

THE PICK & SHOVEL



DECEMBER

1982

highlights

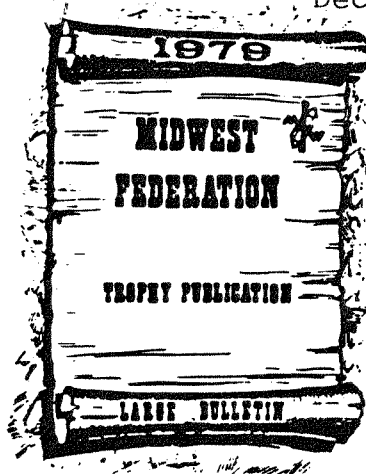
*in
this issue...*

THE INDISPENSABLE JIM BRIDGER

'SHAKESPEARE AND THE INDIANS'

The Silent Authros of "SILENT
NIGHT"

December Birthstones



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. 68505-0342

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

1982 ELECTED OFFICERS:

President.....	Roger Pabian	315 'D' St.	Lincoln, 68502	474-2034
1st Vice Pres...	Howard Taylor, Jr.	910 New Hampshire	Lincoln, 68508	476-3707
2nd Vice Pres...	Glenn Lyman	420 N. 56th St.	Lincoln, 68504	464-6089
Secretary.....	Nelda Oliver	5700 Otoe	Lincoln, 68506	489-5222
Treasurer.....	Phyllis Parks	2435 S. 19th St.	Lincoln, 68502	476-6798
Board Member....	John Abel	2829 Van Dorn	Lincoln, 68502	423-7654
Board Member....	Florence Boring	2836 S. 40th St.	Lincoln, 68506	488-6243
Board Member....	Irl Everett	2945 N. 65th St.	Lincoln, 68507	466-6204
Board Member....	Virginia Green	6120 The Knolls	Lincoln, 68512	423-5032

Nominating Committee--3 years: Vera Lyman, Frank Rule
2 years: Marie Taylor, Jim Parks
1 year: Bob Walker, Irl Everett

LONG RANGE PLANNING AND BY LAWS COMMITTEE:

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

STANDING COMMITTEE CHAIRPEOPLE:

Programs.....	Howard Taylor	1982 Show.....	Vera Lyman
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..	John Abel	Publications.....	G & F Litzenberg
Sunshine Corner....	Susan Taylor	Junior Activities...	Mary Walker
NAOESCI Reporter...	Vera Lyman	Auditing Comm. 1981..	John Abel, Chairman Ray Lambert & Bruce Simon

PICK & SHOVEL STAFF:

Chairman: Glen Litzenberg

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

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.



GENERAL MEETING: There will be no General Meeting during December, due to the Christmas Season!

Hope to see you all at the Christmas Party.

BOARD MEETING: Thursday, January 6, 1983 7:30 P.M.

You will be notified of the location.

All out-going 1982 Officers and newly elected 1983 Officers are requested to attend this Board Meeting.

CHRISTMAS PARTY: Saturday, December 11, 1982 6:00 P.M.
Nebraska Center

SHOW COMMITTEE MEETING: Monday, December 13, 1982 7:00 P.M.
Necco Building
1815 Y Street

* * * * *

FEDERATION SHOWS - 1983

June 10 thru 12, Oklahoma City, OK
ROCKY MOUNTAIN

June 17 thru 19 San Jose, CA
CALIFORNIA

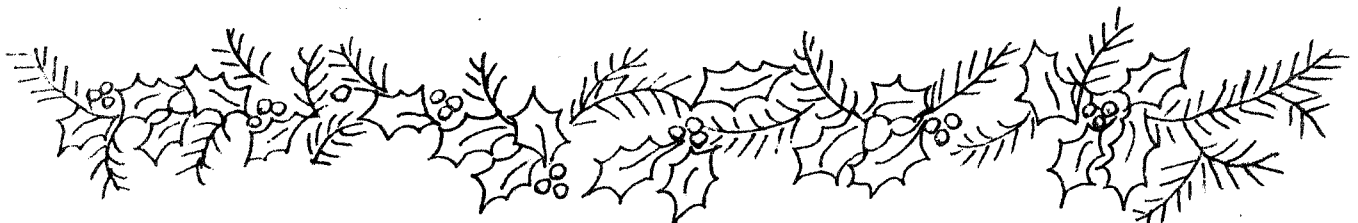
July 14 thru 17 Kalamazoo, MI
MIDWEST

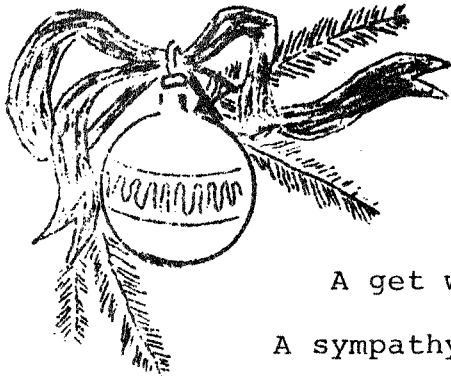
August 4 thru 7 Spokane, WA
AMERICAN/NORTHWEST

November 11 thru 13 Dallas, TX
SOUTH CENTRAL

MERRY CHRISTMAS!

* * * * *





Christmas is a time of cheer,
A lovely, happy time of year;
A time to warmly wish for you
The season's joy and gladness too!

A get well card was sent to Paul Rueter.

A sympathy card was sent to Mrs. C. Ray Waddle.

Glad to see Don Rose at the last meeting since his heart
attack in April.

MERRY CHRISTMAS and HAPPY NEW YEAR to all!

Suze Sunshine

* * * * *

FROM YOUR EDITOR:

There is a timely message in this poem, especially since it's
time to pay our dues again.

HARVEST TIME

I didn't get much out of the Club this year.

Nobody seemed too sad when I didn't appear.

Can't recall meeting too many new faces;

Had other things to do at other places.

I did send a cake one night;

Couldn't go. My hair looked a fright.

I did attend a meeting, or maybe two,

But you didn't come. I sure missed you.

Thought once I'd suggest an idea that's new

But if it came to a vote, it wouldn't go through.

Heard about some field trips that were really great

By the time I decided to go, it was too late.

Sometimes I think, the heck with it;

No, this year from the Club, I really didn't benefit

But then again ...

I guess I got as much out as I PUT IN.

-via Tek Rock Club News, 10-82

* * * * *

If you have a bit of news, SEND IT IN.

Or a joke that will amuse, SEND IT IN.

A story that is true, an incident that is new,

we want to hear from you, SEND IT IN.

Never mind about its style, SEND IT IN.

It is really worth your while, if it only brings a smile.

So why not give it a trial? SEND IT IN.

-via Rockhound Scoop, 11-82

THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

I wish to take this opportunity to thank the Board of Directors, committee chairpersons, and members at large who have helped to make the past three years much easier. Their comments, criticisms, and suggestions, if not always heeded, have always been very important in decision making. Their help has been appreciated.

Several milestones have been passed during these three years. The successful completion of our 1980 National Show, the progress in the AFMS Scholarship fund, and the establishment of a Nebraska Academy of Sciences scholarship fund have been important landmarks. The club is to be commended for these feats.

I feel that the greatest single failure during the past three years for which I must shoulder the blame is the absence of a good educational program within the club. A future administration will be called upon to attain this goal.

In January, a new administration will take over the club's leadership. The new board may choose to pursue similar goals to the ones of the old board, or it may choose to pursue new goals. It is my hope that the new board will receive the support of the membership and that the club will continue to prosper and grow.

My work in the club will not end with my term as president, however. I will be displaying in shows, working in shows, giving a lecture or two, and plan to do the public relations work such as getting meeting notices to the news media.

I will also be on the Long Range Planning Committee and will be working the Nominating Committee for the year to come.

I have appreciated the many good friends I have made as a result of this presidency. They have been both inside and outside the club. Many have been in the news media and many in other club groups in and out of Lincoln.

Thank you again for your support. I wish you all a very happy and joyous Holiday Season and a prosperous New Year.

Best wishes from your lame duck president.

Roger Pabian
President

CLUB OFFICERS FOR 1983

At the November General Meeting, the following members were elected to serve as our "leaders" for 1983:

PRESIDENT	JIM TAYLOR
1st VICE PRESIDENT	GLENN LYMAN
2nd VICE PRESIDENT	CLAUDE SCOTT
SECRETARY	GAIL C. SCOTT
TREASURER	PHYLLIS PARKS
BOARD OF DIRECTORS	JOHN ABEL
	FLORENCE BORING
	VIRGINIA GREEN
	FRANK RULE
NOMINATING COMMITTEE - 3 years	
	RICHARD HANEY
	WILFRID WITTMAN

Congratulations to each of you. The following article has a message for all of us as members of LGMC.

OUR HOBBY'S FUTURE - - HOW CAN YOU MAKE IT SUCCESSFUL?

Congratulations and appreciation to all those individuals "dedicated rockhounds" who will be completing their terms as Federation and/or Club Officers or Committee Chairmen on the local, regional or national level for 1982.

In the next few months our federations and local clubs will be introducing you to a new slate of officers, committee chairmen and other appointed "servicable" members. We must share in the progress of our organizations with our full support. Not one single officer, chairman, or appointee will be able to achieve any of the proposed goals alone - we will, as in the past, accomplish greater success in promoting our hobby by uniting and sharing.

Will you as an "ex" officer or chairman offer your expertise to those who will be taking on your positions: or will your sigh of relief indicate that you will (as several have done in the past) never be heard of again participating in club activities?

Frustrations in lack of awareness, negligence in tasks that require immediate response, the ever-present lack of communications, personality conflicts, etc. might tend to discourage some of our active members; but persistent urgings and continued creative efforts will improve and benefit all our organizations.

STAY INVOLVED - - HELP US GROW!

- AFMS Newsletter, Oct. '82

Lincoln Gem & Mineral Club, INC.
Board of Directors November 4, 1982

The November meeting of the Lincoln Gem & Mineral Club Board of Directors was called to order by President Roger Pabian at Nebraska Hall on November 4, 1982 with 5 Board members and Vera Lyman, Editor, present.

The minutes of the October meeting were read and approved as read.

The treasurer's report was given. Motion to approve by Florence Boring; 2nd by Jim Taylor, passed.

Bills were read by the president: Nebraska Typewriter, \$22.84 Pick & Shovel supplies; Vera Lyman, \$22.13 Oct. mailing Pick & Shovel; \$37.57 Postal Scale; U of N, \$9.00 Film rental; U of N, \$30.14 print Pick & Shovel; Nebr. Center, \$20.00 rental for meeting; United Typewriter, \$74.25 Staples for Pick & Shovel; Motion to approve by Glenn Lyman, 2nd by Florence Boring, passed.

No old business.

Presentation by Roger Pabian for a Life Membership to be awarded to club member Helena Baegl. Motion by Phyllis Parks that this be done in honor of her years of service and attendance to the club. 2nd Florence Boring, passed.

No further business. Motion for adjournment by Florence Boring. So moved.

Next meeting to be held December 2, 1982 at Nebraska Hall.

Respectfully submitted,
Phyllis Parks, acting for Secretary Nelda Oliver.

SPECIAL NOTE:

It was great to see the Rose's and the Haney's at our November meeting after some absence, which was due to a bout with ill health.

Enjoy your retirement and return to health, Don. We wish you well.

Many other familiar faces were also at that meeting. Great to see. This is how it should be every month.

Your Editor

REMEMBER - DUES ARE DUE!

OOOOOOOOOO
O HIGHLIGHTS O
OOOOOOOOOO

FROM HELENA!

Glenna and George McGinnis are already way down south in the land of - not cotton, but Quartzsite. Lucky folks, they are there for the whole winter. Have fun, G. & G. and drop me a line as to your doing, for the January Pick & Shovel, so that we can enjoy vicariously.

We hear that Paul Rueter, Murdock, had surgery recently, and is now home recuperating. We wish him speedy return to good health.

Talked with Frances Tracy one evening. She and her sister are so-o-o busy down in Cortland. She says their town is jumping all the time, and are already working on plans for their centennial next July. Frances says she misses the LG&M meetings, but she doesn't like to drive at night. We miss her, too.

Flossie Litzenberg has been having health and dental troubles, but with several blood transfusions and return of her appetite, she is slowly gaining strength. We hope to see her at our meetings again in the spring.

We are saddened by the passing of our dear and long-time friend and member, C. Ray Waddle. He had been ill for some time, and suffered greatly the last week or so. My sister Emma, who is a volunteer at Lincoln General, went up to see him Tuesday, November 23. He was very ill but knew her and visited some. C. Ray was a worker at our annual shows, and we recall the handsome signs he made for our displays, year after year. Our deepest sympathy to Marian and their sons.

Helena



AMERICA is free and beautiful!.
Let's do our part to keep it that way.

PLEASE DON't LITTER!

DECEMBER BIRTHSTONES

ZIRCON is silicate mineral, zirconium silicate, and the principal source for zirconium; transparent varieties are cut as gemstones. Zircon is widespread as an accessory mineral in acid igneous rocks; it also occurs in metamorphic rocks and, fairly often, in detrital deposits. It occurs in beach sands in many parts of the world, particularly Australia, India, Brazil, and Florida, and is a common heavy mineral in sedimentary rocks. Gem varieties occur in stream gravels and detrital deposits, particularly in Indochina and Ceylon, but also in Burma, Australia, and New Zealand. Zircon forms an important part of the syenite of southern Norway and occurs in large crystals in Renfrew County, Quebec. The high refractive index and dispersion of zircon cause it to approach diamond in fire and brilliancy. Several varietal names have been applied to coloured gems. Hyacinth(jacinth) includes the clear, transparent red, orange, and yellow varieties. Matura diamond, from Ceylon, is clear and colourless, either naturally or made so through heat treatment under oxidizing conditions. The name jargon, like zircon derived from Arabic zargūn, applies to all other colours. A lovely blue stone may be made by heat treatment under reducing conditions. Zircon is a semi-precious stone and is a December birthstone.

Encyclopedia Britannica Vol. X

TURQUOISE is an opaque, semiprecious stone in varied shades of green and blue. This gem stone occurs in rock deposits in Turkestan and Asia Minor, and in New Mexico, Colorado, Arizona and Nevada. Its name means Turkish stone.

Turquoise consists chiefly of hydrous phosphate of aluminum. Small quantities of iron give it a greenish tint, and the presence of a small amount of copper gives the stone its blue color. The color may fade if it is exposed to strong light or heat, and because turquoise is slightly porous, it may absorb dirt or grease.

Turquoise has been a favorite gem for thousands of years. The Egyptians used it as early as 4000 B.C. In Iran, where fine turquoise has been mined for centuries, it is the national gem. Many of the people of the Orient used the turquoise as a gem and as an amulet to ward off illness and misfortune, and the earliest Mexicans wore turquoise jewelry. The stone is possibly the most widely used of all gem minerals.

Today, people prize most the blue turquoise, but in ancient times green stones were most popular. Persian and Mexican jewelers often used turquoise as inlay. It was popular in the United States in the 1800's in the form of beads, and today is seen in Indian style jewelry. The turquoise is one of the December birthstones.

Odontolite (bone turquoise) closely resembles turquoise. It is made from fragments of fossil bone colored blue with phosphate of iron. It can be distinguished from turquoise under a microscope.

Frederick H. Pough
World Book Vol. 19 '82

The Silent Authors of "SILENT NIGHT"

Only by happy coincidence did the names of the true authors of the song "Silent Night" come to light - 36 years after they wrote it.

The story begins in 1818 in a church in the little Austrian town of Oberndorf. Shortly before Christmas Eve, a mouse ate a hole in the leather bellows of the church organ, effectively silencing it. The itinerant organ-mender was not due in town for months, and music was needed for the Christmas Eve mass. In 3½ hours, Franz Grüber, the organist, composed music for a poem written by Josef Mohr, a priest. It began "Stille Nacht, Heilige Nacht" ("Silent Night, Holy Night"). On Christmas Eve, the two men sang their composition accompanied by a guitar and children's chorus. They were a great success.

The following May, when the organ-mender turned up, Grüber gave him a copy of the song, which the man then circulated in his travels. By 1831 - 13 years later - the Strasser family quartet was billing "Silent Night," one of their numbers, as a Tyrolean folk song by "Authors Unknown."

Time went by, and soon the now-popular song was being attributed to several famous composers. In 1854, the leader of the king's orchestra in Berlin wrote to the choir director of the Benedictine school in Salzburg, asking for a copy of "Silent Night" by Michael Haydn, brother of the more famous composer Franz Joseph Haydn. The choir director asked a student - who just happened to be Felix Grüber, Franz Grüber's son -- to find a copy. And you can guess the rest.

- via Parade, Significa, Dec 20, '81

* * * * *

Friends of the Museum to Organize

Persons interested in the University State Museum will meet January 12, 1983 - 12:00 noon at Bennett Martin Library Conference Room for the purpose of organizing a Corporation to be called "Friends of the University of Nebraska State Museum". The purpose of the Corporation is to bring together Nebraskans, and others, to support the University of Nebraska State Museum (Natural History) in promoting an understanding of natural resources through education, communication and personal involvement. The Trail Side Museum of Fort Robinson is a part of the State Museum system.

A good response has been received and prospect for a good organizational meeting is indicated. The agenda will include approval of by-laws and elections of officers. The dues will include membership and subscription to the Explorer, a very fine national natural history magazine published 4 times a year. In the center-fold, each state has its own 4 page newsletter. It is anticipated there will be other benefits with membership.

If you have not already done so I urge you to send your name to: Director of the Museum, Room 212 Morrill Hall, University of Nebraska, Lincoln, NE 68588-0338 to receive information and invitation to the January 12 meeting. Bring a brown bag lunch, coffee will be furnished.

By Marie Wells

THE INDISPENSABLE JIM BRIDGER

The Reader's Digest of January 1947, pages 96-100, had an article with the above title by Donald Culross Peattie. It fascinated devotees of western history and legends. My copy was made available to Lincoln High School students and faculty. After 35 years in my select file that issue again came into use. This followed a delightful evening in Omaha's Firehouse Dinner Theatre at the musical play "Shakespeare and the Indians", by playwright Dale Wasserman. The title could have said "Mountain Men" instead of "Indians".

An early 1800's mountain man might have exclaimed "ME, read Shakespeare?!" The Digest's story revealed that at least one illiterate trapper, Jim Bridger, hired a young boy, at 40 dollars per month, to read the bard's works to him on trail in the wilds. Bridger's very retentive mind enabled him to repeat much of it from memory. As a youth he had become a trapper and explorer after learning blacksmithing. He outlived most of his contemporaries until 1881.

This is not a detailed review of Dale's play, world premiered in Omaha, but to highlight some of Jim Bridger's career. One of Bridger's lineage nephews, balladeer Bobby Bridger, has an important part in the play cast as "The Drifter". He has had wide experience in the field as a talented performer. He has been on Neihardt Day programs where we have enjoyed his playing and personal acquaintance. Austin, Texas is his home.

Jamie, in Neihardt's great narrative epic "The Song of Hugh Glass" is believed to be Jim Bridger, the youthful trapper, with the upstream Ashley-Henry men in the early 1820's. Because of this connection, 30 Neihardt Foundation members, including Governor and Mrs. Charles Thone, came to Omaha for the November 9th showing of the play.

At Lincoln Gem and Mineral Club's 1974 National Show a 5½ lb. chunk of applegreen jade was exhibited in the Neihardt case, along with some of the poet's lapidary handiwork. It was what he had left after cutting off pieces for his unique Jade jewelry. It was displayed hanging from an antique steelyard (beam scale) which had been found in an old trapper's campsite near Ft. Collins, Colorado. It is believed to have been hand-made by Jim Bridger, blacksmith turned trapper.

Many of us have passed through Ft. Bridger, Wyoming. Jim was forethoughtful enough to establish a haven for west-bound pioneers who would likely need repairs for wagons, harness and other equipment after miles of torturous travel. He was there with his blacksmith shop and other commodities to ease the trailweary migrants with his hospitality.

-continued

THE INDISPENSABLE JIM BRIDGER - continued

Though uneducated in the usual "book-larnin" sense, Jim had intuitive reasoning and understanding that made his life and work successful. He knew the geography, climate and nature of the West so well that he was indispensable to individuals as well as organizations. He had clashes with native Americans but enjoyed great friendship with some of them.

Many Jim Bridger stories may be legendary, but others are well documented, such as the Jan. 1947 Reader's Digest article. In 1866 Col. Henry B. Carrington, about to enter hostile Indian areas, refused to discharge scout Jim Bridger to save the U.S. Government 5 dollars a day. He wrote across the order, "Impossible of execution!" Jim was one of the first white men to discover what is now Yellowstone National Park. He reported the "glass mountain" (obsidian) and a stream "cold on top and hot beneath" (Firehole River), also the strange current that flowed both ways to the Atlantic and Pacific (Two Ocean Pass). He told of petrified trees, using the word "putrified", and people laughed at these "incredibles". He took a drink of Salt Lake, Utah water and thought he had found an arm of the Pacific Ocean. He could conceal his cache of furs so cleverly that "even a wolverine could not find them".

At the great annual rendezvous near the Green River head waters in Wyoming; trappers, adventurers and Indians gathered to barter furs and commodities, and to celebrate, usually uproariously! A trapper might spend a thousand dollars worth of furs in a day for some necessary items and gaudy frivolities. In 1835 at age 31, Jim "blew his pile" for a high stepping mount and his first bride, the daughter of a friendly Flathead tribal chief. Only an Indian wife could have endured such a life; and Jim repeated the act three times.

After the 1840 beaver hats gave way to silk toppers, and the beaver trapping boom ended abruptly; Jim anticipated the "new West" with countless immigrants trekking westward over the old trails. He wisely figured their supplies and equipment would deteriorate. There he would be ready, near the branches of the Oregon and the California Trails. So Ft. Bridger became the first public inn and store west of the Missouri, an oasis for weary migrants.

Firsthand knowledge of the West helped him guide many parties of travelers, map makers and government groups across uncharted areas. He knew Indian languages and customs, and tangled with some. He was once shot with an arrow which could not be easily removed. His friends broke off the shaft. He bore the torture of the point for three years when Dr. Marcus Whitman, a medical missionary, without anesthetics, cut away some bone and drew it out.

Sir George Gore came to Wyoming with a well-supplied sportman's retinue of equipment, including a set of books containing some of Shakespeare's works. Jim was so impressed he bought the books and hired a boy, previously mentioned, to read for him. This is the basis for "Shakespeare and the Indians". One of Bridger's wild west comments was "When you don't see no Indians is when they are the thickest"!

Don't miss 'Shakespeare and the Indians'

By Ruth Raymond
Thone

The Lincoln Star

However you mark the holidays, give yourself and your family the gift of a trip to the Omaha Firehouse Dinner Theater's production of "Shakespeare and the Indians."

After a good supper, you will laugh and cry, move about in your chairs and exchange knowing looks with one another, and cheer and clap and be touched and warmed — all by a rich serving of life's joy and pain through the magic of the theater.

Playwright Dale Wasserman (whose previous stage-plays include "Man of La Mancha" and "One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest") has taken a story he wrote 20 years ago about a rough pack of mountain men who are tamed by a 10-year-old orphan who reads Shakespeare to them.

Sound pedestrian or uninteresting? That must be why I was wildly startled and enchanted from the opening minute of Bobby Bridger's Drifters' song "Where I Belong" to the final, rousing, tearing "Part of the Plan." In between are songs and dances and lyrics and lines tumbling after one another in ecstatic profusion, touching places we prefer to keep hidden in our propriety, showing us tenderness and toughness, filling the theater with energy and light beyond the sum of the parts of the play and its principals.

Music by Alan Jay Friedman and lyrics by Rita Biggs and Bob Preston produce several songs that might become part of our musical culture — "Muddling Through," a funny, honest sharing be-

tween a preacher and his wife headed west on a wagon train; "Ample Fronts," a wry, hearty number just a bit reminiscent of a popular number from "Chorus Line"; "Foofuraw," an evocative, precise mountain rendition of "fiddlesticks, she snapped," (the mountain men bellow and stomp and harmonize in glory); "Don't be Afraid of the Dark," "Who Is This Woman," a sad encounter of the preacher's harsh rigid wife with memories of her feminine self, and (I can't mention them all!) the stunning, show-stopping "Ain't That Langwidge Though."

Somehow Wasserman has pulled together a story of finding one's self on many levels, using the conflict between the mountain men "paws" of 10-year-old Elisha and that of the preacher couple representing civilization and education and religion. The struggle between male and female, wilderness and civilization, between formal religion and innate honesty and goodness, between red men and white man's ways, darkness and light, control and freedom, education and common sense are all there, plus three delightful, mugging Shakespearean actors — Laura Miles, Arvid Malnaa and Kerry Graves — appearing often to comment on the affairs.

"Shakespeare and the Indians" is never complicated or heavy, always perfectly understandable and easy, leaving the audience free to participate in the drama.

Bobby Bridger, linear descendant of Jim Bridger, the mountain man immortalized by Nebraska Poet Laureate John Neihardt's epic poetry, lends his strong presence and glorious voice to the role of

Review

the drifter, a part reminiscent of the narrator in "Our Town." Scott O'Hara, an eighth grader at Bellevue Mission Junior High, is the perfect 10-year-old orphan, and Jerry Scurlock, John Kildahl and Mark Epp (son of Dr. Mel and Donnie Epp of Lincoln) are the exact combination of age, youth, innocent fun, and ferocity as the three mountain men.

Bridger, a friend of the Neihardt Foundation in Bancroft, Neb., brought out many Neihardt devotees opening night.

Julius and Myrtle Young of Lincoln, old friends with whom Neihardt made his home the last six and a half years of his life, brought Bridger a January 1947 Reader's Digest containing a story about "The Indispensable Jim Bridger," who learned scholarly recitations by being read to on the trail.

Women, religion and Native Americans don't come off too well in the play, although the hardened woman may be historically accurate and she does soften and mellow later. Jo Ann Cunningham is very strong and assured in this role, in addition to her fine singing voice. The Indian chief, hilariously played by Frank Sotomoma Salsedo, holds a few surprises for the patronizing white traders and his supporting braves, Joseph Savant and Clye McNeal, Jr., are eloquent in silence and movement.

Preacher Peabody takes command on stage, even though his shrewish wife and the exuberant, irreverent mountain men clearly try to

put him down. Converting the heathen never was a pleasant task.

Wasserman scorned Broadway to try out "Shakespeare and the Indians" in Omaha, leading one playgoer to dub it the Midwest New Haven. It may work; there's time in the 10-week run to tinker and tighten, although there's not much loose on stage. The cost here is way below a larger market opening and the unsophisticated response and enthusiasm of Midwest audiences may charge an already electric performance with the energy to make the leap to a solid landing on the New York stage.

Gauche as all this ingenious effervescence may seem, the way the world is going, we need something good and important and fun and real. "Shakespeare and the Indians" is all of that, connecting us again to the deep well of hope.

The dinner theater production continues at 6:30 p.m. Tuesday-Friday and 5:30 p.m. Sunday through Jan. 16. Matinees are scheduled at noon Wednesdays and Sundays.

For reservations, write the Firehouse Dinner Theater, 514 S. 11th St., in Omaha, or phone 346-8833.

Prices, including buffet, range from \$10.50 to \$19.50.

via
The Lincoln Star
Thursday, Dec. 2
1982

HOW THE SAPPHIRE GOT ITS STAR

Once a small shepherd boy, watching his sheep
In the Judean hills, long ago,
Saw a bright star move over the land,
His eyes couldn't believe it was so.

Soon the star settled down oe'r Bethlehem town,
A community not far away,
Curiosity was simply too much for the lad
And he followed the star, so they say.

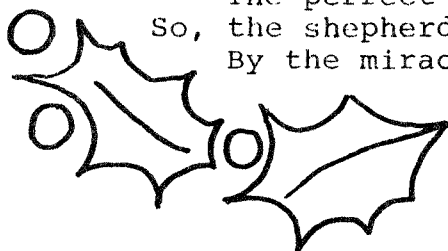
T'was a very long walk for one so young,
But those hills were his playground since birth.
He'd often hunt stones of a deep lovely blue,
A crystal, a gift from the earth.

As he neared the place, where the star shone,
He saw a small crowd stand in awe.
To his surprise there were Magi and Kings
Paying tribute to the Babe in the straw.

He watched all the royalty give incense and myrrh,
And he wished he had treasures to bring.
But all that he had were his little blue stones,
Not a gift fit for the King.

But then his turn came to kneel by the crib,
He opened his fist with the stones,
And a light from above beamed on each one,
In each crystal a perfect star shone.

Gifts of incense and myrrh couldn't outshine
The perfect star sapphires he'd brought.
So, the shepherd boy knew the Babe smiled on his gift,
By the miracle Heaven had wrought.



by Doris D. Strange
former Editor, Merced "Gem Chat"
Christmas 1970
- via Glacial Drifter, Dec. 1981

* * * * *

Yes, there really is a Kalamazoo, and it's the palce to be in '83! The Kalamazoo Geological & Mineral Society will host the 1983 MWF Show and Convention, July 14-17, at the Kalamazoo County Center and Fairgrounds, 2900 Lake Street, Lakamazoo, Michigan. The theme will be "Gems and Minerals of the Midwest".

There will be both competitive and non-competitive display cases, working demonstrations, programs, silent auctions and numerous special events. Wholesale and retail dealers will be in separate display halls.

For further information contact Show Chairman, Kitty Starbuck, 7636 V Avenue East, Vicksburg, MI 49097

- via MWF Newsletter



Our youngest son, Greg made up this "word puzzle" one evening and I decided it would be excellent for our December bulletin. It doesn't pertain to rocks, but in reality everyone's life begins with Christmas. That's what it's all about.

See if you can find all 30 words.

```

Q W B E T H L E H E M E R T Y N U
I O P A S D F G H J K L T S E Z F
P X R E I N D E E R C H T E V R L
J B E N A M S T F I G G W G E R C
E Q U S T M U X R I D S N T P O K
R Y E Q E X E B L N A A Z R P Y S
U N R I O N B N A M M W R E Q Z D
S Z G V Q W T D T O Y S P E W O R
A E R T Y J E S U S P T W B V Q E
L W E P O R I W Q N B A W T U P H
E P E N H R M F G O W R Y V H A P
M I N B H O L L Y W I S E M E N E
Q W E C R T Y U A I O P L K J G H
Q W R P E E H S N O W F L A K E S
E I A S D F L O A Z X C V B N L M
B H J K L E Q W L N W E R T E O P
Y U I O E P L K J Y T Q W I X C V
A K E P A S D F G H J A G Z X C V
B N S I L E N T N I G H T V B C X

```

Christmas
Holly
Ornaments
Reindeer
Santa
Presents
Toys
Tree
Lights
Snow

Jesus
"Red and Green"
Snowflakes
Evergreen
Gifts
Wisemen
Shepherds
Sheep
Star
Manger

Sleigh
"Silent Night"
Bethlehem
Crib
Sky
Asleep
Flocks
Holy
Jerusalem
Bright



MERRY CHRISTMAS!
- Submitted by Greg Lyman

Merry Christmas

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. Bette Smith, 10607 Mary Ann, Zeeland, MI 49464. All subscription orders should be sent to Parrot Printing Service, 2125 Forest Ave., Des Moines IA 50311.

**PRESIDENT**

Mrs. DIANE DARE
747 E. Blackford Ave.
Svansville, IN 47713

1st VICE-PRESIDENT

REX WEBB
2600 W. 87th St.
Bloomington, MN 55431

2nd VICE-PRESIDENT

JAMES EDWARDS
306 Somonauk
Park Forest, IL 60466

SECRETARY

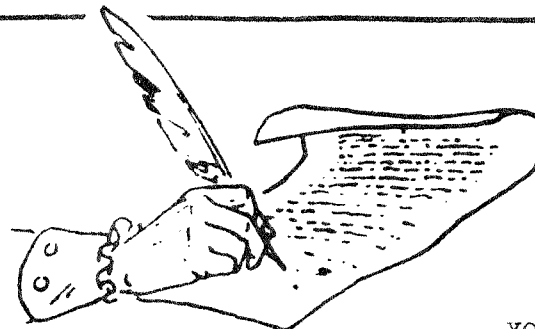
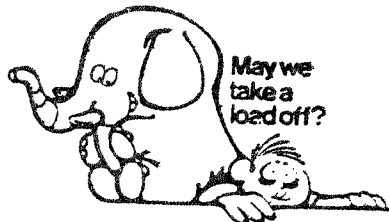
MISS JEAN REYNOLDS
107 Tuttle Ave.
Clarendon Hills, IL 60514

TREASURER

WILLIAM PARCH
P.O. Box 180
Fountain City, WI 54629

DECEMBER 1982 - Issue No. 229

Mr. Program Chairman!



PRESIDENT - DIANE DARE

YOUR

The Midwest Federation has a film library. All programs are 35mm slides and free to all Midwest clubs. Try to order 60 days in advance, give three choices and try to return UPS. If that is not possible use a piece of strapping tape all the way around. Uncle Sam's sorting machines are rough on cloth tape.

We have two new programs for you:

#121 - Cahokia Prehistoric Legacy. A new archaeology program on the Cahokia "Dig". Cahokia is in southern Illinois, and is the largest prehistoric Indian site in North America. These 74 slides gives us an interesting history of life in our land just before the white man. This program was produced by Cahokia Mound Branch of Illinois Department of Conservation and edited by DICK ADE, our own Federation Archaeology Chairman.

#122 - New Zealand Adventure. Pack up your bags and join LUCILLE BISHOP, Missouri State Director in her adventure in New Zealand. Keep your business meetings short to save time for these 165 slides about rock-hunting and sight seeing in this interesting country.

LOUISE STINNETT, MWF Program Chairman

NEW INDIANA ASSISTANT STATE DIRECTOR

JOSEPH A PLYMATE
P.O. Box 247
Fairland, Indiana 46126

The American astronomer ANDREW ELLICOTT DOUGLAS (1867-1962) had an interest in the sun, which led to an interest in climate, which in turn led to a study of tree ring patterns in Arizona petrified woods. Wherever your interest in earth sciences leads you, these committees can help.

- Archaeology - GLEN R. HANNING, R.R., Huntsville, IL 62344
- Paleontology - PAUL CAPONERA, 2330 Collins Street, Blue Island, IL 60406
- Mineralogy - WILLIAM COOK, 684 Quilliams Rd., Cleveland Heights, OH 44121
- Geology - ARMIN STEINHAUSER, 1397 Chelmsford St., St. Paul, MN 55108
- Lapidary Arts - LARRY CASEY, P.O. Box 146, Batavia, IL 60510
- Micromounts - DAN BEHNKE, 2981 Landwehr Rd., Northbrook, IL 60062
- South Dakota State Director - ASHTON WILSON, 1017 N. Walts Ave., Sioux Falls, S.D. 57104
- Wisconsin State Director - MARY BOLAND, 2211 Valley Road, Lacrosse, WI 54601

These Chairmen, and their assistants, have an interest in your interest!

NEW PROGRAM AIDS MANUAL

It has been years since we published a new Program Aids Manual. A new one is now in the process. All our programs will be described, and, with your cooperation a list of available speakers. If we do not hear from you as to a speakers list, it will not be published! We have made attempts to get help in this effort, with very little response. If you don't help us, we can not help you. Please send any information on speak-

...next page - second column

Convention News

CAMPING - Near all activities. Dumping station, ice and bottled gas will be available on the premises. On grass, with shade trees. Water and electrical hookups.

FOOD SERVICE - Full service meals, breakfast, lunch and dinner. Real ice cream, cones and sundaes. Pop corn wagon. Sandwich and snack wagon. Open-pit chicken barbecue and square dance.

MOTELS - Discounts for Show and Convention guests at 7 nearby motels when reservations are made on the "Mineralogical Housing Bureau" form which will be in the show packet.

HEADQUARTERS MOTEL - Holiday Inn Expressway.

SUNDAY MORNING - Old-fashioned hymn sing.

SHOW PACKETS - Available after January 1, 1983.

GROUNDS - Kalamazoo County Center and Fairgrounds, easily accessible from I-94.

HOSPITALITY ROOM - For sitting and visiting, informal get-togethers, information on Kalamazoo attractions, malls, restaurants, winery tours and general sight seeing.

SHIRLEY CARROLL, Publicity Chairman MWF
Show and Convention (1983)

ENVIRONMENTALLY SPEAKING

Conservation is the wise use of our natural resources. Two important elements for good quality of life are clean air and clean water. Laws written in the early 1970's are being revised this year by Congress. Increased knowledge on the part of Federation members about air pollutants, acid rain, water contaminants, and toxic waste disposal will make us all informed citizens. Other legislation to be acted on this year includes rights for mineral and oil exploration in our western park lands and use of off-road vehicles in these areas. Become informed and write your congressman on your views.

JOHN BOLAND, Environmental Committeeman

FIELD TRIP: An impossible trip, to an inaccessible place, for non-existent specimens.
via Chips & Facets

PROGRAM AIDS MANUAL - continued

ers or program material outside the Federation framework to:

ARTHUR MILLARD, 10298 Ford, Zion IL 60097 or

JOAN RUGGINSKI, 6741 Alcott, Hammond, IN 46223

These two people will be doing the hard part of assembling material for what could prove to be very helpful to all clubs.

Submitted by LOUISE STINNETT

DID YOU KNOW????? FACTS ABOUT THE MWF...

MWF members include adult societies (which may include juniors), junior societies (must have an adult sponsor), and individual members.

Official Magazine of the Midwest Federation is ROCKS AND MINERALS, a first-class bi-monthly publication. Subscription information is in the Directory.

The Lapidary Arts Committee promotes lapidary aspects of the hobby and seeks to upgrade the lapidary work of the members.

The Geology Committee acts as liaison between the hobbyist and the professional geologist.

The Program Committee has the responsibility of caring for slide programs and distributing them to authorized users. This committee works closely with the Education Committee, who reviews and approves all new programs.

On the twelfth day of Christmas, my true love gave to me,
Twelve tumblers tumbling, eleven perfect spear points,
Ten diamond saw blades..... nine crystal clusters,
Eight agate nodules, seven sheets of silver,
Six sapphire "star" stones, five golden rings.
Four fluorescent lamps, three gem books, two trilobites,
AND A BRANCH FROM A PETRIFIED TREE!

..via Chips & Facets, bulletin of the Miami Mineral & Gem Society

ACCORDING TO SCRIBE...

How to acknowledge Exchange bulletin articles, that is when several bulletins have been listed, or when it comes from the Lapidary Journal.

Say "from the First Bulletin" via "The last Bulletin". Also "From Many Bulletins" is being used a lot.

Editor, Fall issue - RUBY MEYER, Oxnard, CA

Merry Christmas

PATRONIZE YOUR ADVERTISING DEALERS

MEXICAN MINERALS - SLABS - TUMBELED STONES

Everett Lapidary Shop

THE CAPITOL CITY'S FIRST ROCK SHOP

2941 North 65th

PHONE 466-6204



AUTHORIZED DEALER FOR ALL LAPIDARY EQUIPMENT

"Satisfied Customers Are Our Best Advertisement"

J J & L ROCKS & MINERALS

"Supplies for the novice to the discriminating Rock Hound"

(402) 792-2337

Shop at 330 Locust, Hickman, Ne.

Mail order & Free Catalog, Box 68, Hickman, Ne. 68372

Jim Marburger

John Harrison

CUSTOM CUTTING
FOSSILS

ROUGH
MINERALS
SPECIMENS

CABACHONS
FINDINGS
SLABS

FINISHED JEWELRY
SUPPLIES

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 \$15.00 per full page per insertion, paid in advance. 1/2 page \$7.50, 1/3 page \$5.00 1/4 page \$3.75 (min). These ads will be placed throughout the bulletin as space permits.

Subscriptions to THE PICK & SHOVEL are \$5.00 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 Christmas Party, December 11, 1982
Nebraska Center 6:00 P.M.

WHAT MAKES CHRISTMAS?

The Creator makes Christmas possible;
Friends make Christmas beautiful;
Music makes Christmas festive;
Giving makes Christmas joyous;
Love makes Christmas complete.

I hope all these things are a part of your Christmas
to make it a truly happy one.

MERRY CHRISTMAS!

Vera

Lincoln Gem & Mineral Club
Box 5342
Lincoln, Nebraska 68505-0342



**BULK RATE
U. S. POSTAGE
PAID
LINCOLN, NE
PERMIT NO. 789**

Exchange Editor: Vera Lyman
420 N. 56th St.
Lincoln, NE 68504

Edward Ridge
2507 A St.
Lincoln, NE 68502