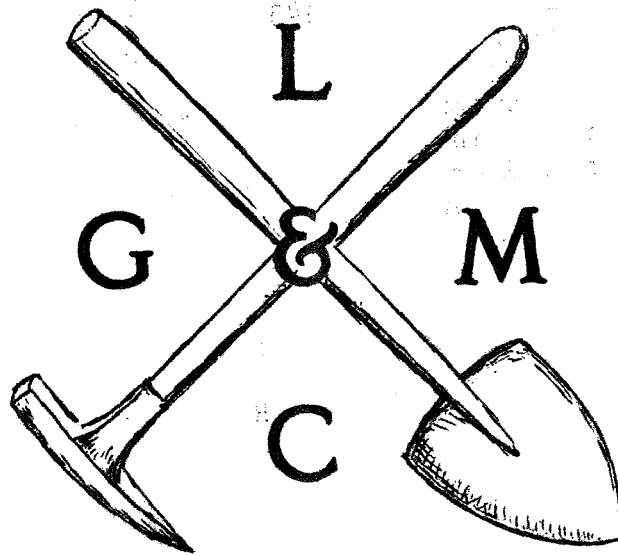


THE PICK & SHOVEL



NOV 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
1st Vice Pres . .	Flossie Litzenberg	1435 No. 24th St.	Lincoln, 68503	432-5672
2nd Vice Pres . .	Don Carter	1101 Driftwood Dr.	Lincoln, 68510	489-3442
Recording Secy. .	Nelda Oliver	5700 Otoe St.	Lincoln, 68506	489-5222
Treasurer	John Harrison	Hickman, Nebr.	68372	792-3825
Board Member . .	George McGinnis	3444 Somerset Ave.	Lincoln, 68504	466-4878
Board Member . .	Norma Miller	931 Cottonwood Dr.	Lincoln, 68510	489-8840
Board Member . .	Howard Taylor	910 New Hampshire	Lincoln, 68508	432-3707
Board Member . .	Evelyn Ulrich	3521 So. 48th St.	Lincoln, 68506	488-9051

STANDING COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN:

Program	Roger Pabian	Liaison	Phyllis Parks & Marita Bigley
Hospitality	Virginia Green	Refreshments	Bud & Helen Wasser
Historian	Lois Everett	Education	Edwin & Vivian Johnson
Librarian	Joella Olson	Scholarship	Marie Wells
Membership	Marita Bigley	Publications	Florence Boring
Field Trips & Safety	Tom Simmons	Housing & Property	Art Howlett
Calling Committee & Vaya Con Dios	Marie J. Carveth		Larry Bigley
NAOESCI Reporter	Luella Paul		
1976 Show Chairman	Jim Marburger		

PICK & SHOVEL STAFF: Art Howlett, Chairman

Editor - Evelyn Ulrich, 3521 So. 48th St., Lincoln, NE 68506, Phone 488-9051
Typist - Flossie Litzenberg
Artwork stenciling - Jim Parks
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.

Regular meeting... Saturday, Nov. 27, 1976 7:30 P.M.
IOOF Hall, 1101 North 56th St.

Program..... An overview of Nebraska Archeology
by Prof. Thomas P. Myers, Associate
Curator at Morrill Hall.

Business..... Election of officers for 1977.
Nominations may be made from the floor.

There will be a silent auction for the
benefit of the AFMS Scholarship Fund.
A pony case will be included in the
silent auction.

Dues are due and may be paid to
John Harrison, Treasurer.

LGMC Board of Directors' Meeting... Thursday, Dec. 2, 1976 at the
home of Don Carter, 1101 Driftwood Drive, 7:30 P.M.

Change of address. Young, Julius (Myrtle), 300 South Cotner, 68510
Telephone - 489-3257

Rankin, Delillah, 303 South 27th St. 68510
Telephone - 475-0612

Clyde Benham, Tabitha Home 4720 Randolph St. 68510

1977 Dates to Remember

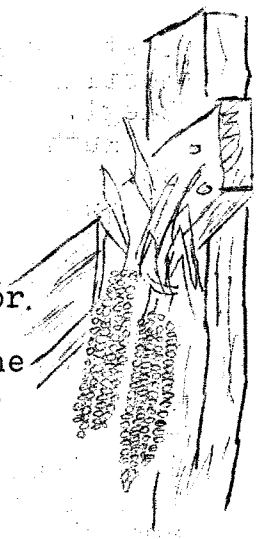
Mar.	26-27	Lincoln, Ne.	Lincoln Gem & Min. Club Show, Nebraska State Fairgrounds
June	10-12	Hebron, Ne.	Fort Butler Rock and Gem Club, State Swap
Sept.	3-5	Omaha, Ne.	Nebraska Mineral & Gem Club Show
Sept.	9-11	Fort Kearney, Ne.	Fort Kearney Rock Club State Show
Sept.	16-18	Kimball, Ne.	Plains Rock & Mineral Club Show

NOTICE

Dues are due - delinquent January 31st. Reinstatement
is necessary if dues become delinquent.

New members: A fee of \$1.00 plus \$4.00 per year will be
paid by each adult applying for membership. A fee of
\$1.00 plus membership dues of \$2.00 will be charged for
membership after July 1st. Yearly renewal dues-\$4.00
per adult.

Family dues: \$9.00 plus fee of \$1.00, (includes child-
ren under 16 years of age.) Fee is waived if one or
more members of the family have paid the initial fee.



Last Month... Sixty members and one visitor attended the October meeting of the LGMV. The visitor was Emma Baegl, guest of Helena Baegl.

Ruthy Coleman, LGMC delegate to the MWF Convention and Show at St. Louis, presented Pick & Shovel editor, Evelyn Ulrich, with a plaque for winning third place in the MWF Bulletin Editors Contest.

The date of the Christams party has been changed to December 18th, as the IOOF Hall is not available on the date originally set.

The slate of 1977 candidates for office was presented by Roger Pabian. They will be voted on at the November meeting.

A report on the NRL meeting was given by Nelda Oliver. The city ordinance on the parking of vehicles was read. A letter from Mayor, Helen Boosalis, was read. It had to do with the parking of cars in private driveways.

A note from Glenna McGinnis thanked members for cards, letters and visits while she was confined in the hospital.

The Club voted in favor of making a bid to host the 1981 MWF Convention and Show in conjunction with the State Show..

A definite date for the 1977 Christmas party has been set to be included in the building contract. Next year's Christmas party will be held on December 10th. By including the date in the contract, the Club will be assured of having the use of the building at the desired time.

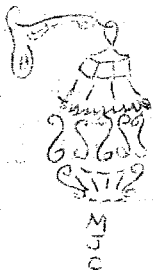
New members wishing name tags should apply to Marita Bigley, Membership Chairman. Members are urged to wear their name tags to the meetings.

Florence Boring reported on the AFMS Scholarship fund. We are now a 200% Club and on our way to 300%.

The pony case door prize was won by Larry Bigley.

Slides of Devil's Tower, North Dakota Badlands, and Montana agates were shown by Roger Pabian.

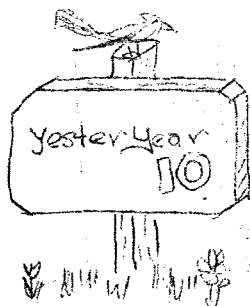
Refreshments were served after the program.



VAJA CON DIOS - May God be with you.

Cards were sent to:
The herman Spomer family - Sympathy
Mr. and Mrs. C. Ray Waddle - Sympathy

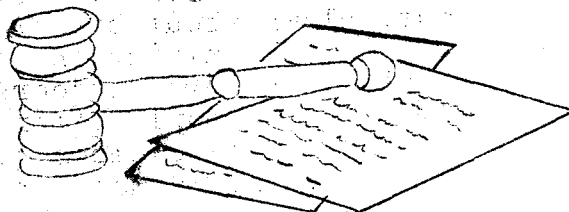
November 1966



Roger Simmons gave a talk on "The Cabochon and its History". A question and answer period followed.

From the notebook of Historian, Lois Everett

THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Dear Club Members;

The year is rapidly drawing to a close but much business must still be taken care of. This November meeting is one of the most important ones. The election of officers that will guide us through the coming year. The roles that these people play in our lives is to try to make our hobby more enjoyable to us. They give freely countless hours of their time to help guide us to greater perfection, skill and knowledge of the finer aspects of our world of Lapidary and Geological Sciences. Also the President and his Board and Committees must conduct the everyday business of the club and maintain us on a non-profit basis. This is not always an easy task. Some may wonder why I wish to write so much about this? The very simple reason is that the President and Board can direct but it is up to us as the voting membership to attend the general meetings and either accept or disapprove. At these monthly meetings we get our chance to make our opinions heard. Also it gives great pleasure and pride to these elected officers to see large turn outs at the meetings for it says to them that time and effort on their part has been able to create and maintain the interests of the wide variety of people who come together, only once a month on a common ground. At this time I ask that all of you please come vote at the November meeting and then continue to come and support the good people that will take us through the coming new year.

Once again a very special thanks to the Nominating Committee for an exceptional job. This year they had a mountainous job of filling upcoming vacancies. All of you performed beautifully, thank you.

To the Bulletin Staff; I have enjoyed every moment of working with you and I suppose I should express this a little more privately but you are my favorites. After all, if not for all your persistence and individual drives how else would all the basic communications to our widely scattered club members be accomplished. You are most wonderful people!

The Christmas Party is in the final stages of planning. All who plan on attending should contact the committee to let them know how many to plan for. Please contact Norma Miller at 489-8840, Ruthy Coleman at 489-7829, or Tom Simmons at 488-1619.

Thank you,

Larry E. Bigley

From the Editor's Desk... November - the leaves are falling thick and fast, blown about by the strong north wind. The sun rises far to the south, heralding the approach of winter. Rockhounds will be spending more time indoors sorting and processing their finds of the summer. People often dread winter, but it really has its advantages. With November giving us Thanksgiving, December giving us Christmas, and January presenting us with a brand new year, the winter passes before you know it. There is a warmth and friendliness that accompanies the holiday season that compensates for the coldness outside. Isn't it nice that these happy days come in the winter time?

Welcome to an All-American tradition
Welcome to a Thanksgiving Feast
Typically our own.
We invite you to enjoy! enjoy!
In the spirit of Thanksgiving
In the humility of spirit - in gratitude great
In the spirit of the Pilgrims
Think back to 1620 - Think back -
Let's make every day Thanksgiving Day!

By Marie J. Carveth



In the August 1976 issue of Retirement Life an article "By the Dawn's Early Light" clarified some of the codes concerning our flag. The code still requires men to remove their headdress with their right hand and hold it at their left shoulder, the hand being over the heart when saluting the flag, but another provision requiring women "to salute the flag by placing their right hand over the heart" has been deleted.

Flossie Litzenberg

P.S. Sorry, I forgot to sign my Aloha story of our vacation in the September's Bulletin.

F.L.

November Nights

Listen...
With faint dry sound
Like steps of passing ghosts,
The leaves, frost crisp'd, break from the trees
And fall.

Adelaide Crapsey

BOARD MINUTES..... October

Lincoln Gem and Mineral Club Board Meeting was held at the home of First Vice President, Flossie Litzenberg on October 7, 1976 with six board members present and Glen Litzenberg and Jim Marburger.

Meeting was called to order by First Vice President, Flossie Litzenberg.

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

Treasurers report by John Harrison, Jr., and approved as read.

Martia Bigley sent the name of Gust A. Fandrich as a new member Moved John Harrison Jr., to accept, seconded Don Carter. Carried. (To come as a guest until dues time)

President to get application for membership cards ready, as we are out of them.

Ordering of name tags to be brought up at general meeting.

Evelyn Ulrich to write bulletin editors to notify them to have them send the bulletins to her for exchange.

Howard Taylor had some information about lots of legislation that is going to take place about what Federal Government will take away from us if we don't get something going.

Howard also mentioned about the cancelled 50 State Stamps. If our club wants to collect them. Stamp Club will give 3¢ each for cancelled stamps.

Jim Marburger stated Ft. Randall Dam above Gavins point is shutting down next Saturday. It will turn on again on noon Sunday--There will be no water flowing.

Evelyn Ulrich invited everyone to visit Glen's shop. Room 11 at Shapr Building.

Meeting Adjourned

Nelda Oliver, Secretary

Of concern to our members is the ordinance on parking in your driveway. This was brought before the meeting in September and October. Petitions will be available at the November meeting if members wish to sign them.

The Nebraska Recreation League is working with the Mayor and others to get a favorable ordinance for us. This will take some time and they want to keep getting the petitions signed 'just in case they are needed'.

Lincoln Gem and Mineral Club is a member of the Nebraska Recreation League and our members are invited to attend any and all meetings held by this club. If you would like to attend the NRL meetings, contact Nelda Oliver for information when and where meetings are held. They are special called meetings. We hope for more participation from this club in the future.

"MEET ME IN ST. LOUIS-a tribute to our Mineral Heritage"-the Midwest Federation of Mineralogical and Geological Society show slogan proudly displayed in the 4-day event put on by the McDonnell Douglas Gem & Mineral Society, the Rockwood Gem & Mineral Society, and the St. Louis Mineral & Gem Society.

"Meet me in St. Louis"-Many people from Lincoln did. I was especially pleased to be asked by the Lincoln Gem & Mineral Club to be a delegate by Evelyn Ulrich, editor and Larry Bigley, president, because I belonged to the McDonnell Gem & Mineral Club for several years and enjoyed the return to "home" to visit with all my rockhound friends..

The Show Center had 77,000 square feet of show space completely air-conditioned with 300 outstanding displays including the Smithsonian display of several large cut Brazilian gemstones and colored Tourmalines and the Missouri Geological Survey exhibit "Old Lead Belt" and "Viburnum Trend". This display covered 18 linear feet including a very large Calcite crystal which was high-lighted in the St. Louis 1904 World's Fair. Another special exhibit was the 1976 Bicentennial Tiara which displays 96 fine native stones representing all the 50 states and the nation's capital. This exhibit was featured at the recent "International Gem and Mineral Show at Washington D.C." Many people contributed effort for this fine exhibit. I was certainly impressed with the case full of gold specimens.

Our first order of business was the Editors delicious Breakfast, served buffet style, followed by a "Welcome to St. Louis Midwest Federation Show" delivered by Garald Hook, Show and Convention Chairman. This meeting was most beneficial to the editors and persons responsible for publication of their bulletins, open discussion, questions and answers exchanged within panel and editors. Presentation of awards was made by June Zeitner and Howard Taylor for the 1975 Midwest Federation Bulletin Editors Contest winners. First place---THE OPAL, Rudy Loeffler, editor, West Suburban Lapidary Club, Melrose Park, Illinois; second place-THE GLACIAL DRIFTER, Arthur Ferguson, editor, Grand Rapids Lapidary Society, Grand Rapids, Wis.; third place-THE PICK & SHOVEL, Evelyn M. Ulrich, editor, Lincoln Gem & Mineral Club, Lincoln, Nebraska. A plaque with inscription will be presented to Evelyn at the next meeting.

Saturday the Midwest Federation Council meeting got under was with the call to order by President, Howard Taylor. Federation business was the highlight of the morning session. During the luncheon break the Lincoln delegation completed our campaign speech in the bid for the 1980 Federation Show. Our speech was convincingly delivered by Roger Pabian. Several cities were also bidding, but the final race was between Columbus, Ohio, Evansville, Indiana and Lincoln, Nebraska. The voting was close. In lieu of the fact that Lincoln, Nebraska had the Federation Show recently, the Council voted that Evansville, Indiana will host the 1980 show.

The 1975 All American Club awards were given out by June Zeitner and Howard Taylor to all clubs qualifying. We proudly received our All American Club award which will be on display for all to see.

continued on page 6

"MEET ME IN ST. LOUIS"- continued

The last event on the agenda was the Awards Banquet, to wrap up a splendid 4-day event that I am very proud to have a part in. Thank you.

Ruthy Coleman

GOOD NEWS IN THE L.G.M.C. SCHOLARSHIP DEPARTMENT

The Lincoln Gem and Mineral Club is being offered 3 cents for your used commorative stamps along with your donation to the Scholarship Kitty. She will see that the stamps are properly prepared and sorted. The 50 State Flag stamps will go to the Lincoln Stamp Club to swell our Scholarship fund by 3 cents per stamp, while the others will be given to the Council of Churches for their food program.

The May 1976 issue of The Pick and Shovel brought the good news that the Lincoln Gem and Mineral Club is a 200% club with the Midwest Federation Scholarship Fund. The Club is now well on its way to making the news even better.

The 200% rating means that, since the Scholarship Fund was incorporated on March 18, 1964, the Club has given a total of \$2.00 for each adult member on its roster. The silent auction at the September meeting brought \$67.50 to add to the total monthly contributions of \$43.75; and October's Kitty, the most generous of any month thus far, raised the total for the first ten months of 1976 to \$127.40. With 156 adult members in the 1976 Who's Who, we are well on our way to the 300% mark, which will bring our Club much closer to the Nov. 1, 1975 Midwest Federation total of 371%.

But prospects are good that we won't stop at 300%. The November 1975 silent auction netted \$113.85 of itself. Hopefully we can do as well at our silent auction this month.

Congratulations and thanks to all of you who are working so hard on this important effort which helps so much to continue our tax-exempt status. And don't forget those stamps!

Florence Boring, Scholarship Chairman, November 1, 1976

FINALLY - Flossie's indomitable spirit for getting things done as nicely as can be seems to have worked out. She had experienced a lot of problems with the Coronamatic typewriter which the club purchased in 1973 and kept taking it to the shop until finally we feel that this months bulletin sheets are typed as well as it would be possible. They seem to be printing extremely well and I have no doubt that it will be as nice a bulletin as we can put out. I believe her work looks much better than what I am doing on my Coronamatic (which is elite type instead of Pica like the club's machine is.) -Publisher Phyllis Parks

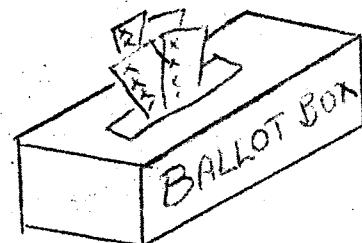
NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT

The nominating committee, consisting of Roger Pabian, Tom Simmons, and Wilfrid Wittman, presented this slate of candidates for office for the year 1977, as provided by the Constitution and By-Laws of the Lincoln Gem & Mineral Club, Inc.

Nominations for each office will be open to the floor before balloting. Consent of the candidates is necessary, and a candidate for President must have at least one year prior service on the Board of Directors.

President	John Harrison
1st Vice-Pres.	Howard Taylor
2nd Vice-Pres.	Jim Harburger
Recording Secretary.	Nelda Oliver
Treasurer	Joella Olson
Board Members	Virginia Green
	Norma Miller
	Farel Hyland
	Ray Lambert
	Evelyn Ulrich

(4 to be elected)



Club Activities of your Candidates :

This year's nominating committee were faced with a different set of circumstances than usual. Normally our LGMC vice presidents have each ascended one rung on the ladder toward becoming president. The 1976 1st and 2nd VPs both felt that because of personal matters they would not be able to assume the duties of president and they declined ascension.

JOHN HARRISON, nominee for President, is just completing three years as club Treasurer. Before that he had been a member of the board, building & Sites Chairman for the 1974 National Show, 1973 Show Registration and Information Chairman, Floor Chairman for the 1976 Show and active in planning and carrying out the club activities.

HOWARD TAYLOR, nominee for 1st Vice President, is just completing a year as President of The Midwest Federation of Mineralogical Societies, is a past-president of Lincoln Gem & Mineral Club, having served in 1968, past-president of Nebraska Association of Earth Science Clubs, Inc. He has served as Show Chairman for our annual show several times including the Centennial Rockrama in 1967. He has been Dealer Chairman for several shows including the 1974 National Show. He was an original member of the 1974 National Show Steering Committee, is at present a member of the LGMC Board where he has served since 1972.

JIM HARBURGER, nominee for 2nd Vice President, has been a very helping hand at each of our annual shows for several years, having started while still a student at the University of Nebraska. He prepared the Black Light Exhibit for one show, assisted the floor chairman, took charge of the program rooms and equipment for Program Director Marie Taylor for the 1974 National Show, was Floor Chairman for the 1975 annual show and Show Chairman for the 1976 show.

NELDA OLIVER, nominee for Recording Secretary, now serves in that capacity. She has held the spot for several years, has acted as calling committee head, helped to coordinate a number of field trips, and assisted in some of the printing for our annual shows and is always willing to lend a hand.

continued

Club Activities of your Candidates: continuation

JOELLA OLSON, nominee for Treasurer, is at present our Librarian. She has been active in our annual shows, displaying and assisting wherever she is asked.

VIRGINIA GREEN, nominee for Board Member, has been Hospitality Chairman for some time and is the first person most of us see as we come to the meetings, as she helps us check in and get a door prize number or register our guests.

NORMA MILLER, nominee for Board Member, is presently serving in that capacity. She has been very active in most phases of our hobby. She helped on the Pleezy Dig, helped with The Pick & Shovel from 1964 to 1969 at which time she became Editor of that publication. She served as Director in charge of Registration for the 1974 National Show and coordinated many activities related to the show itself. She has been active on field trip committees, served as club delegate to Federation shows and helped on show committees since she has been in the club.

FAREL HYLAND, nominee for Board Member, most recently has been active in the Neihardt activities for the club, and in the past has helped at the annual show by working on the ticket and registration desk.

RAY LAMBERT, nominee for Board Member, returned to the club in 1975, having been an active member while in school. He served as Rock Pile Chairman for the 1976 Show and has displayed his very fine collection of artifacts.

EVELYN ULRICH, nominee for Board Member, is presently serving in that capacity, as well as serving as Editor of The Pick & Shovel since 1973. She has served as Recording Secretary, assisted in the 1974 Show with the Secretary Department, and with the Registrations Department, as well as helping a great deal with the Editors Breakfast for the National Bulletin Editors. She served a year as Educational Chairman and planned some fine sessions while we were still in the NOW building. She has served as Delegate to a Federation show and to the State Association ~~xxxx~~ Annual Meeting.

NEIGHARDT - stamp cannot be considered before 1983 according to the Lincoln newspapers. This report was issued by the committee that is trying very hard to have a stamp to commemorate our late Poet Laureate and Honorary Member of Lincoln Gem & Mineral Club. The commemorative stamps are not used to honor any persons until they have been deceased at least ten years and Dr. Neihardt was with us until 1973.

Gem for Thought - Though there is considerable criticism that teen-agers spend money irresponsibly, this tendency can be looked upon as good training for becoming an adult who spends money irresponsibly. from Grit

- A man who trims himself to suit everybody will soon whittle himself away. also from Grit

A JUICY TALE - A turkey's life has small appeal
But there is one marvelous facet -
How nice to be one of a breed
In which plumpness is ever an asset.

Rosemarie Williamson via Good Housekeeping

NELDA'S NEWS



Due to the accident that Glenna had, I am filling in for her this month.

We are glad to report that Glenna McGinnis is home making good progress. She gives Mac's good care a lot of credit for her improvement.

Lynn Wells is at home recovering nicely from his open-heart surgery. He walks two miles a day and reports that he is as "ornery as ever". We're glad to hear that he is doing so well.

J.D. and Myrtle Young have spent a lot of their time moving this past summer. They have moved several times in the past few months. They feel that they have had enough moving for a while and are now getting happily settled in their new home at 300 South Cotner.

Clyde Benham, Charter member of our club is now residing at Tabatha Home. Cards and visits from membrs would be enjoyed.

Let's not forget our club members who are ill during the 'Holiday Season.

Dorothy Engelhart would also enjoy receiving card at her home.

Nebraska Recreation League will be holding its annual campout meeting at the City Park in Hickman, Nebraska May 6-8, 1977.

This month is voting for club officers. If you have some one you would like to have for an officer or board member of the Lincoln Gem and Mineral Club in 1977, come to the meeting and nominate and vote. If you don't vote, you may not see your choice in office.

The Christmas Party Committee should have some reports for us at this meeting also.

Scholarship fund report at the last meeting was reported. The 'kitty fund', for the federation fund and the certificates for our own local fund were reported on.

This month will be a silent auction again and a Pony Gem case will be on the auction block. The material will be left over from donations contributed by the members for door prizes the first of the year.

GEMS - Advice is like snow--the softer it falls, the deeper it goes.

Some people suffer in silence louder than most others complain.

Chewing Gum proves that there can be motion without progress.

Few things in life are more satisfying than parking on what's left of the other guy's dime.

ROCKS ARE ARE PART OF OUR LIVES

You don't have to have "Rocks in your head" to see the interesting connections we have with them. You start life with a loved one holding and ROCKing in a ROCKing chair. In between you may have a ROCKing horse and a ROCK and roll.

Education introduces you to the famous Plymouth ROCK and the ROCK of Gibraltar. Religion stresses Peter the ROCK and ROCK of Ages. A by product may be our striving to leave footprints in the SANDS of time.

So why not have a pet ROCK? It is a fascinating hobby, including new ways to cage them. Two plastic berry boxes fastened at the corners with bows of yarn fixed mine comfortably. When I discovered it was lonely, I added a little frog, skunk and little boy figurines with a placard that reads, "Bring you pet ROCK to visit me".

My 85 year old neighbor complained that she talked to hers but it would not answer. I asked her where she got it and she said, "Austria". No wonder, the poor little thing didn't understand a thing she said.

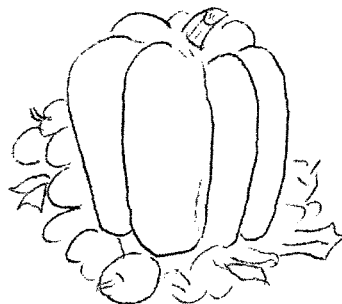
Copied from Capper's Weekly

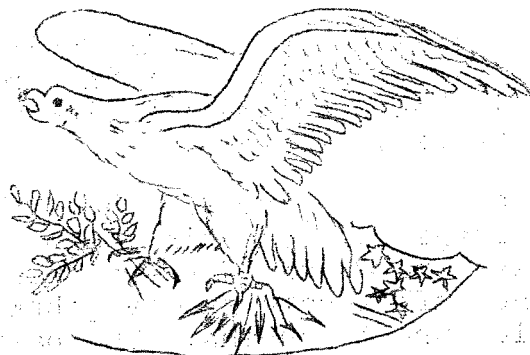
Submitted by Art Howlett

Give Thanks for Little Things

Let me be glad the kettle gently sings,
Let me be thankful for just little things;
Thankful for simple food and supper spread,
Thankful for shelter and a warm, clean bed;
Glad for the warm, sweet fragrance of the earth
For golden pools of sunshine on the floor,
For love that sheds its peace around my door.
For little friendly days that slip away,
With only meals and bed and work and play,
A rocking-chair and kindly firelight---
For little things let me be glad tonight.

James Whitcomb Riley





THE 200 th BIRTHDAY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Bicentennial Sense and Non-Sense --- edited by J.D. Young

Thanksgiving Day Pilgrim's Pet Rock

My dictionary defines Thanksgiving Day:

1. U.S. The fourth Thursday in November, set apart as an annual festival of thanksgiving.
2. Canadian-The second Monday in October, a statutory holiday.

Curtis Encyclopedia notes the holiday was intended "for Americans to remember and honor their forefathers, reflect and give thanks for their own good fortune."

The traditional turkey-and-all-the-trimmings bit dates back to 1621, after the Plymouth Colony had survived their first winter in the New World, 1620'21. It had been a most bitter and trying experience, and Governor William Bradford ordered a feast of wild turkey, and a celebration of the bountiful harvest, to be for Indians and Pilgrims together.

President Washington proclaimed November 26, 1789 the first Thanksgiving Day. The date was indefinite until in 1863 President Lincoln "set aside the last Thursday as the American day of remembrance". In 1941 our Congress authorized the fourth Thursday in November as the Thanksgiving Day legal holiday.

Although some confusion about the date still exists, most Americans are glad the Pilgrims started the tradition. Some may forget the original, noble intent, thus allowing selfishness and gluttony to rule the occasion.

School kids and teachers (parents??) enjoy a "brief respite from drudgery"--the first break since the term began--excepting a possible 2 day moratorium for Teachers Convention, a somewhat dubious cultural experience, loved by the local merchants and the lodging places.

Bicentennial Sense and Non-sense continued

Football buffs may loll in an easy chair facing the "tube" all afternoon on this cherished holiday, or they may choose to witness the colorful mayhem in the stadium-fortified with plenty of blankets, cushions, anti-freeze, etcetera.

What the "Founding Fathers" enjoyed on that first day of thankfulness in 1621 may be imagined. Feasting, especially after months of privation, sickness and death of loved ones, could be partaken by all, excepting the unfortunate turkey gobblers. They "got it in the neck" for the pleasure of humans. The pattern has not changed in 355 years-yum yum!

The Indians, not always too chummy with their new neighbors, were willing to be friendly, at least temporarily. Incidentally, many of our modern, important foods, drugs, clothing and other products were known and used by these resourceful native Americans, improperly called savages.

To air one's own opinion was not the original plan for this column. It may be in order, however, to observe and express here a feeling that most of us have for which to be thankful. This, in spite of possible cases of injustice, inequities and grievances caused by nature and man, and that includes woman, too. This should apply to all, regardless of race, creed, political party or ethnic background.

Our late honorary member, the Poet Neihardt, expressed his idea ".....this is our time to live, the only time we have, and in spite of its eccentricities, it is, in some respects, a very great time, especially in its scientific conquest of our physical world".

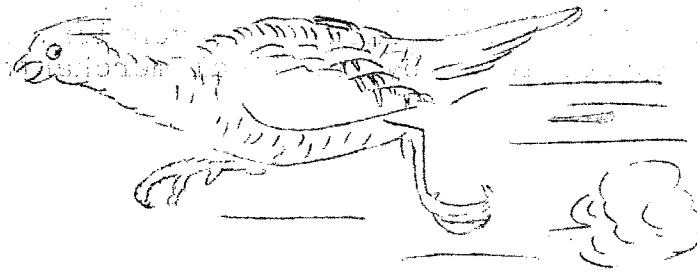
When asked about "pan-this, and pan-that movements" he replied in favor of the pan-human movement. He also pointed out that we have freedom of choice in much of the good and the bad features of our very imperfect world.

Our heritage is great, and worthy of respect. May we be thankful for our many blessings and ever be mindful of them.

J.D.Y.

P.S. Remembering his family tree, Will Rogers jokingly remarked that when the Pilgrims stepped from the Mayflower to Plymouth's famous Pet Rock in 1620 his ancestors were there to greet them. Long live the Welcome Wagon!

J.D.Y.



HANDY HINTS

One rockhouser has found that a $\frac{1}{4}$ pound of soluble rouge will polish a batch of tumbled stones to a high luster. This is the rouge silversmiths use that comes in half pound bars for about 65¢. Cut the bar in two pieces and put it into the tumbler with the usual amount of water and tumble as long as with other polishing compounds. Try this if you want to improve the depth of luster on your tumbled stones.

The Geode via News Grinder

CLEANING FOSSILS ... Boil the fossils in plain water for three minutes. Remove from heat, add one tablespoon soda for each cup of water. Allow to cool, then scrape and wash in plain water and soap. If not satisfactory after the above, set the fossils in a solution of vinegar and water (half and Half) for two hours. Rinse in plain water.

Agatizer via Michigan Lapidary Society Bulletin

SILVER SMITHING TIPS...stainless steel solder in silver work is cheaper, easier to handle, does a beautiful job.

...one-third lacquer and two-thirds thinner, dip the polished silver in it and the polish will last indefinitely..keeps the silver from staining some people's skin.

...success of the final polish on silver depends on the number of buffin wheels threads-not the amount of rouge used. Cheaper buff will not give the same results as quality.

...whiting moistened with ammonia water makes an excellent agent for polishing tarnished silver..Wipe the paste on, allow to dry, rub with a piece of lemon, wash and dry thoroughly and the silver will stay bright longer.

...to antique silver paint the places to be darkened with raw egg yolk, rinse off egg, rub highlights with Linde A.

...Glue your pattern on silver with rubber cement.

...Bon Ami applied with an old tooth brush gives a satin finish.

...to solder one part of a piece without having the solder run in- to unwanted areas, paint the area not to be soldered with a thin paste made with jeweler's rouge and water.

Rocky Trails via Michigan Lapidary Society Bulletin

Telescope lining paper, with its velvet-like texture, has been found to be an excellent backing material in bezel settings to cushion fragile stones, like opals, turquoise and lapis lazuli. Use two or three layers of the non-adhesive type of this paper which comes in large sheets and is quite economical. It can be obtained from Edmund Scientific Company, Portland, Oregon. Do not use it to back very transparent opals, however, as the paper texture may begin to show through.

Norman McKay, Portland, Oregon
via Chips and Tips

SAFETY

Can You Swallow This? Yes you can!! Popular for their convenience, pull tabs from beer and soft drink cans are potentially dangerous. Many painful cuts have been caused by discarded tabs, especially to bare feet on bathing beaches. Pull tabs have been swallowed, so, whenever possible dispose of the pull tab immediately in a proper waste container. DO NOT slip it into an open can before the contents are emptied. Drop the tab into your pocket or put it on your finger like a ring, until you find a waste receptacle. For safety's sake, pick up tabs you find as you walk along the beach or woodland path-you may prevent an injury to a friend or animal-and the exercise is good for the waistline.

by Wiley Hewitt, Rock licker via Golden Spike News

SAFETY FIRST...Safety starts between the ears! Do you know the best time for safety?

- every second
- every minute
- every hour
- every day

As a thought "Accidents can be exciting"

Accidents can open up a whole new exciting world for you. You will meet pretty young nurses, probing doctors. You'll learn how emergency wards, operating rooms function first hand. You may even get a stub or a scar which will make an ideal conversation piece. You may get your name in the paper-like-"Drunk runs into School Bus".

You can collect your insurance which you've been pouring money into for so long. You may deduct your time lost from work on your income tax. You can solicit sympathy you'd never get otherwise. The wife might get to go to work and the older kids might drop out of school, and so enrich their experiences.

You might have to learn a new trade to replace the old one you can't continue and didn't like anyway. So live modern and have an accident. Experience can be a good teacher-(if you live through it).

Petroleum Safety Newsletter,
CFMS Newsletter via Gemdrops

Drive carefully, the life you save may belong to a pedestrian on his way to remove his car from the parking place you're looking for.

Any one who doesn't cut his speed at the sight of a police car is probably parked.

If you want to borrow trouble, your credit is probably good.

via Gemdrops

Several cases of severe chemical burns and rashes have been reported due to use of home-applied water proofing compounds.

Rockhound News via Golden Spike News

JUNIOR PAGE

Prepared this month by Linda Parks

The birthstone for November is Topaz. It comes in many colors but most of it is yellow. It's chemical formula is $(Al_2OH,F)SiO_4$. It has a hardness of 8.

The largest Topaz ever found weighs 596 pounds. It was found in Minas Gerais, Brazil. It is now at the American Museum of Natural History in New York City. It has been there since 1951.

The largest cut specimen of Topaz was 7,725 carats. It is also at the American Museum of Natural History. via Guinness Book of World Records for 1975.



A Guessing Game

1. Red-and-green makes up the best, & almost any color can make up the rest.
2. A form of beryl that's truly pink - To bring out its beauty, facet it, I think.
3. This stone has the deep blue of the sky, and for setting it, silver work you should try.
4. A gist of the sea is this sought-after jewel; imitations may even an expert fool.
5. They say the Chinese know this by its feel, and whether it's cheap or surely real.
6. It's manganese protocarbonate in beautiful bands. The best still comes from a faraway land.
7. Burn up your teakettle with some chromium salt. And you'll make a red stone with hardly a fault (??)
8. We think of the sea when the stone is clear. Our friends facet them I hear.
9. A mixture of hydrocarbons, black as night - This gem could go into flight.
10. The common kinds are known as "bort", but on SPECIAL rings, the GOOD'S the right sort.

By Florence Geisler, Geolgem
via Rocks & Minerals via The Petosky Stone

GEMS WELL GUARDED

Stockholm (AP)- The Sri Lanka Embassy isn't sure which is attracting more attention - it's \$1 million sapphire display or the gens' guards.

Resting on cushions in the glass exhibition case along with the beautiful stones are a pair of poisonous snakes - a Ceylonese sand rustler and a Saharan horn viper.

The snakes were provided by a Stockholm terrarium owner.
via The Lincoln Star

A JOKE

Employment Manager: "What was your last job?"
 Applicant: "Diamond cutter."
 Employment Manager: "In the jewelry business, huh?"
 Applicant: "No. I trimmed the lawn at the ball park."
 Sunshine Magazine

1-tourmaline 2-morganite 3-turquoise 4-pearl 5-jade
6-rhodochrosite 7-ruby 8-aquamarine 9-jet 10-diamond

EXCERPTS FROM AFMS NEWSLETTER

Meet Ken Zahn, Your AFMS President for 1977.- His Message

In any dynamic organization policies should be understood and imparted to all those concerned with policy. The AFMS has six officers, twelve Directors, a Long Range Planning Committee and others who are directly or indirectly concerned in the policy making process. They should also share in the planning responsibility. All are qualified and capable people and it will be my policy to elicit suggestions and recommendations for the growth and benefit of the AFMS and its members. While it is said that a "new broom sweeps clean" it will not be my intantion to jump into any organization and start sweeping without working with the staff to make sweeping both constructive and effective.

The past officers and committees have done a remarkable job and have contributed much in time, effort and cash to make the AFMS what it is today. Now we need to take a good hard look to see where we are going and whether we are best organized to continue with the growth and assistance to our Regional Federations and service to our members. We all need to ask questions whether we are meeting our objectives, what criteria do we use to measure where we are headed, do our members know our policies and how well we are meeting our responsibilities.

I am suggesting as a start a five point program and I fully expect that our Directors, Officers and Committee Chairmen and others will come up with as many, if not more recommendations. Some of these have already been on the agenda in past programs, but may be included for emphasis and possible change in format.

(The five points printed very briefly are - 1.- a career Executive Secretary centrally located, maintaining a permanent post office, store records etc. 2.- Tie Budget and program planning closely together. 3.- Think about a two or three year term for Treasurer to provide continuity. 4.-Continue work on the Safety Manual, Show Manual and others to increase information about the hobby. 5.- Stimulate exhibiting in special ways besides the regular competition.)

Some of the above recommendations will require changes in our By-Laws or Operating procedures but this is not a problem of any magnitude. By the time you read this I will be writing to all Officers, Directors and staff to ask for additional suggestions to improve our organization and its service to members. We are growing and the officers will need all the help we can get to make the AFMS a dynamic, educational and fun organization.

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INDIVIDUALS URGED TO WRITE CONGRESSMEN IN OPPOSITION TO HOUSE BILL

Individuals interested in the rock, mineral, fossil, and lapidary hobbies are urged to write their congressmen in opposition to House Bill #8345, which would reform mineral leases on public lands, and effectively shut out the recreational prospector. Under the new proposals, leaseholders could control leasable federal lands as long as 50 years without any production. Ted Cadeau, Midwest Federation legislation chairman, says our failure to act immediately could reduce our hobby areas enormously.

=====

Mrs. Milton Turner, AFMS Stamp Chairman, says that prospects for a second block of mineral stamps in the near future look very good. Since the first mineral stamps were such popular favorites, the stamp committee has maintained its interest in the Mineral Heritage series. Members of AFMS and their families and friends are urged to keep pushing for the stamps by talking them up and writing whenever possible. If the second group of stamps is approved by the Citizens Stamp Committee, they will probably be introduced at a future National Show. The first stamp ceremony was a highlight of the National Show at Lincoln.

Midwest Federations NEWSLETTER



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November 1976 - Issue No. 169

Here are your Midwest officers for 1977

MISS HAZEL KUNTZ IS YOUR MIDWEST PRESIDENT



Miss Hazel Kuntz

Again in 1977 our Midwest Federation will be led by an experienced set of officers. The Midwest has an advancement program wherein a second vice president moves into the first vice president position and then on to president.

The 1977 president is Miss Hazel Kuntz, Quincy, Ill. Hazel is well qualified for the position of Midwest president. She was a commercial artist specializing in pen and ink layout work before her retirement. She is a member of two clubs, The Worthen Earth Searchers, Carthage, Ill. of which she was program chairman, and the Gem City Rock Club, Quincy, Ill. She has been a State Director for Illinois and her main interest is in minerals with some work in lapidary when the time permits.

The first vice president of the Midwest for 1977 is Paul Good, Griffith, Ind. Paul has served on the Bulletin Editors committee and showed outstanding leadership in this field. He served as president of his local club and as show chairman for local shows. He is an expeditor for a large manufacturing plant.

Second vice president is Mrs. Betty Crawford, Mansfield, Ohio. Betty has also had experience in Midwest procedures and is very well qualified for the position of second vice president. She has been Uniform Rules Committee Chairman for 1976.

Milford J. Sharp continues as treasurer of the Midwest for 1977. He lives in Fairview Park, Ohio. Milford has been a State Director for Ohio. He has had financial experience as local treasurer of his union. He is now a teacher in training of workers in installation and operation of switching equipment for Ohio Bell Telephone Co.

Miss Jean Reynolds continues as secretary of the Midwest for 1977. She has served in this capacity for ten years. Jean lives with her mother in Clarendon Hills, Ill. and has been with the Federal Reserve Bank in Chicago for 31 years. She is a senior cost accountant. Jean is a graduate of Northwestern University.

OGDEN MAKING PLANS

The Golden Spikes '77 Empire of Gems Show, to be hosted by the Golden Spike Gem and Mineral Society for the Northwest Federation of Mineralogical Societies, will be the National show next year. Show Chairman, Ivan Rudd, says plans are falling in place to make the AFMS and Northwest convention events outstanding and memorable for the four day show which runs from August 18 through August 21.

The show will be held at Weber State College, Ogden, Utah. Ogden is a city of nearly 100,000 on the edge of the beautiful Wasatch Mountains, with Great Salt Lake not far to the east.

Special attractions, programs, meetings, and exhibition plans will be announced in the AFMS Newsletter at later dates. Ogden is located on Interstate 80N. There are many excellent motels and campgrounds. Utah is a state with exceptional vacation opportunities, including several spectacular National Parks and Monuments, and magnificent National Forests.

ALL AMERICAN AWARDS FOR 1976

The November AFMS Newsletter has the new All American entry blank. Please see that the proper officer in your club gets it so the entry can be filled out and mailed by the March 31 deadline. Midwest last year had the largest number of entries of any Federation, more than half of the total of the entire nation. We had 5 AFMS trophies and 13 Midwest Merit Awards. (Merit Awards use same entry as AFMS All-American.) There were also 7 AFMS honorable mentions.

This is an excellent program, enabling us to keep track of the worthwhile activities of our neighbor clubs, to keep our own history, and to let others know our accomplishments. The program originated in the Midwest under Katie Steinbrenner and Merton Young, with June Zeitner serving as first chairman. It was adopted nationally when Bernice Rexin was President of AFMS. Joe Bloom was first Na-

Continued on back page....

YOU'VE GOT A DATE IN DAYTON (Ohio) JULY 21-24, 1977 - MWF SHOW AND CONVENTION

Continued from front page.....

tional Chairman. Midwest has had a consistent record of participating in this program better than any other Federation. Judges for the current contest will be announced soon.

If any club does not get its entry form or has any questions regarding their entry please write me at once. Can we top last years record of 96 entries? I think we can. Thank you all, and congratulations to these fine clubs. June Zeitner, Merit Award Chairman, Mission, South Dakota, 57555.

THE OGDEN SCENE

by June Zeitner

When the Golden Spike Gem and Mineral Society hosts the National Show next year for the Northwest Federation in beautiful Ogden, Utah, federation members will have a fine choice of activities before and after the show, which is scheduled for August 18-21.

Ogden Valley is a scenic resort area with rolling hills and a backdrop of pine-covered mountains, with lakes and streams providing excellent fishing. At the mouth of dramatic Ogden Canyon a sporty golf course is situated. Not far away is Great Salt Lake, the nation's great inland sea. In historic Mormon Country, Ogden's Tabernacle is noted for unique architecture. History buffs will want to visit Promontory, west of Ogden, where the golden spike linked America's transcontinental railroad route.

Ogden is a city of dynamic growth, an agriculture and livestock center, a tourist center and transportation center. There is also manufacturing and there are two defense installations. The show will be held at Weber College, a four year modern college in a garden-like setting. The city is situated on the Weber and Ogden Rivers. Ogden was named for a representative of the Hudson Bay Fur Company, who trapped in the area in the early 1800's.

Of geologic interest in the area is the Wasatch fault exposed above the bench marks of ancient lake, Bonneville. Utah is a state with a remarkable variety of minerals, rocks, gems and fossils. Members of the Golden Spike Club have been working several years on plans to make their big show a truly outstanding event for all who attend.

A MAMMOTH GIFT

by June Zeitner

Although it was a mammoth gift, it really was a mastodon. Peter and Neal Larson and James Honert of Black Hills Minerals, Rapid City, South Dakota, made the largest presentation ever made at a rock club banquet, when they highlighted the South Dakota Bicentennial Rock Clubs Banquet with the presentation of a mastodon to the Museum of the South Dakota School of Mines. The Rosebud Sioux Tribe joined the young men in making the presentation to the Museum. The mastodon was found by the three men in Todd County last spring. Willard Roberts accepted on behalf of the Museum. It is expected the finders will help with the restoration and that the mastodon will become a feature display.

The South Dakota event was held in the Wall Drug dining room in connection with the state Bicentennial Field Trip. The story of the mastodon has appeared in newspapers and magazines from coast to coast. A rare species, the Gompothere, is much older than the mammoth, which is also found in South Dakota.

NEW ASSISTANTS IN INDIANA AND KENTUCKY

Charles J. Walker, the new state director for Indiana and Kentucky, has named Dr. Garry Bolinger, Indianapolis, Indiana, and Miles M. Smith, Frankfort, Kentucky, his new assistants. R. Dee Rarick, Bloomington, Indiana will continue as an assistant.

FOSSIL EVIDENCE SHOW LAND BRIDGE

By Russell MacFall

Scientists have announced at a recent meeting in France that they have discovered fossil evidence of a land bridge which once spanned the North Atlantic connecting North America with Europe.

Dr. Robert West of Milwaukee's Public Museum and Dr. Mary Dawson of the Carnegie Museum, Pittsburg, said that the fossil mammals and birds of Canada's Ellesmere Island, have been found to match similar remains found in western Europe. Fossil evidence leads some scientists to believe that North America and Europe were joined and gradually split apart and the space between was filled by the Atlantic. The theory is that the last continental connection stretched between the northernmost tips of the two continents by way of Greenland, Iceland, and Spitsbergen, an island north of Scandinavia. The split could have been 45 to 48 million years ago.

Plant fossils found at Ellesmere Island indicate a moderate climate. Sequoia trees once grew there. Animal fossils indicate the area was swampy. Among the animal fossils have been mammals, alligators, salamanders, turtles and birds. Ellesmere Island is located above the Arctic Circle, west of Greenland.

OVER 150 MILES OF PASSAGES MAPPED IN CAVE

The Indianapolis Star reports the story of the link between the Floyd Collins Flint Ridge Cave System and the Mammoth Cave Complex of Kentucky, which makes this cave system the world's largest. Over 150 miles of passages have been mapped by spelunkers who have explored here for the past century.

A new book "The Longest Cave" by Grucker and Watson, tells of the contemporary cavers who formed the Cave Research Foundation dedicated to exploring connections between the great caves of Kentucky.

Although we often hear that the earth has been completely explored there are several frontiers left for adventurous trained explorers in our times. Besides caving these include underwater exploration and exploration of the Arctic, Antarctic, and Polar regions.

IF YOU MOVE...

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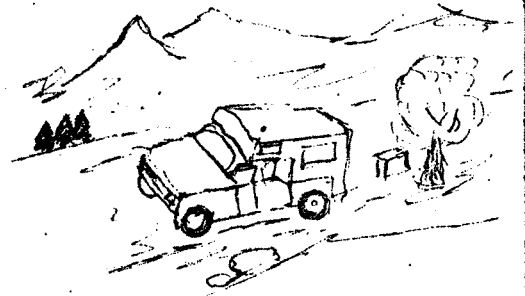


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