

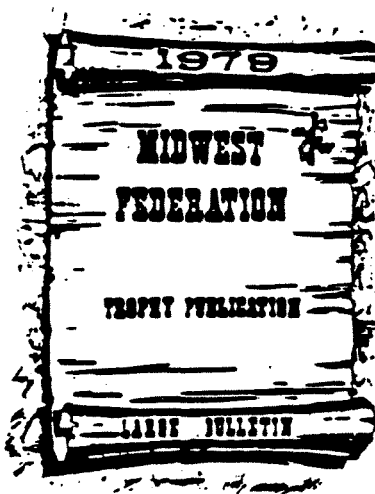
# THE PICK & SHOVEL



MAY  
1986

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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)  
Friends of the Museum

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

1986 ELECTED OFFICERS:

|                    |                   |                                  |          |
|--------------------|-------------------|----------------------------------|----------|
| President.....     | Linda Parks       | 2435 S. 19th St. Lincoln, 68502  | 476-6798 |
| 1st Vice Pres..... | Janet Wright      | 3715 S. 33rd St. Lincoln, 68506  | 488-1884 |
| 2nd Vice Pres..... | Kevin Schwartzman | 1134 West Avon Ln Lincoln, 68505 | 464-3059 |
| Secretary.....     | Vera Lyman        | 420 N. 56th St. Lincoln, 68504   | 464-6089 |
| Treasurer.....     | Phyllis Parks     | 2435 S. 19th St. Lincoln, 68502  | 476-6798 |
| Board Member.....  | Fred Holbert      | 2822 S. 13th St. Lincoln, 68502  | 423-5639 |
| Board Member.....  | Nelia Miller      | 1101 Rosewood Dr. Lincoln, 68510 | 489-6093 |
| Board Member.....  | Tom Simmons       | 2970 South St. Lincoln, 68502    | 488-1619 |
| Board Member.....  | Marie Taylor      | 910 New Hampshire Lincoln, 68508 | 476-3707 |

NOMINATING COMMITTEE -- 3 years: Irl Everett, Richard Miller  
2 years: Vera Lyman, John Lewis  
1 year: Jim Parks, Ervin Marshall  
Claude Scott, Chairman

LONG RANGE PLANNING AND BY-LAWS COMMITTEE:

1 year - John Abel, Roger Pabian  
2 years - Jim Taylor, Irl Everett  
3 years - Claude Scott, Phyllis Parks  
Claude Scott, Chairman

STANDING COMMITTEE CHAIRPEOPLE:

|                       |                     |                       |                   |
|-----------------------|---------------------|-----------------------|-------------------|
| All-American Award... | Janet Wright        | Librarian.....        | Jim Parks         |
| Calling.....          | Phyllis Parks       | Membership.....       | Shirley Rockel    |
|                       | Marie Wells         | MWF Liaison.....      | Marie Taylor      |
| Education.....        | Roger Pabian        | Programs.....         | Kevin Schwartzman |
| Field Trips.....      | Tom Simmons         | Publicity.....        | Roger Pabian      |
| Historian.....        | John & Lillie Lewis | Scholarships.....     | Marie Taylor      |
| Hospitality.....      | Ed Ridge            | XMAS Party.....       | Janet Wright      |
| Housing/Property..... | Claude Scott        | 1986 Rockhound/Yr.... | Janet Wright      |
| Jr. Activities.....   | Nelia Miller        | 1986 Annual Show....  | Fred Holbert      |
|                       | Janet Wright        | 1987 Annual Show....  | Jim Marburger     |

AUDITING COMMITTEE 1985.....Lois Everett, David Heffelbower,  
Ervin Marshall, Shirley Rockel,  
Phyllis Parks, Treas.

PICK & SHOVEL STAFF:

Editors.....Board of Directors  
Co-ordinator...Vera Lyman, 420 N. 56 St. Lincoln, NE 68504 (NAOESCI Reporter)  
Circulation....Dave Heffelbower  
Sunshine Corner....Gail Clare Scott  
Reporters....."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.

CALENDAR PAGE

GENERAL MEETING:      May 17, 1986, 7:30 p.m. (ONE WEEK EARLY!).  
Nebraska Center for Continuing Education, 33rd  
and Holdrege, the Norfolk Room.

This is a very important meeting so PLEASE COME!!

YOUTH MEETING:      7:00 p.m., May 17th, same place.

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1 9 8 6   S H O W S   &   S W A P S   F O R   Y O U R   C A L E N D A R

May 31-June 1   Swap.   Fort Butlers Rock Club, Hebron, NE.   Riverside  
Park

June 14-15   Swap.   Homestead Gem & Mineral Club, Beatrice, NE.   Chautauqua  
Park, 6th & Grable.

July 19-20   Show.   Loup Valley Gem & Mineral Society, Columbus, NE.  
East Hiway 30.

July 26-27   Swap.   Humbolt, NE.   City Park, south edge of town.

Aug. 2-3   Show.   Northeast NE Rock & Mineral Society, Norfolk, NE.  
N. 4th St. and Prospect Ave.

Sept. 6-7   STATE SHOW.   Kearney, NE.   Buffalo County Fairgrounds Ag.  
Bldg.

Sept. 13-14   STATE SWAP.   Crawford, NE.

Sept. 20-21   Show.   Kimball, NE.

Sept. 20-21   Show.   Omaha, NE.

1986 REGIONAL SHOW SCHEDULE

June 25-27   California Federation of Mineralogical Societies Show,  
Sacramento, CA.

July 17-20   Midwest Federation/American Federation Show, South Bend, IND.

August 8-10   Northwest Federation Show, Medford, OR.

Oct. 25-26   Eastern Federation Show, Warwick, RI.

Nov. 21-23   Rocky Mountain Show, Phoenix, AZ.

"HELLO" from the Sunshine Corner:

DARE TO BE HAPPY

Dare to be happy - don't shy away,  
Reach out and capture the joy of today !

Life is for living! Give it a try;  
Open your heart to that sun in the sky.

Dare to be loving, and trusting, and true;  
Treasure the hours, with those dear to you.

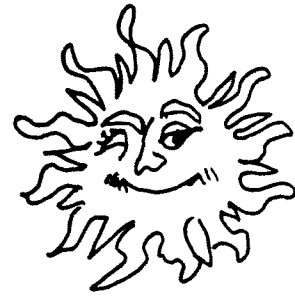
Dare to be kind - it's more fun than you know.  
Give joy to others, and watch your own grow.

Dare to admit all your blessings and then  
Every day count them all over again.

Dare to be happy, don't be afraid --  
This is the day which the Lord hath made!

*LB*

Helen Lowrie Marshall



Roughing It. A father took his son camping to show him how to live outdoors. As the father cupped his hand into a stream, the boy cried out, "You're not going to drink that, are you Dad?". "Of course," said the father, emptying the spring water into his mouth. "Dad, I didn't mean the water," said the boy. "I meant the tadpole."

*JS*

\* \* \* \* \*

SUMMER FUN - FUN - FUN -

PICNIC IN BETHANY PARK SHELTER HOUSE:

JUNE 28, 1986 at 6:00 P.M.

Hot dogs and buns furnished by the Club.

Bring a covered dish and dessert;  
something to drink and your own table service.

It will just be a fun time, so bring softballs and gloves,  
or games, just anything you would like to do.

SEE YOU ALL THERE!!!

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Members and friends:

Well that was some meeting. Those who stuck around after the storm got to see a great program on Western Colorado field trips. Unfortunately, we didn't get a chance to make summer plans or display plans for the State Show September 6 and 7. That means we'll have alot to accomplish May 17th. At the May meeting we will also have some very important business to attend to regarding monetary support for an underwater paleontological project in Lake McConaughy at Ogallala. Everyone's input and ideas and votes are needed so BE THERE! PLEASE!!

I was pleased to see some of our members at the Hastings Show and heard others of you went earlier. Don't forget to give a note about it to Jan Wright for the All-American Award!!

THANKS! To Bob Wright for his help at the April LGMC Picnic and Tornado Jamboree! To Tom Simmons for arranging a trip to the Bartels Museum in Seward--it's a fabulous display which ALL of our members must see!

THANKS! To our 1987 Show Chairman Jim Marburger for accepting and getting started on our 1987 Show. To Jim Parks for accepting the position of Dealer Chairman for the 1987 Show. To Jan Wright, John Harrison, and Phyllis Parks for agreeing to participate on the 1987 Show Committee.

Thank you.



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AT THE MUSEUM

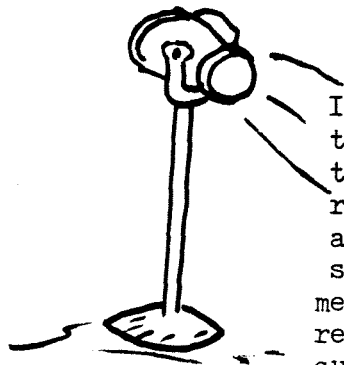
Aug. 23rd, 2 p.m. Morrill Hall, Room 111 (auditorium). Lecture: "Safari with a Shovel: Excavating Nebraska's Big Game Animals." Features slides of Museum field crews digging for mammoths, camels, etc. Presented by Dr. Voorhies, Curator of Vertebrate Paleontology.

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SHOP HINT: Instead of throwing away your used sanding discs try this: mix in a small container 1/4 tsp. of grit, pour on top 1/2 tsp. water-glass (glue) mixed with 1/4 to 1/2 tsp. water. Mix and apply to used sanding discs and let dry for two hours. You will have discs as good as new.

from Elmonte Gem Scoop  
via The Cycad

## MEMORabilia



Is 1986 going to be a year of FIRST's? April 26th meeting in the park at Bethany, abruptly adjourned by the sound of sirens - tornado warning - not utter panic as might be thought but a rather calm exodus of the shelter. Some members took their deserts and left for the safety of home, several made their way across the street to the Friendly Fire Station. The club coffee pot perked merrily on, some members went to their cars and listened to storm reports on their radios and hail on the roof. One member who lived quite near hurried home to her family, noting that people on the streets were driving erratically - not observing signals or other vehicles - making our member wonder what would happen if a mass evacuation were necessary. Eventually the storm clouds moved on and club members returned to finish off the meeting with coffee and the remaining deserts and a good slide program by Jim Marburger.

As you read the minutes from the April General Meeting please pay particular attention to fossil reclamation project described by Jim Landon. Sounds as exciting as the 'Pleezy Dig' of 1964. Nebraska has produced a wealth of fossils and it surely seems there are more possibilities for preservation. Mr. Landon's group have made similar presentations to other Nebraska clubs with hopes for assistance for this summer's project.

Butterflies!! A preview of a sensational new temporary exhibit, "Insects: The Colors of Survival" was made possible for Friends of the Museum and Guests at Morrill Hall last Friday. It is in the Hall of Giants and includes a giant, golden scarab beetle with an eight-foot wingspan created by the Museum's Scientific Illustrator, Mark Marcuson, especially for the event. Open to the public now.

Another first was the Sunday May 4th club field trip to Concordia College at Seward to tour the Bartels Museum. There we were privileged to view the exceptional cases of agate, crystal, minerals and petrified wood from the collection of Walter and Ella Bartels of Clarinda, Iowa. These wonderful cases are exhibited in a huge room on the lower level of Link Library. Such Brazilian! Such native Iowa crystals! Such Tri-States minerals! and others too numerous to tell - you have to see it to really appreciate. The Curator of Bartels Museum is Professor Marvin Plamann and the hours are Sunday 1 to 4:30, Monday through Friday 12:30 to 4:30 and Saturday 10 to 4:30, whenever the library is open. A call to Concordia College 643-3651 might be advisable if you are planning a trip.

A number of summer activities were discussed at the board meeting and will be announced at the May meeting and/or by a special bulletin or the calling committee - keep watching and listening.

A DREAM COME TRUE - Years ago - 1938 to be exact - a graduating senior at a Nebraska high school received a Regent's Scholarship to UNL and dreamed of studying Law to become a law clerk or possibly even a lawyer - but the plans did not materialize. Law and its various intricacies remained a motivating force for many years as her family was raised and she became a member of LGMC. Her daughter graduated from high school, went to UNL where she majored in Psychology and is now graduating on May 10, is already registered in a joint psych-law graduate program. This daughter is now LGMC's youngest president ever with a mother and a father who are so proud they could shout it to the world. Congratulations, Linda, on your previous achievements and may your future be as smooth and happy as the almost impossible dream.

prepared by Phyllis Parks



LINCOLN GEM & MINERAL CLUB, INC. - BOARD OF DIRECTORS - continued

OLD BUSINESS:

Janet Wright - Future Rockhounds of America form mailed to Ruth Hammett.

Vera Lyman - Continue looking into copyright laws.

NEW BUSINESS:

Janet Wright would like to donate her \$ 25.00 (for program presented at Show) to Club Education/Scholarship Fund.

NEBRASKA ACADEMY OF SCIENCES sent along list of programs in their meeting newsletter.

MEMBERSHIP:

Members for reinstatement:

- Norman Balliet
- Robert Fixter
- Dr. Hal & Darline Janzen
- Gilbert & Florence Lueninghoener
- Albert & Olga Olson
- William Schneider
- Lloyd Tanner
- Bob & Mary Walker

Motion for approval by Fred Holbert, 2nd by Tom Simmons. Carried.

FIELD TRIPS: Tom Simmons:

- April 27th trip to Seward (Bartel's Collection) postponed till May 4th.
- Field Trip - Grotto of the Redemption, May 31st & June 1st
- May also see program on Haleys Comet

'86 SHOW REPORT: Fred Holbert:

Afraid will show a loss when all figures are in. Lost one dealer because of blizzard. Expenses are up. Will have final summary at next meeting.

'87 SHOW:

Chairman is Jim Marburger. Dates not finalized yet.

Survey results discussed.

Letter from Diane Dare re: Pick & Shovel. (AFMS Editor Chairman)

--most definitely would like to continue receiving "Pick & Shovel"!

Keep up the good work - you have a terrific group of talented writers in your club.!

Sincerely, Diane Dare

Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

*Vera Lyman*

Vera Lyman, Secretary

|   |                        |               |
|---|------------------------|---------------|
| Treasurer's Report - - April 1986                   | NBC Checking 4/1/86    | \$2,191.87    |
| Receipts: NONE                                      |                        |               |
| Funds transferred from NBC Money Market to checking |                        | 500.00        |
| Funds transferred from 1st Fed. Trans. to checking  |                        | 125.00        |
|   |                        | <u>625.00</u> |
| Payments: State Fair Board                          |                        | 1,581.00      |
| AAA Rents   |                        | 820.55        |
| Show Calls  |                        | 55.37         |
| Apr. meeting rent                                   |                        | 25.00         |
| Storage rent (May)                                  |                        | 33.00         |
| Reynolds st al insurance                            |                        | 82.00         |
| Postmaster (stamps for P & S)                       |                        | 62.50         |
| Misc. postage, copies, etc.                         |                        | <u>21.82</u>  |
| NBC Checking  | 4/30/86      \$ 135.68 | \$2,681.24    |

LINCOLN GEM & MINERAL CLUB, INC. - GENERAL MEETING - April 26, 1986

Bethany Park Shelter House at 7:30 P.M.

Eight officers present.

The meeting was called to order by President Linda Parks.

Motion for approval of the minutes as printed in the Pick & Shovel by Tom Simmons, 2nd by Adeline Nolde. Carried.

Motion for approval of the treasurer's report as printed by Bill Rockel, 2nd by Glenna McGinnis. Carried.

Hospitality Chairman reported 31 adult and 3 Juniors in attendance. Guests were:

Jim & Kay Landin

Greg Brown

Martha Nelson

NEW BUSINESS:

Guest Jim Landon reported on a project underway at Ogallalla. A fossil deposit was found at Lake McConaughy. Fossil bones had washed up on the beach. Many under 1 to 8 feet of water, covered with bone fragments. When water level goes down, wave action causes bones to wash ashore. They would like to excavate certain portions, but are in need of a dredge. So far to their knowledge, no one has ever done any underwater paleontology except in Florida. Would check into cost of dredge and also possibility of leasing, from a Nebraska firm.

Guest Greg Brown - discussed more of the fossil animals. Has never seen so many fossil bones in one place on the surface. Hoping to dredge up lots of fossil bones, especially carnivore teeth.

Basic question - Would club be interested in assisting with some financial aid.

Tom Simmons offered to loan a 220 volt generator. Discussion followed with numerous questions.

Motion by Marie Wells, after satisfactory agreement on all costs with museum, that the Club provide \$ 375-400. toward the purchase of a dredge. 2nd by Tom Simmons. (before motion was ever completed) More discussion.

Amended by Fred Holbert to underwrite the cost of the project up to \$ 400. Again, more discussion. Then Bob Wright suggested we table the motion until the next meeting to each member could think about the entire project and better reach a decision. This move was encouraged by Jim Landon & Greg Brown.

"CIVIL DEFENSE SIRENS SOUNDED"!!!!!!

What does that mean? Tornado warnings!!

Since I live very close to the park, I immediately went home. Some proceeded over to the Fire Station near the park for shelter. Others waited for the "all clear" in their cars. Those who were daring, then returned to the shelter and viewed the program, "Dinosaur Bone Hunting Near Grand Junction, CO" and enjoyed their desserts.

Respectfully submitted,

*Vera Lyman*  
Vera Lyman, Secretary

COMPARATIVE INCOME STATEMENTS  
LINCOLN GEM AND MINERAL CLUB  
1985 & 1986 ANNUAL SHOWS

| INCOME:                 | 1985              | 1986              |
|-------------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| Dealers                 | \$2,100.00        | \$2,200.00        |
| Demonstrators           | \$75.00           | \$50.00           |
| Raffle                  | \$45.00           | \$145.00          |
| Juniors                 | \$44.00           | \$75.21           |
| Admissions              | \$1,733.21        | \$1,727.50        |
| Campers                 | \$56.00           | \$0.00            |
| <b>TOTAL INCOME:</b>    | <b>\$4,053.21</b> | <b>\$4,197.71</b> |
|                         |                   |                   |
| EXPENSES:               |                   |                   |
| Floor                   | \$2,396.07        | \$2,891.55        |
| Dealer/demo             | \$30.66           | \$50.05           |
| Publicity & Advertising | \$669.21          | \$842.26          |
| Ribbons & Recog.        | \$77.63           | \$137.35          |
| Program                 | \$215.00          | \$175.00          |
| Banquet                 | \$200.19          | \$174.00          |
| Tickets & Programs      | \$53.09           | \$68.46           |
| Raffle                  | \$11.02           | \$0.00            |
| Special feature         | \$269.59          | \$0.00            |
| Misc.                   | \$172.12          | \$182.51          |
| <b>TOTAL EXPENSES:</b>  | <b>\$4,094.58</b> | <b>\$4,521.18</b> |
| <b>NET LOSS:</b>        | <b>(\$41.37)</b>  | <b>(\$323.47)</b> |

Comments about the 1986 show:

Even though income for the show rose slightly this year, expenses increased even more. We had anticipated increased costs and therefore had raised the dealer fee from \$175 to \$200. Even this was not sufficient to offset expenses.

We are now in the process of compiling documentation to identify these areas of rising costs to better plan for future shows. When completed we will provide the board and next years show chairman, complete documentation of this years show.

As we do not yet have complete breakdowns by expense category of last years show, the following are estimates of some of the areas contributing to this years loss: One of our dealers was unable to come to the show because of bad weather (lost income \$200); liability insurance rose about \$118; tables and chair rental-about \$130; printing and advertising increased a yet undetermined amount; and because of new management at the state fair, we were charged for items for which we had never been charged before, ie clean-up, sign display space, and electrical usage plus the daily rental for Ag Hall increased by \$100 per day-total about \$404. All of the above totalled about \$852.00.

We wish again to thank all those who helped with the show.

Fred B. Holbert  
1986 Show Chairman

### HALLEY'S COMET TIME CAPSULE

A time capsule measuring 2 ft. X 1 ft. X 1 ft. was sealed and placed in an underground vault just outside the main entrance of Hyde Observatory in Lincoln's Holmes Park near So. 56th St. and Pioneers Blvd. A program preceded the burial of the capsule at 4:00 p.m. April 11, 1986. The opening of the container is scheduled 76 years later, in the spring of year 2061. Halley's comet should return from its usual journey on its elliptical orbit around the sun at that time. There are recorded returns for over 2,000 years. Edmund Halley (1656-1742) first determined its period.

Over 100 people attended the April 11th program ceremony. Included were several grade school pupils, teachers and public officials, as well as other interested persons. Some may survive the 76 year period to 2061, and they may witness the opening event too. (1910-11 viewers were asked to show their hands, and there were several.)

I remember the splendid viewings we had of the 1910-11 comet. All factors seemed more favorable then than they have been for the 1985-86 displays, just about ending now. I was a 9th grade pupil in Craig, Nebraska, so the event was within my understanding, but I do not remember as much "ballyhoo" and "comet-talk". Many people were uneasy about possible collision, and especially with the tail of the comet which was predicted to "side-swipe" our planet. The day passed with no noticeable effect. (Doomsday fizzled!)

The time capsule project, sponsored by the Lincoln Park and Recreation Department, was explained by local news media before the April 11, 1986 ceremony in Holmes Park. Readers were invited to participate and to submit articles and objects suitable to the project, especially of historical interest, for inclusions.

The response was generous and enthusiastic. Documents, novelties, newspapers, magazines and miscellaneous articles were approved and packed in the capsule. Some came from organizations, business firms, schools as well as individuals. The signatures of 1,000 people were placed inside, at 76 cents each. (no "X"s)

A hard-bound, 660 page volume of A CYCLE OF THE WEST, written and autographed by the late Poet Laureate of Nebraska, Dr. John G. Neihardt, life honorary member of our LGMC, was contributed in the name of the Neihardt Foundation at Bancroft, Nebraska. The book is considered one of the great historical epics of the mountain men, and the Indian Wars, from 1820 to 1890 "Wounded Knee". The poet devoted 29 years to historical research and the composition of the 5-part volume.

The following page is a copy of the inside of the capsule printed program. Visitors received an additional 2-page copy of donors names and gifts.

- Submitted by J.D. Young

PROGRAM

April 11, 1986

4:00 p.m.

- INTRODUCTIONS . . . . . Master of Ceremonies  
Donald J. Smith, Director  
Park and Recreation Dept.
- SPECIAL MESSAGES
- GOVERNOR . . . . . Lt. Gov. Don McGinley
- MAYOR . . . . . Roland A. Luedtke
- CITY COUNCIL RESOLUTION. .Chairperson Joe Hampton
- DEDICATION. . . . . Carroll Moore
- SPECIAL POEM. . . . . William Kloeckern
- FINAL ENTRIES TO TIME CAPSULE . . . . . Committee
- PLACEMENT OF TIME CAPSULE . . . .Lincoln Park and  
Recreation Dept.
- LIST OF CAPSULE CONTENTS TO JAMES HANSON,  
DIRECTOR, STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY
- CLOSING . . . . . Donald J. Smith

SPECIAL RECOGNITION

The Hyde Memorial Observatory  
made possible by major donor  
MRS. A. L. HYDE

Artistic work of Halley's Comet  
provided by  
ANN BURKHOLDER

CONTRIBUTING MEMBERS

A great deal of time, effort and material has been  
donated to make this dedication possible.

| <u>NAME</u>                             | <u>CONTRIBUTION</u>                    |
|---|--|
| Lincoln Memorial Funeral Home . . . . . | CAPSULES                               |
| Lincoln Memorial Park . . . . .         | PLAQUE                                 |
| Olson Construction Company. . . . .     | SITE DEVELOPMENT                       |
| Al Hamersky . . . . .                   | ARCHITECT                              |
| Junior League of Lincoln. . . . .       | FINANCIAL SUPPORT                      |
| Cliff Hillegass . . . . .               | PLAQUE IN MEMORY<br>PEARL C. HILLEGASS |

COMET COMMITTEE

- CHAIR: Carroll Moore
- MEMBERS: Margrethe Ahlschwede  
Norma Coufal  
John Evans  
Cliff Cant  
Dorothy Lougee  
Frank Marsh  
Edith Meints  
Bub Reeder  
Lee Thomas  
Trixi Schmidt

## Neihardt Spring Conference

The sixth annual Neihardt Spring Conference was held Saturday, April 26, at the Neihardt Center in Bancroft, Nebraska. The theme was "The Creative Uses of Tribal American Culture: The New Followers of John G. Neihardt." With an attendance of at least 175, this 1986 conference was the largest spring conference thus far.

The morning program featured Hilda Neihardt Petri, daughter of John Neihardt, who was with him during his interviews with Black Elk and his friends in preparation for the writing of Black Elk Speaks and When the Tree Flowered. She is giving up her successful practice in Columbia and Ozark, Missouri, to tour the United States and other countries with presentations of her father's works. Her highly acclaimed presentation Saturday morning was a sure indication of her future success.

Mrs. Petri's topic was "Native American Sources of Black Elk Speaks." Along with personal recollections, explanations, and insights, she let Neihardt's works speak for themselves by reading such gripping pieces as the short story, "The Singer of the Ache" from Indian Tales and Others and the "Death of Crazy Horse" portion from The Song of the Indian Wars. "The Singer of the Ache" was especially revealing of Neihardt's own sense of difference and loneliness in his compulsion to be a poet and writer. Mrs. Petri read with a force and beauty of unmistakable similarity to that of her father as he read from his works to hundreds of audiences.

Bobby Bridger, also a part of the morning program, gave us a sense of "one of ours" returning. Bobby Bridger is the great, great nephew of the historic mountain man, Jim Bridger, for whom Fort Bridger in Wyoming is named. For the Neihardt Day program August 5, 1979, Bobby Bridger presented his epic song and story, "Jim Bridger and the Seekers of the Fleece," inspired by Neihardt's A Cycle of the West. Since that time he has become increasingly popular as a modern day troubador/balladeer and has written scores for feature films and documentaries. Except for his lovely "healing song"--"There is a pattern; there is a plan"--which he sang with audience participation before the afternoon program, Bobby Bridger surprised his audience by speaking as beautifully as he sings.

Bridger's topic was "The New Followers of Neihardt." One might be inclined to assume that these new followers are simply younger people exploring Neihardt for the first time, but it is not limited to that. They include great numbers who are seeking a spiritual experience through union rather than diversity, a union of all peoples, all races, and the very earth itself. He raised the interesting question of the special expanded awareness that enabled Black Elk to recognize immediately that John Neihardt had been "sent" to record his vision and preserve the Oglala Sioux religion for those to come.

Bobby Bridger's own expanded awareness in the spiritual field has made him much in demand for such conferences as the New Visions National Conference held earlier in April in Lincoln, Nebraska, through the auspices of the University of Nebraska. Although he returns to Bancroft for the annual Neihardt Day the first Sunday in August whenever he can, he will be presenting his "A Ballad of the West" in Australia at that time this year. His home is in Austin, Texas.

## Neihardt Spring Conference - continued

William Least Heat Moon, author of Blue Highways, was the featured speaker for the afternoon session. His book, an account of his travels on the back roads of America (marked on highway maps in blue) and of the many diverse people he met, was on the best seller list of the New York Times for 41 weeks between February, 1983, and January, 1984.

Least Heat Moon is a mixed-blood: Anglo, Irish, and Osage Indian. When his job of teaching English at Stephens College in Columbia, Missouri, ended because of declining enrollment, and his marriage to a mixed-blood wife whom he called Cherokee because of her tribe failed (He referred to their marital discord as the Indian Wars) he decided to set out on a circular trip that would help him better to know himself and others.

The success of his book is not really surprising. Least Heat Moon has a gift for detail, for the telling phrase with the unexpected twist, for savoring the essence of a personality and expressing it through deftly handled conversation. It is not surprising, either, that people were willing to talk with him. Rather small in size, unassuming and non-aggressive, he traveled on a very low budget (\$485.00) in a seven-year-old Ford Econoline van, which he named Ghost Dancing. His minimal luggage included two books: Whitman's Leaves of Grass and Neihardt's Black Elk Speaks. He visited with people wherever he found them, especially at breakfast grills or little cafes, which he selected preferably by the number of calendars on the wall. (In response to a question he said that the more calendars on the wall, the higher the recommendation of the local businessmen, since no one would care to advertise his business on the wall of a cafe that didn't offer good food or service.) As he recounted the strange names and how they came to be, and the individualities of the people he met, Least Heat Moon presents a good cross section of backroads America.

Speaking on the topic, "Creative Sources of Tribal American Culture," Least Heat Moon gave his listeners the feeling that "Tribal American" was too narrow a term. All sources of culture are, in effect, tribal. The key is the perspective from which one looks. Blue Highways went through eight different drafts before it was published. It was not until after the sixth draft, when he decided to use the translation of his Indian name, William Least Heat Moon, rather than his Anglo name, William Trogon, that he realized what he was actually trying to accomplish and how to make it come together. Speaking of the Anglo reaction to Indians, he said: "They either love them to death or hate them to death. The real course lies somewhere between." (One gathers that much of the success of Least Heat Moon's writing lies in the technique of constant revision so studiously followed by a source of his inspiration, John G. Neihardt.)

Maxine Kessinger, Director of Interpretation for the Neihardt Foundation, provided an inspirational tour of the Sioux Prayer Garden. Marie Vogt, president of the Foundation, announced in behalf of Dr. Robert Vassell, chairman of the Neihardt Stamp Committee, that Bobby Bridger will serve as honorary chairman of that committee.

One of the most widely applauded recognitions was that of Myrtle and J.D. Young for their loving care of The Poet during his last years. The day was further enhanced by the fine dinner served at the Lutheran Church in Bancroft and by the fact that the wild weather of that Saturday evening held off until the festivities were over.

--Florence (Boring) Lueninghoener

## Psalm of the Rock Hound

Considereth ye the Rock Hound—He seeketh rocks and shineth them exceedingly. In the austere sciences of Mineralogy and Geology, he is a vagabond, but he findeth in the desert treasures beyond price. He diggeth in devious places in search of the great treasure. The agates of arid areas, the moss of Montana's mountains, the petrifications of prehistoric ponds, the chlorastrolites of Canada, the orbiculars of the Olympic shores, the fossils of forsaken fauna, the ores of Oregon, the corals of the Caribbean, the storm tossed ocean pebbles — all among his treasures. He seeketh this and that from hither and yon, all being his happy hunting ground.

Queer hunks intrigueth him—he searcheth into caves never before explored. Crystals, fortifications, plumes, nodules, agates, minerals, and muds which he sandeth, polisheth, and buffeth. Yea, he sandeth away the last imperfection and thereby he developeth patience beyond that of Job.

He draggeth home great quantities of material, most of which he collecteth in the basement or dumpeth in the yard. His enthusiasm becometh so great that his wife selleth the piano to provide space for his treasures.

His pet pieces he placeth in his pocket and saleyeth forth and showeth them to the envy of other strange acting persons, who perhaps "beat him to the draw". The other man's junk getteth a passing glance, but he gloryeth in his own. He slicketh it with saliva, and delicately exposes it to the brightest light. He looketh through a glass at his treasures into another wonderful world. Yea, his cup runneth over.

From his friends he beggeth, buyeth, bartereth, and high gradeth their treasures. The brilliant baubles he feedeth his soul. He infecteth those who will listen to him with a new virus which has never been isolated.

His habitation is cluttered with saws, wheels, sanders, buffers, polishers, dopes, dops, and home made gadgets of weird and wonderful combinations. He smareth his countenance with oil — his grits runneth over. His neighbors sleepeth while he toileth patiently far into the night, but he relaxeth and sleepeth the few remaining hours at peace with the world.

He findeth sermons in stones, gems in running brooks, and good in everything. Surely, happy hunting grounds will be available to him through the year of our Lord, 1951, and thereafter to his end and in the beyond.  
note it be.

- supplied by Dr. Gary Carlson, Professor of Geology  
Midland Lutheran College, Fremont

- submitted by Florence Lueninghoener

Compliments of the Central Iowa Mineral Society

Des Moines, Iowa

Dinosaur Bone Hunting  
Near Grand Junction, Colorado

A very interesting program was given at our last meeting by Jim Marburger (co-owner along with John Harrison of the J J & L Rock Shop). He gave us a "slide tour" of the area surrounding Grand Junction, Colorado; including the best sites for hunting dinosaur bones near the Colorado National Monument. We finally got to see the program after our business meeting was rudely interrupted by a tornado warning.

The Grand Junction Rock Club constructed their own building in which they hold two meetings every month, one is their business meeting and the other is a pot-luck dinner held each month. The building is made up of agate, fossil wood, and dinosaur bone fragments. Inside is a large work area for activities like silversmithing, and other lapidary work. Some of the silicified wood from this area is found around the housing developments and is referred to as "nuisance rock" (but only by the construction crew).

Within 30 miles of this area you can do almost any type of rockhounding, everything from mineral collecting to the collecting of fossil wood and dinosaur bone. The dinosaur bones are found in the Jurassic age Morrison Formation which outcrops as a purple/red and green mudstone. In this formation are also found dinosaur coprolites, cycads, and small fragments of bone in the "float" on the ground which had weathered off of the Morrison.

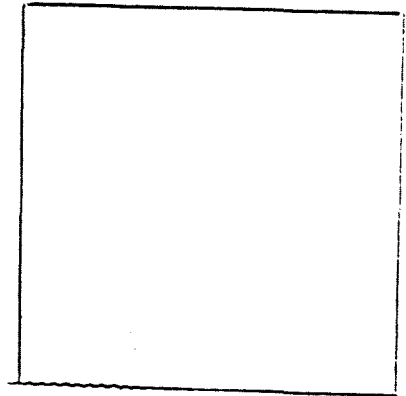
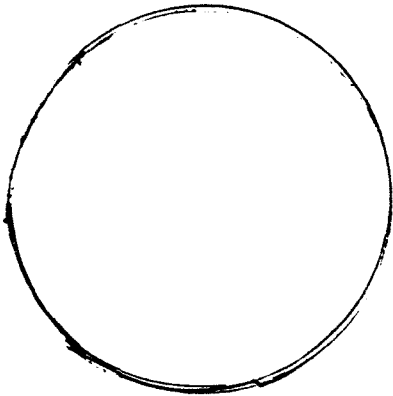
The collecting sites for most of these materials are deep in the hills and valleys near the monument. Some of these areas are along some very bad roads which would require a 4-wheel drive vehicle and are about 35 miles from the nearest phone. Recently an exciting find was made in this area (known as Black Ridge), pieces of a dinosaur called an "iguanadon" was discovered. This was really an unusual find and causes many paleontologists to re-examine the geologic time scale of this area as well as the creatures which lived there.

Also in these areas are ancient Indian dwellings which have unusual petroglyphs. Jim also included several slides of very colorful flowers and flowering cacti which are commonly found in this area. We would like to once again thank Jim for this program, and we may look forward to some possible other programs from Jim in the future.

Kevin Schwartzman

**LGMC JUNIORS PAGE**

We received our first newsletter from Future Rockhounds of America in the mail this last week. It's great to hear from so many other Junior Groups. We may be able to learn about some of the fun activities they have and find some new pen pals. I will bring the newsletter along to the May meeting and share it with each of you at that time. We have been asked to submit a design for a patch for Future Rockhounds of America.



Fill in one of these and bring it along to the meeting. If you have a different shape or size idea, go ahead and design your own, on a piece of white paper. We will select from the ones you bring in, one to be sent to Ruth Hammett in Houston Texas.

**SUMMER JUNIOR FIELD NEWS**

SAVE ! (JULY 19) THAT'S A SATURDAY TO GO TO FAIRBURY ON  
A FIELD TRIP ! WE WILL COLLECT SOME SMALL  
GEODES AND SOME FOSSILS .

Exchange Page

TWENTY-FIFTH TRAILSIDE ANNIVERSARY

by David Nixon, Trailside Museum Superintendent

It was an impressive experience for any western Nebraska kid to enter the Trailside Museum, for immediately inside the entrance reposed a complete mammoth skull with tusks. It was well worth the effort to bicycle out to Fort Robinson and two miles back to Crawford. There we could leisurely examine the mammoth and other specimens in the cool building interior while outside cottonwood leaves rustled and locusts droned away those August afternoons. These massive, petrified bones were not from familiar stock and game animals and were exotically unfamiliar and different, silently testifying to other times and environments. We filled our china cupboards at home with these intriguing teeth, skulls, and bones found in our fields, buttes and badlands. Magpie-like, we bore each new find home. Speculation as to each identity was resolved by comparing them with the Museum's formal labels. The newly mastered Latin names--oreodonts, titanotheres, rhinoceros--had an aura of time about them, but not as much as the moment when each animal is uncovered and exposed to sunlight again. The ground moisture evaporates while intangible carbon films disintegrate as the bones become a lighter color merging into the present time again resuming an interrupted decay--breakage, oxidation, and erosion.

There in the exhibit cases and among the badlands arroyos lay faint spore whose mineralized teeth, duck eggs, coprolites (fossil scat) and occasional footprints are ready to be read and tracked backwards through time. The paleontologists who had scouted those trails or built the Museum were unknown to me then, but their trophies, Triceratops, Dinohyus, testified to their efforts and actively demonstrated the concepts of eons, eras, epochs through the presence of each unfamiliar stone beast. The Trailside is aptly named, for it is a trailhead, a time portal, for the visitors not familiar with the field camps, classrooms, and library stacks of paleontologists. They can visit the Cretaceous, Oligocene, and Miocene epochs as freely as they traverse Nebraska, South Dakota, or Wyoming.

I find myself beginning my tenth season and realizing that it's not 1961 and the Trailside has grown by necessity and design changing exhibits and programs with an expanded staff to meet the increasing visitation. The visitor now confronts a complete mammoth skeleton and may subsequently board a van to learn first-hand the badland trails observing how nature behaves today and read its past behavior in the geologic record.

An observance for the 25th Anniversary will be held Sunday, June 22nd, at the Trailside Museum to dedicate a new rock and mineral gallery and recognize the people who established and maintained the Trailside.

Reprinted from the Friends Special Summer Fun edition  
with the permission of the Friends of the Museum.

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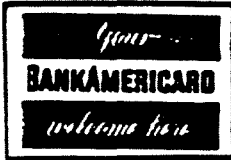
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Subscriptions to THE PICK & SHOVEL are \$5.00 per year mailed.

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)

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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.

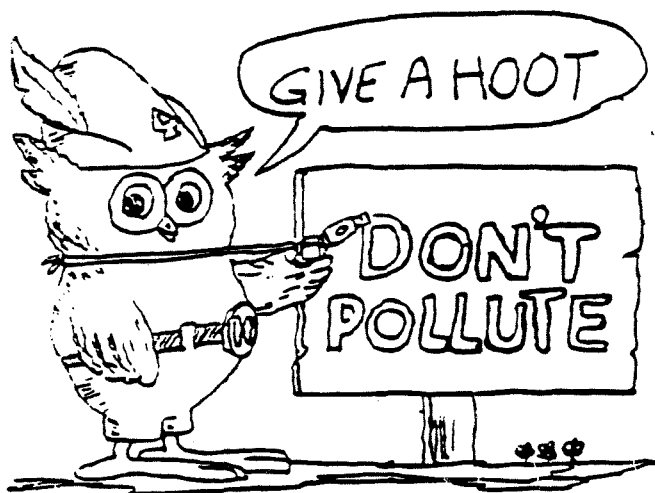
DON'T FORGET....The May General Meeting has been moved up to May 17, 1986 - - -

Due to Memorial weekend

WATCH FOR THE SUMMER ACTIVITIES IN YOUR MAIL!!!

THEY WILL BE "FUN" THINGS!!!

*Have a Great Summer!*

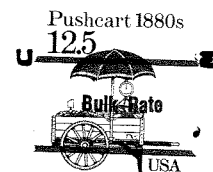


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