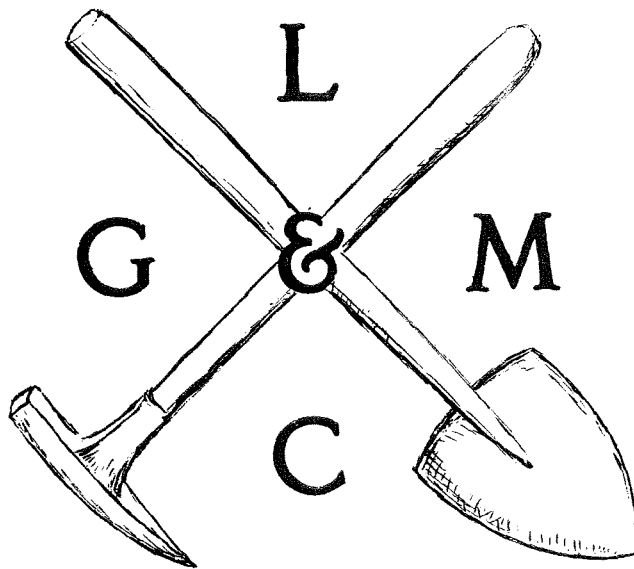


THE PICK & SHOVEL



OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF
LINCOLN GEM & MINERAL CLUB
LINCOLN, NEBRASKA

Volume 19

Issue 2

October 1978

LINCOLN CEM 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
Recording Secy..	Frances Tracy	3420 Frost Court	Lincoln, 68510	475-1885
Treasurer.....	Joella Olson	4831 S.Haven Drive	Lincoln, 68516	489-5380
Board Member....	Don Carter	1101 Driftwood	Lincoln, 68510	489-3442
Board Member....	Bob Daniels	2941 No.42nd St.	Lincoln, 68504	467-4051
Board Member....	Virginia Green	6120 The Knolls	Lincoln, 68512	423-5032
Board Member....	Ray Lambert	1201 N. 79th St.	Lincoln, 68505	464-8552

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

STANDING COMMITTEE 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 Board, at a rate now set at \$10.50 per full page per insertion. 1/2 page-5.25, 1/3 page-3.50, 1/4-2.75(min)

Articles published in THE PICK & SHOVEL may be reprinted if credit is given the author and the bulletin, and a copy of the publication is sent to the Editor.

Regular Meeting.....Saturday, Oct 28, 1978

Time: 7:30 P. M.

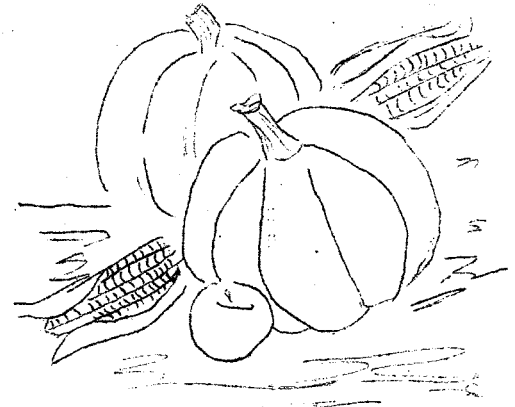
Place: Trabert Hall, 2202 S. 11th

There will be a silent auction for the benefit of the Club treasury.

Program

Come see a brand new film with the intriguing title "Animal, Vegetable, Mineral". Last spring the L.G.M.C. Board was asked by the City Library film department to preview this film and recommend whether to purchase. Those who saw it were unanimous in their approval. The film has been purchased and just arrived. You will be among the very first to view it.

-Florence Boring



1978 Dates to Remember

Oct. 14-15	Grand Island, Ne.	Grand Island Earth Science Show, Fonner Park
Nov. 18-19	Beatrice, Ne.	Homestead Gem & Min. Club Rock Show, Indian Creek Mall

1979 Dates to Remember

Mar. 24-25	Lincoln, Ne.	Lincoln Gem & Min. Club Show, Nebraska Fairgrounds
June 9-10	Hebron, Ne.	Fort Butler Gem & Min. Club hosts State Swap
July 19-22	Tampa, Fla.	AFMS Show and Convention
Aug. 2-05	Columbus, Ohio	MWF Show and Convention

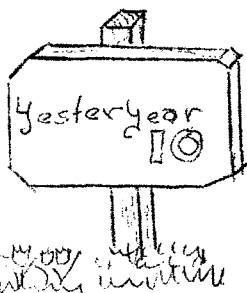
1980

June 12-15	Lincoln, Ne.	Lincoln Gem & Min. Club hosts MWF and AFMS Show and Convention
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LAST MONTH - we had 38 members and 3 juniors in attendance. Guests were Lloyd Tanner of the University of Nebraska Geology Department, Grace Deunk of Cortland, Mr. & Mrs. Robert Litzenberg recently of Hawaii, Dennis and Joyce Roethe and children, John and Rae Hedin, David Eno, all of Lincoln.

2nd Vice-President Florence Boring conducted the short business meeting which included report of the Nominating Committee, presented by Phyllis Parks in the absence of John Harrison, Chairman. (Full report on Page 5.) There were no nominations from the floor.

Mr. Lloyd Tanner presented an interesting program "Egypt Revisited." Mr. Tanner had the good fortune of going to Egypt in the company of faculty and staff members of several eastern schools to search for ancient animal remains. Their desert camp was about 70 miles from Cairo. Delightful pictures of the site and work, members of the working party, some of the local attractions, and a particularly effective shot of sunset across the Nile River followed by a question and answer period made a very good evening.



October 1968 - Brag Session

Everyone brought their bragging rocks plus a story or two about each one they showed.

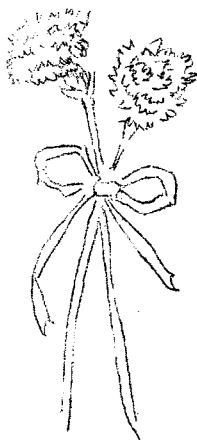
From the notebook of Lois Everett Historian

Greetings From the Sunshine Corner:

I hope everyone's summer was a good one. I had no reports of illnesses over the summer so I can just assume that everyone had a chance to enjoy the summer sunshine.

Please let me know if you hear of any illnesses or whatever to our fellow club members!

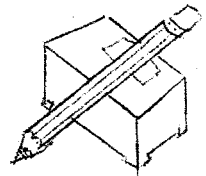
Susan Taylor



Many of the LGMC members who have been concerned with the club for five or more years might be interested to know that our good friend, Bob (Sheriff) Bainbridge is once again at Veterans Hospital and might like or appreciate messages or visits reflecting our concern for him. Those who have visited him report that he has good days and some bad days.

No Field Trips have been scheduled recently so if you know of a place that would permit a group to search for minerals, fossils, or just plain rocks, please notify Frank Rule so he can arrange the trip. We still have a few good days left this fall - we hope.

FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK



Fellow Rockhounds:

I want to thank Florence Boring for talking charge of the September meeting, and to all the others that did their part.

The Taylor Family did have an enjoyable vacation, and a little rock hunting, but mostly seeing the sights. On our way home we stopped at North Platte, took in their show and also the public auction of Mary Wareham's rocks and minerals. Sale was well attended by Rockhounds. Mary has been to a number of our shows and to our club meetings. She will be moving to Hastings, Nebraska soon.

We read in papers frequently of people seeing crimes committed, but personally taking no action because they do not want to get involved. In a Club such as the Lincoln Gem and Mineral Club, it's almost criminal to not get involved. Involvement is an opportunity to meet new people, join in the fun of things and demonstrate your concern and interests. I am happy to see our members supporting area club shows and swaps. It's an opportunity to expand ourselves and to gain more through expansion.

Become involved and receive the benefits and the pleasures resulting from your involvement. See you at the meeting.

Howard

SPECIAL REPORT

1979 SHOW
LEMC'S
21st

The Annual Show date is rapidly creeping up and a number of positions for Chairpersons are still open.

We need the enthusiasm and help of each and every member to make our Show a success.

The following list indicates vacancies:

Floor Man - Howard Taylor, Asst. Virgil Carveth
 Special Features and Working Demonstrations - Marie Taylor
 Open Shop - Roger Pabian, Asst. Frank Rule
 Dealer Chairman - Jim Taylor
 Publicity - Susan Taylor and Vera Lyman
 Registration - Dick and Shirley Roberts
 Breakfast - Florence Boring
 Ribbons & Recognition - Marita Bigley
 Competition - ???
 Programs - ???
 Silent Auction - ???
 Club Refreshments (Sat. eve.) & Coffee - ???
 Raffle Committee - ???

Please be ready and willing to help when asked. Better yet, volunteer! Any new ideas you might have regarding the show will be appreciated.

Co-operation from all members will produce a successful Show.

Thanks to those who have already volunteered to help in any way.

Your '79 Show Chairman Glenn Lyman

From the editor's desk... It has been said that one of the nicest things about October is that November isn't here yet. There are a lot of nice things about October in Nebraska. There are many golden days just right for hunting rocks... Nights are cool and days warm and sunny most of the time. The leaves of the trees are turning to brilliant yellows and reds, and huge flocks of black-birds circle the evening sky preparing for their long flight south.

An excellent program has been planned for the October 28th meeting-- one you won't want to miss. Your editor previewed the film at a Board meeting before the film was purchased by the Library. The Board was unanimous in its praise of the film. It is beautiful as well as very instructive-- one of the finest films you'll ever be privileged to see.

Here are some timely quotes from the Readers Digest:

"A perfect autumn day is one when the lawn no longer needs mowing and the leaves haven't yet started to fall."

- Vesta M. Kelly in The Saturday Evening Post

"October is the month when you can't close the bedroom window that you couldn't get open in August."

- Sylvia Bremer in Davenport Iowa Times Democrat

Seasonal Change

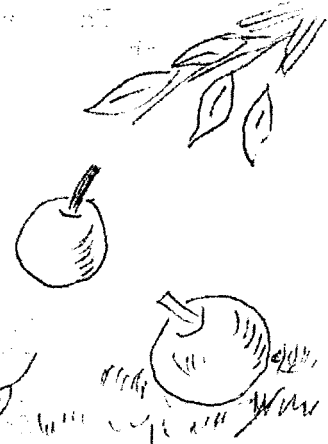
Last fall we cursed the neighbor's tree
That made our labors hard
By shedding fully half the leaves
Upon our well-kept yard.

But now we call the tree our friend,
It's back in good repute;
The branches that o'erhang our fence
Are bending down with fruit.

- Richard Armour via Family Circle

Mix the usual polishing powder with denatured alcohol instead of water-- more effective for polishing.

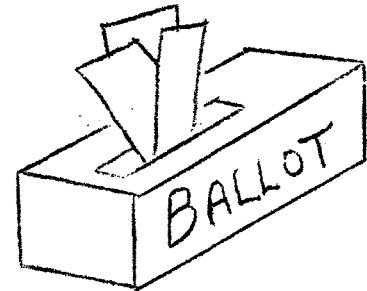
Gem Rock via Joliet Gem Star



NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT

The nominating committee, consisting of John Harrison, Chairman, Irl Everett, Ray Lambert, Lynn Wells, Marita Bigley and Phyllis Parks held their meetings. (Marie Wells was not able to attend but had sent suggestions.) We wish to report the following list of candidates for office for Lincoln Gem and Mineral Club for the year 1979:

- President Howard Taylor
 - 1st Vice-President . . . James Marburger
 - 2nd Vice-President . . . Robert Daniels
or Grant Quinn
 - Recording Secretary . . . Vera Lyman
 - Treasurer Hazel Greenwade
 - Board Members Larry Bigley
Virginia Green
Ray Lambert
Phyllis Parks
Lawrence Wightman
- (4 to be elected)



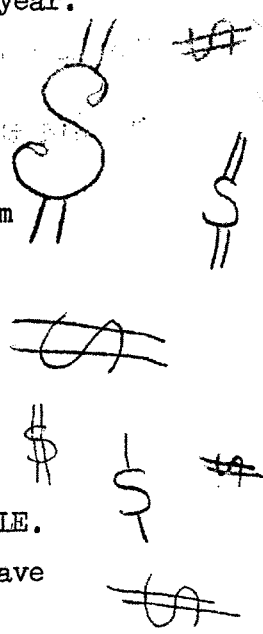
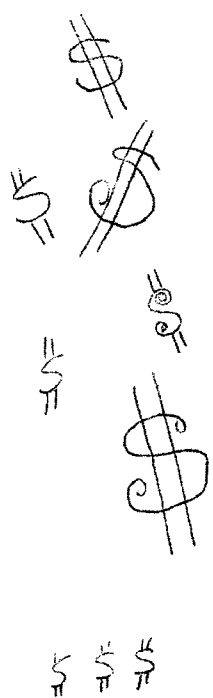
As provided by the Constitution and By-Laws of Lincoln Gem and Mineral Club nominations were open from the floor on September 23 when the oral report was made, and will again be open to the floor immediately prior to the voting on November 25, 1978, at our annual meeting. Consent of the candidate must be secured. A candidate for President must have served at least one year on the LGMC Board of Directors. All candidates must have at least one year's membership in the club.

November is your big chance to make your wishes known by supporting the candidates of your choice and letting them know that you are interested in the activities of LGMC and are lending your support for the following year. GET OUT AND VOTE!!!

.....

OCTOBER - This can be a very special month. There will be a silent auction in addition to the excellent program which Florence has scheduled. For the silent auction each member should bring something of a rockhound nature that the rest of the club members will covet. Also be prepared to go home with an item you find even better than your own contribution. Proceeds will go to club treasury.

You will also have a second chance to get in on the BIG RAFFLE. Our treasurer is authorized to sell chances on the fine "Mohave Stone Pendant" which our friends Ed and Mary McNamar of Des Moines gave to the club. Chances will be sold at the October, November and Christmas meetings with the drawing at the Christmas meeting.



JUNIOR PAGE

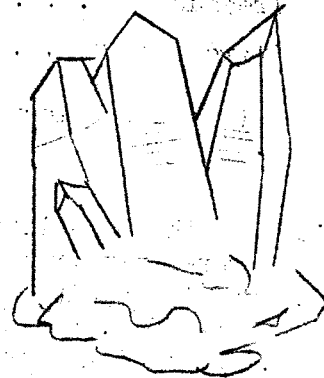
Dear Juniors:

I haven't heard much news about your activities lately. Let me know what's going on and we'll put it on the Junior Page. Hope you had a nice summer, and got in a lot of rock hunting.

Mrs. Ulrich

Can you solve this puzzle? These rocks all belong to the Quartz family:

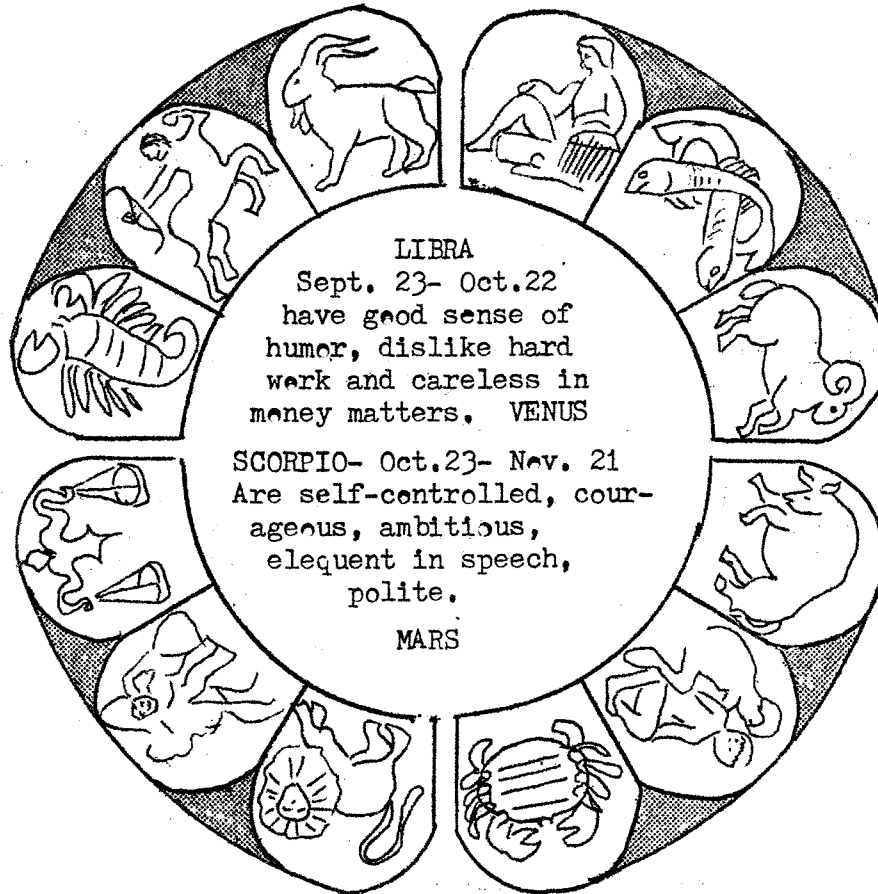
- sreo zuqart
- stthymea
- kyoms uqtzar
- neticri trazuq
- doncelachy
- rychpossera
- encarlain
- rapsje
- liftn
- trech
- yxon
- atega



Why is a Mummy the perfect gift? - It's a gift that you don't have to wrap.

Why did the Vampire dig for Gold? He wanted to strike a rich vein.





OPAL or TOURMALINE - BIRTHSTONE for OCTOBER
by Flossie Litzenberg

OPAL: is any of the large groups of glassy translucent silicas of various colors which refract light and then reflect it in a wide play of beautiful colors. It has a hardness of 5.5. For many years opals were unpopular because of the belief that they brought bad luck. Generally, this belief has been abandoned. Black opal is the most valuable. It is a dark variety with an intensive colour-change. Fire opal is the most beautiful opal variety.

It was believed by scientists, for many years that the color flashes given off by opals was due to the varying water content of the stones. Dr. J. V. Sanders of Australia, using the very latest Mary Cotter techniques and research tools to scientifically determine the structure of opals and the true cause of the play of color has proven that the play of color is due to the regular spacing and size of voids in the stone structure.

TOURMALINE: is a complex borosilicate of a number of elements especially sodium, aluminium, magnesium, calcium and iron with a hardness of 7. It is more varied in color than other minerals because of its complex composition. The variety, rubellite is pink to scarlet. Verdelite is green and indicolite is blue. Dravite is brown but scarce. The dark, transparent varieties are used extensively in optics.

Will members please, bring any specimens of opals or tourmalines they may have for "Show and Tell".

POTPOURRI

Soviet geologists have a theory concerning the formatin of some diamonds that they believe has been proven. Normally diamonds are formed from carbon under great pressure underground. Soviet geologists believe gems could also have been formed by the impact of meteorites hitting earth at great speeds.

The Soviet Weekly reports that diamonds just below the earth's surface have been found in the Popigay Depression. It is believed that they were formed by a meteorite some 30 million years ago.

Did you know that the crystal habit of diamonds corresponds with the color of the stone? True octrahedral crystals are more often a pure white color while more irregular forms are characteristic of fancy colored diamonds.

The yellow diamond is the most common. The first diamond found in South Africa was canary yellow. It weighed 21 carats in the rough. It was named "Eureka". Emerald green and ruby red are the rarest of colored diamonds.

Any mother can tell you that a teenager's hang-ups do not include clothes.

- American Legion Magazine via River Currents

Here is a unique theory from Joliet Gem Star. They borrowed it from Chit and Chat, the Oshkosh Quarrier and the Agatizer.

An Undercover Story

Back in the days when Paul Revere's silver shop was not heated, his apprentices and helpers, alike, donned their winter underwear with the first fall chill and neither removed nor washed it until it was too hot to stand it. Over this time period, the daily dust of silver accumulated in the fibers of the material. In the spring, the now heavy underwear was burned, for many reasons, and the silver was reclaimed. This is how we got the term "Long John Silver".

Discovering at the last minute that he had forgotten to invite an elderly parishioner to the garden party, the minister hastily telephoned her. "It's too late," she replied primly. "I've already prayed for rain."

The Pegmatite via The Glacial Drifter

... I was wrong" not even ...

Neihardt Day - August 6, 1978

- by J. D. Young

The 13th Annual Neihardt Day observed in Bancroft, Nebraska featured Black Elk Speaks as its theme. After a report by Dr. L. B. Egerman, President of the Neihardt Foundation, the executive director, Marie Vogt, introduced important persons in the work of the Foundation and the Neihardt Cultural Center. She also took over the duties of Tom Allan, World Herald roving reporter, who was to serve as Master of Ceremonies of the program, but was unable to be present.

The invocation by Ruth Thone, Washington, D. C., was followed by a report about the play Black Elk Speaks by the playwright, Christopher Sergel. Excerpts from the play were then given by Clayton Corbin who has played the part of Black Elk in the many stage performances of the play throughout the U. S. since its premier in the Folger Theater in Washington, D. C. He then gave Black Elk's prayer as Neihardt wrote it in his When the Tree Flowered (page 52). Black Elk spoke no English.

Black Elk's Prayer

Grandfather, Great Mysterious One, you have been
always, and before you nothing has been.

There is nothing to pray to but you.

The star nations all over the universe are yours, and
yours are the grasses of the earth.

Day in, day out, you are the life of things.

You are older than all need, older than all pain and
prayer.

Grandfather, all over the world the faces of living
ones are alike. In tenderness they have come up out
of the ground. Look upon your children with children
in their arms, that they may face the winds and walk
the Good Road to the Day of Quiet.

Teach me to walk the soft earth, a relative to all that
live. Sweeten my heart, and fill me with light. Give
me the strength to understand and the eyes to see.

Help me, for without you, I am nothing.

Hetchetu aloh!

Inside the Memorial Hall, with its Indian motif circular structure reached through a brilliant ramp of rainbow-colored walls, is the indoor version of the living prayer garden which is a feature of the increasingly beautiful grounds of the Neihardt Cultural Center. Here the room has a series of descending circles of floor levels

continued next page

Neihardt Day, August 6, 1978 continued

toward the center where the 700 lb. cycad donated by the LGMC marks the intersection of the black road of worldly difficulties with the good red road of spiritual understanding. Here the cycad is the symbol of the eternal Tree of Life, and above it the skylight pours in the brilliant sunlight through a mobile of metal leaves, simulating the sacred cottonwood.

The perimeter of the round Memorial Hall is completely furnished with display cases which depict the life and works of Neihardt, the Prairie Poet Laureate of America and Poet Laureate of Nebraska for 52 years. A few spaces between the permanent displays are temporary show places of exhibits of art, historical material and lapidary such as our club participated in last May. Also displays are possible on the different levels of the circular floor surrounding the cycad at the center, making an impressive showing.

An added feature for the Neihardt Day last August was a collection of enlarged copies from rare photos recently discovered in the Neihardt family memorabilia. These were made from the originals by Liz Otdovsky, formerly of Lincoln, now of Columbia, Missouri. Many had significance in the Black Elk-Neihardt story. Black Elk Speaks, "the book that would not die", has been translated in 10 foreign languages, after being "lost" for a generation.

I do the very best I know how--
the very best I can; and mean to
keep doing so until the end.
If the end brings me out all right,
what is said against me won't
amount to anything. If the end
brings me out wrong, ten angels
swearing I was right
would make no difference.

- Abraham Lincoln

I love to think of nature as an
unlimited broadcasting station,
through which God speaks to us
every hour
if we only tune in.

-George Washington Carver

We wish to share with our readers excerpts from a speech made by Dr. Stanley C. Grant, Iowa State Geologist, at the Midwest Banquet at Cedar Rapids, Iowa.

WE ARE CLOSING NATURE'S LIBRARIES AND TEXTBOOKS

This topic is not a very pleasant one for those of us who used nature's libraries and textbooks for learning, teaching, research, pleasure and recreation. In my many years of field study I have yet to see a TRUE rockhound ruin a landscape by overcollecting, or indiscriminate mining or reckless vandalism.

In our zealous effort to protect the landscape, we have gone too far. We (the nation) have become or are becoming so restrictive, so limiting that we are truly closing the door of our mines, quarries, and collection sites for virtually everyone...

The grand concept of multiple-use is going to be an historic relic if we cannot bring reasonableness into focus with the need to preserve and conserve and protect.

While Mine Safety was being considered, other interest groups were seeking tighter control of public lands-most of which are located in the western states and Alaska. The desire to create more public preserves in the form of National Parks and Monuments is significant. We do need to establish protected areas that will preserve our natural heritage for future generations. This has been done in grand measure over the last 10 years and more areas are scheduled to be included. Along with this, however, is the desire or demand to withdraw these and other lands from resource production. We can surely agree that certain public preserves should be maintained in limited use status so that the natural wonders that the areas were preserved for, may be maintained.

However, there seems to be an almost uncontrolled movement to withdraw federal lands from any use at all--save backpacking--.

Wilderness areas are great places, and they are important to us and to our future generations. But HOW MUCH WILDERNESS?, -and what environmental effects must be maintained for miles outside of the designated wilderness?

Europe as a continental land mass is smaller than the United States. It has twice as many people, and there are still lots of unsettled, underdeveloped, natural environments there. Yes, there are some structures, a few people, and some activities prevalent... but most of the beauty and naturalness is preserved.

There is no question that we need some wilderness preserves. But we cannot afford to withdraw great tracts of land from public multiple-use, at least until we can evaluate that land for resource potential. If the investigation determines that the resources contained are not valuable to the national interest and the public good... let it go into wilderness.

But, right now it seems that the Dept. of Agriculture Forest Service, the Dept. of Interior, BLM, the National Park Service and others are

WE ARE CLOSING NATURE'S LIBRARIES AND TEXTBOOKS, continued

Doing their best to reserve lands before they are evaluated, or evaluate them with preservationist single-use criteria rather than Multiple-use resource management criteria. Rare II seeks public input to determine what lands should be preserved as roadless wilderness, or be further evaluated or left open to multiple-use. We tend to forget that newly established wilderness may prevent any multiple-use or development for miles around.

The problem facing the Forest Service is complex. They may favor careful management under multiple-use concept, but they are under heavy pressure from Washington and powerful lobbies to establish more wilderness.

Now for us- who like to teach and learn, to do research and study, to collect and enjoy the land while still caring for it.. we are kept from these activities by the restrictiveness of wilderness withdrawals.

We must speak clearly, factually, and without excess emotion to our neighbors, friends, colleagues, and especially our lawmakers... they will listen when the votes count. It seems as though the lobbies have the best record. Well organized skillful lobbies seem to make headway.. but the real clout is with the people and the vote. If you don't think the elected people pay attention to the real issues don't elect them. But it takes time for changes to occur. Time can be hastened by careful consideration in our communications with the political personalities we elect, and by our statements and actions.

via AFMS Newsletter

A recent letter from Frank and Laura Cole, Public Land Activities News, gives the following information concerning Rare II.

"The Forest Service and the public have completed their cooperative part of the RAREII wilderness studies. It will be another year before the Inventory as they call it, goes from each of the 10 Regional Foresters to Washington to the Director, the Secretary, the President and to Congress. Any further comment about this problem must go to Washington.

In the meantime the BLM, the Fish and Wildlife Service, the Heritage, Recreation and Conservation Service, the Bureau of Reclamation and the Park Service will all be involved in wilderness studies. Rockhounds should all become involved in meetings regarding grazing, power lines, scenic river studies because they are REALLY wilderness studies which effect our collecting hobby."

Mr. Cole concludes his message with the announcement that he must discontinue the Public Lands Activities Newsletter because of his health. We are sorry to hear this news, and wish the best for him.

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

November 1978 - Issue No. 189

Meet your new Midwest Federation officers

Here are your new Midwest Federation officers, elected at Cedar Rapids last August during the annual show and convention, to serve the Federation during 1979. They assume their duties November 1. From left, Jean Reynolds, Clarendon Hills, Ill., Secretary; Otto Ensminger, Lombard, Ill., Treasurer; Bernice McCloskey, Elm Grove, Wis., First Vice President; and Betty Crawford, Mansfield, Ohio, President. Mel Sharp, Fairview Park, Ohio, Second Vice President was not available when this picture was taken.



MIDWEST SELECTS NANCY NEWBERRY TO RECEIVE AMERICAN SCHOLARSHIP

Nancy Graham Newberry has been chosen by Prof. Donald Peacor as the scholar to receive the stipend of the American Federation of Mineralogical Societies in the Midwest Federation. Nancy is from Coldwater, Mich., and has done her undergraduate work at the University of Michigan, where she won the Branstrom Freshman Prize, and was honored by being chosen by Prof. Peacor to work on a project with him.

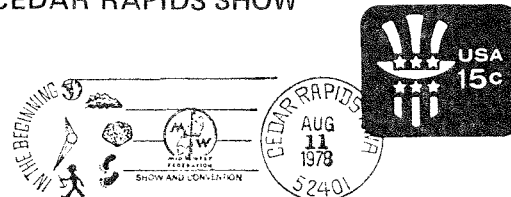
Miss Newberry, 22, will be working toward her master's degree in geology and will be assisting in teaching mineralogy. She has a wide range of outside interests, such as spinning, dyeing and handweaving. She is at present restoring an antique loom for her hobby. She takes part in 30-mile bicycle rides, enjoys sailing and swimming, and is an officer of her sorority, Delta Gamma.

She has also promised to keep the federation informed of her progress at the University.

CONTESTS

Annually the American Federation sponsors three contests which they encourage all clubs to enter. With our October issue we included information about the 12th annual AFMS Bulletin Editors Contest and with this issue we include complete information about the All American Awards Contest and the Slide Program Contest. Check this information about these contests and get your club entered in as many as you

SPECIAL STAMP CANCELLATIONS AT CEDAR RAPIDS SHOW



During the Midwest Federation Show and Convention in Cedar Rapids, Iowa, last August the U.S. Postal Service cancelled attendees stamped envelopes, to be sent through the mails or to be held as keepsakes... collectors items in either case... with a special cancellation.

In keeping with the shows 1978 theme "In the Beginning" artist Jane Machak of Grayslake, Ill. rendered the original drawing from which the U.S. Postal Services cancellation was made, to depict according to a time clock "That in the beginning was Earth, followed by the formation of mountains, plants, animals, footprints of man, and today, rockhounds".

Postal officials report 948 of the cancellations were placed on envelopes.

can.

If you should need additional information about any of the contests, write to these people.

Bulletin Contest: Mrs. Elza Slatery, 133 Lynda Drive, Chattanooga, Tenn. 37405; All American Awards Contest: Mrs. LaDocia Ellis, 1350 Bidwell Ave., Chico, Calif. 95926; and Slide Program Contest: Mrs. Kay Jensen, 199 East Brook Road, Pittsford, N.Y. 14534.

COLUMBUS CALLING... MIDWEST SHOW AND CONVENTION... AUG. 2-5, 1979 ... COLUMBUS, OHIO

Meet Ellis Courter: Your new AFMS President



Ellis W. Courter

Ellis W. Courter, the new president of the AFMS, has always had a keen interest in community affairs. He is a past president of the Optimist Club of Northwest Detroit of which he has been a member for the last twenty-eight years. For many years he worked with the Boy Scouts of America as the Advisor of an Explorer Post. He also served the District and the Detroit Area Council in many capacities, including several years as District Cabinet Advisor. During this time, he received the high honor of the Silver Beaver Award.

He became interested in minerals when his son as a Boy Scout was studying for his rocks and minerals merit badge and as a result, in 1951 he joined the Michigan Mineralogical Society. Later he became its president for two years.

Since then he has traveled extensively in the United States, Mexico, and Canada to further his interests in geology, mineralogy, and the collecting of crystallized mineral specimens. His current specialties are thumbnails and micromounts.

For ten years he was the editor of the Conglomerate, the official publication of the Michigan Mineralogical Society, and during this time, he gained some note as a writer, contributing many articles for the benefit of the hobby, not only for the Conglomerate, but also the Lapidary Journal and the Earth Science Magazine.

In 1960, he became active in the affairs of the Midwest Federation and after serving the Midwest in several capacities, he was elected as its president in 1968. At the conclusion of this term, he was named the Treasurer of the AFMS Scholarship Foundation, a position which he has filled for the past ten years.

In 1974, he became a Regional Vice President of the American Federation and since has progressed through the chairs of this organization. With his current election as president of the AFMS, he automatically becomes the Vice President of the AFMS Scholarship Foundation with Dan McLennan of the Rocky Mountain Federation succeeding him as treasurer of the Foundation.

Mr. Courter is also a member of the Friends of Mineralogy and currently is the treasurer of the Southeastern Michigan Chapter of Friends of Mineralogy. Although now retired from the business world, for many years he was the Treasurer-Controller of the Michigan Northern Division of Electrographic Corporation.

A FEW WORDS FROM THE NEW AFMS PRESIDENT

There are many in this world of ours who fail to find or take the time to develop a hobby of some kind, and because of this, they are being denied the many benefits and pleasures which can come from such an endeavor. And so to the more than 66,000 official members of the Regional Federations of the AFMS, my congratulations for being a part of the throng of organized gem and mineral enthusiasts that are spread so profusely about our country. Indeed you are fortunate, for to you comes the opportunity of working with and making friends with some of the best people in the world, along with the opportunity of gaining an educational insight into the fascinating world of rocks and minerals.

It is my hope that in the year ahead the AFMS may be instrumental in bringing you an even greater amount of

pleasure from this association, not only in the way of more collecting fun, but also in educational benefits which are so much a part of this hobby. It is to this end that the officers and committee personnel of the AFMS are dedicated as they look ahead not only to the blessings but also the obstacles they will face during the coming year. And indeed, there are both.

There are some unshakable obstacles that must be considered because many of our favorite collecting areas are constantly being threatened. Private owners continue to close quarries and mines to collectors because of increased insurance company demands, while the government still pursues its endeavor to create new wilderness areas that could isolate or make many public collecting areas inaccessible. Suffice it to say that no matter how hard we work, such obstacles cannot be completely eliminated, yet be assured that the AFMS through its committee personnel along with that of the Regional Federations will be working hard to help the situation.

AFMS EXECUTIVE SECRETARY NAMED

At the AFMS annual meeting of the Board of Directors at Pleasanton, Calif. last July, it was voted to hire an Executive Secretary. Don Langston, AFMS President during 1978 was directed to make the appointment.

He has appointed Mignon Wagner, 611 Clifford Drive, Austin, Texas 78745

Mrs. Wagner has served as Executive Secretary of the South Central Federation for several years and is well qualified for this position.

SAFETY MANUALS

Mailed to each MWF club with this issue of the Newsletter is a copy of the AFMS Safety Manual.

This is an excellent booklet on safety and we urge it be shown to the membership of each club.

Individual copies are available. Ask the supply officer in your club to contact Clinton Heckert, 725 Stewart Ave., Elgin, Ill. 60120, the Midwest Director of Supplies, for prices.

FALL MEETING

The annual fall Executive Committee of the Midwest Federation held in Lansing, Michigan on Saturday, Oct. 28 will be reported in the December issue.

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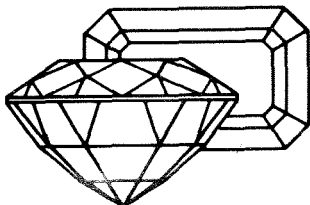
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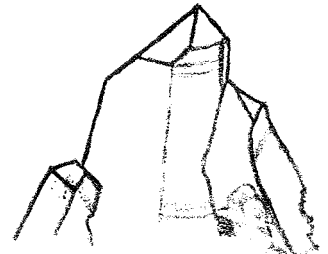
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