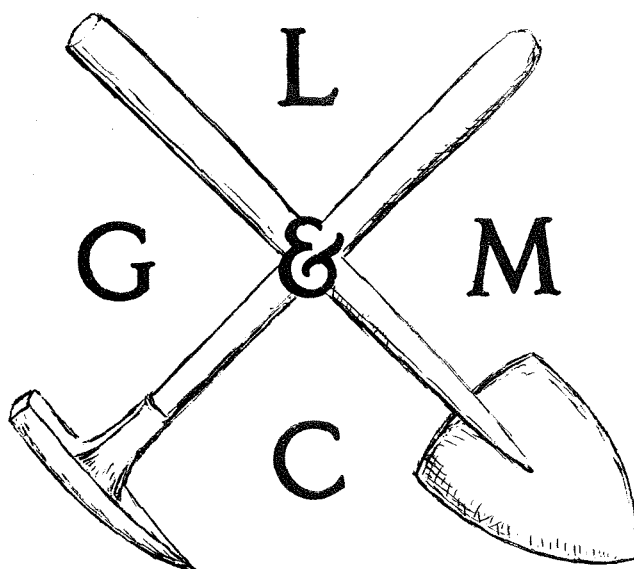


THE PICK & SHOVEL



OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF
LINCOLN GEM & MINERAL CLUB
LINCOLN, NEBRASKA

VOLUME 18

ISSUE 8

MAY 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 Poring	2836 S. 40th St.	Lincoln, 68506	488-6243
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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 Poring	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.

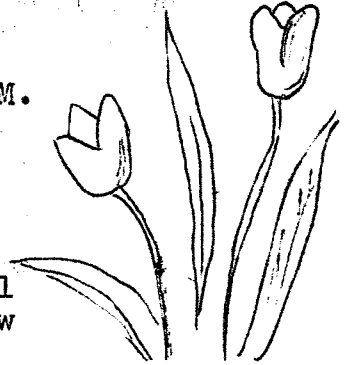
Subscriptions to the Pick & Shovel are \$3.00 per year mailed. Advertising by a rock-hobby business or interest permitted with approval of Poard, at a rate now set at \$10.50 per full page per insertion. 1/2 page-5.25,1/3 page-3.50,1/4-2.75(min)

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.

Calendar

Regular meeting... NOTICE change in date.
Saturday May 20, 1978, 7:30 P.M.
Trabert Hall, 2202 South 11th.
Will discuss summer plans.

Program.....Tornado season is upon us.
Mr. Norm Francis, Director for
Lincoln, Lancaster County Civil
Defence will be with us to show
the new weather bureau film,
"Tornado" and add some interesting sidelights.
A few of the Club members have seen the film
and recommend it very highly.
Florence Boring - Program Chairman



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

1978 Dates to Remember

May 6-7	Lexington, Ne.	NAOESCI State Swap
June 3-4	Norfolk, Ne.	Northeast Nebraska 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 14-17	Columbus, Ne.	Loup Valley Gem & Min. Soc. Show Holiday Inn
Aug. 10-13	Cedar Rapids, Ia.	MWF Convention and Show, hosted by Cedar Valley Rocks and Min. Soc. Hawkeye Downs-Highway 218 South Show Chairman: Norman Brown, 360 Tonga Dr. Hiawatha, Ia. 52233
Sept. 2-1	Omaha, Ne.	Nebr. Min. and Gem Club, Show, Holiday Inn.
Sept. 15-17	Kimball, Ne.	Plains Gem & Min. Club Show, 4-H Bldg. Fairgrounds.
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.

FLASH :

There is legislation, Bill 10587, currently pending in the House Interior Committee to exclude grasslands from RARE II study. We have been advised that at this point our voice has the greatest impact. Public Involvement is a must. Write between mid-June and October 1st, 1978 to legislators to save the grasslands from becoming roadless areas.

MORE ABOUT PUBLIC LAND USE AND BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
TAKEOVER THROUGH OUT THIS BULLETIN.

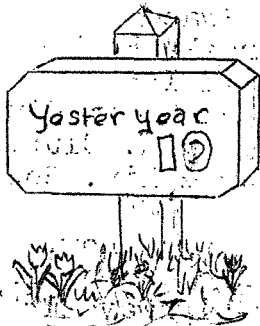
LAST MONTH.... On April 22, 1978 we enjoyed a very informative slide lecture on 'Land Bridges versus Continental Drift' presented by Professor Mylan Stout of the University of Nebraska. There were 36 members, 3 juniors and 7 guests present. Guests were Professor & Mrs. Mylan Stout, Martin Maco, Bob and Mary Walker and their children Jimmy and Rhonda. It was announced that the May meeting will be one week early on May 20th as the hall is not available on May 27. The Grand Island Club would like us to hold a joint swap this year. Nelda Oliver reported that the fee for camping has been cut to \$5.00 and \$1.00 for each additional vehicle. Frank Rule is planning a field trip to Wilber for Memorial Day weekend. He has invited any club members who would like to join him on a trip to western Nebraska, South Dakota, and Wyoming for about a week and a half this fall. Serious discussion regarding the up-coming 1980 National Show which we are to host. More help is very much needed in this advance planning and preliminary activity. In-depth discussion to take place at the May meeting. This is very important.

May 1968 - Professor William Foxwell presented a very interesting program to the club following the business meeting.

June 1968 - No meeting----But! there was a Field Trip to Eden Valley, Wyoming for petrified wood specimens and fossil fish. (The famous "Dirty Dozen?")

July 1968 - No meeting----But! there was a Special Meeting! A presentation of the "Monster-Dig" by Mr. Gene Eno and Dorothy Englehart.

from the notebooks of Lois Everett, Historian
(with a little help from Evy)



Creetings from the Sunshine Corner:

As long as I live, I'll hear waterfalls and
birds and winds sing. I'll interpret the rocks,
learn the language of flood, storm and avalanche.

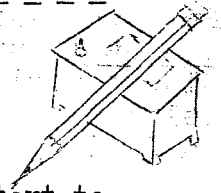
I'll acquaint myself with the glaciers and wild
gardens, and get as near the heart of the world
as I can.

--- John Muir

A belated get-well card was sent to Bud Wasser, and a sympathy card was sent to Dr. and Mrs. H. O. Paulson.

--- Susan Taylor

FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK



Dear Friends:

Summer should be here any day, we hope. I guess its the time of year we shall close out our regular meetings at Trabert Hall and start to think about field trips and our vacations. I do hope that many of you have planned vacations that will enable you to do some rock hunting.

From a show of hands at our last meeting the response to a field trip was rather nil, only 7 or 8 were interested. However, Frank and Tom Rule are working up a trip for us.

If we are to have a June Picnic that will be decided on at the May meeting. We do have a get together planned for July 8th and 9th with the Omaha club. After all details are finalized you will be informed.

This will be the 2nd notice for all members of our club that have club properties, will you please submit a list to me at our meeting in May.

Hopefully you are making some plans to attend the Midwest Federation Show in Cedar Rapids, Iowa, in August. I am sure you would have an enjoyable time.

During the Cedar Rapids Show they will be having a silent auction for the A.F.M.S. Scholarship Fund. We of LGMC are asked to give donations for this. Each donation given should be labeled as to type of material and where its from. Also included should be your name and of course from LGMC. The amount of sale for each item will be credited to our club and this will be credited to our club scholarship fund. Finished jewelry is a very good item. Please bring your donations to me and I will personally see they are delivered to Cedar Rapids. Won't you please help?

We are planning a President's Field Trip on Labor Day weekend. Final plans will be made known at a later date.

Thanks to Jim Parks for his work on the big "Gems on Location" case. It was nice to see it in shape again. Some stones of different areas are still needed.

Thank you Linda for your assist with the typing for our bulletin. It's great to have Junior Members contributing. We do appreciate this very much.

Have a nice summer and get in lots of rock hunting.

Howard

Evelyn Ulrich has accepted the chairmanship of L.G.M.C.'s P L A C (Public Lands Advisory Committee) and has working with her Frank Rule, Susan Taylor and Phyllis Parks. They will attempt to keep you abreast of activities and do urge every club member who enjoys "rockhunting" or camping to let the necessary people hear your voice loud and clear.

From the editor's desk...This will be the last issue of The Pick & Shovel until September. Any necessary information concerning Club activities during the summer will reach you by letter or telephone. Be sure to keep your calendar of shows and swaps handy if you plan to attend other Club functions.

I wish to thank all who contributed articles for the bulletin, and ask that you continue to do so after the summer recess. If you have some rewarding rock hunting experiences during the summer, do share them with us.

Best wishes for a pleasant summer and good rock hunting.

Evelyn

Let's hope you have better traveling experiences than the ladies in the following item from the Readers Digest:

Maiden Voyage. Letter to the editor of the Sacramento Bee: "Sirs: We would like to express our gratitude to the farmer near Sycamore Slough who assisted us when the battery went dead on our houseboat; to Mike of New Hope Landing who got us running again after our steerage broke on the Mokelumne; to the boatload of people who pulled us out of the mud at low tide on the Cosumnes; and to the three boys who pushed us broadside off the sand bar near Guisti's. They all helped make our weekend a success." Signed, "The Four Women in the Houseboat."

Here is an excerpt from "An Essay on Man" which I wish to share with you:

Lo, the poor Indian! whose untutored mind
Sees God in clouds, or hears him in the wind;
His soul, proud Science never taught to stray
Far as the solar walk, or milky way;
Yet simple Nature to his hope has given,
Behind the cloud-tipped hill, an humbler heaven;
Some safer world in depth of woods embraced,
Some happier island in the watery waste,
Where slaves once more their native land behold,
No fiends torment, no Christians thirst for gold.
To be, contents his natural desire,
He asks no angel's wing, no seraph's fire;
But thinks, admitted to that equal sky,
His faithful dog shall bear his company.

Alexander Pope



EMERALD - BIRTHSTONE for MAY
by Flossie Litzenberg

EMERALD: is a green variety of Beryl with a hardness of 7.5. They are found in calcite veins and mica-schists. The Peruvians worshipped an emerald as big as an ostrich's egg. Emeralds were mined by the Indians in Colombia long before the Spaniards came.

Ancient superstition:

Emerald - Look on one to cure the eyes.

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

Geode Cutting Tip: In sawing geodes or agate filled nodules, first look for the largest dome. This dome was in the upright position when the specimen was forming. Saw through the largest dome and it is likely that you will expose the best picture or surface. If the specimen is elongated or egg-shaped, saw length wise in order to obtain the best exposure.

ZODIAC - There being no Pick & Shovel in June or July we have included the information for those months which Flossie had prepared long before her trip.

GEMINI - May 21-June 20, Make excellent teachers and speakers. MERCURY

CANCER - June 21 - July 22, are endowed with strong determination, intuition and purpose. Restless and ambitions. MOON

PEARL or MOONSTONE - BIRTHSTONE for JUNE -

PEARL: A lustrous, calcareous concretion deposited in layers around a central nucleus in the shells of various mollusks.

MOONSTONE: is a milky clouded variety of adularis which is a variety of orthoclase with a hardness of 6. Other moonstones are of a sanidines variety. They resemble opal somewhat, but not so vividly colored. Moonstones when cut and polished have a bluish lustre of different shades. Found in drusual cavities of granites and pegmatites.

Moonstones were very much in favor in early times. They were supposed to carry strange powers, influence health, physical beauty, bring wealth, glory and happiness. They were worn as amulets and even used in the preparation of medicine.

CANCER - June 21 - July 22, Fond of travel, realistic, perceptive and should never marry early. MOON

LEO - July 23 - Aug. 22, are dignified, zealous, faithful, courteous, brave and sympathetic. SUN

We'll include the August Zodiac with your September bulletin.

RUBY - BIRTHSTONE for JULY

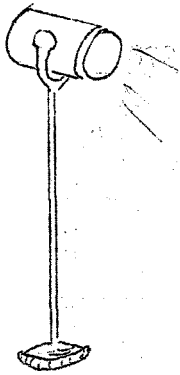
by Flossie Litzenberg

RUBY: is a variety of corundum with a hardness of 9. Mainly found in alluvials. The color of rubies comes from the presence of chromic oxide. It is considered one of the most precious gem stones. In ancient times it was the most highly prized gem stone. Synthetic rubies can be used in lasers. Spinel is a poor associate, thought it can be red.

Will members please, bring any specimen of Rubies they may have for "Show and Tell", as well as the Pearls or Moonstones of June and the Emeralds of May.

CARAT: comes from the weight of the carob seed (Ceratonia siliqua). The pods were imported to Europe as "St. John's bread". Each seed of the carob usually weighs the same and has been used for weighing precious stones from time immemorial. They weigh one-fifth of a gramme. The seeds were called "Kharrub" by the Arabs, then the greek word "Keration" was used and then eventually the English "Carat". The weight of the carat varied in the different countries of Europe. The weight of the carat was not uniform in Europe until the metric carat, of exactly 0.200 grammes became an international unit in the mid 1920s.

HIGHLIGHTS from Helena



We found out why Bob and Sylvia Daniels hosted the refreshments alone at the April meeting - The Robertses were just too excited for ordinary doings, having just become grandparents of twin sons! Congratulations - you will now be priveleged to dodouble duty in grandparent-sitting, in the future. Twins are interesting - they run in my family, too. I can count at least four sets of "em not too far down the line.

Junior member, David Green, had a most busy and successful March and April. First, in Omaha in the Junior Olympic diving, placing second in the one-meter and third in the three-meter diving; then won four second-place trophies at the Great Plains Diving meet, and second place ribbons at the Midwestern AAU Championship Meet. In Kansas City Red Bridge YMCA diving meet made some wins in the 11-12 age group. This latter meet was during the LGMC annual show, hence David was absent, but won a "Special Rock Plate Display" Trophy, and he sends a big "Thank You" to Marie Wells for taking down his plate display, which I found very attractive.

The Litzenberg are home from their extended wanderings, and no doubt you will find an account of their travels elsewhere in this issue, which should be most interesting.

Our best wishes for a rapid and complete recovery to Norma Miller, who underwent surgery recently. Hope she will be home soon.

The Taylors attended the executive meeting of the Midwest Federation Board in Chicago and they report a good meet and were assured of real support for our 1980 National Show. Hooray!

HRB

MORE FROM P L A C:

Operations Threatened...According to Randy Sumpter, in an article appearing in the OIL AND GAS JOURNAL March 13, there is the possibility of large chunks of public lands in the Overthrust Belt states and Alaska being closed soon to oil and gas operations.

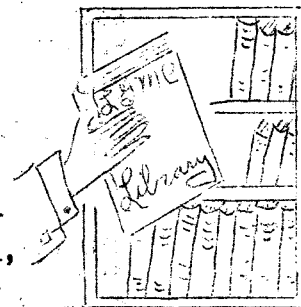
Act Would Close Public/ Private Land

A bill has been introduced to the Senate by Sen. Lee Metcalf (D-Mt) which would allow the Secretary of Interior to lock up lands without the traditional Congressional controls.

The Bill, the "National Diversity Act" S1820 is meant to "identify, locate and protect from destruction examples of all elements which collectively comprise the nation's natural diversity."...Since the definition of natural diversity is a broad one, it could include almost any location, either public or private. Sen. Paul Laxalt stated in a letter to Walter L. Mote, Director, Washington Office of RMOGA: "...The bill would give regulatory authority to the Sec. of Interior over private and state owned lands."

YOUR LIBRARY - Hazel & Stan Greenwade

A COMPEND OF GEOLOGY by Joseph Le Conte, Professor of Geology and Natural History in the University of California.
Copyright - 1884



This is a fascinating book. Your librarian would like very much to own one like it. It is Geology, fairly represented, as it was known shortly before the turn of the century. It is surprising how much of Geology known then is still much accepted by Geologists today, and unchanged.

Still, so much has been discovered since this book was written (around 100 years ago) and how so many new theories have been advanced. Technology for exploration and study has advanced Geology so very much in the last 100 years.

It is very interesting to realize, somewhat, of the new discoveries and theories of the past century by reading, or having read, the latest available books. So much has been learned since then. For example the theories of Plate Tectonics and Mountain building. This book uses earth shrinkage to explain mountains. Then, for example, they did not have sound gear to measure the depths of the oceans. They knew little of the ocean floors and the Atlantic Ridge was unknown nor were the deep trenches.

Another oddity: Running water (Aqueous agencies) and ice were the main causes of erosion. Back then, all deposits (strata) were laid down by and in water. Windblown deposits of soil, sand, etc. were not mentioned. The Author used 4 agencies which shape the surface of our earth. They are: (1) Aqueous, (2) Atmospheric, (3) Organic and (4) Igneous.

Modern Earth Science (copyright 1961) says the diameter of the earth at the equatorial diameter is 27 miles greater than at the polar diameter while Compend of Geology states 26 miles difference. They had it as close then as now, only a mile difference is practically the same!

Compend of Geology - density of the earth - while 5.6, crust about 2.5, center parts greater than 5.6 probably not less than 15 or 16. No comparison found in Modern Earth Science. The author - Rock - any substance constituting a portion of the earth's crust whether hard or soft. Thickness of the crust estimated from 10 to 20 miles by geological observation. One observation - folding of the crust. Now the crust is believed to be much thicker. No mention of siesmology was found.

On pages 195 and 247 are (time) charts. - Past History of the earth divided into eras, ages, periods and epochs. No designation of how long each division lasted in years nor how many years in the past each division was. No photographs were used in illustrating the text. The illustrations are all very beautiful drawings and sketches. On page 378 is a drawing of a mastodon which could almost have been drawn from the biggest ever found and which is in our own Natural History Museum, Elephant Hall, University of Nebraska, Lincoln Campus. No color plates. All are in black and white.

Professor Le Conte also wrote another book "Elements of Geology" which we also would like very much to have.

Hazel & Stan

AT LAST - THE DESERT IN BLOOM

By Flossie Litzenberg

We left Lincoln for California on Saturday, February 18, 1978, just after a week of record cold weather when Lincoln was declared the coldest spot in the country with -18 degrees. The highways were clear all the way. but we did see high snow banks in Kansas. In late afternoon we saw a lot of pheasants running around on top of the snow, which was higher than the fences. What did they find to eat? How did they keep from getting smothered when all that snow fell?

The second night we stayed in Albuquerque. On the weather news on TV we heard of a blizzard going through north New Mexico and on into the Oklahoma pan handle and up into Kansas. We were glad we were south of it.

From Albuquerque, we dropped down south to highway 10 because we wanted to miss the unpredictable weather in the mountains around Flagstaff. When we got to Tucson we went west to the Saguaro National Monument and saw the Saguaro giant cactus. We had never been far enough south to see them before. They were magnificent. It was here I added another bird, curved-billed thrasher, to my life list of birds I have seen. He was on top of a Saguaro singing a thrilling song. The Park Ranger identified him for me.

We went up to Mesa, a suburb of Phoenix and visited some friends of ours in a trailer village where they spend the winters. Phoenix is surrounded by such villages.

We passed through Quartzsite, Arizona where they had just had a Jamboree and some RVs were still camped there. Some were tailgating their merchandise. It was a dusty place.

We continued on highway 10 through Blythe. Before we got to Indio we stopped at a big store along the highway, Hadley's, where they had departments for jellies, dates (Marjool are best), nuts, dried fruits, health foods and cheeses. The day we stopped (Wednesday) there were several bus loads of people, many RVs, and cars galore. When we got inside I got in the date line and had to move along with the line. I couldn't get in any other line. Glen had gone into the wine shop which was separate and not quite so crowded. I bought several kinds of dates and some banana chips.

We arrived at my sister's, Ruth Benzing, house in Oxnard around 2:30 P.M. Ruth went out each morning and picked an orange off her tree for breakfast.

While we were traveling on highway 101 we had seen the parking lot of a hospital had slid down onto the highway. The highway had been closed while the debris was shoved off and a retaining wall was built. The hospital was around two hundred feet above the highway. We saw many land slides, but the worst damage from the torrential rains was north of Ventura. We didn't go see them, because they didn't welcome sightseers. Some hills slid right down through the houses. Some pavement on small roads just slid off. The level ground around Oxnard didn't suffer so much damage, but at times some streets were closed because of flash flooding.

AT LAST - THE DESERT IN BLOOM - continued

We went to Mary Edna's graduation from The Barbizon modeling school. We took a tour inside Diamond Head and saw how they work the computers to keep track of the airplanes for thirty miles in and out of Honolulu. We went to an Orchid Flower Show which included some Bonsai and Anthuriums. We took over a hundred pictures. A big group of us went to Sand Island Park on a picnic and watched the Mariposa ship come into the Harbor. It was a big ship and had six tugboats guiding it into port. That was it's last trip to Hawaii. We went to a show of decorated eggs called Heirloom eggs. Our granddaughter, Cors, had some in the show. They use blown eggs from hen's, ducks, geese and ostrich. There was one ostrich egg made into a purse. One ostrich egg had a music box in it. Blown ostrich eggs cost \$9 each. The eggs are not fragile after they are treated. We were invited to many of Betty's friends for dinner and ate a lot of Filippine cooking. We liked everything except the blood pudding. Glen helped Bob paint his Condominium apartment. I went to a Standard Flower Show at Hicham Air Base. There were many unusual flowers used in the arrangements.

April 12 we flew back to Los Angeles. We insisted Bob not give us any leis when we left. They gave us so many when we arrived. But the stewardess gave me a lovely orchid of dark red and yellow. She said it matched my suit. The Benzings were not at the airport to meet us as they had to go to Florida to see there daughter, who had been in a serious accident. We picked up our car in the parking lot and drove by ourselves to the Benzing's home in Oxnard. It was the first time we had done it by ourselves. Their yard and garden were dry, so Glen watered them. He picked a lot of strawberries and I had berries to eat on the way home.

We left Oxnard April 14. We took highway 40 east through the Mohave desert. It was in bloom with all colors of flowers. We have traveled over the desert many times, but this was the first time we had seen it green and in bloom. The flowers crept up the sides of the mountains too. It was beautiful. In some places the yucca had started to bloom too and fruit trees were in bloom in every little town we passed through.

April 15 we stayed in Albuquerque again. From there we headed north to Pueblo, Colorado to visit my cousin. After we got into Colorado I saw what I thought were cattle in the distance, but they moved different than cattle. I took another look and saw around a dozen antelope. Then we had a flat tire. We always keep good rubber on our car and with all our traveling, this was the first flat tire we've ever had. We had to unload most of our luggage to get to the tire jack. It was so windy it nearly blew Glen's shirt off over his head, and of course there was dust in the wind. The spare had a good tread too. Before we got to Walsenburg, Colorado we saw a dust devil or whirlwind go through a little town and dispersed on the other side. We were glad we didn't have to drive through it. Twenty eight miles from Pueblo near Colorado City the spare tire went flat. The rubber peeled off of it just like the other tire.

AT LAST - THE DESERT IN BLOOM - continued

They acted like retreads but they were not. After creeping on the fiber, we located tires our size at the fifth gas station. It was Sunday and that didn't help. We were so relieved that Glen had them put new tires on both back wheels and kept the other snow tire for a spare.

We arrived at my cousin's house around 6:00 P.M. The next day he showed us Pueblo's dam to prevent flooding. We visited a Lapidary Shop. The owner showed us how to cut and polish fire agate. He had a lot of it from Mexico. He would like to be a dealer in our 1980 Show. He is going to work up a lot of his fire agate in case he is invited. We bought some rocks from him which my cousin couldn't understand paying money for ROCKS..

April 18 we visited friends in Colorado Springs. He took us on a tour of Fort Carson, Cheyenne Canyon, Helen Hunt Falls, the Broadmoor hotel, Garden of the Gods, (which some darn fool was attempting to climb a sheer wall), then through Ute Pass and to Cripple Creek (where so much gold was taken out), Victor (Lowell Thomas birth place), and Gold Camp. We had done a lot of traveling in Colorado but had never seen these ghost towns. Some of the houses are now being restored and lived in. Some of the houses were only about a foot apart. How did they get siding put on?

April 20 we drove to Cheyenne, Wyoming and into Nebraska. We turned north at Sidney and visited friends in Hay Springs. They had just had six inches of snow the day before, but a lot of it had melted. The roads were cleared.

April 21 we took highway 2 home and got in around 6:00 P.M. We had a lot of fun traveling, but it's so good to get home.

A new book "Rock Collecting in Iowa" is available to those who like to hunt rocks in Iowa. It may be obtained by sending your request to:

Iowa Development Commission
Travel Division
250 Jewett Bldg.
Des Moines, Iowa 50309

MORE FROM THE "PLAC" COMMITTEE:

H.R. 3454 Signed ...President Carter signed the Endangered Wilderness Act of 1978 on February 24, 1978. This act designates approximately 1.3 million acres in ten western states as Wilderness. The enactment of this legislation increases the National Wilderness Preservation System to 15.7 million acres.

AlaskaIn late March, the House passed 32 to 13 a strong environmental bill (H.R. 39) covering federal lands in Alaska. Those areas included as instant wilderness or wilderness study would not allow exploration for minerals, however a leasing procedure for access to the remaining lands would be provided for, but seems very complex. It would require an act of Congress to prospect on public lands in Alaska.

Michigan ... A request initiated by the Wilderness Society has asked the Forest Service to add 70 acres in Michigan to those it has recently recommended for designation under the Wilderness Act.

HAVE RAFT - WILL TRAVEL

By J. D. Young

The above title seems appropriate at this date, April 17, 1978. However, the Jet Stream could shift and we might again be fighting drought. Rockhounds are thinking of summer vacations, camping, etc. Travel is so much more rewarding if one has a variety of hobbies and interests, goes properly prepared and equipped, and has the necessary "wampum"; the need always exceeds all expectations. Credit cards be praised, but there is a day of reckoning!

Most readers need little travel advice, but we like to give it anyway, though trite and unnecessary. Always take a good flashlight, electric blinker lantern, a pocket compass, first aid kit, ample tools, appropriate clothing, binoculars, up-to-date maps, tour guides, and an emergency service directory. Not for Smoky alert only, a C.B. radio is now popular. Field guides for most areas are available for rockhounds.

A mounted compass may prevent directional confusion, even in unfamiliar hometown areas, as well as in others. It should be properly installed and protected, before starting a trip it must be carefully adjusted to known directions. As travel continues allowance should be made for known declination at any given place. This changes noticeably throughout most of the U.S.A. The magnetic poles of the earth do not coincide with the geographic poles, so compass needles point true N and S only on the agonic lines. Mistreatment of a compass may reverse its polarity. Beware when the needle dips downward sharply, when not being affected by local magnetic influences.

We have a sensitive altimeter attached above our padded dash, and it gives added zest to long trips with altitude changes. The Platte River Road in Nebraska rises about 10 ft per mile westward. In mountains, coastal areas, sub-sealevel places this is a fascinating instrument. It may be used as a barometer if allowance is made for current local pressure. We once took an ordinary household barometer along to California. Half-way up the first mountain pass it went "boing". It probably would have gone "Thud" in Death Valley, or near the Salton Sea if it had survived.

Our altimeter is very sensitive up to 15,000 ft. because the dial is graduated on a $2\frac{1}{2}$ turn spiral scale. One must know which turn the needle is on at the time. A dial graduated to 15,000 ft. with only one round of the needle would be much less sensitive. Some are rated to only 5,000 ft. and they would be inadequate, even in the Black Hills. Lincoln's altitude is about 1,200 ft. If you open a "fresh" new can of coffee in high altitude, "what you smell" won't be "all you get." Also, your weakest tire may go "bang"!!

On scenic trips we carry "his" and "hers" prism binoculars, 7-50 and 7-35. Both have center-focus coated lenses. We find 7 power is great enough to hold steady in hands. The 50 mm diameter objective lens gives nearly twice as bright view as the 35 mm.

HAVE RAFT - WILL TRAVEL - continued

Neither has a wide field of view. Wide angle is important when one wants to see both ends of a favorite nag in a horse race at once. Center-focus is considered better than individual, but one eye piece (ocular) should be adjustable to correct for individual eye difference. True value in optical devices depends on several factors, which usually determine price. All deserve care and proper storage.

One or more good cameras loaded with different types of film always add to travel pleasure. A few procedures can easily be learned, and good photos commemorating a vacation will be lasting records. Excellence results from good equipment, skill and expert processing. Smart photographers don't toss their cameras around in the luggage, and they avoid placing them in sunny places or hot areas. Some are so radiation-cautious that they request special handling at check points. X-rays may fog the film.

Nebraska is becoming known to visitors, not only for its famous Capitol, but also because of its many cultural and recreational facilities, and travel here is relatively easy. We can find plenty for one-day or longer trips, and many interesting places are found in our nearby states - all waiting for visitors.

Some of our most delightful travel experiences have resulted from advance information furnished by previous travelers. We would have missed a thrilling eastern entrance to Death Valley, Titus Canyon, a 40 mile one-way road "off the beaten path." I could give many such examples, so it pays to listen.

Death Valley is a thermal torment in summer. No one should ever attempt a trip in desert wilderness poorly prepared, and we advise more than one vehicle in a party. Even in Nebraska our failure in some areas could mean a long hectic walk.

We learned the hard way not to camp in potential flash-flood areas, 50 years ago, right here in Lincoln's old Antelope Park campground, and we don't forget it. In desert country an unexpected wall of water may come from a remote point.

Camping under the stars is fun, and a few simple facts will add to the pleasure. Star maps and charts are not hard to understand. Some of this knowledge may save lives, and not just for sailors.

J.D.Y.

P.S. Avoid Titus Canyon in threatening weather.

P L A C Note:

Motorboat Ban Planned - The National Park Service has recommended a phaseout of motorized float trips on the Colorado River through the Grand Canyon National Park.

Safety Page

We have all used the pre-moistened paper towels, especially when traveling. Two doctors of the Children's Hospital in Nashville warn that these towels containing benzalkonium chloride should not be used near the mouth or eyes of children under six years old. The good doctors say the solution used in heavy concentration is poisonous. It also should be kept out of the reach of children.

National Safety Magazine via CFMS Newsletter, Michigan Gem News and S.I..E.S. Club News

Playing it Safe...Useful Items for Your Camper

- A name, address and telephone number of someone to call in an emergency.
- Spare fuses for the electrical system. Extra can of oil.
- Flash light.
- Fire extinguisher, First aid kit, Jumper cables, Water hose.
- Empty can for carrying gas (if you run out) or water.
- A handy tool box with the following: screwdrivers, an adjustable wrench for tightening nuts and bolts that may work loose.
- Tape for repairing broken wires or stopping small leaks temporarily.
- Wire for temporarily holding a muffler or tail pipe.
- Rags for drying your distributor or wet wire if your motor drowns out in a heavy rain or driving through high water.
- A piece of sandpaper for cleaning dirty battery terminals.

Springfield Rock Club News via
Osage Hills Gems.

Heat exhaustion...(due to salt deficit as a result of inadequate replacement of sodium lost through sweat during prolonged heat exposure.)

Symptoms: usually develop over a 3-5 day period and include headache, fatigue, muscle cramps, giddiness, nausea, vomiting, loss of appetite, fainting, listlessness. Thirst is NOT apparent when exhaustion is due to a lack of salt.

Treatment: bedrest in cool surroundings, high salt and water intake.

Shirley Moore, R.N. via Tule Smoke Signals



Helpful Hints

Rubbing alcohol is good for cleaning your polish residue from cabochons and before setting stones in mountings.

The Glacial Drifter via The Petoskey Stone

To Clean Contaminated Buff...Stones sometimes develop fine, thread-like scratches while being polished. These may be due to grit that has penetrated the polishing buff. One grain will do it. To clean, hold a strip of plywood or Balsa wood firmly against the buff. The grit will embed itself in the wood, leaving the cloth clean.

Sooner Rockologist via Osage Gems.

Cleaning Fern Fossils...On fernfossils it is not advisable to use wax, shellac, varnish, lacquer or spray plastic. These items 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 off if you wish, with no harm to the fossil.

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

Quarry Quips via The Shawmish Roktawk

If you have an item which has been epoxied incorrectly...It can be taken apart by soaking it in household vinegar. It works and is inexpensive.

Boulder Buster Press via Gem Time

Don't wear gold rings when working with chlorine bleach. Jewelers have discovered that household bleach is the cause of broken prongs and hairline cracks in gold jewelry. Even daily swims in a pool will weaken gold rings or chains. The chlorine attacks the alloys in the gold.

June Zeitner, AFMS Newsletter

Are you planning to electroplate that jewelry?...Use in well ventilated area and read that warning label. Some of these solutions contain cyanide. A cyanide solution must be maintained in basic (caustic) solution. Above all DON'T mix cyanide solution with an acid. If you do, HYDROGEN CYANIDE GAS will be given off. That gas is the same stuff they use in gas chambers.

Carl Kesler via Americal River Currents

BLM News

This article is taken from Gem Time, a Las Vegas bulletin:

BLM OFFERING PUBLIC CHANCE FOR SAY

An opportunity for people to have a say in laws being formulated to govern public parks is being offered by the federal BLM.

The BLM is in the process of developing regulations governing land use planning, required by the federal Land Policy & Management Act. BLM officials have noted public input will be sought again when formal regulations or guidelines are proposed.

"The federal Land Policy and Management Act and other legislation calls for BLM to base many of its natural resource use decisions on land use plans", Ed Rowland, director of the BLM in Reno said.

Written comments will be accepted by May 15 and should be mailed to the Director (210) BLM, Washington, D.C. 20240.

Las Vegas Sun

Chips and Tips, a Phoenix, Arizona bulletin, lists the names of 16 senators who have requested the congressional oversight hearing on BLM policies and actions in regards to the public lands. They are as follows:

Howard W. Cannon	Nevada	Dennis De Concini	Arizona
Ted Stevens	Alaska	Orrin G. Hatch	Utah
Paul Laxalt	Nevada	Jake Garn	Utah
Mike Gravel	Alaska	George McGovern	S. Dakota
Jim Mc Clure	Idaho	Pete V. Domenici	New Mexico
Malcolm Wallop	Wyoming	Harrison Schmitt	New Mexico
Barry Goldwater	Arizona	Bob Packwood	Oregon
Milton R. Young	N. Dakota	Clifford P. Hansen	Wyoming

A letter of approval should be sent to the senator of your choice.

George McGovern is advising the South Dakota clubs on how to voice their opposition to the RAREll program in South Dakota. Many of us enjoy rock hunting in the proposed wilderness (Roadless areas) of South Dakota. Let's join the South Dakota clubs in their fight against having their be t rock hunting areas closed to vehicles. Senator McGovern's address is:

Senator George McGovern
4239 Dirkson
Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Letters should also be sent to: Teno Roncalia, Chairman Public Lands Committee, 1134 Longworth, H. O. Building, Washington, D. C. 20515

The following letter, approved by the ICMC Board of Directors at their May 4th meeting, is being sent to National Foresters and Congressmen in protest to the closing of vast areas of Public Lands to vehicles:

Our Democracy should guarantee to the individual the inalienable rights which is set forth in the Declaration of Independence. One of these is the individual's need for freedom. The Union is valued solely in terms of its usefulness for individuals. Public policies and governmental forms are good if they promote the well-being of the state. The welfare of the state has no meaning except in terms of the welfare of the individuals who comprise it.

Liberty is the key to social progress. Progress is stifled whenever an authoritarian group imposes an orthodoxy that none may question. Denial of freedom generates personal frustration that may erupt into antisocial behavior.

Various organizations, governors of states, as well as individuals are protesting the creation of vast Wilderness Areas which will deny access to recreational areas to many people. A large majority of recreationists--campers, fishermen, rockhounds--who use the national forests and public domain do so with vehicles. 14.7 million acres are already designated as Wilderness and there is pending in Congress legislation which could increase Wilderness by another 188.7 million acres.

Many of the proposed Wilderness areas contain oil and mineral deposits sorely needed to prevent our dependence upon foreign governments for such supply. In these days of shortages we need to develop our resources.

As a Rockhound Club we believe in the multiple use of OUR public lands, and we protest the closing of such areas to vehicles. We especially protest the RARE II proposal to create a Wilderness area in the following locations:

Pine Ridge, 7640 acres--Nebraska
Soldier Creek, 8088 acres--Nebraska

Indian Creek-9520 acres--South Dakota
Red Shirt-9520 acres--South Dakota
Cheyenne River area-8800 acres--South Dakota
Beaver Park-5000 acres--South Dakota

Rocky Mountain Front FES
NF 933-Cloud Peak area--Wyoming
NF 916-Beartooth--Wyoming--Montana

Individual letters carry much weight. Do write to Congress men and Foresters to protest the RARE II proposals.

Regional Forester, USDA Forest Service
11177 West 3th St. Box 25127
Lakewood, Colorado 80225

Midwest Federations NEWSLETTER



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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

May 1978 - Issue No. 185

More new programs available to clubs

More good news about program additions to the Midwest Film Library from Donald Stinnett, Film Library Chairman.

The two prize-winning programs in the American Federation contest last year are now available to Midwest clubs.

"Making Constructed Silver Jewelry" by Marge Collins of Plymouth, Mich. She is a teacher of this subject and the program slides show four projects her students are taught. This is an exceptionally interesting and informative program for beginning silversmith or study groups.

"More Rare Than Diamonds - History of a Fossil Location" is by the Oregon Agate and Mineral Society of Portland, Oregon. It tells a very interesting story by a paleobotanist and an area called Clarno Fossil Location, a very unique area.

Don and the Northwest Federation program chairman are very pleased with a new program swap arrangement they have worked out that will enhance the pro-

gram library in the coming months. First of these programs, "One Hundred Miles of Agate", a tour of the Oregon coast has already been received and will be ready for club use about May 15.

The Midwest is anxious to have clubs participate in supplying programs for the library and clubs wishing to supply programs or have more information about their participation should write to the Film Library Chairman, Donald Stinnett,

All of the programs described above are available to Midwest clubs for immediate booking. Send your request for them to Donald Stinnett, Midwest Film Library, 29462 Aspin Drive, Flat Rock, Mich. 48124. Be sure to include the name and address of the person to whom the program is to be shipped, the exact date it is to be used, and name of your club. And don't forget to include the \$2.00 fee for each program you request. Always give an alternate date and program choice so you will not be disappointed.

Annual educational seminar dates set

The Michigan Geology and Gemcraft Society's Fourth Annual Educational Seminar, hosted by Mid-Michigan Community College in Harrison, Mich. will be held on Saturday, June 24 and Sunday, June 25.

The seminar will involve illustrated lectures and working demonstrations on a full range of topics concerning geology and the lapidary arts. The areas include jewelry design, silver casting, wirecraft, filigree, Paleontology, Archaeology, mineral photography, faceting, basic and advanced lapidary, mineral identification, uniform rules of judging, carving, and much more. Seminar '77 had 46 different lecturers, presenting 52 different programs, with each program presented several times during the weekend. It is important to note that each year MGAGS strives to offer many new lectures and demonstrations, so that even for those individuals who have attended in the past few years, there is always some-

thing new and exciting to see and to learn.

The seminar will also help to answer questions like how can I improve my exhibit, what does this rule mean, what are the qualifications for becoming a judge, could I clerk for a judging group at a show, where can I find materials for my case, why did I get this comment the last time my case was judged, and can I include this specimen. This portion of the seminar will be conducted under the guidance of Calvin George, past chairman of the Midwest Uniform Rules Committee and present member of the AFMS Uniform Rules Committee.

For further information write Lee Kirby, Chairman MGAGS '78 Seminar, 3660 Embarcadero, Drayton Plains, Michigan 48020

Paleontology society formed

The Mid-America Paleontology Society is the name selected by a newly formed fossil club. At their March 4 organizational meeting held at Augustana College, Rock Island, Ill. with 38 fossil collectors from three states and ten clubs attending Dick Johannesen, Davenport, Iowa was named President; Gil Norris, Rock Island, Ill., Vice-President; Alberta Cray, Cedar Rapids, Iowa, Secretary,

and JoAnn Good, Aledo, Ill., Treasurer.

Johannesen says the club is strictly a fossil club and no rocks, minerals, crystals or lapidary arts will be discussed. They plan to apply for membership in the Midwest Federation. Present membership includes three Assistant State Directors of the Midwest, the Midwest

Continued on back page...

WELCOME NEW MEMBER

The Midwest Federation welcomes into membership Ute Bernhardt, 1157 S. Elmwood Avenue, Oak Park, Illinois 60304.

Continued from front page...

Paleontology chairman, five bulletin editors, the Director Emeritus of the F. M. Fryxell Geology Museum at Augustana and a Consultant in Paleontology from the same museum. Ages of those attending the organizational meeting were from 8 to 78.

"MAPS" is open to anyone, anywhere who is sincerely interested in fossils. Interested persons may attend a meeting in person or write to Dick Johansen, 1508 W. 38th St., Davenport, Ia. 52806.

Park passports

The National Park Service now has available 1978 Golden Eagle Passports.

This passport costs \$10 for one year and will permit the owner and everyone with him in his vehicle to enter many federal parks and recreation areas where entrance fees are charged.

Golden Age passports, which are lifetime entrance permits to federal park areas, are also available. These passes are available free to persons aged 62 and older.

A brochure listing the areas where the passports are valid and telling how and where to obtain them is now available without charge by writing to the Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service, Department of Interior - South, Washington, D. C. 20204. Ask for pamphlet "1978 Federal Recreation Fee Program. Golden Eagle-Golden Age Passports".



MIDWEST SHOW AND CONVENTION



CEDAR RAPIDS, IOWA

AUGUST 10-13

Safety manuals proving popular

A report from Dr. Elwood T. Rees, the AFMS Treasurer, says the first 1000 Safety Manuals have gone out to fill orders. He is having a second 1000 printed to fill existing orders.

This 44-page booklet is an excellent manual covering three major safety areas, Field Trip and Camping, Lapidary and First Aid.

The booklet is available from the Federation Supply Officer in your club who can secure his supply from Robert H. Hopwood, 1869 N. 71st St., Milwaukee, Wis. 53212. Individual members are requested not to order directly Mr. Hopwood as he is not in a position to ship such orders.

Six summer workshops scheduled

Six Workshops in Native American Technology will be held starting July 17 and continuing through August 25. The workshops have been developed by the Northwestern University Archeological Program and will be held at the University in Evanston, Ill. Each workshop will be one week long and will enable participants to study North American Indian culture by making and using many items commonly found in the artifact assemblages of both prehistoric and historic Indian groups. An ecological perspective will be emphasized, with Workshop participants gathering a wide range of raw material from the environment and processing these into useful containers, tools, clothing, etc. Pottery and stone tool-making, weaving, woodworking, and collecting and processing native foods will be featured.

Workshops will be lead by John White, Director of the Native American Studies Program at the Kampsville Archeological Center; Greg Thomas, one of America's foremost flint-knappers; and Ele White, an expert in Native American weaving techniques.

Additional information on the workshops can be secured by writing Paul Shanks, Workshop Coordinator, Northwestern Archeological Program, 2000 Sheridan Road, Evanston, Ill. 60201

Top prizes

What probably is the most expensive group of prizes ever offered by a host club of a combined Regional and National show are being assembled for lucky winning show goers at the National Show in Pleasanton, Calif., July 27-30.

Carmen Cavalieri of the Castro Valley Mineral and Gem Society, the host club, says tickets and in-

formation regarding the drawing on Sunday afternoon, final day of the show, will be available at the show.

First prize is a Caribbean trip for two for eight days. Departure will be by air from the West Coast and the luxury cruise ship is to be boarded in Florida. Six ports of call can be included and total value of the prize is approximately \$2,000.

Mexico is the destination of

the second place winner and is valued at \$1,400. Winner will have a choice of three colorful areas in Mexico which is for two and covers an eight day period. Departure is from the West Coast.

A microwave oven with a \$500 value will be the third prize. In addition to the top three prizes there will be seven auxiliary prizes each with a value of approximately \$100.

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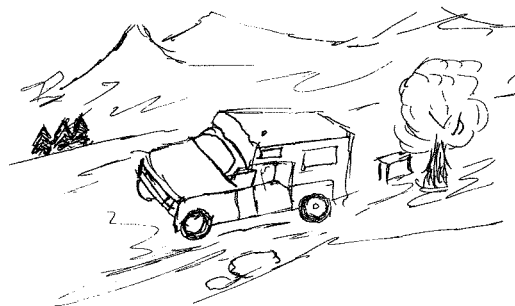


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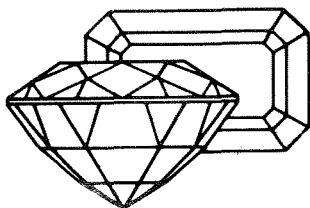
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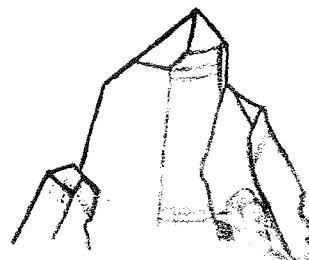
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