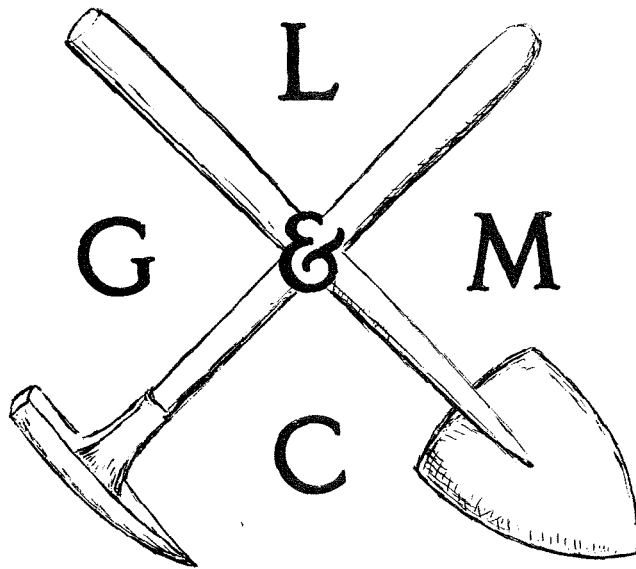


THE PICK & SHOVEL



OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF
LINCOLN GEM & MINERAL CLUB
LINCOLN, NEBRASKA

Volume 19

Issue 3

November 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 Boring	2836 S. 40th St.	Lincoln, 68506	488-6243
Recording Secy..	Frances Tracy	3420 Frost Court	Lincoln, 68510	475-1885
Treasurer.....	Joella Olson	4831 S.Haven Drive	Lincoln, 68516	489-5380
Board Member....	Don Carter	1101 Driftwood	Lincoln, 68510	489-3442
Board Member....	Bob Daniels	2941 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 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.

Calendar

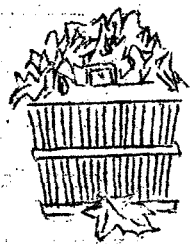
General meeting..... Nov. 25, 1978, 7:30 P.M.
Trabert Hall, 2202 S. 11th

Business..... Election of officers. Slate in Oct. P&S.
(Nominations may be made from floor)

Program.....An inspiring film, "A Time to See," made from slides taken by Reinhold Marxhausen, professor of art at Concordia College, Seward, Ne. LGMC members will recognize Marxhausen as the artist who did the cottonwood-leaf mobile which hangs above the petrified cycad to represent the Tree of Life in the Neihardt Center at Bancroft, Ne.
-Florence Boring, Chairperson

Refreshments..... Pie Social - each family bring pie of your choice and the extra ones will be auctioned as usual.

Board of Directors Meeting... Dec. 4, 1978, 7:30 P.M.
Home of Howard Taylor, 910 New Hampshire



It's A Christmas Party

The Club members at our October meeting voted to have our Christmas Party this year at Colonial Inn, 56th & Cornhusker Highway.

It will be held on Saturday, December 16, at 6:00 P.M.

The dinner will be buffet style and consist of:

- Roast Beef
- Fried Chicken
- Fish
- Vegetables
- Potatoes
- 6 Salads
- Beverages (Coffee, Tea or Milk)
- Rolls and Butter

Each Club member attending the party is asked to please bring 1 doz. Christmas cookies for our dessert.

The cost is \$5.25 per person and will be collected at the party.

Please call Marie Taylor or Vera Lyman by December 1 if you plan to attend.

Thank you.

Christmas Committee

Marie and Vera



Our thanks to Marita Bigley and Linda Parks who are helping with the stencil typing while Flossie is not available. It is really a big job to prepare materials for our monthly Pick & Shovel.

LAST MONTH forty-five adult members attended the meeting. We had as our guests Emma Baegl, guest of Helena; Grace Daunk, guest of Frances Tracy; Judy Hinkley, with the Youngs; and Jim & Maida McGrew of the Hebron Club, guests of the Daniels. (Maida also is editor of our NAOESCI bi-monthly publication 'The Gem Palette.'

Howard Taylor reported that Roger Pabian was attending a MWF Executive Meeting. The 1980 Show plans are progressing. Operating Procedures Manuals are ready except for covers and will be given to the various chairpersons soon.

Suggestions have been made that LGMC secure some kind of special patch or pin to commemorate our 25th Anniversary which will occur in 1980. Members decided a pin would be most appealing and Howard will appoint a committee to check and report findings.

Joella Olson reported that she will be doing some extensive traveling for the next few months and must resign as treasurer. The Board has asked Phyllis Parks to fill in until the new treasurer takes over and the members approved having Phyllis or President Howard Taylor's signatures on file for necessary business.

Florence showed a very beautiful movie prepared in Canada. It was rather hard to understand some of the sound but the color was magnificent. Title 'Animal, Vegetable, Mineral' and the Minerals were really great.

.....



November 1968, election with G. W. McKinney up for President. The program was a 'Slide & Conversation' presentation by several LGMC members who had attended the National Show at Normal, Illinois.

from the notebooks of Historian, Lois Everett

.....

Greetings From the Sunshine Corner:

Climb the mountains and get their good tidings. Nature's peace will flow into you as sunshine flows into trees. The winds will blow their own freshness unto you, and the storms their energy, while cares will drop away from you like the leaves of autumn.

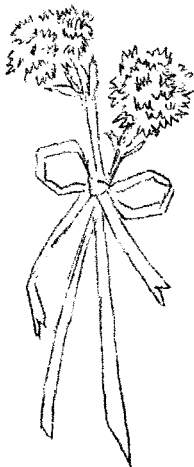
- John Muir

A thinking-of-you card was sent to Mrs. Ewald (Luella) Paul

A baby-girl-congratulations card was sent to Jim and Chris Oliver.

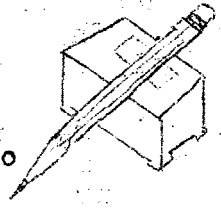
Until next month!

Suze Sunshine



FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK

Thanks to you that gave for our silent Auction. I thought it was a success, and it did help our treasury. Thank you Florence for a very fine program, and thanks to those of you who helped get the hall ready and also who help put it back in shape.



November will bring our pie social, hope you can all make it. Please bring any kind of a pie of your choice - my favorites are pumpkin and chocolate.

While at the Grand Island Show I had the privilege of sitting in on the Nebraska Association Director's Meeting. The Board of Directors were passing out compliments and who should come by but the Parks family, namely Jim, Phyllis and Linda. They were thanked for their efforts in the work they are doing for 'The Gem Palette.'

Arrangements have been made for our Christmas Party to be held on December 16th at Colonial Inn. Call Mrs. Lyman or Mrs. Taylor for further information, more will be found in this bulletin.

Plans for the 1980 Show are progressing. We can always use more volunteers, still vacancies to be filled here and there.

Hope to see you all at our regular meeting on November 25th.

Howard

.....

WELLS PRESENT 'SHOW AND TELL' AT CLARE MCPHEE SCHOOL

Lynn and Marie Wells went to Clare McPhee School, as representatives of Lincoln Gem and Mineral Club, on November 8th to present a program on 'Rocks'. They spoke to 72 students of the 5th and 6th grades who were just finishing an Earth Science Unit. The Wells took examples of the different kinds of rocks so they could show the changes through the ages. They also took samples of ores, minerals, gems and fossils. Completed jewelry was also in the display. Their presentation ended with a discussion on the uses of rocks and a question and answer period.

Mrs. Wells reports that a delightful 'Thank You' has already been received from the students.

.....

DON'T FORGET...PAY YOUR DUES...AT THE NOVEMBER MEETING...

OR BY MAIL

- Adult membership fee - \$4.00 (age 16 and over)
- Junior membership fee - \$1.00 (age 12-16)
- Family membership fee - \$9.00 (husband & wife and children under 16 who are permanent residents of household)

Mail your dues to Lincoln Gem & Mineral Treasurer, P.O.Box 5342, Lincoln, Ne. 68505

From the editor's desk... What an unusual November that is being ushered in. We've had frost, but the flowers are still in bloom---lovlier than during the summer. Even the tomatoes and squash are in bloom. The trees have been a riot of color--some still are. For this lovely weather we should all give thanks.

November introduces the holiday season with the day on which we, as a nation, remember the blessings which we have received and give thanks to our Creator who has bestowed them upon us. Let us be grateful for the little things that we have taken for granted.

November also brings the election of officers for the coming year. Do try and attend the November meeting; it is one of the most important meetings of the year.

Our congratulations to Jim and Chris Oliver and Grandma Nelda. A little daughter arrived on Sunday, October 29th to grace the Oliver home.

Community Involvement

We are happy to learn that Nebraska Wesleyan University is so pleased with the displays of gems and minerals that we have provided that they have requested that we continue sending them cases to display.

THANKSGIVING DAY

Over the river and through the wood,
To Grandfather's house we go;
The horse knows the way
To carry the sleigh

Through the white and drifted snow..

Over the river and through the wood--
Oh, how the wind does blow!

It stings the toes
And bites the nose,
As over the ground we go.....

Over the river and through the wood--
Now Grandmother's cap I spy!

Hurrah for the fun!
'Is the pudding done?
Hurrah for the pumpkin pie!

-Lydia Maria Child



(Bird) ...

Lincoln Gem and Mineral Society has now become a 400% Club. A letter from Mrs. W. H. Steinbrenner to President Howard Taylor follows:

American Federation
of
Mineralogical Societies

Mr. Howard Taylor, President
Lincoln Gem & Mineral Club
910 New Hampshire.
Lincoln, Nebraska 68508

Dear Howard:

Thank you so much for the contributions your members made to our first Midwest Federation Scholarship Auction at the Cedar Rapids Convention this past summer. You have received credit in our Midwest Record Book for the \$46.20 that these contributions brought.

Congratulations-you are now a 400% Club since you already had a credit of \$142.16. Not only are you 400% but you also have a nice credit of \$42.36 toward your 500% Plaque.

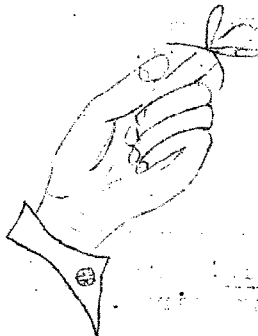
Please convey our appreciation to the members that contributed to making our first auction a success.

A carbon copy of this letter to Ellis Courter will verify your new Status and he will see that your 400% Seal is sent to you.

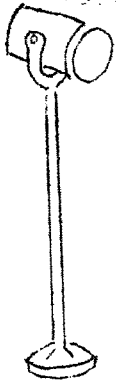
Sincerely yours,
Katie

Katherine Steinbrenner
Midwest Scholarship Chrmn.

Time Flies.... Dues are due. Dues may be paid at the November meeting, or mailed to Phyllis Parks % LGMC, P. O. Box 5342, Lincoln, Ne. 68505



HIGHLIGHTS from HELENA



We must say a final Farewell to former IG&M club member, Bob Bainbridge, who departed this life Friday night, November 3rd. We can still picture Bob in his Sheriff's outfit as he gave many hours as security officer at our annual club shows. Our very deepest sympathy to his wife Millie.

Life goes on: Our congratulations to Chris and Jim Oliver on the arrival of daughter Ann Marie on October 29. Now, Nelda, here's your chance to baby-sit occasionally.

Joella Olson is off on an extended trip - Minnesota, Missouri, and elsewhere?? Maybe we'll hear about it later.

Guess who was "flaunting" (Webster's New World: to show off proudly and impudently (shamelessly) the gorgeous Fairburn agate she dug up in the Crawford area recently? Marie Wells, that's who. We all drooled over it.

A postal card to Phyllis Parks from Flossie & Glen Litzenberg indicates they and their son and daughter-in-law are having a marvelous trip - Henry Ford Museum at Detroit, the Kellogg Plant at Battle Creek, Michigan, up into Canada, etc. etc. If she has time, am sure Flossie is making detailed notes, to be written up on their return, so that we stay-at-homes may vicariously enjoy the trip with them. --latest flash, the Litzenbergs were in Quebec. "It is COLD!" Flossie says.

Did you see the article in Nov. 1 Sun Newspaper re: the ancient village (4500 B.C.) now being excavated by archeologists--which include Profs. Peter Bleed, Anthropologist, and John Weymouth, Physicist, of Nebraska U-L? Further digs by these men will be made in 1979 and 1980. The National Geographic Society is funding the project, which is near the town of Minamikayabe on Hokkaido Island, Japan.

The McGinnis's daughter Sherry and two children have moved to Lincoln for some 15 months while her husband is on duty in Germany. Won't Grandma/pa enjoy those kiddies, tho!

Ask Howard Taylor how NOT to get a steam bath!

.

We've just had word that Mrs. Pfeiffer undergone hip-replacement surgery at Bryan Memorial Hospital and Rev. Pfeiffer reports she is doing nicely.-Cards Evelyn is fighting laryngitis but still in there pitching.

.

FROM THE AFMS NEWSLETTER -

Membership in the AFMS as of June 1978 was over 66,000 per a report by Dr. Ellwood T. Rees, Treasurer of the AFMS. The six Regional Federations list -California, 17,367; Eastern, 10,498; Midwest, 16,411; Northwest, 10,564; Rocky Mountain, 6,966; and South Central, 4,300.

'It's time for us to ask each other what we are doing for OUR Federation. The Federations need our input. They are what we make them. Does your club have some new programs to share? Do you have new ideas for shows?bulletins? public image? field safety? scholarships? Don't just sit there. Do something...and please give your messages to your communicators! The Federations can't accomplish things unless its clubs are accomplishing things.' (via June Zeitner's column in AFMS)

OUR TRIP WEST

by Marie Wells

Saturday, September 23rd, Lynn and I left for a period of 9 days to Crawford, Ne. and central Wyoming. Although it was on the cool side the weather cooperated beautifully and the rocks were cool enough to hold comfortably in ones hands, and a delightful time of the year to enjoy nature.

While in Crawford, Tom and Dick took us on a tour of their vacation home. When it is finished it will be very nice, and from its vantage point you can see a spectacular view of the buttes.

The highlight of our stay in Crawford was Lynn's finding a couple of good Fairburns, and the one I found really made me squeal with esthesis.

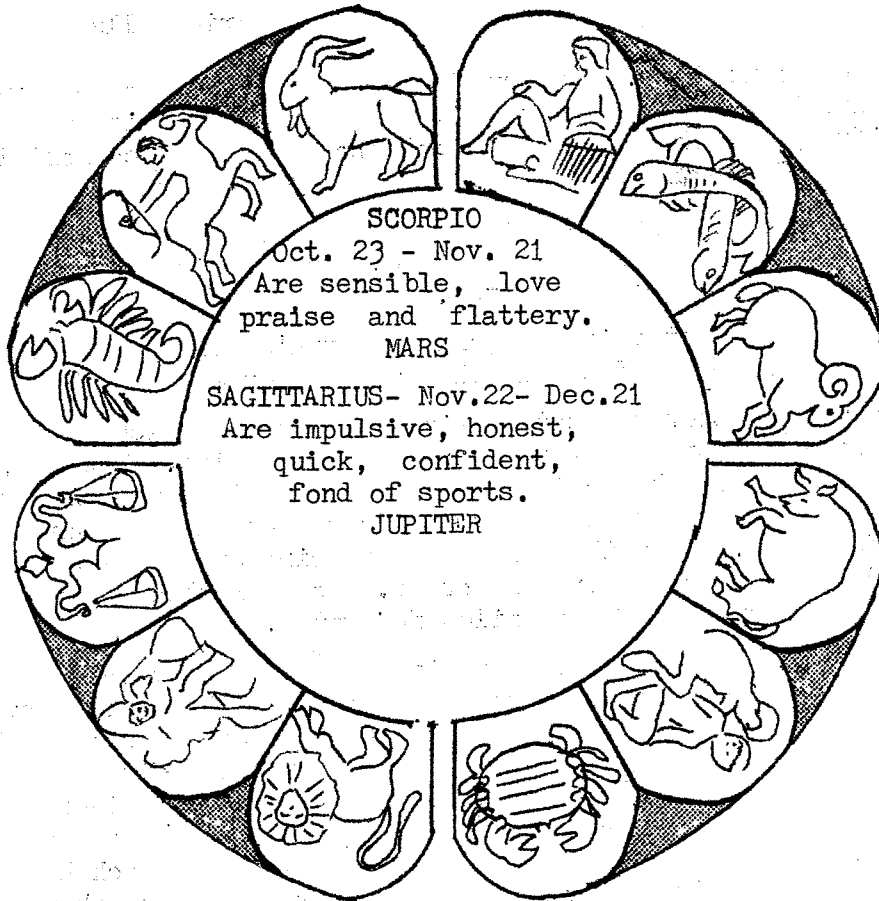
We stopped at Wamsutter to hunt turritella agate and picked up some nice chunks lying on top of the ground exposed by the wind. However, the thing that impressed us was the activity in the area. The last time we had been on the rim you could look as far as eye could see and not see any sign of civilization; not so now. From the same lookout point one can spot a half dozen drilling rigs and a sprinkling of houses. Most of these places do not have a well and the people drive for miles for water.

We came across, of all things, a furniture factory that looked more like a conglomerate of leantoos haphazardly put together than a factory. The place was surrounded by ten luxury dog houses each one occupied by a chained black hound, and one black cobbled cow. The dogs announced with loud growls to the lone long haired, but not so long bearded owner we had driven up to the premise. He was a friendly guy and explained to us he made furniture by hand with no electricity, and this was his place of business. The truck he used to get his logs and deliver furniture looked to be in about the same shape as his combination home-factory.

He directed us to a windmill about a half mile away where he said we would find what we were looking for and where he got his water. In the time while we were there a station wagon with 4 young folks and a 50 gallon drum drove up, filled the drum with water, then took a bath in the water tank much to the consternation of the next person who drove up with her station wagon containing about 2 dozen gallon size plastic distilled water jugs, which she had planned to fill by just dipping in the tank. Because of the soapy water she had to fill each jug from the spout which took a good deal longer. The activity around this thirst-quenching windmill reminded me of the Well of Samaria.

Wandering around in the wilderness in search of Eden Valley wood, we came across a marker circumscribed by an iron fence. The marker told a graphic story of hardship encountered crossing the plains. Charolotte Ruthford was born in England in 1829 and in 1848 married in England to Joseph Devis. Crossing the plains to Utah, she died in childbirth with infant on September 21, 1862, leaving 5 children. Buried in the same grave was Caroline Myers, age 25 who also died on the same day. Seventy-seven years later on July 3rd, 1939, her grave was located by LeRoy and Gladys Devis, probably grandchildren. They were directed to the grave by a person from the Hays Ranch who knew of the grave site. What courage and valor these early pioneers exhibited!

Wyoming is booming. Coal, natural gas, and oil are drawing people to Wyoming by the thousands and even the sleepy town of Farson is awakening. New homes, a trailer court, couple of new churches, and corrugated high school building and an addition to the motel graces the horizon. So if you want to build a shanty on a 40 acre claim, contact the Bureau of Land Management. Be careful where you hunt or you may get shot tresspassing on somebody's claim.



TOPAZ or CITRINE - BIRTHSTONE for NOVEMBER
BY Flossie Litzenberg

TOPAZ: Aluminium flour-silicate with a hardness of 8. Variably colored but commonly yellowish. Found in cavities of some granites. Topaz, besides used for jewelry is used to make special optical lenses. Its powder is used as an abrasive. In olden times people thought it prevented bad dreams. It was the stone of strong people and denoted fidelity, loyalty and true love. The yellow topaz referred to in the Old Testament stood for benevolence - the green variety for uprightness. The name comes from the Greek "Topazica" which means to divine, guess or conjecture.

Ancient superstition:

Topaz - Look into it and solve your worries.
(Probably the origin of the Crystal Ball)

CITRINE: is yellow and transparent and resembles the Topaz. It is crystallized quartz with a hardness of 7. Its pale yellow color is caused by the presence of iron trioxide.

Will members please bring any specimens of Topaz or Citrine they may have for "Show and Tell".

THE BUTCHER, THE BAKER, THE CANDLESTICK MAKER

-by J. D. Young

Inflation - the No. 1 topic today. What to do? Old timers remember the problem following World War I, 60 years ago, but nothing compared with today's dilemma. Where, when, and how will it end? The reasons given today for some price increases seem almost as ridiculous as those I satirized about in my editorial in the Wayne State Normal student publication, The Goldenrod, over a half century ago. Below are some excerpts from the April 5, 1920 edition.

"Ouija Boards, Ford Repairs, Saxophones, and Everything, says the sign on the front of the Grassville General Store. "Phrenology Books, Side-Saddles, Cabinet Organs", it read twenty-five years ago. Fifty years ago the sign read, "Claim Stakes, Ox Yokes, Marriage Licenses". Seventy-five years ago an American Indian's wigwam was where the store now stands.....

Twenty-five, fifty, seventy-five years hence--what?

The butcher, the baker, the candlestick maker--who are they? Where do they come in? They came in for their share; leave that to them. One of them is the proprietor of the Grassville General Store. He gets his share. A customer comes in.

"These are brand new Ouija boards, not shop worn, made entirely in the factory of the "Big Hoax Novelty Company", not assembled like other brands. Guaranteed free from knots and benzoate of soda and impervious to tears. They will last a life time if reverently handled."

"All right, I'll take one. How much?"

"They have gone up 25 percent due to scarcity of labor and material. The recent heavy snow in Brazil made it impossible to get the cottonwood lumber out of the forests of Greenland. We hear they will have to go up another 25% before Decoration Day. At this price we are losing money, etc., etc."

The next customer buys a reed for his saxophone, a silk shirt, collar button, pair of shoes, suit of clothes, and a copy of the most ultra recent jazz. "How much?"- and he pays for his purchase and the following information:

"Every thing is going up and is going higher. Lead is scarce so we may not get any more saxophone reeds for some time. Silkworms struck for a 23½ hour day and expenses. The war used up all the celluloid to make gun cotton and we must raise the price again on collar buttons..... The shoe manufacturers of Massachussets had to raise wages five dollars per week and the scarcity of rock salt caused 500 head of buffalo to die of black leg in the Sahara Desert making such a leather shortage that shoes have gone up

continued next page

THE BUTCHER, THE BAKER, THE CANDLESTICK MAKER continued

and we may soon be out of leather overcoats.....
The Alaskan railway used so much paper for insulation on their refrigerator cars that the supply of paper has decreased in the Fiji Islands and so we have to pay 25% more wholesale for these sheets of music. Prohibition has caused the music composers to strike for more bars on the staff so we had to raise the price on all our music."

Thus they tell the old, old story. Who is to blame for the amount on the price tag and on the wage check? Who pays it? Who gets it? Who keeps it? Society has these questions at close range. Yet the price goes higher. Who shall get the blame? Not the butcher alone- he knows the game; not the baker individually-he has his innings; not the candlestick maker solitarily-he is on the team.

The present state of economics is not to be wondered at considering the rapid growth of population and industry with the changes in social structure, and the fact that we are all mortal, each one of us about as selfish as our selfish neighbor. "We must beat him at this money grabbing game!"

A broad view of the situation reveals "Something for nothing" unstable and unnatural. Emerson said, "Nothing is ever gained or lost, but everything is paid for in certain definite measure"..... Nature,----always working for a balance. Why cannot society follow this to good advantage?

What do we give society-what do we take? Ouija boards, Ford repairs, and saxophones were unknown to cave men but they had their own little social and economic problems. They met them partially and started the world toward the butcher, the baker and the candlestick maker with "us" thrown in for good measure.-----

J. D. Y.

P. S. So we had inflation back in 1920. What hedge have we rock-hounds against it today? Maybe rocks, gems and minerals.

Inflation-1978 -----Price of Pearls Increase

There is speculation that pearls will be the next big investment gem. Price on pearls are up four to five times since 1972.

The change in the value of the Japanese yen which was undervalued in 1972 is partly responsible. Also there has been a great demand for pearls over the last six years-and supplies are decreasing due to pollution problems.

Demand keeps growing---up 35% in the U.S. during the first five months of '78.

JUNIOR PAGE



Hi, Juniors,

Did you have a nice Halloween with lots of treats? Now you have Thanksgiving to look forward to. Perhaps during your vacation you'll have some time to send in a joke, riddle, puzzle or article for the Junior page. This is your page and I'd like to have you help with the things that interest you. My thanks to Linda Parks for sending in some good riddles for the October issue.

Mrs. Ulrich

Fossils are the remains or traces of things that lived ages ago. The word "fossil" is derived from the Latin meaning "dug up" or extracted from the earth, and has been preserved by means of the process of fossilization. They are preserved in rock layers called strata, which lie one upon another, much like boards in a pile. These layers formed one after another, from very ancient to modern times.

The science that is concerned with fossils and fossilization is PALEONTOLOGY, the study of ancient things. This is divided into three areas: palaeozoology, which is concerned with the animal fossils; paleobotany, the study of fossilized plants; and paleoanthropology, which studies fossilized human remains.

- Michigan Lapidary Bulletin

During a rock trip, a small boy leading a donkey passed through the diggings. One digger, in fun, asked the lad, "Why are you holding onto your brother so tight, Sonny?"

"So he won't stop and dig rocks," he replied.

Via American River Currents

Here are five questions from a Rockhound Quiz by Mahdlen Fix via The Loup Scoop. Can you answer them?

1. What gemstone was once believed to ward off drunkenness?
2. What is meant by chatoyancy?
3. What is the difference between a sapphire and a ruby?
4. Name three popular gemstones that are not minerals.
5. What are "Fairy Stones"? What is their official name?

POTPOURRI

A cave in the Madison Limestone of the Big Horn Mountains of Wyoming is know as a NATURAL TRAP. Excavations have yielded a remarkable number of bones of late Pleistocene horses, camels, wolves, mammoths, bison, cats and smaller animals such field mice and moles. The collectinn is housed in the University of Kansas Vertebrate Paleontology collection.

Cave-in accident in South Dakota Badlands... via S.E.G.A.M.S.

"We are all saddened to learn of the accident that happened in the Badlands. One person was killed and another injured on a rock hunt when a dirt bank caved in on them.

It is a tragic reminder to all of us to never dig under an overhang because it can so easily come down upon us. We need to be alert to these dangers present when rock hunting as well as when working with our rocks."

Desert Varnish... That glossy black or dark red coating seen on many rock formations in the desert and hills is called "desert varnish". The black top surface contains about 70% manganese and iron oxides. The red coating on the underside of rocks results from about 90% clay mixed with iron oxide.

Mineralogists of the California Institute of Technology have analyzed many specimens and have found that all desert varnish has the same composition. Fine clay dust is carried by wind and settles on the rocks. Water with traces of manganese and iron reaches the clay film. With time, oxides result and cement the clay particles to form the shiny film.

Science News via Sun City Rock Dust

Gem Holiday... An article from Alva, Scotland states that guests at Margaret Houghton's small hotel in the city get bed, breakfast and an evening meal for about \$60 a week, and may go home with pockets full of amethysts.

Mrs. Houghton offers rock-hunting holidays all autumn and personally accompanies her guests on rock-hunting expeditions.

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.

HANDY HINTS

A successful method of polishing stubborn material in the tumbler-- even Apache Tears-- is a mixture of 1 lb. cerium oxide with dry corn meal for the final polish. Use dry and tumble for 3 days.

via AFMS Newsletter

Dr. Scholl's Moleskin Plaster makes a good protective base for book-ends and other rock displays. The sheets come with a gummed surface and are a lot easier to apply than felt, and will do just as well in protecting furniture from scratches.

via Tule Smoke Signals

To remove broken findings that have been cemented to stones with epoxy, place the whole thing in a pan of boiling water, let stand about fifteen or twenty minutes, then just "pick out" your stones.

The Template via The Pyriter

To save time, trouble, and that new blade, getting rocks ready for the tumbler-- here's an idea: On the trim saw, notch where the break is wanted, shallow for small rocks--deeper for larger ones. Then place a thin small untempered chisel in the cut. Strike sharply with a light hammer.

Triangle Tumbler via The Pyriter

Pellon, a plastic fabric used as a stiffener in suits and dresses, makes a fine polishing buff. It polishes quickly, doesn't heat, doesn't orange-peel, and is extremely economical for polish. Once charged with your favorite agent, you can almost throw away the old polish jar and just add water. Since Pellon is a thin material, it must be used on a reasonably stiff backing such as 1/8 inch gasket of rubber or cork. One problem is finding a suitable adhesive. The stuff is practically unstickable. We tried Welwood Cement with pretty good success. Coat both the rubber backing and Pellon disc. Allow both to dry about 20 minutes and then stick them together, being careful to avoid wrinkles and bubbles.

Halite Hilites via Pick and Chisel

The more milky the water in which you cut jade, the better the grade of jade. If the water isn't milky, then you don't have jade; you have something else.

via Gemdrops

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

Diablo Diggin's via Chips and Tips

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Midwest Federations NEWSLETTER



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December 1978 - Issue No. 190

Membership cards distributed

1979 Membership Cards have been distributed to all Midwest Federation Clubs based on previous years request. Cards were given to State Directors at fall Executive Committee Meeting in Lansing, Michigan and should be in the hands of your club president before the first of January. We are sure the club treasurer will appreciate this change.

The information sheet for the directory and calendar of events should already have been completed, and along with your check with Midwest Federation dues, sent to the secretary Jean Reynolds, 107 Tuttle Ave., Clarendon Hills, Ill. 60514. It is needed now so please check with the person in your club who is responsible for getting this information to the federation. DO IT TODAY.

ALL AMERICAN TIME

It's All American Merit Award time again. The form has already been included with this Newsletter and the American Newsletter. Check to see who is responsible in your club for filling out this form and mailing it in soon after the first of the year.

The Midwest is a consistent leader in this worthy program, which started in our Federation 14 years ago. This year the big National All American Club was the Wisconsin Geological Society. Other National winners have been from Michigan and Iowa, and the Roehm Geology Club, our active Juniors from Ohio, have been among the top winners for 5 years in a row. Put your club at the top next year! Here's how . . . Get the form. Fill it out. Send with it documentation of your club activities for the year, pictures, clippings, letters of appreciation, etc. Mail it in before March 31st.

It is important for your club to take stock of its accomplishments and for the officers and committees of the Federation to know how great an organization you have. If there are any comments, questions, or if you can't find that form, write me at once. Address, June Zeitner, Mission, S.D. 57555

OFFICERS INSTALLED

Midwest Federation officers for the 1978-79 year, elected at Cedar Rapids, Iowa last August were installed at the annual fall executive meeting at Lansing, Mich. on Sat. Oct. 28.

A number of items were on the agenda and reports of decisions will be reported in this Newsletter in coming months.

A message from Paul Good, retiring President

It has been a "Good" year

During the past year it has been my privilege and pleasure to serve as your President for the Midwest Federation. Because of the fine cooperation of the officers, State Directors and their assistants, Chairpersons and their assistants, this year will close as a GOOD year.

Much was accomplished during the past year, but we still have a lot of work left for Betty Crawford, your new President, and all the wonderful people who will be working with her.

I wish to take this means of thanking everyone who has worked so hard for the Federation not only during the past year, but also in years that have passed.

It has been said before, "No one person accepts the Jade gavel alone." I certainly agree with that statement. May the future of the Federation continue to grow. I'm sure with the cooperation of everyone, the member clubs and the executive committee, officers, and assistants working together, it can't do anything but grow. Good luck.

And now, all GOOD things must come to an END.

VERNE MONTGOMERY

Verne Montgomery, a Past President of the Midwest Federation, died October 14. Services were held October 16 in Downers Grove, Illinois where he lived with his wife Chalotte. He was President of the Midwest during the 1966-1967 year.

\$6,200 FROM CEDAR RAPIDS SHOW

A check in amount of \$6,200 has been received from the Cedar Valley Rocks and Minerals Society of Cedar Rapids, Iowa by the Midwest Treasurer. This amount will be increased slightly when complete results of the show are known. This represents the Midwest share of the show and convention held in Cedar Rapids, last August 10-13.

AFMS BOUNDRIES COMMITTEE

Russell Kemp, South Holland, Ill., has been appointed AFMS Boundaries Committee Chairman by AFMS President Ellis Courter.

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

Your 1979 Regional Show Schedule

Here are the dates and locations of the six Regional Shows in 1979. Note that the National Show and Convention will be held in Tampa, Florida in conjunction with the Eastern Federation, July 12-15, 1979

CALIFORNIA	EASTERN	MIDWEST	NORTHWEST	ROCKY MOUNTAIN	SOUTH CENTRAL
Sacramento, California June 22-24	Tampa, Florida NATIONAL SHOW July 12-15	Columbus, Ohio August 2-5	Kennewick, Washington Sept. 1-3	Rapid City, S.D. June 8-10	Abilene, Texas May 18-20

Scholarship gains

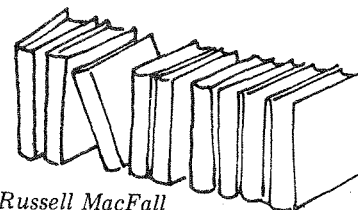
Scholarship Chairman Katharine Steinbrenner reports that since the Midwest show in Cedar Rapids last August, fifteen clubs have sent in contributions amounting to \$1,033.52. As a result, eleven Midwest clubs have advanced their Scholarship status as follows: Minnowa Rock & Gem Club, 400%; State Line Gem & Mineral Soc., 1400%; Joliet Gem Club, 100%; Calumet Gem & Mineral Soc., 400%; Lakeland Gem Club, 1500%; Southern Illinois Earth Science Club, 300%; Old Capitol Geological Club, 600%; Stone Head Mineral & Lapidary Club, 100%; Beacon Rock & Fossil Club, 100%; Midwest Mineralogical & Lapidary Society, 1100%; Northwest Wisconsin Gem & Mineral Society, 400%.

She reports the first Midwest Scholarship Auction in Cedar Rapids was a success and appears to be an excellent way to increase the Scholarship Fund.

Following is a list of the 50 clubs donating material and the amount each club's material brought in the auction. The percentage figure immediately following a club name indicates their Scholarship standing was advanced to that percentage when the auction amount was added.

McDonnell Douglas Gem & Mineral Club, Mo.	\$	57.20
Earth Science Club of Northern Illinois		59.15
Cedar Valley Rock & Mineral Society, Ia.		90.50
Lincoln Gem & Mineral Club, Neb. (400%)		46.20
Heart of Wisconsin Gem & Mineral Club (1000%)		26.40
Duneland Rock Club, Ind. (1500%)		63.00
Peru Rock & Mineral Club, Inc., Ind. (2900%)		31.40
Michigan Gem & Min. Society of Jackson, Mi.		30.00
Siloam Springs Earth Science Club, Ill.		2.70
Coulee Rock Club, Wis.		27.55
Double "I" Gem & Mineral Society, Ill.		9.80
Dallas County Rock Club, Ia.		8.00
Lake Agassiz Rock Club, N. Dak. (500%)	100.80	
Midwest Mineralogical & Lap. Society		42.10
Wisconsin Geological Society		.25
Central Michigan Lap. & Mineral Society		4.70
Gem City Rock Club, Ill. (700%)		24.85
Madison County Rockhounds, Ia.		73.95
Madison County Rockhounds, Ia.		2.25
Miami Valley Gem & Mineral Society, Oh.		5.20
Oshkosh Earth Science Club, Wis.		17.70
Ishpeming Rock Club, Mi.		13.70
Worthern Earth Searchers, Ill.		1.45
Des Plaines Valley Geological Society, Ill.		8.80
River Valley Rockhound Club, Ia.		.75
Muncie Rock & Gem Club, Ind.		10.00
Bay de Noc Gem & Mineral Club, Mi. (100%)		12.85
Kenosha Gem & Mineral Club, Wis. (500%)		65.75
Toledo Gem & Rockhound Club, Oh.		4.10
Lake County Gem & Mineral Society, Ill.		6.15
Park Forest Earth Science Club, Ill.		13.55
West Suburban Lapidary Club, Ill. (2500%)		14.35
Shawnee Mission Gem & Mineral Club, Kan.		2.50
Pike County Mineral & Gem Society, Mo.		5.20
Blue Ridge Gem & Mineral Society, Mo.		35.15
Rosebud Geological Society, S. Dak.		7.75
Des Moines Lapidary Society, Ia.		40.95
Central Iowa Mineral Society, Ia.		3.15
Old Capitol Geological Club, Ia.		3.70
Earth Science Club of Missouri		10.10

BOOKS



By Russell MacFall

Perhaps the most important book for rockhounds appearing in recent months is the 19th edition of "Manual of Mineralogy" by Emeritus Prof. Cornelius S. Hurlbut, Jr. of Harvard and Prof. Cornelius Klein of Indiana University (John Wiley & Sons, 532 pages). Although this reviewer would have preferred to get a revision of the "Textbook of Mineralogy", the "Manual" is a very useful book with a new section on petrology and major expansions of the history of the science, coverage of crystallography, mineral chemistry and updated tables. Professor Hurlbut has edited the last four revisions of this basic text.

"The Complete Book of Rock Tumbling" by Christopher S. Hyde and Richard A. Matthews (Chilton Book Co., 183 pages) brings together much of the lore and the hitherto scattered methods and secrets of tumbling, which has become one of the most popular branches of lapidary art. Attention should also be called to an admirably written and illustrated book, "Mosaics with Natural Stones", by Walter Lauppi (Sterling Publishing Co., 96 pages), which certainly should inspire many rockhounds to try their hands at an art that has as old a tradition as any creative activity of man. The same company has also issued "Rock and Gem Polishing" and "Pebble Collecting and Polishing", both by Edward Fletcher.

Last but not least, this reviewer wishes to mention modestly "Rocks Minerals Gems and Fossils" by Donal Dinwiddie and Russell P. MacFall, (Popular Mechanics Press, 1978, 203 pages) which is a greatly expanded version of a well received book by the second author published some years ago. Described by the publisher as a complete book on collecting, identifying, shaping, displaying, evaluating and polishing, the book is notable for its 24 pages of color on earth and moon rocks in the title classifications. Dinwiddie is a former editor of "Popular Mechanics" magazine and MacFall is a past president of the Midwest Federation.

Kansas City Rock & Gem Society, Mo.	2.30
Dayton Gem & Mineral Society, Oh.	1.50
Valley Rock & Mineral Club, Wis.	2.50
Lewis & Clark Gem & Mineral Soc., S. Dak.	1.30
Evansville Lapidary Society, Ind.	3.25
Central Missouri Rock & Lapidary Society	5.25
Black Hawk Rock Club, Ia. (500%)	16.75
Starved Rock Rockhound, Ill.	4.40
Neville Public Museum Geology Club, Wis.	14.40
Chamberlain Gem & Mineral Society, S. Dak.	7.00

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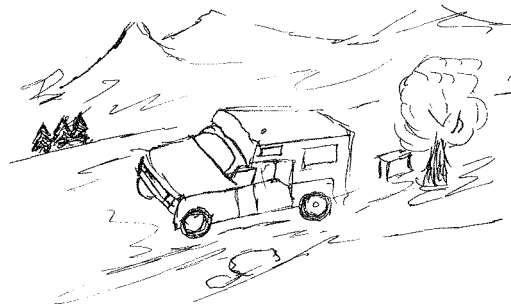


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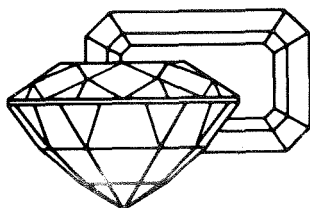
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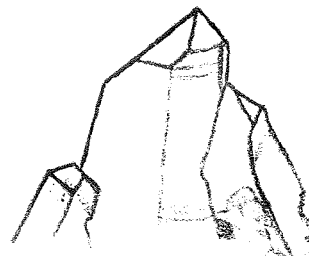
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