

# THE PICK & SHOVEL



January  
1984

In this issue

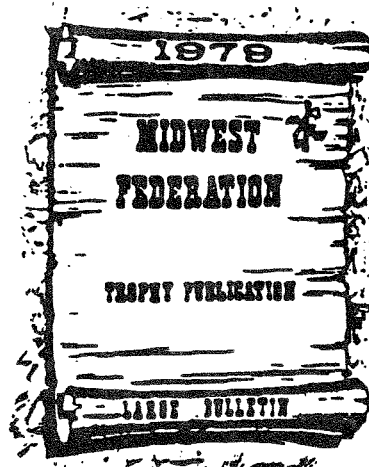
....Letter and M.S. thesis in progress

BIRTHSTONES CHART

January Birthstone - GARNET

IT DID SNOW - - MORE MAY COME

Junior Page



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

1984 ELECTED OFFICERS:

President	.....Howard Taylor, Jr.	910 New Hampshire	Lincoln, 68508	476-3707
1st Vice Pres....	Claude Scott	4917 Normal Blvd.	Lincoln, 68506	488-0739
2nd Vice Pres....	James Null	6515 Fremont	Lincoln, 68507	467-2763
Secretary.....	Vera Lyman	420 N. 56th St.	Lincoln, 68504	464-6089
Treasurer.....	Phyllis Parks	2435 S. 19th St.	Lincoln, 68502	476-6798
Board Member....	Linda Parks	2435 S. 19th St.	Lincoln, 68502	476-6798
Board Member....	Jim Stewart	1339 Eastridge Dr.	Lincoln, 68510	489-2867
Board Member....	Marie Taylor	910 New Hampshire	Lincoln, 68508	476-3707
Board Member....	Janet Wright	3715 S. 33rd St.	Lincoln, 68506	488-1884

NOMINATING COMMITTEE -- 3 years: Jim Parks, Ervin Marshall  
2 years: Richard Haney, Wilfred Wittman  
1 year: Vera Lyman, Frank Rule  
Roger Pabian, Chairman

LONG RANGE PLANNING AND BY LAWS COMMITTEE:

1 year - Jim Parks, Phyllis Parks      3 years - John Abel, Roger Pabian  
2 years - Marie Taylor, Vera Lyman      Roger Pabian, Chairman

STANDING COMMITTEE CHAIRPEOPLE:

Calling.....	Marie Taylor	Membership.....	Linda Parks
	Phyllis Parks, Marie Wells	MWF Liaison.....	Marie Taylor
Education/Publicity...	Roger Pabian	Programs.....	James Null
Historian.....	John & Lillie Lewis	Scholarship.....	Marie Taylor
Hospitality.....	Susan Taylor	1984 Rockhound-of-yr..	Roger Pabian
Housing/Property.....	Claude Scott	1984 Annual Show.....	Roger Pabian
Junior Activities.....	Ron McColery	1985 Annual Show.....	
	Janet Wright	Christmas Party.....	Marie Taylor
Librarian.....	Jim Parks		

AUDITING COMMITTEE 1983.....Virginia Green, Vera Lyman,  
Ervin Marshall, Phyllis Parks, Treas.

PICK & SHOVEL STAFF:

Editor.....Judy McColery      2928 S St. Lincoln, NE 68503  
Asst. Editor.....Vera Lyman      420 N. 56th St. Lincoln, NE 68504 (NAOESCI)  
Sunshine Corner..Susan Taylor  
Reporters.....Julius Young, Roger Pabian, "CLUB MEMBERS"

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.

## Club Calendar

GENERAL MEETING: Saturday, January 28, 1984 at 7:30 P.M. following the Mid Winter Swap.

Mid-Winter Swap beginning at 12:00 Noon to 6:00 P.M. on Saturday, January 28, 1984.

Three silent auctions at 1:00 P.M., 3:00 P.M. and at 7:00 P.M. Please bring your donations.

PROGRAM: Montezuma Agates from Mexico presentation by Roger Pabian

BOARD MEETING: Thursday, February 2, 1984 7:30 P.M.  
910 New Hampshire

SPECIAL NOTE: The club's 29th birthday will be observed at our January General Meeting. Cake and coffee will be served

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### AREA SHOWS AND SWAPS:

January 28	Mid-Winter Rock Swap Lincoln Gem & Mineral Club 33rd & Holdrege
February 11	Mid-Winter Swap Homestead Gem & Mineral Club 6th & Elk Beatrice, NE
Mar. 31-Apr. 1	Lincoln Gem & Mineral Club 26th Annual Show
April 21-22	Central Rock & Mineral Club Show Hastings, NE
May 5-6	100th Meridian - Cozad Swap At Lexington, NE

## Regional Show Schedule

CALIFORNIA	EASTERN	MIDWEST	NORTHWEST	ROCKY MOUNTAIN	SOUTH CENTRAL
San Diego	Tidewater Beach, VA	Milwaukee Wisconsin	Anchorage Alaska	Tulsa, OK	Waco, TX
July 12-15	Aug. 10-12	July 5-8		June 8-10	March 30-31 April 1

# HAPPY NEW YEAR

Hello from the Sunshine Corner!

Friendship is a chain of gold  
Shaped in God's all-perfect mold;  
Each link a smile, a laugh, a tear,  
A touch of the hand, a word of cheer.

-Anonymous



\* \* \* \* \*

Get well cards have been sent to Florence Boring,  
George McGinnis and Rev. Raymond Pfeiffer.

Suze Sunshine

\* \* \* \* \*

SIGNS OF WINTER

I see the signs of winter,  
A few leaves are beginning to fall  
And up in the sky, out of sight  
I hear the wild geese call.

So soon there'll be frost on the pumpkin  
As the sumac is already turning red,  
The birds and squirrels are gathering nuts  
So that in the winter, they will be fed.

I don't relish the oncoming winter  
With its frost and sleet and snow,  
But with everything there is a season  
Whether we like it or no.

Irene Wylie  
THE HOUNDS TALE  
Nov. 1983



\* \* \* \* \*

FRIENDSHIP--hath the skill and observation of the best  
physician, the diligence and vigilance of the best nurse,  
and the tenderness and patience of the best Mother.

Edward Clarendon  
G. I. NUGGET  
Sept.-Oct. 1983

\* \* \* \* \*

"The greatest artist was once a beginner."  
FARMERS DIGEST

## President's Message

1984 is off to a very good start as far as the administration of our club is concerned. I have been able to fill all committee slots with capable people who are eager to begin their assignments. Committee assignments are listed inside of the front cover of our bulletin. You will notice many reassignments and several new assignments.

This year will be an active year for our club as was 1983. We will host our 26th Annual Gem & Mineral Show on March 31 and April 1, 1984. Work is coming along quite well but as always there is a lot of work that needs to be done and a lot of people are needed to do it. Our Show Chairman, Roger Pabian, will be giving us reports as work on the show continues.

This year will also be special for our Junior members because we are renewing our Junior Activities program. Ron McColery and Janet Wright will be in charge and they are organizing an interesting program. I sincerely hope that many of the Adult members of our club will help in this very special project.

The January meeting will be preceded by our Annual Mid-Winter Swap. The swap will be held in the Scottsbluff and Minden rooms of the Nebraska Center at 33rd & Holdrege. The swap will begin at 12:00 o'clock noon and run until 6:00 P.M. Swapper bucks will be available. Silent Auctions will be held during the afternoon and another will be held during the meeting in the evening. Proceeds from the swap and silent auctions will go to our Scholarship fund. The cost of admission will be a rock donation to the silent auctions.

The January meeting will be the 29th Birthday of our club. Cake and coffee will be served. A special program has been planned for this meeting. It is a brand new slide program prepared by Roger Pabian and is being shown for the very first time. I hope all members will join us for a fun day.

Please remember, 1984 membership dues were due on January 1, 1984 and will become delinquent if not paid by January 31, 1984. Dues may be paid to our Treasurer, Phyllis Parks at the meeting, or can be mailed to LGMC, PO. Box 5342, Lincoln, NE., 68502-5342.

Jim

\* \* \* \* \*

GEM is 95 Carats

Moscow (AP) -Miners in the Yakutia Republic of Eastern Siberia have found a 95-carat diamond of rare beauty.

The Lincoln Star

Mon. Nov. 7, 1983

Submitted by V. Lyman, CM

# LAST MEETING

There was no general meeting in December. We had our Christmas Party December 9, 1983 with a good turn out. Everyone seemed to have a good time. The program was presented by Jim Landon and the program was entitled "Identifying Petrified Wood."

The January general meeting is planned for January 28, 1984 following our Mid-Winter Swap. Plan to attend. An interesting program is planned.

A reminder that our dues are due on January 1, 1984 and become delinquent on January 31, 1984.

\* \* \* \* \*

# EDITOR'S CORNER

## RECIPE FOR A HAPPY YEAR

- 2 Cups of Friendship
- 4 Cups of Love
- 2 Cups of Forgiveness
- 3 Cups of Loyalty
- 3 Spoons of Tenderness
- 5 Spoons of Hope
- 6 Quarts of Faith
- 2 Barrels of Laughter

Take Friendship and Love and mix them with Tenderness. Blend thoroughly with Loyalty; add Hope and Faith. Sprinkle with Forgiveness. Serve with abundant Laughter.

via Slab & Gab  
Jan. 1982



\* \* \* \* \*

I hope everyone has a Happy, Healthy, and Prosperious 1984.

JUDY

# SILENT AUCTIONS

## SATURDAY JAN. 28, 1984

AUCTIONS WILL BEGIN AT: 1:00 P.M.  
3:00 P.M.  
7:00 P.M.

(Held in conjunction with Rock Swap)

Claude Scott, Chairman

Meeting called to order by President, Jim Taylor at 7:30 P. M.  
December 1, 1983 at the Taylor home. 6 Board Members and Vera Lyman  
present.

Minutes of November meeting read. Motion Florence Boring, 2nd Glen  
Lyman minutes be approved. Motion carried.

Treasurers report given by Phyllis Parks. Motion Claude Scott 2nd  
Florence Boring report be approved. Motion carried.

Paid Bills presented for approval:

\$ 26.19 Vera Lyman, mailing P & S, November  
30.00 Nebraska Center, rental  
42.74 Nebraska Center, refreshments

Motion Claude Scott, second Glen Lyman that these bills be approved.  
Motion carried.

Bills presented for payment:

\$ 14.40 Susan Taylor (18 cards & postage)

Motion Florence Boring second Claude Scott this bill be approved for  
payment. Motion carried.

Preapproved Show expense for show flyer pasteup original & printing-  
reimbursement- to Roger Pabian. (\$17.80)

LGMC will be receiving a refund of \$25.00 erroneously paid to  
Lincoln Center Association.

No old Business

Roger Pabian has contacted Jim Landon who will present a slide program  
on identification of petrified woods, at the Christmas party.

New Business:

Suggestion that an Honorarium be presented to Jim Landon at the Christmas  
party to go toward his research. Motion of Florence Boring that \$25.00  
Honorarium fund be presented to Jim Landon. Second by Phyllis Parks.  
Motion carried.

Motion Florence Boring second Claude Scott that LGMC reimburse Adeline  
Nolde \$20.00 paid to Dr. Erbach. Motion carried.

Motion Phyllis Parks, 2nd Florence Boring that Midwest Federation dues  
be paid for '84. Motion carried.

Approval sought for '84 payment of Postal Bulk mailing permit & Post  
Office box. Motion made by Glen Lyman, 2nd Claude Scott that these  
two bills be paid. (Bulk permit \$40.00, Box rental approximately \$26.00)

Gilbert Lueninghoener has made application for membership. This member-  
ship approved by voice vote. Michael A. Smith applied for membership.  
Motion Claude Scott, second Glen Lyman this membership be approved.  
Motion carried.

Announcements:

Board Meeting to be held January 5, 1984 at 7:30 P. M. at the Taylor home.  
Motion Florence Boring second Glen Lyman meeting be adjourned. Meeting  
adjourned.

Respectfully submitted, Secretary, Gail Clare Scott

1101 Illinois Street  
Golden, CO 80401  
November 25, 1983

Lincoln Gem and Mineral Club, Inc.  
attention Phyllis Parks  
P.O. Box 5342  
Lincoln, Nebraska 68505

Dear Phyllis,

Everything is going pretty well here at the Colorado School of Mines. My second semester of graduate study will be completed in just three weeks. I hope to ski for a few days after finals and then head back to Lincoln for Christmas.

Enclosed is a check for my 1984 adult member dues (\$5.00). I am also enclosing a copy of my thesis progress report. Perhaps some of the club members are interested in this brief summary of my thesis problem.

Have a Merry Christmas and please convey my wish for a Merry Christmas to my fellow club members. - Thanks!

Sincerely,

Lee J. Pivonka

GEOLOGIC AND GEOCHEMICAL STUDIES OF  
MINERALIZATION ON MARYLAND MOUNTAIN,  
GILPIN COUNTY, COLORADO

M.S. thesis in progress

by

Lee J. Pivonka  
Colorado School of Mines

A geochemical study of the base and precious metal mineralization on the southern portion of Maryland Mountain is being carried out. The objectives of this study are to characterize the geochemical dispersion haloes around vein structures and to develop geochemical exploration models for the base and precious metal veins in this area.

Surveying methods were used to precisely locate all pits and alteration structures in the area at a scale of 1 inch equals 100 feet. Surface geochemical soil sample stations were accurately located in three detailed sampling traverses oriented perpendicular to the vein structures. A sample interval of 10 feet was used where the sampling line crossed observed surface vein structures, and 25 feet where vein structures were not observed.

The 218 soil samples collected have been prepared for analysis and separated into -10 to +60, -80, and -250 standard mesh size fractions. A sulfide-extraction method (MAGIC) has recently been developed by Clark and Viets (1981). This method was developed to separate a maximum number of trace elements (including Pd, Pt, Cu, Ag, Au, Zn, Cd, Hg, Ga, In, Tl, Sn, Pb, As, Sb, Bi, Se, and Te) from interfering matrices. It also provides lower detection limits for these elements than previously achievable by routine techniques. Atomic absorption spectroscopic methods will be used to analyze the extracted trace elements in solution.

Statistical analysis of trace element concentration data will indicate what effects mining activity contamination and steep-slope dispersion have had upon the geochemical signature of the veins. Most importantly, results obtained from this study will determine the utility of detailed surficial geochemical exploration methods in this district. Considering favorable results, these methods might be used to locate veins which have been projected into an area, but which are not visible at the surface.

Lee J. Pivonka  
1101 Illinois Street  
Golden, CO 80401

(303) 278-2347

BIRTHSTONES TRADITIONALLY USED IN DIFFERENT CULTURES

A table of birthstones displayed in the California Academy of Sciences museum in San Francisco last summer was the source of this information. --Florence M. Boring

Month	Jewish	Arabian	Roman	Polish	Italian	Russian	Modern
January	garnet	garnet	garnet	garnet	jacinth garnet	hyacinth garnet	garnet
February	amethyst	amethyst	amethyst	amethyst	amethyst	amethyst	amethyst
March	jasper	bloodstone	bloodstone	bloodstone	jasper	jasper	aquamarine bloodstone
April	sapphire	sapphire	sapphire	diamond	sapphire	sapphire	diamond
May	chalcedony carnelian agate	emerald	agate	emerald	agate	emerald	emerald
June	emerald	pearl chalcedony agate	emerald	chalcedony agate	emerald	chalcedony agate	pearl moonstone alexandrite
July	onyx	carnelian	onyx	ruby	onyx	sardonyx ruby	ruby
August	cornelian	cornelian	cornelian	sardonyx	cornelian	alexandrite	peridot sardonyx
September	cryosite	cryosite	sardonyx	sardonyx	cryosite	cryosite	sapphire
October	aquamarine	aquamarine	aquamarine	aquamarine	beryl	beryl	tourmaline opal
November	topaz	topaz	topaz	topaz	topaz	topaz	citrine topaz
December	ruby	ryby	ruby	ruby	turquoise	chrysophrase turquoise	zircon lapis turquoise

Jacinth and hyacinth seem to be a description of color rather than a designation of a particular gemstone, a precious stone of reddish blue or deep purple color. Jacinth is supposed by some to be the same stone as the ligure, the first stone of the third row of Aaron's breastplate.

Cornelian is a variant spelling of carnelian.

Chryosite is a stone I have not yet been able to identify. F.M.B.

The following is a small article about January's birthstone-GARNET

The garnet species with red or purple varieties, including pyrope, almandine, and a variety intermediate between these two, called rhodolite, are considered gemstones. Pyrope is intense red, orange-red, brownish-red, and red-brown in color; almandine is dark red and purplish red to reddish-purple; and rhodolite is purplish-red to rose red. Pyropes and rhodolites are usually free from flaws, whereas almandines are likely to contain flaws. Fine pyropes have been used as gems by royalty and the combined brilliance and fine purplish color of rhodolite have produced some exquisite transparent gemstones. Garnets can be faceted, and those of deep color are fashioned as cabochons and are called carbuncles. Gem-quality pyrope comes from Arizona and Utah; almandine from Alaska and Idaho; and rhodolite from North Carolina. Foreign sources include Australia, Ceylon, Czechoslovakia, South Africa and South America.

from THE AUDUBON SOCIETY FIELD GUIDE to  
North American Rocks and Minerals

# HINT: \* \* \* \* \*

Most tumbling instructions tell you how much grit or polish to use per lb. of rock, and this is almost always given in ounces. That is fine, but most people don't have an ounce scale around, so measuring one or more ounces presents a problem. The following is an easy way to arrive at ounces, based on a standard measuring spoon. Start out with a rounded spoonful and level with a blade of a straight edge kitchen knife.

- Coarse, medium or fine grit 1 oz. = 4 level teaspoons
- Polish powder 1 oz. = 8 level teaspoons

from S.I.E.S. Club News via Smoke Signals  
via Rock Talk  
Nov. 1983

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## safety

Protect yourself from flying chips while using your hand-held chisel. Use a clean plastic food container cover. Make an x slit in the cover, insert the chisel through the slit. The cover will act as a shield so the chips can't fly and hit your eyes as you hit the chisel with your rock hammer.

via OSAGE HILLS GEM  
THE GEMROCK  
Nov. 1983

IT DID SNOW - - MORE MAY COME

The title may read like a replay of the recent December issue, but I hope readers may forgive that. The subject seems to still be in order, and in my 85 years of recollection I have much to relate. The kind editors allow me a variety of topics, not necessarily related to our great hobby. See February, 1983 issue.

I shall dwell mostly on previous generations' stories. My paternal grandfather, Andrew Young Sr., his young wife and their baby son Andrew Jr. (my father), in 1856 "covered-wagoned" their way from Columbus, Ohio to the primitive Nebraska Territory. They drove horses, not the plodding oxen. In Iowa they lost one horse, and arrived in the little village of Omaha with only one horse-power, but still "front drive." (in latter years nine more children were born to them.)

Grandfather purchased several building lots, intending to re-enter the mercantile business in time to "have his shingle out" before the railroad some day might come through, and Omaha would grow and prosper. Erroneous reports that the railroad would cross the Missouri River near Tekamah, about 45 miles upstream, long before one would pass through Omaha, induced him to dispose of the lots at once. (Omaha's Hilton today is located about in the same area!) The family then moved up the river and acquired frontage near the proposed railroad crossing. The railroad never came, but the river did; and took the land.

In late autumn Grandpa hewed logs for a cabin and chinked it with mud, using his bare hands, without a trowel. He hauled household supplies from Omaha by hand-drawn sled on the frozen Missouri River, according to family records. No corner grocery nor supermarket in the "good old days." Native Americans, not always friendly, were near neighbors. Winters were long and rough; and weather reports unknown.

A few years later my mother, as a baby, came with her parents to the same area near Tekamah, from the Icarian French Colony at Nauvoo, Illinois, diverted from the Pikes Peak Gold Rush at St. Joseph, Mo. I remember the tale of their thatch-roof prairie cabin burning down in a fierce winter night - the fireplace over-functioned. They later rebuilt in Tekamah with home-made bricks; the house still stands.

The hardship tales seem almost incredible, but they were true. One neighbor boy drowned in the old Tekamah Lake when he dashed on horseback through darkness to summon a doctor. That ancient Missouri River oxbow is now dry land.

My parents with their first-born of nine later (I am No. 9), left the "Arizona Bottom" east of Tekamah and settled east of Oakland, north of Craig. Father's family later moved to the

IT DID SNOW - - MORE MAY COME - continued

same neighborhood. I faintly remember their account of the Great Blizzard of January 12, 1888, a real killer. I recall another story told by my father of the upsetting of his bobsled at night and losing the doubletree pin in a deep snowdrift, a vital link in the power-train from horses to sled.

I don't remember how he got out of that predicament, but I know he had no C.B., and there was no other traffic that night. He probably had a previously heated soapstone (steatite) foot warmer for comfort before the upset. I remember his heavy buffalo skin overcoat, headgear, mittens and similar laprobe. Some drivers carried a lighted lantern under their robe; a rather dangerous practice. His driving teams always wore tone-matched sleigh bells, audible for great distance through the crisp night air. Horses were usually well-shod to avoid slipping on icy roads. Some horseshoes had steel pegs called "never slips"; the forerunner of studded tires. Draft horses needed a heavier, different type of shoe. All were great masterpieces of the village blacksmith's art.

Drunken driving was a problem, but not like it is today. One of our neighbors usually imbibed too freely while in one or more of Oakland's saloons. The last bar-keep would strap him in his vehicle, untie his trusty team from the hitching posts and head them down main street in his home direction. They always took him safely over the 5-mile stretch, even after dark and in wintry weather; a marvel of "horse-sense" and devotion - bless 'em!

Square dances were common in rural halls in winter. The "music" was usually by local "talent", and some of it was expert. One night while a near-blizzard raged outside our large farm home we heard a feeble knock on one of the many outer doors. Father opened it with caution and in a puff of fine snow recognized a poorly-clad well known fiddler clutching his violin in his arms. It was no "Stradivarius", but after the man was warmed up with hot coffee and doughnuts we enjoyed a concert by the errant, slightly tipsy fiddler. He had lost his way on foot after playing at the "Bucktown Hall". He got off the beam in the storm. His ears were frozen stiff, but he would be O.K. by next square dance.

There is much exaggeration about old time blizzards, but here is a true story of one that struck "Wayne State Normal" where I was a student in the late teens, both the calendar's and mine. The drifts on campus blocked the way to several buildings. A tunnel was cut through to one girls' dormitory and lasted for weeks before it melted to the status of a "cut". That storm was more than "just a heavy frost". I have photos to prove it!

- Submitted by J.D. Young

ATTENTION!! ATTENTION!!

We are excited with the announcement of the beginning of a program for Junior Club Members. Starting with the January Pick & Shovel, the LG&MC bulletin will have an additional page for the Junior Rock Hounds of the LG&MC. Some of the material on this page will include puzzles like seek & find on rocks, etc., articles done by our Junior members, information on their involvement in upcoming swaps and shows (displays), and many other things. Starting with the February meeting the Juniors will meet prior (1/2 hour to 45 minutes) for a program involving many LG&MC hobbies.

You say why the Juniors and why now?

As has been reported in several magazines and noted in many clubs, the involvement of young people in not only rock hounding, but the earth sciences as well seems to be falling off. In an attempt to bring more of an interest to our younger members the LG&MC decided to start a Junior program. As for why now? WHY NOT?? Most unfortunately they're not Juniors for long.

My own interest in the LG&MC began because of a Junior Rock Hound, my son needed a collection of rocks for a scouting achievement. He soon involved the whole family in gathering rocks for his collection. Later, with my agreement, a rock talk at his school was planned. It was decided that Mrs. Janet Wright and I would meet at Hartley School on December 19, 1983. Janet, having attended the University Geology classes gave a very interesting report. Not only on the different types of geology, but geologist as well. The class was very interested in the different formations as well as the formations and type of rock that are in the Lincoln area. As luck would have it, my car failed and I ended up putting what I could in a sack to be displayed. As it turned out, the class was enthused with the idea of being able to pick up the rocks so they could feel and see them more clearly. It was brought to my attention that both 5th grade Hartley classes had combined just for our rock talk & display.

Scotts teacher, Mrs. Peterson, Mrs. Johnson and the classes thanked us for giving our time and we thanked them for their interest and their time as well.

Ronald L. McColery

\* \* \* \* \*

DUES ARE DUE

Lincoln Gem & Mineral Dues are due on January 1, 1984 and become delinquent on January 31, 1984. We will accept them anytime after November 1, at meetings, mailed to my address or to our post office box. Renewal is \$5.00 per adult, \$1.00 per junior, or \$11.00 for a family consisting of 2 adults and all children under 16. If dues become delinquent there is a \$1.00 re-registration fee.

Phyllis Parks

SEEK & FIND

ROCK HOUND

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

There are 53 different rocks and minerals in this puzzle. See how many you can find. HINT: Granite is in twice.

\* \* \* \* \*

Irradiated Gems - -

An article was submitted to me by Ewald Paul, CM for publication in the Pick & Shovel. It was entitled "Irradiated gems create new problems", and printed in the Lincoln Star. However, due to copyright restrictions, I am unable to print it in our bulletin.

It concerns the changing of the colors of gem stones by irradiation. It changes the investment value of many gem stones considerably because many times the color change is not permanent.

Anyone wishing to read this article further, please contact me and I will be happy to loan you the copy.

- Vera Lyman, Asst. Ed.

- Submitted by Ewald Paul, CM

## TEXAS

The largest of the conterminous 48 states has a great deal to offer the lapidary and collector. When Texas was annexed into the Union, it came in debt free; thus, all of the land is privately held with the exception of that in the National Park System. There is no public land there; thus, one must always request permission to do any rock collecting there.

The lapidary worker is probably most familiar with the plume agates from the Trans-Pecos region in west Texas. These agates have formed in Miocene age andesitic rocks. Most collectors are familiar with Woodward Ranch from where many of these agates have been taken. Although Woodward Ranch is best known, because it has been a fee locality for many years, several other ranches in the area have also produced large quantities of plume agate.

The natural history of these plume agates is covered in Andrejs Zarins MS Thesis, which is in the club library. The thesis is also available from University Microforms in Ann Arbor, Michigan, but the cost is not known to me. Zarins needed about 40 pages to cover this geological history and I will not try to condense it to two pages or less, but will refer the interested reader to the thesis.

One well known lapidary publication carries an article by an author who will remain anonymous. The author claims to have been the original discoverer of the plume agates in west Texas. The first report of these agates was actually made in about 1889 by Udden, a pioneer geologist in the west Texas Region. Plume agates from 18 miles south of Alpine, Texas, were displayed in the Texas Pavilion at the Trans-Mississippi Exposition in St. Louis in 1904.

Many cutters give up on plume agates, saying they never get any large plumes. Fine, long plumes in a clear matrix are scarce, but are not impossible to get. Most cutters, unfortunately, follow the path of least resistance and place the plume agate nodule in the saw vise in the short direction. The sad result is that the cut is perpendicular to the direction of the plumes. If one equates the plume agate nodule with a biscuit, one simply needs to cut the nodule in the same fashion one would cut a biscuit. If a plume is there, the plume will be recovered.

The plumes are almost always situated near the outside of the nodule. I usually tumble the nodules to remove all of the brownish rind. This leaves a translucent nodule that one can candle to see if plumes are present. I then block up the plume on a board and attach it with a strong, white glue such as Elmers' or any other strong, white construction glue. Allow the glue several days to dry all the way through. The plumes, of course, must be oriented parallel to the piece of wood onto which the agate nodule is attached. Place the block of wood into the saw vise and such that the nodule and the wood piece are parallel to the saw blade. Make the cut, but if the rock is hand fed, go slow and easy. Most of these nodules have quartz centers and can shatter with excess force. If the agate had a plume in it, the plume will be recovered. The agate that remains attached to the block can be removed by soaking it in water for several days. Patience is the key to plume recovery.

In addition to the fine plume agates, west Texas also has some very fine fortification agates. Agates with pisolites and sagenitic inclusions are also fairly common in west Texas, but these have been largely overlooked because of the fine plume agates.

Agates from the Trans-Pecos region have been caught up in the geological processes of weathering and erosion, resulting in many of these agates having been transported eastward in the Rio Grande, where the agates are found in gravel bars. The plumes are rather sensitive to the geological processes above and are usually destroyed during transportation, so few plume agates are found in the gravel deposits. The gravel deposits yield some fine picture agates and some fine moss agates. These agates are often advertised as Rio Grande Agates. They are quite solid and often make good cabochon material.

Petrified wood is common in Texas, but most of this occurs in the eastern part of the state. Much of this wood is found in the area around Madisonville, about 100 miles north of Houston. Some of this wood is rather spectacular; it is often opalized and several kinds are known to occur here.

Agatized or opalized palm wood has been found near Giddings, Somerville, and Caldwell, and also near Austin. The wood is often black on the inside but has a white exterior. Some of this wood is very nice and some rather large pieces including full rounds have been collected. This wood is found in Eocene age sedimentary rocks. It has been found in deposits extending into Louisiana and Mississippi but is best known from Texas.

Fine topaz has been found in the Llano Uplift of Central Texas. Some fine gems have been found near Streeter and Grit, in Mason County. The topaz occurs in place in Precambrian age granitic rocks but most of the gem material is derived from nearby stream deposits. Most of this topaz is either colorless or blue.

The Llano Uplift has caused to be exposed a considerable section of Pennsylvanian age sedimentary rocks. These rocks have yielded a large number of fossil crinoids. These fossils were first reported by R.C. Moore and F.B. Plummer in 1940. In 1969, H.L. Strimple and G.D. Watkins published a monograph on Texas crinoids and many of the specimens in their study came from the Llano Uplift.

Many exposures of Pennsylvanian sediments are found in north-central Texas. Many of these exposures yield a large variety of fossil species of brachiopods, crinoids, corals, snails, and ammonoids.

The Cretaceous strata of Texas is well known for a large variety of invertebrate and vertebrate fossils. Ammonites and echinoids are common, and a variety of shark teeth can be found in these strata. Many of these fossils come from a stratigraphic unit called the Austin Chalk,

The largest flying animal ever was found in Cretaceous strata in the Big Bend National Park. It is called a Pterosaur, and its' wing spread was about 30 feet.

Bring things from Texas for display.

Roger Pabian, Education

# Midwest Federations NEWSLETTER

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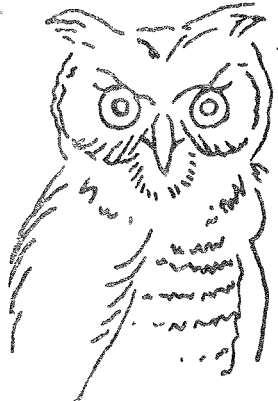
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JANUARY 1984 - Issue No. 240



The WISE OLD OWL says...

Each committee in the Midwest Federation has been set up as a service to our member clubs. There is a world of help ready for you when you need it.

One committee waiting to be of service is the Junior Act-Committee headed by Mrs. Virginia Popp of Chicago, Illinois. This committee works with clubs to set up Junior groups and to maintain interest of young people. Their goal is to provide leadership so that Junior members are active in our clubs.

This committee needs to know that you have a Junior program, if you need assistance, or if you're planning a Junior group. She will be able to provide you with advice.

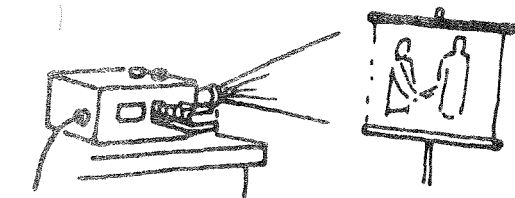
Remember, the Juniors that we are getting and holding now are the future of your club and of our hobby. They should be kept interested and should be instructed to the best of our ability.

My wife and I and the whole executive committee hope all of you had a very MERRY CHRISTMAS and HAPPY ROCKHOONDING for this New Year.

Rex Webb, President

## NEW SLIDE PROGRAMS ADDED TO MWF.....

New slide programs covering a number of subjects of interest to our clubs and their members are added to our program library and are now available.



STONEHENGE AND THE AVEBURY REGION by Carol Anderson, is a very serious indepth look at the ancient stone monuments

near Avebury, England. The analysis includes much historic fact and many fine slides of early drawings and interpretations.

COMMON ROCKS AND MINERALS from the American Museum of Natural History. This is a fine presentation about the rocks we see every day and those minerals that are usually right under our feet. This is a fine program for beginning rockhounds and juniors.

A VOLCANO IS BORN by Dr. Pough and obtained through the American Museum of Natural History. Dr. Pough was curator of physical geology at the American Museum at the time when the Paricutin erupted. The Mexican volcano was and continues to be a very unique phenomenon in that it provided scientists with a chance to see a volcano form from scratch, reach its zenith in eruption and then die.

IVORY AND IVORY SUBSTITUTES FOR CARVING AND SCRIMSHAW by Robert L. Mount of the Suburban Lapidary Club, Elmhurst, Illinois, the First place winner in the 1983 AFMS Slide competition. Object of this program is to stimulate greater use of fossil ivory and other materials in lieu of increase use of contemporary ivories for carving and scrimshaw. Good history of each item presented.

Margaret M. Pearson, Chairperson Education/Education Thru Sharing

**MEMBER NEWS:** The nominating committee has announced its selection of Mrs. Marian Parch, P.O. Box 180, Fountain City, Wisconsin 54629 to the MWF Scholarship Board of Selectors for 1983-1984.

Diane Dare, the immediate past-president, is the new AFMS Club Publications Chairman and, if she isn't already, would appreciate being put on the mailing lists for the clubs bulletins.



CHICAGO AREA PALEONTOLOGICAL SOCIETY (CAPS) of Blue Island, IL. This new club meets at 7:00 p.m. the second Saturday all 12 months of the year at 12812 S. Western, Blue Island, IL. Paul F. Caponera is the current President, 2330 Collins St., Blue Island, IL 60406. They publish the members papers, internally but have no club Bulletin.

ACTIVITIES IN ARCHAEOLOGY

As reported by the state assistants: Charles Pluth, Wisconsin - Students of Professor James Stoltzman of University of Wisconsin learned field research methods at a Woodland Indian site north of Prairie du Chien. Artifacts of the daily activities of the people were recovered from four successive periods of occupation ranging from about the time of Christ to approximately 600 A.D.

South of La Crosse, amateur archaeologists and students worked side by side in Mississippi Valley Archaeology Center's Project Discovery. This site may soon be covered by water in a Corps of Engineers flood control project.

Indiana (Newsletter of Wabash Valley Archaeological Society) - A small crew from Indiana University excavated the remains of a trash pit at the Fort Knox II site near Vincennes. Military items, everyday utensils and food remains found are now undergoing laboratory analysis and will eventually be returned to the site for display.

Five complete, articulated, extremely well-preserved skeletons of the extinct broad-headed peccary (*Platygonus compressus*) had been discovered (in 1976) at a depth of 22 feet while excavating a sewer trench south of Indianapolis. The deposits where the bones were found had formed along the disintegrating glacial margin about 16,000 to 17,000 years ago. This is only the second record of this species from Indiana, the first find was a fragment of a jaw found in Wabash County in 1885.

Angel Mounds State Memorial at Evansville

held Native American Days in August. Activities included a Storyteller, weaving, Indian dancers, face painting with Indian designs, Indian garden, flintknapping, pottery making, basketry, spinning, ground stone tool making and a dugout canoe demonstration.

More on Archaeology Activities next month..

Glen R. Hanning, Chairperson Archaeology

MICROMOUNTS

Dan Behnke's report at the MWF Show at Kalamazoo:

Most of the Micromounters are from the East or West coast where there are many more micro-minerals than here in the Midwest. We are trying to promote this part of the hobby. You have to have a love of Minerals to enjoy the beauty found in the Micro's. This is also true of Micro-fossils. We have micromounters in Michigan, Wisconsin and Illinois and are hoping to attract people from the other states. Tom Morris has a fine article in Rocks and Minerals. It is broken down by counties and is a guide to the minerals found in Michigan. I have an article in the Mineralogical Record on Micro-Minerals of the Copper Country.

ARCHIVES AND HISTORY

At the present there are eleven 4-drawer file cases full of the member clubs history, bulletins etc.

If your club has not sent in a history, or if 10 years or so, have passed since you sent one, an up-to-date history would be nice to have on file.

I wish to urge all clubs to elect or appoint an historian to keep all pictures, information on club activities, newspaper clippings and a copy of your monthly bulletins.

Members on my committee are Sheryl Caponera, Mary Edwards and Bill Myers.

The Long-Range Planning Committee is studying the feasibility of continuing the storing of bulletins, etc. of member clubs.

Betty Myers, Chairperson Archives and History

RINGS CAN BE DANGEROUS

Wearing a ring around electrical equipment, tools, ladders or moving machinery can result in a serious injury--including amputation of a finger. Avoid this hazard.



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Advertising by a rock-hobby business or interest is permitted with approval of the Board, at a rate now set at \$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--Mid-Winter Swap 12:00 Noon to 6:00 P.M.  
There will be three silent auctions at 1:00 P.M.,  
3:00 P.M. and 7:00 P.M. Please bring your rocks.

General Meeting following at 7:30 P.M. with  
cake and coffee in conjunction with the club's 29th birthday.  
This is to be held in the Scottsbluff-Minden Rooms at the  
Nebraska Center for Continuing Education

33rd & Holdrege Lincoln, Nebraska


PROGRAM: Montezuma Agates from Mexico presented by Roger Pabian  
Plan to attend.



**H.E.L.P.**

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