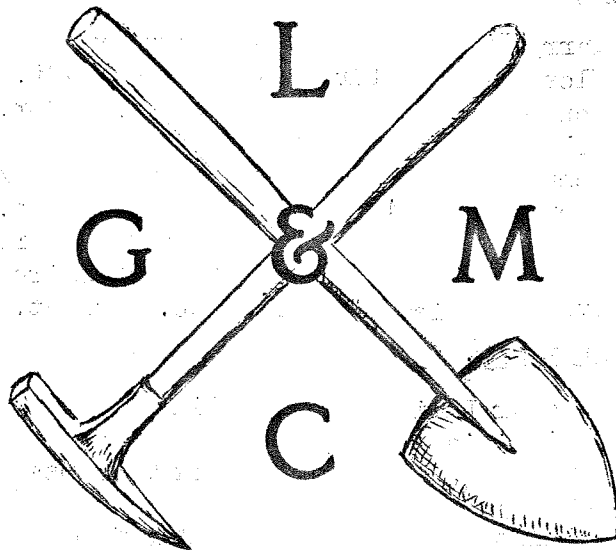


THE PICK & SHOVEL



MAY - 1976

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF

LINCOLN GEM & MINERAL CLUB

LINCOLN, NEBRASKA

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 Association of Earth Science Clubs, Inc. (NAOESCI)
Community Arts Council of Lincoln (CAC)
Nebraska Recreation League (NRL)

Regular Meetings: 4th Saturday of the month, September through May, 7:30 P.M.
1976 - IOOF Hall, 1101 No. 56th St., Lower Level

1976 ELECTED OFFICERS:

President	Larry Bigley	6126 Hartley	Lincoln, 68507	466-0211
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Board Member . .	Howard Taylor	910 New Hampshire	Lincoln, 68508	432-3707
Board Member . .	Evelyn Ulrich	3521 So. 48th St.	Lincoln, 68506	488-9051

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Librarian	Joella Olson		Edwin & Vivian Johnson
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& Vaya Con Dios	Marie J. Carveth	Housing & Property	Larry Bigley
NAOESCI Reporter	Luella Paul		
1976 Show Chairman	Jim Marburger		
1977 Show Chairman	Roger Pabian		

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Publisher - Phyllis Parks
Reporters - Club Members

Contributions from members are welcome and needed. Deadline for material is the 1st of the month to be printed. Please send copy to the Editor.

Subscriptions to the Pick & Shovel are \$3.00 per year - mailed.

Advertising by a rock-hobby business or interest is permitted with approval of the Board, at a rate presently set at \$10.50 per full page per insertion, with approximately 10 inches x 7 inches of copy. 1/2 page is 5.25, 1/3 page 3.50 and the minimum size ad is 1/4 page at \$2.75 per insertion.

Articles published in THE PICK & SHOVEL may be reprinted if credit is given the author and the bulletin, and a copy of the publication is sent to the Editor.

Calendar

Regular Meeting... A picnic, Saturday, May 22nd.
6:30 P.M. University Place Park,
49th and Garland. Pot Luck.



LGMC Board of Directors' meeting... June 3, 1976, 7:30 PM,
Home of Larry Bigley, 6126 Hartley.

Welcome New Member... Larry A. Marquardt, 5149
Randolph St. 68510, Tel. 489-0951

1976 Dates to Remember

May 15-16	Hot Springs, S.D.	Picture City Gem and Min. Show City Auditorium
June 12-13	Hebron, Ne.	Fort Butler Gem and Min. Swap, City Campground.
June 19-20	Beatrice, Ne.	Homestead Gem & Min. Club 7th Annual Swap, Chautauqua Park
July 3-5	Lincoln, Ne.	Lincoln Gem & Min. Club Swap
July 22-25	W. St. Louis Co. Mo.	MWF Convention and Show, Show Center 9785 St. Charles Rock Rd.
July 31-Aug. 2	Norfolk, Ne.	NAOESCI State Swap
Sept. 4-5	Omaha, Ne.	1976 NAOESCI State Show, hosted by Nebr. Min. & Gem Club, Holiday Inn, 72nd & Grover, 1 block north of 1-80 at 72nd Exit.
Sept. 17-19	Kimball, Ne.	Plains Rock and Min. Club Show
Oct. 16-17	Grand Island, Ne.	Grand Island Earth Science soc. Show.

National "Gem Capers" of '76, June 17, 18, 19, & 20, 1976, Austin, Tx.
For general information regarding the Show, write National "Gem Capers"
of '76, P.O. Box 4327, Austin, Tx. 78765. For an advance registration
packet, write Roberta Goldenberg, Route No. 3, Box 196G, Georgetown,
Texas 78626.

We are anticipating a good club turnout for our trip to Oklahoma over the Memorial
Day weekend. Anyone planning to attend please contact me so that we can keep an
eye out for you at the campsite. Call Larry Bigley at 466-0211. As of now the
Bigley family is planning to leave Friday morning. We will travel west on inter-
state 80 and turn south onto US 81. At approximately Minneapolis Kansas we will
pick up interstate 35 and take it south into Oklahoma to the Blackwell exit. From
there proceed west on highway 11 approximately 45 miles to state highway 38. Turn
south onto highway 38 for about 5 miles and you will arrive at the dam area of
the Great Salt Plains. This is about an eight hour trip. Refer to the March
issue of the Pick & Shovel for the area in which we will try to establish camp.

REMEMBER - Summer field trip schedules and special activities will be by
phone calls or special bulletins. Next full Pick & Shovel September. The
deadline for copy is September 1, 1976.

Have a good summer! Call your officers or chairmen for information if you
have questions and we'll all be together September 25th.

Last Month... The April business meeting was preceeded by an educational feature prepared and presented by Joella Olson to acquaint members with the story and features of the Salt Plains in Oklahoma which the Club intends to visit for their Memorial Day weekend field trip. We should give special thanks to Educational chairman, Marie Wells for securing this excellent feature.

Letters were read commending LGMC for its participation in the AFMS Scholarship program, and presenting a 200% certificate for our efforts. Announcement was made for our May meeting to be a covered dish picnic, 6:30 P.M. at the University Place Park shelter house, 49th and Garland streets.

The program was a slide production of Mineral collecting in the Bancroft, Canada area, presented by David J. Doherty, Department of Geology, UNL. After the program, Mr. Doherty answered many questions for the members.

Drawings were made and many rock specimens were given as door prizes. These had been donated by members for door prizes.



VAYA CON DIOS - May God be with you

Cards were sent this month to:

Vern Hellers

History - Ten Years Ago

May 1966... Program-- Museum Slides

Part 1-- Lizzarde Museum from MWF slide Program Library. This set of slides, largely the work of Russ Kemp, and covers many notable works of lapidary art, carvings, jewels, minerals and nature dioramas which are exhibited in the museum.

Part 2-- "The Grotto" from the Carveth's collection needs no explanation for most of the club members. This spot in Northern Iowa is a delight to many and an inspiration to all.

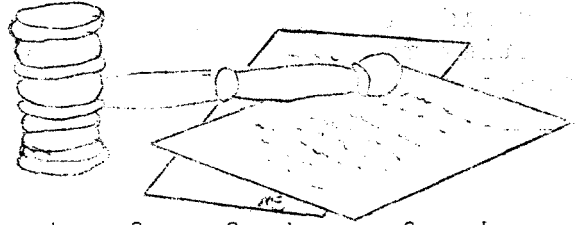
From the notebook of Historian, Lois Everett.



The Lincoln Community Arts Council Spring Arts Festival was cancelled Sat. April 24th because of heavy rains. They did hold it on Sunday, April 25th but the club had decided at the meeting Saturday night not to participate because of chilly winds. But I do wish to thank all the members who had agreed to participate. I appreciated their willingness to cooperate.

Flossie Litzenberg, Coordinator.

THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Dear Club Members;

Two weeks ago Sunday we had a chance to leave town for a few hours of rock hunting. The John Harrison family met us South of the Crete corner and we proceeded on our way to Odell to hunt our Nebraska Odell Diamonds. We stopped at the farmers house west of Odell and asked him if we could hunt and he said sure, go on in and collect. We drove into the section down to the waters edge and started to gather our gear for the trek overland. At this point we were joined by a visitor from the State Game Commission. The officer very courteously informed us that we couldn't fish because the fish were too small. We told him that that was alright because we were rockhounds in search of Odell diamonds. He then told us that we could not collect on state property because the barite crystals fell under the artifacts law of the State of Nebraska. We assured him that we would not collect on state property and were still able to obtain a decent amount of specimens. If you visit Odell before we can secure a clarification from the state on this law make sure that you hunt south of the east west half mile fence line.

The rest of the day went well as we drive over to Fairbury to collect Selenite crystals. When we arrived we found that the sides of the pit had been blasted off so there was no perpendicular wall in which to locate a horizon. We had to be satisfied with culling the dumps and the creek for weathered specimens. At this time it looks as though this pit will have to await the needs of the Company before this area will be of much interest to the collector.

We are anticipating a good club turnout for our trip to Oklahoma over the Memorial Day weekend. Anyone planning to attend please contact me so that we can keep an eye out for you at the campsite. As of now the Bigley family is planning to leave Friday morning. We will travel west on interstate 80 and turn south onto US 81. At approximately Minneapolis Kansas we will pick up interstate 35 and take it south into Oklahoma to the Blackwell exit. From there proceed west on highway 11 approximately 45 miles to state highway 38. Turn south onto highway 38 for about 5 miles and you will arrive at the dam area of the Great Salt Plains. This is about an eight hour trip. Refer to the March issue of the Pick & Shovel for the area in which we will try to establish camp.

The May Club Picnic Meeting will be held at the Bethany Park shelter house on May 22nd at 6:30 PM. This is one of the meetings that is looked forward to throughout the year so that members can come together for good food, good company, and the swapping of last years yarns and plans for this years trips. See you there!

Larry E. Bigley

From the Editor's Desk... This will be the last regular issue of the PICK & SHOVEL until September. There will be information concerning the Swap, the President's Field Trip, and any other important news concerning summer activities mailed in June. Your Editor hopes that you will have a very pleasant summer with lots of luck on your rock hunting expeditions.

The Flower for May-- The Lily of the Valley

In North America, the Cherokee Indians believed that a little down bird was sent thru the night to wake up the sun. She marked her trail with white pebbles which promptly rooted and turned into tinkling bells. When she was safely back and no longer needed this guiding sound, it became the fragrance of the "Lily of the Valley".

Submitted by Marie Carveth.
Taken from the "Flower & Garden".



MOTHER'S DAY

"Mother"... A word that holds that tender spell
Of the dear essential things of earth;
A home, clean sunlit rooms, and the good smell
Of bread; a table spread, a glowing hearth.
And love beyond the dream of anyone...
I search for words for her... and there are none.

Count your age by friends
Not years-
Count your life by smiles
Not tears.

Dr. Paul Brian Moore, Professor of Mineralogy and Crystallography, The University of Chicago has received the 1976 AFMS Scholarship Honor Award for the M.W.F.

BOARD MINUTES----- APRIL

The April Board meeting of Lincoln Gem & Mineral Club was held on the 1st of April at the home of Larry Bigley at 7:30 P.M., with 6 board members present and committee members Marita Bigley and Jim Marburger and Glen Litzenberg.

Minutes of the March meeting were read and approved as read.

President Larry Bigley reported the May meeting/picnic will be at the University Place Park. There will be no boat at Nebraska City until June.

Treasurer not present.

Marita Bigley read reinstatement applications for Don Eckel. Motion Howard Taylor and Seconded Flossie Litzenberg we approve reinstatement. Carried.

New Member application of Larry Marquardt. Moved Howard Taylor and seconded Evelyn Ulrich to approve to membership. Carried.

After discussion on show, accounting, a motion by Flossie Litzenberg we have an itemized accounting of any outside events the club has, by the treasurer. Seconded Evelyn Ulrich. carried. Not to be printed in the Pick & Shovel.

Evelyn Ulrich discussed the Midwest Federation Newsletter. Cost is now 2¢ a copy and with postage it will cost \$5.43 a month for 10 months for 200 copies a month, Motion Howard Taylor we continue with 200 copies a month, seconded Nelda Oliver. carried.

Discussion on Community Arts Festival on April 24 & 25 from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m.. Moved Flossie Litzenberg we exhibit as a club, seconded Howard Taylor. carried. Flossie Litzenberg to be chairman.

Larry Bigley, President, read letter that Lincoln Gem and Mineral Club is a 200% club with the Midwest Federation Scholarship fund.

President, Larry Bigley, read bills.

Motion Howard Taylor to allow bills as read, seconded Flossie Litzenberg carried. Show bills read, also.

Motion Howard Taylor Authority for the President to give the bills to the treasurer, seconded Norma Miller. carried.

Discussion on 1976 show. 993 coupons turned in.

Moved Norma Miller meeting close.

Nelda Oliver, secretary



GENNA'S GLEANINGS

Thanks to Joella Olson for a very informative talk on Oklahoma selenite. This should make more members eager to take the Memorial Day trip to the Salt Plains to collect specimens.

Sympathy is extended to the Vernon Heller family on the death of his brother, Lavere. Vernon, himself, has been in and out of the hospital all spring. Let us hope that things improve for the Hellers

We spied Adeline Nolde at Expo '76, enjoying the Indian arts and crafts show at the Fair Grounds. Do you suppose she is getting some new ideas for the lovely jewelry she designs?

Myrtle Young reports the Neihardt Center in Bancroft will open on May first. Do go see the fossil cycad our club purchased for display there, as well as the fitting memorial to a devoted friend of the hobby.

Jim Marburger and Larry Bigley are field tripping to Wyoming later this month. Good luck!

Congratulations, Janzens! You made it to a meeting. Nice to see your faces

Norma Miller will be a proud parent when son, Les, graduates this month from Oregon State U. at Corvallis, Ore. His field is oceanography. His wife, Jean, is from Crawford, and may be known to some of our field trippers to that area.

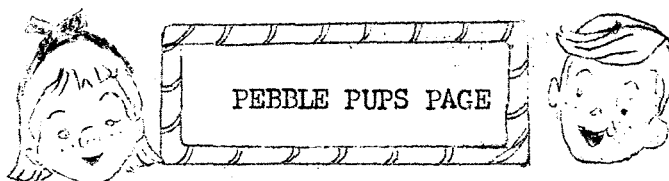
Congratulations will be in order for our absentee member, Rod Woodcock, when he graduates from the New Mexico Institute of Mining and Technology of Albuquerque, New Mexico on May 20th. On May 22nd he will wed Nancy Wanner of Albuquerque, New Mexico.

Dr. Glen Froning presented Virgil A. Carveth with a beautiful citation, honoring him for faithful service at the University of Nebraska. Virg also received a gold tie pin with three faceted gems, a permanent I.D. Card, and letters from the staff. A decorated cake was served at the Office of the P.S.A. All of these honors made Virg's last day at the "U" a day to remember.

Don't forget the May 24th meeting is a potluck dinner at University Place Park. Bring your speciality, ladies.

The A.F.M.S. is announcing a contest for slide programs. There are three Classes for Entries and the winner in each class will be given \$100.00 for their effort. This contest will run for a year, so those interested will have plenty of time to work on a slide program. Winning programs will be retained by the AFMS until duplicate sets requested by each of the six federations in the AFMS has been made..

If interested, see the AFMS Newsletter for May 1976 for more particulars.



Dear Juniors,

This is the last issue of the PICK & SHOVEL until September. You will be going on trips this summer and probably finding some nice rocks. Why don't you plan to write something about your rockhounding experiences for the Junior page? I'd like to have you feel that this is your page and that you are furnishing material that is interesting to you.

Have a nice summer.

Mrs. Ulrich

What is a Pseudomorph? ... Most of the rocks and minerals, under favorable conditions, tend to form into crystals of characteristic shape, depending on the tendency of the molecules to arrange themselves in patterns that "fit" to best advantage in terms of physical shape and electron attraction. When a formed crystal is chemically changed to form another material without losing its original shape, it is classified as a pseudomorph. Sometimes a water-deposited mineral such as quartz will occupy a space (cast) left by the disappearance of an earlier mineral or crystal.

Rock Buster News

The Weather Stone... Lepidolite can be called the "weather stone" as it can tell us the weather will be rainy or fair. It is one of the lithia minerals and is usually pale gray-blue color, at least on fair days. If lepidolite specimen is beside an open window, it will turn to pink lilac shade if a rainy spell threatens. Then, when the air clears, it will change back to gray-blue again.


Rockester News via The Geode

A speaker was lecturing on a forest preserve. "I don't suppose", he thundered, "that there's a person in the house who has done a single thing to conserve our timber resources...!" Silence ruled for several seconds, and then a meek voice from the rear of the hall timidly responded, "I once shot a woodpecker".

via The Rock Vein

Words for last months puzzle:

Pearl	Thomsonite	Jet
Alexandrite	Malachite	Onyx
Opal	Sunstone	Emerald
Agate	Chrysocolla	(2 others still
Moonstone	Epidot	hidden)
Jade	Bloodstone	
Citrine	Amethyst	Jasper (but it was
Yag	Tourmaline	accidentally spelled
Diamond	Garnet	with an H not r)
Wulfenite	Quartz	
Turquoise	Zoisite	



If often shows a fine command of language to say nothing.

from the SNOW BANK
via mjc

THE POET'S TOWN

'Mid glad green miles of tillage
And fields where cattle graze,
A prosy little village,
You drowse away the days.

And - a wakeful glory
Clings around you as you doze;
One living lyric story
Makes music of your prose.

With these two stanzas the poet, John G. Neihardt, began his 47 stanza poem, and for dramatic emphasis he repeated them at its close.

Bancroft, a village of nearly 600 energetic people in northeast Nebraska, is the Poet's Town in the following article; and all due respect for Wayne, co-owner of the title, is given. Neither is now prosy.

The growing, beautiful campus of the Neihardt Cultural Center at Bancroft was the setting for simple, appropriate ceremonies on the forenoon of May 1, 1976.

Neihardt Foundation executive director, Marie Vogt, presided: the invocation by Reverend Henry Niermann was followed by a comprehensive historical review by Maxine Kessinger. The Kool Kreators 4-H Club of Wisner planted a seedless ash tree. A cottonless cottonwood tree had been planted in honor of the late George Diedrichsen, a benefactor whose home bordered the grounds. Mrs. Diedrichsen gave words of appreciation. The pledge of Allegiance at the beginning was led by the Girl Scouts.

The new Memorial Building at the \$300,000 project, sponsored by the State of Nebraska and the Neihardt Foundation, was opened to the public. The Foundation, in addition to local board officers, includes honorary members from other parts of the United States.

The building, of unique circular design, is attractive; inside many numerous display cases will soon be filled. The devoted architect, Larry Enerson of Lincoln, has given more than the usual personal attention, much appreciated.

Mr. John Lindahl, a Wayne State College graduate, is the Neihardt Center Curator, the Secretary-Receptionist is Miss Carol Vogt, and Miss Ann Kai is in charge of maintenance. In memory of the founder of the Neihardt Foundation, Mrs. Martin (Evelyn) Vogt, 14 white Hopa Crabapple trees have been planted by her family.

The fossil cycad furnished by Dr. L.A. Deitrick of Bison, South Dakota and donated by our own L.G.M.C., of which Dr. Neihardt was an honorary member, marks the central point of the circular Memorial Room. There it represents the Eternal Tree of Life as visioned by Black Elk, and featured in Neihardt writings.

THE POET'S TOWN - Continued

The cycad and the building have been described in Pick & Shovel issues of September 1975, October 1975 and April 1976. Interest in this is increasing, and many people are becoming cycad minded.

Several requests for excerpt copies have been supplied: some from distant points.

An appropriate program is planned for the annual Neihardt Day at Bancroft on August 1, 1976, and many visitors are expected. A special postage cancellation is possible, and a committee, headed by Dr. Robert Vassell of Omaha, is seeking issuance of a Commemorative postage stamp in the future.

The complete biography of Dr. Neihardt by Dr. Lucile Aly, University of Oregon, Eugene, now being printed in Holland, should be available by August 1.

Bancroft is 100 miles north of Lincoln, and 6 miles west of Highway 77 and Highway 51 intersection.

contributed by Julius D. Young

THE CALF PATH

by Sam Walter Foss

One day through the primeval wood,
A calf walked home as good calves should.

But made a trail all bent askew,
A crooked trail, as all calves do.

Since then three hundred years have fled,
And I infer the calf is dead.

But still he left behind his trail,
And thereby hangs my moral tale.

The trail was taken up next day
By a lone dog that passed that way;

And then a wise bell-wether sheep
Pursued the trail o'er vale and steep,

And drew the flock behind him too,
As good bell-wethers always do.

And from that day, o'er hill and glade,
Through those old woods a path was made.

And many men would in and out,
And dodged and turned and bent about,

And uttered words of righteous wrath,
Because 'twas such a crooked path;

But still they followed--do not laugh--
The first migrations of that calf,

And through this winding wood-way stalked
Because he wobbled when he walked.

This forest path became a lane,
That bent and turned and turned again;

This crooked lane became a road,
Where many a poor horse with his load

Toiled on beneath the burning sun,
And traveled some three miles for one.

And thus a century and a half
They trod the footsteps of that calf.

The years passed on in swiftness fleet,
The road became a village street;
And this before men were aware,
A city's crowded thoroughfare.

And soon the central street was this
Of a renowned metropolis;

And men two centuries and a half
Trod in the footsteps of that calf.

Each day a hundred thousand rout
Followed this zigzag calf about

And o'er his crooked journey went
The traffic of a continent.

A hundred thousand men were led
By one calf near three centuries dead.

They followed still his crooked way,
And lost one hundred years a day;

Ah, many things this tale might teach---
But I am not ordained to preach.

Foss died about 1911. Historians may not agree on what city became the "renowned metropolis", probably Boston or New York, but the theme and the locale seem universal.
contributed by J. D. Y.

Field Tripping in Western Arizona and Southwestern Texas
By Glenna McGinnis

As is usual when we arrive home from our winter's journey, our editor asked me to write an account of our field tripping.

We left Lincoln on the first of December for Quartzsite, Az., where we spent the bulk of the winter. In other years, I've written of the Pow Wow therseso will skip that part and go on to other things.

Before the holidays, we ventured into California where we hard-rocked mined for fire agate in a fee area. Anyone who is not willing to work far harder than he does to make a living, might as well forget fire agate digging. It is HARD WORK. But if you find a seam of good material and are patient enough to work around it so it can be taken out in good sized pieces, you could have a bonanza. I realized that fire agate is not too well known in the Midwest yet, but it was recently named a gemstone. We brought home four hundred pounds, all of which shows good fire.

We were fortunate to meet a couple in the trailer park where we stay, who have spent the last fifteen years in the area, and took us places that we had not visited before. We dug gem quality hematite in botryoidal crystal form, also birdeye rhyolite, both in cutting quality and in ball in obsidian matrix. They run from pea-size to three inches in diameter, and often have concentric circles around the center eye. Some of the cutting material we have reserved for spheres.

On March first we headed southeast to Alpine, Tx. For five weeks there, we took field trips out on the Anderson-Larremore ranch.

But first let me go back to 1974: In June of that year, I wrote an article of our hunting experiences out in the Big Bend area of southwest Texas, which our editor was kind enough to print in the issue of the bulletin that was given away at the National Show. I received many inquiries from rockhounds about the fee area where we had hunted. I replied to all, giving them the information they sought, but never expected to meet any of the inquirers.

Among the letters I received was one from a retired couple living in Toledo, Ohio, Bill and Charlotte Steinhauer. To our surprise, when we arrived in Alpine, They were there, waiting to go hunting with us.

Such a fervent pair of collectors I have rarely met. They enjoyed the rockhunting, the scenery, and just being alive. They were pleased with the variety and color of the material we found and we were hard-put to keep up with them as they took out over the hills in search of the bonanza every rockhound believes is on the other side.

We collected red and black plume, a variety of moss agates and colorful jaspers, blue-banded nodules that vie with our own Nebraska blue, pink banded goedes, and a fabulous new agate, that does not yet have a name so we just call it Anderson Hill agate, for the logical reason it is found on the hill. It comes from a single hilltop agate and has five different patterns, depending on where on this huge rock it comes from. Some is in stalactic form, others in layers, and the base is lacy moss. The colors are mostly blue, red, and yellow on a white background. In order to lift the rock so we could obtain part of it, the rancher

Field Tripping in Western Arizona and Southwest Texas - Continued

drilled and put just enough dynamite to lift the ledge and not fracture it. There is a limited amount of the best material which comes in eyes. Most of it is in the lacy moss base pattern, but all is different than any we had seen before.

As you may have guessed, we enjoyed our winter's collecting and hope to have the opportunity to do more next year, "if the good Lor is willin' and the creek don't rise".

Fire Agate

Fire agate is a chalcedony that has been deposited in layers. The fire comes from a thin coating of limonite deposited between the layers at the time of formation. Usually there is a large amount of matrix on the specimen, so soak it in water for at least ten minutes. This will help to determine which area of fire you want to bring out. Choose a portion that has a solid layer of chalcedony overlying the dark fire area.

Fire agates aren't much to look at in the rough, and are often passed by, but when ground and polished properly it exhibits sparkling red and green fire. Trim the sides and bottom, cutting the matrix with a trim saw. Carefully start grinding on the sides to the shape you want it using 120 grit. Be careful not to overheat the stone.

Mount the stone on a dop stick. Using 220 grit, work the top portion of the agate toward a high crown. As you grind down the top and sides, watch for fire. A stone can be ruined at this point. If it is ground too far and into the limonite layer, the fire can be lost. Dip the stone into clear water frequently and examine it for fire. Do not grind too close to the fire layer. Wet sanding can be used successfully, starting on 220 grit paper and finishing on 320 grit. Be sure not to overheat. Cerium oxide mixed with water to a thick paste and applied to a felt wheel for polishing will give you the best results.

Four important points to remember are: Choosing the area in the stone with the chalcedony overlying the limonite area, grinding carefully, not grinding into the limonite area and not overheating the stone.

GEM NEWS via THE ROCK BOX

From the Congressional Record by Mr. Domenici

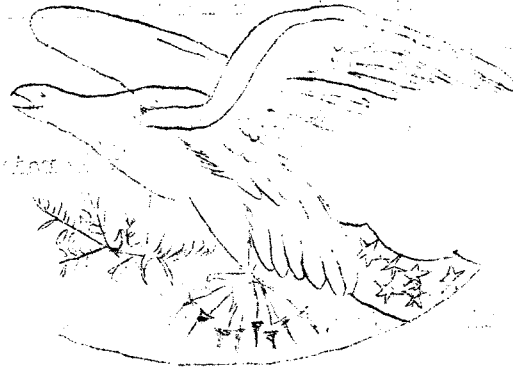
S.J. Res. 160. A joint resolution to designate the stone commonly known as turquoise as the national gemstone of the United States. Referred to Committee on the Judiciary.

Mr. Domenici: Mr. President, I take great pleasure in introducing a joint resolution in the Senate similar to a bill introduced in the House of Representatives by Congressman Manuel Lujan. This is Legislation that is most appropriate in this Bicentennial Year.

The measure is one that will make turquoise the national gemstone of the United States.

via AFMS Newsletter

1776



1976

BICENTENNIAL SENSE AND NONSENSE - - - edited by J. D. Young

progress

Progress

PROGRESS

"This is a nice town we are coming to--wasn't it? It could have been Pisgah, Podunk or Punkin Center, and we might have "C.W." on "C.B." or a nostalgic replay from Ben F. on the hot-line. Many of us are in such a hurry that we fume if we "miss one section of a revolving door" -- especially if someone gets in ahead of us.

Ben Franklin was a seer 200 years ago; quote: "The rapid progress True Science now makes, occasions my regretting sometimes that I was born so soon. It is impossible to imagine the height to which may be carried, in a thousand years, the power of Man over Matter O that Moral Science were in a fair way of improvement, that Men would cease to be Wolves to one another, and that Human Beings would at length learn what they now improperly call Humanity!" Benj. Franklin 1780

Speed, efficiency at all costs, affluence and material gain seem to be all-important. Ben's imagination could not foresee all of the future social, economic, racial, political and energy problems, the "now age" of antacid, tranquilizers and "shinks". We are able, however, to pursue happiness; we are free to do our own thing; our constitutional rights are inviolate; --conscience and the Surgeon General -- so what?

Energy? A few facts may be in order. In Ben's time the per capita use of energy, not supplied by one's own muscles, was about 120,000 British Thermal Units (BTU) per year. This came mostly from wind, water power and combustion of wood, sometimes garnished with buffalo chips. A BTU will raise a pound of water 1 degree F, or lift 778 pounds 1 ft. high. A modern house furnace may use more than 120,000 BTU's in one hour.

From 120,000 to about 330,000,000 in 200 years is enough to give us the jitters, and the figure escalates every year. To supply my share of this energy 15 horses would sweat the equivalent of 365 days steadily with no breaks for oats or water. One H.P. is equal to 550 ft. lbs. per second.

What about solar energy? It's wonderful, but to capture enough sunlight under optimum conditions at our latitude to generate 15 H. P. would require about 10 square yards of surface, even at 100% efficiency, which is utopian.

Perhaps by the tri-centennial Homo Sapiens will have solved the energy, and the population problems. If not, some future "C.W." will crackle "Move over, Flintstones, here we come!"

Anyone for a nice cozy, all-season (and tax-free) CAVE?

MORE BICENTENNIAL SENSE AND NONSENSE -

OVER THE SHOULDER

by Loraine H. Smith

As I look back across the span
Of years now flown, I hardly can
Believe the things I know are true
Of changes, and there's quite a few.

When I was hardly in my teens
Nobody rode in fine machines,
But harnessed Dobbin to the shay,
And started out to spend the day.

No riding plows made labor light,
But farmers walked till late at night;
Until their feet were awful sore--
But they don't do it any more.

"The world do move," as someone said,
And it will move when we are dead:
But nowadays it moves so fast,
We can't enjoy it till it's past.

The corn then sold for almost naught,
Just twenty cents was all it brought;
But now its gone so doggone high
That people can't afford to buy.

When people died, their last remains
Were hauled away by team or trains;
But now they use a motor hearse--
Or aeroplane,--It's getting worse.

At that time people spent their life
At labor, study, useful strife;
But now at forty they retire,
And labor hard--beside the fire.

That was written before World War I by a Crai, Nebraska youth for his parents' weekly, The Crai News. The gifted "Bard of Bell Creek" died in the great 1918 flue epidemic, as did a sister and brother also. Crai was locally called "Cob Town, U. S. A."

Craig Township was noted in World War I for having one of the highest rate of contribution in the Nation to the American Red Cross. The following account reveals that spirit:

At one of many Red Cross benefit auctions, after all donated objects were sold at generous bids, someone yelled "Let's sell the Moon!" It brought a cool \$1,000.00, -- so, did the astronauts trespass on sovereign "Cob Town, U. S. A. soil?"

Cosmic "Blackstones" may argue that.

J. D. Y.

Many thanks to Marita for all her help at the publishing area. Nearly all of the artwork and a bit of the typing in addition to the complete design and work for the 1976 Rock Swap Flyer. This in addition to her other activities as the wife and liaison officer for our busy president.

Thanks also to Flossie for all the fine stencils done just as she is preparing for her vacation trip to Hawaii. (Have a wonderful trip Glen & Flossie!)

from ye olde publisher

HANDY HINTS

Our thanks to Lee Yanasak for this excellent tip on settling out the oil when cleaning up the saw:

Put a small spigot on the front side of the oil tank at just about the level of the bottom of the saw blade. When the level of the sludge reaches the spigot, just don't run the saw for a day or two and let things settle. Then open the spigot and drain out the oil. You'll be surprised at how clean it comes out. Just let it run until all oil is out. Then clean out the sludge and discard. No buckets standing around, and very little oil wasted. I put two spigots on my saw, about an inch above the other. I let the sludge gather up to the level of the upper one, then open it and drain the sludge with a flat blade or board. This second run of oil may have a little more residue, but not too bad. Maybe by using the brown paper bag idea along with this we really might have something. I'm going to have to try this some time.

Carpenter nails make good dop sticks for small cabs. Wrap the pointed end with tape for a better grip. By dopping your fiery chips of opal, the head of the nail can be used as a guide for round, uniform-sized cabs, ideal for tie tacks, earposts, etc.

via THE HAMMER and THE GEODE

Cleaning Chalcedony Roses... To one dishpan of roses, add cold water to cover, add 1 cup detergent and 1 pint clorox. Heat and let cool over night. Scrub with bristle brush. Put a few at a time into pure muriatic acid. Leave till it quits bubbling. Remove with wooden tongs. Soak 7 to 10 days in oxalic acid, 1 pound to 2 gallons of water. Remove and wash. A lot of bother, but results are beautiful.

NORTHWEST NEWS LETTER

Keep a rubber link door mat in your car or camper in case you should get stuck in the mud.

The Geode

POLISHING TIPS

AGATE-Cerium oxide on canvas
 ALABASTER-Tin oxide on leather
 AMAZONITE-Tin oxide on leather
 APATITE-Linde A on leather
 AMBER-Tin oxide on leather
 AVENTURINE-Tin oxide on leather
 BLOODSTONE-Linde A on canvas
 CHIASTOLITE-Linde A on leather
 CHRYSOCOLLA-cerium oxide on canvas
 CINNABAR-Linde A on leather
 CORAL-Tin oxide on leather
 DATOLITE-Tin oxide on leather
 LABRADORITE-Tin oxide on leather
 MALACHITE-Tin oxide on leather
 OBSIDIAN-Tin oxide on leather
 PERIDOT-Linde A on leather
 RHODONITE-Cerium oxide on canvas
 RUBY-Diamond on wood
 SODALITE-Cerium oxide on felt
 TOPAZ-Linde A on cork
 VARECITE-Tin oxide on leather

PUT THIS BY YOUR WORKBENCH

EPIDOTE-Tin oxide on leather
 FELDSPAR-Tin oxide on leather
 FLUORITE--Tin oxide on leather
 GARNET-Linde A on leather
 GLASS-Cerium on canvas
 GYPSUM-Tin oxide on leather
 HEMATITE-Cerium oxide on canvas
 HICKORYITE-Linde A on canvas
 HOWLITE-Cerium oxide on canvas
 JADE-Linde A on leather
 JADELITE-Linde A on canvas
 JASPER-Cerium oxide on canvas
 LAPIS-LAZULI-Tin oxide on leather
 MOONSTONE-Tin oxide on leather
 OPAL-Cerium oxide on canvas
 RHODOCHROSITE-Tin oxide on leather
 RHYOLITE-Cerium oxide on canvas
 SERPENTINE-Linde A on leather
 SPINEL-Linde A on felt
 TURQUOISE-Tin oxide on leather

via--THE TRIANGLE TUMBLER

SAFETY PAGE



The National Safety Council estimates 4,000 persons choke to death each year from food or other objects and some 8,000 drown. A sudden sharp bear-hug might have cut these figures dramatically. This maneuver developed by Cr. H. Heimlich is a lifesaving technique and should be taught and practiced by everyone.

If someone collapses while eating, it may be a heart attack or something is stuck in the throat and plugging his windpipe. If he can speak, rule out choking. If he cannot speak, he is choking and will remain conscious only a few minutes. Act fast.

Stand behind the victim, with both of your arms around his waist, under his arms. Form a fist with one hand and grasp it with the other hand, positioning the first against the abdomen, just above the navel and just below the rib cage. Apply pressure forcefully with a quick upward and inward thrust. The air trapped in the lungs will be forced upward and obstruction is expelled. This maneuver may be done if the person is standing, lying face down, sitting or draped over your arms. Drowning victims should be placed on either side or face down to aid in expelling the water. Infants are best positioned across your knee, face down, with your leg pressing against the abdomen below the diaphragm, pressure is applied upward along the lower part of the baby's neck.

Via The Geode

Bug Bites... Bug bites are often more irritating than they are hazardous. With the approach of spring, the Red Cross has these recommendations to take the sting out of pesky insect bites.

1. If commercial insect repellents fail to keep the bugs from biting, a paste made of baking soda and cold cream or a compress moistened with ammonia water will take away the sting from bites.
2. For itching as a result of a bite, calamine lotion should relieve the urge to scratch in most cases.
3. Apply ice or ice water packs to bee or wasp stings.
4. If a person suffers a severe reaction or is allergic to any insect bite, a physician should be contacted.

From the Lincoln Journal

Sun Glasses... Despite the current craze for brightly tinted sun glasses, the American Automobile Association says that the safe driver should wear light or moderately tinted sun glasses of neutral shades of gray while driving in bright sunlight.

Blue, green, pink, orange and yellow can severely distort perception--- traffic lights included.

(This tip was borrowed from an exchange bulletin, but I forgot to write down which one. Editor.)

Persons struck by lightning receive a severe electrical shock and may be burned, but they carry no electrical charge and can be handled safely. A person can often be revived by prompt mouth to mouth resuscitation, cardiac massage and prolonged artificial resuscitation.

From Annals of Internal Medicine via The Geode

Lincoln Gem and Mineral Club, Inc.

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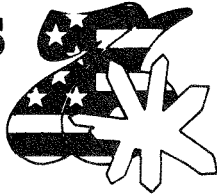
Midwest Federation's NEWSLETTER



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 the Editor, Haydon Peterson, Parrot Printing, 2125 Forest, Des Moines, Ia. 50311

Issue No. 165 - May 1976

meet me in
St. Louis
in
a tribute to
Our Mineral Heritage



Show Center with 2,000 additional free spaces within 2 blocks.

A large swap area is provided on the main floor of the show area. Swap tables will be on a first come basis at a nominal fee. Swap dollars are being provided.

The awards banquet will be on Saturday night, July 24th at the Stegton Restaurant and Ballroom in St. Charles, Mo. The site overlooks the Missouri River and the menu will consist of a 12-oz. strip sirloin steak with all the trimmings.

The editors' breakfast is scheduled for Friday at the Ramada Inn in the scenic Tiffany Gardens Room.

The show will open to the public at 10 a.m. and close at 10 p.m. on Thursday, July 22, Friday, July 23 and Saturday July 24. On Sunday, July 25, the show will open at 10 a.m. and close at 6 p.m.

Inquiries about the show should be directed to Garald Hook, 932 St. Charles Avenue, St. Charles, Missouri 63301.

The Show Center, site for the 1976 Midwest Convention and Show, has 77,000 square feet of show space on one floor which is completely air conditioned. There are 3,000 free parking spaces at the

Meet Our

MWF SECRETARY

Secretary of the Midwest Federation is Jean Reynolds who has been serving in this capacity for nine years. Jean lives with her mother in Clarendon Hill, Illinois and has been with the Federal Reserve Bank in Chicago for 30 years. Her present position with the bank is a senior cost accountant. Jean is a graduate of Northwestern University.



Jean Reynolds, Secretary

DOUBLE FIELD TRIP

One more double field trip to the Lake Superior-Keweenaw area is being planned for 1976 by the Midwest Federation Geology Committee. Trip MWF-A: MWF Geology Chairman Wayne Henderson will conduct a camping group around the north shore of Lake Superior from Thunder Bay to Sault St. Marie the week of August 1. Trip MWF-B: Don Clarke will lead the Keweenaw tours from Copper Harbor the week of July 26. The groups will be limited to 50 adults, with their children of a suitable age. Registration will close either June 1st or when the limit is reached, whichever comes first.

People may sign up for either or both trips. Registration fees are \$15.00 per adult for both trips or \$7.50 for one week only. This does not include camping fees but is for expenses of arranging the trips. Applications for reservations should be sent to Don H. Clarke, 1107 Maple Street, Essexville, Michigan 48732. Phone (517) 892-5898. They should include (1) week or weeks desired (2) names and ages of people in the party (3) proper fees. An acknowledgment and more complete information about the trip will be sent on receipt of application.

The Eastern Federation is being offered a similar trip with Eastern Trip A beginning at the Mackinaw bridge July 26th and Eastern Trip B at Copper Harbor August 3rd. Reservations for the Eastern trips are being handled by Margaret Brewer 4104 Ayres Road, Macon, Georgia 31204. The Eastern Federation is planning a trip for Midwest people in the future.

NEW SUPPLEMENT AVAILABLE

A "Supplement To The Third Edition" (orange cover) Regional and Local Uniform Rules and National Trophy Rules, is now available from the Director of Supplies, Clinton Heckert, 725 Stewart Avenue, Elgin, Illinois 60120. If you order one to four copies, postpaid to one address, they are \$.35 each. Over five copies to one address, postpaid, is \$.30 each. These are also available from the MWF show tables and booths for \$.30 each.

This Supplement is now in effect and will be used for competition at the National Show in Austin and also for the Midwest Federation Show in St. Louis.

THIS IS YOUR LAND! KEEP IT CLEAN!

BICENTENNIAL PLEA: USE LESSER-KNOWN NATIONAL PARKS

*from The Des Moines Tribune, Feb. 25, 1976
Copyright 1976, Des Moines Register and Tribune Co.*

If Americans afflicted with "bicentennial fever" also should get bitten by the travel bug, some of our national parks could experience a full-fledged epidemic this summer.

Yellowstone, Grand Canyon, Glacier or the Tetons probably will be jammed with hundreds of thousands of tourists hoping to celebrate the bicentennial with a patriotic trip.

To head off this crush, the National Park Service is trying to promote visits to less popular parks with its booklet, "Visit a Lesser-Used Park." (U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, D.C. 20402; 70 cents.)

"This booklet lists those places where you will find almost everything you might see in the more popular parks - except crowds," says Park Service Director Gary Everhardt. "And, by avoiding crowds in busier parks, you'll be helping us protect the irreplaceable wonders which are America's National Parks."

Iowa's Effigy Mounds National Monument near Marquette is listed in the guide. History buffs and nature lovers would enjoy visiting the scenic site, which includes outstanding examples of Indian mounds shaped like birds and animals. A hiking trail also leads to a magnificent vista of the Mississippi River.

Other midwestern sites listed include Portage National Monument on the shore of Lake Superior in northeastern Minnesota.

Voyageurs National Park near International Falls, Minnesota, offers water-oriented recreation in the setting of the historic voyageur trading routes.

Nebraska's Agate Fossil Beds National Monument also is listed, along with that state's Homestead National Monument, and Scottsbluff National Monument.

PROGRAMS

by E. Donald Stinnett, Program Chairman

It has been a long time since you heard from us. Things going smoothly--you folks out there must be enjoying our new programs from the way they are being ordered. "Koster Site" is on order through November! Thanks to our Archeological Committee!

Now the bad news--only one Map Reading program and it is missing. Please check your shelves, drawers, anywhere--we need it.

The season for field trips is here. How about it? If your club has enjoyed our programs--share your field trips with us. Share your talents, knowledge--we will all enjoy it. We enjoyed the one's from last year. Let's keep it up.

NEW ASSOCIATION FORMED

Seven clubs of the Metropolitan Chicago Area have formed an association under the name of Chicagoland Gems and Minerals Association, for the purpose of promoting the educational and recreational aspects of the mineral collecting and lapidary arts hobby. The major goals of the association is to combine their talents and resources to put on a show of national importance to the hobby.

The clubs involved are: Chicago Lapidary Club, Chicago Rocks & Minerals Society, Des Plaines Geological Society, Earth Science Club of Northern Illinois, Elgin Rock & Mineral Society, West Suburban Lapidary Club, and the Calumet Gem & Mineral Society.

Committees are presently being formed by "Mac" McMahan, President and General Show Chairman, covering all facets of the show. The date of the first show, an annual project, has been set for Memorial Day Week-End, May 28, 29, & 30, 1977, at the DuPage County Fair Grounds in Wheaton, Illinois.

The new association has a wealth of experienced help in the persons of Russ and Doris Kemp, Russ MacFall, Jay Wollin, and many others who are working with the group in an advisory capacity.

More information will be released as programs, exhibits, etc. are firmed up. The Associations goal is to be the best in the Midwest--and then they'll take on the rest of the country, too.

CHECK THE FACTS!

When publicity for a club meeting is being put together for a guest speaker (or a member speaker for that matter) it is a good idea to check the speaker's affiliations and interests. Then, when the speaker receives the advance publicity (hopefully the club bulletin will be sent to him) the subject of the presentation will not come as a surprise to him. If the program is reviewed in the next bulletin, the speaker would, in all probability, be pleased to have that bulletin too. So, check the facts! You may want to have the same speaker again some time.

Mrs. Allan Mogg, Public Image and Courtesy Committee

GEMSTONE MAP DISPLAYED

The Edinburg Public Library, Edinburg, Texas recently displayed an "Intarsia" Gemstone Map. "Intarsia," explains the librarian Jo Sapp, is the Renaissance technique of decorating a surface with inlaid patterns, in this case gemstones.

The map, a creation of Dr. R. E. Hamme of Edinburg, was started as a hobby over eight years ago. A Rand McNally map was used for the pattern so that the states would be true to scale. Stones used were found while rock hunting. Each piece was cut 3/16 inch on a diamond saw, and then trimmed to the exact outline of the state. The final step was polishing each stone and fitting it into the map.

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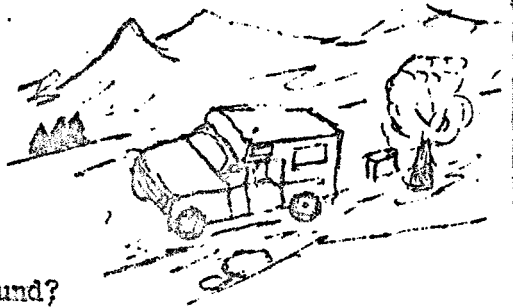


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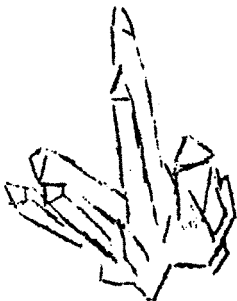
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3521 S. 48th St.
Lincoln, NE 68506

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241 No. 65th St.
Lincoln, Ne. 68507

