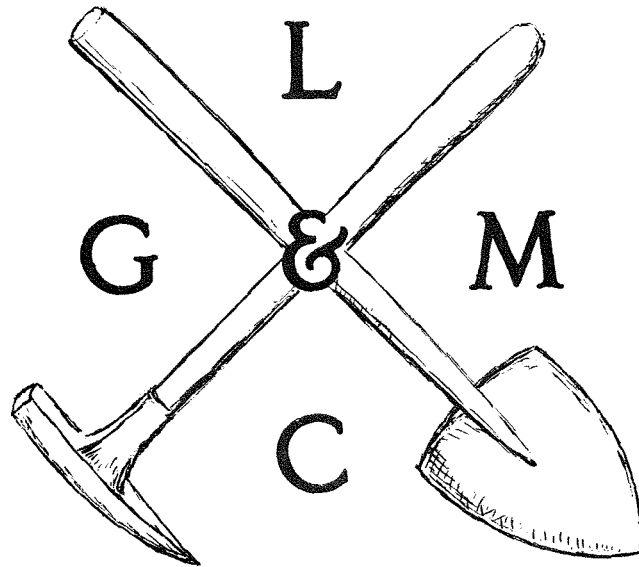


# THE PICK & SHOVEL



OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF  
LINCOLN GEM & MINERAL CLUB  
LINCOLN, NEBRASKA

Volume 18

Issue 7

Date March 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 So.26th,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
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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 CHAIRMEN:

Program	Florence Boring	Liaison & Calling	Marie Taylor
Education	James Marburger	Committee	
Hospitality	Vera Lyman	Refreshments	Bob/Sylvia Daniels
Historian	Lois Everett		Dick/Shirley Roberts
Librarian	Stan/Hazel Greenwade	Scholarship	Edwin/Vivian Johnson
Membership	Marita Bigley	Publications	Larry Bigley
Field Trips & Safety	Frank & Tom Rule	Housing & Property	Laurence B.Wightman
Sunshine Corner	Susan Taylor	Audit Comm.'78	L.Wightman,R.Pabian & B. Daniels
NAOESCI Reporter	Evelyn Ulrich	1978 Show Chairman	Don Carter
1978 Christmas Program Committee	Glen/Flossie Litzenberg	1979 Show Chairman	Glen Lyman

LONG RANGE PLANNING & BY-LAWS COMMITTEE

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

PICK & SHOVEL STAFF: Chairman Larry Bigley (466-0211)  
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 Poard, 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.

General Meeting...Saturday, March 25, 7:30 P.M.  
 Trabert Hall, 2202 South 11th St.



Program.....Dr. John Clough, director of the Ross Ice Shelf Project, will present a program on plate tectonics, the movement of plates in the earth's crust. These movements are responsible for such features as coal and petrified wood in the Antarctic, the San Andreas and other earthquake faults, and the rugged Andes Mountains. If you happened to read the full-page article in the Lincoln Star March 1, 1978, you know that a treat is in store for you.

-Florence Boring, Program Chairman

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

LGMC Board of Director's Meeting... Thursday, April 6th  
 7:30 P.M. Home of Howard Taylor  
 910 New Hampshire.

- \* Welcome New Members..By Reinstatement, Earl and Lorene Messelhiser  
 1030 N. 48th, 68504, Phone 466-1484
- Albert and Marilu Rogers, 6900 Platte,  
 Lincoln, Ne. 68507 - Tel. 466-4593
- Ted R. McConnell, 1705 Ivy, Crete, Ne. 68333  
 Phone 826-3789 (Toll)

1978 DATES TO REMEMBER

Mar. 18-19	Vermillion, S. D.	South Dakota Gem & Min. Show Coyote Student Center, Free admission
Mar.31-Apr. 2	Lincoln, Ne.	State Show, hosted by Lincoln Gem.& Min. Club, Ag.Fldg. State Fair Grounds
Apr. 9	Yankton, S. D.	Lewis & Clark Gem & Min. Soc. Show
April 21-23	Hastings, Ne.	Central Nebr. Rock & Min. Soc. Show Hastings City Auditorium
Apr. 21-23	Wichita, Ks.	Wichita Gem & Min. Soc. 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
May 6-7	Lexington, Ne.	State Swap - Fairgrounds
May 20-21	Hot Springs, S. D.	Picture City Gem & Min. Soc. Show City Auditorium
June 2-4	Norfolk, Ne.	Northeast Nebr. Rock & Min. Soc. Show, Villa Inn, Convention Center
June 10-11	Hebron, Ne.	Fort Butler Rock & Gem Club Swap
June 17-18	Beatrice, Ne.	Homestead Gem & Min. Soc. Swap
July 14-16	Columbus, Ne.	Loup Valley Gem & Min. Soc. Show, Holiday Inn
Sept. 2-4	Omaha, Ne.	Nebr. Min. & Gem Club Show, Holiday Inn
Sept. 29-Oct.1	North Platte, Ne.	Platte Valley Rock & Min. Soc. Show National Guard Armory
Oct. 14-15	Grand Island, Ne.	Grand Island Earth Science Soc. Show

\*CHANGE OF ADDRESS: Edward Ridge to 5228 Leighton, Phone 466-3534

# Last Month

Lincoln Gem and Mineral Club was pleased to have as guests at the February meeting Richard and Verla Bowers, Ivan and Joan Waples, Fred and Barb Peterka, Sylvan and Lillie Ellsworth and Mary Wareham. Reports were given on the progress of the 1978 Show by Chairman Don Carter and several of his chairmen. A 'mini-show' was in progress at Gateway Mall and was creating much interest. Roger reported that National Bank of Commerce Garden Mall is to be set up with several hutch cases for a two-week period also, promoting the 1978 Show. Many assistants are still needed for the actual work at the show.

Howard Taylor reported on the progress toward the 1980 National Show. It will be almost completely housed in the new sports complex at the Fairgrounds.

Marita Bigley, Chairman, reported that the 1977 Auditing Committee had completed their review of the club books and found them in order. The prepared Financial Statements were given to the members present.

Larry Bigley gave a slide presentation of their trip to Mt. Antero, Colorado on Labor Day week-end in 1977. Many colorful and interesting points were made - it looked like a "Rockhounds Trip" for sure.

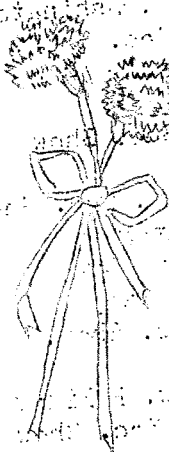
Everyone enjoyed the coffee hour with cherry pies brought by the members. Those not consumed were auctioned off for the Scholarship Fund.



In March 1968, Mr. & Mrs. Ralph Ulrich presented a travelog on their Christmas trip to Germany. They showed slides and commented on the many highlights.

*Thanks*

Luella Paul wishes to thank the Gem and Mineral Club members for the many cards and limited visits received while in the hospital and now slowly convalescing at home due to a heart attack.



We can make our own sunshine  
 From a warm little thought  
 Of wonderful blessings  
 Life often has brought.

Then our hopes become brighter  
 And next thing we know  
 There's sunshine enough  
 To make happiness grow!

Anonymous

This month Get Well cards were sent to:

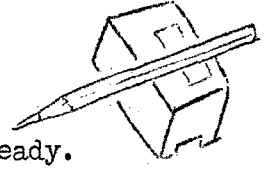
Rev. Raymond Pfeiffer

Mr. & Mrs. Norman Engelhart

Until next time!

Susan Taylor

## FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK



Have you forgotten something? I hope you haven't forgotten our Show. Show time is near and I hope you have your displays ready. Set up day is Thursday, March 30th. Club members will be able to set up their displays late afternoon or early evening.

All committee heads have worked very hard under the guidance of Don Carter so give them a helping hand where needed. We do need people to set up and tear down, guides for youth groups, ticket sellers, work shop and rock pile.

There will be an Awards Breakfast Sunday morning, April 2nd in the building. There will be tickets available for anyone wishing to attend.

There will be a noon luncheon served for the Delegates who are attending the NAOESCI Meeting and anyone wishing to attend the luncheon may do so. Tickets will be available for this luncheon also.

I want to thank Dick Roberts, Virg Carveth, Frank Rule and Edwin Johnson for their work at our storage room at the meeting hall. Hopefully we can get our chairs and equipment put away.

Our Library is back in order and books are again ready to be checked out. Contact the Greenwades. How did you like the book report by Stan? I thought it was very good.

I would say the Mini Show we had at the Gateway Mall was a big success. In the time I spent there I saw many people looking at the displays and our members were answering questions and selling Grab Bags and Raffle Tickets. Many thanks to all who participated.

There are still some Raffle tickets to be sold, check out some from Frank Rule and let's get busy.

It was decided at one of our 1980 Show Committee meetings that we would keep you informed on our progress. We are ready to sign a contract for the Sports Center. Negotiations are being completed. We still have some vacancies in committee positions. If anyone is interested in one of these positions please contact someone on the 1980 Show Committee.

Our membership is on the move. If you have anyone interested in our hobby please bring them to our next meeting.

Hope to see you all at our Show March 30, April 1 and 2, 1978.

Howard

From the editor's desk...March - and the rockhunting fever becomes an epidemic. We've read gem and mineral and rockhound magazines all winter, and now we're anxious to get out and try our luck.

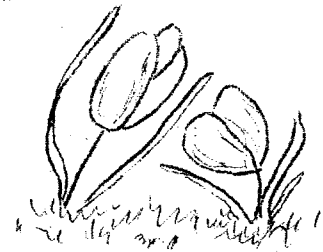
We may find some of our favorite collecting sites closed to vehicles. It seems that some of our favorite hunting areas will be open only to back packers. An article in the Rapid City bulletin, THE BLACKHILLS PROSPECTOR, states that the government land is being considered as a wilderness area by the BLM. This would include the Cheyenne River and Indian River areas where the most colorful Fairburns are found. Many of us have enjoyed hunting Fairburns in South Dakota Grasslands and would hate to see this locality closed. This could happen to our north western Nebraska grasslands. There is a lot of lobbying going on by Sierra and other such clubs to create wilderness areas open to backpackers only. This would close such areas to older people and families with children. People who enjoy rock hunting as a hobby should protest. We have as much right to government land as anyone else. In the Grasslands we find the rocks lying on the surface and very little damage is done to the land. Probably no more than the back packers would do. Of what value would it be to close the area?

The environmental impact statement will come out in May or June. If they decide to make a wilderness area of this region, we had better join the South Dakota clubs in their protest to the closing of this area. We should write to our legislators. The Rangers seem to think that the more people who write and comment the better our chances of keeping it open. Rockhounds must stick together or we will have to give up this most enjoyable hobby for all our hunting places will have become wilderness areas open only to the backpacker and horseman.

\*\*\*\*\*

March meanders out-of doors  
Till it stumbles on a...crocus,  
What a lovely hok-us-pokus  
To have such a tiny thing  
As a purple crocus poke us  
Into spring!

Maureen Cannon

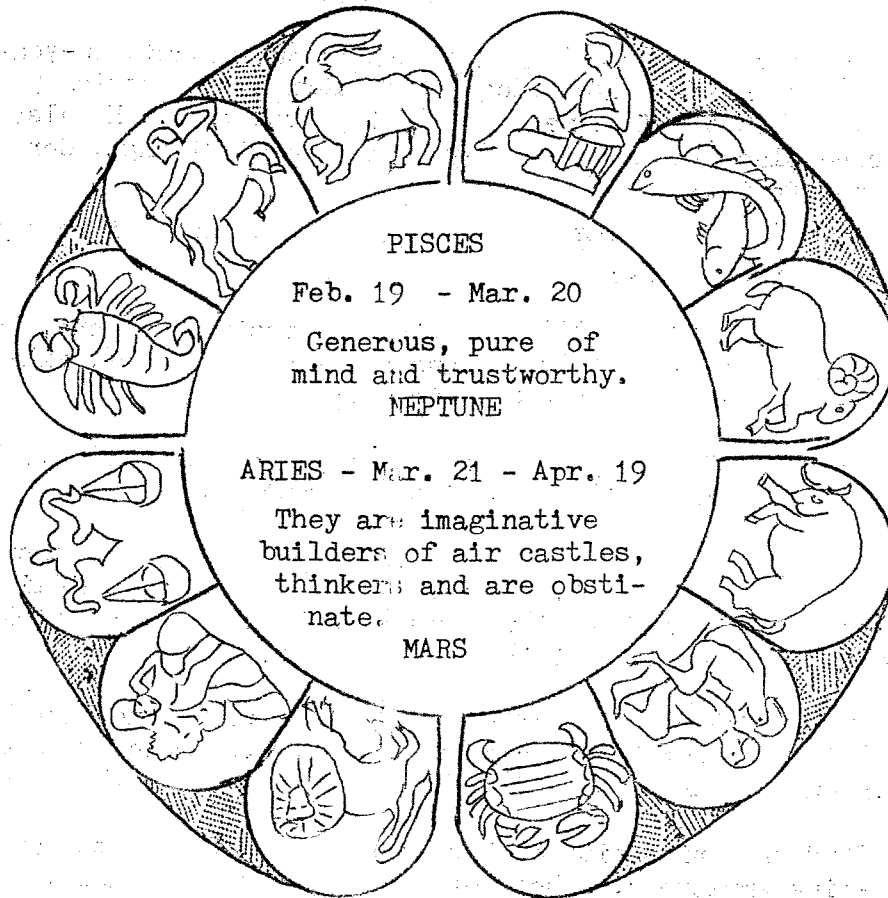


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The Blarney Stone... The Blarney Stone is a block of limestone in Blarney Castle, near Cork, Ireland. Legend says the owner of this castle used promises of flattery to save the castle from its attackers. The stone is in a parapet near the top of the castle, and it once bore the date 1446. The legend has grown that a person who kisses the stone will be given the power of persuasive eloquence. To kiss the stone one has to lean backward and head down. The fame of this castle is bound up with the civil history of the County and the War of the Great Rebellion.

-Ozark Science News via Rockwood Rockhound News





BLOODSTONE or AQUAMARINE - BIRTHSTONE for MARCH  
by Flossie Litzenberg

**BLOODSTONE:** is a green jasper with blood-red haematite stains and was called heliotrope. It has a hardness of 7. Jaspers were used for making ornaments and even engraved images were put on their surfaces.

**AQUAMARINE:** is a blue-green variety of Beryl with a hardness of 7.5. Aquamarines come from the weathering of granite. May be found in the rock debris and alluvial deposits. Aquamarines are not valued as high as emeralds, another variety of Beryl. In ancient history, Pliny mentioned the Roman Emperor, Nero used an emerald spectacle lens, but it is believed to really be an aquamarine.

\*\*\*\*\*

Will members please, bring any specimen of bloodstone or aquamarine they may have for "Show and Tell".

\*\*\*\*\*

No man is completely worthless. He can always serve as a horrible example.



## HIGHLIGHTS from Helena

We may have a potential Mark Spitz in our midst! 10-year old David Green won first place in the diving contest for 9 & 10-year old boys at the YMCA meet at Hastings recently. He also took second place in the 11 & 12-year old boys' diving. Congratulations, David.

Also, his sister Mary won 3 medals at the same swim competition. Pretty neat, Mary.

We hear that the McGinnises will be leaving Quartzsite, Arizona, March 6th and head for Texas and Old Mexico. Plans now seem to be they will come home about mid-April. Good hunting, friends!

Luella Paul is home and making progress in regaining her health. No company yet, but an encouraging card might be welcome.

We hear that Bob Bainbridge was at Veterans Hospital for some tests. Hope you get a good report, Bob. We'd love to have you and Millie back in the fold by Show time. Your interesting collection of colorful Slag was always a beautiful addition to our shows, Millie.

The Engelharts are out of the hospital now. Norm went home last Monday, the 27th, and Dorothy was to get home the next day, according to my information. Our sincere wishes for improved health to both of you.

On February 23rd the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, presented awards to several long-time employees. Those of 25-years tenure or more, were given a steak dinner at the Nebraska Student Union. Among the 35-year employees is our own Adeline E. Nolde. Her period of employment includes service as an artist in the Univ. Extension Div. before World War II, and her time as the Departmental Secretary in the Dept. of Engineering Mechanics since October 1945. Adeline received a gold pin with two diamonds and one ruby in it. In 1973, when such recognitions were first inaugurated, Adeline was given a gold watch for 25 years' service and also the gold pin with two rubies and one diamond for 30 years' service. Wonderful, Adeline! When you achieve 40 years' service, or retirement,--"whichever comes first" - we hope they will give you a round-the-world trip for two. Keep me in mind, friend, eh?

Flossie and Glen Litzenberg are off again. First, to the California desert to hunt fire opal, then on to Hawaii, where their son has lived for some years but who will be retiring shortly. We understand they will all be returning to the Mainland to begin an extended camper-tour around the States, Canada, and maybe into Alaska. How wonderful! May good health attend them all the way, and bring them back with lots to tell us. We always love "show and tell" programs. 'Twould be nice to hear from them enroute, too.

Reverend Pfeiffer is out of the hospital sporting a rebuilt hip, using crutches and exercising around the house. He hopes to see us at the show. It just goes to prove "You can't keep a good man down."

We've learned that Roger Pabian has received his "Colored Stone Certificate" from the Gemological Institute of America of Santa Monica, California. Congratulations, Roger!

## BLM Considering Crawford and Pine Ridge As Roadless Areas!!

A letter from Jan Baumeister, Editor of The Black Hills Prospector, the Rapid City club bulletin, contained a clipping from The Rapid City Journal which I feel will be of much concern to Nebraska Rockhounds. I wrote to Jan after reading an article in their bulletin which warns the readers of the possible closure of the favorite rockhunting areas of South Dakota to vehicles. Not only are the South Dakota grasslands threatened, but also the Crawford and Pine Ridge areas of Nebraska. Jan very kindly furnished me with a lot of information which I wish to share with you. - Editor

The article from Custer, S. D. states that four criteria have been selected for deciding what will become of the 59,000 acres of "roadless areas" in South Dakota according to Forest Service officials. There are 65.7 million acres of public land which is being identified as "roadless and undeveloped" and will be considered as part of the second national Roadless Area Review and Evaluation (RARE II). They are considering 8.6 million acres in the Rocky Mountain region of South Dakota, Wyoming, Nebraska, Kansas and Colorado. 345 areas in this region will be considered as possible wilderness. 28,120 acres are in the Black Hills National Forest and 44,590 are in the Buffalo Gap National Grasslands. 15,728 acres in the Soldier Creek area (Crawford) and Pine Ridge are also being considered.

Bob Lynn, Black Hills National Forest Information Officer, provided information as to the four things being considered in the conversion of these areas into a wilderness or roadless area. They are as follows:

Characteristics of the area in terms of how ecosystem, land form, accessibility and wildlife forms fit into the overall picture of the National Wilderness Preservation System.

Characteristics of the "ideal" wilderness system in terms of the items in the first step.

Goals for various agencies and regions for filling gaps in the existing national wilderness system in order to arrive at the ideal.

Possible "tradeoffs" between alternatives at the regional level.

They will decide which areas would best fill those gaps and then decide if the possible social and economic impact on an area warrants wilderness designation. Public workshops revealed that agricultural groups strongly object to wilderness designation in grazing and watershed areas. Opposition was also registered from timbering interests.

A draft environmental statement on the roadless areas should be completed and available by May or early June of 1978. The public will then have the summer of 1978 to review and comment on which areas should be used

continued

BLM Considers Closing Northwest Grasslands - continued

for wilderness and which areas should be devoted to nonwilderness uses. These recommendations will be solicited during the fall of 1978 when formal public involvement will end.

Areas in South Dakota being considered are:

Norbeck, 9,400 acres around Harney Peak

Beaver Park, 5,000 acres of public and 40 acres of private land north of Bethlehem Cave.

Buffalo Gap National Grasslands including:

26,270 acres on Indian Creek

9,520 acres near Red Shirt

8,800 acres along the Cheyenne River

Nebraska areas being considered:

Pine Ridge, 7,640 acres

Soldier Creek, 8,088 acres (Crawford area)

State maps showing the inventoried roadless areas have been prepared. These may be obtained, free of charge, by writing to:

United States Department of Agriculture  
Forest Service  
11177 West 8th Avenue  
P. O. Box 25127  
Lakewood, Colorado

Ask to be put on mailing list for information.

After May, protest letters may be sent to the above address. The club as a whole should protest, and each individual member should also protest the closing of these favorite rock hunting areas to vehicles. A majority of club members are older people who would find it impossible to backpack into the hunting areas. Our hobby is doomed unless we take a vigorous stand. Powerful groups are lobbying to convert these areas in to wilderness. Rockhounds all over must unite in an effort to preserve our freedom to enjoy our rockhunting hobby. Hunting areas are being closed all over. It won't be long until only Dealers will have access to the gem and minerals that we now enjoy collecting.

The South Dakota Clubs need our support. Send your protest to

James R. Mathers, Forest Supervisor  
Black Hills National Forest  
Custer, South Dakota 57730

Remember- the people who will decide the fate of these areas are in Washington D.C. Unless we voice a lot of opposition, they will probably think it is a good thing, not realizing how important it is to the many Rockhounds in the U.S. who would have to give up this hobby if hunting areas are closed to vehicles. A Rockhound who was in the Crawford area reports signs are already up.

## HUNTING DRY HEAD AGATES IN SOUTHERN MONTANA

Go to Lovell, Wyoming where there is a good City of Lovell free campground with free hot showers, also a good place to fill up on good fresh water.

Go east out of Lovell about two miles and turn left which is north; follow oil top pavement north into Montana to Barry's Landing where the paving goes east. You follow unimproved road on north (if it had a good rain wait at least 1 day, or have a four-wheel drive). Take this road on north until you come to a fork in the road, take the right fork and go east. Go through first gate and to the 2nd gate, turn right and go along fence until you come to a trailer where the diggings start. This is a pay dig- \$15.00 per day (24 hour day). Check with the caretaker as to when you have to quit digging (if you stay over night). You camp in wherever you wish. I prefer to camp at the west diggings and prefer to dig at pit directly below the trailer house. Have the caretaker show you what you are looking for.

This is a dry camp, but you have an outdoor toilet at west pits. The caretaker has a bulldozer and about every two weeks clears off the overburden.

While you are there take a camera trip along the fence to 2nd gate, turn right through the gate and follow trail road about 2½ to 3 miles to where you can see the lake. Look for rock shelters that were built many years ago. Good luck.

Tom Simmons

P.S. I will have specimens at the next meeting.

## NAOESCI SILENT AUCTION

Having been appointed as Chairman of the Silent Auction (by our President, Hal Horak) leads me to ask for your cooperation to make this silent auction a huge success.

This auction can be successful only if each member of every state club will bring as many saleable materials as possible. The Board of Directors (NAOESCI) are conducting the event. All proceeds will be contributed to the treasury of our state organization.

I am taking this opportunity to ask each one of you to bring good quality materials (the kind you'd like to buy). Label each piece of material with donor's name, your club name, name of material and if possible origin.

If you are not going to be able to attend the show but want to contribute, your club is invited to mail some material for auction to:

Jim McGrew, Beacon View, Cretna, Ne. 68028

I will see that your material gets to Lincoln.

Jim McGrew-Chairman Auction Comm.

## FIELD TRIP ABC'S

- A-lways have someone with you when you go rock hunting.  
B-eware of strange animals when crossing fields and such.  
C-arry a first aid kit and also a compass.  
D-o not leave a group without letting someone know where you are going.  
E-ating berries can be fatal unless you know they are safe.  
F-ires are fine for camping, but be sure it is allowed, and that you put it out completely before leaving.  
G-oggles should be worn while you are chipping rock.  
H-ave proper wearing apparel for roughing it.  
I-f doubtful of poison oak or ivy, do not touch or walk amidst.  
J-eopardize no one by taking foolish chances.  
K-keep a snake bite kit handy in snake infested areas.  
L-ook before you leap over big holes or slippery rocks.  
M-ake sure not to stand on edges of cliffs or large diggings.  
N-ever go into an old mine shaft.  
O-verloading your rock bag can put a kink in your back.  
P-ark so that cars can get by; do not block roadways.  
Q-quick thinking sometimes averts tragedy. Be alert.  
R-espect property rights and all warning signs.  
S-hould there be children along, make sure they are in plain sight.  
T-ake plenty of drinking water.  
U-se rock hammers and picks with caution; make sure no one is close.  
V-ery careful if using flammable liquid to start fires.  
W-atch for snakes and such.  
X-it quietly and with manners if asked to leave private property.  
(If there without permission-wrong.)  
Y-our litter won't be appreciated if left for the next person; be sure to clean up your camp.  
Z-ippers hard to open or stuck in bed rolls-just use a little lighter fluid.

## The Rockhouser via Smoke Signals

Apologies to the autor of this advice for a few minor changes and additions.---Editor

\*\*\*\*\*

"Treasures of Early Irish Art now on National tour, is expected to influence American jewelry. The handsome Irish jewelry and chalices have intricate and graceful designs and excellent craftsmanship. Among the arts they reveal are casting, engraving, enamel, intaglio twisting, hammering, piercing, and overlay. Materials are gold, bronze, silver, glass, copper, rock crystal, and other stones. Surprisingly many of these pieces, which date back from 1500 B.C. to 1500 A.D. have a fashionable contemporary look.

Big on the jewelry market this year are opals, jade, aquamarine, pearls, crystals. Chains are still popular, stickpins are "in" but rings still lead the list.

June Zeitner, Concretionary Column, AFMS NEWSLETTER

## LAKE SUPERIOR AGATES IN MINNESOTA

-Irl Everett

I promised I would write this and now has come the time.

As most of the Lincoln club members know, I work full time for the Nebraska National Guard. This makes me go with my unit when they go to summer camp. The last three years I have been fortunate to be able to go to Camp Ripley, Minnesota.

Now Camp Ripley is about 7 or 8 miles from Little Falls, Minnesota. Little Falls is a very interesting town and has the boyhood home of Lindberg there, plus the Mississippi River goes right through town.

Back to Camp Ripley, I have had very good luck in hunting for Lake Superior type agates there. This camp is a real rockhound's dream as no one hunts it very much. As I have gone back there year after year, I always find new things that have turned up.

I remember years back when I went to camp I looked for a week or so and didn't find a single agate. I became very discouraged with the whole deal and finally went to Brainard, Minnesota to a rock shop. I asked the rock dealer, "How do you find the Lakers?" He said, "Just keep looking and when the sun's just right they will show up." Well, this was of little help, so he took me outside and had a handfull of rough Lakers which he tossed in his gravel drive. Then he said, "Pick out the Lakers." Well, when I saw them in the gravel, I knew that when I got back to camp I could find more. I'll always be indebted to that rock dealer.

I could hardly wait to get back to the gravel pits and start looking. The gravel pits there are different than here. The pits are dry with no water-just flat, gouged out places. They take off the burden till they hit a sand bed and then go to the gravel. The pits I've been in are usually about 4-6 feet deep and are always about a block square. They seem to dig the gravel out with a front end loader and so most generally it's kind of in windrowed piles. I've been to some pits that have no gravel in them-just a kind of blow sand; then I've been in some with bigger rocks in them-like granite, hornblende, quartz and the likes. Usually about grapefruit size and up.

I remember one year I was up there after a lot of rain, plus a lot of activity in the pits and 4 of us found about 98 pounds of Lakers. No one found really big ones- just a lot the size of a lemon and on down to walnut size or smaller. I have always found agates there because it's so close to the Mississippi River. I guess it is all glacier deposited and of course if there's sand, gravel and water, there's a good chance of finding Lakers.

I remember a couple years ago when I was up there I had planned to go agate hunting so was telling one of the W.A.C.s in my outfit that I was going out. Well, it so happened this W.A.C. (Linda Plock) used to be in our Rock Club and has a degree in Geology, and was interested in going out in the field and looking. Anyway I told her I would take her out if she got someone else to go along with us -- You guessed it! Another W.A.C.!! It was very difficult to tell my Buddies I was going out in the Boon Docks with two girls and go rock hunting!

continued

LAKE SUPERIOR AGATES IN MINNESOTA continued

In the past couple years we have found another good pit and its about 2 miles from our barracks. There is nothing big here in this pit, but all are just right in the tumbler. I would say that if one would check out all the pits in Camp Ripley, he could keep busy for a long time.

I must also tell of very good jaspilite I've found on the banks of the Mississippi River. I didn't know what they called it till I hauled some in to the rock dealer and he told me. It is a combination of jasper and hematite - so they call it jaspilite. We have cut it and the jasper usually is a blood red or deep red in color with veins or streaks of hematite running through it. I've never found any big pieces of it in the sand pits, but I've found large pieces on the river banks. I remember one year I picked up over 100 pounds of this in one evening of hunting. I know that the local folks up there are not interested in it, but I always have been.

Also maybe I should mention that besides finding Lakers and Jaspilite, I have found Unakite, Quartz, Jasper, Chert, Hematite, Granite.

I think the nice thing is that when I go to summer camp in Minnesota I can always have a lot of fun out picking rocks.

I have met some really nice folks both in Little Falls and Brainard who are lots of fun to talk to about rocks.

One year I was at camp and 3 or 4 of us were out hunting Lakers when one guy found one about as big as a large potato. Well, I got all excited and told him that I would give him \$10.00 for the agate. Well, he said he didn't want to sell it, but went back to the camp area and told all the guys what I offered him for his agate. You should have seen then what my other Buddies tried to sell me! All sizes, shapes, and colors of rocks.

Anyone wanting to see what I have found can drop out and we can look it over. Please wait till the snow is gone.

Geeish! Hasn't this been a long winter?

I will be going back to Camp Ripley, Minnesota again this year to fulfill my obligation to the National Guard and hunt rocks!!

Evey (Irl Everett)

Our thanks to Irl for this very interesting account of agate hunting. Doesn't it make you anxious to get out in the field? Let's hope it starts warming up and we can get rid of all this snow.

Editor

.....

Criticism is something we can avoid easily-- by saying nothing, doing nothing and being nothing. Aristotle.

Even if you're on the right track you'll get run over if you just sit there. Will Rogers.

From CAPSULED COMMENTS submitted by Carolyn Nelson  
via the Rockhound Scoop

Y O U R   L I B R A R Y

Prepared by Stan & Hazel Greenwade, Librarians

ANNOUNCING a new addition to our Library on February 26, 1978.

TITLE

Origins and Geologic History of Silicious Metacolloidal Deposits,  
Cathedral Mountain Quadrangle, Brewster County, West Texas.

A THESIS                      by Andrejs Zarins

It is a bound, hard back, publication donated to the Lincoln Gem and Mineral Club by Mr. Zarins. It is a beautiful addition to our Library and we thank you very much.

The title and first sentence of the "Introduction" (The purpose of this thesis is to determine the geology and genesis of the plume agate of the Buck Hill Volcanic Series, Cathedral Mountain Quadrangel, Trans-Pecos, Texas) tells one what the thesis is about.

The Frontspiece picture is beautiful.

A location map of the area in Texas with shaded agate areas is included. Also tables of data and many interesting color photographs.

Mr. Zarins describes the agates to be found. The rocks and their stratigraphy where-in the agates were formed and the origin or method of formation.

Those who like agates will find this work very interesting.

A Bibliography for further reading is included in the back of the book.

Mr. Zarins received a scholarship from the Lincoln Gem and Mineral Club in 1977. He graduated August 1977 with a Master of Science, Department of Geology, degree at the University of Nebraska. He was born in Latvia and came to Lincoln, Nebr. in 1952 and is currently working for Texaco as a Geologist in Houston, Texas.

A note: Our fellow club member Don Carter tells me that the seam of flower garden agate runs north through the eastern part of New Mexico, Western Oklahoma pan--handle and into Colorado altho not necessarily exposed the whole way. He said "It looks like a bed of flowers." There is a picture of this seam on page 22 in the thesis.

. . . . .

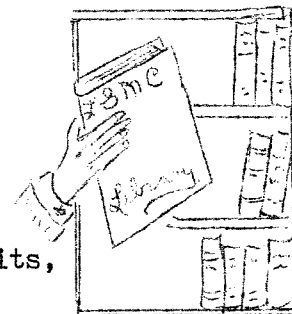
Dana's System of Mineralogy (Entirely rewritten and greatly enlarged)  
by C. Palache, H. Berman and C. Frondel - Harvard University, First copyright-1892,  
Volume 1, Eighth printing 1966.

This is a very technical book and, I think, mainly for serious students of Mineralogy. There are many tables, graphs, etc. Many well drawn illustrations of crystal forms, etc. There are no photos.

There are some parts which might be considered lighter reading which, for instance, tells of gold deposits, main areas where gold is found, the associated minerals and the rocks in which it is found.

Those who collect minerals might find this book of special interest, especially if one is curious about minerals of special interest to them.

Stan & Hazel



HANDY HINTS

Here is a new method of tumbling by Al Nutile printed in Tulip City Conglomerate:

The writer believes that the following can take much of the work from the popular method of polishing rocks and/or gemstones by tumbling. All of the instructions we have seen state: "Wash stones and tumbler very clean between each change of grit or final polish materials." At the same time stating, "If liquid is too thin, add some slurrp or grit from previously used material." We know some of you will argue against our method, but here goes:

Don't wash at all after each week of tumbling with grit. Start with #80 grit tumbling a week. Then don't empty the tumbler, but add 5 teaspoons of new grit to the mixture in a three pound tumbler. Follow this procedure through #190, 320, and 600 grit. Now, thoroughly wash the stones and tumbler before pre-polish and final powders.

For a really glossy finish, take one or more weeks (after washing out the powder polish) adding three spoons of sugar, one spoon level of Cascade or All or any non-sudsing detergent, and about ten drops of Muriatic acid. Let stand one minute open, close tub and tumble for a week.

We have run eleven tubs using this method and found that even ordinary sandstone comes out highly glossed. Except for extra final steps you save three washings and getting rid of slurry each time. Saves time, work and mess; still gets a better polish on rocks and gemstones. We hope the above will be helpful to you.

The Rockpile via The Rock Box

\*\*\*\*\*

Garbage can liners make good aprons when cutting and polishing rocks. (Cut out holes for head and arms and slip it over clothes.) Cold cream on the hands will get the oil off if you put it on before you start to cut.

Via T-Town Rockhound

\*\*\*\*\*

When you want to take a bottle of soft drink along on an outing, put two ice cubes in the bottom of one of those round potato chip cans, Put the unopened drink in it, and add two more ice cubes. Cover with plastic lid. It stays cold for quite a long time.

Korn Krib News via The T-Town Rockhound

\*\*\*\*\*

On fern fossils it is not advisable to use wax, shellac, varnish, lacquer, or spray plastic. These items cannot be readily removed and destroy forever the fine surface detail.

Museums use yellow dextrin and it has been used on everything to bring out contrast and help preserve the specimen. Just mix a tiny bit of the dextrin with water to the color of tea, and paint it on the fern itself, not on the matrix, and it will stand out, to be preserved, and the dextrin washes right off if you wish, with no harm to the fossil.

Be sure to get YELLOW dextrin, not white. It is obtainable in chunks from the drug stores.

Via Calco Pebble Patter & Chips & Tips  
by way of QUARRY QUIPS

# THE NUGGET SHINES AGAIN

-by J. D. Young

What nugget? "Man (or person) the sluice gates--an auriferous boulder is coming through!" The assay will begin after some journalistic nostalgia, so don't go away. Hold fast, there is more.

It was autumn 1920. I was a "cub" reporter and feature writer on the staff of the University Daily Nebraskan, "The Rag." By good luck, rather than merit, my regular news-beat included some of the most newsy departments; for example, The Law College, R. O. T. C., Wrestling, Geography, Geology, Conservation and Soil Survey, State Historical Society and The Museum. All were housed in old structures, not gone via the wrecker's ball. "Long live their hallowed memories."

Direct interviews involved prominent faculty men; to name a few, Dr. Foster, Dr. Bengston, Dr. Condra, Dr. Sheldon, and Dr. Barbour. Those fine gentlemen were never too busy to give courteous, personal attention, furnishing much news for the Daily Nebraskan. We always enjoyed "a happy day," and without verbal fan'fare. My assignment was greater than I realized at that time. (irresponsible, unappreciative youth). "Backward, turn backward, O Time in your flight, and give me those Profs again, so I can re-write." Now I might make greater use of my opportunities.

Recalling some of my feature stories, I mention here a few. Robbers' Cave was a popular attraction at that time, and I packed most of the legendary physical and historical lore in my front-page story.

I covered another story when the U. of N. attempted to talk with Nebraska Wesleyan, 5 miles away, using the new wireless telephone apparatus, now Radio. After much difficulty the University boys detected a faint "hello" from Wesleyan, and History was being made in Lincoln. "Look, Ma Bell -- no wires!"

About a half-century later the Poet Laureate, John Neihardt, and I together watched, with my T. V. set, the men landing on the Moon. "Look, Ma Earth -- no air - no wires!" I missed Neihardt's Laureate ceremonies in April 1921, because I was a January 1921 dropout, called home to help care for my arthritic, dear mother. I have written enough about the Poet in recent years to make up for that feature I probably would have written in April, 1921, if I had been in Lincoln then.

I was responsible for publicizing pertinent data concerning special trains to carry Cornhusker fans ("Big Red," not yet in '20) to out-of-state games. Upon the Managing Editor's request I wrote a 2-column editorial for the Annual Football Issue. The title, "What Does Husker Spirit Lack? Nebraska vs Eastern Colleges." I knew nothing about eastern colleges, but my favorite news sources supplied all. I was not activist, or sore at the establishment, and my hair (already going) was not a shambles. No disrespect intended.

My landlady, in the block east of the present Historical Society building, permitted baths, but "Saturday nite only." If my brother, William, and I were detected using the lone, 25w, dropcord, pullchain light before nightfall things would happen, and we would wish we were back in the Army.

Mrs. Mc-----, the rent-person, small but mighty, could really lower the boom. She had a way of squinting at the electric meter (indoors in 1920) to see if the telltale black spot on the little disc was rotating, and at what R.P.M. After all, what could 2 students expect for only 6 dollars each

continued

THE NUGGET SHINES AGAIN by J. D. Young (continued)

(per month-not per day.) Ah! The good old days-- no T.V. commercials -- nothing rated "X", or beyond. What coffee lovers got when they opened a can was not yet nauseating!

The Volstead Act brought Prohibition into effect in 1920. Bessey Hall labs received 50 gallons of good-natured ethyl alcohol, for scientific purposes. Are you guessing what happened? Well, it did-- almost. Fortunately, for collegiate sobriety, the main tanker of the potential was soon divided and distributed to various locked storerooms. After the hi-jacking only about  $\frac{1}{2}$  pint of the  $C_2H_5OH$  was missing. Several of the Biology Staff gave me the information, but no samples. The Rag carried my front page story, next day.

Thank you for being so patient; now we shall nudge the nugget, and end the suspense, but first, this message: One morning, as I entered the cluttered news room in ancient University Hall (N.U.'s 1st bldg.) the Managing Editor, N. Story Harding, ordered, "Young, go at once to the Museum. The replica of the world's largest gold nugget has been stolen!"

The decrepit old Museum building seemed to be peaceful when Dr. E. H. Farbour gave me all of the available information. L.C.M.C. Honorary Member, Dr. C. Bertrand Schultz had not yet become "The Skipper." (Roger wasn't even on the drafting board.)

Yes, I have read the recent interesting article in the Journal-Star about Nebraska Cold Fields. That is what jarred this old story out of my musty files. I enjoyed the color picture of 2 pretty girls supporting, with 4 hands, the shining outsize "pebble." They probably did not know that 58 years ago "it had a great fall", but unlike Humpty-Dumpty it was put together again (without E-Poxy) and re-gilded for generations to come.

So, on with the story -- "let the old Brick fall where it will." (glad you waited?)

# DAILY NEBRAS

LINCOLN, NEBRASKA, TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 30, 1920

## THIEF GETS LOCK-JAW IN HANDS AND GRABS CAMOUFLAGE NUGGET

Many pieces of gilt plaster of Paris cast on the ground beneath a window of the University Museum Monday morning told the story of an unsuccessful attempt Sunday night to rob the school of a supposedly gold nugget valued at \$140,000. But the thief was fooled!

Nuggets of that precious metal are not apt to be reclining peacefully in glass cases in a public museum--- especially nuggets worth \$140,000. Thieves, however, do not develop the power of reasoning, and take what seems to them "well worth their while." Such is always the case after they are afflicted with a severe case of lock-jaw in the hands. No clue to the identity of the prowler has been discovered.

The cast was an imitation of the largest gold nugget in the world. It was plated with gold valued at about \$18. The cast was inclosed in a glass collection case on the third floor of the building. The thief pried open one of the windows of the first floor and entered the Museum.

The evidence offered shows that without disturbing anything else, he went directly to the third floor and broke the glass case containing the camouflage mint. Evidently he was a fairly good judge of values, for, finding that it was not solid gold, he threw it out the open window and broke it. It was thus that the janitor found it early Monday morning.

(continued next page)

THE NUGGET SHINES AGAIN- by J.D. Young (continued)

To avoid muscle strain, if attempting to hoist any of these metals, take note of their specific gravity figures and multiply each by 62.4 to find the weight in pounds per cubic foot. The specific gravity figure will also be the density in grams per c.c. (or ml)

Platinum (Pt)	21.45	Lead (Pb)	11.35
Gold (aurum) (Ag)	19.32	Copper (Cu)	8.6
Mercury (Hg)	13.6	Iron (Fe)	7.9

Go ahead, multiply each by 62.4 lbs., and grunt! You will agree that those 1920 Museum thieves must have been thinking in terms of Aluminum (Al), sp. gravity 2.7, or even worse, Magnesium (Mg) 1.74. They were off the beam (no pun) as bad as the earlier Russians. They had a great surplus of Platinum, and no market for it. So they passed gold plated bricks of it, took another vodka, danced on their heels and inwardly smiled at their clever rip-off. "Ivan" is smarter now.

If you lift any of the above items under fresh water (Sp. Gr. 1) you can write off 62.4 lbs. per cubic ft. due to buoyancy. Change that to 64.0 if sea water. The Dead Sea and the Great Salt Lake will float a person like a cork, skinny dip, or bikini.

J.D.Y.

P.S. The stipend for my semester's work on The Rag was a little over \$3.00. That helped on my last half-month's room rent. It was great fun.

(credit hours were not granted for it)

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THE TEN ROCKAMANDMENTS

1. Thou shalt not touch thy neighbors minerals unless he places them in thy hand.
2. Thou shalt not test the strength of crystals by pushing, squeezing or biting.
3. Thou shalt not place thy neighbor's specimens in thine own pocket.
4. Thou shalt not drop thy enighbors' fossils, for many do not bounce properly.
5. Thou shalt not test thy neighbor's agates for hardness by rubbing them together.
6. Thou shalt not argue the name of that mineral too violently; sometimes thou could be wrong..
7. Thou shalt not climb above thy neighbor on a field trip lest thou art willing to spend the rest of the day digging him out.
8. Thou shalt protect thine own eyes, hands and feet so that thou canst enjoy many, many field trips.
9. Thou shalt not encroach upon thy neighbor's diggings lest his hammer be dropped on thine toes.
10. Thou shalt not complain about or denounce any club officers under penalty of being elected one thine ownself.

via The Water Rock News & The Michigan Gem News,  
by way of QUARRY QUIPS

GOLD IS WHERE YOU FIND IT!! prepared by Our Editor

Since we will be featuring some gold nuggets at our Gem and Mineral Show this month, some items concerning gold might be of interest to our readers. There is an estimated \$37.5 million worth of gold and other metals buried within the sludge of the Philadelphia sewage system, according to a recent Associated Press report. Dr. I. M. Levitt, Chairman of Mayor Rizzo's Science and Technology Advisory Council, says that some two tons of gold, worth about \$7.5 million on today's market, could be extracted from the city's sewage. He further estimates that \$30 million in other metals could also be found. However, he concluded that excavating the treasure is an unworkable idea, as it would take nearly \$100 million to successfully separate the metals.

#### Nishna Valley Grindstone

Karat golds are listed according to their percentages of pure gold. Some of the gold/alloy metal percentages for different colors and karat contents are:

- 22k Yellow: Gold 92%, Silver 5%, Copper 2%, Zinc 1%
- 18k White: Gold 75%, Nickel 10%, Palladium 10%, Zinc 5%
- 18k Red: Gold 75%, Copper 20%, Silver 5%
- 18k Pink: Gold 75%, Copper 17%, Silver 8%
- 18k Yellow: Gold 75%, Copper 12½%, Silver 12½%
- 18k Green: Gold 75%, Copper 5%, Silver 20%
- 14k White: Gold 58½%, Silver 15%, Nickel 20%, Zinc 6½%
- 14k Red: Gold 58½%, Silver 7%, Copper 34½%
- 14k Dark Yellow: Gold 58½%, Silver 15%, Copper 26½%
- 14k Light Yellow: Gold 58½%, Silver 21½%, Copper 20%
- 14k Green: Gold 58½%, Silver 24½%, Copper 17%

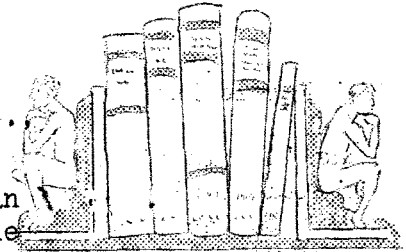
There are many terms associated with gold jewelry. Liquid gold denotes karat gold items given a polished surface. ("Liquid" means shiny finish no matter what the metal may be). Cold Filled is gold alloy mechanically bonded to a strong base metal. It must have a layer of 10k gold or better, and a weight 1/20 or more of the entire weight to be stamped "gold filled", "gold plate", "gold overlay".

Fake golds are popular since gold prices hit the ceiling. Companies guard their formulas carefully. Most are stainless steel imitations of white gold, but some alloys use heavy percentages of silver and palladium. "Quarter Palladium", one of the trade names is an alloy of 60% silver, 25% palladium, and 15% base metal. Several companies market 6k or quarter-gold rings, but since the FTC forbids using the word "gold" in connection with items of less than 10k gold fineness, they may call it 25% gold alloy, and give it a trade name such as "Omega", "Kryptonium", "M-17", "Precium", "Siladium", "Ultrium", etc. People would still rather own a precious metal ring - no matter how much more durable and harder these new alloys may be so interest in gold substitutes is dying.

The above material was taken from Chips and Facets

## BOOK REVIEW

THE COLOR TREASURY OF GEMSTONES. Dr. Eduard Gubelin, C.C. F.G.A., Thomas Y. Crowell Co., New York. \$9.95



This book proves that a lot of scientific data can be transmitted to the reader without using a dull style of writing that plagues so many scientific treatises these days. The text is written in an almost poetic style and the book has a good reading rhythm that makes it difficult to put down once the reader is engrossed in the subject.

The color plates are of excellent quality. They show every important gem, and a number of the less important gems, in all of the common colors and varieties as well as in some of the less well known colors and varieties. For example, chrysoberyl is shown not only in its green and yellow transparent varieties, but also in several colors of the cat's eye variety, and alexandrite. The same plan holds true for every gem treated by Dr. Gubelin.

The gems are arranged in their approximate order of commercial importance in the first half or so of the descriptive text. Following brief chapters on beauty of gems, causes of color, phenomenal stones, and durability of gems, the diamond is described. It is then followed by ruby, sapphire, emerald, aquamarine, chrysoberyl, and garnet. The seemingly logical sequence, however, ends here and the remaining gems are discussed in a kind of "shotgun" order. For example, tourmaline and topaz seem to be out of place in following peridot and quartz. It may be that the former gems are less esteemed in Europe, from which continent Dr. Gubelin writes.

The average lapidist will probably be somewhat disappointed with the little space devoted to agates and ornamental stones. By limiting the space devoted to agates and ornamental stones, however, the appeal of the book to more general audiences is greatly enhanced. The plate of "landscape agates" is colossal. I believe that eleven of the finest picture stones ever assembled together in one spot are to be seen here. It is as if the author is almost telling the agate collector: "What you can't have in quantity you can have in quality." The shotgun order of the last half of the book continues throughout the rest of the chapters---it is especially apparent when the section dealing with the carving of agate follows the descriptions of agates by some six chapters. Aside from these discrepancies in organization, the book is very readable and it is easy to understand terms that are well defined in the glossary of technical terms that is provided for the lay reader.

Too much praise could never be given to the exceptional color plates. The background colors are tastefully selected but not in the bland hospital colors used as backgrounds by so many authors. The terms neutral and bland are not confused by Dr. Gubelin. (Yes, Clark! There is a "neutral red.") There are no bad shadows or gaping holes in the pictures. The quality of stones used is very high and this adds immeasurably to the aesthetic quality of the book. Excellent color plates showing mining operations, secondary recovery operations, and ancient and modern lapidary techniques used for gems also abound in this volume.

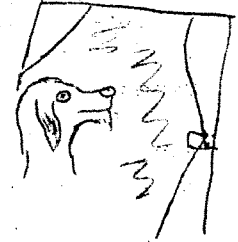
"The Color Treasury of Gemstones" is an excellent book that will be of great use to the less advanced student of gemology. Little is devoted to identifying gems, but that is not the purpose of the book. For the low price, the book is a bargain that should be added to the club's library on the merits of both its' educational and aesthetic value.

Roger K. Pabian

## PEBBLE PUP PAGE

Hi Pebble Pups,

Hasn't this winter been a long one? I suppose you haven't minded at all. Looking out the window it looks as if it will be another month before you can go on a field trip. Winter is a good time to do things such as making a rock plate. I hear David Green is really working to see how many different rock plates he can come up with. Give him some competition.



For fun see how creative you can be. Did you see Mrs. Young's display, or Mr. Henry's paintings on slab at Gateway Mall Show? Look through your collection of stones for interesting shape pebbles, cobble stones and smooth rounded rocks, or smooth flat rocks. From these make your favorite animal, T. V. Personality, or family tree. With a little use of glue, paint brush, crayon and fabric, and plastic eyes you'll be amazed at what you can create. You might even find an outlet for your efforts and make a little money. In the stores these creations are selling all the way from \$2.00 to \$5.50. They make interesting novelty gifts. I'm looking forward to seeing the Junior table at the State Show. Our state pebblepups are invited to participate and bring your display for the Junior table.



By the way, what kind of a bone would you look for to make a Rockhound soup?

See you at the show,

Aunt Ruby Rockhound

Happy

Easter!



# 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 1978 - Issue No. 183

## *Geology committee plans tour*

*By Don H. Clarke*

The Midwest Federation Geology Committee is conducting a Geology and Mineral Collecting field trip in upper Michigan. The tour begins Monday, July 31, 1978 at Michigamme Shores Campground at Michigamme, Mich. We will be collecting both cutting material and mineral specimens from the Marquette Iron Range mines. A total of ten tours have been arranged for the week.

We will attend the Upper Peninsula Swap on Saturday and Sunday, August 5-6. Field trips are available from the Ishpeming Rock and Mineral Club during these days.

The second week of the field trip will be in Michigan's south copper range. \*We will camp at Twin Lakes State Park and visit mines from Houghton to White Pine. This is the first time we have offered a tour in this area. The tour ends Friday afternoon, August 11.

Hard hats, safety shoes and safety glasses will be required on the tour. Release forms must also be signed by all persons on the tour.

The cost of the tour is \$15 per adult for the two weeks tour. No charge is made for children under 18. The tour is limited to 50 adults and is expected to fill rapidly.

We have arranged for expert guides for the various locations. Tour is a first time offering for both locations.

For reservations and additional information write to Don H. Clarke, 1107 Maple Street, Essexville, Mich. 48732

### **WORKING FOR YOUR CLUB**

WHAT has Your Federation done for you This Month? Selected Scholarship honor winners. Worked on the Directors. Admitted new members. Furnished judges for shows. Sent programs for shows and meetings. Met with BLM and other organizations to continue efforts at saving collecting areas. Received All American entries. Planned special attractions for conventions. Furnished information on many subjects. Worked on ideas about how to help clubs, how to improve communications, and how better to serve members. Represented the hobby at civic and government meetings. Answered dozens of letters from "How can we get a state stone?" to "How can we host a National (or Regional) Show?" Taken care of the business of the hobby, so you could have more time for the fun.

### **MARK 23rd ANNIVERSARY**

January marked the 23rd anniversary of the organization and first meeting of the Lincoln Gem and Mineral Club, Lincoln, Neb. Howard Taylor, a past President of the Midwest has been named President of the club again for 1978 and has appointed a Steering Committee to begin preliminary work for the Midwest annual show and convention in Lincoln in 1980.

## *Are you going to have a show?*

*By O. D. (Obie) Goss  
AFMS Show Consultant*

Are you, a society, planning to put on a local show -- or a federation show? Shows have been my main interest for many years and when I was appointed Show Advisor by AFMS President Zahn and again by President Langston, I was hopeful I could be of help to any of you planning a show.

Location and physical facilities are important for a successful show, not only for the present show but interest as the years go on. It need not be in a huge building or a fancy one but must provide easy accessibility, good parking and camping within a reasonable distance. The interior should provide good ventilation, a sufficiency of tables, seating space, roomy aisles and, if a federation show, about a minimum of 80,000 square feet.

How many workers do you have in your society? How many potential workers? Have you considered having a list of the occupations of your members in a file? When you need specialized help this could be of great value. How do you plan for a show, bid for a federation show?

How do you choose your show chairman? Are you picking one who will be strong enough to face discontented members, varieties of opinions and also keep the group enthusiastic about the show?

How do you secure, control and protect you special displays? Do you pick your committees or wait for volunteers? What do you do about commitments on banquets, etc.? How about competitive exhibits? Judges? Rules?

Don't consider a question you have too unimportant to ask. I will be pleased to give you an answer which you may use or not. If I can help, please let me know. Address me O. D. (Obie) Goss, 20525 Deerfield Drive, Sonora, Ca. 95370 Phone 209-532-7294

**1978 MIDWEST SHOW AND CONVENTION  
CEDAR RAPIDS, IOWA - AUG. 11-13**

# Field trips planned for National Show

by June Zeitner

The Mineral and Gem Society of Castro Valley, host to Rockhound Rendezvous, the National show to be held in Pleasonton, California, July 27 to 30, has announced that field trips will be available for visitors from other Federations who come to California for the show.

The splendid field trip opportunities of California were well publicized last year when Vernon Korstad took a special MGSCV Rockhound Rendezvous showcase to major shows from coast to coast. Showing rough and cut first quality material, the case was accompanied by a map, showing where the materials all came from.

Post show field trips will be conducted to some of the great locations. In addition, manuals of self-guided field trips will be available at the show at a slight charge. Samples of materials to be found at the various locations will be on display.

California has been a leader in trying to keep localities open. Choice materials from 18 sites were in the travelling showcase. Some of these favorites are for agates (Valley Springs), marble (Sonora), jadeite (Clear Creek), opalized wood (Duck Lake), mariposite (Coulterville), verde antique (Lucerne Valley), and jasper (Lavic Siding).

There will be a field trip booth at the show for visitors, to get all the information they need and sign up for trips. A special trip has been arranged for a guided tour through the geothermal generating plants of the Pacific Gas and Electric Company near Geyserville. The all day trip will include a visit to a California winery. The trip will leave from Pleasonton and return in the late afternoon of the same day. Anyone interested must NOTIFY THE CHAIRMAN BEFORE MAY 1st 1978, AS NO MORE REQUEST CAN BE CONSIDERED AFTER THAT DATE. Write to Jack Burris, 1225 Hearn Ave., Santa Rosa, California, 95401.

*And don't forget those reservations for camping, hotel and motel accommodations. Reserve early so you will not be disappointed.*

## RATTLESNAKE SAFETY HINT

Forest Rangers advise that after killing a rattlesnake you make certain that at least its head is buried. Wasps and yellow-jackets are meat eaters and when eating on the head of rattler may get the venom in their system. Then when they sting someone enough venom is in the sting to make people very ill, and it can become fatal.

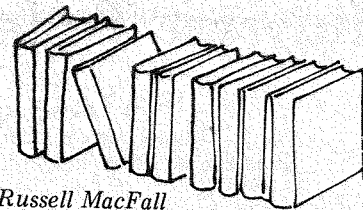
## LAST SEPTEMBER-OCTOBER PRODUCTIVE MONTHS AT CRATER OF DIAMONDS

September and October were unusually productive months, according to the Superintendent of the Crater of Diamonds State Park, near Murfreesboro, Arkansas. A total of 104 diamonds were found during these two months, with 340 diamonds found during these two months, with 340 diamonds found during the year 1977 through November.

The largest found during these two months was one weighing two carates, 75 points, and was yellow in color. In October a three carat, 13 point mocca brown was found. Over 60,000 diamonds have been discovered there since 1906.

## BOOKS

By Russell MacFall



Joel E. Arem is a young man who has a remarkable ability to make the intricacies of mineralogy and gemology as clear as the crystals he loves to write about. The latest manifestation of this ability appears in COLOR ENCYCLOPEDIA OF GEMSTONES (Van Nostrand-Reinhold, 1977, 147 pages), a large, profusely illustrated and detailed account of the scores of natural materials that have been used or can be used as gems. Of the 220 species discussed, 185 appear in color from photographs made by the author. Most of them would be unknown to a jeweler and some even unfamiliar to most mineralogists. So Arem may have some surprises and some delights for both.

The author has previously provided two highly useful paperback books that should be in the libraries of all persons interested in gems and minerals. ROCKS AND MINERALS, with photographs by Lee Boltin, appeared in 1973, published by Bantam Books. It is the kind of pocket-sized book that is detailed enough to be a useful for a quick reference and one that could well be used as a text for classes in mineralogy in rock clubs. GEMS AND JEWELRY, also Bantam, was published two years later and like its predecessor includes most of the essential material for basic understanding of such highly technical subjects as crystal structure, the effects of light, the synthetic gems, and gem testing, all discussed in 150 pages.

Arem, a Ph.D. from Harvard in mineralogy, was formerly on the Smithsonian Institution staff. He has been honored with the medal of the British Gemmological Association. As a photographer his work has appeared in the National Geographic and Smithsonian magazines. *(The AFMS Newsletter welcomes books for review. Send them to Russell MacFall, P.O. Box 309, Coronado, California, 92118)*

## SUGGEST CHANNEL 7 BASE STATION FOR NATIONAL SHOW

Shirley Leeson, Editor of the Pegmatite, publication of the San Diego Mineral and Gem Society, suggests that the Castro Valley Show Committee of the Mineral and Gem Society of Castro Valley, host to the California Federation and AFMS National Show, July 27-30, in Pleasonton, Calif. establish a base station on CB channel 7 to help direct rockhounds to the show, camping, motel and hotel accommodations.

## SHOW DATES SET BY CHICAGOLAND GEMS AND MINERALS

The Chicagoland Gems and Minerals Association have named Mrs. Russell Kemp, South Holland, Ill. as President of their association and General Show Chairman of their 1978 show. The annual combined show will be Memorial Day Weekend, May 27-29, DuPage County Fairgrounds, Wheaton, Ill.

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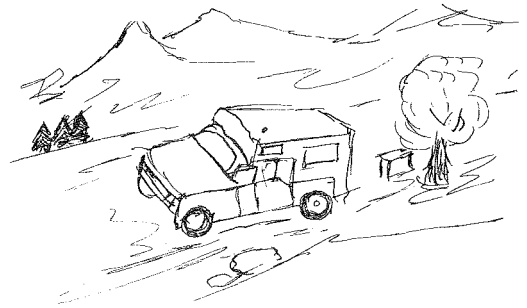


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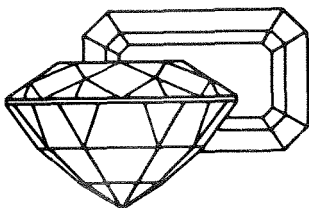
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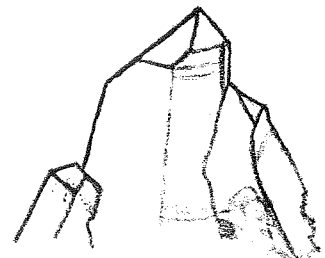
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