



PICK & SHOVEL

IN THIS ISSUE
TRADE ROUTES
STAR GARNETS
---AND MUCH, MUCH MORE

April,
Volume 30

1990
No. 8

Lincoln Gem and Mineral Club, Inc.

P. O. Box 5342

Lincoln, Nebraska 68505

1990 ELECTED OFFICERS

| | |
|--|----------|
| President: Fred B. Holbert , 2822 S. 13th St., Lincoln, NE 68502 | 423-5639 |
| 1st Vice President: Gerald Moore , 2305 S. 35th St., Lincoln, NE 68506 | 489-4184 |
| 2nd Vice President: C. David Heffelbower , 1819 Washington St., Lincoln, NE 68502 | 475-4713 |
| Secretary: Vera Lyman , 420 N. 56th St., Lincoln, NE 68504 | 464-6089 |
| Treasurer: Phyllis Parks , 2435 So. 19th St., Lincoln, NE 68502 | 476-6798 |
| Board Member: Francis Belohlavy , 1919 "K" St., No. 4, Lincoln, NE 68510 | 477-4337 |
| Board Member: Roger Pabian , 315 "D" St., Lincoln, NE 68502 | 474-2034 |
| Board Member: Sandra McNiff , 2542 Colonial Dr., Lincoln, NE 68502 | 483-1165 |
| Board Member: Shirley Rockel , 1134 West Avon Lane, Lincoln, NE 68505 | 464-3059 |

NOMINATIONS COMMITTEE

3 Years: Kevin Schwartman, Chair.
James Null
Michael Smith
2 Years: Phyllis Parks, Janet Wright
1 Year: C. David Heffelbower,
Bill Rockel

LONG RANGE PLANNING AND BY-LAWS COMMITTEE

3 Years: To be announced.
To be announced.
2 Years: Kevin Schwartman
Jim Marburger
1 Year: Bob Wright
Linda Parks

STANDING COMMITTEES

Calling: Shirley Rockel
Education: Roger Pabian
Field Trips:
Historian: John & Lillie Lewis
Hospitality: Wilma (Billie) Heffelbower
Membership: Gerald Moore
Housing/Property: Jim Parks
Junior Activities: Janet Wright
Librarian: Jim Parks
Membership: Gerald Moore

MWF Liaison: Vera Lyman
Programs: Francis Belohlavy
Scholarship: Marie Taylor
Christmas Party: Billie
Heffelbower
1990 Rockhound/Year:
Charles Wooldridge
1990 Show: Roger Pabian
1991 Show: Gerald Moore

AUDITING COMMITTEE, 1987-1988

Shirley Rockel
Don Phillips
Francis Belohlavy

YOUR PICK & SHOVEL STAFF

Publisher: Lincoln Gem & Mineral Club, Inc., P. O. Box 5342, Lincoln,
Nebraska 68505
Editor: Roger Pabian
Business Reporter: Vera Lyman
Financial Reporter: Phyllis Parks
Circulation : C. David and Wilma Heffelbower

The Pick & Shovel is the official publication of the Lincoln Gem and Mineral Club, Lincoln, NE. Articles and items appearing within may be reproduced in other club bulletins provided that proper credit is given to the Pick and Shovel and the author, and that a reprint of the bulletin is sent to the editor of the Pick & Shovel.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS**APRIL MEETING:**

Saturday, April 28, 7:30 PM
Nebraska Center for Continuing
Education, 33rd & Holdrege.
Norfolk Room.

PROGRAM:

**USE OF SOIL SURVEYS
FOR FIELD COLLECTING
By Francis Belohlavy**

JUNIOR MEETING:

7:00 PM. Field trip planning.

COMING EVENTS:

SALE: Bud Plant Collection,
Hamilton Co. Fairgrounds, Aurora
April 28, 10:00 AM
See Feb. "Gem Palette" for sale details.

SWAP: Fairlawn Mall, 21st & Fairlawn,
Topeka Gem & Mineral Society,
Topeka, KS, April 28, 29, 9:00 AM-6:00 PM

SWAP: Annual State Rock Swap
Host, 100th Meridian Rock Club
Lafayette Park, Gothenburg
May 5, 6

SHOW: Omaha, NE
Nebraska Mineral & Gem Club
Holiday Inn, 72nd & Grover
October 6, 7

SHOW: Topeka, KS, Topeka G & M Society,
Ag Hall, Expocentre, 17th & Topeka
October 13, 14

SHOW: Tulsa Rock & Mineral Society,
Tulsa, OK, October 27, 28, County Fairgrounds

REGIONAL SHOWS:

FUTURE MEETING DATES, PLACES: May, 19, 1990. Nebraska Center for
Continuing Education, 33rd & Holdrege.

DISPLAY MATERIALS

Bring items that relate to April (Diamond)
or any other material that suits your fancy.
Cases will be furnished.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Another year has passed since the last time we said, "Wow, what a show" and now we find ourselves saying it again. An initial tally shows that attendance was about the same as last year. The dealers, however, reported that people were spending much more money - an indication of an improved economy. We have already received several dealer letters thanking us for having a great show and asking back next year. The two new dealers also did quite well and have requested an invitation to next year's show.

The show's success represents a total club effort and it's commitment to excellence. Many thanks go to Roger Pabian, Show Chairman, for his organizational skills and continued hard work. Not only does he know how to publish a fine club news bulletin, but he puts on quite a gem show. But of course, one of Roger's talents is his selection of a great show team. An equal amount of credit must be given to the members of the show committee and all of the club members who contributed to the success of the show. Of particular note were the extra efforts made by John Harrison, Gerald Moore, and Phyllis Parks, who all pitched in to fill intermittent voids created by the show chairman's lingering illness. Many thanks are also do to those outside of the club who contributed by demonstrating and exhibiting.

A common response from the dealers is their appreciation for the Saturday evening dinner. Shirley Rockel and Billie Heffelbower added some lovely touches that created a big impression. Those who attended the dinner will recall that we gave our appreciation to Vera Lyman, Roger Pabian, Phyllis Parks, and Jim Parks for their continued dedication to the club. Not present at the dinner were the Taylors, to whom we also wanted to acknowledge their long service. Among others, it was particularly gratifying to see that family once again setting up displays on Friday night. WE add our note of thanks to that of "Chic" Cihacek in the February issue of "The Gem Palette" when he thanked Marie Taylor for her contributions to the Midwest Federation.

As usual, while there was the appearance of "smooth sailing", the show had its moments: 1) Dealer, Ed Alexander, was in an collision while on his way through New Mexico. The van in which he lives while on the road was totally demolished. Luckily, he lost no merchandise and he, his dog and his bird were only shaken. The bird, a white Macaw named Brandy, became a welcome addition to our show. 2) The moorings for the show banner which was to be displayed over "O" Street were destroyed during a wind storm; hence, no banner. 3) Many illnesses within the club followed Roger's. 4) We were screamed at for not allowing smoking as per city code. 5) We found it folly to try to demonstrate anything while putting out so many fires.

We are going to ask for help from many of you who have had experience in past shows. One of our greatest concerns is that of continuity. We are proposing that a show manual be created that would give job descriptions, a calendar, and a check list for every show function.

After the show dinner, we announced the gracious acceptance by Gerald Moore to be 1991 Show Chairman. Providing Gerald with a measure of relief is the experience of Roger Pabian and John Harrison who volunteered for the dealer and floor chairs, respectively. We couldn't think of better backup than those two. In addition to this luck, Mr. Moore finally was able to find some serviceable and affordable used lapidary equipment thanks to J J & L. One can imagine that after a period of time, we all will be inundated GMCs
..... (Gerald Moore Cabochons)

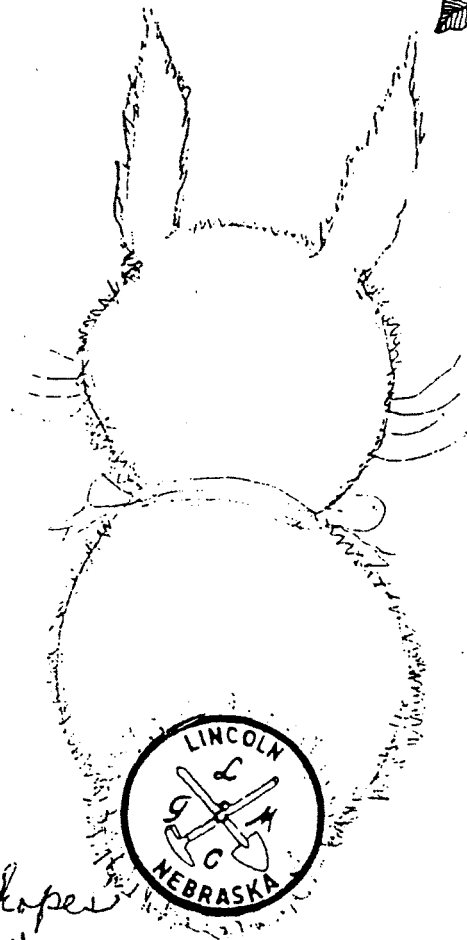
FRED B. HOLBERT

Our State Show
 was a great State Show
 many thanks and
 a herd of warm fuzzies
 to all who made
 it rock and roll -
 It was a pleasure for
 the L G M C to welcome
 the thousands who came
 to our show as well
 as state officers and
 delegates -

It was nice to see
 Marie Wells who
 came by to say hello
 Her husband Lynn has
 been very ill - but is
 better! also Tom Simmons,
 just out of hospital
 came in for a look see to

check out the show and
 say "hello"

With hopes
 that Easter and
 Passover found
 you with family
 & friends
 your Rock hound
 friend Billie
 Sunbeam



OTHERS WRITE

Reprinted from "Osage Hills Gems," Bartlesville, OK, January, 1990

OSAGE HILLS GEMS

JANUARY - 1990

GEMS FROM LASER ROD

by Charles A. Stratton

Some of the most valuable synthetics used as gems today are available because they were developed to fill special needs in electronics and space technology. Recently, this author found that a length of 1/4 inch precision-ground laser rod makes a most interesting piece of gem "rough". This is especially true for anyone possessing a Facette or other faceting machine which will take a 1/4 inch dop by simple "chucking". Machines using set screws, slots or other means of securing the dops would be less versatile in handling the laser rod; however, having dops 1/4 inch in diameter would still be an advantage.

The author gained speed in making matched round ear-post gems by using the following method: First a length of laser rod (from 1 1/2 to 6 inches) was chucked in the faceting machine directly (no dops used) and a pavilion was cut. Then the rod was turned around, and the faceted end was chucked carefully, so as not to harm the fine tip of the first pavilion. A second pavilion was cut, the result being a rod with a pavilion on each end. To some creative artists, this would have been a challenging gem in itself. However, to the writer it only meant two pavilions which needed crowns cut to match, and an intervening piece of rod to be retrieved for further cutting.

The rod was now cemented by epoxy to a conical dop at each end. This was done in two steps. If the rod was long enough, it was clamped directly in the alignment jig, with a small, thin piece of cardboard to protect the rod from scarring. Then the 1/4 inch conical dop with epoxy was introduced through the other side of the jig to meet the pavilion on the end of the rod in alignment. After the 5 minute epoxy had set for about an hour, the jig was loosened and the dop and rod were slipped far enough that a second conical dop could be epoxied to the other pavilion end of the rod. Be careful not to disturb the alignment of the first dop. The double-dopped rod was left to set overnight.

The next day, the two dop ends were cut off leaving ample material on each to cut a crown. The middle of the rod was now available for a repeat procedure. The only problem was the ever-present routine task of aligning pavilion and crown facets. The big saving in time was in not having to round, cut girdle facets or polish the girdles at 90 degrees. Indeed, the rod was already highly polished. Time saved was probably 1/4 to 1/2 of the total cutting time, considering also that only half as much dopping was done as usual.

When the rod became too short to reach across the alignment jig, one conical dop was used as a centering device while the first was epoxied. After a short set time, the free (centering) dop was also epoxied in place.

After 3 sets of ear-post gems, the final piece of rod was 3/4 inch in length. Slightly different procedures could be used to align this material perfectly even though it was now too short to chuck directly. The author leaves this to your ingenuity. For him, the question was moot since the original owner of the rod wants the piece preserved "as is".

The one key essential is that the rod has been precision ground to 1/4 inch diameter. The brass dops are also precision ground to 1/4 inch. Hence, it's easy to align both.

The rod used was called "laser ruby". That would be the color looking down a long piece of rod. The cut gems were a bright, gorgeous pink sapphire of a color much desired by every woman who saw them.

There is one caveat. The precision laser rod is probably quite expensive. In that case, one simply charges more for the cut gems. Sources and cost estimates are being investigated. Information may be available later.

LINCOLN GEM & MINERAL CLUB, INC. - BOARD OF DIRECTORS - March 5, 1990
Nebraska Hall Rm 115 7:30 P.M.

Pres. Holbert called the meeting to order. Minutes of the previous meeting & Treasurer's report were approved as read.

Show & Club bills were presented. Motion for approval & payment by Francis Belohlavy, 2nd by Dave Heffelbower. Carried.

FINANCIAL:

Automatic renewal of CD for 6 months.

Break-ins at Storage site. New lock for storage. A one-time rental fee of \$ 10.00; \$ 8.00 of same refunded when lock is turned in.

OLD BUSINESS: Insurance (Presented in 3 parts)

#1- Club & Show: \$ 500,000. Liability for 365 days = \$ 438.00 cost
Show portion = \$ 302. Club portion = \$ 136.

#2- Officers' Fidelity Bond - \$ 25,000. coverage for each President & Treasurer.
Cost = \$ 100. per year or \$ 252. for 3 years prepaid

Motion to accept Liability package by Francis Belohlavy, 2nd by Roger Pabian. Carried.
Motion to accept Bond package for 3 yrs. prepaid by Vera Lyman, 2nd by Gerald Moore. Carried.

#3- Personal property coverage & storage

Check on coverage price - per \$ 1000. property value. Establish Club properties worth.

GEOLOGY DAY: Roger received letter from Carol Crosby at Chet Ager Nature Center. Very pleased with LGMC's participation. Would like it to be an annual event. Roger proposed we have annual participation & that a chairperson be appointed each year by the President. 2nd by Gerald Moore. Carried.

AFMS All-American Club Award: Roger felt that our Club should participate in light of all activities Club is involved with; ex= Annual Swap; Geology Day; Jr. Field trips; Encounter Center; Scholarship awards; NAS participation; etc.
Discussion. Dave Heffelbower volunteered as AFMS All-American Club Award chairperson.

P & S: Roger is short on time this month; will seek help.

SHOW: Roger sent materials to Public & Catholic Schools. One-sided banner will be on "O" St. Monday 3/12. Dealers all contracted. Gerald M. in charge of displays. Ad in Focus and display Ad. Also on Marquee at Pershing. Calls made for dinner reservations & any workers duties. Rocks needed for Jr. table (Wheel Of Fortune) and Silent Auction.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

May General Meeting-Dessert Supper at Bethany Park Shelter House-7:30 P.M.-May 19, 1990.

Lynn Wells had a Stroke. Doing well, may come home from hospital March 5.

Jim Marburger's mother entered hospital on March 5.

Thank You card from MWF for \$ 25. for Endowment Fund.

Memorial to Gilbert Lueninghoener forwarded to Jr. chairperson.

Letter from Irl & Lois Everett - Re: selling of business.

From UNL: Re-dedication for Morrill Hall - March 17 & 18.

No Study Meeting during the month of March

Respectfully submitted,

Vera Lyman

Vera Lyman, Secretary

NO GENERAL MEETING HELD DURING THE MONTH OF MARCH.

LGMC Treasurer's Report for February 1990

NBC Checking Acct. Bal. 2-1-90 1640.77

Receipts:

| | | |
|-----------------------------|---------------|--------|
| 1990 Membership Dues | 65.00 | |
| Susp. Gem Palette Sub | 2.00 | |
| '89 Advertising P & S | 40.00 | |
| Deposit '90 Show Dlr. Space | <u>100.00</u> | 207.00 |

Payments:

| | | |
|---------------------------------|--------------|--------|
| Susp. Gem Palette Subs | 32.00 | |
| Jan. P & S Printing | 118.16 | |
| Memorial Dr. Lueninghoener | 15.00 | |
| Contribution Friends Museum | 50.00 | |
| Cont. MWF Endowment (Special) | 25.00 | |
| Nebr. Center-Jan. Swap & Meet. | 146.70 | |
| UNL Scholarship Found. '91 Dep. | 300.00 | |
| UNL Scholarship Found. Donation | 25.00 | |
| Jan. Swap Mailings | 7.25 | |
| Treas. copies & mailing | 11.42 | |
| '90 Show Mailing Expenses | <u>25.00</u> | 757.62 |

National Bank Commerce Ckg. Bal. 2-28-90 1090.15

LGMC Treasurer's Report for March 1990 - NBC Checking Acct. Bal. 3/1/90 -\$ 1090.15

| | | |
|-------------------------------------|----------------|---------|
| Receipts: 1990 Membership Dues | 22.00 | |
| Suspense-Gem Palette Subs | 4.00 | |
| Pick & Shovel Sub | 5.00 | |
| Donation for Club Scholarship Fund | 10.00 | |
| Donation by Show Lecturer | 75.00 | |
| Suspense-Member Sat. Nite Dinners | 270.00 | |
| Junior Fund Show Activities | 221.72 | |
| 1990 Show Incomes (Separate Report) | <u>5325.00</u> | 5932.72 |

| | | |
|---------------------------------------|----------------|---------|
| Payments: Feb. Meeting & Refreshments | 76.85 | |
| Feb. Pick & Shovel Printing | 105.50 | |
| 1990 Who's Who | 12.36 | |
| Security Storage-New Lock/Rent to '91 | 280.00 | |
| Liability Ins. Club and Show | 438.00 | |
| Insurance-Officer Performance 3 yrs. | 252.00 | |
| Sunshine-Cards & Postage | 10.00 | |
| Show Set-up Refreshments | 47.03 | |
| March Pick & Shovel Printing | 94.60 | |
| 500 New Letterheads | 39.89 | |
| Treas. Expense/copies/postage | 18.89 | |
| Suspense-Members Sat. Nite Dinners | 270.00 | |
| Juniors for J.D. Young Memorial Case | 134.42 | |
| 1990 Show Expenses | <u>4188.62</u> | 5968.16 |

NBC Checking Account March 31, 1990

\$ 1054.71

NBC Money Mkt. Acct. - Withdrawal \$1,000.00 - pre show payments, redeposited after show.
 " " " " - Withdrawal \$ 500.00 - Change for ticket sales, redeposit 3/19/90.

ASIAN TRADE ROUTES

By Roger K. Pabian

Even the most primitive nomad chiefs knew that there was far more profit in taxing goods going from one trade center to another through their territories than there was in simply raiding caravans on an all or nothing basis. The khans were pleased to provide military protection to caravans of traders for a percentage of the profits. The khans also utilized their discourse with traders as sources of military and diplomatic intelligence. Thus, the major trade routes such as the "Silk Road" as well as minor trade routes were well-maintained, very safe routes of travel. The well-trained nomad soldiers quickly hunted down and slew any would-be packs of bandits. The established trade routes through Asia could be safely traveled without benefit of military escorts at most times.

Although the trade routes were best known for transporting silks and spices, we will concern ourselves with the gems and minerals that were items of commerce going from one remote spot in the world to another.

Nomads were particularly pleased with the red-orange coral that has been found in the Mediterranean off the coast of Italy. This coral still can be found at shows. In early days, the coral first was shipped to Phoenician settlements in the Crimea. From there, it passed through Scythian and Sakian territories and eventually ended up in China. By the time that the Mongols had conquered most of Asia, the trade centers in the Crimea were staffed by Venetian merchants, and although the names of the peoples changed, the routes remained nearly the same.

Lapis Lazuli has been a favorite gem for perhaps five thousand years. It was first mined in the peaks of the mountains in the Badakshan province of Afghanistan and from there much was exported to Egypt. By the time of Christ, lapis lazuli was being exported to the trade centers in China and it became prized as a jewel as well as a source of the dark purplish-blue pigment, ultramarine. No cutting centers for lapis lazuli were ever established near its source.

About the middle of the 13th century, Hulegu, a grandson of Genghis Khan led his forces into Persia, Iraq, and the Holy Land. Turquoise was a favorite stone of the Mongols and they took much of it from Persia. It was transported to China where much of it was ground and utilized as a glaze for ceramics rather than cut into gems although some of it was used in combination with coral for Mediterranean sources in elaborate jewelry for women in high political and social positions.

Jade from Turkestan was shipped along the Silk Road to cutting centers in China. Although much of it was protected enroute by the skillful Mongol cavalymen, jade was not particularly appreciated by the nomads. Jade slicks were sometimes glued to womens' headdresses but it enjoyed little more use until it reached established centers of culture.

Cinnabar, a deadly poisonous mercury sulfide, went along the trade routes from from southern Russia to China. The cinnabar was pulverized and used as a brilliant red pigment in paints and glazes. Cobaltite, a cobalt arsenic sulfide, was mined in the Azerbaijan province of Russia and the Chinese utilized this mineral to extract the deep, cobalt-blue pigment. Orpiment and realgar, both arsenic sulfides, the former a bright yellow and the latter a bright red, were found in

Rumania and Macedonia and these enjoyed success as paint pigments for Chinese artisans. That many of the artists who worked with these minerals eventually died from mercury, cobalt, or arsenic poisoning attests to the absence of shop safety regulations of the era.

Of particular note is that none of the minerals that moved along the trade routes and were acquired as duty by the nomads were of any strategic importance. The iron and steel that stayed at its source areas was eventually utilized in the manufacture of firearms. Although the nomads utilized gunpowder as fireworks, they never utilized it strategically. By the middle 1500's the peoples conquered by the nomads were the conquerors of the nomads whose well disciplined cavalry proved to be no match for the firepower of even the most primitive firearms. +

In future issues: Motifs in nomadic jewelry.

LINCOLN GEM & MINERAL CLUB JUNIORS

Our April meeting will be held at seven o'clock in the Continuing Education Building located at 33rd and Holdrege. We will discuss the details of the summer field trips that night. Each Junior member should also bring at least one new specimen to show to the group. If you need something identified that might be a good time to get either me or Roger Pabian to help you with an identification.

A special thanks goes to everyone who contributed to the success of the Junior booth at the show this year. Bill and Betty White and their grandson were major contributors helping with staffing the booth as well as providing specimens and of course the wonderful "ROCK WHEEL OF FORTUNE". Our own Juniors and their parents and sponsors chipped in time and specimens. Paul Brauch; Lilly and John Lewis; Marie, Jim and Susie Taylor; as well as Roger Pabian gave the Juniors specimens to use at their booth. The pieces of amethyst and the polished agate and petrified wood were the popular prizes among the children who tried their luck. We also sold back subscriptions of the gem and mineral journals. Adam Whyrick and Aaron Hames both worked and displayed their collections. GOOD JOB YOU TWO!

SAVE THESE DATES : MAY 19, JULY 14, & AUGUST 18 !!

SHOW REPORT

Roger Pabian

Our 32nd Annual Show is now a very pleasant chapter in the history of Lincoln Gem and Mineral Club. Over the years, our club shows have gained the reputation of being a genuinely professional show business venture. The quality of a show can be measured by the caliber of the acts that are staged. All we need to do is equate the dealers, displays, demonstrations, and activities such as the fossil and gem digs with musicians, dancers, magicians, and acrobats to see that we had a very well balanced show that left something to everybody's liking.

The most pleasing thing to me was the high degree of participation by both LGMC members and NAOESCI members from many of Nebraska's clubs. It is such a high degree of participation that truly makes the show a club show and a state show. That all aspects and all levels of the hobby could be seen by the public makes the show a very worthwhile venture.

That many of the club's newer members made some excellent contributions toward the shows success is deeply appreciated. Thanks to Sandy McNiff for her work in ribbons and recognitions. Thanks to Don Phillips for the very well received fossil dig. The hands on activities were very well-received. I was personally highly amused by a couple of children who stood by bored to tears while their mother spent about an hour digging for fossils. Craig Tenhluzen's faceting display and Charles Wooldridge's cabochon cutting demonstrations were well-liked by the public.

Francis Belohlavy contributed a great deal in computerizing the mailing for registered 1989 show visitors and he also made the floor diagram and arranged for printing the programs and the lecturers.

Dave Heffelbower, Bill White, and I shared a work shop in the far corner of the auditorium where we demonstrated cabochon making, carving, and miscellaneous lapidary techniques.

Moving the junior booth out into the mainstream of the show traffic proved to be very successful. The "Wheel of Fortune" furnished by Betty White proved to be a good fund raiser. The juniors distributed magazines and rock samples to potential new junior members as well as to teachers. It is my own personal feeling that junior programs need to be treated as a mainstream of club activities rather than as an afterthought if these programs are to flourish.

The floor arrangement by John Harrison proved to be very convenient for both set up and tear down. I heard no complaints. It also made it very easy for exhibitors.

Billie Heffelbower and the ticket selling crew were alert, cheerful, and helpful throughout the show. I spotted Vera Lyman, Shirley Rockel, Frances Tracy, Phyllis Parks and Linda, and the Hunts, to be sure, at the ticket booth. Many more were working there, I know, but because of my bronchitis, I was only at the show about half the time.

Thanks to Shirley Rockel for arranging such a nice Saturday night dinner through the Prospector Restaurant. Thanks to Billie Heffelbower for making the table favors and contacting outside clubs about the banquet.

Fred Holbert did an outstanding job in contracting dealers and demonstrators. I know that some of us left the show in a more financially distressed condition than when we entered it. Well-balanced stocks of high quality merchandise were pleasing to show visitors as well as club members.

Turning the gem dig over to the Geology Club from UN-L worked out very well for both LGMC and them. Their efforts considerably lessened our workload during the show and they were able to raise funds for their educational projects.

As usual, the auditorium staff headed by Derek Anderson was very helpful and courteous in the weeks preceding the show and during the show itself.

Special thanks are due to Scott Wolter for his excellent display of Green River fish fossils and for his program on Green River Fossils. Both were very well received. Scott donated his honorarium back to the club because he enjoyed the show so much. It will be used for books.

Phyllis Parks' and family again provided yeoman service during both set up and tear down. They are affectionately referred to as the St. Louis (Linda) and Minneapolis (Michael) chapters of LG&MC. Pete and son Peter's efforts were also appreciated.

Thanks again to Bill and Betty White of Independence, Missouri, for their help, displays, and many acts of kindness for our show.

My thanks to all of the show participants who covered for me so well while I was down and unable to be at the show all of the time. It is very comforting to have such a seasoned crew. +++

MAY MEETING

Because of the unavailability of the Bethany Park Shelter House, the dessert supper that normally constitutes the May meeting has been cancelled. The May meeting will be at Nebraska Center, May 19, 7:30 PM.

JUNE PICNIC EXTRAVAGANZA

Take heart members saddened by the above turn of events. President Holbert and your board of directors have scheduled a gala extravaganza picnic for Saturday, June 16. Time and place will be announced at the May meeting. In addition to good eats, there will be various fun and game events for all, with some valuable prizes to be awarded to lucky winners.

ATTENTION! EARTHQUAKE FANS

The San Francisco earthquake of 1989 has generated interest in these natural phenomena and requests for literature are frequently received at the Nebraska Geological Survey. "The New Madrid Earthquake" (A Scientific Factual Account), U. S. Geological Survey Bulletin 494, by Myron Fuller, 1912, has been recently reprinted in its original form, without revision or abridgement. A few copies are available at the Conservation and Survey Division office, 113 Nebraska Hall, City Campus, for \$10.00. It can also be ordered from Center for Earthquake Studies, One University Plaza, Southeast Missouri State University, Cape Girardeau, MO 63701, for \$10.95, postpaid. It is a very timely little volume that should be of great interest to history buffs.

PHENOMENAL GARNETS

By Charles Wooldridge

My fascination with star garnets was kindled when I saw a beautiful three carat cabochon on sidplay at the Silver Capital Arts Shop and Museum in Wallace, Idaho. Norm Radford, the owner and cujrtor, explained that the gem came from the Emerald Creek site near Fernwood, Idaho. He proceeded to show me dozens of cut stones and gallons of rough material. The cabochons sold for \$24.00 per carat and the rough for \$1.50 per gram. Because I was on a business trip and was required to adhere closely to a time schedule, I couldn't consider making a visit to the mining area. I had to satisfy my desires byt purchasing a handful of promising looking material. A second trip to northern Idaho netted another small handful of purchased material. My third and last trip to the area allowed a half day for exploration...so, off I went. I drove south from Coeur d'Alene for a couple of beautifully scenic hours to the village of Fernwood.

Just south of Fernwood, I turned west toward the garnet collecting area. The first sight to greet me was the Commercial Garnet Company, where tons of graded, small garnets are processed for use in abrasives.

Several miles past I arrived at the "Dig Your Own" site operated by Faye Starling. Because I had just a few hours, I was only able to make this one stop. I understand that the Forest Service operates a dig your own site that yields garnets in situ that are whole 12 or 24 sided crystals. At the Starling site the material is dug from alluvial deposits by heavy equipment and placed in large piles to be searched for gems. Faye charges \$5.00 per day and provides shovels, water, tables (a piece of plywood or a 50 gallon drum), sluice boxes, and guidance. Definitely, a very good bargain for the collector or lapidary. I was only going to be there for about 2 1/2 hours so she only charged me half price. One trick I learned right awayt was to do a good job sluicing and then turn the box upside down on the table and pick all of the larger gems off the top. After a quick look over the rest of the material, I would dump the load and get another. Most people take their time, search thoroughly, and get every little specimen. Using my method, I was able to gather closetyo a pound in less than three hours. When I was finished, I bagged some of the material from where I had beensluicing to bring home and go through at my leisure during the winter. (It makes a great activity ofr kids.)

The address for the "Dig Your Own" Concession near Emerald Creek is: Faye Starling, Box 189, Fernwood, ID 83830.

It has been a couple of years now since my trip to the Great Northwest and it may be a long time until I get to travel there again. I did find a little bit of Idaho in Nebraska this summer. By responding to an ad in "Lapidary Journal", I came into contact with the Pretzer family from just south of Beatrice. The Pretzers invited me to come down and see their rough and finished garnets and talk about their experiences gathering and collecting star garnets. Loydd and Dolores Pretzer, their son Mark, and his wife, Kathy, have been traveling to the Emerald Creek area yearly since 1947. Loydd and Mark figure they collect an average of three to five pounds of quality rough per day. They used to get three pounds per day at the Forest Service site but that now only yields about one half pound or less per day.

Mark says that the garnets are very easily high-graded. All you do is look at the material wet in bright sunlight or a spotlight and pick out the pink, silky stones. A gallon of material can be picked over in about ten minutes.

The Pretzers sell four and six ray cabochons either through the mail or from their home at very reasonable prices. They have dozens of gems to choose from in a wide variety of qualities and sizes. I suggest you call, make an appointment, and go visit. With their years of experience, they have many useful and unusual methods of orienting, cutting, and polishing star garnets which they are willing to share with fellow lapidaries and collectors. They have developed their own specialized equipment that can easily be assembled in a basic shop.

Loydd and Dolores" phone number is (402) 228-0526 and their address is Route 4, Box 62, Beatrice, NE 68310.

Enjoy!

+++

MEMBER NEWS

Jim and Phyllis Parks recently traveled to St. Louis to visit Linda who was recently listed in "Who's Who of American College Students" for her academic achievements. Linda also received a Student Affairs Award and the family attended the honors banquet. Congratulations! Linda.

Thank you to Adeline Nolde who made a donation to the club's scholarship fund.

NOMAD JEWELRY DISPLAY

I have received many favorable comments from both club members and outside show viewers about Linda Plock's nomad jewelry display that was a featured exhibit at our show. Many people really enjoyed the "museum perspective" that included clothing with which such jewelry would be worn as well as such utility items as a tea service set and utensils. That the jewelry was displayed in a cultural context made the entire exhibit an educational experience for the viewer.

It is also hoped by your editor that Linda's display will help add some understanding to the series of "Pick & Shovel" articles about nomads and their uses of gems and minerals.

RKP

MEXICAN MINERAL STAMPS

One of my co-workers, Jim Swinehart, recently returned from his annual trip to the Yucatan Peninsula in Mexico. He is one of the leaders of a short short course that deals with recent marine geology. Jim brought me back a sheet of the new Mexican mineral postage stamps. Each sheet contains fifty 100 peso stamps and each stamp portrays a different mineral. The sheet costs five thousand pesos in Mexico (about \$2.00).

I will bring my sheet along for a display item for the April meeting. I am sure that most people will be favorably impressed with it and the overall high quality of the crystals portrayed on the stamp. My guess is that similar specimens to those portrayed on the stamps would make a collection that would be worth closer to five thousand dollars.

RKP

NEWSLETTER



Published monthly
Except
June, July, August

MARCH 1990 - Issue 295

Judith Washburn, Ed.
107 Deer Creek Road
Rochester, IL 62563

President's Message . . .

President's Message for March 1990

Dear Members,

This month I want to encourage each and every one of you to begin working on an exhibit for the Golden Jubilee Show in Evansville, IN. Let's make this 50th anniversary show the biggest ever! I'd like to see a Hall of States display from every state in the Midwest Federation and at least one from every club. There is plenty of space for interesting and educational non-competitive exhibits, as well as cases entered in competition.

CLUB OFFICERS: be certain to share the packet of show information received in early February with your members. Start planning what you and your club will do. From all reports received, the Evansville Lapidary Society is preparing a good show. Remember to take something for the Silent Auction. There will be a swap area and special activities for the young people, too. See the show packet for more!

At least four ladies have been very busy working for you, the members of the MWF, since the October Executive Committee meeting. Nellie Claxton, Directory chairperson, has written dozens of letters, requesting up-to-date information from each committee head and state director. She has taught herself to use her new word processor, and corrected and up-dated many directory pages. Newsletter editor Judy Washburn, in addition to her own job (and her "home" club bulletin job) has also typed certain sections of the new directory. Diane Dare has put together and typed the current MWF By-laws for inclusion in the directory. Secretary Jean Reynolds, as usual, has collected the information from the clubs' annual reports, reminding the state directors to contact clubs slow about getting in their reports, and relayed this info to Nellie. All these hours of work are volunteer, and these ladies deserve our thanks.

Sincerely yours,



| 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 |

Editor's Note



It's that time again! Mailing lists have been revised, and this is our first mailing with the new information received from the local clubs. PLEASE make a point of checking that the appropriate people in your club are receiving a copy of the newsletter.

Remember, each club is entitled to two copies and those clubs that publish a newsletter or bulletin should see that their editor is receiving a third copy.

If anything is amiss, send me a postcard and I will see that it's straightened out.

Those clubs that did not send in their up-dated forms with their dues will find that last year's officers are still listed. Try to get that information to us so that your current leaders will start receiving communications from the MWF.

On a personal note - please forgive the late arrival of this month's newsletter. The hospitalization and subsequent passing of my mother a few weeks ago took a huge toll from routine tasks and commitments. I'm trying to get back on track. Your understanding and tolerance during this time will be appreciated.

It's not
TOO LATE

ENDOWMENT FUND SPECIAL GIFT FUND

Contributions to the MWF Endowment Fund in honor of the Federation's 50th Anniversary are still being accepted. They will be accepted until May 1 with the assurance that contributors will be listed in the Anniversary Show Program.

Smaller clubs need not be concerned about not being able to send a large donation. Contributions of any size are welcome. It is the thought of commemorating the 50th Anniversary that is the highlight of this special fund.

Send donations to:

Lloyd Brown
Wisconsin Geological Society
2446 N. 69th St.
Wauwatosa, WI 53213

Program News -

*Editors - please publish to insure widespread distribution!



WANTED: A FEW GOOD PROGRAMS



The deadline for this year's A.F.M.S. Program Competition is drawing near -- April 1, 1990. But, it is not too soon to work on entries for 1991.

The Program Contest gives individuals and Clubs a chance to earn national recognition for slide and/or video presentations on subjects related to our hobby. All Clubs appreciate good programs. Clubs who use programs from Federation Program Libraries especially appreciate access to presentations worthy of national recognition.

If you or your Club have recently put together a Program worthy of such competition, please enter it in this year's contest. If you are making or plan to make such a program this year, write now for the guidelines (rules) or even submit it for a critique.

For full details contact either:

Margaret Pearson, A.F.M.S. Chairperson,

9034 W. Lisbon, #24, Milwaukee, WI 53222

OR M.W.F. Program Library, [(313) 722-6043]
3490 S. Hannan Rd., Canton, MI 48188

NEED AN IDEA FOR A PROGRAM? The MWF Library often has requests for the following types.

- Basic Lapidary
- Specialized Lapidary Techniques
- How to Orient, Cut & Polish a Specific Stone (opal, fire agate, obsidian, etc.)
- Identification of Basic Rock Types (for Juniors & Beginners)
- Rocks, Minerals or Fossils of a State
- Spotlight of a Museum Collection
- A Favorite Hunting Location
- A Specific Mineral or Mineral Group
- Jewelry
 - Techniques with Silver
 - Beadstringing



PRESIDENT
Mr. Glen A. Hanning
Route 1
Huntsville, IL 62344
217-467-2285

1ST VICE PRESIDENT
Mrs. Margaret Reinink
7091 E. East Park Ln.
New Carlisle, IN 46552
219-654-3673

2ND VICE PRESIDENT
Mr. Harold McClure
3233 Zephyr Dr.
Dayton, OH 45416
513-276-4686

SECRETARY
Miss Jean Reynolds
107 Tuttle Ave.
Clarendon Hills, IL 60514
312-323-1682

TREASURER
Mrs. Kitty Starbuck
7636 V. Avenue E.
Vicksburg, MI 49097
616-649-1991

Displaying...

CAUTION:

HARMFUL DUSTS AND EFFECTS ON THE BODY
Antimony (Sb)- dizziness, muscular pain, vomiting, liver degeneration
Arsenic (As)- vomiting, rapid pulse, kidney and liver damage
Beryllium (Be)- dermatia, skin ulcers, acute pneumonia
Boron (B)- affects central nervous system
Cadmium (Cd)- affects respiratory tract, kidney, liver, can cause death
Chlorine (Cl)- harmless salts to toxic gas when mixed (including cleaning materials)
Chromium (Cr)- lesions on arms, hands, slow to heal
Copper (Cu)- damage to nervous system, liver, pancreas
Fluoride (F)- anemia, loss of weight, very toxic when heated
Lead (Pb)- diarrhea, insomnia, weakness, pyorrhea
Magnesium (Mg)- metal fume fever, severe local lesions
Manganese (Mn)- sleepiness, hand tremors
Mercury (Hg)- excessive salivation, loosening of teeth
Nitrates (NO3)- vomiting, dizziness, weakness
Nitric Oxides(NO)- congestion of lungs and throat
Sulfur (S)- irritation of eyes, throat, skin
Zinc (Zn)- caustic if combined with chlorides

Exposure to these harmful dusts can be through inhaling into the mouth and lungs where they are absorbed into the blood. The exposure may be from clouds of dust or from almost invisible particles inhaled over years. Always wear a mask when grinding, sawing, hammering, or drilling any material containing the above chemicals. These chemicals can also be absorbed into the blood when the skin is exposed to jewelry dusts, or liquids for prolonged periods.

Ref. - Handbook of Dangerous Materials by Irving Sax Via CFMS Newsletter 9/89 & Environmentally Speaking
 JOHN BOLAND ENVIRONMENT/LEGISLATION COM-11

CLUB DISPLAYS CAN REAWAKEN INTEREST

This can be the time of year when the winter blahs set in: the holidays are over, field trips are not yet possible, and many club meetings seem to run out of steam. Why not use this time to plan a club display for the shows that will be coming along in late spring, summer, and fall, or for using in your local library, bank display case, or city hall? A club display can involve every member of your club. Those who have knowledge about your subject can help to lay it out. Those who have specimens, or photographs, or books that are appropriate can lend them. Those who are artistic can use their talents to make the case attractive and eye-catching. Those who are not really involved can be used as commentators, to help tell the planners where they are achieving their goals, and where changes are needed to make the case more understandable or attractive.

The first item to decide is what the case will try to achieve. Will it be educational, to teach the viewer a skill, such as how to make a cabochon or a certain kind of jewelry? Or will it show the fine specimens of minerals or fossils owned by members of the group? Or will it show pictures of club members on field trips, with samples of the goodies found? These are only a few ideas that have been used in the past - see what others you can come up with. After a theme is settled, decide whether the club case will try to follow uniform rules, so that it could be entered into competition if the club wanted to. A case can, of course, follow the rules but still not be in competition. If your display can be put in public places, it will attract potential new members to your club, and bring the public to your show. If you have never tried putting together an exhibit, doing it as a club can be an education for all involved. Try it.

-Anne Cook, Chairperson
 Uniform Rules Committee

Silent Auction!

REMINDER

Good specimens are needed for the Silent Auction in Evansville. Start now by weeding through your collection. Think about making room for all the new material you will soon begin collecting for this season. Gather together some flats and label them MWF AUCTION and bring them with or send them with someone going to Evansville. What better use for the "extras?"



EVANSVILLE LAPIDARY SOCIETY, INC.

EVANSVILLE, INDIANA

*hosts the
 Golden Jubilee!*

Public invited for
 four fun-filled days!

Special attractions include:

- World's Largest Faceted Golden Topaz
- Moon Rocks — Nasa Exhibits
- Outstanding Displays
- Museum Exhibits — Private Collections
- Special Programs
- Demonstrations
- Silent Auction
- Swap Area
- Special Youth Activities
- Door Prizes
- Rolling Rock Meeting — Sunday
- Field Trips

ADMISSION:

- Adults \$3.00
- Youth 6-16 \$1.50
- Under 6 FREE with Adult

THURSDAY - YOUTH DAY
 Under 16 FREE with Paid Adult
 Family Discount noon till closing

FRIDAY - SENIOR CITIZEN DAY
 Over 60 — half price
 10 am to 4 pm

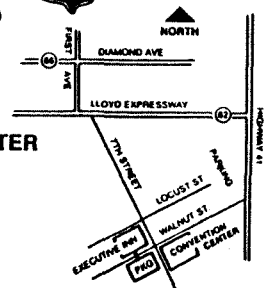
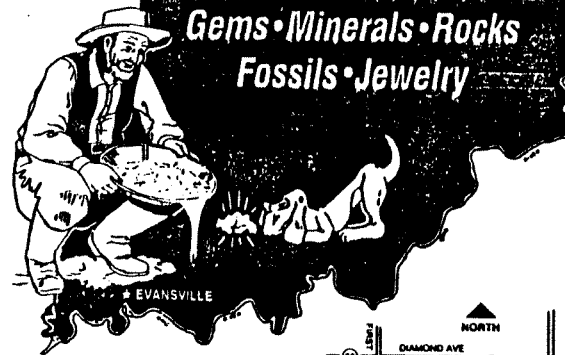
SPECIAL 4-DAY PASS \$10.00

HOURS!

Thursday-Saturday
 10 am-8 pm
 Sunday 10 am-5 pm

RETAIL & WHOLESALE DEALERS AVAILABLE

Camping Nearby
 Food Available



AIR CONDITIONED
 GREEN CONVENTION CENTER


For further information, contact:
 Evansville Lapidary Society, Inc.
 P.O. Box 4188
 Evansville, Indiana 47724

Wooly's Custom Lapidary

PRECIOUS/SEMI-PRECIOUS GEMS, ROUGH MATERIAL, JEWELRY, AND SUPPLIES



836 S. 31 Street
Lincoln, NE 68510

402-475-9034 



By Appointment Only

J J & L ROCKS & MINERALS

"Supplies for the novice to the discriminating Rock Hound"

(402) 792-2337

Shop at 330 Locust, Hickman, Ne.

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

Jim Harburger

John Harrison

CUSTOM CUTTING
FOSSILS

ROUGH
MINERALS
SPECIMENS

CABACHONS
FINDINGS
SLABS

FINISHED JEWELRY
SUPPLIES

Read your bulletin to spot new materials or specials of the above advertisers.

Advertising by a rock-hobby business or interest is permitted with the approval of the Board, at a rate now set at \$15.00 per full page per insertion, paid in advance.

1/2 page, \$7.50; 1/3 Page, \$5.00; 1/4 page, \$3.75 (Min). These ads will be placed throughout the bulletin as space permits.

Subscriptions to the PICK & SHOVEL ARE \$10.00 per year mailed.

Dues to LINCOLN GEM & MINERAL CLUB are as follows:

Adult membership fee \$10.00 (age 16 and over)

Junior membership fee \$2.00 (age 12-16)

Family membership fee \$22.00 (husband, wife, and all children under 16---permanent residents of household).

New memberships must be approved by the Board, after applicant attends at least one (1) regular meeting of the club, and pays the above dues plus \$5.00 registration fee.



h.e.l.p.

HELP ELIMINATE LITTER PLEASE!

MAIL ALL EXCHANGE BULLETINS TO:

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



Popcorn Wagon
16.7 USA 1902



Bulk Rate

Edward

Ridge

2507 A st.

Lincoln

NE

68502