

# THE PICK & SHOVEL



May

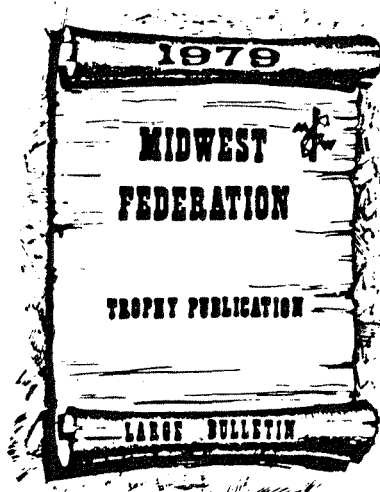
1981

*highlights*

*in  
this issue...*

"RECOMMENDED POLISHES"  
and

"HELP STRENGTHEN OUR PUBLIC IMAGE"



OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF

Lincoln Gem and Mineral Club, Inc.

P. O. Box 5342

Lincoln, Nebraska 68505

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: American Federation of Mineralogical Societies (AFMS)  
Midwest Federation of Mineralogical and Geological Societies (MWF)  
Nebraska Association of Earth Science Clubs, Inc. (NAOESCI)  
Nebraska Academy of Sciences (NAS)  
Community Arts Council of Lincoln (CAC)

Regular Meetings: 4th Saturday of the month, September thru May; 7:30 P.M.  
At Nebraska Center, 33rd & Holdrege

1981 ELECTED OFFICERS:

President.....Roger Pabian	315 'D' St.	Lincoln, 68502	474-2034
1st Vice Pres...Irl Everett	2945 N. 65th St.	Lincoln, 68507	466-6204
2nd Vice Pres...Howard Taylor, Jr.	910 New Hampshire	Lincoln, 68508	476-3707
Secretary.....Nelda Oliver	5700 Otoe	Lincoln, 68506	489-5222
Treasurer.....Phyllis Parks	2435 S. 19th St.	Lincoln, 68502	476-6798
Board Member....Ray Lambert	1201 N. 79th St.	Lincoln, 68505	464-8552
Board Member....Virginia Green	6120 The Knolls	Lincoln, 68512	423-5032
Board Member....Lois Everett	2945 N. 65th St.	Lincoln, 68507	466-6204
Board Member....Florence Boring	2836 S. 40th St.	Lincoln, 68506	488-6243

Nominating Committee--3 years: Marie Taylor, Jim Parks  
2 years: Bob Walker, Irl Everett  
1 year: Wilfrid Wittman, Edwin Johnson

STANDING COMMITTEE CHAIRPEOPLE:

Programs.....Howard Taylor	1981 Show.....Howard J. Taylor, Jr.
Education.....Ray Lambert	Liaison/Calling.....Marie Taylor
Hospitality.....Bob & Mary Walker	Refreshments/Party...Marj Heedick
Historian.....John & Lillie Lewis	Scholarships.....Howard Taylor
Librarian.....Jim Parks	Outside Displays.....Frank Rule
Membership.....Mary Lambert	Housing/Property.....Bruce Simon
Field Trips/Safety..Walt McCoy	Publications.....Glen & Flossie Litzenberg
Sunshine Corner....Susan Taylor	Junior Activities....Mary Walker
NAOESCI Reporter...Vera Lyman	Auditing Comm.1980....Howard Taylor, Vera Lyman, Florence Boring

LONG RANGE PLANNING AND BY LAWS COMMITTEE:

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

PICK & SHOVEL STAFF:

Chairman: Glen Litzenberg

Editor.....Vera Lyman, 420 N. 56th St. Lincoln, NE 68504  
Club News.....Helena Baegl  
Sunshine.....Susan Taylor  
Circulation...Glen & Flossie Litzenberg

DEADLINE: 1st of Month of Issue. Original 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, May 23, 1981 7:30 PM  
Nebr. Center for Continuing Education  
33rd & Holdrege Lincoln, NE  
Norfolk Room

Parking available north of building

Regular business meeting beginning  
at 7:30 P.M. followed by a special  
program:

"Space Rocks"  
presented by Florence Boring

Board Meeting: Thursday, September 3, 1981 7:30 P.M.  
315 'D' Street (Roger Pabian home)

Summer Meetings: Summer meetings will be held on the 4th  
Saturday of each month; consisting of  
Programs only.

These dates are:

June 27, 1981 7:30 P.M.

July 25, 1981 7:30 P.M.

August 22, 1981 7:30 P.M.

Nebr. Center for Continuing Education  
33rd & Holdrege Lincoln, NE

ATTENTION  
PLEASE

Jr. Activities Meeting:  
Friday, May 15, 1981 7:00 - 8:00 P.M.  
3029 "T" Street - Walker home.

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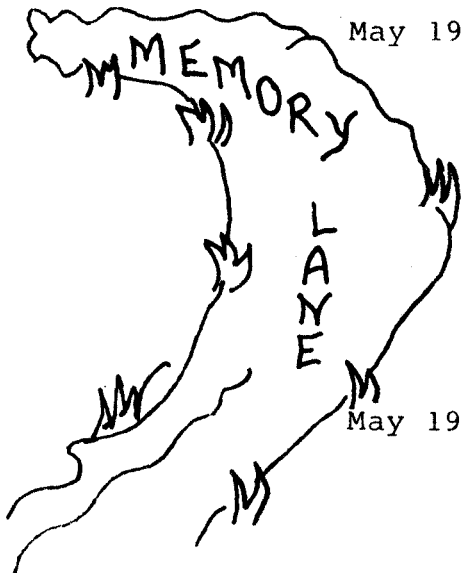
STATE SHOW: Nebraska Mineral & Gem Club  
September 5-7, 1981  
Holiday Inn, 72nd & Grover  
Omaha, Nebraska

STATE SWAP: Homestead Gem & Mineral Club  
June 20 & 21, 1981  
Chatauqua Park (electric hook-ups)  
Beatrice, Nebraska

MWF SHOW: Michiana Rock & Gem Club  
July 23 thru 26, 1981  
Notre Dame Athletic Convocation Center  
South Bend, Indiana  
"MIDWEST ROUNDUP OF GEMS"  
James Russell, Show Chairman

BE SURE TO MARK ALL THESE SPECIAL DATES ON YOUR CALENDAR!

HISTORY - "Ten and Twenty Years Ago"



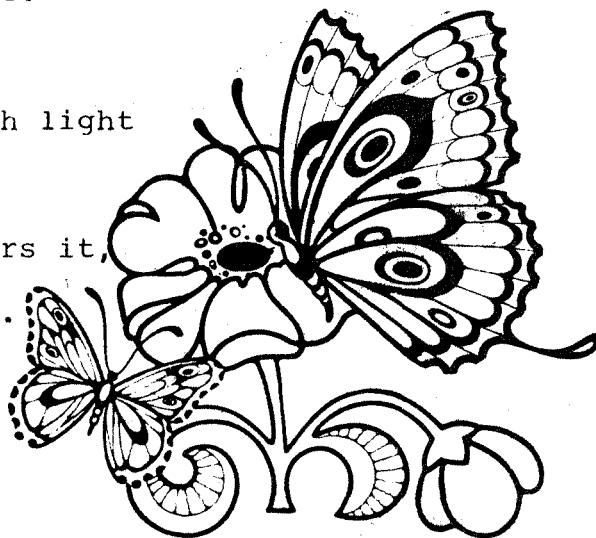
May 1971 . . Our Program consisted of a film which was shown by George Balke, on Jade - Cutting, Polishing, Hunting and Displaying. New members taken in were Mr. & Mrs. Albert Olson of Ceresco. (They are still with us.) "Hats off" to our Show Chairmen, Lynn & Marie Wells for the good job they did on the 1971 Show. Hazel Tarcza of Grandview, Mo. won "Best in the Show".

May 1961 . . Regular Meeting was a Pot Luck covered dish Supper at the Antelope Park Pavillion - - this was a Club and Committee Get-together to finish plans on our Fall Show. Dr. Des Gibson had charge of the meeting.

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Hello from the Sunshine Corner:

A laugh is just like sunshine.  
 It freshens all the day;  
 It tips the peak of life with light  
 And drives the clouds away.  
 The soul grows glad that hears it,  
 And feels its courage strong.  
 A laugh is like sunshine  
 For cheering folks along.



- Author unknown



This month get well cards were sent to Floyd Fellows and Irl Everett.

Hope everyone has a good summer!

- Suze Sunshine

## THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

First order of business is a "Hats Off" to Jim Taylor, the show committee, and participating exhibitors and workers for a job very well done. The show provided a good opportunity for the hobbyist to learn some new things and to obtain some very fine materials from the very good dealers present. The Mount Saint Helens slides were very well received, as were all of the other programs. Above all, the ones who attended the show from outside the hobby seemed to be enjoying themselves considerably.

The following weekend the Hastings show took place. Congratulations to their club for a very fine show. Their new show site is a very beautiful building on the Adams County Fairgrounds. They, too, had some very high calibre exhibits and dealers.

We frequently read in the gem and mineral magazines that show attendance is on the decline. Attendance was very good at both of the above events. It is my own conviction that show attendance is down in some areas because the quality of the shows is down in some areas. I have attended some not very good shows in the past couple of years. Several were very poor. "Heaven's Gate" is proof that people don't go to poor movies. People should not be expected to support poor gem shows either. The major cause of poor gem shows can usually be seen in poor membership participation.

Both the Lincoln and Hastings shows provided me with the chance to obtain some very small, but colorful, nodules of mixed Mexican agates---Moctezuma, Coya Mito, Casas Grande, Laguna, etc. These items are usually about an inch in diameter. To get the best available material from such nodules, it pays to take several steps. First, be sure that the nodules are clean. Wash off any excess dirt or mud in a pail of water. Look for any chips on the surface of the nodule that exposes the interior banding. Make the cut parallel to the broken off chip. This is the only way that complete patterns on the ensuing slabs can be obtained. I usually polish the high quality slabs by hand. The procedure is to grind off the burr, and then sand on 80, 120, 220, and old 320 paper. Wet sanding is done on the 80 grit. The 120 and 220 can be done dry, but caution must be used lest the slab become hot and burn or fracture. I use a spray bottle of water on the 320 step. Spray the paper a bit with a fine mist and sand until the paper gets dry. This step may need to be repeated, but usually once is enough. A very high pre-polish should be apparent after the 320 grit. Wash all of the slabs carefully and polish on hard felt or poly-pads with tin oxide and water. Rapid polish 61, though excellent for cabochons, does not work very well on flat surfaces.

Lesser quality slabs can be tumble polished, but be sure to take time to remove the burr from sawing, lest a dull spot appear at the point of the burr. Vibrating tumblers work best for slabs. The polish is best obtained by using tin oxide and plastic pellets. Detergents will provide a decent pre-polish, but not the high gloss of the oxide.

The recent field trip to Jefferson County was attended by John and Phil Abel, Janet Wright, Virginia Green, Bob and Mary Walker, Jimmy and Rhonda Archuleta, and I. We recovered some leaf imprints and some shark teeth. The day was quite nice but the outcrops need some rain in the worst way.

There will be another trip to the Humboldt and Table Rock area on Sunday, May 24. Details will be available at the meeting.

Roger Pabian,  
President

FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK . . The Annual Show is now history, and "Congratulations" are in order for Jim Taylor for an excellent Show as well as a successful one. That was a great Show!.

I failed to give credit to Ray Lambert for the article in the March, 1981 issue of the Pick & Shovel entitled, "NEBRASKA GEM HUNTING: The Needle In The Haystack Syndrome". My sincere apology for this omission, Ray. I hope you keep submitting articles. They are always very informative, interesting and easy to read; and I thank you.

Summer is near at hand. I do hope for each of you that it is a 'happy one'; as well as a safe one with many rewards from all your "hunting"!

I will be back at my desk again beginning the latter part of August, and hope that anyone who has articles for the September issue of the Pick & Shovel will remember to submit them to me by the first of that month.

A safe, happy and prosperous Summer!

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A SPECIAL NOTE TO CLUB EDITORS:

Please send your exchange bulletins to:



THE PICK & SHOVEL  
Vera Lyman, Editor  
420 North 56th St.  
Lincoln, NE 68504

Thank You.

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All copies of the Who's Who are available for Club Members. If you have not received yours, please pick it up at the next General Meeting. If you wish to have it mailed, please send me two (2) 18 cent stamps and your current address. Thank You.

Editor, Vera Lyman  
420 North 56th Street  
Lincoln, Ne 68504

Please note on another page in this issue for additions to your Who's Who, to keep it up-to-date.

\* \* \* \* \*

"Too many people quit looking for work when they find a job."

Minutes - Lincoln Gem & Mineral Club, Inc.  
Board of Directors - March 5, 1981

The Board Meeting was called to order by President, Roger Pabian at 5700 Otoe, with all Board members present and Vera Lyman, Glen & Flossie Litzenberg and Howard Taylor.

The minutes of the February meeting were read and approved.

Treasurer's report was read. Motion Ray Lambert and seconded Virginia Green to approve as read.

The following bills were presented: Glen Litzenberg for Pick & Shovel, \$18.23; Earl Messelhisser for Memorial, \$10.00; Vera Lyman, \$2.33; UNL for Pick & Shovel, \$33.50; Roger Pabian for return postage for film, \$6.72; Treasurer Bond, \$53.00; Page Trophy, \$35.50.

1981 Show Fund - - Jim Taylor Show Flyers, etc., \$62.92; Mailing show Flyers, \$9.20; Certificates, \$17.16.

1980 Show Fund - - \$78.00 for subscriptions to NAOESCI Gem Palette for club members. Motion Ray Lambert bills be approved, seconded Irl Everett. Motion carried.

The Club needs stationary and envelopes, to be printed by Nelda. 1000 letterheads and 1000 No. 10 envelopes.

Tom Simmons reported on two PA systems he brought to the meeting. Motion Irl Everett we take them to the meeting to test in the room. Seconded Virginia Green. Motion carried.

Plyllis discussed the check from Rev. Pfeiffer for Christmas dinners. After discussion motion Florence Boring we refund the \$10.00 check to them, seconded Ray Lambert. Motion carried.

Howard suggests the Suspense account should be read each time the treasurer gives report.

Howard Taylor showed awards the club received from AFMS Scholarship; we are credited at National with 1300%.

1981 Breakfast - Roger has three names for scholarship, plus names from Mr. Schultz and Prof. Stout. Howard to report at next board meeting on some alternates we may have on scholarships.

Membership - Reinstatement of Marvin Anderson, Walt McCoy and Nancy Neihardt. Motion to accept Phyllis Parks, seconded Jim Taylor, Carried. Mew members - Robert Fixture, Janet Wright & Daniel Wehler. Moved Jim Taylor to accept, seconded Ray Lambert. Carried. A. J. Mueller, Dorothy Caton, Roger Engelbart & Chris Lloyd Family. Moved Virginia Green, seconded Jim Taylor to accept. Carried.

Motion Florence Boring to appoint Ray Lambert Education Chairman, seconded Jim Taylor. Carried.

Minutes - Board of Directors - March 5, 1981 - - Continued

Discussion on club savings - A motion by Phyllis Parks that she be permitted to buy one \$10,000 Guarantee 6 month certificate and put the rest into 30 month certificates of deposit at FNB and be permitted to close out First National checking account when she sends in the MWF final payment, by adding it either to our NBC checking or to the CD. Seconded Irl Everett. Carried.

Discussion on renewing the lease for another three months. Motion Irl Everett, seconded Jim Taylor we renew our lease for another three months. Carried.

Jim Taylor gave report on 1981 Show. Roger reported there will be a shark for special display.

A discussion about the club purchasing the film "Gems of the Americas" for the public Library at a cost of \$450.00. Roger to check to see if they will deduct the rental if we decide to purchase it. Motion Florence Boring we present membership that we recommend the purchase of the film with appropriate leaders. Seconded Virginia Green. Carried.

March program by Lloyd Tanner. Bev Bartek will give a talk on the Nature Center.

April Board Meeting at 5700 Otoe Street, April 2, 1981 at 7:30 PM  
The April bulletin will be early.

Motion to adjourn Ray Lambert, seconded Irl Everett.

Nelda Oliver, Secretary

Minutes - Lincoln Gem & Mineral Club, Inc.  
Board of Directors - April 2, 1981

The Board meeting was called to order by President, Roger Pabian at 5700 Otoe with all Board members present except Florence Boring. Vera Lyman, Glen & Flossie Litzenberg were also present.

Minutes of the March meeting were read and approved as read.

Treasurer's report was read. Motion Virginia Green and seconded Ray Lambert to approve as read. Carried.

Discussion on Christmas Party dinner money that is outstanding. The party committee will be instructed to collect in advance for this in the future. A motion by Jim Taylor we get Christmas party committee to contact the individuals who have not paid for their dinners from the Christmas party. Seconded Lois Everett. Carried.

- Continued

Minutes - Board of Directors - April 2, 1981 - - Continued

Bills were read; Room Rent \$20.00 pd.; Glen Litzenberg for March P & S \$17.58 pd.; Simmons Rental for P.A. System \$276.91 pd.; UNL for 1981 Who's Who \$48.85 (we will pay \$24.25 because we have a credit); March P & S \$29.70; Sec. of State for non-profit \$10.00; Gem Media for film \$450.00; Roger Pabian postage \$8.27; Nelda Oliver for stationary and envelopes \$56.94. Moved Virginia Green to pay bills seconded Lois Everett. Carried.

Show bills - Irl Everett Raffle items \$123.00; Page trophy, Show ribbons \$118.40; Howard Taylor Sr. Phone, print, postage \$69.88; Walt McCoy Raffle tickets \$71.25; Jim Taylor Show Flyers \$13.52; Vera Lyman Awards Breakfast \$8.84. Moved Ray Lambert to approve paying, seconded Virginia Green. Carried.

There was discussion on the PA system. Tom was authorized to purchase the machine from the February General meeting.

Roger discussed having an informal program meeting for the summer months on the fourth Saturday of June, July, and August. After discussion a motion by Irl Everett that we reserve the meeting room for the summer months of June, July and August. Seconded Jim Taylor. Motion carried.

New Members: Norm and Linda Block. Moved by Virginia Green to accept, seconded Irl Everett. Carried.

Committee reports by Roger for Howard Taylor, Sr., three student scholarships at UNL. Selected are David Uhl, Paul Chilbert, and Dale Busch. Each will receive a \$125.00 Scholarship.

Everything is going well for the show, everything done and waiting for set up night.

Field Trip: A field trip Sunday April 26, 1981 to Jefferson and Gage Counties and Thayer County. The Fairbury and Odel area for fossil and gypsum crystals; also some cutting material may be found on the sand bars of the Blue River.

Program for April will be on Lake Superior Agates.

Gems On Location is at State Office Building; will go to the Waverly School and then to the Neihardt Center at Bancroft for one month. Anyone knowing of a place for it to be on display, let Roger know.

Motion to adjourn Ray Lambert seconded Virginia Green.

Nelda Oliver, Secretary

## HOW OTHERS SEE US

The following item appeared in the University Student's paper, "Daily Nebraskan" the Tuesday following the show. Writer, Michael Zangari, provides an interesting account of how somebody from outside the hobby views us. I felt that this post mortem should be included in this edition of the "Pick & Shovel" so that our members and the exchange bulletin readers may learn a bit about our audiences. Thanks to the "Daily Nebraskan" for permission to reprint this item.

Roger Pabian

tuesday, april 14, 1981

daily nebraskan

page 9

# Gem and Mineral Show is rock lover's heaven

By Michael Zangari

"Nature healed it." Stan Shurtleff traces a fault along the bottom of an agate sphere with his finger before setting it back onto its pedestal. It melts back into place, a wildly spinning planet in a universe of planets. Spheres made of obsidian, dense purple-black, "Nature's glass"; multicolored agate obscured by wispy clouds; lush green malachite lined uniformly as if someone's careless fingers had been dragged around its circumference. They are lined up on the table in front of him, part of the three cases of various sized and colored spheres he keeps at home.

The 23rd annual Gem and Mineral Show is in progress around him in oddly shifting patterns of noise and people in various attitudes. There's a player-piano going in the background, string ties with turquoise and agate clasps and cowboy hats add to the obvious associations of mining boom-town glory, but it doesn't take much to send your mind skittering into the twilight zone.

Quite possibly a boom-town on another planet in an alternate future. Just read the cards on the exhibits. Septarian nodules. Serpentine. Garnets and tiger's eyes.

Amethyst. The names lilting and ethereal. The constantly shifting patterns on the stones are like Rorschach tests making free association a constant surprise. A cultural index as various people pass.

"This kinda looks like Santa's profile." "This looks like Christ . . ." "Look. It's Richard Nixon." Wierd how so many eyes see so many things in such small parameters. Polished stones are incredibly sensual with rounded edges and valleys that literally circle the globe. Stalagmite slices from Uruguay. Lapis from Chile. Brazilian Agate. Swazi agate from Africa. Jade and serpentine from the orient. Amber from Latvia.

The Latvian amber is especially rich, like honey caught in flow. Although the cabinet is harshly lit with white light it glows gold. A sunset over wheat. Intricate natural jewelry that moves from gold to warm lemon and back again. Ash from Mount St. Helens is especially hot. The volcanic ash packaged in glassine envelopes and vials is everywhere, silver grey and fine it evokes images of some sort of prehistoric plane, adding to the general cultural confusion of the gathering. And a gathering it is.

While I speak to Shurtleff, a man

approaches with an envelope and removes a snap shot of an antique windmill he has on his property. He shows it proudly. I notice an antique gas pump off to the side. "That's something else," he says before walking away. I begin to wonder what ties these folks together, and ask around. I try to get various people to admit to a natural affinity with the earth, a kind of second sight. None comply, though the affinity is certainly there. A button that pops up frequently on vests says "I'm an agate licker." A casual inquiry reveals that in the field, often you will have to wet a rock to see it clearly. In the absence of water, licking it will provide as good a test as any. That's affinity. The man kisses rocks.

One woman was reflecting that she needed to get rid of some of their material. She didn't want to trade, because she had so much. On the way out I saw her opening her purse to show a friend the pieces she had bought that afternoon. She did this with a nervous laugh. "Get me out of here before I buy some more," she said.

Definitely time to rock and roll.

## RECENT HIGHLIGHTS IN NEBRASKA GEOLOGY

Scholarships in the amount of \$125 were given to three University of Nebraska-Lincoln students at the spring show. David Uhl, Dale Busch, and Paul Chilbert were selected as this years recipients. In addition to the three scholarships given by the Lincoln Gem and Mineral Club, three scholarships were given by the Nebraska Geological Society, one was presented by the Nebraska Well Drillers Association, and three AFMS scholarship recipients were selected by Distinguished Professor, T. Mylan Stout. It is gratifying to see these scholarships presented to worthy students in the University of Nebraska.

Several important meetings took place this spring in which the geology of the midlands was treated in presented papers. The Nebraska Academy of Sciences met on April 10th at Nebraska Wesleyan University. In addition to the paper I presented on fossil sharks and fishes from the Pennsylvanian-Permian Strata of Nebraska, papers on the dinosaur, Triceratops, by Greg Brown; fossil caribou by George Corner; Nebraska uranium by Hal De Graw; an extension of the Agate Springs fossil bed by Bob Hunt; stabilizing marcasite crystals by Karen Messenger; fossils in the Fort Calhoun and Nebraska City areas by J. Patrick Rhone, UN-O; world-wide desertification by C. Bertrand Schultz; fossil elephants by Carl Swisher III; mastodonts, by Lloyd Tanner; and fossil vertebrates by Mike Voorhies, were presented. All of the papers were very good.

The University of Nebraska State Museum has received a very fine collection of Brazilian Agates from Mr. and Mrs. Walter Bartels of Clarinda, Iowa. A display is now in preparation and it will soon be on the third floor of Morrill Hall.

The fossil fish and shark collection from the Pennsylvanian of Nebraska that has been assembled by Ted White of Omaha is now at the University of Nebraska State Museum. Several specimens were displayed at the show.

The North Central Section Meeting of the Geological Society of America took place at Ames, Iowa, April 30 and May 1. Several papers of note or interest were presented. I presented a paper on Permian crinoids from Nebraska and Texas, with D.R. Boardman and H.L. Strimple, and co-authored a paper on Pennsylvanian crinoid distribution related to sedimentary rock facies, with Phil Heckel. The crinoids in the first paper were collected on an LG&MC field trip. Greg Retallack and David Dilcher of Indiana University, Bloomington, presented a paper on Mid-Cretaceous coastal paleoenvironments of Kansas and Nebraska in which some of the fossil plants from the clay pit south of Fairbury were described. I was most interested to learn that a fossil flower that I collected at that site and gave to Dr. Dilcher is now the oldest known fossil flower in the world. Donald Hattin, also of Indiana University, presented a paper on epizoic fauna of the Smoky Hill Member of the Niobrara Chalk (Upper Cretaceous) of western Kansas. There are extensive exposures of this unit along the Republican, Niobrara, and Missouri Rivers in Nebraska, and it seems possible that many of the unusual fossils described by Hattin will probably be found in Nebraska as exploration continues. His slides showed what to look for, so I have some better ideas to go on now.

Papers at recent meetings indicate that Nebraska is still a state rich in research potential. Many scientists from outside Nebraska have found Nebraska's rich geological past.

"SPACE SHUTTLE - and such"

Those of you who have difficulty recalling all facts and figures relating to space age happenings are not alone - you have plenty of company. My knowledge in this field is rather limited, so do not expect much technical detail in this, my over 60th Pick And Shovel article. My interest in the subject has been enough, but my understanding of the many sciences involved is only rudimentary, and not to be regarded as authoritative. Our LGMC space-familiar aviatrix member, Florence Boring, could write a much more profound treatise on this currently popular topic.

How does this relate to our gem and mineral hobby? Earthlings, through more efficient techniques may travel extensively (and less expensively) to the moon or to other Solar System members; and Carl Sagan points to outer space places. That last category may seem over-ambitious!

If the rapid growth of space related activities in recent years is a reliable indication, even the wildest imagination cannot predict the future. I have at hand dictionaries, almanacs, year books, magazines, etc. Much of the language needed to converse intelligently on this subject is found only in very recent publications. Lexicographers and publishers must be constantly alert; there is so little time between consecutive developments.

What is a Space Shuttle? My most recent dictionary mentions more than a dozen word combinations relating to "space", from "space age" to "space vehicle", but no shuttle, as such. It defines shuttle as "a transport system operating between two nearby points". Nearby points in space could be much farther apart than the hill-billies "right smart git".

Details of Space Shuttle Columbia's recent exploit have been covered by all news media, so it is unnecessary to repeat them here. I shall indulge in only a few observations and express no political opinions. Columbia is said to have military value, such as sky-sentry and orbital launching devices for military hardware and satellites. There has been some congressional opposition, dispelled by the Air Force.

Beyond the possible military usage, the shuttle may play a role in scientific research and manufacturing in space, using the "weightlessness" feature. It may be a step toward mining inorganic materials from the moon, now being rapidly depleted on earth. These possibilities may ease the pain of its near 10 billion dollar cost, and pardon a few of the prelaunching technical faults after years of effort and ever-increasing expense.

Thanks to TV, untold millions watched the launch from the Kennedy Space Center in Florida, the safe return to Edwards Air

"SPACE SHUTTLE - and such" - - continued

Force Base in California 54½ hours later, and its ride back to Florida atop a NASA 747 Transport plane. There it will be fitted for its next mission within the next six months, to be followed by possibly 100 more.

I emphasize that my theme is not just a replay of already publicized details. It is to revel in the amazing speed of space technology and achievements in such a few years since this century began. Every branch of science and mathematics known to man has been involved. The talents and skill of countless, dedicated workers have contributed to this space program.

In retrospect I recall some experiences of my own which may be apropos at this time. In late 1920, as a journalism student in the University of Nebraska, I covered for the Daily Nebraskan the attempt to transmit the human voice by wireless telephone (radio) between the U of N campus and Nebraska Wesleyan, about 5 miles away, an important event.

In 1933 at the Chicago World's Fair (Century of Progress) I saw my first television picture, a crude thing using the "scanner". Less than 40 years later I watched the men land on the Moon, as did many of you readers.

In 1935, Myrtle and I witnessed the attempted launch of the second Black Hills Stratosphere balloon. The huge bag ruptured on inflation, allowing several hundred thousand cubic feet of helium gas to escape. I had snapped a picture of the bulge just before the burst. The bag was sent to Goodyear at Akron, Ohio. A patch was applied, and the bag was returned to the Black Hills.

The balloon was reinflated and on November 11, 1935 a very successful flight was made. An altitude record of about 14 miles was attained. This balloon had been named Explorer II, and its record was not exceeded for about 20 years.

Now, the "sky is the limit". Where does it end?

- submitted by J. D. Young

\* \* \* \* \*

"HOME" - the place where we are treated best and grumble most.

"Nothing conveys love more than words of understanding in moments of distress."

"A person's Sunday self and his weekday self are like two halves of a round-trip ticket; no good if detached."

"IN MEMORY"

A special tribute to Tyler T. Rankin; nationally known Lapidarist;

RANKIN - Tyler Thompson (widower of Ida Lee), 75, Mission, Texas, formerly of Lincoln, died Wednesday, March 18, 1981. Born Cripple Creek, Colo. Longtime resident Kittery Point, Maine. Former employee Portsmouth Naval Yards, Portsmouth, N. H. Former apprentice machinist at Lincoln Burlington Northern yards. Internationally known lapidarian, displayed artwork and carvings at national gem and mineral shows. Survivors: sisters, Arretta Evans, Deliliah, both Lincoln, Xenia, Pomona, Calif.; Nephew, Donald Oliver, Canoga Park, Calif. Services: 2 PM Monday, Wilson Mortuary, Mission, Texas.

- via Journal-Star 3-20-81  
- submitted by Deliliah Rankin

\* \* \* \* \*

Kittery Point, Maine  
MULE SKINNER

To the Editor:

He was born in Cripple Creek, Colorado in 1906. I never knew much about his formal education, but during his teenage years, he and his father prospected through the entire Southwest. This informal education served him in good stead, as during his retired years he was eagerly sought by various universities to deliver lectures on geology.

In Texas, he spent a few years in the Army where he was assigned the duties of mule driver. This earned him the nickname which was to follow him the rest of his life. "The Mule Skinner".

He married a girl who was half Cherokee Indian and together they continued the search for the fortune which they knew must lie just over the next hill.

Somewhere along the way, he learned the machinist's trade and in the early 40's received a call from the Portsmouth Shipyard.

He lived in Kittery Point for many years and here God gave him the son which he had so long desired.

He finally retired and moved back to Texas where he lost his wife to sickness and his son to a murderer. He died in Mission, Texas, last week at the age of 75. (3-18-81)

He is now on his last prospecting trip to that undiscovered country from which no traveler returns, and I pray that when he arrives the Great Keeper of the Gates will find a little room for my old friend, Tyler Rankin.

- "Monty" Washburn  
Kittery Point, Maine  
- submitted by Deliliah Rankin

These charts may be very helpful through the summer months when many of you will be trying to ready new pieces of art for "show and tell" come September.

RECOMMENDED POLISHES

CMO = Cerium Oxide TO = Tin Oxide LA = Linde-A  
 CHO = Chrome Oxide DIA = Diamond

	CMO	TO	LA	DIA	CHO
ACTINOLITE		X			
AGATE	X	X			
ALABASTER		X			
AMAZONITE		X			
AMBER		X			
AMBLYGONITE		X			
ANDALUCITE		X			
APATITE			X		X
AVENTURINE		X			
AZURITE		X			X
APOPHYLLITE					X
ARAGONITE	X			X	
AXINITE	X				
BARITE					X
BENITOITE	X				
BERYL	X	X		X	
BLOODSTONE			X		
BRAZILIANITE		X			
CALCITE		X			X
CASSITERITE		X			
CELESTITE					X
CERUSSITE					X
CHRYSOBERYL				X	
CORAL		X			
CORUNDUM				X	
DANBURITE		X			
DATOLITE		X			
DIOPSIDE					X
DIOPTASE	X				
DIORITE	X	X	X		X
ENSTATITE		X			
EPIDOTE		X			
EUCLASE		X			
FELDSPAR	X	X			
FLUORITE		X			X
GARNET	X	X	X	X	X
GOLDSTONE	X	X			
HEMATITE	X				
HICKORYITE			X		
HOWLITE	X	X	X		X
HYPERSTENE		X			
JADEITE	X	X	X		X

Recommended polishes - continued

	CMO	T9	LA	DIA	CHO
JASPER	X	X	X		X
KYANITE		X			
LABRADORITE		X			X
LAPIS LAZULI		X	X		X
LIMESTONE	X	X	X		X
LEPIDOLITE					X
MALACHITE		X	X		X
MOONSTONE		X			
NEPHRITE		X	X		X
OBSIDIAN		X			X
ONYX	X	X			X
OPAL	X	X			
PERIDOT		X	X	X	
PETRIFIED WOOD	X	X	X		X
PHENACITE		X			
POLLUCITE	X				
QUARTZ	X	X			
RHODOCHROSITE		X	X		X
RHODONITE	X		X		X
RUBY				X	
RUTILE			X		
SAPPHIRE				X	
SCAPOLITE	X				
SCHEELITE					X
SERPENTINE		X	X		X
SMITHSONITE		X			
SODALITE	X				
SOSOLITE	X				
SPINEL		X	X	X	
SPHALERITE					X
SPODUMENE		X			
SUNSTONE		X			
THOMSONITE	X				
TIGER-EYE	X	X	X		
TITANITE (SPHENE)		X			
TOPAZ		X	X	X	
TOURMALINE		X	X	X	
TURQUOISE	X	X	X		
UNAKITE	X				
VARISCITE	X	X	X		
VESUVIANITE	X				
WILLIAMSITE			X		
WONDERSTONE		X	X		
WULFENITE					X
ZIRCON		X			
ZOISITE	X				

- via The Template, 12/79  
 Jacque Nawojski, Editor  
 - via The Beachcomber, Feb/Mar '81

WELCOME - NEW MEMBERS:

Be sure to add these names to your WHO'S WHO, so you have it up-to-date for the summer months.

Dorothy Caton  
3422 Woodbine        68506  
488-4805

Roger Engelbart  
2218 Heather        68512  
423-2968

Adam J. Mueller  
3040 N. 60th St.    68507  
466-6772

Norm & Linda Block  
Box 345  
Ceresco, NE        68017  
(Toll) 665-5091

Virginia Reller  
4422 Smoke Tree Hollow  
488-1785

Claude & Gail Scott  
4917 Normal Blvd.    68506  
488-0739

Reinstated members:

Walt McCoy  
3250 S. 12th St.    68502  
423-5112

Nancy Neihardt  
2843 S. 42nd St.    68506  
489-7889

Paul & Beverly Rueter  
Murdock, NE        68407  
(Toll) 867-3466

Also make the following correction in your WHO'S WHO:

Ray & Mary Lambert  
1201 N. 79th St.    (not 49th St.)

\* \* \* \* \*



Give a Hoot!  
Don't Pollute!

DO YOUR SHARE IN KEEPING  
AMERICA BEAUTIFUL!    KEEP  
IT LITTER-FREE!

HELP STRENGTHEN OUR PUBLIC IMAGE

June Zeitner, Chairman  
AFMS Public Relations

Every club can and should help strengthen its own public image, the public image of its Regional Federation, and of the American Federation. Everything a club does in some way affects the public image it has in its own community and in the gem/mineral/fossil/apidary hobby as a whole.

Now that it is field trip time again in most of the states, we need to think how this part of our hobby can help promote our cause.

Does your society have a clean-up trip? If so, be sure the local newspapers and other media know about it. Remember the media does not come to you to ask for stories, you are responsible for getting the stories in.

Have members of your society made significant finds? Rare or new specimens for your area; or bigger, more unusual, or an unidentified species? If so, have professionals been notified? Has the specimen been written up or are there pictures and records? Will the specimen go to a museum, shown to local schools, or be a feature of your show? Don't pass up the opportunity to get good publicity on this educational part of our hobby. The public is interested in these things and the media knows it.

Are you in a favored area where people come for summer field trips or is your group among those which plan distant field trips for their collecting? Whether you are the hosts of members from far away, or whether you are the guests, there is a good story there which should be told. Emphasize the positive aspects. How did you conserve energy and what was the purpose of the trip? Did it involve family groups? What did the guests learn about the geology and mineralogy of the host area? What were the major discoveries? How will they be used? Inform your local press of these facts.

Your members will be involved in workshops, seminars, and swaps during the summer. They will be attending conventions. Notify the weekly papers, the daily papers, the free papers and radio stations of the activities of your members. It is better to send in such reports to be published immediately after the members return from these trips, instead of while they are away. Also it is wise not to include the addresses of the members, or the suburbs where they live, although if the media is interested they may want to contact the people. (They will not publish addresses, or even complete names if asked not to.)

By fall everyone will be thinking of back-to-school. This is the time for you to point out what you do for the schools. Do you have traveling displays of minerals, rocks, etc. for the

HELP STRENGTHEN OUR PUBLIC IMAGE - continued

area schools? Do you have speakers, films, demonstrations, etc. available for the schools? If so be sure the Chamber of Commerce, the Superintendent of Schools, the newspapers, the libraries, the churches, and local organizations know what your services are and how to schedule them. The more publicity we get for the educational things we do, the stronger are our clubs and federations.

If you have any problems or solutions, questions or answers, ideas or suggestions, don't hesitate to write to me.

June Culp Zeitner  
5203 S. Canyon Road  
Rapid City, S.D. 57701

- via AFMS Newsletter  
April 1981

\* \* \* \* \*

COME ON ALONG! "FIELD TRIP"

A Field trip is scheduled for Sunday, May 24, 1981 to the Humboldt-Table Rock area to hunt for fossils, agates, etc. We will be meeting at the Nebraska Hall parking lot at 9:00 AM. Those of you from the south part of town, we'll join you at 56th St. & Hwy 2 at 9:30 AM. Bring a sack lunch.



\* \* \* \* \*

DISILLUSIONED

My chum and I could not agree  
The kind of stone we found.  
He thought it was a treasure rare  
We just dug from the ground.

"I am a simple man", he said.  
"I call a spade a spade,  
From what I see about this stone  
I'm sure it must be jade."

Now I'm a common simple man,  
And call things what they seem;  
To me I just can't call it jade  
But think it's serpentine.

A rockhound checked it carefully,  
And dismissed it with a shrug.  
"Both of you are wrong", he said  
"I call it simply, 'crud'."

- YOT Charles sweitzer  
(Honorary Member)  
via CHIASTO-HI-LITES, Jan/Feb '81  
- submitted by Florence Boring

FRIENDLY CLUB - recipe

The following prescription for a friendly club started out as a "friendly church" recipe, but it seems applicable to clubs, too:

- 1) Speak to people (even if you do not know their names).
- 2) Smile at people.
- 3) Call people by name.
- 4) Be friendly and helpful (if you would have friends, be one).
- 5) Be generous with praise (cautious with criticism).
- 6) Be considerate of the feelings of others.
- 7) Be alert to give service (what we do for others counts most in life).
- 8) Add to this a good sense of humor, a generous dose of patience, a dash of humility.

Are you doing all you can to make your club a friendly club?

- via CHIASTO-HI-LITES, Dec '80

+ + + + + + + + + + + + + + +

ROCKHOUND???

There was a man who liked rocks but always stored them in the attic. His wife one day said, "What good are those rocks doing up in the attic?" He replied, "When I leave this earth and go to heaven, on my way up, I'm going to take them with me." One day he died. His wife went up to the attic to see. They were all there. She said, "That's what I thought; he must have gone the other way."

- via THE TEMPLATE, Feb. '81

+ + + + + + + + + + + + + + +

## Your 1981 Regional Show Schedule

Here are the dates and locations of the six Regional Shows in 1980. Note that the National Show and Convention will be held in Salt Lake City in conjunction with the Rocky Mountain Federation, June 4-7, 1981.

| CALIFORNIA                        | EASTERN                            | MIDWEST                           | NORTHWEST                        | ROCKY MOUNTAIN<br>AFMS SHOW      | SOUTH CENTRAL                      |
|-----------------------------------|------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|----------------------------------|----------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| Anaheim, California<br>August 7-9 | Lexington, Kentucky<br>June 26-28. | South Bend, Indiana<br>July 23-26 | Kent, Washington<br>August 21-23 | Salt Lake City, Utah<br>June 4-7 | Lubbock, Texas<br>April 24, 25, 26 |

HI JUNIORS:

Your page is going to be rather short this month. I'm just like you, I have "spring fever". You'd rather be out of school and playing, doing your summer things and I would rather be out in the yard, looking after my garden and flowers.



Do any of you plan to do some rock hunting this summer with your families? Just remember some of the rules to follow, such as; safety and do not litter.

This is just a short quiz which you may even have your parents try to match. It may be something you studied in school this year also if you were in the 5th or 6th grade.

Match them up, see who gets the highest score; you or Mom and Dad.

- Geology - Study of people who lived long ago
- Archeology - Study of fossils
- Culture- Study of rocks
- Paleontology - Places new rock comes from
- Volcanoes & Seas - A way of life

SEE YOU ALL IN SEPTEMBER. HAVE A SAFE AND HAPPY SUMMER!

\* \* \* \* \*

AS A VISITOR TO 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.  
 THIS IS YOUR LAND.....  
 AND IT'S YOURS TO KEEP CLEAN.....

# Midwest Federations NEWSLETTER

Published monthly except July and August as a service to member clubs. All news and articles should be sent to the Editor, Mrs. Betty Smith, 10607 Mary Ann, Zeeland, MI 49464. All subscription orders should be sent to Parrot Printing Service, 2125 Forest Ave., Des Moines, IA 50311.

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Fairview Park, OH 44126

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22757 Redwood Drive  
Richton Park, IL 60471

**SECOND VICE PRESIDENT**  
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Evansville, IN 47713

**SECRETARY**  
Miss Jean Reynolds  
107 Tuttle Avenue  
Clarendon Hills, IL 60514

**TREASURER**  
William Parch  
P.O. Box 180  
Fountain City, WI 54649



MAY 1981 - Issue No. 214

## NEW COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS

One of the hardest jobs as President is filling the Chairmanships of the various committees in the Midwest Federation. It is difficult to choose one among the many hard-working and dedicated people of the Federation to fill these positions. Welcome to all those who have graciously accepted the following Chairmanships.

Program Committee - MRS. LOUISE STINNETT, 29462 Aspen Drive, Flatrock, MI 48134, has accepted the Chairmanship of this committee. She will continue the fine work of her husband, DON.

Credentials - MRS ESTHER MULLALY, 30018 Dawson Street, Garden City, MI 48135, graciously accepted the Credentials Committee Chairmanship for another year.

Join me in welcoming the following Chairpersons to their new posts.

Legislation - MRS. SHERYL CAPONERA, 2330 Collins Street, Blue Island, IL 60406.

Mineralogy - WILLIAM (BILL) COOK, 684 Quilliams, Cleveland Heights, OH 44121.

Paleontology - PAUL CAPONERA, 2330 Collins Street, Blue Island, IL 60406.

Safety and Field Trip - HELEN NEUMANN, 20955 Balfour Road, Mt. Clemens, MI 48043.

Liaison MWF/CCFMS - HAROLD MEINERT, 505 Bird, Birmingham, MI 48009.

Library - BERNICE MCCLOSKEY, Box 527, Elm Grove, WI 53122.

Uniform Rules - PAUL CLIFFORD, Wade Oval, University Circle, Cleveland, OH 44106.

LARRY NAWOJSKI, Acting President MWF

## SWAP AREA - 1981 MWF SHOW

Yes, Swappers, there will be a swap area at the 1981 Show, complete with swap bucks, tables, chairs and some rules to make it better for everyone.

There have been some complaints about swappers being pushed to the side or out of the way. But this is not the case. The problem is that swappers are branching out into everything else but rocks, gems, minerals, fossils and shells. In some swap areas of past MWF Shows, it has been noted that swappers are dealing in fruits, vegetables, flowers and what have you. There are very few true rock swappers anymore. Swappers today are basically small time dealers. It has always been the belief that a true swapper was one who would swap rock for rock.

The rules are simple for the '81 MWF Swap Area:

1. Tables will rent for \$3.00 per day or \$9.00 for the four days of the show.
2. It will be first come first serve.
3. Swap bucks will be used in the amounts of \$1.00 and \$0.50.
4. Cost of the swap bucks will be \$1.10 and \$0.55.
5. No U.S. Monies will be allowed to be taken in by swappers.
6. Swap bucks will be spent at retail dealers who have agreed to do this.
7. Rocks, gems, minerals, fossils and sea shells will be the only items allowed in the swap area for the purpose of swapping. Anything not related to the hobby, such as fruit, flowers and plants will not be permitted.
8. The swap area will be open from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. Thursday, Friday and Saturday; and from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Sunday.

For additional information contact CARLTON PLETCHER, Swap Chairman, 1321 Oak Street, Niles, MI 49120.

Submitted by JIM RUSSELL, Chairman MWF Show

DONALD STINNETT, DECEASED

On Thursday March 5, 1981, E. DONALD STINNETT passed away, a victim of cancer. DON had served as the Midwest Federation's Program Chairman since 1972, when he was appointed by President LEE KIRBY. DON, along with his wife, LOUISE, has faithfully served the clubs of the Midwest Federation by supplying them with slide programs.

Please join me in expressing our deepest sympathy to LOUISE STINNETT and her family.

LARRY NAWOJSKI, Acting President MWF

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(Editor's Note: Some states have an association of clubs, even though belonging to their respective Federation. At least an annual event is planned under the sponsorship of the State organization. Wyoming State has such an organization, as well as others. Wisconsin, in our Midwest Federation, has such an organization. CAROL ANDERSON, President of the Wisconsin Association of Earth Science Clubs submitted a brief description of their organization and their annual Roundup).

ALL WISCONSIN CLUBS ROUNDUP

The idea of an ALL WISCONSIN GEM AND MINERAL CLUBS ROUNDUP was developed when HAROLD STEINKE of Oshkosh was Wisconsin State Director with plans beginning during 1976. In 1979 JIM DEVOE presented a tentative set of by-laws for what was now called the WISCONSIN ASSOCIATION OF EARTH SCIENCE CLUBS. It was decided to discuss these with members and vote on it the following year.

All Wisconsin Midwest Federation Clubs are automatically members of the Wisconsin Association of Earth Science Clubs and will receive the mailings. No club dues are assessed, but payment of an admission fee to the Annual Roundup of \$2.00 or a specimen or specimens of equal or higher value to be used for Silent Auctions will cover the cost of the Roundup.

The Chairmen of the 1981 Roundup, met in Fond du Lac March 7 to finalize plans for the Roundup to be held at Green Lake, Wisconsin, May 30-31.

The Annual Roundup is planning many workshps and activities including Field  
..next column..

Trips, Lapidary, Bulletins, Silversmithing, Fossils, Minerals, Silent Auctions, Swapping and a Cracker Barrel Session.

More information may be obtained from:

CAROL ANDERSON, 918 13th Avenue, Green Bay, Wisconsin 54304

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ROCKS AND MINERALS MAGAZINE TO BE AT MIDWEST SHOW

As official publication of the Midwest Federation, ROCKS AND MINERALS magazine will be represented with a subscription table at the 1981 Midwest Federation Show in South Bend, Indiana, July 23-26.

Visitors to the show are invited to stop by the booth, meet some of the consulting editors and chat awhile.

MARIE HUIZING: Managing Editor

---

NEW SLIDE PROGRAM

It is with a great deal of pleasure that we can announce a new fossil program - the adult version of THE FOSSIL STORY, by ARLENE BUEHLER, of Saginaw.

This is a good detail program of fossils throughout the Midwest. It is a good "study" program, with identifying features, pictures, etc.

Thanks Arlene - you helped your Chairman attain his goal of 100 programs.

LOUISE STINNETT: Chairman Program Committee

---

SOMETHING TO THINK ABOUT

We have probed the earth, excavated it, burned it, ripped things from it, buried things in it, chopped down its forests, leveled its hills, muddied its waters and dirtied its air. That does not fit the definition of a good tenant.

If we were here on a month to month basis, we would have been evicted long ago.

from The Template

...via Environmentally speaking

PATRONIZE YOUR ADVERTISING DEALERS

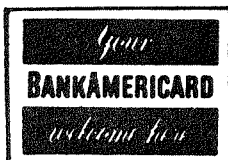
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Read your bulletin to spot *new materials* or *specials* of the above advertisers.

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:

Our regular monthly meetings are held on the 4th Saturday of each month, September through May, at the Nebraska Center for Continuing Education, 33rd & Holdrege.

The meetings begin at 7:30 PM, followed by a special program.

Guests and new members are always welcome.

PLAN TO ATTEND!

\* \* \* \* \*

DON'T FORGET:

For the first time, this summer we will be trying a new idea. There will be Club meetings during the months of JUNE, JULY, and AUGUST. However, they will consist of "PROGRAMS ONLY". There will be no business meetings involved, just fun and educational programs.

They will be held on the 4th Saturday of the month.

33rd & Holdrege, beginning at 7:30 PM.

PLAN TO ATTEND!

\* \* \* \* \*

Have a safe and healthy summer.

HAPPY HUNTING!



Lincoln Gem & Mineral Club  
Box 5342  
Lincoln, Nebraska 68505



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