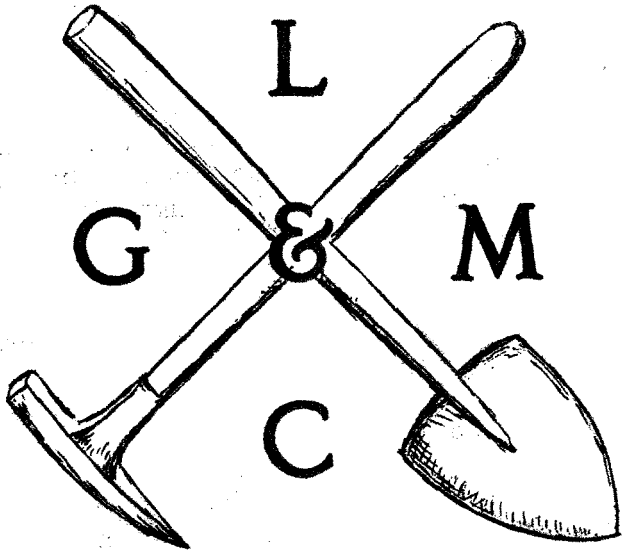


# THE PICK & SHOVEL



DEC 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
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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		Edwin & Vivian Johnson
Librarian	Joella Olson	Education	Marie Wells
Membership	Marita Bigley	Scholarship	Florence Boring
Field Trips & Safety	Tom Simmons	Publications	Art Howlett
Calling Committee & Vaya Con Dios	Marie J. Carveth	Housing & Property	Larry Bigley
NAOESCI Reporter	Luella Paul		
1976 Show Chairman	Jim Marburger		

PICK & SHOVEL STAFF: Art Howlett, Chairman

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Artwork stenciling - Jim Parks  
Publisher - Phyllis Parks  
Reporters - Club Members

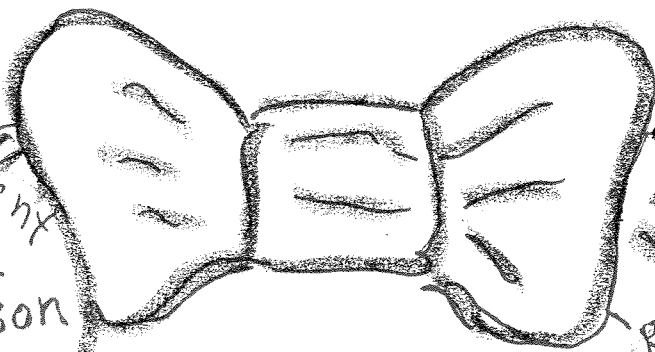
Contributions from members are welcome and needed. Deadline for material is the 1st of the month to be printed. Please send copy to the Editor.

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.

# Greetings from YOUR 1976 Officers and Staff



President  
John  
Harrison

Board  
Member  
Evelyn  
Ulrich

Merry  
Christmas  
and

1st Vice  
President  
Howard  
Taylor

Board  
Member  
Ray  
Lambert

Best Wishes  
to our

2nd Vice  
President  
Jim  
Marburger

Board Member  
Norma  
Miller

1977 BOARD OF  
DIRECTORS

Secretary  
Nelda  
Oliver

BOARD  
MEMBER  
Virginia  
Green

Treasurer  
Joella  
Olson

The Spirit of Christmas

Volcanoes-earthquakes-floods-wars cannot destroy it; the darkness of fear cannot blot out its light; hatred, envy and jealousy cannot withstand it; greed and selfishness retreat before it; nothing can stop its onward march into the hearts of men. Like a blanket of softly falling snow the spirit of Christmas covers the world! Once again a Babe is King; once again faith and love and service are abroad in the land. Christmas still lives!

- Wilfred Peterson



December 18th, 6:00 P.M. is the date of the LGMC Christmas party in the IOOF Hall, our regular meeting place. Ham and turkey, coffee and Kool-aid, and ice cream will be furnished by the Club. Club members are asked to bring casseroles, covered dishes and salads to compliment and complete the pot-luck meal.

Table cover will be in place, and each family should bring their own table service. Flossie Litzenberg will be in charge of decorations. A gift exchange will be held. Whoever wants to participate in the gift exchange should bring a gift valued at \$2.50 and marked "gent's", "lady's", or "juniors".

Installation of officers will be a portion of the evening's activities, and Christmas carols will be in order.

- Norma Miller

LGMC Board of Directors' meeting... Thursday, Jan. 6, 1977  
Home of Nelda Oliver, 5700 Otoe St. 7:30 P.M.

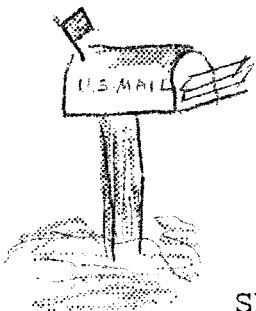
Directory additions:

Doherty, David J. - 3009 Holdrege #2 - 68503 - Tel.475-5717  
Orr, Bill (Hope) - 7332 Thurston - 68507 - Tel.464-3337

Change of address:

Graber, Kay ----- 1809 "G" St. -- 68508 - Tel.477-4958  
Stock, Barbara --- 1925 Van Dorn - 68502 - Tel.423-8070

SEASONS GREETINGS from the Pick & Shovel staff.



Last Month...73 members and 4 visitors were present at the November meeting of the LGMC. The visitors were: Laurence B. Wightman, Mr. and Mrs. John D. Wilson, and Thomas P. Myers.

Phyllis Parks and Larry Bigley were appointed to serve on the long range Planning Committee.

Nominations from the floor for 1977 candidates for office were made, and then voting followed. The names of the elected officers appear elsewhere in the bulletin.

Prof. Thomas P. Myers, Associate Curator at Morrill Hall, presented the program. His subject was an overview of Nebraska archeology. He discussed theories concerning the origin of man, how he differed physically from modern man, and how he changed as his cranial capacity and ability to think improved. Theories on the migration of man to North America were related, and illustrations shown to point out routes supposedly taken. Various cultures, with emphasis on the woodland culture, were discussed and maps showing the location of woodland areas in Nebraska were shown. He pointed out that man's way of life was affected by his environment, and showed slides of artifacts found in various regions showing difference in size and shape depending on the locality found.

Don Carter showed slides of a trip he had made up Mt. Antero, 14269 ft. in elevation, the highest gem region in North America. It is located between Salida and Buena Vista, Colorado. He stated that 15 kinds of minerals can be found there, and had on display samples of phenacite, muscovite, smoky quartz, beril, aquamarine, and molybdenite which he had collected there.

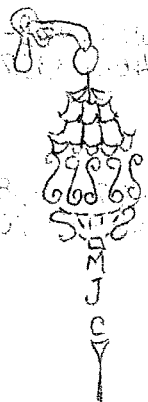
Doughnuts, coffee and Kool-aid were served following the program.

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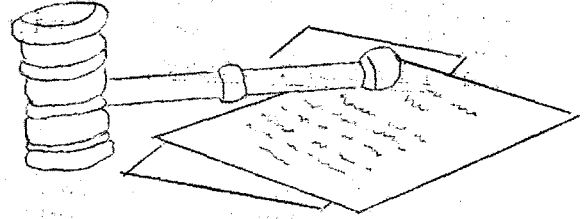
VAJA CON DIOS - May God be with you

A Merry Christmas from the Carveths

On Christmas Eve  
We gather around our warm fireside-  
Outdoors the cold  
Stabbing-piercing-like a knife.  
The stars  
Diamonds in a field of Royal Blue  
It must be Royal-  
On this night!  
The Cedar tree  
Stands there- Majestic-  
Cotton-y snow upon its branches  
Our tree! Its beautiful-  
But only God can make a tree.  
At Christmas in our house  
In our little creche  
The small figures stand  
Around the Crib..  
Candle-light-flickering shadows  
Upon the little one there.  
Christmas-Beautiful Christmas!  
-Marie Carveth



## THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Dear Club Members;

I'd like to offer my congratulations to the new staff of officers and board of directors. The transitional meeting between the old and the new to be held at the home of Nelda Oliver Thursday January 6th. I would like to urge that all of the old and new board members and officers please be present. This will allow us and the new President to conduct and transfer all old business in an orderly fashion.

At the Christmas meeting I will announce the names of the auditing committee. This is one of the last duties left for me to perform for you. I wish to thank every member of the club for their support through this last year. It has been a most enjoyable experience and will become a treasured memory.

At the November general meeting I appointed Phyllis Parks and myself to the Long Range Planning Committee. I was under the impression that Phyllis was not on this committee. To my surprise she has two years yet left to serve. Consequently I found myself short again. My next selection is Don Carter who has agreed to serve the club in this capacity.

At the December Board of Directors meeting much discussion was held on the fate of the club library. It seems that in its present location that most people seem to think that it has ceased to exist. To help remedy this situation and to make it accessible to the club members, I have volunteered to bring it into our home. In the future editions of the Pick & Shovel we'll try to name and write short reviews of the publications that our library has to offer. In this way the newer members can become familiar with this asset of their membership. These books will be checked out to you in the same manner as the city libraries. If you would like to browse through the library or check out a book please feel free to come do so. To assure that it will not be a trip wasted please call ahead of time. Even though someone is most generally here, there could be times when we might be missed. My home phone number is 466-0211. This should allow everyone a more direct access to the library. As it stand now, general meeting night is about the only time that anyone can check out the books and literature available to them.

**TIME  
TAKES**

Larry E. Bigley

DUES ARE DUE

From the Editor's desk...I have chosen the following poem by Henry Van Dyke to express my Christmas wishes to you, the members of the Lincoln Gem and Mineral Club, and to the Editors of the Exchange Bulletines who have furnished me with so many fine articles for our Pick and Shovel.

A Christmas Wish

I am thinking of you today, because it is Christmas. And I wish you joy. And tomorrow, because it is the day after Christmas, I shall wish you joy. Mayhap I cannot tell you about it from day to day, for you may be far away, or we may be entangled with the things of life. But it makes no difference--My thoughts and my wish will be with you. Whatever joy or success comes to you, I shall be glad. Clear through the year, without pretense, I wish you the Spirit of Christmas.

- Henry Van Dyke

\*\*\*\*\*

December 1966



CHRISTMAS PARTY--There was a covered dish supper and meeting held at the Naval Reserve Training Center on north 10th. For the Program, Lloyd Lederer showed slides of his Alaskan trip. Also there was a group singing and Christmas merriment.

From the notebook of Lois Everett, LGMC Historian

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Lynn Wells wishes to thank the members of the Lincoln Gem and Mineral Club for their cards, letters, and visits while he was a patient at the Bryan Memorial Hospital.

\*\*\*\*\*

1977 Dates to Remember

- Mar. 26-27 Lincoln, Ne. Lincoln Gem & Min. Clb Show, Nebraska State Fair Grounds.
- 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 Kearney, Ne. Fort Kearney Rock Club State Show.
- Sept. 16-18 Kimball, Ne. Plains Rock & Mineral Club Show.

\*\*\*\*\*

Don't forget! Dues are due. They will be delinquent January 31st. Dues are payable to John Harrison Jr.

\*\*\*\*\*

The three stages of man; he believes in Santa Claus; he does not believe in Santa Claus; he is Santa Claus.

Jim Guthrie

Glenna's Gleanings

Stan Greenwade came to meeting wearing a neck brace. Seems someone plowed into the rear of his car, giving him a whiplash which damaged his neck severely. Speedy recovery.

Glen Lyman made a recent trip to New Orleans. No, not a vacation. His job: to pick up a prisoner and return him to Lincoln.

Received a communication from a member of the Scottsbluff Club, inviting LGMC to take part in a field trip to Wyoming in early summer. Anyone interested contact the field trip chairman.

Evelyn Ulrich reports son, Glen's new business venture coming along well and that he appreciates Club members' interest and support.

Tom and Mrs. Simmons are packing to leave soon for the Rio Grande valley where they will spend the winter. Lucky!

Don and Maudie Gless report the birth of a new granddaughter, Amy Elizabeth on Sept. 21st. Congratulations!

Other members looking forward to being grandparents again are the Millers. Norma says the date will be in February.

Marie Wells had to take Lynn into the emergency room at Bryan after they attended the Nebr.-Okla. game. Too cold for such a recent surgery patient to be out. Better luck next time, Lynn!

Myrtle and J.D. Young report they are finally settled in their new home at 300 So. Cotner and welcome their friends for visits.

Lois and Irl Everett told me their daughter, Nancy, and her husband have been transferred to Phoenix, Az. Bet it won't be long before two snow birds will be going for a visit and to get out of Nebraska's cold weather.

In the recent election, seventy Club members elected the officers who will guide this Club through the next year. This is less than half of the membership. Does this say anything to you?

Don't forget the Christmas party Dec 18th. Bring your table service and the dish you make best, ladies. The Club will furnish meat, dessert and coffee.

Lastly, the McGinnises will be heading for Arizona on Dec. 28th. See you in the spring. Meantime, Happy Holidays to all.

\*\*\*\*\*

Sagittarius - November 22 - December 21.

Your ruler is Diana, goddess of the chase. Your planet is Jupiter, with a disc that's blue. Your color is bright blue, your metal tin, and your element fire. You are impulsive, candid, generous, and sport and nature loving. Mineral Chrysocolla.

via T -Town Rockhound.



Nevada Town Has Diamond School - The Lincoln Star

The Lincoln Star had an article recently telling about a diamond cutting school in Gardnerville, Nevada. The town has a few thousand residents and a beautiful view of the eastern Sierra. Students from around the nation go there to learn from Leonard Ludel, a third generation diamond cutter, how to cut diamonds.

Gardnerville is about one hour's drive south of Reno. Ludel says that Gardnerville isn't a likely spot for a diamond cutting school, but he attracts students from around the country with no problem.

His students learn how to take rough stones and turn them into finished, gleaming gems with the required 58 facets. They sit for hours at elevated benches, grinding and polishing the stones on heavy cast iron turntables, spinning at 2500 rpms.

The rough diamonds are set in lead or are grasped in special bits and soon take shape. Beginning students practice on the smaller, lower quality diamonds, but the advanced technicians produce the finest quality stones for which Ludel pays them and then sells.

Ludel says cutters are always in demand because there are fewer than 1,000 of them in America.

From an article submitted by Helena Baegl.

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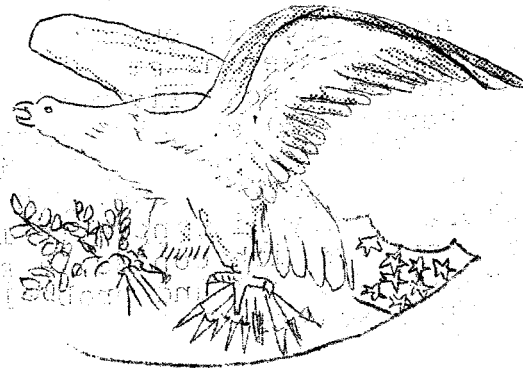
A portion of an article written by Robert W. Jones in Pick and Chisel entitled Christmas Minerals follows:

"Gem stones for Christmas are quite readily obtainable. There is a selection of several red and green gems you can choose from. Most spectacular would have to be the red and green precious fire-opal, either from Australia or Virgin Valley, Nevada. For sheer size and brilliance the Virgin Valley material is probably best.

A second equally valuable red and green gemstone you can seek and facet is the watermelon tourmaline found at a few lithia-pegmatites in the world. The U.S. is blessed with two such areas. They are in San Diego County, Ca. and in Maine. A small piece of this material would make a magnificent Christmas gem. Properly selected for color, such a specimen could be faceted to be half red-half green. Or, if you prefer, the gem can have a red center and a green rind. Only your purse and imagination limit the possibilities of a tourmaline Christmas gift.

We do not propose that opal and tourmaline are the only Christmas gems. They may even be equaled or exceeded in value by the marvelous red and green gem material from Africa, red ruby and green chrome zoisite. The main source of this cutting material has been Tanzania. Cut in very thin slices and back lighted, this material is ideal for wall pictures."

1776



1976

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

Children's Poems End of Bicentennial Series

LGMC members are aware of the unique experience of having had Dr. John G. Neihardt as an honorary member, exhibitor and personal friend. His major hobby was collecting and shaping fine gemstones with his rather crude, homemade equipment which is now at Bancroft, Nebraska in the Neihardt Cultural Center, now a National Historic Site.

Neihardt's world renown resulted from his countless volumes of poetry and prose, his recordings and personal appearances; his thousands of profound essays about almost every facet of human existence were regular features in several metropolitan publications.

On occasion he responded to requests from his family for special verses, none of which are to be found in any of his published works. Two of these seem to be appropriate for this time of year, and are herein.

WHAT IS CHRISTMAS?

( a little child speaks )

This holiest of all nights,  
I wonder what it means?  
It's surely more than candlelights  
on tinselled evergreens.

It's more than toys that make it dear  
and eating pleasant things,  
For if you listen right you'll hear  
A murmuring of wings.

My grandma says it's more than fun  
And hanging up your stocking.  
It's knowing any needy one  
Might be the Savior knocking.

It's helping those who feel the rod  
Of grief and heavy labor,  
I guess it's being nice to God  
By loving all your neighbors.

Bicentennial Sense and Nonsense - continued:

This next one is not seasonal, but it became a part of a regular ritual after frequent evening strolls in the Ozark woods near Branson, Missouri, where the poet lived with his family after leaving Bancroft in the early 1920's. The great man's attitude toward the physical and spiritual worlds and humanity seems to be evident in both of these short productions, which he regarded a "mere daggerel", not literature. They did, nevertheless, furnish his family, and others who were favored with copies, a great delight. They have been used in many programs, and probably will increase in importance because of their appeal.

A CHILD'S PRAYER

Great Spirit, you are everywhere.  
You made the lovely earth and air.  
You made the creek that runs and sings,  
and everything with legs or wings.

You made each blade of grass and tree,  
And all the little girls (or boys) like me.  
So good is everything you made,  
That I shall never be afraid.  
Great Spirit, teach me what to do,  
So I can be as good as you.

This article ends our Bicentennial series which began in January 1976 issue of Pick & Shovel. To those who helped in anyway to make this possible, and there were several, sincere thanks are given.

I hope my own efforts have met with approval, -the project was a pleasure. On to the Tricentennial!

J.D.Young

P.S. Wonder who will edit the Tricentennial feature?

(not-J.D.Y.) J.D.Y.

My thanks to Mr. Young for editing this very fine section of the Pick & Shovel which I know has been enjoyed by all who read it.

- Editor

Notice: The telephone company failed to change the J.D. Young's address and telephone number in the new directory even though they had been given notice in plenty of time to do so. If you wish to call them or visit them, their new address and telephone number follows:

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



### Turquoise

The Gem of heavenly Blue!  
The temple I frequent is high  
A turquoise vaulted dome-the sky,  
That spans the world with majesty.

- Omar Khayyam

I quote one of my favorites-The blue Nebraska sky is our blue vaulted dome. It is blue; it is heavenly!

So what's new? In the last few years turquoise made a giant step into the "high fashion" world. But our native Americans have loved this blue gem forever. The difference was the "business exposure". The wearing of turquoise by beautiful women today, and the men, too, is what this treasure needed.

After many years of gathering dust in various places, especially the high grade turquoise, and the reopening of many old mines, it has arrived at the fore-front. On the Indian reservations, Indian silver-smiths are again using their great, I mean great, talents to give us this beautiful work. I am very satisfied on this score. We are giving back to the proud Indian some respect due him for his gifted works, and it's about time!

With due respect to the diamonds, the pearls, and the rubies, it seems the turquoise commands and adorns with authority!

The lady wearing beautiful turquoise set in sterling silver, altho I have seen it in yellow gold mountings, is happy in the knowledge she possesses one of the earth's most beautiful gems.

The southwest is the area-the Arizona, New Mexico, and Utah sections are the most plentiful.

The Navajo "chunky style" settings, (although they are not lapidarists, they are silver-smiths) are the favorites of many. The more detailed the silver work, the higher the price.

The Zuni uses the "Poinsettia" design, it is more delicate, and usually in a cluster creation; the smaller pieces of turquoise being used in this fashion. The Zuni are large suppliers of rough turquoise, however.

The squash blossom is used by both tribes, but one looks into the fluted blossom in the Navajo, while the "petit-point" is the Zuni design.

The Hopi Indian uses much inlay in his work, and combines other gemstones such as red coral, jet, and abalone shell.

The use of the fetish by Indians goes back a long way, but they are in use today. All tribes in the southwest use the fetishes. Of the Pueblo Indians, the Zuni seem to have developed the greatest skill to carve these..

continued

Turquoise continued:

We think "silver and turquoise" but the Persians use gold in their turquoise jewelry. Some authorities say the Persian turquoise is the best in the world, but I like to think American!!

The spider-web is admired by many, and the sea-foam turquoise, too, this type has the rough, bubbly effect, hence the name.

Turquoise is very brittle. It must be handled with care. Do not wear it just anywhere, it is easily destroyed by heat, and as an example-hot grease could ruin it. A diamond can take just about anything-not so with the beautiful blue!

The Indian tribes love their treasure, and who can disagree with that? Children, youth, old men and ladies wear it with pride unequalled. Have you seen an Indian mother wearing her turquoise, strand after strand, singing to her "papoose" an Indian lullaby-the child, too, is wearing turquoise!

It was this writer's pleasure-extreme pleasure, to hostess the American Indian Crafts showing several years ago, held at our local department store, namely Miller and Paine. Of course there were many beautiful pieces of the Indian culture, but O, the turquoise-- silver-smith, a handsome young Navajo, created gorgeous pieces to order..

Much pawn was shown and for sale. Today probably quadrupled in price. It was a great experience.

O yes, the reason for this article on turquoise-It is the birth-stone for December! Lucky You! The zircon is the substitute, if you want to know-after turquoise would one settle for zircon? Not Me!

By Marie J. Carveth, Dec. 1976

\*\*\*\*\*



The silent auction that was held at the November meeting for the benefit of the ARMS Scholarship Fund was quite successful. \$93.97 was received. Donations brought the sum up to \$100.47. Let's keep our kitty well fed as we contribute to this worthy cause.

\*\*\*\*\*

Economy: A way of spending money without getting any fun out of it.

It now costs more to amuse a child than it cost to educate his father.

Be the job great or small-  
If I do it too well,  
I'll get stuck with it all!

Via Pick and Chisel

## SAFETY



## Frost Bite and Cold Exposure - by Virginia Green

You may think about frostbite like many people think of auto accidents. It happens to someone else, not me. Don't kid yourself, it can happen to you.

Frost bite occurs when there is actual freezing of tissue fluids. Experiment if you wish-put a small piece of meat in the freezer and check it periodically as it starts to freeze. First it gets frosty and gradually gets harder. The same thing can happen to you if you are subjected to extremely cold atmospheric conditions long enough to result in actual freezing of tissue fluids.

Wind velocity, type and length of exposure, temperature and humidity are factors which generally determine the extent of injury caused by exposure to abnormally low temperature.

Freezing is hastened by wind and by humidity or a combination of the two factors. KFOR, one of our local radio stations, usually gives the "wind chill index" in the mornings. This is determined by the temperature and the rate the wind is blowing. It is as though the temperature is -3 degrees when the actual temperature may be 27 degrees; this is only an example.

## 1. Frostbite

## A. Characteristics

Frostbite results when crystals form, either superficially or deeply in the fluids and underlying soft tissues of the skin. The damage is more severe if the area is thawed and refrozen.

Frostbite is the most common injury resulting from exposure to cold elements. Usually the frozen area is small with the nose, cheeks, ears, fingers, and toes most commonly affected.

## B. Signs and symptoms

Just before frostbite occurs, the affected skin may be slightly flushed. As frostbite develops,

1. The skin changes to white or grayish-yellow in appearance
2. Pain may be felt early then disappears later - frequently there is no pain
3. The affected part feels extremely cold and numb
4. Blisters may appear later
5. The victim frequently is not aware of frostbite until someone tells him or he observes the pale, glossy skin

Eventually as time goes on, the victim's condition deteriorates and death, if it occurs, is usually due to heart failure.

## C. First Aid

1. Objectives - to protect the frozen area from further injury, to warm the affected area rapidly, and to maintain respiration
2. Procedure
  - a. Cover the frozen part; provide extra cloth-

Frostbite and Cold Exposure continued

ing and blankets; take victim indoors as soon as possible; give victim a warm drink (no alcoholic drink).

- b. Rewarm the frozen part quickly by immersing it in water that is warm, NOT HOT, when tested by pouring some of the water over the inner surface of your forearm. Just about like testing the bottle of milk formula when feeding a baby. Use a thermometer in the water, if available, and keep it between 102 degrees -105 degrees. Add warm water carefully to prevent burning the victim. If the part has been thawed and refrozen, warm at room temperature 70 degrees-74 degrees F.
- c. If warm water is not available wrap gently in a sheet and warm blankets.
- d. Don'ts - Don'ts
  - Do not rub the part-may cause gangrene
  - Do not apply heat lamps or hot water bottles
  - Do not let victim get affected part near a hot stove
  - Do not break blisters
  - Do not allow victim to walk after the affected part thaws, if his feet are involved

Discontinue warming the victim as soon as the affected part becomes flushed, since severe swelling occurs rapidly after thawing.

Once the affected part is rewarmed, have victim exercise it.

If fingers or toes are involved, place dry, sterile gauze between them to keep them separated.

If transported for medical aid, cover affected parts with sterile or clean cloths and keep the injured parts elevated. Also protect them from contact with bedclothes.

\*\*\*\*\*

WARNING

1. Muriatic Acid is the commercial form of hydrochloric acid, which is one of the most active and dangerous of all known acids. It is deadly poison and highly corrosive. Store only in a properly marked container in a place where unauthorized persons can not have access to it.

2. When diluting, always add acid slowly to water, never add water to acid. Wear rubber gloves and eye protection.

3. Muriatic acid reacts violently with calcite and certain other minerals. Many desert rocks such as Eden Valley Wood contain enough calcite that when sealed in a barrel with muriatic acid, they make an excellent bomb. Not long ago the Lapidary Journal carried pictures of a cinderblock shop that had been destroyed by an exploding tumbler.

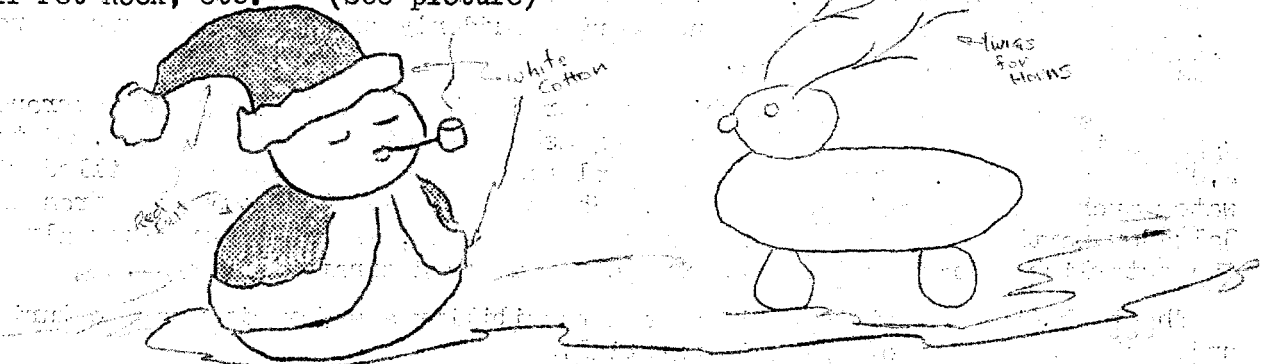
via Golden Spike News.

JUNIOR PAGE

prepared by Linda M. Parks

Dear Juniors,

Christmas is now upon us. Many of us are giving gifts to our teachers and friends. Since the Pet Rock fad is going out of style might I suggest giving it a booster shot. Everyone at my school seems to be embroidering things and sewing. Perhaps you could make a Santa Pet Rock or a Reindeer Pet Rock or an Elf Pet Rock, etc. (See picture)



Unscramble these gems, minerals or fossils to find a hidden message.

ITACHLEAM

EEDARML

OTSIHROODRCE

BUYR

CTIONYEU

CRYSOAHCLL

MTATEIPH

OHRONTEDI

CZEADIRO

ELNSEETI

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Okay, now Junior Rockhounds - how about some copy for the January P & S? Evelyn would like to see each of you making contributions to this page. Send it to me at home or call me up. Thanks!!

From the December 1976 American Federation NEWSLETTER -

WHY DID THE MAYAS FLEE?

Scholars have always been puzzled by the mysteries of the Mayas, and especially the "Protoclassic" period which dates from about the time of the birth of Christ to about 300 A.D. THE NATIONAL OBSERVER in its edition for the week ending September 4th reports that new findings suggest that a volcanic eruption uprooted their culture and caused them to flee. This tale of an ancient volcanic tragedy comes from Payson D. Sheets, associate professor of Anthropology at the University of Colorado. From his investigations so far, Sheets believes that the eruptions occurred around 200-300 A.D. He believes that eruptions were similar to that of Mt. Vesuvius in that a dormant cone erupted suddenly because of pressures from dissolved and accumulated gases.

The result was an explosion which showered ash and pumice over the surrounding countryside, and then was followed by an ash fall which covered from 1,200 to 2,000 square miles. Today the volcano Ilopango is a collapsed peak filled with water much like Oregon's Crater Lake. Sheets believes the Mayas fled from El Salvador north to the Central Lowlands of Guatemala, an area where they already had established trade relations, and then came to dominate that area.

Sheets believes that there is a good possibility a major city may be buried under the 30-40 feet of volcanic material.

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THE OIL SHORTAGE: IS IT OR ISN'T IT?

Scientists from Dow Chemical Corporation of Midland, Michigan have reported an estimated 2.5 trillion barrels of oil is trapped in Michigan's lower Peninsula. Federal funds have been requested for a pilot project to be in the Croswell area of Sanilac County, Michigan. Croswell is north of Port Huron. Sanilac County is on Lake Huron east of the Bay City-Saginaw region. Dow Chemical has been mining salts from ancient seas in Michigan for many years. If it is found that the Michigan oil can be feasibly obtained, the discovery will rank with the greatest oil discoveries ever made.

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36TH STATE AUTHORIZED OFFICIAL STONES

The 36th state to have official mineral and gem kingdom symbols is Louisiana. At the recent legislative session a bill was passed making Petrified Palmwood the official Fossil of the State and naming Agate as the State Gem.

Petrified palm is well distributed over much of Louisiana and is a favorite material of Louisiana clubs and visitors to the state. It comes in many colors and is often well agatized, making it a suitable lapidary material as well as fascinating fossil. Agate can be found in many Parishes in the state. There are several types of agate, principally fortification agate, lace agate, and banded agate, as well as silicified fossils, carnelian, and other members of the chalcedony group.

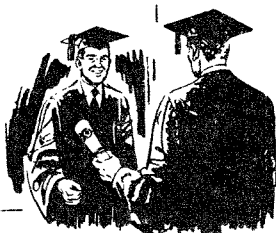
A surprise amendment added garfish to the bill as the State Fish. The bill passed both houses after only a minimum of friendly debate. Louisiana clubs had been interested for several years in getting this legislation introduced and passed, and are glad to announce its successful conclusion.

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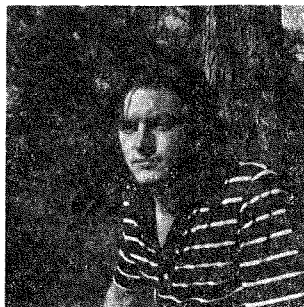
CREEPY CRITTERS FROM NEBRASKA'S PAST by Roger K. Pabian, mostly about trilobites, and extremely interesting, fills a full page in this AFMS Newsletter and should again make us feel proud to have such a talented Geologist in our midst. Great write-up Roger.

## Scholarship winner

It is with considerable pride that the AFMS Scholarship Foundation announces the names of the students who will receive grants this fall as they pursue graduate degrees in Earth Sciences. In this, the fifth year the six Regional Federations have selected their Honorary Award Winners, we are able to increase the grants to \$1,000. If a student continues in school, he or she, will receive a similar grant next year. In addition, through the splendid support of the membership of the AFMS, three one-year "Wild Card" grants of \$750 have been provided, as was announced last winter.



Terry D. Keegan, who receives the regular grant for the Midwest Federation, is pursuing his M.S. in Geology at the University of Chicago and hopes to continue for his doctorate and subsequent research or teaching. A native of New Orleans, he received his B.S. in Earth Sciences from the University of New Orleans, specializing in crystallography and crystal chemistry.



Terry Keegan

He has done field work in Mexico and is working on research into a suite of authigenic minerals such as albite and adularia feldspars.

*Chicagoland... continued from front page...*

for shopping in less than an hour. The show advertises that it is "an educational and fun week-end that only Chicago can provide."

The fairground has four buildings for use of the show with 38,000 square feet of space, including a cafe area. The clubs through their association are inviting competitive and special exhibits, and plan to have displays from some of the notable museums and universities in the area.

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

For more information write or call M. C. McMahan, show chairman, at 1220 W. Henderson St., Chicago, Illinois 60657, phone 312-549-3612.

### THE SHOW AND CONVENTION IN ST. LOUIS

last July had total receipts of \$47,621.21. Total expense of the show was \$42,765.00.

### THE CLEVELAND GEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

one of our newer clubs, has Sister Joan Acker as its President. This club has scheduled programs through its May 1977 meeting. Interesting program titles, "Africa's Rift Valley", "Geology of Yellowstone Park Area", "Geology of Northeastern Ohio", and "Geology of Southeastern Australia" are among those listed.

### A NEW SLIDE PROGRAM

entitled "Introduction to Nebraska's Fossils" has been given to the Midwest Federation by the University of Nebraska through the efforts of Roger Pabian, our Education Committee Chairman. When this program is ready for use by our clubs we will let you know in this Newsletter.

### DO NOT SEND

General Mills coupons to us for Scholarship credit. The General Mills Company no longer has this program open to us. You will be advised when the program is again available for our use.

### GET THOSE SLIDE PROGRAMS BACK

promptly to Donald Stinnett, our Midwest Film Library chairman, after your clubs use. We have had reports from Don that some clubs are keeping the programs long after their club showing date which causes problems for Don in getting the program to other clubs who have it booked for their meetings.

### ST. LOUIS TROPHY WINNERS

#### "A Tribute to Our Competitive Exhibitors"

*Reported by Calvin George*

The theme of the MWF show in St. Louis last July, "A Tribute to Our Mineral Heritage", furnishes an appropriate source for the above caption. The Midwest Federation pays tribute not just to those named below, but to all of the 61 hard-working exhibitors, dedicated to the proposition that competitive exhibiting can be fun!

Our congratulations to the following trophy winners and to their clubs. The asterisk before a name signifies that the individual additionally earned eligibility to compete for an AFMS trophy in the future.

1. Minerals, Mike Tower - Rockwood Gem and Mineral Society
3. Thumbnail Minerals, \*Hazel Tarcza - Show-Me Rockhounds
5. Minerals, Junior, \*Cheryl Hindrichs - St. Louis Minerals & Gem Society
6. Lapidary, William A. Thies - McDonnell Douglas Gem & Mineral Society
7. Cabachons, \*Elmer Schmidt - Chicago Lapidary Club
12. Fossils, Junior, \*Mary Ann Bolser - McDonnell Douglas Gem & Mineral Society
13. Jewelry & Art Metalcraft, Janine R. Hendricks - Rockport Lapidary Club
14. Educational, William Schulze - Rockwood Gem & Mineral Society
18. Archeology, William Stewart - McDonnell Douglas Gem & Mineral Society

Merry Christmas \* Happy New Year

## Midwest Federations 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

December 1976 - Issue No. 170

### MIDWEST FEDERATION HOLDS FALL MEETING IN BLOOMINGTON

The Midwest Federation held its annual fall meeting in Bloomington, Ill. at the Ramada Inn Saturday, Oct. 30. Officers for the 1976-77 year were installed. They are, Miss Hazel Kuntz, Quincy, Ill., President; Paul Good, Griffith, Ind., 1st Vice President; Mrs. Betty Crawford, Mansfield, Ohio, 2nd Vice President; Miss Jean Reynolds, Clarendon Hills, Ill., Secretary; Milford Sharp, Fairview Park, Ohio, Treasurer.

A check in amount of \$2,372.68 was presented to Mel Sharp, Treasurer, representing the Midwest share of the St. Louis, Mo. show and convention last July.

Discussion covered many subjects in the promotion of the rock and mineral hobby and the operation of the Midwest Federation during 1977. A full report of the meeting will be mailed to all clubs by the Secretary as soon as possible.



Midwest officers for 1977, from left, Miss Jean Reynolds, Secretary; Miss Hazel Kuntz, President; Paul Good, 1st Vice President; Mrs. Betty Crawford, 2nd Vice President; Mel Sharp, Treasurer.

### CHICAGOLAND GEM & MINERAL ASSOCIATION ORGANIZED BY CHICAGO AREA CLUBS

by Russell McFall

In the first venture of its kind in the Chicago area, seven clubs have organized the Chicagoland Gem & Mineral Association and will hold a combined show on the Memorial Day weekend, May 28, 29, and 30, 1977 at the DuPage County Fairgrounds West of Chicago. Several nationally-known speakers will appear on each of the three days of the show, and 21 dealers have been invited to have booths with their fossils, minerals, and lapidary materials for sale.

The Memorial Day weekend is traditionally the best one of the year in the Middle West. For that reason, the famous 500-mile auto race is held then at Indianapolis, Indiana. With mild weather and sunny skies and acres of space for parking and camping, the fairgrounds is regarded as an ideal location for a show and in such demand that it must be booked a year or two ahead. It is about 20 miles west of the Chicago Loop, close to Interstate 66 from the south and 80 from the east and west. A number of motels are nearby, including several of the nationally-known ones. The nearest city is Wheaton. Downtown Chicago can be reached

*Chicagoland... please turn to back page...*



Mrs. Lucille Bishop, Missouri State Director, presents check to Midwest Treasurer, Mel Sharp, representing Midwest share of the show and convention in St. Louis last July.

### DECEMBER 31, 1976

is the date when you count the number of members in your club and remit per person dues to the Midwest Federation Treasurer for 1977.

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

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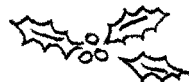
PHONE 466-6204



MERRY CHRISTMAS



Lois & Evry

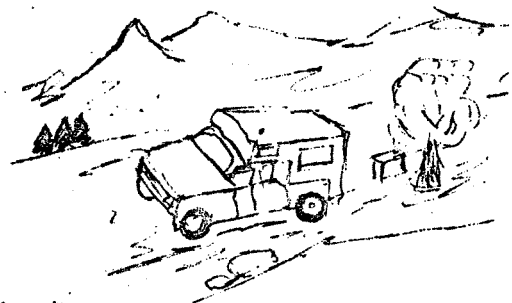


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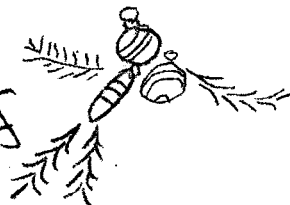
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Holiday Greetings

Tom and Lefty



JEWELRY AND CUSTOM CUTTING

## RECIPE FOR A MERRY CHRISTMAS

Take a cup of thoughtfulness  
Take a cup of love  
Take the herbs of cheerfulness  
Drawn from the stores above.

Take a pinch or two of pain  
And an ounce of wit  
And of secrecy two grams,  
Just to follow it.

Cook at the fire of zest,  
Seeking not your own!  
You will have the merriest  
Christmas ever known.

Author Unknown

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