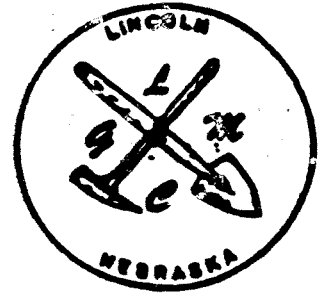


# THE PICK & SHOVEL



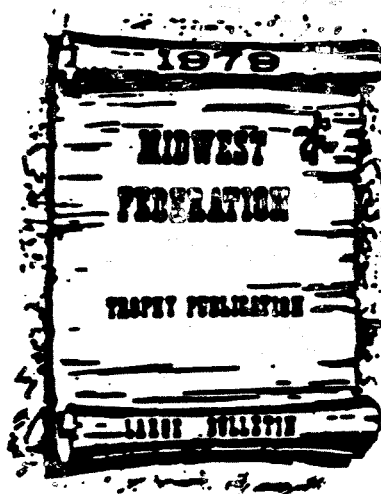
*February*  
1987

**In this issue** . . .

WHY FEBRUARY 14th

JANUARY INDOOR SWAP REPORT

HEARST'S CASTLE - Glorious Ranch



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) (Life Membership)  
Friends of the Museum

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

1987 ELECTED OFFICERS:

|                    |                  |                                  |          |
|--------------------|------------------|----------------------------------|----------|
| President.....     | Kevin Schwartman | 1134 West Avon Ln Lincoln, 68505 | 464-3059 |
| 1st Vice Pres..... | Janet Wright     | 3715 S. 33rd St. Lincoln, 68506  | 488-1884 |
| 2nd Vice Pres..... | Jim Farks        | 2435 S. 19th St. Lincoln, 68502  | 476-6798 |
| 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.....  | Shirley Rockel   | 1134 West Avon Ln Lincoln, 68505 | 464-3059 |
| 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: Dave Heffelbower, Wm. Rockel  
2 years: Irl Everett, Claude Scott  
1 year: Vera Lyman, John Lewis  
Linda Parks, Chairperson

LONG RANGE PLANNING AND BY-LAWS COMMITTEE:

1 year - Jim Taylor, Irl Everett      3 years - Bob Wright, Linda Parks  
2 years - Claude Scott, Phyllis Parks      Linda Parks, Chairperson

STANDING COMMITTEE CHAIRPEOPLE:

|                       |                     |                       |                      |
|-----------------------|---------------------|-----------------------|----------------------|
| Calling.....          | Phyllis Parks       | Membership.....       | Shirley Rockel       |
| Education.....        | Roger Pabian        | MWF Liaison.....      | Marie Taylor         |
| Field Trips.....      |                     | Programs.....         | Janet Wright         |
| Historian.....        | John & Lillie Lewis | Scholarships.....     | Marie Taylor         |
| Hospitality.....      | Ed Ridge            | Xmas Party.....       | Marie & Susan Taylor |
| Housing/Property..... | Claude Scott        | 1987 Rockhound/Yr.... | Dave Heffelbower     |
| Jr. Activities.....   | Janet Wright        | 1987 Annual Show..... | Jim Marburger        |
| Librarian.....        | Jim Parks           | 1988 Annual Show..... | Roger Pabian         |

AUDITING COMMITTEE 1986.....Lois Hunt, Bruce Simon  
Shirley Rockel, Chairperson  
Phyllis Parks, Treasurer

PICK & SHOVEL STAFF:

Editors.....Board of Directors  
Co-ordinator...Vera Lyman, 420 N. 56 st. Lincoln, NE 68504 (NAOESCI Reporter)  
Circulation...Dave Heffelbower  
Rays of Sunshine..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

| FEBRUARY |    |    |    |    |    |    |
|----------|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| S        | M  | T  | W  | T  | F  | S  |
| 1        | 2  | 3  | 4  | 5  | 6  | 7  |
| 8        | 9  | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 |
| 15       | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 |
| 22       | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 |

**FEBRUARY MEETING:** February 28, 1987 - 7:30 P.M.  
Beatrice Room, Nebraska Center  
33rd & Holdrege - Refreshments.

**YOUTH MEETING:** 7:00 PM to discuss 29th Annual Show participation.

**PROGRAM:** Presentation of LGMC's 1987 Scholarships by Dr. Samuel Treves to our two recipients and a brief summary of their projects by the students.

The two 1986 Scholarship Award recipients will also present short talks on their thesis work.

**MARCH BOARD:** March 3, 1987, 7:30 P. M.  
American Charter at 40th & South Streets

**MARCH MEETING:** \* Friday, March 27, 1987-Set up and prepare our 29th Annual Show. Be there!

**WELCOME NEW MEMBERS:** Gerald (Jerry) E. Moore & Matthew & Kenneth  
2305 South 35th St., 68506 489-4184  
Francis Belohlavy, Burwell, Ne. 68823

SHOWS & SWAPS FOR YOUR NEW CALENDAR

March 28-29 OUR SHOW Lincoln, Nebraska, Agriculture Hall, State Fairgrounds

April 24-26 SHOW Hastings, Nebraska, Central Nebr.Gem & Mineral Club

June 11-14 NATIONAL SHOW Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, Rocky Mt. Federation & AFMS combined show and convention

June 25-28 MWF SHOW Dearborn, Michigan, Midwest Mineralogical & Lapidary Society-Host

July 18-19 SHOW Columbus, Nebr., Loup Valley Gem & Mineral Club

Sept. 19-20 SHOW Kimball, Nebr., Plains Rock & Mineral Club

Sept. 25-27 STATE SHOW Ogallala, Nebr.,Prairie Rockhounds Club - Host

Oct. 10-11 SHOW Omaha, Nebr., Nebraska Mineral & Gem Club

Oct. 17-18 SHOW Grand Island, Nebr., G I Earth Science Club

There are also a number of Rock Swaps in Nebraska-Refer to Page 10, Dec.'86, Gem Palette

**SHOW TIME** - If you have not made plans for your exhibit space and your participation in the work at the show please do so at the February meeting - or call your calling committee soon. February is the last time we'll all get together before the show. You are needed, your exhibits are needed and will be appreciated. The Floor Chairman wants every table full and asks that you dig out all those good things that you haven't displayed in years and share in the fun and excitement of 'Show Time.'

| MARCH |    |    |    |    |    |    |
|-------|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| S     | M  | T  | W  | T  | F  | S  |
| 1     | 2  | 3  | 4  | 5  | 6  | 7  |
| 8     | 9  | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 |
| 15    | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 |
| 22    | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 |
| 29    | 30 | 31 |    |    |    |    |

A RED CHECK MARK on your mailing label indicates that you did not pay your dues by the January 31st deadline and this will be your last Pick & Shovel. If you wish to be reinstated please send applicable dues plus \$1.00 per family to the treasurer in care of P. O. Box 5342, Lincoln, NE 68505.

The Sunshine corner urges you to show appreciation to someone who has been particularly helpful to you. Valentine's Day is coming up and that would be a good time to verbalize your thanks.



#### WHY FEBRUARY 14th

We know that Valentine's Day is February 14th, but why that date instead of March 10th or May 15th? Legends about valentines are fascinating because of their antiquity and sentimentality.

One of the most popular is the story of St. Valentine, who chose to be executed rather than renounce his faith in God. Valentinus was a young priest who was arrested by the Roman emperor Claudius II, for helping fellow Christians escape persecution. While he was imprisoned, the blind daughter of the jailer brought him food, delivered messages, and comforted him as best she could. Although Valentinus' crime was considered serious, Claudius offered the priest his freedom if he would denounce Christianity. Not only did Valentinus refuse, but he tried to convert the pagan king, which so outraged Claudius, he ordered the priest to be stoned to death.

As Valentinus awaited his execution day, he restored the sight of the jailer's daughter who had helped him. She and her father were converted to Christianity by the miracle the priest had wrought. On the eve of his death, Valentinus wrote a farewell note to the girl thanking her for the kindness she had shown him and signed it, "From your Valentine." The next day a messenger delivered the note and a bouquet of violets to the girl at the exact moment of Valentinus' death. The day was February 14, A.D. 270.

Another legend has it that the Romans celebrated February 14th as the day the birds chose their mates--and the Romans linked that courtship with the courtship of their own young people. The date also marked the pagan feast of Lupercalia in ancient Rome, when the names of girls were drawn by lot. The boys who drew them courted the girls for a year. If the couples weren't married by the end of the year, they started all over again with new partners when the feast was again celebrated on February 14th.

According to another legend, the first valentine ever sent was delivered to the wife of Charles, Duke of Orleans, when he was imprisoned in the Tower of London in 1415. That valentine is in the British Museum.

All these legends indicate that "Be my valentine" has been said and written for centuries more than "Merry Christmas." (Christmas cards were not exchanged much before the mid-nineteenth century.) Valentines have been exchanged since the fourteenth Century, although they didn't make their appearance in the United States until the mid-nineteenth century.

The golden age of valentines in America was created by Esther Howland, the daughter of a stationer in Worcester, Massachusetts, who graduated from Mount Holyoke in 1847 and returned home to live as a proper Victorian lady. Almost by accident, however she became a prosperous businesswoman.

On Valentine's Day, a year after Esther's graduation, she received an elegant valentine that delighted her so much she decided to send her own valentines the following year. Her father ordered cut-outs, lace-paper blanks, paper flowers, and stick-ons with expensive envelopes from London. Esther created such stunning valentines that her brother, a salesman for the family firm, showed them to a number of his customers. The valentines were a hit, and he returned home with orders totaling more than \$5,000.



Impressed with his daughter's success Mr. Howland ordered great quantities of materials and set up a workroom in the home for Esther's valentine factory. She set up an assembly line procedure employing young ladies to perform the various tasks involved in compiling the valentines.

By 1850, Esther's valentines were the rage of New England, and she became known as the Valentine Queen of America. Her valentines sold for as much as \$35.00. Esther reigned as queen until 1870 when the one-of-a-kind valentine was threatened by mass production. In 1881 George C. Whitney bought Esther's business and continued manufacturing lovely and expensive valentines. Although he continued his business until 1942, competition had driven the price of valentines down to as little as a nickel, with none selling for more than \$5.00. Today Valentines out-number all other cards bought for special occasions and holidays. Who receives the most valentines?

Sweethearts? Wrong! Mothers receive three times as many valentines as sweethearts. And if that isn't heart-rending enough, teachers receive more than mothers. In fact, just about everyone receives more valentines than lovers.

Now that you know why valentines are exchanged on the 14th of February the exchange of valentines this year should be even more fun and meaningful.

Vivian Buchan

We extended our condolences to the family of Richard Miller.

*gcs*

\* \* \* \* \*

"SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS"

At our club meeting on February 28th, scholarships will be presented to two graduate students at the Department of Geology, University of Nebraska - Lincoln,

These two students, Glenn G. Stracher, Ph.D., Structural and Metamorphic Geology; and Scott J. Rehn, M.S., Igneous Petrology, will give a brief explanation of their thesis topics.

### JANUARY INDOOR SWAP REPORT (and some of its history)

Our 'Thanks' to Swap Chairman Shirley Rockel for her planning and work on the 1987 Ninth Indoor Swap.

Our first indoor swap was held in Nebraska Center for Continuing Education on second floor, hosted by our 1979 Club President, Mr. Howard Taylor, with a good number of swappers, several excellent silent auctions and was followed by a good program and Anniversary Cake. Each year the tradition has been carried on at our January meeting at the Center, using the same Swapper Bucks, many of the same people attending, and having a good time. Most of the time we have been favored by good weather.

We really appreciate the Rockhound Friends that come from other clubs in the state to join and enjoy with us. This year we say 'thanks' to Mr. Ray Kunc of the Omaha Club, Margaret Frankel and grandson David also of Omaha, Mary and Connie McCartney of the Grand Island Earth Science Society and Mr. Francis Belohlavy of Burwell. Thanks also to local swappers Roger Pabian, The Taylor Family, Helena Baegl, David & Billie Heffelbower. Special 'thanks' to our Youth Group who were very active swapping, selling grab bags and Lap.Journals, and going on a field trip to Tom Simmons Rock Shop. It was especially good to have Frank and Tom Rule visit and exchange stories even without their rocks. The Silent Auctions were made exciting by the additions from Charter Member Frances Tracy and several items from Florence & Gilbert Lueninghoener (one of these a tumbler which brought highest bucks). The total intake to be credited toward last summers 'dredging operation' was \$77.98.

\* \* \* \* \*

The Early Bird who does the best  
Never hangs around the nest.

From The Loup Scoop 2/87

An American is a fellow who drives home in a German car from a French movie, slips off his Italian shoes, puts on his English robe and Mexican slippers, and sips Brazilian coffee from Dutch china while sitting on Danish furniture. Then he writes a letter to his congressman on Canadian paper using a Japanese pen demanding that he do something about all the gold that's leaving the country.

from Color Country Chips 6/85 via The Loup Scoop 2/87

### THE ROCKHOUND

The rockhound is the kind of nut  
Whose mind is slightly undercut.  
He swings a pick and drives a jeep,  
And dreams of rocks in his sleep.  
He'll pick up any kind of stone,  
Or piece of glass, or even bone!  
If he can't name it, he'll assert  
That he has found a piece of "Chert."

From American River Currents  
of Rancho Cordova, CA

who in turn give credit to  
Breccia, Golden Spike,  
The Mineralog and CGMS News

Last year, many people died from gas. Some inhaled it, others applied a match to it, but most just stepped on it.

From January '87 Chip and Lick

THE SECRET OF GETTING AHEAD IS GETTING STARTED.

from CHIP AND LICK January 1987

LINCOLN GEM & MINERAL CLUB, INC. - BOARD OF DIRECTORS - Jan. 6, 1987

American Charter, 40th & South, 7:30 P.M.

All 9 Board Members present & Claude Scott.

Minutes of December Board Meeting were read. Motion for approval by Janet Wright, 2nd by Fred Holbert. Carried.  
Treasurer's report was read. Motion for approval by Fred Holbert, 2nd by Marie Taylor. Carried.

BILLS:

\$ 85.07 Page Trophy - President's Plaque & Rockhound of Year award  
Motion for approval by Vera Lyman, 2nd by Janet Wright. Carried.

OLD BUSINESS:

Question was raised whether we should continue membership in Lincoln Arts Council and also Friends of Museum. Phyllis Parks made motion that we suggest to rank & file that we join Friends of Museum at a maximum of \$ 50.00. 2nd by Fred Holbert. Carried.

Motion by Fred Holbert that we do not make a contribution to Lincoln Arts Council. 2nd by Marie Taylor. Carried.

LONG RANGE PLANNING REPORT:

Chairman Claude Scott reported on the findings of the LRP regarding the financial status of the Club.

Discussion followed.

Motion by Fred Holbert; an advisory to Show Committee to raise the gate fees as follows: 0-6 = free      6-12 = \$1.00      13 & up = \$1.50  
2nd by Tom Simmons. Carried. Copy of LRP report to Show Committee.

NEW BUSINESS:

Jan Wright does not wish to type program report. Vera will type it for her as well as Jr. Page.

Gem Palette - Motion by Fred Holbert that Club pay for Gem Palette subscriptions. 2nd by Tom Simmons. Carried.

CLUB MONIES:

First Federal CD dues for renewal on Jan. 4th. (\$ 5,000.) Motion by Phyllis Parks that we renew for 5 yrs. at 7.25% with interest paid at 6 month intervals. 2nd by Fred Holbert. Carried.

Motion by Phyllis to change First Federal Transmatic to Money Market at First Federal with interest paid semi-annually. 2nd by Fred Holbert. Carried.

ANNUAL SWAP:

Rock Swap - Jan. 24, Noon to 6:00 P.M. Silent Auction monies to go into treasury to cover \$ 138+ for dredge operation. Motion for approval, carried. 32nd Anniversary Cake after evening meeting.

CHRISTMAS PARTY:

The 1987 Christmas Party will be held on the first Saturday of Dec. (12-5) 1987.

Nest Board meeting at Anderson Library on Tues. Feb. 3 at 7:00 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

*Vera Lyman*  
Vera Lyman, Secretary

LINCOLN GEM & MINERAL CLUB, INC - GENERAL MEETING - Jan. 24, 1987

The meeting was called to order by President Kevin Schwartman at 7:30 P.M. in the Scottsbluff-Minden Rm at the NE Center on Jan. 24, 1987.

Motion for approval of the Minutes as printed by Marie Wells, 2nd by Jim Taylor. Carried.

Treasurer's report for Dec. was read. Motion for approval by Jim Taylor, 2nd by Helena Baegl. Carried.

24 members and 10 guests were present. Pres. Schwartman introduced the guests and also announced Billie Heffelbower as new member. Guest member from Hastings Club announced their Show on April, 24, 25, & 26 at Hastings Fairgrounds, inviting all to attend.

OLD BUSINESS:

Recommendation by Board that the Club again join Friends of Museum. Motion by Dave Heffelbower to continue as Contributing Member (\$50.) again this year. 2nd by Marie Wells. Carried.

SHOW ANNOUNCEMENT:

Jan Wright announced that Show Flyers were available; all should take some & distribute for publicity.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Pres. announced that Club had sent memorial to family of Richard Miller (member) who died on Jan. 11.

Name pins & bars are available to new members.

Sec. announced that J.D. Young had fallen & is recovering. Also that Life member Frances Tracy had donated some wood and mineral specimens for the Silent Auction.

PROGRAM:

An excellent program on the Agate Fossil Beds near Scottsbluff was presented by Bob Hunt of the Geology Dept. at UNL. Our Thanks to Mr. Hunt for the fine presentation.

The evening closed with everyone enjoying Anniversary Cake!

Respectfully submitted,

*Vera Lyman*

Vera Lyman, Secretary

|   |        |  |            |         |
|---|--------|--|------------|---------|
| LGMC Treasurer's Report-December 1986                         |        | NBC Checking 12/1/86                             | \$1,940.30 |         |
| Transfer to interest bearing account-3 month CD at NBC        |        | 1500.00  |            |         |
| Receipts: Advertising '86 P & S                               | 45.00  |  |            |         |
| '87 Prepaid Member Dues                                       | 71.00  |  |            |         |
| '86 Member Christmas Dinner                                   | 100.00 |  |            |         |
| '87 Prepaid Show Dealers                                      | 675.00 |  |            |         |
| '87 Prepaid Show Demo.Space                                   | 35.00  |  | 926.00     |         |
| Accounts Paid:  |        |  |            |         |
| Balance Lake Mac.Dredge Op. (underwrite per 5/17/86)          | 138.68 | Postmaster-Precan.stamps                         | 62.50      |         |
| Nebr.Center-Nov.Meeting                                       | 45.00  | " Precancelled stamp permit                      | 50.00      |         |
| '86 Christmas Decor/Favors                                    | 85.08  | " Post Office Box Rent                           | 29.00      |         |
| '86 Christmas Dinner (Susp.Members 237.50 Club Expense 94.56) | 332.06 | '87 Swap Fliers-NAOESCI                          | 13.44      |         |
| Misc.copy, Oct.refresh.Etc.                                   | 14.73  | '87 Show Fliers                                  | 128.65     |         |
| Security Storage Jan. 87                                      | 33.00  | '87 Show Dealer Exp.                             | 14.87      |         |
|   |        | '86 Show Sales Tax to State                      | 58.67      |         |
|   |        | Nov.-Dec.Printing P & S                          | 110.50     | 1116.17 |
|   |        | National Bank Commerce Checking Account 12-31-86 | \$250.13   |         |

## HEARST'S CASTLE - Glorious Ranch!

It is now owned by the State of California, a gift from the Estate of Multi-millionaire, William Randolph Hearst. "Ranch", as he called it, is the "Enchanted Hill" of California, and it is a place where over 15,000,000 visitors have come and they think it is really "some ranch", and you will think so too, as we did in 1964. (Some readers may have already "done" the place on their travels.) In my May, 1985 article I told of some of the features along California's Hy. #1 and U.S. Hy. #101. In it I mentioned the Hearst Castle as one of the attractions, but it is one that merits more coverage.

National Geographic Traveler Vol. 1 No. 1, Spring 1984 gave it a full story, with color photos and artist's depiction of the Castle and its grounds. That 1st issue also features the Grand Canyon of the Colorado River, and displays a full color photo of it on the front cover. We treasure every issue of this fine magazine because each one featured one or more places Myrtle and I have visited in our more active years. There are four issues every year and each is splendid.

We had been told before our 1964 retirement trip that the "Hearst Castle" was an absolute "must see", so we put it on our itinerary. We found those advance "tips" to be most helpful on all our many trips. As we traveled down California's thousand mile Pacific coast, frequent fogs were encountered on Hy. #1. The fog was so heavy when we passed the Castle road entrance we could have passed it unaware, but we decided to return again later, on a brighter day. So we continued on about 25 miles to Morro Bay, then turned left on Hy. #41 to Atascadero, about 20 miles inland from the foggy coast. (There we visited Harold Fallbeck (Myrtle's brother) and wife, local residents.)

Weather reports indicated clear weather on coastal Hy. #1 for the next day at Hearst Castle area. So we returned to the San Simeon exit and took the private highway toward the "Enchanted Hill" Castle. We soon came to a place where we were to leave our car in a parking lot and then board a bus for the trip up the "Hill", an increase in altitude of nearly 1500 ft. over a winding road. As we went up that road we could see why our own cars were "nixed".

Before boarding a bus we were asked which level of the Castle we wished to visit first, and to show our previously obtained reservations, if any. Since we were not in a high tourist demand (December) season our own lack of reservations was no obstacle to choose any level first. So, we chose one that seemed to be in least demand by the current tourist crowd. That put us in a small bus, uncrowded and mostly with a group of friendly Scandinavians who introduced themselves, and nearly all their names ended in "son", so I jokingly gave our name as "Youngson", which caused a good laugh as our bus embarked up the hill.

Our small bus was driven by an expert driver, mechanically and socially, which made our trip a delightful experience. He took the many sharp curves in the road expertly and also gave information

- continued

## HEARST;S CASTLE - Glorious Ranch! - continued

about the flora and fauna of the area, unfenced and well stocked with foreign wild-life we had not expected to see in the wild state. The scenery in the castle area was too much to describe fully. Beautiful plantings, full grown palms, pools, and architecture dazzled us from every direction, and when the interiors of the castle were shown we wondered how it all had been possible to design, produce and pay for it all - and why? Even the water system was a wonder work!

Our driver and guides were very proficient in their task of keeping the group together and continually informed about all the details of everything in sight. We learned that the castle was not only one structure but a multiple of structures, and that they were not all completed when Hearst died in 1951 at age of 88, having made most of his millions in the newspaper world. His father, George, made his money mostly in mining, including the Homestake in South Dakota's Black Hills, one of the world's greatest gold mines.

William Randolph Hearst was a sort of pampered youth, and he had a mania for spending money on odd things. While in Europe once with his mother he wanted her to buy for him The Louvre! They bought him an old castle in Wales, and a Spanish monastery. The latter was then dismantled and shipped home, to join other "bargains".

On the Castle grounds there are 4 different named buildings for housing and entertaining Hearst's many guests, ranging in size from 10 to 100 rooms, mostly elaborately furnished and decorated. Though he "traveled with the upper class" Hearst was concerned about their consumption of alcohol; moderation was the rule.

The collection of works of art from world-wide sources is unbelievable; ancient Greek vases, countless paintings, mostly portraits, nearly three dozen Madonnas. Hearst is said to have paid \$ 100,000 for one tapestry in 1928. "Every time Willie does not feel well, he goes out and buys something." His mother said that, and she knew it!

Yes, we went back to the entrance gate near the Hy. #1 exit and took one more trip up the "Enchanted Hill" that same day in a larger bus, crowded with people, bound for another "level" (but this time not mostly Scandinavians. Our name reverted back to "Young" instead of "Youngson"!)

Our old Rambler station wagon still waited in the parking lot ready to take us back to Atascadero where we spent several more delightful days.

- Submitted by J. D. Young

MEXICO

Many of the world's most famous agates, gems, minerals, and fossils have been found in Mexico. Perhaps Mexico is best known to the rock collector through its many world class agate deposits. Perhaps the "Queen of Agates," the Laguna is the most famous of all of the Mexican gem materials. Striking colors and patterns are the feature of the Laguna agate that puts them among the favorites of agate cutters as well as gem show visitors. The Laguna has colors that are almost unique---some of the shades range to the psychedelic. Laguna agates come from a geological formation that is called the Rancho el Agate Andesite. It is Tertiary age, probably Miocene, and is about 23 million years old. Some people refer to the area from which these agates have been found as "Rancho Laguna." The actual type locality (the area from which these agates were first described) is Rancho Borunda. The first reports of these agates appear in some mineral inventory papers published by the Geological Survey of Mexico at about the turn of the century. Some of the material was reaching the United States by the late 1930's and one famous collection that was in the St. Joseph, Missouri, area was sold at auction several years ago. The collection was well described in publications of that vintage. I have seen some of these agates that were collected before 1940 in a research collection at the Cleveland Museum of Natural History.

When I first began going to gem and mineral shows in the late 1950's, many dealers stocked large quantities of both sawed and rough Mexican agates, including Laguna, Coya Mito, Moctezuma, Apache, Gallego, Loma Pinta, Casa Grande, Crazy Lace and numerous other varieties. By the middle 1960's many of these varieties had all but disappeared from the market place. The reasons for this are more complicated than "...the sources became depleted." or "...its all gone."

First, the cost of labor in Mexico has increased. Many American-owned companies have established factories in Mexico. The laborers would rather work there than in the field looking for agates.

Many of the deposits are on large ranches and collecting is prohibited by the owners. Much of the material was brought into the United States by few dealers. Most famous of these are probably Colonel Baron of Southern Gems and T. B. Williams of the Triangle Rock Shop. It is reputed that no love was lost between these two. That is a story for some other agate historian or at least for some other history. It is often said that each of these men brought about 30 tons of agate each out of Mexico. That is really just a couple of few trucks full, not an awful lot of material when it is spread out among several thousands of cutters and collectors.

During the middle 1960's war-torn Europe was well on the way to economic recovery from the long holocaust. Many of these people again began to take up hobbies, rock collecting being one of their all time favorites. European collectors are more willing to pay higher prices for high quality materials than most American rock collectors.

The European collectors have put additional demand on the sources of fine agate the world over. Much of the best material goes to Europe. Fellow collector, Ray Lambert, has told me that some of the finest agate that he has ever seen was in a shop window in Paris, France.

Not only are there many fine agates in Mexico, but there are many famous mineral localities. The Mapimi area is well known and many fine specimens also come from the provinces of Durango. It is not uncommon to visit a mineral dealers table and see half or more of the available specimens coming from Mexico. Many of these minerals are very colorful and spectacular.

The Queretaro province is well-known for its opals. Much of this opal is very colorful but much of it is very unstable and tends to crack and craze if it is not kept in water. Some will go from a transparent brilliant body to a dull white showing no play of colors in just a few hours. It was not uncommon to see large jars full of this material at shows a few years ago but it is not often seen now.

Mexico is not without many fine fossils. Some unique Cretaceous ammonites have been described from there as well as some Permian crinoids. Rock of every geologic age is known in Mexico and some very good geologic maps of this country exist. There are many excellent papers published by their geological survey and there are some excellent guide books to the region.

Even with the good guide books, Mexico has few good or even improved roads. One 4,900 square mile area has less than 100 miles of paved roads, whereas many townships in the United States (36 sq. mi.) have up to 100 miles of good roads.

There is still probably much good material in Mexico but the increased cost of getting it and the increased competition for it at the market place (shows and shops) will assure that it will all remain expensive in the years to come.

Bring any materials from Mexico for display at the February meeting. There will be cases furnished.

Roger Fabian  
Education

# Midwest Federation NEWSLETTER

Member of The American Federation of Mineralogical Societies



## OFFICERS 1986-1987

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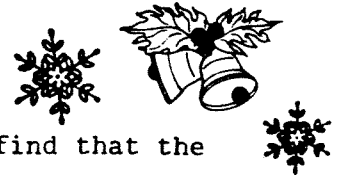
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Mrs. Lois McMahon, Editor  
2S621 Gray, Lombard, IL 60148

### PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

In this, the 49th year of the Midwest Federation's existence, we find that the numbers of us belonging to member clubs is continuing to decline, as it has for a number of years. That leaves fewer of us to do the many things that need to be done, both in our clubs and in the Federation, if we are to maintain the same level of services. The primary reason for the existence of the Midwest Federation is to be of service to the member clubs. Let the Executive Board know what you want us to do and also what we are doing which is no longer useful. Times change and we must change with them. The Federation has willing workers but they must know what they can do to help you. Communication, without it there can be no understanding.



I must point out that the Federation's funds are very limited. While we collect fifty cents per capita dues, we must pass on half of the money collected to the American Federation. As you well know, the purchasing power of the dollar has been declining. Combine this with the decline in membership, which brings in fewer dollars, and we are faced with the fact that we can't do what we used to do with the dues collected. Many services we used to provide for free now carry a fee. This was done to put the cost of the service on the actual user. The other course would be to increase the dues and pass the cost to user and nonuser alike. Any new services will need to cost very little, replace other services, or carry a fee.

The MWF Endowment Fund has been created to help generate additional funds for the operation of the Federation. Unless it grows rapidly, it will be many years before it will have any effect on our finances. I hope you will consider making the financial support of the Endowment Fund one of your goals for this year.

*Esther*

☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆



### NOTICE TO ALL EDITORS!!!

January 15th was the deadline for the Bulletin Editors Contest; however if you have any questions regarding this early date or other questions, please contact your Bulletin Aids Editor Chairman - KATHY MILLER, (213) 291-0332.

The November AFMS Newsletter has full information on these students and their pictures.

Twelve graduate students of the Earth Sciences have been selected to receive AFMS Scholarship Foundation grants, in the amount of \$1,500.00 each, for the 1986-87 school year. Two students were selected by each Honorary Award Winner from each of the six Regional Federations. In addition, twelve students are receiving the second year of the grants made in 1985. A total of 207 graduate students have received grants, totaling \$318,650.00, since the first grant of \$300.00 was made in 1965. AFMS societies and their members have made this possible through their generous support of the AFMS Scholarship Foundation.

#### California Federation:

John W. Milburn, his research is focused on crystal kinetics and the prediction and modeling of mineral properties from their atomic arrangement.

William E. Jackson, his thesis concerns the synchrotron X-ray studies of cation environments and phase transitions in high pressure mantle silicates and oxides.

The 1985 students, Kevin P. Corbett and Elizabeth Myhill.

#### Eastern Federation:

Susan Chandler Roberts, her research interest is in Sedimentology with special interest in Triassic sedimentary rocks, waste disposal and environmental aspects.

Channa Devinda Witanachchi, his research is in carbonate and siliclastic petrology in relation to groundwater and petrology resources and pollution control.

The 1985-86 students, Doroth Koch and Laurel Smith Collins.

#### Midwest Federation:

Timothy C. Cowman, he is working on his M.S. degree with emphasis on Geohydrology, dealing with problems of ground water and their solutions.

A second student has been selected and will be enrolling in graduate studies in the second semester of this school year.

The 1985-86 students, Barbara Liukkonen and Martin Wangensteen.

#### Northwest Federation:

David G. Bailey, his thesis topic is on the petrology and geochemistry of the Powder River basalts in Northeastern Oregon.

Sam Matthews, his research includes the study of landslides and related slope failures with emphasis on drainage, permeability, stability and foundation conditions near Horseshoe Bend, Idaho.

The 1985-86 student, Michael F. McGroder. Elizabeth Taylor received her M.A. in Geography. The second year of her grant is given to Eileen Argentina, she is working on her M.A. in Geography in the realm of land-use planning and resource management.

Honorary Award Winners - Continued...

Rocky Mountain Federation:

Edward L. Kaczmarek, his thesis work is on depositional environments, sediment dispersal, and the provenance of the Upper Cretaceous Colorado formation.

J. Chris Stageman, his M.S. degree work is on the provenance trend for Lower Paleozoic Sandstones of the Bliss, El Paso, and Montoya Formations.

The 1985 student, Uwe Kackstaetter. The second year of the grant to Kathleen Cohan is given to Karen J. Schwab.

South Central Federation:

Michael T. Colluci, his research project is in volcanic petrology with studies in the Chilean Andes and the San Juan volcanic field of Colorado.

Kurt M. Ferguson, his research project is in volcanic petrology.

The 1985 student, Lesli Joy Wood. The second year of the grant to Allen E. Scott is given to Michael E. Cole.

Louellen Montgomery, Pres.  
AFMS SCHOLARSHIP FOUNDATION

AN AFMS NEWS RELEASE

The second student selected by Dr. Duncan McGregor, MEMOS Honorary Award Winner for 1986, to receive an AFMS Scholarship Foundation grant for the current school year:

Todd Salat, a native of Cedar Rapids, Iowa, received his BS in Geology at the University of South Dakota, Vermillion, in December 1986. He is enrolled and pursuing his MS in Geology at the University of Wyoming, Laramie. His area of study will probably be in Paleontology.

Sincerely,

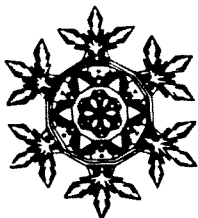
Louellen Montgomery, President  
AFMS Scholarship Foundation



SPECIAL NOTICE

For the month of FEBRUARY only!!! PLEASE!  
Any MWF Chairman having material for the February Newsletter, must reach me by JANUARY 24th. Thank-you very much for your cooperation.

Lois McMahon  
MWF Newsletter Editor



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

Dues to LINCOLN GEM & MINERAL CLUB are as follows:

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

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

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

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

DON'T FORGET - February 28th, 1987 General Meeting

- Scholarships awarded

DON'T FORGET - Get your displays ready for the Show on March 28th & 29th



**h.e.l.p.**

HELP ELIMINATE LITTER PLEASE!

MAIL ALL EXCHANGE BULLETINS TO:

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



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Edward Ridge  
2507 'A' St.  
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