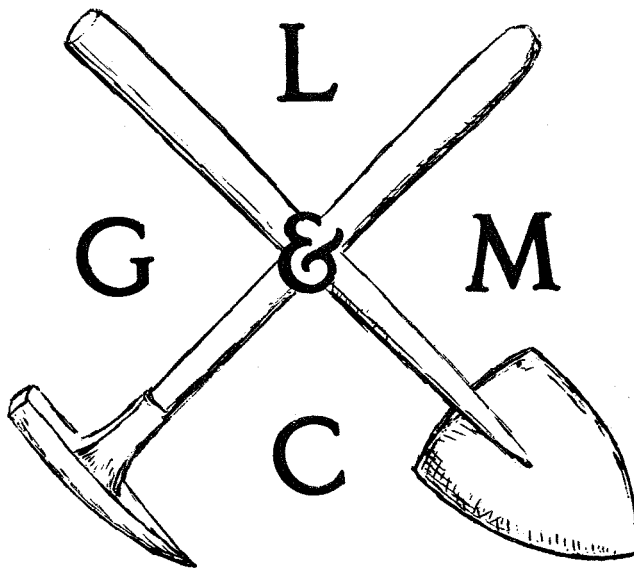


# THE PICK & SHOVEL



OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF  
**LINCOLN GEM & MINERAL CLUB**

LINCOLN, NEBRASKA

Volume 18

Issue 4

January 1978

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)

Regular Meetings: 4th Saturday of the month, September thru May, 7:30 P.M.  
1978 - Trabert Hall, Lower Level, 2202 So. 11th St.

1978 ELECTED OFFICERS & COMMITTEE

President.....	Howard Taylor	910 New Hampshire	Lincoln, 68508	432-3707
1st Vice Pres..	James Marburger	1910 So26th, Apt.B	Lincoln, 68502	432-0214
2nd Vice Pres..	Florence Boring	2836 S.40th St.	Lincoln, 68506	488-6243
Recording Secy.	Frances Tracy	3420 Frost Court	Lincoln, 68510	475-1885
Treasurer.....	Joella Olson	4831 S.Haven Drive	Lincoln, 68516	489-5380
Board Member...	Don Carter	1101 Driftwood	Lincoln, 68510	489-3442
Board Member...	Bob Daniels	2941 N. 42nd St.	Lincoln, 68504	467-4051
Board Member...	Virginia Green	6120 The Knolls	Lincoln, 68512	423-5032
Board Member...	Ray Lambert	1201 N. 79th St.	Lincoln, 68505	464-8552

Nominating Committee - 3 years..Marita Bigley, Lynn Wells; 2 years..Marie Wells,  
Irl Everett; 1 year..Phyllis Parks, Ray Lambert

STANDING COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS:

Program	Florence Boring	Calling Committee & Liaison	Marie Taylor
Education	James Marburger	Refreshments	Bob/Sylvia Daniels
Hospitality	Veza Lyman	Scholarship	Dick/Shirley Roberts
Historian	Lois Everett	Publications	Edwin/Vivian Johnson
Librarian	Stan/Hazel Greenwade	Housing & Property	Larry Bigley
Membership	Marita Bigley	Auditing Committee	?
Field Trips & Safety	Frank & Tom Rule	1978 Show Chairman	Don Carter
Sunshine Corner	Susan Taylor	1979 Show Chairman	?
NAOESCI Reporter	Evelyn Ulrich	1978 Christmas Program Committee	Glen & Flossie Litzenberg

LONG RANGE PLANNING & BY-LAWS COMMITTEE

1 year remaining - Frank Rule and Phyllis Parks, 2 years - Larry Bigley and Don Carter  
3 years to serve - Nelda Oliver and John Harrison (John-Chairman for 1978)

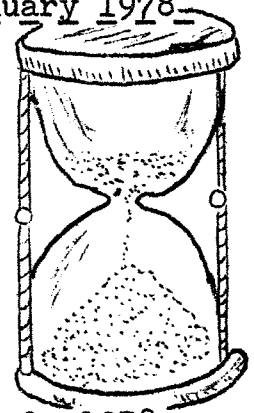
PICK & SHOVEL STAFF: Chairman Larry Bigley  
Editor Evelyn Ulrich, 3521 S.48th St., Lincoln, Ne. 68506, Phone 488-9051  
Club News Helena Baegl Artwork Stenciling Jim Parks  
Typist Flossie Litzenberg Publisher Phyllis Parks

Deadline for material to be printed is 1st of month it is to appear.

Subscriptions to the Pick & Shovel are \$3.00 per year -mailed. Advertising by a rock-hobby business or interest permitted with approval of Board, at a rate now set at \$10.50 per full page per insertion. 1/2 page-5.25, 1/3 page-3.50, 1/4-2.75(min.)

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.

Say no ill of the year till it be past.  
-George Herbert



General Meeting...Saturday, Jan. 28, 1978, 7:30 P.M.  
Trabert Hall, 2202 South 11th.

Program... Inclusions as a Guide to Gemstone Identification  
slide presentation by Roger Pabian

Refreshments .....Will be served by the Refreshment  
Committee..

LGMC Board of Directors' Meeting...Thursday, February 2, 1978  
Home of Howard Taylor, 910 New Hampshire.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS: Dr. Richard Langley, Dept. Chemistry, Arizona State University,  
Tempe, Arizona 85281

Mr..and Mrs. Ralph Ulrich and Sandra Wright, 1213 W. Malibu Dr.,  
Tempe, Arizona, 85282.

1978 Dates to Remember

Mar..	10-12	Kansas City, Mo.	Earth Science Clubs of Greater Kansas City, K.C. Trade Mart, 250 Richards Road.
Mar.	31-Apr. 2	Lincoln, Ne.	LGMC 20th Annual Show, Host to 12th Annual Nebr. State Show-Fairgrounds
Apr..	21-23	Wichita, Ks.	Gem and Min. Show, Cessna Activity Center, 2744 Geo. Washington Blvd..
Apr.	22-23	Sioux Falls, S.D.	Sioux Empire Gem & Min. Soc. Show, Masonic Temple, First Ave. 14th Street.
* May	20-21	Hot Springs, S.D.	Picture City Gem & Min. Show, City auditorium
June	3-4	Norfolk, Ne	Northeast Ne. Rock & Min. Soc. Show, Villa Inn.
June	10-11	Hebron, Ne.	Fort Butler Rock & Gem Club Swap.
June	17-18	Beatrice, Ne.	Homestead Gem & Min. Club Swap.
July	14-16	Columbus, Ne.	Loup Valley Gem & Min. Soc. Show, Holiday Inn.
Sept.	2-4	Omaha, Ne.	Nebr. Min. & Gem Club Show.
Sept.	15-17	Kimball, Ne.	Plains Gem & Min. Club Show.
Sept.	29-Oct. 1	North Platte, Ne.	Platte Valley Rock & Min. Soc. Show, Nat'l Guard Armory.
Oct.	14-15	Grand Island, Ne.	G.I. Earth Sci. Soc. Show.
* <u>May</u>	5-7	Lexington, Ne	State Swap, Dawson County Fairgrounds.

March 31, April 1 and 2, 1978 - Gem & Mineral Show  
LGMC Members are urged to bring their donations of  
rocks and minerals for the ROCK PILE and the '78  
SHOW CRAB BAGS. They will be accepted at 4635  
Greenwood, west side of house at any time.

Last month...The annual Christmas party was held on December 10th at the "Our Place Buffet". A delicious dinner was served to those present. A lovely centerpiece, furnished by Mrs. Daniels graced the head table. Flossie Litzenberg furnished some table decorations and provided some of her delectable home made mints.

A short business meeting followed the dinner. Club members voted in favor of having 15 folding cases made by Don Gless to be ready for the Show, March 31st-April 2. The 1978 officers were introduced and properly installed. John Harrison, 1977 president, was presented with a plaque, Having a gavel mounted on it, by 1978 president, Howard Taylor.

After the business meeting, Flossie Litzenberg showed slides entitled "The Big Island, Hawaii."

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LGMC Courtesy

Cards were sent this month to:

Joella Olson .....Get well  
Darlene Janzen.....Sympathy  
Irl Everett.....Get well  
Ewald Paul.....Sympathy  
J.D.Young.....Sympathy

\*\*\*\*\*

January 1968

Mr. Lee Stachura, a member of Lincoln High School teaching staff, presented a very interesting program to members.

Mr. Stachura talked to us on the art of silversmithing. He showed us steps and procedures in this truly beautiful handcraft.

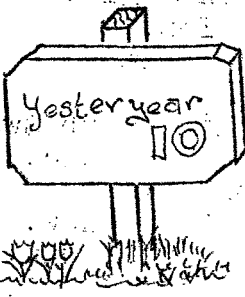
He had on display some of his finished works which included jewelry and art objects.

From the notebook of Lois Everett  
LGMC Historian.

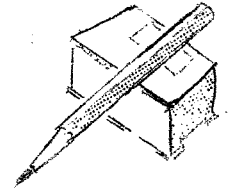
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Notice: A reminder to all NAOESCI Clubs that the annual dues shall be due January 1 of each year. Reference: NAOESCI By-Laws, Article 5, Section 1.

Via President's message-THE GEM PALETTE



FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK



Fellow Rockhounds,

It seems to me that not too many years ago, I was in this same situation sitting down to write a President's Page for our Pick & Shovel.

No individual reaches for the gavel alone. The responsibility symbolized by this gavel reflects back to the members of the organization that it represents. I thank each member as I humbly accept this gavel and with hope we can expand for the future.

This month January 1978 we are going to celebrate our 23rd birthday of the first meeting of Rockhounds in Lincoln where a club was organized so that the hobby could be shared. Birthday cake and coffeewill be provided by the club and served by our Refreshment Committee, The Daniels and the Roberts.

I wish to thank those of you who weathered the wind and cold of Saturday Night January 8th to be present for our Special Meeting pertaining to the National Show of 1980. The challenge to our club is a large one and the club decision was favorable to host the show. A Steering Committee of 6 was elected to start the operation. Some preliminary work had been done to see if dates could be cleared for space and accommodations and these were found to be satisfactory. The six elected to the Committee were, John Harrison, Frank Rule, Roger Pabian, Jim Marburger, Tom Simmons and myself.

Dues are due, so please take advantage of our January 28th meeting to keep your self in good standing in the club. Membership is delinquent after January 31, 1978.

We do want to update our C.B. listing in the Who's Who; so please get the information to the publisher, Phyllis Parks before February 15th, as well as any changes of address, telephone number or omissions from the 1977 Who's Who.

Howard



From the editor's desk...A new year--always a challenge. How swiftly time flies! We had a very successful year under the able leadership of John Harrison, and now we are anticipating another good year with Howard Taylor as our 1978 president. He has a fine board of directors to help him lead the club in the right direction. Our bulletin will be entering the NWF Bulletin Editors Contest. The October bulletin will be judged along with another of our own choosing. We are happy that J.D. Young has consented to continue writing articles for the coming year. We have had so many favorable reports concerning them, that we know they are being enjoyed. We are very fortunate to have some fine articles by Roger Pabian appearing in the bulletin. We need to get more members involved in contributing articles. We have many good lapidaries in the club who could furnish some very worthwhile material. The bulletin is a club project and needs the support of its members..

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BLUE JAY JANUARY

The joyous, jaunty, jeering jays  
Now entertain my kitchen days,  
Scorning, mocking, laughing at  
My next-door neighbor's cat.  
I, waging war as women must  
Against the tyranny of dust;  
They, screaming challenge as of old,  
The deadly foe, the winter cold..  
Allied are we against such weather,  
The brave bright jays and I together,  
And through the winter snows I feed them,  
Faithfully, because I need them.



- Jean Harrison

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January...Dedicated by the Romans to Janus, the two-faced god who with one face looked into the past, with the other into the future. He was the god of doors and all beginnings. Most Romans prayed to him every morning before they prayed to any other gods. He was offered meal, salt, frankencense and wine, each of which was new at the concecration ceremony of each new month.

The traditional gemstone for January is the garnet. Its synthetic supplement is also called garnet and is dark red synthetic corundum..

In early days a stone's value was determined by its color rather than its physical properties. Little distinction was made between emerald and chrysoprase, or topaz and citrine quartz; both were considered equally effective in healing the eyesight.

This information from Encyclopedia Britannica and The Golden Home and Highschool Encyclopedia.

SILENT AUCTION for the AFMS

Scholarship Fund

Dear Midwest Federation Club Members,

At the 1978 Midwest Federation Show to be held in Cedar Rapids, Iowa, all clubs in the MWF will be able to build their percentages of contributions in the AFMS Scholarship Fund. We hope that this new opportunity will be an annual affair at our future MWF Convention?Shows.

We need the help of each club in the MWF. A Silent Auction will be offered by the Federation during the show. All auction material should be donated by the member clubs. All monies will go to the AFMS Scholarship Fund and credit will be given to the donating club.

All material MUST be labeled as to what the material is, where it was found (if possible), and which club it is being donated by.

The materials should be anything relating to the Rock Hobby: rocks, minerals, fossils, books, etc. Finished jewelry usually brings the highest prices.

The materials will be brought to Cedar Rapids by the club delegates or some other representative. Individual donations will be accepted and credited to that person's club or if they are not members of a club, it will go to the club of that person's choice and thirdly, if no choice is made, the host club will receive the credit.

The auction will run for four to six hours for two or three days depending upon the amount of material received. The chairman will need some help to run the auction. A schedule will be made up of workers to help with the auction. They will be working probably two hour shifts.

All clubs donating will be notified by the Federation of the percentage points being credited to their Scholarship Fund account a few weeks following the show.

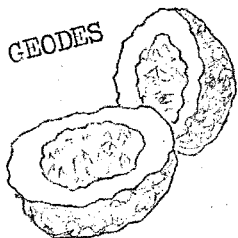
May I encourage all Federation Clubs to begin NOW to gather materials for this auction. BE sure to label all materials and put the NAME OF THE CLUB that is donating. It will be very important for this to be done.

Good luck to each club. May your percentage donated to the Scholarship Fund grow and CROW and GROW.

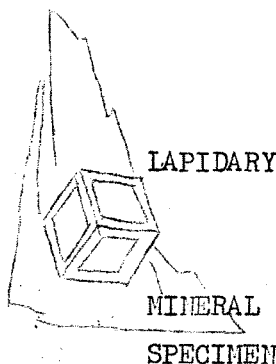
From your President,

Paul W. Good

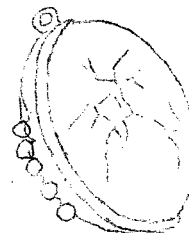
Paul W. Good



GEMS



JEWELRY



LINCOLN GEM & MINERAL CLUB MEMBERS: Start planning your donation for this event now. Our Board of Directors will make arrangements for transporting the materials to the show.

MIDWEST FEDERATION SHOW AND CONVENTION - Cedar Rapids, Iowa - August 10 to 13, 1978



Notes from Norma

No news this month. I've been out of town and not in contact with anyone. "No news is good news!" Hope you have a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Norma

Here are a few news items gleaned by your editor who had to stay home during the holidays due to flu and shingles:

Irl Everett, who recently had major surgery, has recovered sufficiently to be at home, and able to write his ads for the coming year. He had us all pretty worried for awhile. We are sure glad he's on the mend.

Mr. and Mrs. Art Howlett have returned from their trip to Indonesia. They had a very pleasant trip, but had some misfortune after reaching the U.S. All momentos and photographs taken on the trip were stolen while they were in one of the western states.

Our president, Howard Taylor, was a patient at the Veterans Hospital recently. He is home now and as busy as ever.

Our sympathy is extended to Ewald Paul in the loss of his brother.

We also, extend our sympathy to our correspondent, J.D. Young, whose brother of whom he wrote in his last month's article, passed away recently. He and Mrs. Young attended the funeral in Denver.

Mr. and Mrs. Jim Parks have been enjoying a visit with their grandchildren from Illinois during the holidays.

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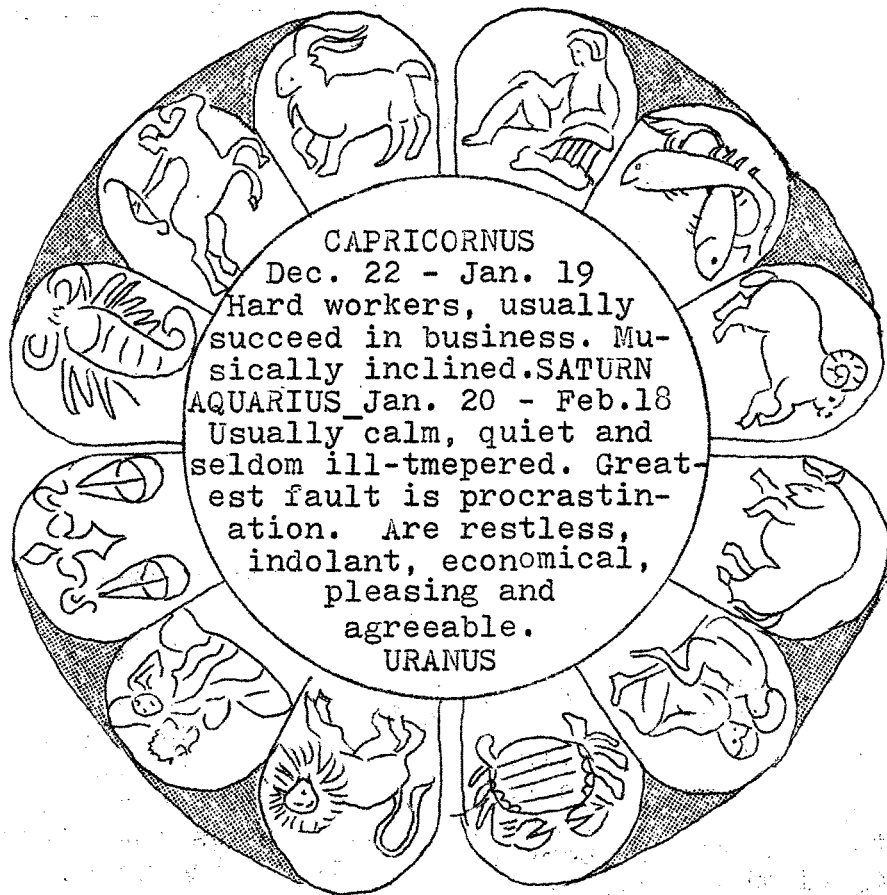
NAOESCI OFFICERS - 1978

President	Hal Horak	8000 Davenport, Omaha, Ne. 68114
Vice President	Ruby Price	Star Route, Cozad, Ne. 69130
Secretary-Treas.	Betty Friskopp	Rt. 3, Box 82, Minden, Ne. 68959

BOARD OF DIRECTORS - 1978

2 years	Marie Taylor	910 New Hampshire	Lincoln, Ne. 68508
2 years	Sharon Neil	812 W. 5th St.	North Platte, Ne. 69101
1 year	Jim McGrew	Beacon View	Gretna, Ne. 68028
1 year	Walter John	209 No. 13th	Norfolk, Ne. 68701
1 year	Salma Hammond	Box 67	Bushnell, Ne. 69128

Editor of the NAOESCI Publication-The Gem Palette- is Maida McGrew of the Fort Hebron Club. She is receiving reports from most of the Nebraska Clubs and has increased the circulation to approximately 200. Any persons wishing to have the 6 copies per year of Gem Palette can subscribe by sending \$1.00 to Maida at Beacon View, Gretna, Ne. 68028.



GARNET - BIRTHSTONE for JANUARY by Flossie Litzenberg

As precious stones, the most important garnets are pyropes, almandines, and demantoids. The remaining garnets have not the same importance in the gem industry. Besides being used for gem stones, they are used for making abrasive paper and garnet clothes for grinding. Pyropes are used as bearings. The garnet family is made up of minerals that are of similar composition and that mix together. Therefore a pure variety is rare. They are a widespread mineral.

PYROPE is the most popular and is usually colored red, with a hardness of 7. Usually found in serpentine, rocks containing olivine and in alluvials.

ALMANDINE has been used as a precious stone the longest. It is usually red but sometimes a violet, with a hardness of 7. Found in schists and gneisses.

DEMANTOIDS considered the most valuable garnet. It is of a light green color, with a hardness of 6.5. Found in gold-bearing alluvials.

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Will members, please bring any garnets they may have for "Show and Tell".

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Question: What do you say when a rock falls on your foot?

Answer: Garnet!



AFMS NEWS



1978 REGIONAL SHOWS

California National Show	Pleasanton, Ca.	July 27-30
Eastern	Newcastle, Pa.	July 7-9
Midwest	Cedar Rapids, Ia.	Aug. 10-13
Northwest	Monroe, Wa.	July 14-16
Rocky Mountain	Colorado Springs, Co.	June 9-11
South Central	New Orleans, La	Apr. 1-2

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Petrified Wood Collection Rules

To help provide for rock collecting as one of the many outdoor recreation activities on the public lands the Department of the Interior, under the provisions of Public Law 87-713, has adopted rules governing the free removal of petrified wood. The American Federation was active in making these rules the kind which we can live with. Please cooperate in observing them. Following is a summary of those rules:

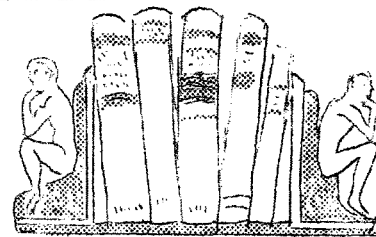
1. Lands administered by the Bureau of Land Management and Bureau of Reclamation are open to collection except as constructed reservoir projects and other specific areas which have been closed to collecting. BLM areas which are closed are posted.
2. There is no charge; no application or permit is required, except for museum pieces over 250 pounds.
3. The maximum limit, without a permit, per person is 25 pounds per day plus one piece and 250 pounds per year.
4. Pooling of quotas to obtain pieces over 250 pounds is prohibited.
5. If a person wishes to obtain a specimen weighing over 250 pounds for display in a museum or similar institution he must obtain a permit from a District manager, Bureau of Land Management, before removing it.
6. Hand tools only may be used for excavation. The use of explosives or power equipment is prohibited. Only vehicles used as a principal means of personal transportation may be used for hauling purposes.
7. Petrified wood from public lands, obtained under the free use privilege must not be bartered or sold to commercial dealers.

Via AFMS Newsletter, January 1978

## BOOK REVIEW

by Roger K. Fabian

GEMSTONE CARVING, by Martin Walter, Chilton Book Company, Radnor, Pennsylvania, \$6.95, paperback.



This worthwhile text drives home a succinct message in a clear and concise form: A lengthy apprenticeship is not necessary in order to create interesting lapidary projects. Anyone who has mastered the basics of cabochon cutting is able to go on to considerably more interesting and challenging lapidary projects such as making chess sets, snuff bottles, bowls, cups, saucers, bowls, bracelets, beads, and more complex animal carvings.

Only a short section is devoted to the fundamentals, materials, and procedures of carving, as this material is given specialized treatment with each of the projects. The beginner will find the cook-book format helpful as the equipment and materials needed for each project is fully listed.

A more lengthy description of tools and equipment follows the section on fundamentals. Some of this material covers ready made equipment and supplies that can be purchased from most sizeable lapidary shops or mail-ordered through advertizers in most of the trade publications. Much of the space is devoted to adapting pre-existing equipment. Such things as making tiny grinders from worn out grinders and nails are covered in detail.

The projects are arranged in a logical order, but not necessarily in order of technical complexity. The first project is a chess set, which is difficult, but provides the advantage of repetitive exercise, a must for the prospective carver. After all, one must turn out 64 squares of equal dimensions and thickness, 16 like pawns, 4 like rooks, knights, and bishops, and identical pairs of kings and queens.

A number of more-or-less complex projects follow the chess set. Here we find perhaps the major drawback of the book, inasmuch as all of the instructions are given to suit the brand of equipment the author has in his shop. In no way can one interpret this as a merchandising plug for a given brand as Mr. Walter readily points out what functions the equipment failed to perform that the manufacturer had indicated that it would perform. The reader must think out how to adapt his own equipment, or build his own equipment, to carry out the aim of the project.

The book is well illustrated with color and black and white photographs and instructive line drawings that explain the equipment or explain how to cut the initial block of rough after it is properly marked. Many of Mr. Walter's carvings are illustrated. His style would be termed crude by a critic but rustic by a lapidary, the difference being more apparent to those who have tried more complex lapidary work. Nonetheless, each of Mr. Walter's carvings display a unique strength that characterizes an artisan and craftsman. Probably the most important point of the book, next to letting us know that a lengthy schooling period is not necessary to attempt to carve gem materials, is that the author does not delude the reader into thinking that he will be another Michelangelo after reading the book. Mr. Walter's message is that many challenging lapidary exercises await even the novice and that completion of any of these projects can provide the hobbyist with a great sense of satisfaction and accomplishment.

Gemstone Carving is an excellent reference for the beginner who wants to try something with more challenge than cabochons afford. The simple, step-by-step instructions are easily followed and they are laid out in such a fashion that the

continued

BOOK REVIEW - continued

lapidary can easily budget his project in both a temporal and financial aspect. The few shortcomings of the book are heavily outweighed by its many fine illustrations, explicit instructions, and possible bugaboos. This text is recommended for both personal and club libraries as it affords the potential carver instructions on how to walk through the carving process before he starts to run.

- Roger K. Pabian

UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA COMMUNITY COURSES

Roger has once again provided us with the information on interesting classes that any "Rock-Hobbyist" might be interested in from the UNL Division of Continuing Studies.

Beginning Feb. 1 - ROCKS AND MINERALS, Instructor Mr. Smith, describing a wide variety of common minerals and rocks and explains how they can be identified, where they may be found, and what they tell us about their origin and history.

Beginning Feb. 2 - ADVANCED GEMSTONES & GEMOLOGY, Instructor Roger Pabian, with emphasis on testing procedures for gemstones. You will be introduced to magnification techniques, refractive index determinations, use of refractometer, polariscope, dichroscope, fluorescence, and heavy liquids as means for separating natural from synthetic and imitation gems.

Full information is contained in Sunday, Jan. 8, 1978 supplement to Sunday Journal and Star. Registration blank included or phone 483-4751.

In March two other classes will be held - CREATIVE LAPIDARY by R. Pabian, and HISTORY OF GEOLOGY by Mr. Smith. We shall try to have more about these before March 1st class.

A Warm Greeting to All from the Sunshine Corner:

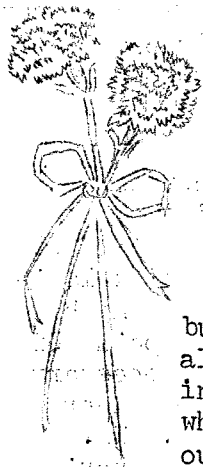
I have been asked to take over the job of sending greetings, get wells and thinking-of-you cards. I will need your help in fulfilling this task--so if you hear of anyone that is ill or in the hospital, please let me know so I can send a card in behalf of our club.

I find it hard to try and fill in for Marie Carveth who in the past has done this. I feel that no one can ever replace her--she was special to many of us. In this respect I find it hard to carry on the Vaya Con Dios spot--which seemed to belong to Marie--so I will carry on as the Sunshine Corner.

Susan Taylor

A happy life is not built up of tours abroad and pleasant holidays, but of little clumps of violets noticed by the roadside, hidden away almost so that only those can see them who have God's peace and love in their hearts; in one long continuous chain of little joys, little whispers from the spiritual world, and little gleams of sunshine on our daily work.

-Edward Wilson



This month I sent a get well card to Larry Bigley and a thinking-of-you card to Frank (and Ruth) Krejci.

Susan

MEMORIES OF GEORGE

By J.D. Young

In my December, 1977 article I mentioned my 88-year-old Denver brother's smile in spite of his physical condition. George is now at rest in the Crown Hill Memorial Park. Myrtle and I again Amtraked to attend the services, and as in our November trip, arrived in a smog aggravated by a temperature inversion, and no wind to carry it away.

A smog alert was declared, the first since November 22, 1976. The carbon monoxide and particulates index rated 210. The alert level is 200 and 300 is rated "dangerous". Colorado Governor, Dick Lamm, surveyed the polluted air by a single-engine plane.

Among George's keepsakes we found his 1910 High School Graduation oration, "The Magnitude of Trifles". It included the well-known stories of the little flakes of snow binding the locomotive, the famous broken dike caused by a small rodent's disregarded burrow, the Chicago fire with its bovine-kick, and many other accounts of seeming trifles. He omitted "the kingdom lost by the horse-shoe nail". Below is a paragraph he felt conveyed a worthy idea:  
"It is but a little thing that turns a young man or woman from right to wrong. It is but a little word or deed at the right or wrong time that leads to good or evil."

Reminiscence: In late summer, 1921, with George and his Model T, our brother, William, and I left the Burlington, Colorado wheat district to attend a great Land-drawing at the new irrigation project near Torrington, Wyoming, open to World War I veterans. George was not a veteran, but as a "plain dirt farmer" he helped feed the world during the "War to end War". William and I were not successful in the land lottery, so we turned from agriculture to pedagogy. George continued with agriculture and related occupations.

Enroute to Torrington, we stopped awhile in the Colorado Springs area. In the "Cave of the Winds" (deluxe spelunking) we saw the piles of hair-pins tossed there by wishful maidens for the legendary magic. Leaving "The Garden of the Gods" via an unimproved steep short-cut, we sensed an ominous noise in the Model T's rear-end. The drive-shaft pinion shattered as we attained level ground, with no brakes.

Wisely, we hired a Hudson Super-six for the Pikes Peak climb. Returning down the 28-mile wonder-highway, we met a stream of dare-devil racers qualifying for the Annual Race the next day. As they skidded around hair-pin turns, we three country boys "pulled leather" and yearned for the flatlands.--J.D.Y.

P.S.: Those old Hudsons could pass anything on the road -- but a filling station!

HEALTH AND SAFETY



No Such Thing As An Accident...The National Safety Council says there is no such thing as an "accident". Those occurrences are the result of a series of careless acts or omissions. These are the result of whether or not our personal safety pattern is working correctly. If each of us has been diligent in building the kind of pattern which will serve us in good order, very few "accidents" will happen to us during our lifetime. If not, then the term is "accident Prone" and the label is earned by many unfortunate things that can happen to us.

Via AFMS Newsletter, Oct. 1977

AEROSOL CAN DANGER...Although seemingly empty, they sometimes still contain gas, which expands when heated and may cause an explosion. The operating valve of the can should always be depressed until all the pressure is relieved before discarding.

KEEP PLASTIC BAGS OUT OF FIRE,..Do not throw plastic bags into fires. Plastic food bags or containers can melt into enclosed "bubbles" when tossed into a camp fire, and then explode with dangerous force. A person can be severely burned with molten plastic if standing near when it explodes.

AFMS Newsletter via The Prospector

Never wear any jewelry or a scarf when working with shop equipment - they can get caught in the wheels and belts! Switches should be placed so that they can be easily reached to turn them off in an emergency! In a tight spot, a round toothpick with steel wool around it will get into corners that are hard to get to. Never pick the metal off the soldering block when it is cherry red and drop it into the pickle solution...it can crack your masterpiece...a hard lesson to learn.

Mildred Williamson via Chips and Facets

LOW COST FIRE EXTINGUISHING POWDER... this is a simple, low-cost and easily made formula which should be kept in accessible locations around the house. Six pounds fine silica mason sand (get from a building supply dealer), two pounds of sodium bicarbonate from the grocery store. Dry mix and store in one pound glass, metal or plastic containers in easy locations. To use, sprinkle directly on the base of the flame.

The Palomar Gem via The Template

\*\*\*\*\*

Each is given a bag of tools,  
A shapeless mass, a book of rules,  
And each must make, ere life has flown,  
A stumbling block, or a stepping stone.

R.L. Sharpe, E.B. Nodule via Gemdrops

JUNIOR PAGE

Happy New Year, Juniors.

Here is a puzzle to unscamble:

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stemathy

kelcin

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\*\*\*\*\*

Did you read the article in the Lincoln Journal by the AP telling about Benito Pericoli's Christmas gift? Benito is an 11 year old crippled boy who expressed an interest in various types of stones. R.N. Appling Jr., chief of the U.S. Bureau of Mines Western Field Operations Center, sent him a box of 18 rock samples from 5 of our western states. Benito lives in Italy.

\*\*\*\*\*

A flea and an elephant walked side by side across a little bridge. The flea told the elephant after they had crossed it; "Boy, did we ever shake that thing!"

National Safety Council via Solano Chieftain

\*\*\*\*\*

The plant known as a "horse-tail" or "scouring plant" is actually a gold eater. Found most commonly where gold is present in the soil, it absorbs gold from the soil and stores it in its tissues. About 4½ oz. of gold is found in a ton of horse-tails; prospectors are not interested in the plant as a source of gold, but as an indicator of gold in the ground. Because of its high silica content, this plant was once used for scrubbing table tops, pots and pans.

Mira-Gem Newsletter via Chips and Facets

\*\*\*\*\*

A cold is both positive and negative. Sometimes the eyes have it and sometimes the nose.

Via The Loop Scoop

POTPOURRI

An interesting item in Jeweler's" Circular Keystone tells about harvesting gold from the roots of water hyacinths. The plants are now being used to remove pollutants from the nation's rivers and streams. It is believed that they can also be used to recover gold from the old Cripple Creek mining tailings. It is thought that they can absorb about one pound per acre every four days. Gold would be recovered by burning of the plants.

Gold Coral From Hawaii...We have all found white coral, seen the pink and red coral, and marveled at the beautiful jewelry made of black coral. Now an exciting discovery off the coast of Hawaii gives us gold-colored coral. The Maui divers of Hawaii found this incredible discovery in the midnight landscape of the coral forests 1,200 feet beneath the sea. So deep that they must "mine" this gold in a bathysphere or mini-sub. No one knows what magic gave this coral its astonishing color and brilliant texture.

Nuts and Nodules via The Template

Wood limb casts...When you're polishing wood limbs, instead of using tin oxide, use tripole for a glass-like polish at a lesser cost.

Diablo Diggin's via Chips & Tips

To get a better polish on material that will undercut, such as sagonite, moss and plume agate, porous wood and wood with iron try this:

First completely cover the slice with water, in a flat pan, with some detergent, a shake of Comet, elevating the slice on a small object such as a jar ring. Start the rocks in luke warm water and gradually bring to a boil. Boil about 10 minutes, keeping the slice covered at all times.

Remove from the heat, leave in pan until water reaches room temperature. Go through the fine sanding, clean well, spray with a coat of clear plastic. Let dry, fine sand again lightly with polish, you will end up with a beautifully polished piece. This fills in the porous spots, enabling you to polish the surface. This thin coat over the iron content in picture wood almost eliminates the shiny iron streaks in the wood.

Rock Scoop, Gemrock via T-Town Rockhound

A Happy New Year

To leave the old with a burst of song,  
To recall the right and forgive the wrong;  
To forget the thing that binds you fast,  
To the vain regrets of the year that's past;  
To dare go forth with a purpose true,  
To the unknown task of the years that's new;  
To help your brother along the road  
To do his work and lift his load;  
To add your gift to the world's good cheer,  
To have and to give a Happy New Year.

Robert Brewster Beattie via THE CYCAD

# 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

January 1978 - Issue No. 181

## *All America time is here again*

Has your club started to get its All American entry done in time to be in the mail by March 15??? Note the earlier date this year. Your club received an entry blank included in the November AFMS Newsletter. Another entry blank is enclosed with this January newsletter.

Last year the "club-of-the-year" was Central Michigan Lapidary and Mineral Society of Lansing. There were also five more AFMS Trophies for Midwest clubs and several Midwest Merit Awards as well. Your club may win this year.

Send your entry to June Zeitner as soon as ready. Midwest participation has been outstanding in this program, because it all started here. Each of our states has had one or more winners in the close competition. This is your chance to brag about your club's accomplishments. We are proud of all of our winners, and of all of our club's which enter. Thanks for your participation.

Howard and Marie Taylor of Lincoln, Nebraska have been selected as Chairmen of the judges committee for the All American Merit Awards program in the Midwest Federation this year. Howard is a Past President and Marie is Nebraska Director for the Federation. Their committee has been chosen from the award winning Lincoln Gem and Mineral Club, which was host for the last combined Midwest-AFMS show. The committee members are Mr. and Mrs. Ewald (Luella) Paul, Mr. and Mrs. Glenn (Vera) Lyman and Mr. and Mrs. Jim (Phyllis) Parks.

Judging of the many entries for the AFMS and Midwest trophies is a difficult and import job, and the Federation is fortunate to have this team of qualified and well liked members.

If you can't find your entry blank or have any questions about the awards, please write to June Zeitner at once. Her address is Mission, South Dakota 57555

Betty Myers of Park Forest would like to see Illinois have a State Fossil . . . she suggests the mysterious beastie "The Tully Monster." A good suggestion, but there are bound to be more since there are so many unique fossils in the coal beds of Northern Illinois.

## Repeat of an important announcement

The 1978 Directory forms should be in your hands by this time. Please note that the absolute deadline for returning these forms completed with check for dues will be January 10, 1978. There will be no grace period. If you want your latest club information in the Directory it must be in Jean Reynold's hands by January 10, 1978. This was the decision of the Council at their meeting in Dayton this year.

## *Have you found a Meteorite?*

Mr. Paul P. Sipierya of William Rainey Harper College recently sent the following letter to many Midwest Clubs.

"We would like to enlist your help and support for our Meteorite Recovery Project. In this effort, our College, in cooperation with the Field Museum of Natural History in Chicago, is seeking to make the public aware of the scientific importance of Meteorites and to educate individuals on meteorite recognition. In dealing with meteorite recovery most specimens are discovered by individuals who have no scientific training but do possess a scientific curiosity. It is just this type of individual we wish to reach.

We hope that your organization would encourage its members to be aware of the fact that meteorites can be found almost anywhere and that they should be looking for them when in the field. We have free descriptive literature available and also offer a \$100.00 incentive for the finder of a previously unreported meteorite. We ask that those who are interested send in a stamped self-addressed, business-size envelope when requesting the pamphlet."

Please forward all information or inquiries about meteorites to Mr. Paul P. Sipierya, William Rainey Harper College, Geology and Physical Science, Palatine, Illinois, 60067

## GROWING PEARLS

A Wisconsin farmer planted 3000 seeds and is waiting for his harvest . . . pearls. He is growing the pearl bearing mussels in tanks. James Horpol has pointed out that Wisconsin has a past reputation for good pearls, and he hopes to expand his operation, to make pearl farming a successful endeavor.

# Franklin Mineral Museum excellent place to visit

*One of the great mineral localities in America and the world is Franklin, New Jersey. There is a great new Museum and Mine Replica now at Franklin, and the Franklin Mineral Museum, Incorporated has just published its first newsletter, 'Franklin Museum Messenger' superbly edited by Frederick Fraissel, Jr. Annual memberships to the museum which includes the bulletin, are \$5.00.*

The Franklin Mineral Museum contains a comprehensive display of the approximately 200 species of minerals from the Franklin-Ogdensburg, New Jersey area, site of the remarkable zinc mines of the New Jersey Company. Few minerals from elsewhere are on display, yet the visitor will see polished and set gemstones, colorful crystals, and specimens of great rarity, as well as artifacts and curios connected with the past of this unusual area.

The wealth of mineral specimens at Franklin owes its abundance to a sequence of geological events never duplicated elsewhere. A billion years ago an ocean covered the area, and in quiet deep spots, iron, zinc, and manganese accumulated and were incorporated into a thickening sequence of sediments and submarine lavas. Over 800 million years ago, depth of burial and folding transformed the rocks and their enclosed minerals into the layered materials we see today. Many of the rare minerals were formed during the first period of mountain building.

Subsequently, weathering of the new land down to sea level developed a beach at Franklin some 550 million years ago, and fragments of the newly exposed mineral deposit or ore body were incorporated in the beach sands. Again the land sank in the classic geologic pattern of submergence, deposition, uplift, and erosion. Perhaps four periods of mountain building took place during repetitions of the sequence, each with an opportunity for deep fractures to allow introduction of new solutions and vapors to add to and alter the earlier minerals.

For the last 100 million years, the Franklin area has been undergoing erosion as the high ground of New Jersey has washed down the rivers and the coast to form Southern New Jersey and fairly recently, a million to 10,000 years ago, glaciation has aided the process exposing the ore bodies for discovery and mining. Meanwhile, minerals continue to form where weathering can alter the older minerals. The story is far from completed, and new minerals are being discovered continually.

The Franklin Mineral Museum contains permanent and loaned collections of unusual interest. It also houses a spectacular display of fluorescent minerals whose brilliant colors may be viewed under ultra-violet light. The Replica Mine, located in the original engine house which was used to hoist ore from the open cut, simulates actual mining operations full scale in the Franklin mine.

The town of Franklin turned over to the Museum the administration of the historic Buckwheat Dump. Admittance to the Dump is now from the upper museum level, and the Franklin Mineral Museum, Inc. is privileged to offer collecting in such a richly mineralized area. The Museum is continually acquiring new specimens of superior grade so that visitors will always be able to study the best in Franklin minerals. The Museum has its own laboratory for the identification and preparation of minerals for display.

## *Straight collection in new location*

The Halver R. Straight mineral and gem collection, given to the Central Iowa Mineral Society of which Mr. Straight was a member upon his death in 1958, has been housed in Old Main on the campus of Drake University, Des Moines, Iowa. The collection was opened to public showing during the National Gem and Mineral Show held in Des Moines in 1962.

The collection has now been moved to larger and more spacious quarters in Drake University's Harvey Ingman Hall of Science. Central Iowa Mineral Society is planning a special open house to commemorate the occasion on Sunday, January 15, and all members, past members and friends and general public are invited to attend.

The collection, one of the finest in the country, can be viewed during regular visiting hours of Harvey Ingman Hall.

### *About Mr. Straight:*

Halver Straight was born in El Paso, Illinois in 1882 and attended Grinnell College and the University of Illinois where he received his degree in Mechanical Engineering. He married in 1909 and had two daughters and a son.

He moved to Adel, Iowa upon his graduation where he managed the Dallas Clay Products Co. for his father. He invented and manufactured pugmill knives and other devices used in the making of brick and tile. He invented and held patents on 87 tools and instruments used in the manufacturing of clay products.

He established the Iowa Soya Bean Plant at Adel, Iowa and the Clay Products Co. at Redfield, Iowa. He developed the Sequensomatic car dumper, a device designed to unload a rail car of grain in a matter of minutes by raising and tilting it.

## **MINERAL CHANGES DUE TO WEATHERING**

The surface changes that affect ores are very important. Most minerals will change when left to the action of weather. Pyrite changes slowly to limonite, and chalcopyrite changes to limonite and malachite. Sometimes the variable minerals are entirely dissolved at the surface and the rock is left barren. This is particularly true of copper ores, though usually some traces of copper will be left at the surface. Here is a list of some of the weathering changes of most common occurrence and of greatest interest.

Feldspar changes to clay.

Olivine and hornblende change to serpentine or chlorite rocks.

Impure limestone may dissolve and leave clay.

Pyrite changes to limonite and hematite.

Copper-sulphide minerals change to malachite, azurite, cuprite, or metallic copper, or may be dissolved entirely. Some copper minerals become partly limonite.

Silver minerals change to horn silver (cerargyrite or dissolve).

Rhodochrosite and rhodonite change to psilomelane or pyrolusite (manganese minerals.)

Calcite dissolves.

Gold may dissolve if manganese is in the rock.

Quartz, fluorite, apatite, barite, and tourmaline are not likely to change. *from Rockster News, Rochester, N. Y.*

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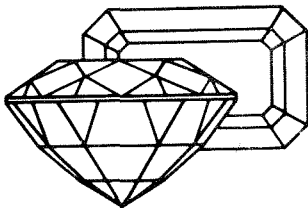
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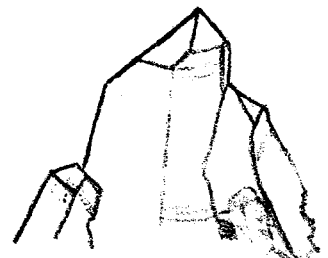
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