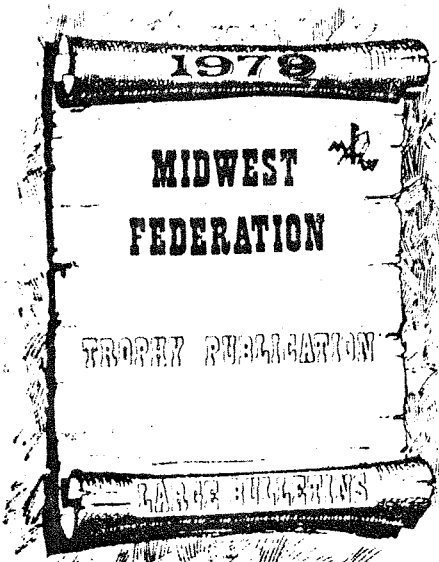
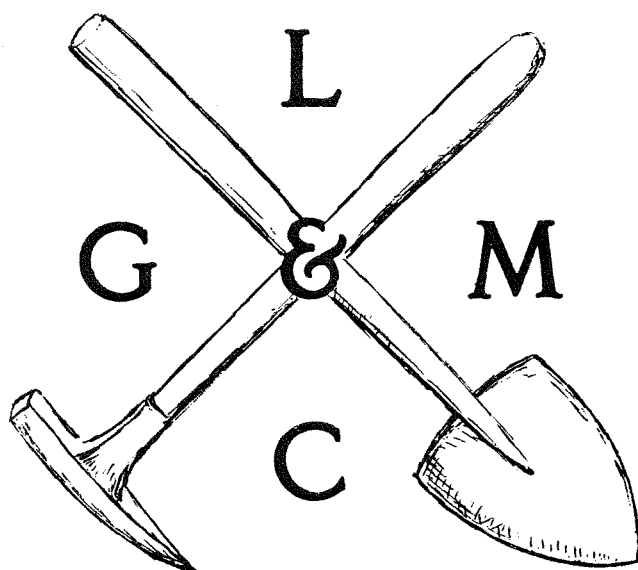


THE PICK & SHOVEL



OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF
LINCOLN GEM & MINERAL CLUB
LINCOLN, NEBRASKA

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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)
Nebraska Academy of Sciences
Community Arts Council of Lincoln

Regular Meetings: 4th Saturday of the month, September thru May, 7:30 P.M.
Oct. and Nov. 1980 at Nebraska Center, 33rd and Holdrege

1980 ELECTED OFFICERS

President.....	Roger Pabian	315 "D" St.	Lincoln, 68502	474-2034
1st Vice Pres...	Larry Bigley	6126 Hartley	Lincoln, 68507	466-0211
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Board Member....	Frank Rule	6333 Kearney	Lincoln, 68507	466-1697
Board Member....	Farel Hyland	6934 Francis	Lincoln, 68505	466-3387

Nominating Committee--3 years..Bob Walker, Irl Everett; 2 years..Wilfrid Wittman,
Edwin Johnson; 1 year..Marita Bigley, Lynn Wells

STANDING COMMITTEE CHAIRPEOPLE:

Programs	Howard J. Taylor, Jr.	Liaison and Calling	Marie Taylor
Education	Marilyn Smits	Refreshments	Mary Walker
Hospitality	Goldie Quinn	Scholarship	Howard Taylor
Historian	Lois Everett	Outside Displays	Bruce Simon
Librarian	Kay Graber	Housing & Property	Dick Roberts
Membership	Mary Lambert	Publications	Glen Litzenberg
Field Trips & Safety	Walt McCoy	Auditing Comm. 1980	TBA
Sunshine Corner	Susan Taylor	Junior Activities	Mary Walker
NAOESCI Reporter	Evelyn Ulrich		
1981 Show	TBA		

LONG RANGE PLANNING AND BY LAWS COMMITTEE

1 year remaining-Nelda Oliver, John Harrison; 2 years remaining-Jim Parks,
Phyllis Parks; 3 years remaining-Howard Taylor, Marie Taylor

PICK & SHOVEL STAFF: Chairman...Glen Litzenberg

Editor	Evelyn Ulrich, 3521 S. 48th St., Lincoln, NE 68506 (488-9051)
Club News	Helena Baegl
Sunshine	Susan Taylor
Typist	Flossie Litzenberg, Marita Bigley, Linda Parks

DEADLINE 1st of Month of Issue. Articles may be reprinted if credit is given the author and THE PICK & SHOVEL and a copy of the publication is sent to the Editor.

CALENDAR

General Meeting: Saturday, October 25, 1980, 7:30 P.M.
Nebraska Center for Continuing Education
33rd and Holdrege.
Parking is available north of building.

Business: Nominating Committee's Report
Nominations may be made from the floor.

Program: Specimen Agates presented by Ray Lambert and
Roger Pabian.
How to judge, grade and evaluate agate slabs.

SILENT AUCTION -Proceeds to go
to the AFMS Scholarship Fund. Bring your best
contributions.

Refreshments: Will be served by the Center for a charge.

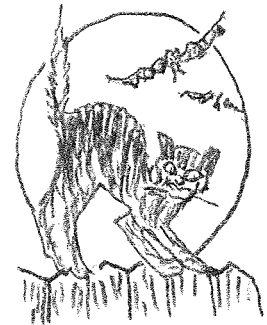
Board of Directors' Meeting: Nov. 6, 1980, 7:30 P.M. Home of
Roger Pabian, 315 D St.

Oct. 18-19 Grand Island, Ne. G.I.E.S. Club, Show

Johnny Horizon Outdoor Pledge

As a visitor to the public lands
I pledge to:

- Keep the land clean and free of litter.
- Respect and treat the land as my own.
- Leave gates and fences as I find them.
- Obey state game and fish laws.
- Be careful with fire.



THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

The month of September was highlighted by several fine shows at Kearney, Omaha, Nebraska City, and the state show at Ogallala. I was able to visit two of these events: Omaha and Ogallala. Both of these shows were characterized by exceptionally fine displays and demonstrations. The annual NAOESCI meeting took place at the latter show on Sunday, September 26th, and LG&MC was represented by Vern Jakub and I as club delegates.

Several important resolutions were passed at the meeting: (1) The State Rock Swap will be restricted to rock and rock related items only; (2) Show dates should be in to the vice president by December 15th to be included in the Nebraska events calendar. NAOESCI Officers for 1981 are: President, Ruby Price, North Platte; Vice President, Jim Harrison, Omaha; Secretary-Treasurer, Betty Mae Friskopp, Kearney; Nominating Committee, Wayne Bucholz, Kearney; Charles Haase, Ainsworth (3 year); Board of Directors: Connie McCartney, Grand Island, and Gerald Hoye, Midstate (2 year); and Ralph Daigger, Ogallala (1 year).

Perhaps the most important resolution was that effecting the way the state swap must be conducted. To the chagrin of many rockhounds, many swaps have degenerated to flea markets which are attended by many professional dealers in non-rock items. This is a step in the right direction and will improve the image of the hobby.

Our first field trip for the year took place on October 5th, and a number of interesting things were found. Because of the lack of rain this past summer, collecting was somewhat slow compared to previous years, but everybody turned up something of interest. A report on the trip appears elsewhere in the bulletin.

The Grand Island club will be hosting its annual field trip into the Crawford area from October 23rd to 26th. An invitation was extended to all interested parties to join this trip. They will seek Fairburn agates, blue agate, prairie agate, and fossils on the trip.

An unfortunate rumor circulated at the September meeting that there was a 50 cent a cup charge for coffee. We do have to pay \$6.00 a gallon for coffee and a kitty will be set up to help defray the cost of the coffee but there is no mandatory 50 cent a cup charge.

I have long been fascinated by the alligator skin finish that Jim Sanchez of San Juan Gems is able to produce on dinosaur bone. The bone is handled much like agate, sanded to 600 grit on silicon carbide and polished on hard felt with tin oxide. The stone is then finished with black rouge on a muslin buff. The muslin buff can clean out the tin oxide that remains between the bone cells and the black rouge applies a stain to the tin oxide that remains behind. The implication is that stones that have a great tendency to undercut can be finished to be very attractive even though the polish would be less than desirable in the eyes of a judge. Also, some stones can be polished very highly but will not take deep finishes. Perhaps judges in the future should become more open-minded in comparing polish versus finish.

We have several important items of business to transact at the next meeting. Nominations for offices will be accepted from the floor and the members will have a chance to select their own nominees.

Ray Lambert and I will compile the program and will introduce the members and guests to judging and evaluating agate specimens such as slabs and nodules.

Will see you all on the 25th of October.

Roger K. Pabian
President

From the editor's desk...After an unusually hot and humid summer, the cool, dry breezes from the north are very welcome. October is usually mild and pleasant so is a good time to get out and hunt rocks. It is hoped that someone who went on the recent field trip to Humboldt will write an article for the November Pick & Shovel. People who can't go on such trips enjoy reading about them. Please send in news items to Helena.

A haze on the far horizon
The infinite tender sky,
The ripe, rich tints of the cornfields,
And the wild geese sailing high,
And all over the upland and lowland
The charm of the goldenrod
Some of us call it autumn,
And others call it God.

Herbert Carruth

NEBRASKA MATERIALS WANTED - agates, fossils, crystals, petrified wood,
gold or other earth's treasures.

YES! The Nebraska Case will be alive and kicking in spite of several delays. Let's each member of LGMC put our mark on the State of Nebraska by placing one of your favorite types of material on location to show other rockhounds what our state can provide in the way of field trips.

Jim Parks has volunteered to take the Nebraska Case (companion case to our 'Gems on Location' of the United States) and complete the work on it.

Please bring materials to club meetings or to 7331 Thayer Street, Lincoln.

Some Important October Dates:

- Oct. 1 The first postcard was issued in Austria in 1869.
- Oct. 4 The Russians launched the world's first satellite, Sputnik I, into orbit around the world in 1957.
- Oct. 13 Discoverers' Day. Move over Columbus!
- Oct. 19 National Cleaner Air Week.
- Oct. 21 Thomas Edison invented the electric light, 1879.
- Oct. 26 Turn your clock back one hour. Standard Time starts at 2 A.M.
- Oct. 29 The most famous mine in the west, the Santa Rita silver and copper mine in New Mexico, was discovered by Col. Jose Carrasco in 1800.
- Oct. 31 Witches, ghosts, and goblins unite and have a happy Halloween Night.

via October Instructor

Annual Midwest Federation Council Meeting, Lincoln, Nebraska
Saturday, June 14, 1980

Midwest Federation officers elected for 1980-1981 are; President - Mr. Milford Sharp of Fairview Park, Ohio, First Vice-president - Mr. Larry Nawojski of Richton Park, Illinois, Second Vice-president - Mrs. Diane Dare of Evansville, Indiana, Secretary - Miss Jean Reynolds of Clarendon Hills, Illinois, Treasurer - Mr. William Parch of Fountain City, Wisconsin.

Two new members were elected to Honorary Membership into the Federation for the year 1980. They are Bill and Jean Dahlburg.

James Russel and Kate Steinbrenner were the two new members elected to the Nominating Committee for 1980.

The Federation needs a new home for the History and Archives of the Federation. They are now being stored in a very small storage area with no working space or temperature control. Any suggestions would be appreciated. Contact the Federation.

Volunteers are needed for a Geology Committee. Each volunteer is asked to put together a slide show concerning the geology of his state and how it contributes to the rockhounding hobby. This show will be for the Midwest Federation Library. There are many different aspects to the rock, gem, and mineral field that can be used. Anyone interested in taking part in this committee contact Armin Steinbouser.

A report will be sent out to all Clubs on an updated list of all Federation property.

Since the Spring Executive meeting, twenty-two clubs and individuals have contributed \$1,200.00 to the American Federation Scholarship Foundation.

It was moved and accepted that two \$25.00 contributions be made to the scholarship fund in memory of Gladys Payne, who was killed in an aircraft accident while on her way to the show, and for Assistant State Director for Michigan, Willice Harmer, who was killed in April.

The 1981 Midwest Show and Convention will be held in South Bend, Indiana, on July 23-26.

Many suggestions were made to try to help clubs function more efficiently.

Suggestions are;

Clubs with libraries could exchange material. An inventory of all material would be needed and insurances to cover material will be looked into.

Neighboring clubs can get together and hire a bus to travel to distant shows and conventions and practice car-pooling for shorter trips and field trips.

Every club have a special project each year and work towards fulfilling that project, example - one club took on a project of making display cases of minerals and fossils and gave them to an Indian school.

Clubs should set aside one meeting a year for children. More effort has to be made to encourage younger people to develop and expand their interest in the hobby.

It was suggested that everyone who exhibits, whether for competition or non-competition should own and refer to the Exhibitor Manual so displays can be presented in an attractive and proper manner, and to the fullest advantage. This always is good practice for future competitors.

Clubs can take part in County Fairs if they cannot have their own show. Have displays at fairs - State and County, to introduce the hobby to the general public.

Mary Walker, 1980 MWF Delegate

HIGHLIGHTS by Helena

Talked with Ruth Krejci and discovered that she is an "antiquer" even as Adeline Nolde and I are. Ruth made the show at the fairgrounds September 27/28, and is going to the Big Show in Omaha on Saturday the 4th. All summer long I've enjoyed Ruth's gorgeous porch-box petunias outside her home on North 27th street, as I drove by. Beautiful, Ruth!

A number of LG&M club members went to the Nebraska City show. Several took cases, and the Taylors contributed a trophy for the best in show, which was won by Mrs. Marie Holliday. The Ogallala show was the same week-end, and I had a call from a dear friend to visit her there while that show was on, but had some commitments here so had to forego that trip. Ogallala usually has a good show, and I attended one several years ago, at which time I saw the lovely home the Kenfield twins had built for their mother, and the fabulous rock collection in their basement, along with their own imaginative and clever pieces.

The Everett's daughter Nancy and son-in-law Sam Robins, are parents of a new son born July 2nd. Sam is retired from the Air Force and they are now living in Waco, Texas, where he is in school preparing for a new vocation.

Marj Heedick is putting a new mural in her dining room with the help of a friend. Marj has a new daughter-in-law, as Gary was married last August 8. Marj and a friend are taking a leisurely trip to Oklahoma and Arkansas to visit old haunts, she says. Weather should be good down there now. Happy bumming around, Marj. Incidentally, we're still waiting for your report on Australia---when?

Julius and Myrtle Young's daughter Kay was employed this summer by the Nebraska State Historical Society in their Folklife Survey, to identify, document, and present Nebraska traditional culture. She spent several weeks in the towns of Red Cloud, Neligh, Bancroft, and Ft. Robinson, interviewing, photographing, and tape-recording folks gifted in various handed-down arts and crafts. From Ft. Robinson she brought her parents a beautiful specimen of Nebraska blue agate from the Crawford area.

Dave Green won the high point plaque for 13/14-yr. boys diving in the Capitol City swimming and diving league. He also won high point trophy for the Knolls Country Club diving team. At Big Lake, Texas, he performed an exhibition for the Girls Summer Recreation program. He also attended a 2-week music camp at West Texas State Univ., at Canyon, Tex. A busy boy!

The youngs received from long-time friends, the Daniel Rileys, of Spokane, a pint of St. Helens volcanic ash which the Rileys swept off their house roof. The ash was 3/4" thick over everything, they said. The Rileys were guests at LG&M Club meeting in September last.

Visiting the Taylors this week is their adopted grandmother, Mrs. Hilda Zech, from Michigan, whom they met some years ago on a field trip.

Why not bring your news items to the October meeting? I need

HELP, HELP, help, he--, he--, h--- !!

Helena

A house divided against itself cannot stand.

Abraham Lincoln

ROCK OF THE MONTH: OBSIDIAN

Obsidian is a glassy lava or volcanic glass. Since it does not possess a uniform composition and contains no true crystalline structure, it is not a mineral but a rock. Other names for the material are black lava-glass and "glass agate". The name obsidian derives from the Latin obsianus because the natural glass had the same appearance as a stone discovered in Ethiopia by a citizen of Rome named Obsius. In Pliny's early editions of Natural History the name was written as obsidianus and over time the spelling changed to its current form.

Obsidian is a perfectly amorphous rock with the chemical composition of silicates of the alkalis (silica 60-80%) and of aluminum (alumina 13-18%); the oxides of iron, potassium (potash) sodium (soda), calcium (lime), and magnesium. It is very brittle and breaks easily into a perfect conchoidal fracture although sometimes it can be broken into sharp, angular pieces. Some care in handling is necessary to avoid accidental breakage for this reason.

The rock has a bright shiny vitreous luster like glass. Specific Gravity ranges from 2.33-2.5; (2.6, 2.7 is also reported occasionally). Mohs Hardness is 5-5.5. Optically it is singly refractory with a low Refraction Index of 1.48-1.51, allowing much light to be lost through leakage. The thin splinters of the substance are transparent or translucent and may appear almost colorless. The colors of obsidian range from black, gray, and brown to yellow, red, green, and sometimes blue. Since it is deeply colored any substantial piece will appear almost perfectly opaque. Fenton & Fenton (1940) suggest the black color is probably produced by magnetite and red or brown coloration is due to oxidized magnetite or hematite.

Minute, partly-crystallized inclusions of other minerals can sometimes be found "suspended in otherwise uniform material. Spherulites of quartz of grayish color are frequent, especially in the obsidian of Yellowstone Park, Wyoming, where they often appear as hollow cavities of considerable size. Similar inclusions but more solid and not affecting the process of polishing, are found in the snowflake obsidian of Utah (Sinkankas, 1959, p.506)." This snowflake obsidian is also called flowering obsidian because of the shape of these inclusions. "Other inclusions in the form of exceedingly thin flakes give rise to the sheen obsidians as well as to those which are colored or iridescent. Flow marks or striae are noticeable in all material."(Sinkankas, 1959, p.506). Rainbow obsidian shows iridescence produced from the reflections from many minute inclusions with a strong metallic luster provide "beautiful spangled gems. Perhaps the best is a variety from Mexico in which the golden inclusions are fairly coarse and highly reflective. A variety in which both black and brown obsidian occur mixed in streaks and swirls is known as double-flow obsidian, and if the brown is decidedly reddish in cast, as mahogany obsidian or marekanite. If cut at right angles to the layering, red-spangled obsidian is called gold-sheen obsidian; if the inclusions are grayish-silver in color, it is called "mountain mahogany" in North America because of the mahogany-like grain of brown and gray. Another type of obsidian "shows black angular brecciated fragments cemented together with

ROCK OF THE MONTH: OBSIDIAN continued

red material in beautiful patterns "(Sinkankas, 1959, p. 505), but does not bear a distinctive name.

Obsidian is often found in very large masses in deposits that can be millions of tons in size. The rock-masses may contain rounded, angular, or irregular blocks and unflawed blocks up to a foot or more across are common. "An interesting mode of formation is represented by small nodules of obsidian popularly called 'Apache tears'. These are found in profusion in a number of the western United States and have a curious geological history. It seems that some obsidian are susceptible to alteration which proceeds rapidly along cracks and fissures until the entire mass may, in time, be reduced to a puffy porous rock called perlite. Because of the entrapped air, it is much used for making light concretes and is also used as an insulating material. In perlite, places are often found where alteration has not reached everywhere and consequently small transparent glassy nodules are discovered nestled in layers of the whitish porous perlite. Wherever this rock has eroded, such nodules are found scattered profusely upon the surface of the ground." (Sinkankas, 1959, pp.503-504).

Sinkankas (1959) describes the specific locations of obsidian found in British Columbia, Mexico (Hidalgo's Hill of Knives, etc.), Guatemala, and the United States from Alaska (Aleutian Islands) to the western states. Bauer (1969) reports obsidian in the European islands of Lipari, Vulcano, and Ponza as well as in Hungary and Iceland (fine "Icelandic agate"); he also describes obsidian sheen material in the Caucasus, Asia. Fenton and Fenton (1940) add Italy, Germany, Japan, and New Zealand to the areas where this widespread rock is found.

"The usefulness of obsidian was fully appreciated by American Indians who dug, bartered, and worked obsidian from many places. Its perfect texture and easy fracture made it much prized both for chipping into small arrowheads and for making large ceremonial sword or spear blades. In California, blades of worked obsidian were used as currency, the larger being equivalent to \$20. in value. Black blades used by the Huroks of the northern part of the state, brought \$1 per inch of length but red blades were scarcer and hence more valuable. Blades about 33 inches in length were considered almost priceless. In this state, ten localities for digging obsidian were known to the Indians; in Oregon the Indian name for the river now known as the John Day was their equivalent for obsidian. Glass objects were made by the Mandan Indians of the Great Plains who are said to have learned how to smelt obsidian from the Snake Indians of Idaho. Even so far east as Ohio, the Mound Builders were found to use obsidian extensively, undoubtedly bartering their supplies from tribes farther west since this rock is not known to occur east of the Mississippi. One grave in Ohio yielded a beautifully executed knife blade 18 inches in length." (Sinkankas, 1959, p. 505).

Perhaps nowhere did the art of obsidian working reach such a high degree of perfection as in Mexico. The prehistoric inhabitants, richly supplied by an abundance of flawless material, turned out

ROCK OF THE MONTH: OBSIDIAN continued

remarkable carvings, ceremonial blades, and even mirrors. In the American Museum of Natural History are three fine obsidian mirrors, one is oblong and measures $17\frac{1}{4}$ by 12 inches, another is 12 by $9\frac{1}{2}$ inches, and the third, a round mirror, is $10\frac{1}{2}$ inches in diameter. The Aztecs called obsidian 'itzii', surnamed 'teotetl' or 'divine stone' because of its great usefulness. One of their gods was named Itzpoppalotl, meaning 'obsidian butterfly'. This aboriginal esteem for obsidian was evidenced wherever this rock occurred in North America, and, as shown by its wide modern employment in the lapidary arts, it enjoys almost as much regard today." (Sinkankas, 1959, pp.505-506).

The ancient Mexicans fashioned knives and other tools as well out of obsidian by learning how to strike off long, thin pieces of the material with a sharp edge that could even be used as a razor. Masks and other personal ornaments have been found in the burial places. The ancient mines in the Mexican state of Hidalgo, near the town of Atotonilco, were worked long before the conquest of Mexico by the Spaniards and can be seen today.

Obsidian is made into a great variety of jewelry although Bauer (1969) notes that less commonly as stones for rings. The material takes a high polish which contributes to its attractiveness. Faceted stones in the form of rosettes are frequent. Beads that are spherical or faceted are made. Sheen obsidian is displayed to best advantage by being cut into cabochons. Apache tears that are clear and not too dark are often made into gemstones. Snowflake obsidian is very common as tumbled stones. Small attractive carvings are fashioned in Mexico and set in bracelets, rings, and other forms of silver jewelry; the pure black type is usually used to set off the brightly polished silver. Small statues of the sheen obsidian make desirable, interesting tiki pendants.

Lapidary details are described by Sinkankas (1962): obsidian is heat sensitive. "Thin slabs can be cut using an ordinary glass cutter. Considerable care is required in fine sanding to get a high polish later. Wet sanding is indicated because of the ease with which obsidian is cracked by heat. Polish on felt with cerium oxide. Faceted stones are polished on Lucite with the same powder, but the lap must not be allowed to run dry. Rough blocks containing inclusions must be oriented properly to show iridescence or sheen. Inclusions often in perfectly flat bands, slight deviation from correct direction results in sheen appearing on sides of stones instead of the tops. Crown angles for faceted stones are 40 degrees to 50 degrees, pavilion angles 43 degrees....Striped translucent material from Montgomery Pass in California has been used to make beautiful doublets and triplets. Slabs are cut very thin and then polished to show alternating strips of clear and dark material. When sections are crossed at 90 degrees or three sections at 60 degrees apart, very interesting effects are obtained. This material has also been used to make translucent lamp shade panels. (p. 270).

ROCK OF THE MONTH: OBSIDIAN continued

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Marilyn R. Smits, Ph. D.
Education Chairperson

HUMBOLDT FIELD TRIP

October 5, 1980 - A beautiful Nebraska day for a Field Trip. (Except for a few Nebraska winds.) Four cars carrying Roger Pabian, Edward Ridge, Marilyn Smits, Walt and Al McCoy, Nancy Neihart, Nelda Oliver, Virginia Green, Phyllis Parks (and grandchildren Pete and Anne Crawford), Lynn and Marie Wells with little "Pebble Pup" Goldie headed out Highway 2 - destination Humboldt. First hunting stop was just east of Table Rock, a road cut, where 'Pop Rocks' covered with Marcascite and many small fossils were found. Fossils were crinoid stem parts, Bryozoa parts and brachiopod. After eating sack lunches at Humboldt Park we made our way to the Nemaha River bottom searching for agate, petrified wood, fossils. Several of the members were rewarded with nice Lake Superior type agates. Last stop another road cut several miles away to collect 'Sponge' and small geodes containing Calcite. Our Thanks to Field Trip Chairman Walt McCoy and to Roger for a pleasant outing.

10-11-80 - In talking with Roger about our field trip he expressed the hope that those who had lucky finds might bring them to our October meeting to share - so come on all you field trippers -bring.

There also is talk of another field trip before the weather turns too cold - so be ready.

BITS OF WISDOM - from GRIT

Growing old is no more than a bad habit which a busy man has no time to form.

AND from GEMS

A successful man is one who can delegate responsibility, shift blame and appropriate the credit.

L.G.M.C.'s Aviatrix, Writer, Educator
-by J. D. Young

The title of this article should include several more categories, but space forbids. Very few of our Club's members might fail to guess the heroine's name in this presentation. For their information she is FLORENCE M. BORING who is now entering her first year of early retirement from Lincoln's Millard Lefler Junior High School.

She has been no ordinary "run-of-the-mill school marm"--but far from stereotyped female personage. She and I have had common interests in science teaching, though not assigned to the same building. We have both been active in local Red Cross and First Aid programs. My wife, Myrtle, and I with Florence enjoyed the expert tuteledge of the late Maurice Tracy in Lapidary classes held in the old Antelope Park recreation area. We three have traveled and vacationed together through several midwest states, usually rockhound oriented. Pick & Shovel readers may have read some of my accounts about those trips. Though we have known her over two decades we still feel unable to chronical all her accomplishments.

Why is such a fine teacher retiring before the usual age? The answer: to devote more time to her many pursuits, some being suggested in the above title.

Her role of writer is understandable to us because we have been so closely associated for the past twelve years in our mutual interest, the Poet John G. Neihardt and his great works, touching the fields of History, Literature, Philosophy and Culture. Myrtle and I were hosts to Dr. Neihardt from 1967 to late 1973 in our Lincoln home, then 5835 Vine Street. He died Nov. 3, 1973 just a few weeks short of his 93rd birthday on January 8.

Florence, in spite of a heavy science load and many other activities, did the manuscript typing for his autobiography Vol.I "ALL IS BUT A BEGINNING", Harcourt Brace, Jovanovich, 1972, and for his unfinished Vol.2, "PATTERNS and COINCIDENCES", University of Missouri Press, 1978, which was concluded with an epilogue by his daughter, Hilda Petri. Some of his memoirs were never written for publication.

During the poet's last years Florence accompanied him to Kansas City and to St. Louis to research the files of his early newspaper essays. By mail she examined copies of files from Minneapolis and from New York for his writings.

These critical essays numbered over 3000 in all. Through services of the University of Nebraska library and Lincoln's Bennett Martin Library microfilmed copies were received. Florence and Dr. Neihardt spent many evenings reviewing them at the Bennett Martin facility where they made selections for future publication.

The enormous task begun over ten years ago is now being finished by Florence, with the plan in mind to publish the cream of the many essays. This involves further nation-wide research, and while this article is being written she is in Boston--and not just for "baked beans". This leaves no time for classroom teaching, so she jumped the gun and joined the ranks of the "Golden Agers" a little early.

Now that her early retirement is explained, I shall mention a few facts about this capable, pleasant-mannered L.G.M.C. member. For

L.G.M.C.'s Aviatrix, Writer, Educator continued

this Myrtle and I did some research and here are some of our findings: She has been a member of the Lancaster County Civil Defense staff since 1956 and is now a Radiological Defense Officer; she helped organize the Nebraska Association for Aerospace Education, now Treasurer; she is a life time member of International Antique Airplane Association, Airport and Museum at Blakesburg, Iowa; she was one of twenty top Nebraska women honored in a 1976 event, proclaimed by the United Nations, selected from the 99's the elite National organization of airplane pilots, and president of Nebraska chapter.

I shall not attempt to include all the items relating to Florence as a private and commercial pilot, but here is a sampling: she was granted a year's leave-of-absence from Lincoln Public Schools to teach in Okinawa. After taking the FAA private pilot written exam in Tokyo she passed her flight exam in Okinawa. Since that time she has passed subsequent flight tests.

She has flown in search missions for lost planes in Nebraska. Once while returning from Missouri with Dr. Neihardt she was forced down by a storm and landed safely. Another of her unique pilot experiences was to fly the "Powder Puff Derby" transcontinental women's air race from Bakersfield, California to Atlantic City, New Jersey. She says, "I didn't win, but I had a good time." She has helped with other such flights since then.

When anything relating to aviation occurs in America Florence usually has a part in the affair. She has attended so many meetings and conventions of this nature, I shall not attempt to relate them. She helped in the local observance of the 50th anniversary of Charles Lindburgh's solo Atlantic Ocean flight. The "Lone Eagle" received his early flight training in Lincoln, as the reader may know.

In her Neihardt researches Florence has done much work in California, the Huntington Library and others. She located the grave marker of the poet's father in the Sawtelle Military Cemetery. Through the late Major General Lyle Welch she was able to procure a copy of his military record including service with the 22nd Infantry Regulars in the Philippines. The Army keeps an unbelievable amount of records of individuals!

Florence has received a Meritorious Service Award for her contributions to Aerospace Education. For this and many other honors and achievements L.G.M.C. members feel justly proud of her. Those who know her realize that retirement will not mean inactivity for F.M.B.

New Scientist magazine reports astronomers have located a quasar (a starlike celestial body that emits powerful radio waves) that may be the largest object in the universe. Its diameter is estimated at 468 trillion miles. The earth's diameter, by comparison, is only about 8000 miles.

-New York News World via Reader's Digest

JUNIOR PAGE

Here are some ideas from the October issue of The Instructor you might like to try:

Stones, shells and water-smoothed glass:

Paperweights, sculptures, jewelry, mosaics, gazing jars (alternate layers of colored glass and pebbles in a jar filled with water.)

Pressed flowers, leaves, and grass:

Placemats (sandwich flowers between pieces of self-stick plastic), window transparencies (iron leaves between two pieces of waxed paper or between sheets of glass secured with a border of colored tape).

Old Jewelry: Parts of jewelry pieces, accents in macrame or stitchery, embedments in ceramic sculptures, parts of holiday ornaments.



Via Diane Crane's Cache-22

On a school bulletin board: "Laugh and the class laughs with you, but you stay after school alone!"

On the bumper of a farmer's truck: "Get high on milk - my cow's on grass."

via Reader's Digest, October 1980

Beware!

To meet a man with flat feet on Monday morning is bad luck. You must return home, eat and drink something and start the day again.

It is unlucky to see the new moon for the first time through a closed window.

To see the new moon through the branches of a tree will cause bad luck for the entire month.

It is bad luck to sleep in a room with a pumpkin in it.

You will have good luck if you step on your own shadow, but it is bad luck if someone else steps on it.

POTPOURRI

If soft material sticks to the buff when polishing, try vinegar instead of water.

The Sphere via Loup Scoop

Diamonds May Be Dangerous To Your Health: Dr. Leland W. Marple, reporting in the Permian Faceter, warns users of Diamond Spray Compound for faceting that the use of 100,000 mesh diamond in aerosol form may constitute an incredible health hazard. Says Dr. Marple, "Small particles, under one micron, may be inhaled and pass immediately into the blood stream and ultimately lodge in the body tissue." He ends his warning with, "Get the diamond on the lap, not in your body." The cautious faceter laments that after reading much literature on gem polishing and on safety, he has never yet seen the hazards of diamond mentioned.

via AFMS Newsletter

Warning: 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.

AFMS Newsletter via Smoke Signals

Make It Shine: In some displays you want to use a slab of rock to show how it looks before polishing. Water won't stay wet, grease looks greasy, some waxes turn white under heat, but if you rub the surface with liquid detergent and wipe it off, there is a shine and it will show the pattern.

via Rock Pickings, June 1980

Nevada is hoping to regain its lead in gold mining. Freeport and FMC Gold hope to extract 180,000 to 200,000 ounces yearly from Jarrit Canyon 50 miles north of Elko. State officials believe that the mine will put them ahead of South Dakota with its famous Homestake Mine at Lead.

Information from Jewelers' Circular Keystone

Among the most important large inhabitants of the Cretaceous seas were the chambered cephalopods, mollusks that dwell in the outermost compartment of a shell they divide into compartments by secreting a sequence of septa or walls, inside it. What gave them their dominance was their development of the ability to achieve neutral buoyancy: an overall density, or weight per unit of volume, virtually equal to that of the sea water around them. In particular the chambered cephalopods evolved an organ capable of removing water from the inner compartments of their shell. With the advent of this ability (and also the evolution of a directional water jet) the chambered cephalopods were freed from the confines of their bottom-crawling ancestors and became the first of the large free-swimming carnivores of the sea.

"The Buoyancy of the Chambered Nautilus" Peter Ward, Lewis Greenwald, Olive E. Greenwald. Scientific America via M.A.P.S. Digest

Midwest Federations NEWSLETTER



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October 1980 - Issue No. 207

THE MIDWEST NEWSLETTER... A FEW WORDS ABOUT THE PAST... A FEW ABOUT THE FUTURE

YOUR NEWSLETTER HAS A NEW EDITOR

By Haydon Peterson

20 years ago the late Gus Brown of Des Moines, sensing the need for communication between the Midwest clubs, inaugurated the "Letter-A-Month" which was mailed to all clubs in the Midwest. It was usually confined to a single subject. Being an acquaintance of Gus, both in local rock clubs and my ownership of a printing business, I got the job of printing the monthly "Letter".

Upon Gus' untimely passing, the late Floyd Mortenson, then President of the Midwest, asked me at a Midwest annual show if I would assume the job of getting the "Letter" out each month to "help out". I replied that I would "help out".

That was 207 issues ago... 20 years...! During that 20 years we changed the "Letter", in September 1965, Issue No. 57, to the Midwest Federation Newsletter and made various additions to its content. Always striving to make the "Newsletter" better and of greater service to the member clubs.

I have been your Editor for all these years and have enjoyed working with all the fine officers and members of the clubs. It has always been my goal to continue to make the Newsletters better. *Thank you all for your help and confidence.*

Now I have decided it is time to pass the Editorship on to someone else and declined to accept reappointment for a 21st year. So, beginning with the November issue you will have a new Editor. Mrs. Chester (Bette) Smith, Zeeland, Michigan has accepted the appointment as the new Editor. Bette is well qualified to continue production of the Newsletter. She is a member of the Tulip City Gem and Mineral Club and a past Editor of their monthly bulletin "Tulip City Conglomerate". She is a Title Examiner for a Zeeland, Michigan abstract company.

Thus, beginning immediately please note the address changes.....

SEND ALL NEWS AND ARTICLES FOR PUBLICATION TO THE NEW EDITOR....
MRS. BETTE SMITH, 10607 MARY ANN STREET, ZEELAND, MICHIGAN 49464

SEND ALL ORDERS FOR NEWSLETTER SUBSCRIPTIONS AND CORRESPONDENCE ABOUT THEM DIRECTLY TO....

PARROT PRINTING SERVICE, 2125 FOREST AVE., DES MOINES, IA 50311

A MESSAGE FROM OUR PRESIDENT

Now that the fall season is under way, and well before the holiday rush, I want to urge each of you to find a copy of the 1980 MWF Directory (two free copies were sent to each club), and really look it over.

I'm referring particularly to the "white pages" and especially the brief resume of our Federation. This covers the purpose of the MWF, membership requirements, how the Federation works, finances (and to answer a question some of you have asked, no officer or member of the Executive Committee receives any kind of salary. They are provided with stationery and are allowed postage and telephone expense. They pay their own expenses to and at meetings and donate hundreds of hours of their time and skill to the Federation...*)

The white pages will also help you to understand the State Director system, the numerous committees which are at your service, the process for selecting Scholarship recipients... plus much more.

Why use valuable Newsletter space to repeat what is in the directory? Sad to say, in some cases club mail is not brought to the attention of the members, or may be briefly passed over as being of interest only to the "Board". Since new people will be assuming offices and committee chairmanships, it seems appropriate.

As you know, our theme this year has been Understanding... to promote understanding between the club and the Federation. When all members understand what the MWF really is... and organization to coordinate the work and efforts of the clubs... only then will clubs get full advantage from their membership!

CURRENTLY IN PREPARATION is a program to assist State Directors in talking about the MWF.

UNDER CONSIDERATION is some type of MWF service for club librarians.

ALMOST READY, a new show manual.

We've noticed increased interest in swaps, more emphasis on education at club meetings and elsewhere, bigger and better seminars, more clubs working with museums

OMITTED LAST MONTH

In the list of clubs participating in the Scholarship Auction during the show and convention in Lincoln, Neb. last June, published in our September issue, Wisconsin was omitted.

The Wisconsin clubs were: Wisconsin Geological Society, \$79.30; Coulee Rock Club, \$82.25; Driftless Area Gem and Mineral, \$9.75; Kettle Moraine Geology Society, \$5.50; Neville Public Museum Geology Club, \$79.35; Oshkosh Earth Science Club, \$7.25; Valley Rocks and Mineral Club, \$19.95.

and in community service.

We are all very much concerned with the availability of collecting areas, the means to attract younger members, and the effect of growing inflation on rockhound activities.

Your officers and Executive Committee realize the years ahead hold many challenges, and we are preparing to face those uncertain situations with confidence.

Enthusiastically... Bernice McCloskey

NEW EDITOR FOR AFMS NEWSLETTER

Haydon Peterson, editor of the American Federation Newsletter since 1974, did not accept reappointment for 1980-81. Dan Caudle, President-elect of the AFMS has appointed Mrs. Dalton "Consie" Prince, 5021 Augusta, Houston, TX 77007 to succeed Peterson beginning with the November issue. All items for publication in the AFMS Newsletter should be sent to "Consie" at this address.

1981... JUNE 4-7

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Advertising by a rock-hobby business or interest is permitted with approval of the Board, at a rate now set at \$10.50 per full page per insertion, paid in advance.

1/2 page \$5.25, 1/3 page \$3.50, 1/4 page \$2.75 (min). These ads will be placed throughout the bulletin as space permits.

Subscriptions to THE PICK & SHOVEL are \$3.00 per year mailed.

Dues to LINCOLN GEM & MINERAL CLUB are as follows:

Adult membership fee \$5.00 (age 16 and over)

Junior membership fee \$1.00 (age 12-16)

Family membership fee \$11.00 (husband, wife and all children under 16 - permanent residents of household)

New membership must be approved by the Board, after applicant attends at least one (1) regular meeting of the club, and pay the above dues plus \$1.00 registration fee.

DON'T FORGET

The October Meeting will be at the Nebraska Center for Continuing Education, 33rd and Holdrege Street, on the east Campus.

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The October Meeting will be at the Nebraska Center for Continuing, 33rd and Holdrege Street, on the east Campus.

DON'T FORGET

The meeting will be October 25, 1980, at 7:30 P. M.

DON'T FORGET

To bring along your favorite rocks, minerals, fossils, or other items of interest. Obsidian is the featured rock this month.



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