this. I want to say thanks to George and Glenna for their help so far.

We need more help, so if there is one area you would rather help in, please contact me.

--Irl Everett, 1974 Show
Director

"I will honor Christmas in my heart and try to keep it all the year. I will live in the Past, the Present, and the Future. The Spirit of all Three shall strive within me. I will not shut out the lessons that they teach."

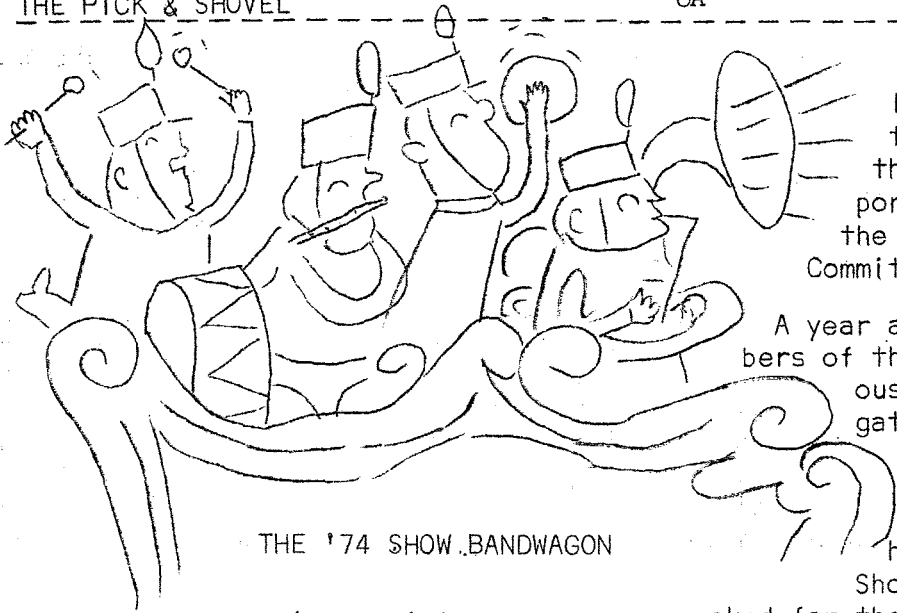
--Ebezener Scrooge



LAPIS LAZULI means literally "Blue Rock." It is composed of a highly variable mixture of the minerals lazurite (primarily a blue sodium aluminum silicate), pyrite (in brassy colored spots), and calcite (as white streaks and blotches through the blue). The best lapis lazuli is uniformly deep blue in color and consists almost totally of lazurite.

The importation of lapis lazuli from Turkestan into Egypt was a thriving business nearly a thousand years before the Hebrew exodus. Lapis Lazuli and emerald ornaments found in Egyptian tombs provide the earliest definite evidence of extensive commercial gem traffic. Lapis Lazuli was quite certainly the material known to the ancients as sapphire. Egyptian tombs, such as those in the pyramids of Dashour, have yielded objects designed in gold and lapis lazuli dating back twenty-four centuries B.C., to the time of the Twelfth Dynasty. All of it came from Badakshan, which was in ancient Media, in the Oxus valley. Very likely the Badakshan mines, now in Afghanistan, are the oldest operating mines in the world, having produced continuously for seven thousand years.

"The Gem Kingdom", by Paul Desautels,
via The Glacial Drifter



THE '74 SHOW BANDWAGON

I know that you are all aware that many members are busy with their committee work. This report will bring you up to date on the progress of the Registration Committee.

A year ago this week, along with members of the Steering Committee and various Directors, I talked to a gathering of members of NAOESCI clubs at Kearney, Nebraska.

At that time I explained what the Registration Committee hoped to do for the '74 National Show and the NAOESCI show, and

asked for their club cooperation in helping us by making favors; centerpieces, etc. In May a similar meeting was held at Ogallala to update everyone on progress. I have been more than pleased with the cooperation and support of NAOESCI clubs, and our own members. Everyone has really come through with a lot of help and we LGMC members should let them know our appreciation every chance we get.

We have set a deadline of March 1, 1974 for completion and delivery of the items to LGMC and just know everyone will come through on time. The Fort Butler Rock Club has already delivered 150 menu covers for the Editor's Breakfast, and Darline & Hal Jansen delivered 200 banquet favors to me on Dec. 8 from the Midstate Gem & Mineral Club of Shelton-Gibbon.

Following is a summary of the items being furnished:

For the AFMS officers meeting on Wed. June 12 at the Nebraska Center, Frank Rule and Don Duckett are working on the favors of Nebr. material that LGMC will furnish.

For the combined AFMS-MWF Bulletin Editor's Breakfast at the Nebraska Center on Fri. June 14, the Central Nebraska Rock Club of Hastings is making 150 favors of their design, using Nebraska material.

For the MWF Executive Committee meeting and luncheon on Fri. June 14, the Arbor Valley Gem & Mineral Society of Nebraska is making 134 favors of their design using Nebraska material.

For the MWF Delegates Council meeting and luncheon the Fort Kearney Rock Club is making 300 favors from Nebraska material using their own design.

For the combined AFMS-MWF banquet on Sat. June 15 we have a combined effort on the part of several clubs: Midstate Gem & Mineral Club of Shelton-Gibbon has made (and delivered) 200 favors; Loup Valley Gem & Mineral Club of Columbus is making 40 favors; the Homestead Gem & Mineral Club of Beatrice is making 200; the 100th Meridian Club of Cozad is making 100; the Prairie Rockhounds of Ogallala are making 150, the Panhandle Rock Club of Scottsbluff is making some; and the Nebraska Mineral & Gem Club of Omaha have a commitment as well. These favors were designed within the Registration Committee and will utilize Nebraska material also.

The menu covers for the banquet are being made by Frances Tracy and Luella Paul of our own LGMC and will use the Nebraska flag in the design.

For the NAOESCI meeting on Sun. June 16, Evelyn Ulrich is making the 150 menu covers. Myrtle Young is making the 150 favors.

(continued)

1974 NATIONAL SHOW BANDWAGON (continued)

Myrtle and Julius Young have promised fresh flowers from their garden for the Saturday night banquet (June 15). These centerpieces will have to be made at the time and Florence Boring and Flossie Litzenberg will assist the Youngs.

The centerpieces at the other functions are being made of Nebraska materials and will be of an 'artificial' nature. Platte Valley Gem & Mineral Society of North Platte is making 3, the Fort Butler Club of Hebron is making 3, the Loup Valley Gem & Mineral Society of Columbus will provide 3, Fort Kearney Club of Kearney will bring 2, the Prairie Rockhounds will furnish 10 (this is the Ogallala club), the 100th Meridian club of Cozad will make 1, the Central Nebraska Rock Club of Hastings is making 3, and Arbor Valley Gem & Mineral Society of Nebraska City is making 7. (I'm curious and excited to see all of these - they will be given away at the meetings by lucky number drawings.)

We also have in mind a special centerpiece for the banquet using large chalcedony roses. This has yet to be worked out and we are in touch with the club at Crawford about donating roses. Tom Simmons has given me some already. If you have some large chalcedony roses you would wish to contribute we can use them...let me know. We also need some Odell diamonds so if you have a few you would part with give me a call.

Place cards for the banquet head table are being made by the Loup Valley Club of Columbus.

In addition to all of this, various members of my committee have been gathering material for our 'goodie' bags to be given to registrants for the convention. Items from rulers to litter bags are being gathered and stored in my house. When showtime draws nearer we will assemble the items into individual bags. It is amazing how everyone is cooperating and coming through - your cooperation is really appreciated.

In October Marie Wells Publicity Committee helped my committee in putting out 1200 (plus) envelopes of show information. This went to every club in the United States and Central Canada. That was quite an undertaking!!! Phyllis Parks printed until she couldn't see straight. Envelopes were address by Luella Paul, Mildred Pfeiffer, Nelda Oliver, Flossie Litzenberg and Rosa Lee Wright. In total, we put in well over 100 hours to bring the whole job to completion!

The next mailing goes out in March. It is our intention to get a registration form and program to every member in the MWF, and the same to all clubs in the other federations. For this job we will need the help of all LGMC members. More information will come out in the January bulletin of Pick & Shovel on this.

For now, let me close by saying my committee has been busy. I know other committees have been busy as well, and things are really shaping up. With all of us working together we will produce the neatest show ever in this part of the country.

I hope each Committee Director will give a report of their progress in coming issues of the Pick & Shovel. Things will run smoother if we are all aware of what is going on.

-- 1974 National Show Registration Committee Director, Norma Miller

SOME NEVER KNEW HE CAME

"When the angels went away from them into heaven, the shepherds said to one another...." Luke 2:15. What did they say? What do we say on the day after Christmas? For weeks we anticipate Christmas. We buy gifts and cards, we attend parties, and we decorate our homes. We sing carols and contribute to special charities and within our hearts is the spirit of goodwill and cheer. It is a happy time, but soon it is all over...or is it?

Suppose the shepherds had said: "Well, that was a thrilling experience. The choir from heaven and the words of the angels stirred our hearts. But let's get down to earth now. There are the sheep to be watched."

Colvis G. Chappell has drawn an imaginary word picture of one of those shepherds, who had been a youth on that first Christmas night and who now has become old. His grandson sits on his knee as he recalls: "A long, long time ago, when I was little more than a boy, I was out on the Judean hills one night with some other shepherds, keeping watch over the flock. And the angel said, 'Fear not.... for unto you is born this day in the City of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord...You shall find the Babe in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger.'"

The old man's lips cease to move, and there is silence. Then the lad turns and looks with wide, puzzled eyes into his grandfather's face and asks: "But Granddaddy, is that all? What did you do when you heard the good news? Was what the angel said really true? Was the Christ Child ever really born?"

The old shepherd sadly shakes his white head and answers: "I never knew. I never went to see. Some say that it is all a myth. Others say they found in Him the light of God, the power for life. But for me, I never could be quite sure. I never did go to see."

The supreme tragedy of Christmas is that its real meaning is unknown or completely neglected by so many people. Millions who celebrate and live by a calendar that reckons time by His birth do not know Him.

On Christmas Eve they filled the house, some fifty guests all told,
 (O little Lord of Christmas, were you left out in the cold?)
 And ate and sang, played cards and danced till early morning light.
 (O little Lord of Christmas, did they think of you that night?)
 Next morning came the presents on a glittering Christmas tree.
 (O little Lord of Christmas, was there any gift for thee?)
 The dinner was a Roman feast, and how those guests did eat!
 (O little Lord of Christmas, were you hungry in the street?)
 Then came some teas, a movie and at night the last revue.
 (O little Lord of Christmas, what had these to do with you?)
 By midnight all were tired and cross and tumbled into bed.
 (O little Lord of Christmas, did they think that you were dead?)
 They all woke up with headaches, and no joy in work or play.
 (O little Lord of Christmas, did they mark your birth that day?)
 The love, the joy were good, no doubt; the rest a pagan spree.
 (O little Lord of Christmas, let us keep the day with thee!)

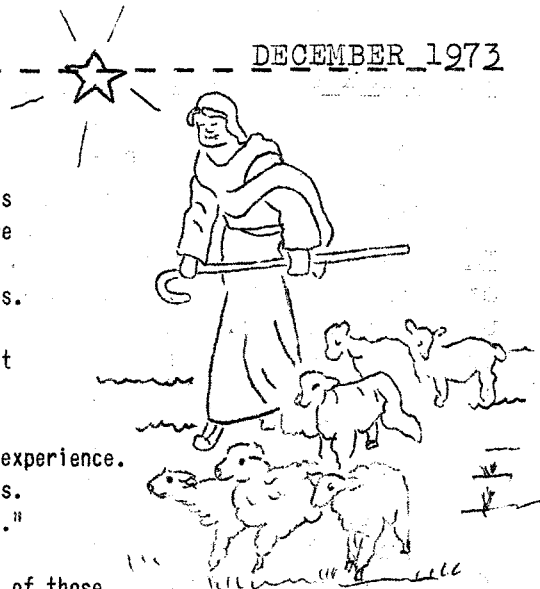
(Christmas at Babbitt's) by Henry Hallam Tweedy.

But there are others who through the study of His word and worship in the fellowship and company of believing souls He established, who have consecrated their lives to His will. Like the shepherds, they have said, "....Let us go over to Bethlehem and see what the Lord has made known to us." Luke 2:15

From Christmas in our Hearts

by Charles L. Allen and Charles L. Wallis

Submitted by Rev. Raymond R. Pfeiffer





The following article was written by Bill Denio, a member of the Petrified Pebble Pups of Lancaster County.

I went to the Roads Dept. on Highway 2, and I talked to Joe Little of the Roads Dept. He told me that they use A or B gravel and crushed rock. It is scaled to the correct size for the correct use for roads. If they didn't use gravel or rock the correct size or mixture the gravel or rock would be either too small or much too large and wouldn't make a good constructed road.

I was taken to the Road Dept. and they told me how they constructed the different kinds of roads. The gravel and rock is all taken at an elevation of 1,103 feet at the contact between the Wakarusa Limestone and the lower bed of Auburn Shale. This rock is found in the Pennsylvanian System, or level, of the Geologic History age. They have found that some shale does crumble with the weather changes from hot to Nebraska freezing cold, You will find that your roads never are covered with shale. They do have to construct the roads differentle in different parts of the U.S. because of the climate and the elevation and the type of soil in that area.

The Road Dept. used to feel that the best-constructed road was: a well-built road of gravel and rock covered with asphalt with concrete on top. They feel today that the best constructed road is packed, covered with cement, and they put crushed gravel, rock and asphalt over the top of that.

It was interesting to me to be told that in the Sandlands in Nebraska they build the road out of the native sand and shoot hot oil into that. It stands up perfect to the weather and makes an excellent road.

My Dad travels all over the U.S. and after summer school our family goes along with him. It is a vacation for us, but Dad has his business to take care of. This summer we traveled 6,000 miles in 3 weeks. We had to travel on a lot of highways where they were being constructed. I was surprised to see that they are hiring more and more pretty girls as flagwomen. We had to wait a long time in Mexico on road repair, so we talked to a flaglady. She told us that she loves her work, it does get very hot on the black asphalt, but her job does pay well and she liked working outside instead of sitting behind a desk. She didtell us that most of the ladies hired are married. She told us that she was working her way through college.

The Nebraska Roaks Dept. was very pleased that 4-H has Geology and they are hoping some of our members well be interested in Road Geology Engineering. They send someone around to talk to students who are interested in Geology.

I was interested that they use dry gravel or wet gravel from a Wet Quarry. It costs more to process the wet quarry gravel because sometimes they have to drain the water our before they can quarry it. They do feel the wet gravel is cleaner because it doesn't have a lot of silt in it that dry gravel has.

I am glad that we had to study about the different rocks that are used for building buildings, because now I realize from other 4-H mineral experience that almost everything we use, and water we drink, does come from some sort of rock; and our lives do depend on the minerals in order for us to survive.



PEBBLE PUPS PAGE

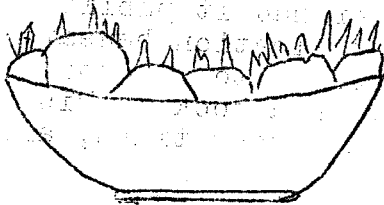


Juniors: Here's some good advice from Bill.

JEST 'FORE CHRISTMAS

Father calls me William, sister calls me Will,
 Mother calls me Willie, but the fellers call me Bill!
 Mighty glad I ain't a girl--rather be a boy,
 Without them sashes, curls, an' things that's worn by Fauntleroy!
 Love to chawk green apples, and go swimmin' in the lake,
 Hate to take the castor-ile they give for belly-ache!
 'Most all the time the whole year round, there ain't no flies on me,
 But jest 'fore Christmas, I'm as good as I kin be!
 For Christmas, with its lots and lots of candies, cakes and toys,
 Was made, they say, for proper kids, an' not for naughty boys;
 So wash yer face, an' bresh yer hair, an' mind yer p's and q's,
 And don't bust out yer pantaloons, an' don't wear out yer shoes;
 Say "Yessum" to the ladies, and "Yessur" to the men,
 And when they's company, don't pass yer plate for pie again;
 But thinkin' of the things yer'd like to see upon that tree,
 Jest 'fore Christmas be as good as yer can be!

--Eugene Field

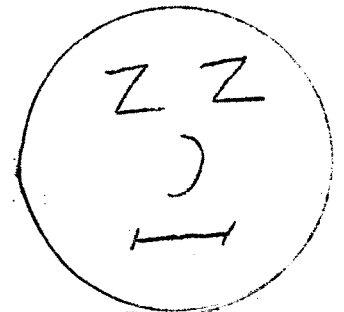
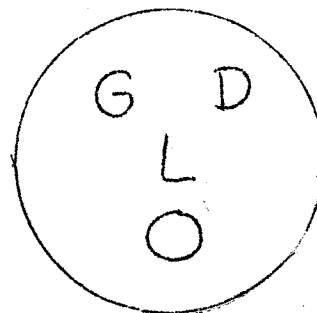
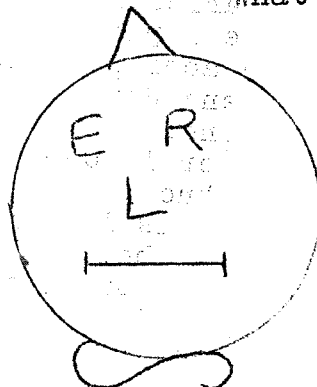
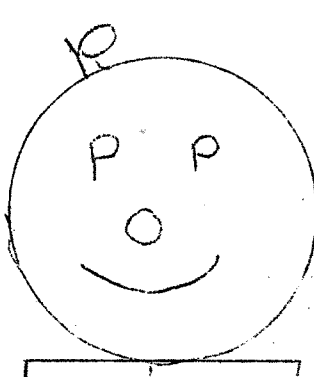


INSTRUCTIONS FOR CRYSTAL GARDEN

Depending on size of dish, place 1-3 charcoal briquettes in the bottom of it. In separate container (such as a clean cottage cheese container) mix together the following:

1/2 cup salt... 1/2 cup water... 1/2 cup bluing... 1 tablespoon ammonia... and a few drops of food coloring. Pour mixture over briquettes. Place dish where it will not be disturbed. If mixture seems to be growing slowly, place it in a warm place for a few hours, or sprinkle more salt on top of it. Small twigs, gnarled wood or dried cholla may be placed in dish. NOW...WATCH YOUR CRYSTAL GARDEN GROW!

In the faces below you will find the names of metallic minerals.
 What are they?



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A Very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year

Lois and Ev.

"SATISFIED CUSTOMERS ARE OUR BEST ADVERTISEMENT"

"Twas the night before Christmas,
when all through the house
Not a creature was stirring,
not even a mouse".



We are all familiar with this old Christmas favorite, but did you know that the author, Dr. Clement C. Moore, was greatly embarrassed when it was published in the Troy Sentinel, Dec. 23, 1823? He had written it for his children. On the evening that he recited it to them, a guest in the home copied it, and a year later had it published.

Being a professor of divinity, he considered the publication beneath his dignity. Many years elapsed before he permitted it to be known that he wrote it. However, in 1844 he included it in a book of his own poems. The poem was republished by the Sentinel many times, and eventually it obtained national fame.

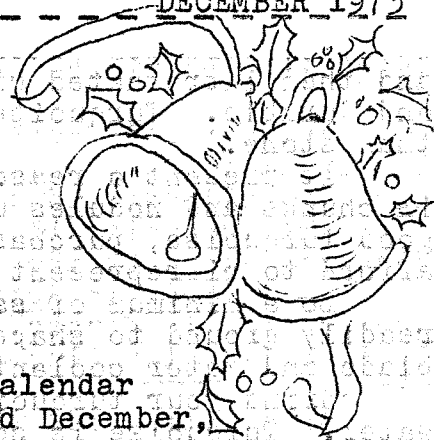
I think that there shall never be
an ignoramus just like me,
Who roams the hills throughout the day
to pick up rocks that do not pay.
For there's one thing I've been told
I take the rocks and leave the gold.
O'er deserts wild or mountains blue
I search for rocks of varied hue.
A hundred pounds or more I pack
with blistered feet and aching back.
And after this is said and done
I cannot name a single one.
I pick up rocks where e'er I go--
the reason why I do not know.
For rocks are found by fools like me
where God intended them to be.

--submitted by Art Howlett

DECEMBER

December's brow is white with snow
As swift his crackling footsteps go
O'er hill and dale, o'er mount and sea,
December laughs in noisy glee,
While merry bells ring sweet and clear,
And Christmas crowns the dying year.

--Ruth Raymond



The last month of the year. The old Roman calendar was divided into ten months, the last being called December, or the tenth month (decem-Latin for ten). This name was retained for the twelfth or last month of the year as it is now divided. Julius Caesar gave the month its present length. Martial referred to the month as canus (hoary). Ovid styles it gelidus (frosty). The Saxons called it Winter Monath and Heligh monath, holy month, from the fact Christmas fell within it. The modern Germans call it Christmonat.

The birthstone for December at one time was the ruby, but the National Association of Jewelers changed it in 1912 to turquoise with lapis lazuli the alternate stone. Capricornus is the zodiacal sign, and the flower is the holly.

TURQUOISE

The turquoise was known in Egypt from a very early time. It has been used as a gem and ornamental stone for more than 80 centuries. It was obtained as early as 3400 BC from the Sinai Peninsula in what was probably the world's first important hard-rock mining operation. At a later time material of excellent color was mined in Persia. It was transported to Europe through Turkey--this probably accounts for its mineral name, which means Turkish.

Turquoise is a gem of the turquoise group of phosphate minerals. It ordinarily occurs as dense, cryptocrystalline to finely granular nodules, seams, and encrustations. Its hardness is 5 to 6, its specific gravity 2.6 to 2.8.

Its color ranges from blue through various shades of green to greenish and yellowish-gray. A delicate sky-blue is most valued for gem purposes. It is opaque and has a waxy luster. Long exposure to sunlight, heat or dry air causes deterioration especially in low grade, porous varieties. Perspiration and various acids also affect its color and luster.

Turquoise is found chiefly in arid regions generally in fractured volcanic and sedimentary rocks. The finest quality comes from Iran. There are numerous deposits found in Southwestern U.S. Mines were opened centuries ago by the American Indians, some of which are still being worked.

Turquoise produced in the U.S. is soft and porous. The undesirable green variety is often dyed blue. Very poor quality turquoise is often subjected to an epoxy bath with heat and pressure which gives it a rich blue, waxy appearance.

Turquoise was supposed to protect the wearer from injury by falling. The Turks decorated the harnesses of horses with turquoise. These gems were supposed to protect them from the ill effects of drinking cold water when overheated. A "horse amulet" of turquoise rendered the horse surefooted. Horses were regarded as symbols of the sun.

Continued next page

Turquoise, continued

Women rarely wore turquoise. However, it was so highly regarded by men at the beginning of the 17th century that no man considered himself well-adorned unless he wore a fine turquoise.

The turquoise is the national stone of Persia, and is regarded as a sacred stone by the Indians of New Mexico.

An article in Gemdrops by Maggie Wilson tells about a new turquoise find in Nevada. It is described as "fabulous" and "sensational". It is called the Blue Diamond Mine. May be a vein of old Blue Gem Mine.

Information for this article was taken from the Encyclopa Britannica, and from The Curious Lore of Precious Stones by George Frederick Kunz. Copyright 1913 by J. P. Lippincott Co. Renewal, 1941 by Mrs. Ruby Kunz Zinsser. Used by permission of J. B. Lippincott Co.

Lapidary Tips - Turquoise

Many lapidary enthusiasts have never polished turquoise, possibly because it has the reputation of being a very difficult stone to work. Also, as it becomes more scarce, the price steadily climbs. But the amateur need have no fear of spoiling a fine and costly stone if he follows two simple rules:

1. NEVER BUY BARGAIN TURQUOISE.
2. WHEN WORKING TURQUOISE, TAKE CARE NEVER TO OVERHEAT IT.

Obey these two cardinal rules and turquoise will yield to any ordinary polishing method.

Turquoise is mined in all grades from chalky, low grade junk to skyblue, hard gem material. Much of the low grade material is tumbled and then impregnated with an epoxy resin which leaves it bright blue and durable. Turquoise so treated looks cheap and more like plastic than stone.

At present a reasonably good grade of turquoise can be purchased in chunks and nodules up to 5/8 in. in diameter. If you do not know good turquoise, purchase from a reputable dealer. A good dealer cannot afford to misrepresent his merchandise.

Do a minimum of sawing on turquoise. Choose pieces that can be readily ground to shape without waste. If you must saw it, use a thin blade and water coolant. Turquoise often absorbs cutting oils.

Grind your turquoise carefully on a 220 grit wheel with plenty of water. Turquoise is soft and grinds away quickly, so take care that you do not grind away more than you planned to. Wet sand 220, 400 and 600 grit cloth run quite wet. Then polish with your favorite buff and polishing compound, keeping your buff wetter than normally used for other stones.

A good short-cut method is as follows: Grind & sand through 220 grit as above. Then get a piece of 1/4" gasket cork from an auto supply house and some pumice from a paint store. Cut a cork disc to fit a sanding disc and fasten it in place. Wet the cork well and rub in a generous amount of pumice. With the cork disc running as slowly as possible with your machine, work the cab around over the cork surface until the stone assumes a semi-polish and all scratches are gone. Don't let the cork dry out. Now polish as before.

Try this technique on obsidian, opal and other relatively soft homogenous gem material. It really works.

(from the Sooner Rockologist, The Seeker, via Rockhound Tales)

THAT TURQUOISE MAY BE PLASTIC
Authentic Gem Supply Dwindling

"I don't call it turquoise," said Indian-trader Harold Street, displaying an attractive piece of Jewelry. He pointed to a blue-matrix-lined stone within the delicate silver-work of a string-tie holder. The stone was what is known in the Southwest as "treated".

Not all traders agree with Street in the harshness of his verdict. But there is no doubt that as Indian jewelry becomes increasingly popular, the authenticity of the turquoise used in it is being questioned more frequently.

Machine made merchandise, plastic imitation turquoise, angers Indians who painstakingly follow procedures used by their ancestors to create turquoise jewelry. Street complains about the growing use of treated stone, derived from low-grade, chalky turquoise. It takes a knowledgeable person to tell it from real turquoise; even Indians have been fooled.

This country's dwindling supply of turquoise is found in New Mexico, Arizona, Colorado, and Nevada. It forms an important part of the Indian economy in the Southwest, where master craftsmen use it in items of jewelry such as squash-blossom necklaces, beads, "bolo" ties, bracelets and rings, and belt buckles.

PLASTIC IMITATIONS-- machine-made, plastic jewelry cannot legally be sold in New Mexico as Indian jewelry. So it is sometimes described as "Indian-style" or "Indian-designed". However Al R. Packard lifelong Santa Fe trader, says he has seen Indians buy plastic jewelry from a store and then go back across the street and place the imitation items among the goods in their sidewalk vending areas. State law says that imitation Indian arts and crafts shall be clearly designated as "Indian imitation" but only recently has the New Mexico Commission on Indian Affairs adopted a resolution that the law be enforced.

Benny Atencio, former chairman of the All-Indian Pueblo Council at Albuquerque, says his organization is troubled "because the consumer may spend money on a product he thinks is genuine, but which is plastic." Indians often are "wrongfully blamed" for such gyos. He says laws of the statute books could be beneficial to Indians faced with competition of machine-made products represented as genuine, Atencio explains, but there is no money to enforce the laws. The council will lobby for funds for enforcing existing legislation.

TREATED TURQUOISE-- Rex Arrowsmith, a Santa Fe geologist and trader, says all turquoise mines produce stone of varying degrees of quality. Some is so chalky one can write with it on a blackboard. When it is treated for use in jewelry, heat and pressure impregnate colored plastic into it, simulating even the webbed lines or matrix that is highly prized. After being treated, soft turquoise hardens to about point 4 on the hardness scale (a diamond is 10). Pure turquoise, which requires only polishing by grinding and buffing, usually has a hardness quotient of 6 or 7, sometimes 8. Treated turquoise, in its raw form is a lot cheaper than pure turquoise. The soft variety runs from 6 to 20 dollars a pound; pure turquoise costs up to \$250 a pound or more. There is no law against using or selling treated turquoise. Problems arise when people pay the price of the pure stone and get the treated one.

The consensus among Indians and traders alike is that good turquoise is an excellent investment, something to be enjoyed now while it gains in value. Their advice: Know the fellow you're buying it from; be sure he's reputable.

.....From the National Observer by Eohn W. Jarrell from
Santa Fe, New Mexico-Pick & Chisel via The Lapidary

MICA GUARANTEES WHITE CHRISTMAS

Snow or shine, there will always be a white Christmas in the United States so long as mica holds out.

The versatile mineral is a source of the artificial snow that brightens Christmas decorations.

Mica has helped actors' careers, too. Countless Hollywood heroes have mused their way to stardom through raging blizzards of mica.

Simulating snow is only one of mica's many uses, the National Geographic society says. For example, this mineral adds a sparkle to paint and wallpaper, coats the inside of automobile tires, and backs asphalt roofing.

Mica acts as a thermal and electrical insulator in scores of home appliances. The breakfast toast is browned by red-hot wires wrapped around thin plates of mica.

The term mica refers to a family of silicate minerals that have crystallized directly from molten rock. The micas take the form of paper-thin sheets tightly pressed in a hexagonal crystal. The sheets can be easily stripped from one another; they suggest pages of a book.

Splitting a book of mica can be a tedious process, however, a sheet may only measure .0012 of an inch thick.

Mica's color varies with chemical composition; it ranges from black to crystal transparency. Seen through a microscope, one of the most common micas - muscovite - glazes with intense color.

Russian explorers first discovered muscovite in Siberia some 275 years ago. They named it in honor of Moscow - even then the greatest commercial and industrial center in the country - which they had left to investigate the mineral-rich region.

For years Russian envoys dazzled foreign courts with mirrors and other objects made from the material. The crystal's fame spread through many lands.

Bright micas especially appealed to India's princes. Glistening sheets decorated palace walls. Mica sequins glittered from the skirts of dancing girls.

At the turn of the century, Indian mica came into increasingly heavy demand by manufacturers of electrical equipment. The mountains of Bihar and Madras in eastern India still produce some of the best mica in the world.

In World War II, America's industrial need for mica was so urgent that hundreds of thousands of pounds were flown directly from open-pit mines in India by the Air Transport Command. The high-grade mica was indispensable for vacuum tube spacers, radio condensers, and other vital electrical components.

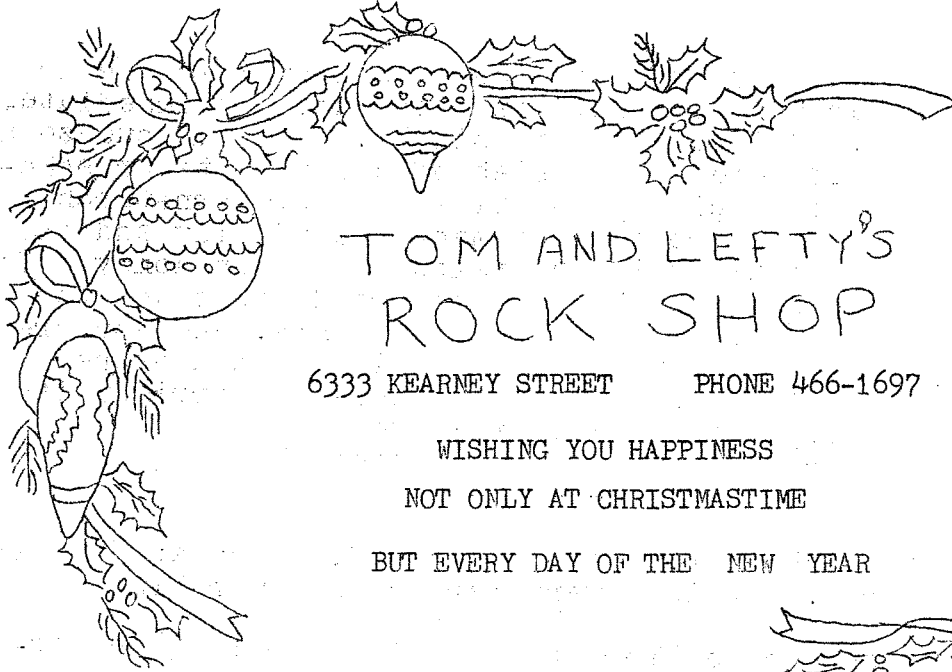
After the war, the mineral held its position as one of India's chief exports. Today India stands first in high-grade sheet mica production, and supplies about 80 percent of the world's demand.

..... Cleveland Plain Dealer, Magma,

The Jaspilite via Cedar Valley News.

Time
LIES

DUES ARE DUE



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WISHING YOU HAPPINESS
NOT ONLY AT CHRISTMASTIME
BUT EVERY DAY OF THE NEW YEAR

TEMPSKY FERN BY FRANK SORENSON via the CYCAD, THE TEMPLATE AND EARTH SCIENCE

Dr. H.C. Dake editor emeritus, of the Mineralogist magazine, had an article in the Sept. 1969 issue of Gems & Minerals, describing some new finds of temsky fern fossils, in the old area of Oregon where they were originally found and thought that the areas had depleted of this rare fossil material. Lately some successful digging has produced specimens of various sizes and weights.

The common name is spelled "tempsky", the genus is spelled "tempskya" and the family is spelled "temskyaceae."

It is very interesting to note how closely the history of the temsky parallels the history of the cycad. They were both plants found in the same formations and in the same areas. The cycad is the older in actual age. The temskys are not nearly as numerous as the cycads as many of the fossil finds were of only one specimen.

The temsky ferns are described as being a bundle of upwards growing stems enclosed in a mat of adventitious roots. The stems branch repeatedly and so did the roots. It had roots, stems and petals, but no leaves have been found. They were first found in England in 1824. Other early finds were in the Isle of Wight, Germany, France, Russia, and Bohemia (Czechoslovakia).

The first recorded find of tempsky in America was in 1911, from the lower Cretaceous of Maryland. Many cycads were found in Maryland too, near Washington, D.C. The other locations where temsky was found is Oregon, Montana, Wyoming, Utah, Nevada and South Dakota. Tempsky was found in the White River formation in South Dakota, which is a reworking of the Cretaceous formation of the Black Hills. This find was by Dr. Miles of Custer, S. Dakota and it was in the Orella beds. Dr. Chester Arnold prepared a professional paper at the Univ. of Mich. describing this find and gave the name *tempskya superba*.

The cycad seems to be the favorite fossil found around Hot Springs, South Dakota, but the temsky should come next, then the Pteridosperm, which are also of gem quality and the sycamore (*Platanus occidentalis* L.) sometimes called "Sycamore fig". All four of these fossil plants used to be fairly plentiful and found by rockhounds, but no longer.

..... via Picture City Gem & Mineral Society

COLD DOPPING

Cold dopping is a must on many fragile stones, and opal is one in which damage from regular "hot dopping" may show up, not immediately, but at some future date. Cold dopping is simple. First, squeeze a small amount of stronghold cement on a slab of jade, agate or something, then on the same slab, place a small amount of cornstarch in a small mount, NOT in the stronghold cement. Gradually add the cornstarch to the cement until it is the texture of spun honey. It doesn't take very much of either. You are now ready to place the stone of the dop stick. Let it stand at least 24 hrs. and you are ready to work the stone. To remove the stone dip is in acetone. Dop several stones at one time, using this method- no worries with fractures suddenly appearing at some future date

.....Michigan Lapidary Society via Gem Cutters News

RICH SAPPHIRE FIND

Mr. and Mrs. Irish of Winchester, Idaho found a 2,200 carat sapphire in the McCall, Idaho area. It is a very rare cornflower blue and very valuable.

They are taking the stone to New York to have it appraised by Tiffany's.

.....Rock Rollers, via Emerald Gems

RUSSIANS DISCOVER FROZEN ARCTIC CROCODILES

The Soviets have reported finding a cemetery of petrified crocodiles deep in an Arctic coal mine, indicating that the frozen area once abounded in fish, fowl and ferns. TASS, the Soviet news agency said miners near the Arctic town of Inty discovered the crocodile fossils in a coal seam. Scientists named them "intahykhus" in honor of the town.

"Scientists believe that once this locality abounded in fern fields and warm lakes populated by fish, amphibians and water fowl," TASS said. "With time, the climate changed and rivers flowing into lakes brought silt and sand from the Ural Mountains. Later lakes grew shallow, turned into swamps, then became peat bogs and thick coal deposits, entombing the crocodiles."...FROM TULE SMOKE SIGNALS

HANDY HINTS ----- ROCKS TOO BIG FOR YOUR SAW?

To cut native stones and rocks into the smaller pieces for fireplaces, entrance markers and stone fronts, saturate a one-half inch rope with gasoline and tie it around the stone where the split should occur. Ignite the rope and wait until the brief hot flame dies away. Strike the stone several hard blows with a sledge hammer, following the charred mark of the burned rope. For splitting smaller stones or breaking off small sections in a series of splits from a large one, an old clothesline will serve as well. Since the breaks are clean and follow the burned rope, much labor in dressing the stone is saved. (USE CAUTION WHILE DOING THIS)

.....From Psephite, via Gemrock and Geode and others

Use my gasoline this way???????????

* * * * *

SAFETY PAGE

AMERICAN RED CROSS
First Aid Kits and SuppliesUnit Type Kits

These kits have a complete assortment of first aid materials put up in standard packages of unit size. Each unit package contains one or more individual dressings. Each dressing is complete in itself and is sealed in a sterile wrapper. It contains just enough to treat a single injury, thus eliminating waste. All liquids are put up in individual, sealed glass ampoules, and consequently cannot deteriorate. There are no bottles to spill or break.

Illustrations and instructions for the use of the contents are on the front of each package. The contents are clearly indicated on the top side in bold type. Unit packages fit like blocks in the case; they cannot shift or become disarranged. This kit is probably the most satisfactory if it is to be carried in a car, truck, or pack.

Contents of 16-Unit First Aid Kit

2 units-1" Adhesive Compress	2 units-Plain Absorbent Gauze
1 unit -2" Bandage Compress	1/2 sq. yd.
1 unit - 3" Bandage Compress	2 units-Plain Absorbent Gauze
1 unit - 4" Bandage Compress	24" x 72"
1 unit - 3"x3" Plain Gauze Pads	3 units-Triangular Bandages
1 unit - Gauze Roller Bandage	1 unit -Tourniquet, Scissors,
1 unit - Burn Ointment	Tweezers

--American Red Cross First Aid Textbook

BEWARE OF THE FESTIVE MISTLETOE

The following information is taken from an article written by Nancy Rueth, which appears in the January 1974 edition of Woman's World.

"The sturdy green sprig of mistletoe, that symbol of Christmas cheer, hides a desperate secret: its fragile white berries, if swallowed, can kill."

Deaths have occurred mostly among young children who have mistaken the berries for goodies. If you see your child swallowing the berries, or even the leaves of the mistletoe, get help quickly. If you can't get a doctor, call your local Poison Control Center--they're in major hospitals throughout the U.S. If you can't get professional help right away give the child an emetic--such as syrup of ipecac, mustard water, or soapy water. Do not give salt water--too much salt can also kill. Then get him to a hospital emergency room quickly.

Never hang mistletoe above furniture which a child can climb to reach it, and don't use it as a centerpiece where berries might come in contact with food.

It is better to use artificial mistletoe than to risk the danger that it involves.

Midwest Federation's NEWSLETTER

Published monthly except July and August as a service to members clubs.
All news, articles, subscription orders and requests for information concerning publication
should be sent to P. O. Box 1130, Des Moines, Iowa 50311



Issue No. 140 - December 1973

All American Club Awards

by June Zeitner
MWF Merit Awards Chairman

You may be eligible for an award as an ALL AMERICAN CLUB for your accomplishments in 1973. On pages 9 and 10 of the November AFMS Newsletter you will find the form for your club to send in. The deadline for entries this year is March 31st, but the sooner after January 1st you send your entries, the more time the judges will have to learn just how good your club really is.

It is important for every club to take part in this AFMS program. Your club is an educational organization, a community service organization, an art group, a science group, as well as the most useful type of recreational society. The public, the government, the media and other clubs should know the great things you are doing. As AFMS All American Chairman, La Dacia Ellis, says, "Toot your own horn. Brag about your club!" By informing us of your activities, you will help promote an excellent public image for Midwest and AFMS at the time it is most needed. Please, even if you don't think you have done enough to win, send us the entry with some pictures, clippings, programs, show bills, bulletins, scrap books and whatever you can.

In the past the Midwest clubs have received much excellent coverage for their original and outstanding work. Publishing books, working with the blind and handicapped, helping museums, schools and libraries, and preserving collecting localities are just a few of your services which have helped the Midwest and brought recognition to our hobby. One year almost a third of our club entered the Merit Awards contest, the predecessor of the All American Awards. I think we can do even better than that!

See that someone from your club is appointed at once to get things ready to mail to me soon after January 1st. If your club does not have a November AFMS Newsletter contact Haydon Peterson, Box 1130, Des Moines, Iowa 50311. If you have any questions about your entry, write to me directly. In a future issue of the Midwest Newsletter, I will list the judges. Please take part. Win a trophy at the AFMS banquet in Lincoln, Nebraska next summer!



Retiring President's message

Not too long ago, I was asked "What prompted you to become President of the Midwest Federation?". This was the easiest question I have been asked in the last five years simply because the answer is so obvious. Where else could you find so many worth-while people as there are in the earth science hobby area.

I must admit that there was a bit of apprehension involved prior to this year. At the same time, I was looking forward to it. The opportunity of being able to contribute something to the members of this Federation as limited as it may be was actually the motivating force. When one considers the high standard of character of the membership, the effort is most justified.

The response from member societies and individual members along with your moral support has been deeply appreciated. The cooperation received from the Executive Committee has been excellent, and I could not think of a better group of officers to work with than those of this past year. This has been a most wonderful year!

The Midwest Federation is a healthy, growing organization and with everyone working as they have done in the past, there is no reason to doubt its continued health and growth. The next year will see improvement over the past, and this is as it should be. New ideas, new methods, and new people are all essential to progress. The Midwest Federation will be guided by the very capable and qualified Mark Harris. With our well deserved support, this coming year will be something to look forward to.

To each and every one of you goes my heartfelt thanks for making this year the most outstanding of my life.

Most sincerely, Lee M. Kirby, Past President, MWF



The Place to Go in '74.....
NATIONAL GEM & MINERAL SHOW

JUNE 13-16 - LINCOLN, NEBRASKA

by Floyd N. Mortenson

Not too many years ago I can recall when the usual Gem & Mineral Show portrayed the substance of our efforts in the hobby in various and devious ways. Inasmuch as the majority of people were rather inexperienced in display technique, the exhibits in many instances were what might be called "crude". Nevertheless, they must have been at least partially effective as these early shows played an important part in attracting others to join in the world's most delightful and satisfying hobby which has enjoyed such phenomenal growth in recent years.

Many exhibits in the early days consisted of a spread of minerals, gems and jewelry on an open table to be viewed by the public. This sort of exhibit is probably satisfactory if the items exhibited are indestructible or if someone stands watch to see that nothing is carried away by "light fingers".

The use of "store-type" cases gave the exhibits better protection where valuable gems and jewelry and delicate and fragile mineral crystals were on display.

The need for bringing about improvement in national, regional and local shows made it necessary to develop procedures which would provide incentive to enter competitive exhibits. Many local shows promoted these competitive affairs and throughout the nation we had as many sets of judging rules as we had shows (and judges). Pity the poor judges in these pre-uniform rule days. Some had no rules to guide them and had to make up their own as they went along. Others, where rules existed, found that the rules varied from show to show and the bewildered exhibitor never knew what was expected. I well recall being in these situations many times, and it was no fun.

At first the regional and national shows established competitive types of exhibits for minerals only and between member societies only. Later on this was expanded to bring in individual members of the member societies. The rules as then used were naturally developed to meet the particular needs of each show.

It soon became obvious that this hodge-podge of local rules should be superceded by a set of uniform rules which would make it possible to apply judgement on the exhibit against an established and agreed upon standard of excellence that could be accepted and used nation-wide at all federation and local shows. Also, that these rules should be expanded to cover not only minerals, but should provide classes for lapidary, jewelry, fossils, educational and other phases of the hobby.

The work necessary to bring about the first set of Uniform Rules was monumental and required the services of many dedicated and experienced people. In 1959, after several years of work and study, the first American Federation Rules Committee was officially appointed. Out of compromise and cooperation the first A.F.M.S. Uniform Rules were adopted and first used at the A.F.M.S. Show in Miami, Florida in 1961. All six of the regional federations have since adopted the A.F.M.S. Uniform Rules.

Over the years the original rules have been modified from time-to-time and with the cooperation of all who have written in suggestions the Rules Committee, after much debate and study, have come up with a good workable set of Uniform Rules.

CLARIFICATION

In our September issue we carried a story about the State of Nebraska publishing field guides which could be purchased for 10 cents by writing to the Conservation and Survey division of the University of Nebraska, Lincoln, Neb. 65808.

In the same story two handbooks were mentioned, "Record in Rock" and "Minerals and Gemstones". Orders for these handbooks have been received by the University with remittance of only 10 cents for each book. These handbooks are priced at \$1.00 each and when ordering your remittance should be \$1.00 for each handbook ordered. Only the field guides are priced at 10 cents each.

Officers installed

On Saturday, Nov. 3 in Hammond, Ind. at the Howard Johnson Motor Lodge the new officers of the Midwest Federation for 1974 were installed. The occasion was the annual fall meeting of the Executive Committee.

Those installed were Mark Harris, president, 607 Mario Drive, Columbia, Mo. 65201; Terry Huizing, first vice president, 5341 Thrasher Drive, Cincinnati, O. 45239; Howard J. Taylor, second vice president, 910 New Hampshire, Lincoln, Neb. 68508; Miss Jean Reynolds, secretary, 107 Tuttle Ave., Clarendon Hills, Ill. 60514; Mrs. Joseph McCloskey, P.O. Box 527, Elm Grove, Wis. 53122.

Complete minutes of the meeting will be sent to all members as soon as ready.



Johnny Horizon says
**THIS IS YOUR LAND
KEEP IT CLEAN**

Of course, there is always room for improvement and procedures have been provided whereby suggestions (in writing) to the Society Rules Chairman can be forwarded to the Regional Rules Chairman for presentation and consideration at the annual meeting of the A.F.M.S. Rules Committee.

A salute and a thank you to these hard working rules people for doing a difficult job. Notable improvement in the quality of exhibits in show has resulted from the use of this guide to a standard of excellence.

Many society members do not realize that by studying and applying these rules in setting up an exhibit, they can learn so very much about the hobby and have a better understanding of the particular branch or phase which appeals to them personally. It makes no difference whether they enter an exhibit competitively or non-competitively. They will automatically set up a better display. By being "forced" to check on identification in the authorized reference books, it is surprising how much can be learned. It isn't necessary to have the world's best specimens in the exhibit. Many people enjoy the pleasure of sharing their "treasures" with other "lookers". So, enter an exhibit NOW! Enjoy sharing your fun with others. Enjoy it to the fullest.

LINCOLN GEM AND MINERAL CLUB, INC.
P.O. BOX 5342, LINCOLN, NE, 68505

The purpose of this 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 fields to its members and the general public, particularly youth and student groups.

MEMBER: Midwest Federation of Mineralogical and Geological Societies (MWF)
American Federation of Mineralogical Societies (AFMS)
Nebraska State Association of Earth Science Clubs, Inc. (NAOESCI)
Community Arts Council of Lincoln (CAC)

REGULAR MEETINGS: 4th Saturday of the month, 7:30 PM, September thru May
W. O. W. Bldg., 732 S. 27th St., Lincoln, Nebraska

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MIDWEST FEDERATION SHOW & CONVENTION - July 26-29, 1973
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"PROGRESS THROUGH PLANNING & PARTICIPATION" - Lee Kirby, '73 MWF President

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