

CALENDAR

Meeting: Saturday, September 22, 7:30 PM, Nebraska Center, 33rd & Holdrege

IMPORTANT-Some By-Laws changes are being proposed by the Committee and your approval is needed to implement and bring up to date. Please attend this meeting. Club Members- See Pages 4C and 4D of this Pick & Shovel for proposals.

Program: "The Yellowstone Volcano" presented by David Heffelbower, Program Chair.--Video

Youth Meet at 7 PM. Bring your summer finds to discuss.

October Meeting-Saturday, the 27th, 7:30 PM, Antelope Shelter, 30th & just south of A St. This will be our Halloween, Dessert Meeting with coffee and??? Start planning your 'Hobby Related' costume.

NEXT LGMC SHOW - MARCH 23-24, 2002, Pershing Auditorium
(Our 44th Annual Show)
"...a Blast from the Past!..."

Nearby Shows to Visit

Sept. 14-16	SHOW	Denver G & M Show, 34 th Annual, Denver Merchandise Mart, Denver CO
Sept. 29	AUCTION	Cedar Valley R & M Soc., Community Center, Palo, IA, 9 am to end?? 9approximately 800 lots + more. Listing available .at meeting.
Sept. 29	BAZAAR	Nebraska Bead Society, 12-5 PM, Nebraska Center, Nebraska Room
Oct. 6-7	SHOW	Nebr. Mineral & Gem Soc., 46 th Annual, Ford Hall, Holiday Inn Central, Omaha,, NE
Oct. 6-7	SHOW	Topeka G & M Soc., 45 th Annual, AG Hall, Kansas Expocentre, Topeka, KS
Oct. 12-13	SHOW	Michigan Mineralogical Soc., Greater Detroit G & M Show, Warren, MI
Oct. 20-21	SHOW	Grand Island Earth Science Soc., 27 th Annual, Fonner Park, G.I., NE
Oct. 26-28	SHOW	Fort Kearney Rock Club, Annual, Hilltop Mall, Kearney, NE

2001 REGIONAL SHOW SCHEDULE

EASTERN FEDERATION

July 13-15

Syracuse, New York

CALIFORNIA FEDERATION

July 12-14, 2002

Placerville, California

SOUTH CENTRAL

FEDERATION

February 9-10, 2002

Tyler, Texas

AFMS/NORTHWEST

FEDERATION

July 16-21,2002

Port Townsend, Washington

SOUTHEAST FEDERATION

September 2-4

Pascagoula, Mississippi

ROCKY MOUNTAIN

FEDERATION

April 19 - 21, 2002

Enid, klahoma

MIDWEST FEDERATION

September 7-9

Rice Lake, Wisconsin

YOUTH & CLUB NOTES

Youth Leader Kay Jurgens wishes to express mixed emotions in the status of youth member Ariana Bingell. Ariana will be leaving in a few days for Arizona where her father David Bingell has accepted a position as Collections Manager for the White River Apache Reservation. We will all miss her in the Youth Group and her help at the SHOW.

At the same time we wish to congratulate the Bingell Family on their new venture and wish them good luck in their move. We'll miss all of you! Be sure to send your new address so that we can mail your bulletins and keep in touch. Perhaps you will come to one of our Gem Shows some March.

Another of our newer members that we are going to miss is Kay Mead who has accepted a new job in Minnesota. Lots of Luck, Kay!

This summer Wooly acquired a new address so please add it to your 2001 Who's Who—

Charles Wooldridge Family
10350 202nd St.
Greenwood, NE 68366
(402)789-8100

Roger Pabian took the club traveling fossil case, which he recently renovated, to the national show in Arlington, Texas this summer and received lots of favorable comments. (I'm assuming that he also did some promotion for our 2002 Show which he has new flyers made up for.

For any of you that are interested in some interesting classes pertaining to our hobby these two classes will again be starting soon.

DIAMONDS, GEMS, AND JEWELRY (noncredit)

If you have been thinking about buying, selling, collecting, or just simply learning about gems, this is your class. This hands-on informative class about diamonds, colored stones, and pearls, is led by a certified gemologist appraiser. The first three classes meet on Tuesday evenings, but the last class field trip will be held Saturday morning. (Field trip discussed in class the first night.)

Course Number: LLLX180453

Tuition: \$29

Sec	Start	Sess	Day	Time	Room	Inst
FA	Oct 9	4	T	7:30-9:30 pm	SCC,N-1	Fixter

LAPIDARY (noncredit)

Learn the art and techniques of cutting and polishing stones. Participants supply their own stones. Beginners will learn basic instruction during the first class with materials provided. You will receive information regarding sources for purchasing future stones.

Course Number: LLLX112653

Tuition: \$48

Sec	Start	Sess	Day	Time	Room	Inst
FA	Oct 1	8	M	7-9 pm	AULD	Pabian

This Pick & Shovel is a bit larger than the rest of the year because of extra material which I have received over the summer. I would like to Thank each of the persons who has made these interesting contributions and hope all of you will read and enjoy as much as I have. Thanks, Roger, Eric, Vera, Grant, Susy and Kay.

Be sure and clip the extra stamps and bring to Grant for 'The Stamp Project' which is carried out by the MWF for its Endowment Fund. Bring all the Cancelled stamps you can salvage, especially the commemorative ones, as they are incorporated into 'bookmarks' which are then sold at shows etc. to make money for the fund. Grant forwards them to the proper people.

From The Midwest Federation Bulletin:

<p>PRESIDENT Dean Stone 900 Willard St Galesburg IL 61401 309-342-7132 dstone@misslink.net</p>	<p>1ST VICE PRESIDENT John Blue 16155 Shurmer Strongsville OH 44136 440-238-4412</p>	<p>2ND VICE PRESIDENT Kitty Starbuck 7636 V Avenue East Vicksburg MI 49097-9307 616-649-1991 rock93312@aol.com</p>	<p>SECRETARY Mary Haasing Route 1, Box 63 Huntsville IL 62344 217-667-2285 mgrocks@adams.net</p>	<p>TREASURER Norm Hanschu 6607 Starbridge Lane Canton MI 48107 734-455-8596 NWHANSCHU@predigy.net</p>
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Kitty Starbuck
7636 V Avenue East
Vicksburg MI 49097-9307
rock93312-aol.com

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Our 61st Annual Midwest Federation Show and Convention is almost here. I am sure everyone is looking forward to enjoying the field trips, show and activities planned for September 5-9 in Rice Lake, Wisconsin.

Conventions play an import role in organizations like the MWF. They give us opportunities to get together and share our common goals, pleasures, and experiences which we all enjoy. I hope to see a lot of familiar faces in Rice Lake.

A number of MWF people attended the annual AFMS annual meeting held in Arlington, Texas in June. Kathy and Bob Miller, John and Rose Blue, Marve and Kitty Starbuck, Colleen and Lyle Kugler, Norm and Joyce Hanschu, and Barbara Sky all were present for the various meetings and events.

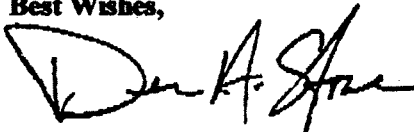
I would like to thank the MWF members for the opportunity to represent you at the AFMS meetings. These meetings are very helpful in many ways. We learned, for example, that the MWF leads all Federations in contributions to the AFMS Scholarship Foundation. The MWF has contributed \$185,428.39 as of April 30, 2001. The MWF clubs and members should be saluted for their giving to this worthy cause.

A pamphlet titled "What is the American Federation of Mineralogical Societies" was distributed at the meeting. These will be distributed at Rice Lake and are handy in quickly explaining the formation, focus, and incentives regarding the AFMS and membership in it.

At the AFMS meeting, ALAA (American Land Access Association) also met and a number of important issues were discussed. There have been successful Court challenges in Idaho, as to the federal attempts to limit access on some government roads, and with the new administration in Washington, people were hopeful that our collecting areas would remain open. We will wait and see.

Again, I hope to see many of you in Rice Lake to enjoy the Wisconsin hospitality that awaits you.

Best Wishes,



Dean Stone

From our Club Founder, Irl Everett:

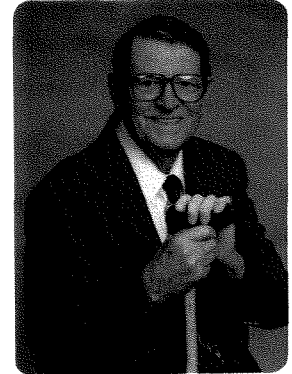
June 19, 2001

Dear Friends & LGMC Members,

Greetings from Lincoln, Nebraska. I wanted to share some news with you so you'll know what's going on in my life these days.

Irl's New Address

**Brentwood Estates
Apt. 309
1111 S. 70th Street
Lincoln, NE 68510
327-8752**



On June 30th, we will be remembering Lois, who passed away one year ago. How I miss her! She was such a vital part of my life, and things haven't been the same since she died. Even though I've continued to live in my own home, it hasn't been easy. My grandson has been living with me for the past 7 months, but I am finding it more and more difficult to do the simple everyday things.

My children have been concerned about the way I eat, the fact that it's hard for me to go downstairs to do my laundry, and cleaning the house wears me completely out. Since January I've been in the hospital three times: January – severe dehydration; February – heart attack; April – congestive heart failure. All of these have weakened me physically and emotionally.

With the help of my kids, I've made the decision to move to a retirement home. Brentwood Estates is located on about 70th and A Streets, and is just 2 blocks from where Janet (my daughter) works. It's a beautiful place, with all meals furnished, transportation provided, laundry of linens (which are included), with a laundry room just down the hall for my personal washing, and housekeeping each week. There is a 24-hour emergency call system, cable hook-up, and a multitude of activities provided

I'm happy about this move and am having fun buying some new things for my apartment. It has one bedroom, a nice bath with walk-in shower, and a living area which includes a kitchenette. There are two large closets, so I'll have some good storage room. Everything is lovely, and I have a wonderful view from my private balcony. There are a number of men living there, including some WWII veterans, and I already know one lady who's a resident there. I'll have a whole new audience for my jokes!

The apartment will be open for me to begin moving my things in the first of July. However, I plan to actually move in the first part of August. When I get my new address and phone number, I'll make sure and send it to you.

The good thing is – I don't have to give up my house of over 50 years. My grandson Patrick will continue to live there, paying utilities and so forth. So I don't have to get rid of all my belongings until I'm ready. He'll take care of the house and property for me.

Thank you for your care for Lois and me over the years. I really appreciate your friendship.

Lovingly,

Irl

LINCOLN GEM & MINERAL CLUB, INC - BOARD MEETING - May 2, 2001
7:00 P.M. Kinkos Conference Rm 48th & Vine

President called the Meeting to order.

Minutes of the April Meeting were approved with motion by Jim Marburger, 2nd by Grant Bennett. Carried.

Treasurer's report was approved with motion by Vera Lyman, 2nd by Jim Marburger. Carried.

BILLS: Presented and approved for payment with motion by Vera L., 2nd by Jim M. Carried.

The Show Financial report was approved with motion by Vera L, 2nd by Dave Heffelbower. Carried.

Bob Fixter, Roger Pabian and Bill White each donated their \$25.00 (which they received for presenting a program at the Show) back to the Club. \$ 70.00 was also received from the sale of plants.

NEW BUSINESS:

Charlene Bingell (Board member) indicated they are taking a trip to England. Upon their return, they will present us a program at one of our regular meetings, all about their trip.

Also received a number of "Thank You's" from the dealers at our Show.

HISTORIAN; Suzy McMahan - indicated that she has begun to organize some of the History Files

GRINDING PARTY: Chair - Suzy McMahan
Sunday July 22, 1-4 P.M. at Pioneer Park

JUNIORS MEETING:

Grant Bennett gathered the Juniors at our last General Meeting. They discussed Field Trips to the following locations - Little Nemaha Quartz in Arkansas, Ashfall for fossils and campout. Grant sent information to Kay Jurgens, Juniors Chair. We do need sponsors to go with the Juniors on some of these trips if they materialize.

NEW MEMBER:

Bill Wild Bennett, NE 68317 He did attend a General Meeting and paid His dues. Motion to approve by Vera L., 2nd by Charlene Bingell.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Vera Lyman
Vera Lyman, Secretary

LGMC Treasurer's Report for May 1 through August 31, 2001

Pinnacle Bank Checking Balance 4/30/2001 \$ 8770.30

Receipts: Returned Key Deposit 50.00

Payments:

Kinko's-May Bd. Meet	15.00	
Kinko's-By Laws Committee Meeting	15.00	
May P & S Printing & Copies	36.57	
Show Storage Rent thru 2001(6 mo.)	378.00	
Treas. Copies & Forms	13.71	
Pres. Copies	7.69	
Refreshment Supplies	26.04	
May Key Deposit	50.00	
Historian Notebooks & Supplies	92.31	
Special Lapidary Equipment Fund		
(Machine & Supplies)	664.92	1299.24
Pinnacle Bank Checking Balance August 31, 2001		7521.06

LINCOLN GEM & MINERAL CLUB, INC. - General Meeting - May 19, 2001
7:30 P.M. @ Bethany Park Shelter House

Desserts furnished by Club members.

President called the Meeting to order and opened with the Pledge of Allegiance.

The Minutes were approved with a motion by Shirley Rocke, 2nd by Irl Everett. Motion carried.

Treasurer's report was approved with motion by Grant Bennett, 2nd by Shirley Rockel. Motion carried.

Special Lapidary Class donation from Dave Heffelbower of \$25.00.

New Business:

Susan Taylor, Scholarship Chairperson, announced that she had received a card from Dr. Smith's wife, thanking the Club for the scholarship and all our generosity. The Scholarship had been presented at our April Meeting to Mirela Dumetrescu.

Also, the sad news of the passing of 2 former members of LGMC. They are Walt Moser and Marie Wells. Our sympathy is extended to their families.

Delegate: President indicated need for a delegate to the Midwest Federation Sept 7-9 in Wisconsin. There were no volunteers at this time.

2002 SHOW: Roger Pabian, Chairman

Roger indicated that he would like some new faces on the committee. Thus far, John Harrison, Floor Chairman w/new assistant. David and Charlene Bingell, Dealer Chairpersons. Kaye Mead, Programs.

Roger will also chair the 2002 January Swap.

HISTORY FILES: Suzy McMahan requested any photos or other items be forwarded to her; and anyone knowing person/s in photos, please write information on back. The Book on John G. Niehardt was turned over to the Historian by Vera Lyman at this meeting.

Irl Everett brought a 1975 Lapidary Journal with lots of information for reminiscing. He presented the Journal to Kaye Mead as the newest member of the Club.

Club Library: Irl Everett also donated several books to Club Library. "Gemstones Of The World" by Walter Schumann

"Field Guide to Rocks & Minerals" by Audubon Society - in memory of his wife Lois who was co-founder of LGMC

CD Rom also turned over to Roger for Library - "Photo Atlas Minerals" purchased by Club.

MEETINGS: Board Meeting - Sept. 5, 7:00 P.M. @ Kinkos

General Meeting - Sept. 22, 7:30 P.M. @ Nebraksa Center

Door prizes won by Phyllis Parks, Jim Parks, Bill Rockel, Kevin Schwartzman.

Desserts were enjoyed by all.

Dave H. had an excellent program for us but experienced difficulty with the VCR. Thanks for trying, Dave.

Respectfully submitted,

Vera Lyman

Vera Lyman, Secretary

BY-LAWS and LONG RANGE PLANNING COMMITTEE MEETING

July 9, 2001 7:00 P.M. @ Kinkos, 48th & Vine, Lincoln, NE
Conference Room

Purpose of Meeting:

To update By-Laws by additions or deletions.

The following revisions are being recommended by the By-Laws and Long Range Planning Committee for approval by the Board of Directors and the general membership.

ARTICLES OF INCORPORATION:

Article II Resident Agent

Change the name and address of Lois Everett to:

Phyllis N. Parks 2435 South 19th Street Lincoln, Nebraska 68502

BY-LAWS:

Article I Section 1.

Membership in this organization shall be of four classes; - Adult, Junior Family and Honorary.

(Revision) Membership in this organization shall be of five classes; - Adult, Junior, Family, Honorary and Life membership.

Section 2. (a)

Prospective members must attend one regular meeting before being approved for membership.

(Revision) Membership will become active after attending one regular meeting.

Section 2. (b) Revisions are in parenthesis

Membership dues shall be \$5.00 (\$10.00) per year, payable January 1. A fee of \$1.00 (\$5.00) plus \$5.00 (\$10.00) annual dues will be paid by each adult applying for membership. A fee of \$5.00 plus membership dues of \$5.00 will be charged adults applying for membership after July 1.

Section 2. (c)

Those persons who become new adult members after November 1, will pay the \$1.00 (\$5.00) fee and the \$5.00 (\$10.00) per year membership dues. These members will have their dues paid until December 31 of the following year.

Section 2. (d)

If dues are not paid by January 31, membership shall be automatically forfeited.

(Revision) If dues are not paid by January 31, a late fee of \$5.00 will be assessed.

Section 2. (e)

a reinstatement fee of \$1.00 (\$5.00) shall have been paid

Section 3. Junior members

Payment of \$2.00 per annum or \$1.00 after July 1

Section 4. Family Members

Dues for the entire family shall be \$22.00 plus initial fee of \$5.00
A fee of \$5.00 plus membership dues of \$11.00 will be charged for family membership after July 1.

Section 6 - changed to Life Membership

A Life Membership shall be a person who has rendered outstanding service and commitment to the organization. Life membership will be awarded by majority vote of the Board of Directors. Life memberships shall be limited to 2 individuals per year.

Section 6 will become Section 7

Section 7 will become Section 8

BY-LAWS REVISIONS (cont'd)

ARTICLE II - OFFICERS

Section 1, Board of Directors

The Board of Directors shall consist of the President, First Vice-President, Second Vice-President, Recording Secretary, Treasurer and 4 Directors

(Revision) there would be 2 Directors for every 50 paid adult members in good standing.

ARTICLE II - Duties of Officers

Section 2.

(b) The First Vice-President shall assist the President in the performance of his/her duties and, in the absence of the President, shall have all of his/her powers and perform his/her duties. The first Vice-President shall cooperate with and assist the Educational Chairman for the year in which he/she is serving.

(c) The Second Vice-President, in the absence of the President and First Vice-President, shall have all of the President's powers and shall perform his/her duties. The Second Vice-President shall cooperate with and assist the Program Chairman for the year in which he/she is serving.

(Revision) The underlined parts shall be deleted.

(e) Any disbursement over \$200.00 shall be expended only by the majority vote of the adult membership at a regular meeting of the club.

(Revision) Change \$200.00 to \$500.00

Section 3. - Standing Committee

(b) Each year the outgoing President shall appoint himself and one other person (preferably not a current elected official) to serve a 3 year term on the By-Laws and Long Range planning Committee - - -

(Revision) Each year the outgoing President shall appoint 2 other persons to serve a 3 year term on the By-Laws and Long Range planning Committee - - - - -

(c) The Committee shall study and make recommendations to the Board of Directors all subjects it deems of Long Range significance.

(Revision) The Committee shall study and make recommendations to the Board of Directors and/or membership for all subjects it deems of Long Range significance.

ARTICLE VI - Section 1 (paragraph 3)

The order of business at regular and special meetings - Program - Adjournment to read - Adjournment - Program

Section 2. Buying, soliciting, selling or trading can take place after the adjournment of the meeting;

(Revision) Buying, soliciting, selling or trading can take place following the program.

- The By-Laws and Long Range Planning Committee - Chairman, Ed Ridge
- Jim Atkins, President Immediate Past President
- Roger Pabian Charles Wooldridge Jim Parks
- Vera Lyman Kevin Schwartman David Heffelbower

Respectfully,
Ed Ridge

Ed Ridge, Chairman

Note that many of the changes shown are merely updates for the 'newly prepared masters' that have been approved at much earlier dates. Our Club Secretary has very carefully retyped a master copy of our complete "Articles of Incorporation and By-Laws" incorporating the new ly proposed changes so that all members may have them for reference. The last printing was in 1977 when we still had our own Printing Machine-The Rex Rotary Mimeograph Machine-- from stencils cut in 1968 by Phyllis (then Publisher of the Pick & Shovel). Many extra copies were made at that time and new members were provided with 'hand corrected' copies when they joined the club. Now, if all of the new changes are approved, we can prepare the 2001 Edition for all club members.

2002 SHOW PLANS to date:

Roger has accepted the challenge! Our 44th Annual Show plans begin with "...a blast from the past". Individual chairpersons are being assigned their duties, dealer contracts are being sent out, programs selected and a meeting is planned for the near future. Roger has presented the following budget to the Board of Directors who in turn recommend it to the General Membership for approval at the September meeting. Please be there and help get the plans in motion.

Lincoln Gem & Mineral Club, Inc.

Proposed Budget

44th Annual show, March 23, 24, 2002

"...a Blast from the Past!"

PROJECTED INCOME

14 Dealers @400.00	5,600.00
4 Demonstrators @ 35.00	140.00
Gate Admissions---Saturday 2,750.00	
Sunday <u>2,600.00</u>	<u>5,350.00</u>

Total Receipts

11,070.00

EXPENSES

Floor: Rent @ 1,000.00 per day	2,500.00
Tables	935.00
Chairs	225.00
Drapes and Table Skirts	75.00
Screen	30.00
Elevator Operator	160.05
Electrical Power Hookups	503.50
Table Covers	125.00
Tape for covering tables	20.00
Security	810.00
Insurance	100.00
Publicity	1,500.00
Pre-printed Flyers	120.00
Postage, Discount Coupons	160.00
Printed Programs	130.00
Recognition Ribbons	110.00
Awards---Dealers/Exhibitors	135.00
Lectures, Speakers	150.00
Exhibit area decorations (plants)	130.00
Special Features	750.00
Dealer Breakfast	200.00
Show Committee Expenses	150.00
Dealer Chair Expenses	20.00
Property Storage	760.00
State, City Sales Tax Payable	<u>340.00</u>

Total Expenses Per Contract

10,138.55

Tentative Gain per 2002 Contract

931.45

Adventures by Grant Bennett

What a summer, hot and humid. So Ruth and I have not been doing much.

Did spend a couple of weeks in California. Flew into Sacramento and into 110 degree weather. Spent a day in San Francisco 62 weather. Drove to McCloud in northern California- 36 at night. But enough of that.

On July 22, 2001 the Lincoln Gem & Mineral Club held its annual grinding party at Pioneers Nature Center. Our hostess was Karen Messenger. She had a lot of goodies prepared for us, Thank You Karen. It was a hot day to be carrying our gems and minerals from the parking lot to the demonstration area. But to our good fortune Charles Messenger and his 4 wheeled gas cart did all the heavy transportation, Thank You Charles. Was a nice turnout of guests, 26 in all.

David, Charlene and Ariana Bingell showed stones and how to cut them by the lapidary method. Roger Pabian gave a demonstration in lapidary. He also answered many questions on a lot of material. Especially his favorite agate. Edward Ridge provided information on many gem and semi precious stones from almost everywhere. David and Billie Heffelbower had a very nice display and cutting of OPAL. Billie was kind enough to keep up with the attendance sheet. Lastly Grant Bennett was busy demonstrating silversmithing. Was fun and enjoyable talking with the people stopping by. Thank you one and all for your participation this year. To our fellow club members sorry not to have seen more of you there. We need the support of all club members to support all of these wonderful gatherings.

See you down the road at a future show!

Editor's note--Thanks Grant for the good report, Thanks Billie for doing the guest list and club participation, Thanks Michele for taking the guest book out to the Center. PNP

Reminiscing--

In a note to your Editor, Irl Everett wrote ' Have you ever thought of how many Doctors have been connected with the club? Dr. Niehart.... Dr. Schultz.....Dr. Tanner...Dr. Gibson....Dr. Lange...Dr. Paulson....more----- Also some very notable persons--Florence (Boring) Lueninghoener, Professor Roger Pabian, Adeline Nolde, 'Pappy' Waddle-inventor of "Letter Guide", O. D. Spencer.....Oh, I give up---but it sure would make a good story for **The Pick & Shovel**.

AS EVER "EVY"

Thanks Evy!!! I do agree that it would make a good article for our bulletin and I have a lot more names to add to your list of 'notable people' including Irl Everett, Club Founder, past president, dealer of many years, great story teller and very good friend to all of us in the rock hobby. I'm sure the club would like to **congratulate you** on your decision to take up a new residence and we are really pleased that you can still have access to your home of many years and all of the things that you still love. We hope to see you at many of our meetings & other club functions.

I'd like to add a few notable people just to jog your memory----Mr. Julius Young who wrote so many fine articles for The Pick & Shovel, his wife Myrtle who made up such wonderful displays, Reverend Pfeiffer who led many a morning prayer for our Editor's Breakfast. Dr. Gilbert Lueninghoener who was such a big part of Midland College at Fremont. Chief Tom Simmons who led so many club field trips all over the midwest including some two week trips into Wyoming for the 'Dirty Dozen'. Mr. Howard Taylor who helped promote 2 'back to back' MWF-AFMS=LG&MC shows right here in Lincoln. Secretary of State-Lieutenant Governor Frank Marsh. Frank Krejci-master faceter,,,,,,,,,

..... And many, many more-----Phyllis

Museum Quality, ...and other misused terms. By Roger K. Pabian

I have made some very interesting observations surfing the various on-line auction services such as those offered by eBay © and YAHOO© and have seen hundreds of inaccurate to fraudulent descriptions of merchandise offered by various sellers. A descriptive phrase I encounter often is "Museum Quality." No real description or definition of "Museum Quality" really is available in the literature or in the trade. In the jewelry trade, the term "Flawless" often appears in the description of a stone being offered for sale. This works because there is a definition for Flawless that has been established by the Federal Trade Commission (FTC). A stone can be offered as flawless if no imperfections can be observed on its surface or in its interior at ten-power magnification (10X). If you have a diamond and a small pyrope crystal can be detected inside it at 11X, the stone is legally flawless.

Unfortunately, there is no such easily workable definition for "Museum Quality." Perhaps to get an understanding of "Museum Quality", we should look at the role of the museum. To most people, the museum is a place where one can view educational exhibits in a broad array of sciences including geology, mineralogy, paleontology, botany, zoology, ecology, astronomy, anthropology, and many others. The role of the museum that the general public usually does not see is that of a warehouse for research specimens and collections. The above sciences are largely descriptive and subjective. The researcher collects, prepares, describes, analyzes and interprets the data provided by the specimens in the collections. All of the specimens that are used by the researcher are placed in systematic collections (or often stratigraphic collections in geology and paleontology). The specimens are of sufficient value to justify the cost and space of storing. They are Museum Quality. The specimens may be parts of broken valves of brachiopods of a very common, non-descript species but they are Museum Quality in every sense of the word.

On the other hand, someone may have a slab of very well preserved crinoids that show exquisite detail and has every bit of splash and pizzaz that makes it a very attractive item for general viewing. Is it Museum Quality? Yes, it is, provided the museum saw fit to allow it space to fill a display. Suppose the same specimen had no geologic or geographic data with it, how does its Museum Quality rate with the brachiopod collection above? Really, it rates quite a bit lower. Its display quality may be very high but its research and teaching potential are pretty low.

We would do much better to use the term "Display Quality" for many specimens. Many very attractive specimens that are highly prized by their owners would likely find no spot in a museum. That is because the accompanying data is absent.

"Collector Grade" is another nebulous term but it is probably desirable to Museum Grade or Museum Quality. This term does not imply that a specimen would necessarily find a place in a museum but it would likely find a place in some private collector's cabinet. I can live with that term but I keep in mind that it has no real definition.

“Old Estate” or “Vintage” are terms that often appear in the rock descriptions in magazine advertisements or on-line advertisements or auction services. What does “Old Estate” really mean? ---that older is better? We often hear agates being described as old material. To my knowledge, all Lake Superior agates are about 1,200 million years old and all Laguna agates are 23 to 40 million years old. Each of these examples are made up of materials that are the same age. The implication is that material that was collected 50 years ago is better than that collected today. There were an awful lot of junky Laguna Agates that were mined in 1950 along with the good ones, They all went into the same hopper. Some of the finest Laguna agates are currently being mined. The prices are higher at the mines and at shows, but much of this is a product of inflation rather than demand or rarity.

What does “Vintage” mean? When applied to wines, it can have a great deal of meaning. It seems that a certain grape from a certain area can provide a very fine wine in a given year. The wine gains a reputation among connoisseurs and the “Vintage” becomes desirable. It may be that in the same year as the vintage wine above, another vineyard a hundred miles down the road produced several unit trains of Sneaky Pete Muscatel. Its poor quality implies a lower price and it may find a ready audience only in the skid rows of large cities. Even if was bottled in the same year as the vintage wine above, the Sneaky Pete isn't a vintage wine.

Most of these terms are used by sources that have little knowledge, appreciation or understanding of the materials they offer for sale. It is still the buyer's responsibility to apply the *caveat emptor* (buyer beware) thinking when obtaining rock, mineral and gem specimens. The sellers are usually legally liable for mis-represented materials that they offer. The buyer, however, may not find it worth while to go to court for \$42.50. That lets many unethical or ill-informed dealers off the hook. The buyer can obtain a great deal of self-protection by perusing the published literature. Knowledge is ones best defense but in the meantime, keep in mind that terms like “Museum Quality”, “Vintage” and “Old Estate” have little if any meaning.

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A review of the Rochester Academy of Science Mineralogical Symposium
Eric Fritzsich

Each year in mid to late April the Rochester (NY) mineral club puts on one of the most spectacular events of the mineralogical calendar—the Rochester Mineralogical Symposium. This is the 28th year that Rochester has been hosting the symposium and it is unsurpassed in its field.

Rochester is an unlikely place for such a gathering. The mineralogy of the area surrounding Rochester is fairly plain. Rochester sits on Paleozoic rocks which offer up a dozen or so minerals most notably dolomite, fluorite, sphalerite, calcite, and gypsum. Yet Rochester is a mineralogical Mecca, bringing in the curious, knowledgeable, and faithful each spring.

The traditional start begins with a Thursday night lecture and registration. Dealers arrive at the hotel and set up ahead of time on the 4th floor. Most of the dealers have their rooms transposed into mineral shops before the official beginning lecture.

Jack Murphy, Geology Curator of the Denver Museum, gave the opening lecture this year on 30 years as a professional curator. It was a very fascinating talk and Jack has really built the present day Denver Mineral exhibits into what it is today. Jack demonstrated that a good curator has to actively seek out specimens at every opportunity and that when that phone rings—you have to jump on the opportunity immediately.

Friday morning Tom Rosemary gave an interesting talk on the minerals of the San Juan Mountains (SW Colorado). Tom is one of the premier collectors in the San Juan's and has worked as a geologist in many of the mines in and around Ouray, Colorado. Tom has had several feature articles on minerals of the San Juan's in *Rocks and Minerals* magazine.

Friday afternoons are reserved for the technical sessions. The technical sessions first started appearing at Rochester 5 or 6 years ago. It allows researchers an opportunity to present a short (10-15) technical presentation on some sort of mineralogical research that they have been involved with. An accompanying poster paper session joined the symposium agenda 3-4 years ago. Abstracts for the technical session are due in January and are published later in the year in *Rocks and Minerals*.

I'm sorry to report that I could not attend the Friday evening presentation by Brett Oberlant. Brett is a German mineral collector who has researched and collected extensively from the Deccan Basalts of India.

A separate conference room in the hotel hosts the displays brought by collectors and museums. The Smithsonian, Harvard, Michigan Tech, and other institutions always bring interesting displays that are becoming increasingly difficult to transport. The symposium has about a dozen security guards on duty day and night and only registered participants are allowed in the display, lecture, and dealer areas.

Noted Canadian micromounter Quentin Wright, started something rather new to the symposium, the micromounters playroom. Micromounters (people who collect small mineral specimens that are best appreciated underneath the microscope) can set up their microscopes and talk/ swap/ give away micromounts. Micromounting is very addictive and takes the hobby to a whole new level.

Saturday morning is another tradition in Rochester with the "what's new in minerals" presentation. Jeff Scovil, who is undoubtedly the world's finest mineral photographer, comes to the symposium with upto 120 slides of the most gorgeous minerals. You hear more "oh's" and "ah's" at Jeff's photographs than you do at a typical fireworks display. Often times his slides are actually prettier than the mineral itself.

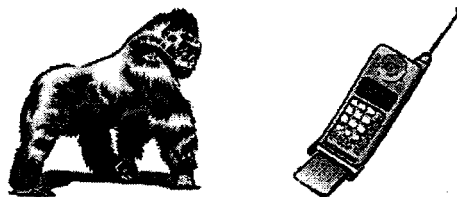
I anxiously awaited the slide presentation by Dudley Bwant, a renowned mineral dealer, who travels to northern Pakistan in search of minerals. He speaks Urdu (one of the common languages of northern Pakistan) and seems to get a thrill out of the danger and perils of traveling to such a remote part of the world.

Saturday night is another Rochester tradition—the silent and voice auction. This year the symposium took in almost \$10,000 from materials donated by dealers and collectors. The cost for registering for the symposium is always very nominal and proceeds from the auction are what actually pay the bulk of the costs. It is not unusual for the symposium to invite experts from Europe, South America or Africa to speak on mineralogical topics.

The auction is always a lot of fun and the amateur auctioneers do a great job of entertaining as they auction. Specimens and books will sell for hundreds of dollars at the auction. One of the traditions is the auctioning of a Belgian chocolate cake. It typically fetches around \$500 the first time it is auctioned and the buyer traditionally returns half the cake to be reauctoned again. After the auction the crowd retires to the 4th floor until the wee hours of the morning.

Sunday Skip Simons presented some research on tourmaline speciation and his wife presented a review of American volcanology. Around noon, the symposium is officially over and the display cases start coming down.

Rochester succeeds because it is typically run as a first rate symposium. The dealers are not permitted to sell during lecture hours, however breaks are frequent enough and long enough that some of them actually do make money. Everyone at Rochester is very motivated about mineralogy and it is unlike anything else out there. I feel very fortunate that I grew up near Rochester and I was able to attend the symposium from a very young age (I still have my program to the 8th symposium). I salute the hard work of people like Steve and Helen Chamberlain who tireless effort go into making it such a great event. Just in case you are wondering.....next year the Rochester Mineralogical Symposium is set for April 18-21 (2002).



Greek Mythology, Gorillas, and Cell Phones

Eric Fritzsich (eric.fritzsich@altavista.com)

Tantalum (Ta) is an element that wasn't distinguished from its sister element niobium (Nb) until 1844. Its presence eluded scientist who predicted its occurrence in the periodic table, but had difficulty isolating it. Like the scientist who were teased by the elements presence, it was named for Tantalus, the Greek son of Zeus, who was forever close to food and water but could not obtain it.

Tantalum is most commonly mined from the minerals ferrotantalite $(\text{Fe, Mn})(\text{Ta, Nb})_2\text{O}_6$ and manganotantalite $(\text{Mn, Fe})(\text{Ta, Nb})_2\text{O}_6$. These two minerals form a solid solution series--the name *tantalite* is used when the species are indeterminable.

Tantalite forms a series with *columbite* that is similarly split into the species ferrocolumbite and manganocolumbite. The element *Columbium*, now called Niobium (Nb), was first described by an American (C Hatchett) who analyzed a museum mineral specimen from Connecticut first thought to be chromite. Hatchett named the mineral in honor of United States (Columbia--the feminine personification of America). The name *columbium* was rejected by the 19th century scientific community in favor of niobium, by Blomstrand (1864) a European--which were more respected as chemist. Niobe was the daughter of Tantalus in Greek Mythology.

Columbite and *tantalite* are indistinguishable from one another and are sometimes referred to as the ore *coltan*. *Coltan* is typically found in granitic pegmatites and several hundred tons were mined from the Black Hills of South Dakota. Miners mistakenly thought South Dakota *coltan* was cassiterite (SnO_2 , another black-dense mineral--the ore of tin) and the first boom-to-bust chapter of SD mining was complete by 1890.

Today, a large deposit of *coltan* is mined at the Tanco Pegmatite, north of Winnipeg, Manitoba. It is also mined in Brazil, Australia, Malaysia, the Democratic Republic of the Congo (formerly Zaire and formerly the Belgian Congo), and elsewhere.

Tantalum is used in high tech electronics, like cell phones, and this has created an enormous demand for the material. So large a demand, that wars are being fought over it right now in the unstable Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC). The DRC is landlocked in the center of Africa and shares borders with 8-9 nations. Numerous factions and militias operate in this region so it is not surprising that skirmishes and battles break out over *coltan*.

The weathered pegmatites in Kahuzi-Biega Park are an easy target for *coltan* miners. Feldspars and muscovite have weathered to clays. Simply washing the clays reveals quartz, *coltan*, and other minerals which can be separated by density or sight. Control of the park changes almost daily between the rebel forces and non Congolese government troops. Prisoners from Rwanda have been forced to mine as well as enslaved local Congolese.

The "gold-rush" mentality of a quick buck has been devastating to Kahuzi-Biega Park. Without infrastructure or a government in control, the environment has suffered. In such chaotic circumstances miners have resorted to killing half of the gorilla population for food. Elephants have also been overhunted for food and only 2 of the parks 350 known elephant families remain.

There have calls for boycotts of cell phones made with central African *coltan* and international commissions are putting pressure on metallurgical processors to not buy central African *coltan*. Central Africa is a powder keg of political instability and wars are generally fought over money (not religion, ideology, or political motives). Central Africa is rich with mineral resources that often light fuses of war and man's inhumanity towards man.

2001 ELECTED OFFICERS

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1st Vice Pres.	Grant Bennett,	721 No. 58 th St.	Lincoln, NE 68505	466-5377
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Board Member	Brett Jurgens,	14421 Danvers St.	Waverly, NE 68462	786-2756
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	Charlene Bingell
1 year	Jerry Moore
	Kevin Schwartman
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2 years:	Charles Wooldridge
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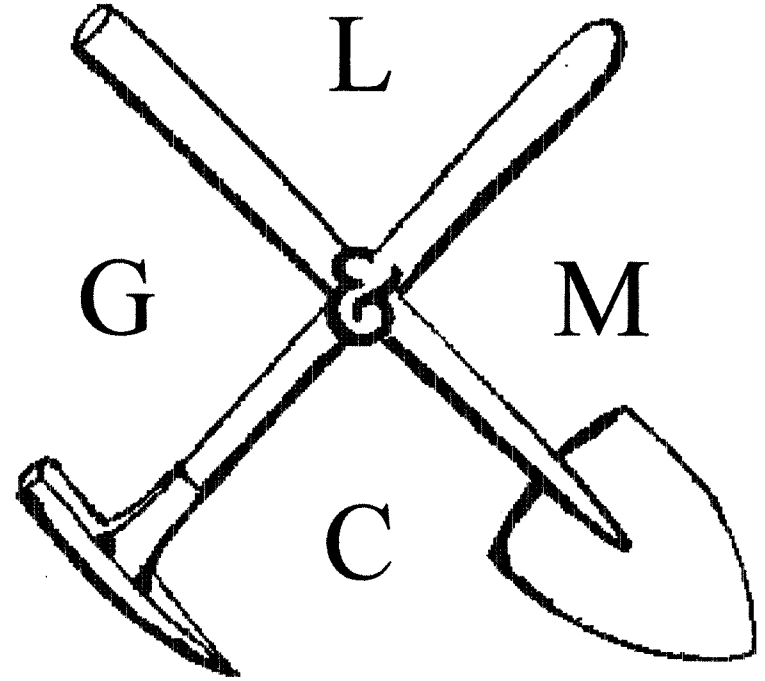
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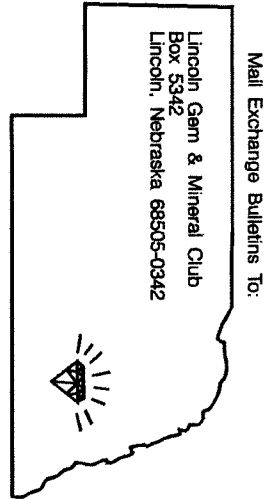
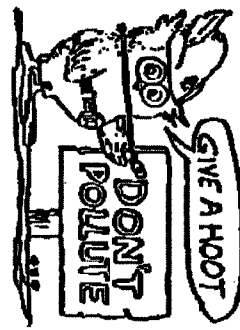
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THE PICK & SHOVEL

September 2001



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