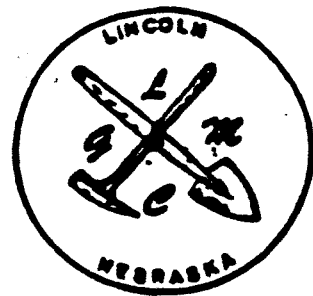


THE PICK & SHOVEL



May
1987

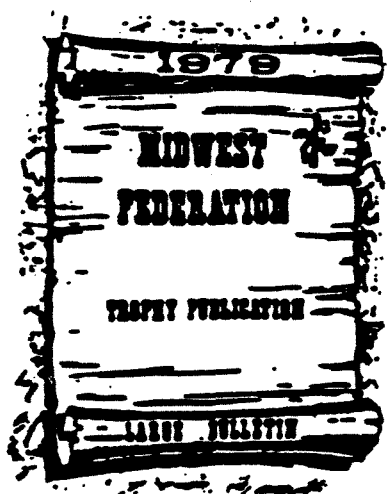
In this issue.

MOTHER MONTH

Note from Lee

JOHN G. NEIHARDT SPRING
CONFERENCE

BLITZED BY THE BLIZZARD OF '87



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 Parks	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

MAY						
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

MAY MEETING: Saturday, May 30, 1987, 7:30 P.M.
Bethany Park Shelter, North Cotner & Vine
Bring a Dessert. Coffee/Tea will be furnished.

PROGRAM: Dr. Hugh Genoways, Director Morrill Hall, our Nebraska State Museum, will discuss what is new and help us get better acquainted with our Museum.

SILENT AUCTION: Please bring or send something to stimulate some interested bidding and be prepared for some nice surprises that you might want for a friend or for yourself.

YOUTH: Your Field Trip and meeting will be much earlier in the day. Look for Mrs. Wright's instructions elsewhere and be prepared to have fun.

HAVE A GREAT SUMMER, GO TO LOTS OF SHOWS, AND WE'LL CALL IF SOMETHING SPECIAL IS PLANNED.

MEMBERS: Reinstatement for your Blue Book- Change of address for Blue Book-

Janzen, Dr. Hal & Darline 4327 Cambridge Road Grand Island, NE 68803 (Toll 308) 382-1322	Lee J. Pivonka 3922 Moore Street Wheatridge, CO 80033 (303) 467-9838
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SHOWS & SWAPS FOR YOUR NEW CALENDAR

June 13-14 SWAP Beatrice, Nebr., Homestead Gem & Mineral Club
June 25-28 MWF SHOW * Dearborn, Michigan, Midwest Mineralogical & Lapidary Society, Host
July 18-19 SHOW Columbus, Nebr., Loup Valley Gem & Mineral Club
Aug. 1-2 SHOW Norfolk, Nebr., Northeast Nebr. Rock & Mineral Club
Aug. 8-9 SHOW Mitchell, So. Dak., Corn Palace Rock Club
Sept. 12-13 SWAP Kearney, Nebr., Fort Kearney Rock 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., Grand Island Earth Science Club

* This is our Federation Show! Please call your officers &/or check at our May meeting if you wish further information before this show.

Regional Show Schedule 1987 AND 1988

1987

CALIFORNIA	EASTERN	MIDWEST	NORTHWEST	ROCKY MOUNTAIN	SOUTH CENTRAL
Turlock, CA June 26-28	Greenville, SC July 31-Aug. 2	Dearborn, MI June 25-28	Puyallup, WA Aug. 7-9	Oklahoma Cty, June 11-14	Austin, TX Nov. 20-22

1988

Costa Mesa, CA Aug. 26-28		Macomb, IL July 14-17	Kennewick, WA Sept. 9-11	Bismark, ND June 17-19	Shreveport, LA Aug. 11-14
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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Hello again!

We are fast approaching the last regular meeting before the summer season. During this month's meeting we will have a silent auction to offset the extra money we donated for the State Museum's dredging project at Lake McConaughy. So, dig out some of that excess material and bring it to the meeting.

I will be looking for delegates for the state show at Ogallala next September. If you are planning to go to the show and are interested, please let me know at the meeting.

See you at Bethany Park on the 23rd.

Kevin J. Schwartman

P.S. Have a Nice Summer!

* * * * *

Junior Report

We are planning a field trip for May 30th to the Fairbury, NE area. If you would like to join us bring a sack lunch and meet us at 9:30 A.M. (Sat.) in the parking lot of the Turnpike Furniture Store at Hwy. 77 South and Saltillo Road. Be sure to bring: plenty of water, a hat, tanning (screen) lotion, and collecting bags. If you have further questions call Jan Wright 488-1884. Hope to see you there!

* * * * *

Program Report

The program for the April meeting was presented by Jan Wright. She talked about the results of her geology master's studies on the Ogallala "morter ledges" of western Nebraska. Rhizoliths (casts of roots) were found in these ledges and were used to interpret that these rock ledges were once ancient soils (paleosols). The rhizoliths found are opal root petrifications. Jan showed several spectacular scanning electron microscope pictures of these opalized rootlets.

MOTHER MONTH

May is the mother month, warming the earth.
Watch as she nurses and cuddles new birth,
Washes the morning and hangs it to dry,
Dusts with young branches the blue of the sky,
Blows on the buds till the blossoms unfold,
Warns the wee fledglings to do as they're told.
Yes, she's the mother month, and we will find
Ere she is done, she'll make all of us mind.

Margaret Rorke

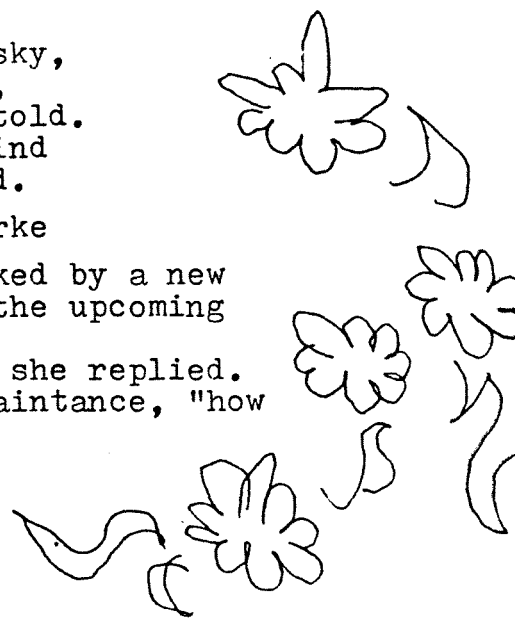
The wife of the theater director was asked by a new acquaintance just what her plans were for the upcoming weekend.

"I'm going to watch my husband's play," she replied.

"Oh," said the somewhat takenaback acquaintance, "how many do you have?"

* * * * *

JCS



A FRIEND TO A FRIEND--

I have four new men in my life!
I get up with Charlie Horse,
I breakfast with Arthur Ritas,
Have lunch with Will Power,
Hop into bed with Ben Gay.

From Mineral Memo's of Antioch, Ca.

* * * * *

SOME GOOD NEWS! "AND WISHES FOR A SPEEDY RECOVERY!"

Myrtle and J.D. Young are on the mend. When I last spoke to Myrtle, J.D. had had surgery on his mouth; and the pain was gone. He was able to eat again and gain back some weight.

- - - - -

Note from Lee Pivonka - Clubmember since he joined as a 'Junior Member'
Hello Fellow Members!

Hope everyone is well and enjoying Spring back in Lincoln. I'm still here in Denver, but I'm not going to school now. I'm working for a Groundwater Consulting firm here in Denver (Geraghty J. Miller, Inc.). We're working on some of the groundwater contamination problems here in the Denver area.

I'm planning a quick trip to Crawford, Ne over the Memorial Day weekend to hunt for a Fairburn agate or two. I haven't been back there for years. I hope to do a little Catfishing on the N. Platte if I get a chance when I pass through.

Have a great summer! See ya around.

Your friend, Lee

JOHN G. NEIHARDT SPRING CONFERENCE

The seventh annual John G. Neihardt Spring Conference, held at the Neihardt Center in Bancroft, Nebraska, Saturday, April 25, 1987, was a rewarding experience for those who were able to attend. The day opened with a welcome and overview of the background of the Center by Marie Vogt, president of the Neihardt Foundation. Albert White Hat, Sr., an enrolled member of the Rosebud Sioux Tribe, then shared much of the history, hopes, beliefs, culture, and religion of the Lakota Sioux. Speaking frankly and charmingly about such tribal rituals as the Vision Quest, the Sweat Lodge, and the Sun Dance, and their importance in Sioux life, he established a feeling of warmth and respect among his listeners.

Mr. White Hat directs the Title VII Bilingual Teacher Training Program at Sinte Gleska College, Rosebud, South Dakota. He has taught Lakota history and culture in college and community settings and has conducted numerous workshops on Lakota medicine and language. He was invited as the main speaker of the conference on the recommendation of Vine Deloria, Jr.

After a guided tour of the Neihardt Center by Maxine Kessinger and a delicious lunch--actually a dinner--at the Lutheran Church, the group reassembled for an afternoon of consideration of the oral tradition; for that is the way such histories as those of the Sioux, in fact all histories in their inception, are handed down. Herbert T. Hoover, who teaches history at the University of South Dakota, Vermillion, has authored a number of books and articles on the oral tradition, and has directed public service projects involving American Indian-White relations and the history of the American frontier, spoke from the historian's point of view.

Elizabeth S. Grobsmith of the University of Nebraska in Lincoln spoke on the oral tradition as an anthropologist. She has written and lectured on Oglala women, American Indian youth, and the Lakota language from extensive field work with the Sioux and other Native American tribes. Last month Miss Grobsmith was one of fourteen recipients of awards for excellence in teaching of undergraduates at the University of Nebraska.

One of the outstanding realizations from the conference was the fact that the Lakota religious tradition is becoming generic among Indians of all tribes, especially among those in prison, and that it was Nebraska's own poet laureate, John G. Neihardt, through Black Elk Speaks, who made it widely known. The Native American Church is now considered by many to be the "eighth right"; however, the use of peyote was not indigenous to the Plains Indians.

Though the weather was beautiful, the conference was attended by only seventy-five to eighty people, doubtless because of the late and sketchy publicity. This was perhaps due to the internal problems at Wayne State College. There were many expressions of regret for the forced absences of Myrtle and J.D. Young because of physical problems, and of Hilda Neihardt Petri because of having just sold her home. Hopefully all will be on hand for the annual State Neihardt Day the first Sunday in August--August 2nd. The program will be excellent, with Father Peter Powell of Chicago, another Vine Deloria, Jr., recommendation, as the principal speaker. Everyone is cordially invited.

--Florence (Boring) Lueninghoener

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

American Charter, 4000 So. 27th St. - Mon. April 6, 1987, 7:30 P.M.

8 Board Members present, with Tom Simmons absent.

Minutes of the Mar. Meeting were read. Motion for approval by Marie Taylor, 2nd by Janet Wright. Carried.

Treasurer's report was read. Motion for approval by Jim Parks, 2nd by Fred Holbert. Carried. Treasurer also reported that the NBC Certificate of Deposit was written for 6.40% instead of the 6.30% quoted earlier.

BILLS: Club - Paid but presented for approval:

\$ 11.87 Vera Lyman, Who's Who & misc. copies
 6.12 Dave Heffelbower - Blank labels for P & S
 71.51 ME Center - Feb. meeting & refreshments
 33.00 Security Storage - April
 25.00 City Parks & Rec. Dept. - Rental of shelter for May Meeting
 34.56 Jim Marburger - Donuts for Show setup

Motion for approval by Shirley Rockel, 2nd by Fred Holbert. Carried.

BILLS: Show - Paid but presented for approval:

\$ 225.00 Alexander & Alexander - Show Liability insurance
 207.61 Lincoln Journal/Star - Ad, March 22,27,29 (22 & 29 in Focus)
 17.61 Jim Parks - Show Dealer expense
 110.00 Lyle L. Huston - Signs
 10.10 Thrifty Nickel - Show Ad
 350.00 NBC - Change for Show Gate
 63.83 Accent Printing - 500 Hand-out programs & Club Information sheets
 126.50 Bethany Pantry Catering - Dealer Breakfasts
 25.00 Roger Pabian - Show Program
 100.00 Jerry Lippencott - Show Programs (4 presentations)
 250.00 Harry Stewart - Show Security Friday & Saturday nights
 34.21 Jim Marburger - Wood for the signs
 50.00 Jim Marburger - Raffle Silverwork
 35.00 Allen Moeller - PA System for Show

Motion for approval by Fred Holbert, 2nd by Jim Parks. Carried.

BILLS: Club - Presented for payment & approval:

\$ 101.82 UNL Printing - March P & S
 100.00 Reynolds Simmons - Officers' Bond
 7.98 Phyllis Parks - Misc.
 18.45 Phyllis Parks - Friday Show Set-up - Coffee, etc.
 68.50 Marie Taylor - Club pins & patches

Motion for approval by Fred Holbert, 2nd by Jim Parks. Carried.

BILLS: Show - Presented for payment & approval:

\$ 68.83 Schwarz Paper Co. - Table covers
 8.19 Vera Lyman, Postage, phone & misc.
 6.85 Marie Taylor - Certificates of Appreciation & Scotch Tape
 60.53 Page Trophy - Ribbons
 23.46 Phyllis Parks - Light Bulbs, calls, etc.
 962.19 AAA Rents - Tables & chairs
 89.13 Service Sign & Lighting - Gate Sign
 7.85 Daily Nebraskan - Ad

Motion for approval by Fred Holbert, 2nd by Marie Taylor. Carried.

NO OLD OR NEW BUSINESS:

SHOW COMMITTEE REPORT:

Fred Holbert reported that there is possibility of change of location & date. He and Show Chairman Roger Pabian are checking into number of possibilities.

LINCOLN GEM & MINERAL CLUB, INC. - Board of Directors Meeting - continued

MEMBERSHIP:

Lloyd Tanner & Robert Fixter have requested reinstatement. Motion to accept by Phyllis Parks, 2nd by Janet Wright. Carried.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Final report on '87 Show will be printed in P & S.

Information on regional Shows

President also reported that Starlite Skating Rink gave permission for us to have Rock Swap on parking lot at 1st & Cornhusker, if desired.

April Program: Research Scientist from Charles City, Iowa will report on one of his field trips; his son will report on Rockford Fossils for Jr. Meeting.

May Program: Hugh Genoways will report on what's new at the Museum.

Respectfully submitted,

Vera Lyman

Vera Lyman, Secretary

LINCOLN GEM & MINERAL CLUB, INC. - GENERAL MEETING - April 25, 1987

Meeting was called to order by Pres. Schwartzman in the Beatrice Rm. at NE Center on April 25, 1987 at 7:30 P.M.

Motion for approval of the Minutes as printed in P & S by Irl Everett, 2nd by Fred Holbert. Carried.

Treasurer's report approved as printed with motion by Fred Holbert, 2nd by Mike Smith. Carried.

There were 24 members, 4 Juniors & 1 guest in attendance.

NO OLD OR NEW BUSINESS

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Six inch "Mighty Mite" combination available. Contact Irl Everett if interested.

Juniors will have Field Trip to Fairbury on May 30th to look for fossils.

Flyers for summer shows, State Swap & Omaha Show available.

Information on Trailside Museum on Bulletin Board.

SHOW REPORT: By Phyllis Parks.

Attendance under 400 for the 2-day Show due to severe Snow Storm.

State Fair bill not in yet.

Phyllis requested possibility of Silent Auction at May Meeting. Motion by Dave Heffebower, 2nd by Roger Pabian that we have a Silent Auction. Carried.

CONGRATULATIONS: Jan reported that her thesis is finished and she now has her Masters Degree. She reported on her thesis, since the scheduled program was not available.

Respectfully submitted,

Vera Lyman

Vera Lyman, Secretary

Treasurer's Report April 1987	NBC Checking 4-1-87	\$1407.82
April Receipts - '87 Membership dues	10.00	
'87 Show Flyer advertising	10.00	20.00
Transfer from money market account		1000.00
Expenses - UNL Foundation Scholarship Deposit	300.00	
Officer Performance Bond	100.00	
UNL Prtg. & Dupl. March P & S	101.82	
Club Pins & Patches to sell	68.50	
Treas.Rct.Book & Misc. copies	17.30	
Set-up Refreshments Show	9.13	
Security Storage-June	33.00	
1987 Show Expenses	1291.84	1921.59
NBC Checking Balance April 30, 1987		506.23

BLITZED BY THE BLIZZARD OF '87

Our 29th Annual Show, March 28 and 29, a week into spring, safely past the ravages of winter storms - or so we thought - until WINTER let loose with a last blast and dumped inches of snow and with fierce winds tried its best to shut us down along with the rest of Lincoln on Saturday. Even the Interstate was closed as were a good many business establishments including our 'Pantry' food supply at the Show. Rockhounds are a hardy group though and enough people kept trickling in to stay open until supper time.

All things considered this was a very fine show except for the lack of viewing public. This recap is for the benefit of those who could not join us.

Set up day was pleasant. Several persons worked very hard to prepare the floor for occupation by the dealers, demonstrators, special features and all of the anticipated displays. When I arrived before 8:30 Dave Heffelbower, Francis Belohlavy, Ewald Paul, Paul Brauch, Floor Chairman John Harrison and Show Chairman Jim Marburger had most of the tables up and were starting to put them into place. Bill & Shirley Rockel and President Kevin Schwartman followed us in and helped get the coffee and tea started. Jim Marburger produced the donuts. Jim M., Francis, Kevin and I rushed out to the storage spot for the 16 club cases, Gems on Location, Nebraska State Gem Case, and all the light bulbs and electric plugs and table cover so that workers could keep busy. Soon we were joined by Roger Pabian, Mike Smith, Jim Null, Ed Ridge, Lois & Lester Hunt, Ed Johnson who worked at covering display tables and setting up the Working Shop, while Jim Marburger did a series of errands. Claude Scott stopped and was also sent on errands. By noon all the dealer booths were in place so drawing for space began, the dealers drove in to unload their many exciting boxes and trays of material which would inspire all who attended. The identifying signs were put in place, displays and special features appeared and the SHOW was taking shape. Other Club Members arrived to set up their own displays, visit a bit with the dealers and friends, have a donut and coffee or tea (also a few delicacies for those who were not supposed to eat donuts were provided by Shirley and Jan), and Saturday work stations were checked. Billie Heffelbower and Adeline Nolde put in a lot of time folding the programs to be handed out. By 9:30 the last dealer arrived and unloaded his wares and we left the show to the watchful eye of our favorite 'Security Man', planning to return for a delicious buffet breakfast at 8 A. M. Saturday morning. We knew that a few late displays were expected and we needed to do our final chores in preparation for the anticipated rush of visitors when the show doors opened.

As mentioned before Winter intervened. By the time Breakfast was over snow was coming at a very fast pace, our expected displays did not materialize, and the people were fighting the weather to see our show. Many club members were on hand to work the various booths but some were anxious to do their part and leave while streets were still navigable. Customers were few and far between - but they kept 'blowing' in covered with snow and eager to check the dealers wares and admire the displays. For the 2 days we had 365 paid adults and 48 paid juniors. We also had one Scout group that was admitted free. These guests and the many exhibitors, workers and other participants at the show did their best to investigate the materials displayed by our twelve excellent dealers and to make worthy additions to their collections.

Our special thanks go to these twelve dealers who were as usual the 'backbone' of the show. They came from 8 states, some as far as 800 to 1000 miles away, with their vans, campers, and trailers loaded with thousands of dollars worth of 'Earth's Treasures'. The variety, quality and beauty of their tables is only exceeded by their friendly and courteous attention to our questions and purchases. This year we must extend a special vote of gratitude for the sharing of our leaky roof, snow-bound cars, and extreme lack of attendance.

To each of our Special Displays we also say "Thanks!" George Corner with the materials and information regarding the exciting 'dredging operation' at Lake Mac near Ogallala Last summer. Henry and Margaret Hohnholt of Kearney with the

continued

BLITZED continued

wonderful Agate and Glass pictures, lamp shades, table tops and so on. The Rockels who manned the Club Booth, took care of telephone calls and dispensed information. John & Lillie Lewis who once again brought club memorabilia and set up a case so that we could reminisce and remember. Dave Nixon, Superintendent of Trailside Museum at Fort Robinson during the summer, and the Morrill Hall workers who assisted him. We especially say 'Thank You' for the door prizes which Dave presented for the show. (Really makes me wish we could have another club field trip to Crawford as we used to so that we could take advantage of the planned field trips.) Ed Junker of Wood River demonstrating his 'Sphere' machinery and the steps in the production of those wonderful spheres. Patti Pharaoh showing her expertise in the working of silver as she creates those lovely rings and things. Chris Rudnick and crew who shared their knowledge of fossils and their methods of preparation for display. Mary McCartney and Laverne Jess and helpers who kept the casting operations going and assisted any who were interested. Connie McCartney of Grand Island demonstrating his award winning techniques in the art of scrimshaw, and displayed his special case. Francis Belohlavy of Burwell (LGMC club member since January) demonstrated faceting and displayed his 'Carousel of Gems.' Bill White of Independence, Missouri brought his unique lapidary unit upon which he produces such interesting and lovely shaped cabochons. Roger headed up the working shop and kept several machines humming away. Fred Holbert, our new 'Opaloholic' naturally worked on opals. Tom Simmons set up a table of large, Braille-labeled touchables and invited the visually impaired to visit as out guests. (Great idea but sorry it 'Winterkilled'.) Junior's Booth set up and manned by Andrea and Reagan Wright and their parents and a fine lot of prospective members they collected for our mailings. Special 'Thanks' also to Mr. & Mrs. George Landon of Seward who displayed some fine western woods and agates. Also much appreciation to Mr. & Mrs. Jim Grapes and family who brought a huge display of Indian Artifacts all the way from Kearney for our enjoyment. We regret the absence of two of our listed Special Displays that were missing because of the storm, and the closed roads. Mr. Harvey and Mr. Howard Kenfield were planning to share 2 cases of their fabulous lapidary displays with us and Norm Balliet, a club member from Central City, with his excellent petrified wood became snowbound in Fremont, on Saturday morning.

Mr. Claude Scott had charge of the Raffle. On display he had the case of lovely, handcrafted jewelry which attracted many 'chances.' When the drawings were made on Sunday afternoon the lucky recipients were club member H.O. Paulson for the Bolo, Mr. Bill White of Independence, Mo. the Necklace and Joyce Pellettera Moore the Bracelet. An interesting sidelight was the attendance at our show of the talented young lady who made the jewelry and the knowledge that she was a lapidary classmate of Claude and Kevin and Adeline and Helena, at City Lapidary Classes.

We'd especially like to commend the club members who once again came and put their energy and club spirit into the final hours of "Show 1987" as the tables, chairs and drapes were dismantled and put aside, as the club cases and special effects were taken down, loaded and returned to storage, as all the heavy equipment was returned to its owners, as floors were swept (and mopped) and as the tired Dealers loaded up to return home. That small handful of people who worked to the end are what it really is all about. You deserve an S. O. by the rest of us.

We're happy to report that even with the total "Snow Disaster" this year's show lost only \$557.50. We were afraid that it might be over a thousand so we are pleasantly surprised. If you have any questions about the income and costs just ask Phyllis and watch for your financial statement at the end of 1987.

Compiled by Phyllis

CHATOYANT AND ASTERIATED STONES

Even though the big blizzard decimated the anticipated crowds for our show, all was not a total loss in working shop area. I learned the things necessary to cut an asteriated stone. It was a brown Linde Star, a synthetic sapphire to be sure, but my years of frustration in trying to get a good star finally ended. I finally got a very finely polished star sapphire with a well-defined, well-centered star.

It all started the previous week at the Greater Kansas City Show. I was both an exhibitor and speaker there, and got to spend quite a bit of time in the working shop. Bill White had his cup machine there and preceded to show me how to finish a star stone. Bill gave me a stone that he had previously roughed out. The stone was dopped and domed, but there was nothing there to remind you that it was a star sapphire.

The cup machine consists of an old valve grinding machine that Bill fashioned to hold a Jacob's chuck and to turn at about 250 RPM. Bill utilizes brass pipe fittings to serve as the grinders and polishers. Bill had me start my stone with a 240 grit diamond compound and showed me how to tell when it was completely rounded and well-domed. There was an overhead light---when the reflected light from the stone appeared uniform over its entire surface, it was time to go to the next compound, a 325 diamond grit. Bill stressed the importance of getting the surface of the stone completely uniform on the 240 grit. Any irregularities here would be much more difficult to remove on the finer and finer grits. By the time that the show ended, I had the star sapphire taken through the 325 diamond compound. With a bit of Bill's Secret Formula Extender Fluid (baby oil) on the stone, a really fine star beneath the genuinely frosty surface was very apparent. With that, I packed up and came back to Lincoln, with an unfinished star sapphire.

The following weekend was our own show and it was here that the stone was destined to become nearly finished. Bill and Betty White arrived at the show early Friday evening and set up their very attractive displays of fancy-shaped cabochons (raised silhouettes) such as balloons, bananas, topologic free forms, etc., and of Bill's new display of Nebraska Grasslands' materials. Bill's cup machine was set up in the working shop. The usual Saturday morning show amenities kept me out of the shop until the early afternoon. It was then that I got back to work on the star sapphire. Throughout the show, I did some grinding on the star as well as show people the other lapidary equipment. I took some more tips from Bill on shaping fancy cut stones and had the chance, along with the other people visiting or working in the shop, to learn a great deal about different shaping techniques.

By Sunday afternoon, I had finally taken the sapphire through the 600 and 1,200 diamond compounds, heeding Bill's cautions to get the surface completely uniform in each stage. The show closed and I ended up with a nearly finished star sapphire. The following week, I put a brass fitting in the chuck of my small Pro-Carver and geared it down to its' slowest speed. I put

some 8,000 grit compound on the cup and touched the stone to it. In a very short time, the brilliant, well-defined star became apparent. I finished up the stone with Linde-A on a Poli-Pad. The results were very pleasing to the eye---I was ecstatic.

Why was I able to get a well-defined, very fine star this time when many of my previous attempts at cutting star stones had ended up with total failure or a mediocre stone at best. After all, I had followed the instructions in the books to-a-tee, yet the results were less than satisfactory, "...sand through 600 grit with dry paper and polish with tin oxide or Linde A on hard leather, etc." Some research led to a likely explanation. After taking the stone through the 1,200 diamond compound, there was really little difference in the surface than after the stone had been finished on the 240 compound. Therein probably lies the key. After sanding a star stone on 600 grit silicon carbide paper, the surface is glossy and appears ready to be polished.

Bill's admonitions to get the surface of the stone perfectly uniform at the end of each progressively finer grit of diamond compound was the key to the whole operation. A star stone consists of two major components, the host and the guest. In this case, the host is the Aluminum Oxide making up the sapphire and the guest is the Titanium Oxide making up the silk or the star producing part of the stone. The host is the mineral corundum, whereas the guest is rutile. Each has strikingly different properties (see any mineralogy text). The rutile in a star stone is arranged in three separate sections each consisting of millions of needle-like crystals that are oriented parallel to oneanother and each section is oriented at 60 degrees to eachother. By the time one sands the stone through the 600 grit, the corundum part is ready to polish---the rutile is not. The grinding away on successively finer diamond compounds gets both surfaces ready to polish. Going to the 8,000 diamond has the rutile and the corundum on the same surface. At 600 grit, the rutile is still deeply hidden in the stone although it appears to be ready to polish. Bill's advice to get the surface uniform at each successively finer diamond stage is what showed when both the rutile and the corundum were ready to go to the next phase. The important lesson was that uniformity rather than luster was what showed when the stone was ready to move to the next finer abrasive.

Display material for May should include lapidary materials that have been finished. Cases will be furnished.

Roger Fabian

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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 GENERAL MEETING for May will be in the
BETHANY PARK SHELTER HOUSE
May 30, 1987 at 7:30 P.M.
Be sure to bring DESSERT to enjoy with the COFFEE.

Have a Great Summer!



h.e.l.p.

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