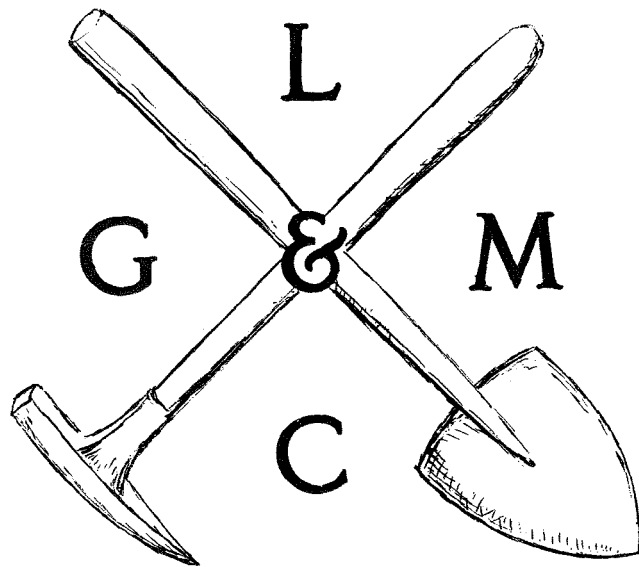


THE PICK & SHOVEL



OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF
LINCOLN GEM & MINERAL CLUB

LINCOLN, NEBRASKA

Volume 17

Issue 8

March 1977

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 thru May, 7:30 P. M..
1977 - IOOF Hall, 1101 No. 56th St., Lower Level

1977 ELECTED OFFICERS:

President.....	John Harrison, Jr.	330 Locust	Hickman,68372	792-2337
1st Vice Pres...	Howard Taylor	910 New Hampshire	Lincoln,68508	432-3707
2nd Vice Pres...	Jim Marburger	1910 S. 26th St. Apt. B	Lincoln,68502	432-0214
Recording Secy..	Nelda Oliver	5700 Otoe St.	Lincoln,68506	489-5222
Treasurer.....	Joella Olson	4831 S. Haven Drive	Lincoln,68516	489-5380
Board Member....	Evelyn Ulrich	3521 S. 48th St.	Lincoln,68506	488-9051
Board Member....	Norma Miller	931 Cottenwood Drive	Lincoln,68510	489-8840
Board Member....	Virginia Green	6120 The Knolls	Lincoln,68512	423-5032
Board Member....	Ray Lambert	1201 N. 79th St.	Lincoln,68505	464-8552

STANDING COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN:

Program	Jim Marburger	Liaison	Phyllis Parks & Marita Bigley
Hospitality	Virginia Green	Refreshments	Bob & Sylvia Daniels
Historian	Lois Everett	Education	Robert & Leona Daul
Librarian	Larry & Marita Bigley	Scholarship	Howard Taylor
Membership	Marita Bigley	House and	Florence Boring
Field Trips & Safety	Larry Bigley	Property	Frank Rule & Larry Bigley
Calling Committee	Nelda Oliver	Publications	Art Howlett
Vaya Con Dios	Marie J. Carveth		
NAOESCI Reporter	Evelyn Ulrich		

LONG RANGE PLANNING AND BY-LAWS COMMITTEE:

Roger Pabian	-1 Year Remaining	Frank Rule	-2 Years Remaining
Howard Taylor	-1 Year Remaining	Phyllis Parks	-2 Years Remaining
	Larry Bigley		-3 Years Remaining
	Don Carter		-3 Years Remaining

1977 Show Chairman Roger K. Pabian, 300 Sycamore, Lincoln, Ne. 68510 489-3081
1978 Show Chairman Don Carter, 1101 Driftwood Dr., Lincoln, Ne. 68510 489-3442

PICK & SHOVEL STAFF:

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Editor -Evelyn Ulrich, 3521 S. 48th St., Lincoln, Ne. 68506, Phone 488-9051
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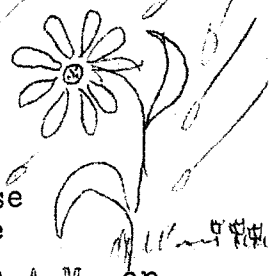
Contributions from members are welcome and needed Deadline for material is the first of the month to be printed. Please send copy to Editor.

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 by 7 inches of copy. 1/2 page is \$5.25, 1/3 page is \$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.

March winds and April showers
Bring forth the pretty May flowers.



There will be no regular meeting of the LGMC in March because of the 19th Annual Gem and Mineral Club Show.. A social hour will be held on Saturday evening. Please bring a cake if possible. An Awards Breakfast will be held at The Pantry of the Agriculture Building at 8:00 A.M. on Sunday. The cost of the breakfast is \$2.00 Reservations are to be made with Bob And Sylvia Daniels, 2941 North 42nd 68504, Telephone 467-4051.

Tables for the Show will be set up Friday morning beginning at 8:30 A.M. Anyone who can help is urged to do so.

Members' cases are to be set up after 6:00 P.M. on Friday. No club cases will be available for members.

Field Trip...None scheduled at this time.

LGMC Board of Directors' meeting...Thursday, April 7th at the home of Nelda Oliver, 5700 Otoe street at 7:30 P.M.

Please make this correction in your Who's Who:
Daniels, Bob (Sylvia), 2941 No. 42nd St. 68504, Tel. 467-4051

1977 Dates to Remember

Mar. 18-20	Fort Collins, Colo.	Fort Collins Rockhounds Show, Foothills Fashion Mall.
Mar. 19-20	Vermillion, So. Dak.	Coyote Rock & Lap. Soc. Show
Mar. 25-27	Chadron, Ne.	Earth Science Show.
Mar. 26-27	Lincoln, Ne.	Lincoln Gem & Min. Club Show Nebraska State Fairgrounds.
Apr. 15-17	Hastings, Ne.	Central Ne. Rock & Min. Soc. Show
Apr. 2-3	Norfolk, Ne	Northeast Nebr. Rock & Min. Soc. Open House
Apr. 2-3	St. Joseph, Mo.	Missouri Valley Gem & Min. Show, LeBlond High School 36 & Frederick.
Apr. 23-24	Ogallala, Ne.	Prairie Rockhounds Open House.
Apr. 23-24	Sioux Falls, So. Dak.	Sioux Empire Gem & Min. Soc.
Apr. 30-May 1	Watertown, So. Dak.	Coteau Des Plaines Gem & Min. Soc. Show.
May 14-15	Hot Springs, So. Dak.	Picture City Gem & Min. Show.
June 10-12	Hebron, Ne.	NAOESCI SWAP.
June 17-19	Beatrice, Ne.	Homestead Gem & Min. Club Swap.
July 20-23	Dayton, Ohio	MWF Convention and Show.
Aug. 20-21	Crawford, Ne.	Northwest Ne. Rock Club Show.
July 23-24	Columbus, Ne.	Loup Valley Gem & Min. Soc. Show..
Sept. 3-5	Omaha, Ne.	Ne. Min. & Gem Club Show.
Sept. 9-11	Kearney, Ne.	Fort Kearney Rock Club, State Show, Holiday Inn, 301 2nd Ave..
Sept. 16-18	Kimball, Ne.	Plains Rock & Min. Club Show.
Oct. 15-16	Grand Island, Ne.	Grand Island Earth Science Club Show.

Last Month...Attendance was good at the February meeting of the LGMC. Sixty-eight members and twelve guests were present. The guest list included the following; Sylvan and Lillie Ellsworth, Barneston, Ne., Maida and Jim McGrew, Gretna, Ne., Mose Brant, Betty Annis, D. Bruce Young, Anna Fandrich, Don and Mary Cross, Bud and Alice Plant, Aurora, Ne.

Reports were given by Roger Pabian, Show Chairman, and his committees. Everything is progressing nicely. Roger stated that interest is high at the Mini-show being held at Richmon-Gordmans.

Nelda Oliver, NRL representative for IGMC, reported on bills before the State legislature that affect outdoor recreation participants.

Financial statements were handed out by treasurer, Joella Olson, and Phyllis Parks, LGMC publisher, passed out the Who's Whos..

Howard Taylor, program chairman, presented an educational film and slides on equipment and techniques employed in the lapidary arts. Beautiful mineral slides were shown by Don Carter. Glen Ulrich had on display a case containing samples of the steps followed in the production of a perfect cabachon. At the close of the meeting he explained cutting and polishing procedures to those who desired such information.

Pie, coffee and fruit juice were served after the program. The extra pies were auctioned off by Irl Everett for the benefit of the AFMS Scholarship fund. Florence reports that the pie auction netted \$17.25 and donations to the kitty were \$13.41.

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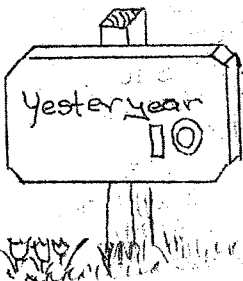
VAYA CON DIOS _ May God be with you.

Cards were sent this month to:
Marie Carveth.....Get well
Marie Wells.....Get well
Tom Simmons.....Get well
Mrs. E.L. Maxfield.....Sympathy

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The VAYA CON DIOS LADY: This is the reverse of the usual! Thank you for all the lovely cards and remembrances while at Bryan Memorial Hospital. Your thoughts are deeply appreciated.
Marie J.Carveth

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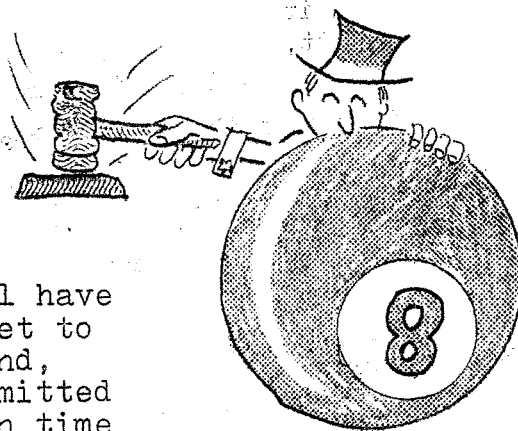
March 1966
Art Bloyd and Floyd Olson showed pictures and told about their field trip to Texas and Mexico.
From the note book of Lois Everett

LGMC Historian

From the President's Desk

Dear Fellow Club Members:

Well here we are only a few days away from our Annual Show and hope you are all ready with your displays. We hope to have a bigger and better than ever show. More and more display applications are coming in. Dealers will have new items for your pleasure. Don't forget to bring a friend or a possible new rockhound, to enjoy the fine show. If you have committed yourself to a committee Please show up on time because those people that you replace may also have other commitments somewhere else in the show. Don't forget your reservation for Sunday Mornings Award Breakfast, and also the cakes for Saturday nites coffee after the show closing. I would like to thank all of you for your help during our show preparations and of course for your continued help during the show.



Those of you who subscribed to the Gem Palette, don't forget to renew your subscription- Many have lapsed and this is a fine magazine. If you do not have a subscription the cost is \$1.00 per year. See Howard Taylor for more details.

Don't forget to get those gems & minerals for our Gems on Location in Nebraska case to Jim Marburger. If you have any to donate or questions, please see Jim.

Family Service Association has asked that we show our hobby at their Fair at Gateway Auditorium on April 30 from 10 A.M. to 5 P.M.--The idea is to let families know what kind of hobbies are available on a small cash outlay and people to explain the hobby. We have a hobby that the whole family can enjoy. Think back and remember how you started picking up rocks and thinking "how pretty they were. Now look at the enjoyment that you have and how you can pass it along. We will need volunteers to help in the booth and a few displays - If you can help, please contact me.

Our program in April will be starting at 7:30, prior to our business meeting.

Program is on Map orientation and use of contour maps.

Just had a note from Hastings Central Nebraska Rock and Mineral Club and they have extended an invitation to participate in their show - Lets get some cases up there and show them we are interested in other clubs, Dates are April 15, 16 and 17 at City Auditorium. If you can display please contact Howard Taylor at or before our show.

See you at the show.

John
John

From your Publisher - No page 6 this month as club member news did not reach the reporters in time to be published. We have paired up page 4 and 5 and will allow the President's message to stand alone.

BOARD MINUTES.....February Meeting

Lincoln Gem and Mineral Club Board Meeting was held at Larry Bigley's home with 8 board members present and Roger Pabian, Marita Bigley, Art Howlett, Phyllis Parks, Glen & Flossie Litzenberg and Larry Bigley, on February 3, 1977 at approx. 7:30 P. M.

Minutes of the January board meeting approved as read.

Bills read by Treasurer Joella Olson. Motion Nelda Oliver to pay bills, seconded Evelyn Ulrich. This includes rest of rent for meeting hall. Carried.

Club has 17 good cases and 8 are in sad shape. 4 cases cannot be accounted for. Check with Frank Rule when he returns.

Larry suggests - rent garage to members for storage as cases and club materials only take up 1/3 of garage. But the property chairman will maintain the key.

Larry can store 5 cases - Howard can store 2 cases. Pursue the storage of material among members at the general meeting. Continue the above until April.

Loup Valley Gem & Mineral Show of Columbus will be July 22-24 at Holiday Inn.

Roger Pabian reports cases at Chet Ager Nature Center pretty clean.

Larry Bigley stated Fort Robinson Museum needs to be updated. President, John Harrison, Jr., appointed a committee of 3, Roger Pabian, Jim Marburger and Larry Bigley to inspect the cases and come up with ideas before the tourist season and wants recommendations from the committee for April meeting or sooner.

Program/Education committee needs some money for budget. Motion Howard Taylor to allow \$100.00 for programs and education committee. Seconded Jim Marburger. Carried.

Larry Bigley stated members who help with programs or education should not be paid.

Report on HRL Legislation bills and petition from meeting in January.

Roger Pabian has plaque but is waiting for word on what cycad is.

Show Report.. Dealers in Pick & Shovel.

Programs in good shape. Members to get rocks ready for Tom Barnes for Rock Pile. A coffee hour after the show closes Saturday nite, by our refreshment committee. Discount coupons being printed.

Mall type show at Richmon Gordman on February 26-27 about 15 Wichita cases. Need workers to set up displays and man a booth to hand out coupons and fill out membership applications.

Three clubs will be honored at show, Columbus, Nebraska City and Beatrice.

After discussion, a motion by Howard Taylor to pay show expenses when signed by Show Chairman. Seconded Virginia Green, carried. Motion Jim Marburger all show bills be turned in to treasurer by April 30th. If delinquent they will be considered a donation to the club. Seconded Howard Taylor. Carried.

Long Range Planning Committee report by Roger Pabian, this will be discussed further at the March board meeting.

Motion Howard Taylor board accept Don Carter as Show Chairman for 1978, seconded and carried.

Next board meeting March 3, 1977 at 5700 Otoe Street.

Motion to adjourn.

Nelda Oliver, Secretary

From the Editor's desk...The children at school used to sing, at this time of the year, "Blow, blow old March wind, Winter's going fast." It can't go too fast! I think everyone is getting anxious to get outside to enjoy his special outdoor activities. With vegetable prices at a premium, everyone who can will probably put in a garden. It is always a pleasure at this time of the year to receive the seed catalogs and dream of the bounty that your garden will produce during the summer. This little poem which appeared in the February issue of Modern Maturity just about sizes up the situation:

Hoe Hum

I'll welcome you, seed catalog,
You bright pictorial phony
(From asters straight through zinnias,
Botanical baloney).
Last season, though I spaded deep
And watered, raked and weeded,
The marigolds you promised me
Just never quite succeeded.
The bells of Ireland dangled mute,
The morning glories nodded,
Sweet Williams wore a sour look,
The pinks would not be prodded.
But once again your wiles are strong
And I'm alas, no wiser,
So send along some liniment
With seeds and fertilizer!

Marie Daerr Boehringer

This applies to vegetables, also. - Editor

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Notice: If you did not attend the February meeting, you may pick up your WHO'S WHO at the Ag. Bldg. on Friday set-up time. If you should find an error on your address or telephone number, please notify Phyllis Parks. Corrections will appear in the PICK & SHOVEL..

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Marie Wells wishes to thank the members of the LGMC for cards, visits and remembrances while she was a patient at the Bryan Memorial Hospital.

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The Lincoln Gem and Mineral Club was well represented at the Kansas City Gem and Mineral Show last weekend. Club members seen at the show were Mr. & Mrs. Irl Everett, Mr. & Mrs. Frank Krejci, Ray Lambert, Mr. & Mrs. Glenn Lyman, Mr. & Mrs. Ewald Paul, Bruce Simon and Mr. & Mrs. Howard Taylor. Reports of a good attendance and particular interest in the Scrimshaw exhibit.

1977 SHOW NOTES

By the time you read this, you will all have your displays planned and in an advanced state of preparation. "The man is mad," you say. In all probability, if most of you prepare your displays in the same fashion I do, you will be burning up the midnight oil on Thursday and Friday nights just before the show, but all will fall in place, and to the untrained, it will appear that the show materialized by a snap of the finger and. If such were the case.

I would still like to urge as many members as possible to enter at least one exhibit in the competitive category. The importance of competitive exhibiting lies in the fact that it gives us the only meter stick by which we can measure our progress as cutters, specimen collectors, fossil collectors, metalsmiths, or what have you. By providing competition, the Lincoln Gem and Mineral Club, in reality, provides a valuable educational service to its' membership as well as to competitors from neighboring clubs. The judges are all very highly qualified individuals who can make constructive comments about specimen quality, workmanship, quality of cutting materials, showmanship, and so on down the line. The finest collections are frequently in the hands of persons who display competitively. Probably none of them had a winner the first time. Phenomenal improvement can be measured in only two or three percent a year, but over several years a 60 will rise to a 90. It takes time to build a good competitive display; the time to start is now.

Another way in which competitive displays can help us is to help stretch our rock buying dollar. Sounds ridiculous? Not really! Suppose you are looking at some cutting material or a mineral specimen at some show and are considering buying it. How do you know that you are getting your money's worth or how do you know that you aren't getting taken to the cleaners. Some judges comment that comes to mind might be the thing that saves you a large sum of money or helps you find a super buy at a bargain price. Then that: "Opal grayed out, -2; obvious chromite in jade, -2; or bruised termination on apatite, -2," might be the little bits of information that prevent us from paying too much money for a mediocre specimen or piece of cutting material. Some judges comment such as: "When buying jade, neglect color as a parameter; look for dense, frosty material with no reflective faces;" or "When buying mineral specimens, look for those crystals that most closely approach idealized, text book symmetry," may help us to spot a really underpriced piece of very fine cutting material or an exceptional buy in mineral specimens.

Competition is also one of the avenues to pursue in the process of learning what materials are really rare as opposed to those that are seemingly rare or very common. Understanding rarity can become quite tricky. There are many "one-shot" materials that come from a limited supply in a very small geographic locality. Such things may absolutely be very rare in the total picture. Unfortunately, the supply of such materials is frequently so small and limited that once the type material is sold on the market, no more ever turns up. The supply is insufficient to establish a standard for grading the material and to satisfy the demands of further collectors and, hence, the material becomes quickly forgotten. Though "rare" much of it is essentially worthless a few years after the initial material reached the market.

Above are just a few of the reasons why competitive displays can help one to become a better collector. Before chalking competitive displays off as a waste of time, think it over. Competitive displays may really help you to a better understanding and deeper enjoyment of your hobby, and at a cheaper cost.

Roger E. Fabian
1977 Show Chairman.

THE ART OF LAPIDARY

I. Stone cutting an art

- A. Stone worth cutting should be cut well
- B. Study for best cut
- C. Use care in selecting pattern

II. Technique

A. Jeweler's Cut

- 1. Versatility in setting
 - a. Bezel
 - b. Prong
- 2. High dome - opaque or solid color
 - a. Compliments design of mount
 - b. Necessary for optical effect
- 3. Low dome - Semi-translucent
 - a. Greater point of interest
 - b. Good for pattern stones
 - c. Good for opaque opals
 - d. More stable in mount
 - e. Polish back to add to translucence

III. Tips for better cut stones

- A. Mark template to exact edge with fine, sharp 4H pencil
- B. Trim
- C. Notch and nibble
- D. Grind to pencil edge and check fit
- E. Make sure stone is perfectly straight and centered on dop, insures accurate cut
- F. Shaping methods
 - 1. Peel the apple
 - 2. 45 degree and top taper
 - a. Good for low stones
 - b. Faster
- G. Cut to the edge leaving one thirty-secondth or sixteenth ledge
- H. Sand this edge away and polish top
- I. Reverse on dop and flat polish back and cut bevel

Iv. ways to check top cut

- A. Light bulb on top
 - 1. Stone is true if it makes round globe reflection
- B. Catching light bulb across side view
- C. Sighting down axis and lightly removing high or uneven spots
- D. Always cut around a low spot
- E. If you can read a light bulb in top of stone, it is polished quite well

V. Beginner's goal

- A. Try for perfect stone - Take time
- B. Speed comes with practice
- C. Read lapidary shop helps and good books on stone cutting

VI: Tips on polishing

A. Beliby Flow Method

1. Polishing compound is harder than stone.
2. Sand stone wet - sharp sand paper.
 - a. Wash between operations
3. Make final sanding wet and run to dry-Wash stone
4. Start with a harder polish compound and run wet
5. Let stone be worked in one direction with a light touch
6. Allow polish to run dry till stone pulls on buff.
 - a. This is for Jade, but will work on Opals and many other stones.

I like to use a starter polish and a cerium and water soap for a super polish on felt buff.

Glen Ulrich
Midwest Manufacturing Jewelers

Editor's note:

Glen prepared this outline to use for a discussion at the February meeting of LGMC. Since he is my son, I was able to persuade him to let me use it for the Pick & Shove.

NEW NON_TARNISH SILVER

Pure silver is so soft that it cannot be used for coins or jewelry. A small amount of copper is added to harden it and give it strength. Coin silver contains 10% copper. Sterling silver contains 7½% copper. This copper in silver easily oxidizes in the air to a darker copper oxide tarnish. Recently chemists of the German chemical firm of Degusa A.G. (Deutches Gold and Silberscheidnen) discovered that pure silver containing 3% nickle could never tarnish and would always look like new polished silver. All that is needed to clean it is to wash it in soap and water. This new non-oxidizing or non-tarnish silverware is now sold in most stores in Taxco. It is identified by the mark of an eagle stamped on the underside of each article.

via AFMS Newsletter

Stones sometimes develop fine, thread-like scratches while being polished. These may be due to grit that has penetrated the polishing buff (one grain will do it). To clean, hold a strip of soft plywood or balsa wood firmly against the buff. The grit will imbed itself in the wood leaving the cloth buff clean.

via Magma

Dousing For Wood - Wiley Kawitt, G. I. Nugget

My wife and I were in Donner and Blitzen Valley, south of Burns, Nebraska, picking agate in a gravel pile. They were all well worn dark brown and clack, hardly any size.

Another car drove in and the driver got out, went to the back of his car, dug out two pieces of heavy gauge copper wire, about 18 inches long. He bent the wire into an "L" shape, held it in his hand, and started walking all over the gravel pit. Occasionally, he would stop and make a mark with his shoe in the sand.

This aroused our curiosity to say the least. I went over and asked him what he was doing. "Shhh", he said "I'm dousing for agate and petrified wood." Skeptical, I questioned him further. "Proof of the pudding", he said and took a shovel and dug at each mark he had made with his shoe, and dug up large agates and petrified wood.

Scientifically, it can't be done, but I saw it with my own eyes!

Buried Treasure- A brief story of agatized coral

Agatized coral, in many forms and colors, is found all over Florida. Sometimes these heads are solid; some, as around Tampa Bay, are hollow and properly called "geodes". Agatized coral is scientifically identified as "Chalcedony Pseudomorph after coral" because one mineral has been replaced with another.

Millions of years ago these "rocks" were colonies of little animals belonging to the phylum coelenterata. One of the anthozoans - they grew encase themselves. It is also a fossil.

Alluvial action of some kind covered these colonies of animals. This water contained other minerals. Over a long period of time the carbonate lime skeleton was replaced by the mineral quartz. This form of quartz is called "Chalcedony". (cal-ched-o-ny). The geodes found in the Tampa Bay area may have centers colored red, blue or black or varying various shades of yellow, banded with blue or black have been found. Solid carnelian heads have been found. Beautiful specimens have been located in the Perry area--Econfina and Buckeye. The crystal heads of northern Florida differ from the Tampa Bay heads. While heads have been found in all areas; no fingers have been found in the northern Suwanee basin. Many enhydras are found, sometimes in the salt water but the water contained in them is always fresh.

Heads and fingers are highly prized as specimens. Smaller pieces are made into jewelry. They have come to be called "Ballast Point Diamonds" because they were first found in quantity at Ballast Point--and to coral lovers their beauty rivals that of the diamond.

Wilma D. Bonar, Geode Newsletter





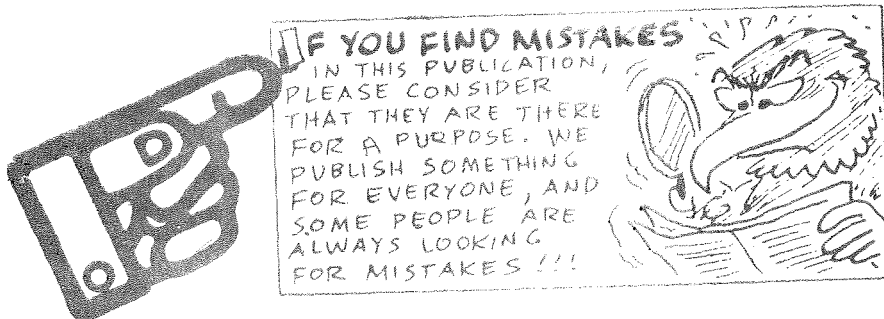
On Nebraskies Fertile Shore
by Herbert Bashford

Oh, I am so orful homesick! An I feel so wretched queer!
Ephrum, he has gone a ridin on a wild electric keer,
Rhody,--- that my only daughter --- she has gone and left me too.
Course I needn't stand here waitin', both insisted I should come
But I vow I'll not be reckless when I'm so far from hume.
Clear out here by th' Pacific, just as fur as we can git,
An' if we stay here much longer, I declare I'll have a fit.
Oh I've tramped these pesky sidewalks till my feet is lame an' sore,
An' a yearnin ever' minute fur that Nebraskie fertile shore.

They brag about their scenery! Californy! Hump! O dear!
Scenery! Well, just speakin' plainly, I don't see no scenery here!
Nothin' but the mountain ranges rarin' up so dern high
That a body kitt look no whar 'cept the middle of the sky.
Mountains, everlastin' mountains, hills 'n' woods 'N' rocks
Whar's the scenery there's braggin' on, I'm one who wants to know
Let 'em stand in Lincoln County, just aback our cowedard fence,
an' if they don't say thats scenery, they aint got a lick of sense:
Level prairie in th' sunshinecovered with its grassy mat,
Why! yuh kin look fur miles around yuh an' see nothin' but the flat.

That is scenery! ---Yuh kin look jest as fur as yuh kin see
With no hills interposin' er no rocks, er airy tree,
Oh, I've told my hisband, Ephrum, that I'd gallavant no more
When again I'd set my foot on ol' Nebraskie fertile shore.

Happy Birthday Nebraska!



ART - ARTIST - ARTISON - ARTIFICER

by J.D.Young

ART - There are at least ten definitions, with some overlapping. Definition No. 6 - "Human work or endeavor; contrasted with nature." "The work of the artist is creative; that of the artisan is mechanical. The artificer is between the two. Anything made by human work or art is an artifact."

How these terms relate to our gem, mineral and rock hobbies becomes more evident when we recognize the possible activities associated with this growing avocation. It is a source of great satisfaction to people of all ages and circumstances, and the field is unlimited. We may all qualify as "artists" in one way or another. Our benefits may classify under health, social, educational, material gain and "pride in achievement", which is one of life's greatest rewards.

We become artists when we carefully gather, identify, label and systematically store specimens which may be found in the field or purchased. The varied uses to be made of them provide for countless expressions of artistry. Some items need no further treatment or processing to merit a place in our collections. Examples: crystals, minerals, fossils and "just pretty stones". Artifacts such as flakes, points, scrapers and pottery are to be found in many places, and should not be overlooked. Many are formed from attractive pieces of rock, so their appeal is doubled. Of course, legality of acquisition is assumed.

This article is not intended to instruct about factual details of this hobby, but simply to emphasize the need for broad appreciation and development of attainable skills. We can learn to make the greatest uses of the many phases of this delightful pastime. Specialization in it may be a worthwhile goal, but too much of it may narrow the sources of total satisfaction. Young people may be assured of years of pleasure and profit by early acquaintance and practice of a variety of skills.

Collecting is one of the first experiences. It may start at a youthful age, usually involving local possibilities and those provided by travel. Older persons may spark this beginning very easily by directing attention to available materials, often overlooked. Once started, the interest grows to full measure. The art of successful collecting should be selective and should be followed by systematic labeling, cataloging, display and storage of the "bounty", to be determined by time and space available. Probably all of us could improve in this with more effort.

After collecting, there are many lapidary arts, too numerous to include here, but well known. Some are expensive and exacting, but attainable if properly pursued. Even some physical handicaps need not interfere if there is incentive. Artistry of great merit may result from serious effort and dedication to the art.

ART - ARTIST - ARTISON - ARTIFICER continued

Appreciation of all arts may be developed, and to expand it is important, for otherwise we lose much enjoyment, and may be unnecessarily bored. A wide span brings in so much that could escape our experience. The world provides a multiplicity of attainable arts, often not fully enjoyed because of narrowed awareness. People may have perfect special senses, yet are incapable of enjoying life, while others with handicaps do.

The need for versatile appreciation is great in travel. My wife and I saw this illustrated when in the mid-1920s we operated a summer tourist camp in the South Dakota Badlands. Many guests endured the old Highway 40 as a necessary evil to reach the coveted Black Hills, and were even frightened by the weird landscape, missing the beauty at hand. They failed to notice the fossils, gemstones, artifacts, living things and the play of light and shadow on the fantastic formations. Contrasted with these self-imprisoned unfortunates were those who enjoyed everything, even when it rained on the gumbo!

They had mastered the art of living, true artists in the field of "intangible human work and endeavor."
"Beauty is in the eye of the beholder."

j.d.y.

P.S. Water freezes at 273 degrees above zero K, not C.
My error last month. Sorry!

De Sun's Comin' Back

Hush! chillun, hush!
Foh de sun's done come back agin,
Pushin' yailer glory roun' in ebbery spot it finds,
Dancin' on de cradle
An' old Chloe wid de ladle,
An' coaxin' out de blossoms on
De honeysuckle vines.

Hush! chillun, hush!
Hase de sof' winds come back agin,
Back agin' a-bringin' all de glory ob de spring;
My heart's jes a-throbbin'
For off yondah is de robin,
An' de blackbird am a-cluckin'
An' I 'low I heerd 'im sing.

Ben King

FROM THE AMERICAN FEDERATION NEWSLETTER, March 1977

NATIONAL SHOW PLANS TAKING SHAPE - '77 Empire of Gems is the title of the combined Northwest Federation and American Federation show, to be held in Ogden, Utah, August 18-21. The Golden Spike Gem and Mineral Society of Ogden is the host club.

The club is placing special emphasis on juniors in the rock and mineral hobby. Arrangements have been made for housing, meals and special activities for groups of junior society members and their escorts. Junior groups interested should write Harry Bybee, Junior Program Chairman, 1054 Cross Street, Ogden, Utah 84404.

.....

JOHNNY HORIZON LEAVES GOVERNMENT SERVICE - In case you weren't aware the Johnny Horizon program, created eight years ago to enlist the public in a cleanup of trash and litter on the public lands, has done its job and was phased out last September 30. "Johnny Horizon has done his job and done it well," said Secretary of the Interior Thomas S. Kleppe. "His life span embraced a time of massive reawakening, of environmental awareness, community action, and citizen participation. People across the land realize that they personally can do much to make our country more livable. Johnny Horizon has served this purpose and will now leave the scene letting the people do the job themselves."

.....

GUIDE TO MINING SITES ON PACIFIC COAST NOW AVAILABLE - Ghost towns, abandoned mining camps, and mines of the past and present in the Pacific Coast states are described in a sightseers' guidebook just published by the Interior Department's Bureau of Mines.

The colorful, illustrated booklet identifies many historic and modern sites associated with minerals or mineral production in California, Oregon, Washington, Alaska and Hawaii. Since most touring today is by car, the booklet lists those mines and mineral-related points of interest that can be seen, or are readily accessible, from public roads, noting which sites can be viewed from the road and which can, with company permission, be visited. Points of interest are shown on road maps that are included for all Pacific States. Each State chapter concludes with a list of places to write or visit for more information.

Planned for release in the near future, other booklets will cover the New England and Mid-Atlantic States, the South Atlantic States, the North-Central States, the Rocky Mountain States, and the South-Central States.

"Mining and Mineral Operations in the Pacific States: A Visitor Guide" can be purchased for \$2.15 a copy from the Superintendent of Documents, Government Printing Office, Washington, DC 20402

ANSWERS TO QUIZ ON JUNIOR PAGE:

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| 1. Amazon + ite = amazonite | 6. Aqua + marine = aquamarine |
| 2. Mexican + lace = Mexican lace | 7. Mal + a + kite = malachite |
| 3. O ' pal = opal | 8. Am + burr = amber |
| 4. Pair of dots = peridot | 9. Christ - t + o + cola = chrysocola |
| 5. "ite" + Franklin = Franklinite | 10. Star + o + lite = staurolite |

The man who removes a mountain begins by carrying away small stones.

-Chinese Proverb

Should You Have A Show?

by June Zeitner

Whether to have a show or not is often a puzzle to new clubs, and often clubs who have had successful shows become discouraged and wonder if an annual show is a good idea. Just how important is an annual show? What are the pros and cons?

Of course, there is more than one kind of show, and every club should have some kind of show, even if it is just an exhibit of the members' work for a meeting, but this article considers "show" to mean the club sponsored show with dealers and open to the public.

It is not a good idea to have a show if there are many shows in an area. In this case, it is better for a number of clubs to band together and put on one excellent large show. A dozen smaller shows are more work and the results are usually less successful by far. The Chicagoland clubs have united to put on a single large show next May, and the clubs in the Greater Detroit area help the Michigan Mineralogical Society in its highly rated annual show. Small shows which do not have enough workers, or adequate facilities, or enough publicity are usually not fair to the dealers, or to the public. That is not to say a small show cannot be successful. If there are not lots of nearby shows, and if all the members help, and if there are only a few selected dealers, and if the show is properly promoted a small show can be an important event for the club and its community.

If club members are too widely scattered, too ill or old, perhaps if they think "too small," a show is not a good idea. (However, many successful shows have been put on by Senior Citizens.)

The cooperation of the community is important in deciding whether to put on a show. In some places the press is not cooperative. This can be overcome if there is a trained journalist or public relations person in the club, or if the club is willing to spend large amounts of money on advertising. Otherwise, it is a serious detriment to the success of a show. Communities with a high proportion of elderly people, or with lots of traffic and parking problems, or with a high crime rate, may not yield a big enough turnout for a successful show.

Profit in the club treasury is not a good reason for putting on a show. While a well planned and carried out show will have a profit, the only motive for a hobby club, should be to promote the hobbies of earth science and lapidary art in the best possible way.

Putting on a show just because the other clubs in the area do is not an adequate reason either. Unless the club members all show real enthusiasm for the project, the ones who favor a show might be better off helping their neighbors.

One of the main arguments for an annual show is that it gives purpose, and direction to the club. Clubs which have an annual show get more members. They have better attendance. The members learn to know and appreciate each other more. The community is better acquainted with the goals and accomplishments of the clubs and their members.

A show inspires members to better work. An example of this is that if the club sponsors a competitive show, some of its members will undoubtedly go on to become trophy winners and perhaps judges. This serves the whole federation and the whole hobby, besides enriching the club. It

New soil exposed at diamond crater

There's good news for diamond hunting visitors to Crater of Diamonds State Park near Murfreesboro. Recently, the staff at the Crater rented a TD 24 bulldozer from the Pike County Maintenance Shop and dug the field of diamond-bearing kimberlite soil deeper than at any time since the Crater has been a state park.

"We worked about 10 days," says Park Superintendent Jim Cannon, "moving one to two feet of the top off the best parts of the mine. Since the bulldozer we have used in the past will only plow 12 to 16 inches deep, we have now plowed fresh material on the one-half to two-thirds of the mine we have been over."

He says, "We have the portion of the Crater that we have been able to work in excellent shape in my opinion. We are now down to fresh diamond-bearing material that has not been plowed previously, and we should begin to see results in finds in the near future."

The Crater of Diamonds State Park is a unique attraction, the only known occurrence of diamonds in their natural matrix on the North American continent. The park comprises 867 acres, of which 78 acres form the volcanic core containing the precious stones.

For a \$2 fee for adults, \$1 for children 6 to 15, visitors are welcome to search from 8 AM to 5 PM (8:30 AM to 4:30 PM in winter), and what they find is theirs to keep. Facilities at the park include a cafe (closed in winter), picnic area, and a visitors information center. The center offers a gift shop, small museum and an audio-visual room that provides a brief orientation for visitors. It teaches them how to identify the precious gems, gives tips for finding the diamonds, and reviews the geologic and historic background of the Crater.

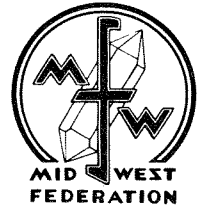
For additional information, contact the Arkansas Department of Parks and Tourism, 149 State Capitol, Little Rock, Arkansas, 72201. (501) 371-1511.

is selfish for those who do not want to compete to bar competition from their shows. They are denying basic rights to the members who do wish to compete. A competitive show does not mean every one has to compete. Those who do not wish to compete have the right to enter the non-competitive section just as the others should have the right to compete. A competitive show usually looks better and draws a bigger crowd. A show needs to have good displays and lots of them to interest the general public in the many branches of a hobby it knows so little about.

A show will keep a club on its toes. Some clubs tend to become more interested in entertainment and sociability than in doing something constructive. If the members have to look for displays and programs for a show, get their own lapidary work and minerals properly labeled and looking their best, and then remind all their neighbors and business acquaintances about the show, they are more richly involved, and will enjoy such activities more than hours of coffee sipping.

Each club should analyze all the reasons for putting on a show, and for not putting on a show, and come to its own decision. And if the decision is to go ahead, all should help to make the show the very best possible.

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 Ave., Des Moines, Iowa 50311

March 1977 - Issue No. 173

Dayton sets theme for July convention and show

Theme of the 1977 Midwest Federation show and convention is "Education . . . An Adventure in the Artistry of Lapidary and Earth Sciences." It will be held in Dayton, Ohio, Thursday through Saturday, July 21-24 at the Dayton Convention Center.

The area is serviced by many hotels and motels but show chairman, Ted Cadeau, suggests reservations be made as early as possible to ensure the accommodation you wish as the National Air Show is scheduled for this same time period.

Campers can use the Montgomery County Fairgrounds which is just a short distance from the Convention Center. These grounds are on a main bus route and will be serviced by shuttle bus also. There will be electricity and water hook-ups for 320 units. There are a total of 800 spaces.

Stouffers Hotel is the convention headquarters and it is joined to the Convention Center and a parking ramp by covered walkways. All meetings and events will be held in either the hotel or convention center.

All exhibits will be one one floor with the exception of the "Hall of States" which will be in the walkway between the hotel and the Convention Center.

We will be giving you more information and details about the show in coming issues of this Newsletter.

MERIT AWARD JUDGES ANNOUNCED

The Lee Kirby's of Drayton Plains, Michigan, and Melvin Berry's of Mt. Clemens, Michigan, will be the co-chairmen judges for the 1977 Merit Awards. They will be assisted in this big and important job of selecting AFMS All American and Midwest Merit Award winners by the Art Meinerts and the Russell Reimans. All judges are active members of the award winning Michigan Mineralogical Society. They have been officers of this club and had important major jobs in the successful federation show at Detroit and other annual Detroit shows. Lee is a past president of the Midwest Federation. The Berry's and Kirby's and Mr. Reiman are currently on the Executive Committee of the federation.

We are fortunate to have such well qualified judges. Midwest entries are to be mailed to June Zeitner, Mission, S.D. by Mar. 31.

SIXTH ASSISTANT NAMED FOR INDIANA

Charles Walker, State Director for Indiana and Kentucky has named Harold Flood, Ft. Wayne, Indiana as an Assistant State Director. This brings the total to six assistants. Walker advises that his assistants are strategically situated for full coverage of Indiana and Kentucky and this will help for full contact with the clubs in these states.

Spring meeting

The Spring meeting of the Executive Committee of the Midwest Federation of Mineralogical and Geological Societies will be held on Saturday, April 30, 1977. Our meetings will be held in the Ambassador Motel, 175 S. Main, Decatur, Ill. 62525. The telephone number of the motel is Area Code 217/428-8611 for those wishing to make reservations.

Of particular interest to us in the Decatur area will be the 25th consecutive show of the Central Illinois Gem & Mineral Club. It will be held at the Macon County Fairgrounds, Rt. 121 Northwest, Decatur, Ill. on April 29, 30, and May 1. April 29 hours for the public will be from 5:00 PM to 9:00 PM. Let's help them celebrate this 25th anniversary by attending their show while we are in Decatur.

ATTENTION COMPETITIVE EXHIBITORS

Becoming a judge of competitive exhibits is not an overnight happening! The Midwest Federation encourages those persons interested in learning how to be a judge. At the Dayton Show "apprentice judges" will be used. Each apprentice judge will be assigned to a regular judging team with the opportunity to participate in the discussion with the judges, fill out his own judge's sheets and join in the post-judging discussion with judges and exhibitors but the apprentice judge's scores will not be used. In order to apply - prior competitive exhibiting experience required and prior clerking experience, in addition, preferred. Write to MWF Uniform Rules Chairman, Calvin George, 5 S. 144 Webster St., Naperville, Illinois 60540, not later than May 1st and give a resume of your experience and fields of interest.

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

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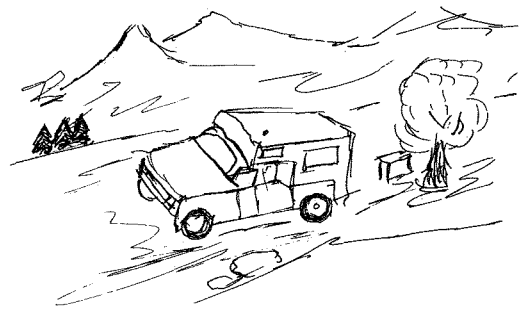


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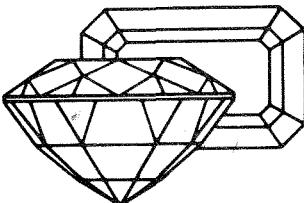
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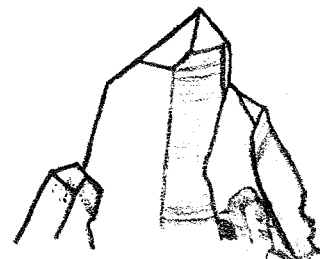
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