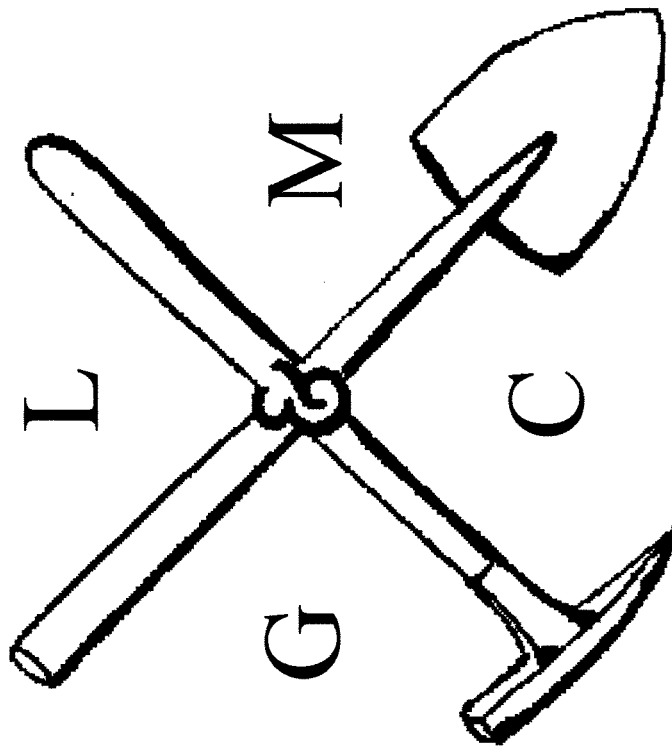
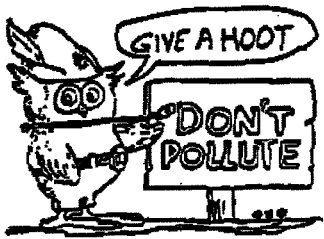


THE PICK & SHOVEL

April 2005



OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF
LINCOLN GEM & MINERAL CLUB
LINCOLN, NEBRASKA



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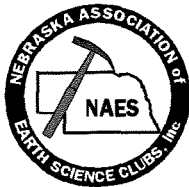
Lincoln Gem & Mineral Club
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H. E. L. P.

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The Pick & Shovel

Volume 45, Issue 8, April 2005, Page 1

Club Events

- Apr.** 28 General Mtg, Antelope Park, 7 PM,
Youth Night
May 4 Board Meeting, Kinko's, 48th &
Vine, 7PM
26 General Mtg, Antelope Park, 7 PM
July 4 Field trip (more in May issue)
17 Grinding Party, Pioneers Park 1-4PM

Recap March Meeting

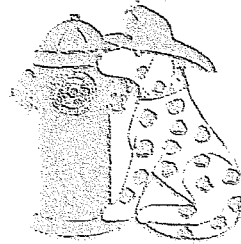
PROGRAM- Moctezuma Agates by Roger Pabian...Thanks Roger

Door Prizes- Thanks to Patti Rose, Jim Marburger and John Harrison for donating door prizes

April Meeting

Program: Youth Night . Members, please bring a display item or items or a demonstration to educate guests and other club members. We need more egg cartons for the collections the children will be putting together and we also need items to donate. Use your imagination and share our hobby with the community. The kids will love it!

Snacks: Let's try finger food snacks again!



President's Message

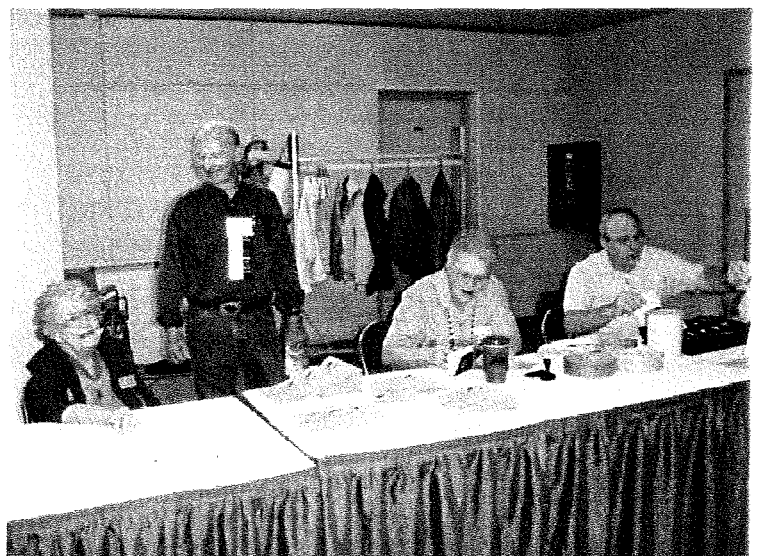
Wow! What a show. I want to thank all who worked the show, for being there and stepping up to take over the few jobs that needed temporary help. This made the show a pleasurable experience for all. The displays, dealers, demos, juniors, and the general public all seemed to be having fun. Thanks again for the help. I know I missed some things that went on, but I want to thank all who participated.

Don't forget that the April meeting is dedicated to the juniors - activities will involve all members of the club. Please come and help with displays and bring 15 - 20 specimens of the same or similar item to donate for a junior's starter collection.

Plan on making the field trip this July and having fun in the summer with us.

Come and share our great hobby.

Rock On! Jim Marburger



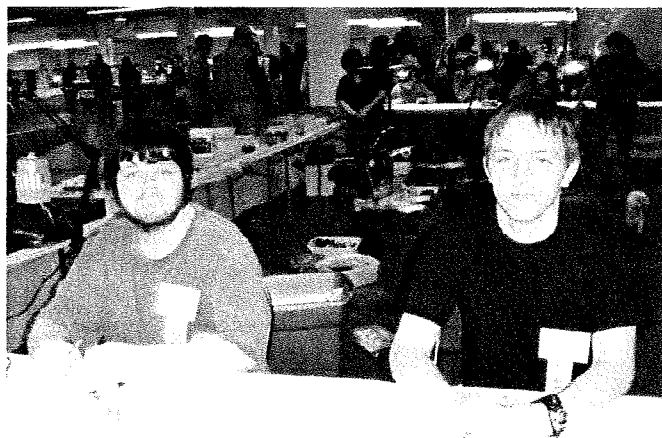
Faithfully selling tickets and greeting guests at the show are: (l to r) Adeline Nolde, Roger Pittard, Vera Lyman and Jim Atkins



*April
Showers*

2005 SHOW

The 47th Annual Show was a lot of work and a lot of fun. Thanks to everyone who made the show a success. (All photos by Judy Reilly).

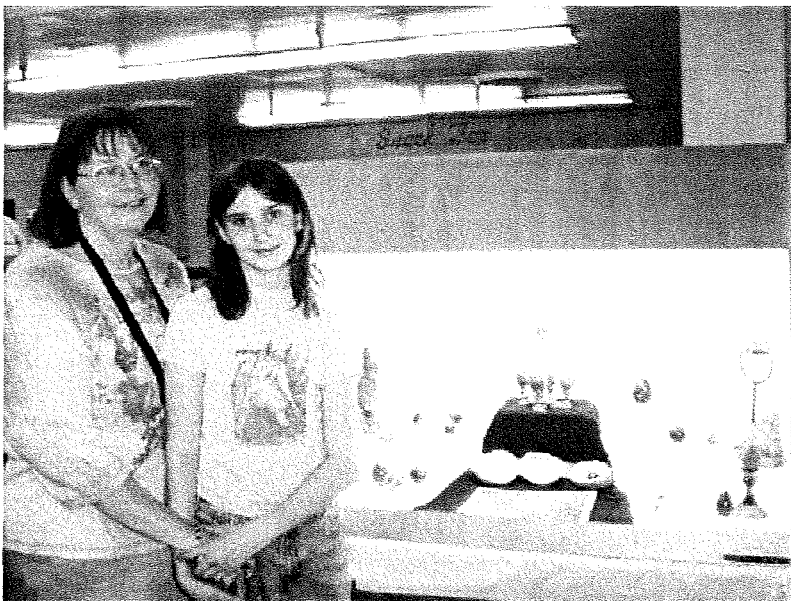


From the Editor

Many thanks to the following for their contributions to this month's Pick & Shovel: Yonis LoneEagle & James and Sharon Marburger.

I accidentally omitted Kay Jurgens from the Show Committee list in the March newsletter. Kay organized the Junior's Booth, and although she couldn't be at the show, she made sure the booth was run by Danny Cromer and many assistants. Great Job!

More Show Pictures



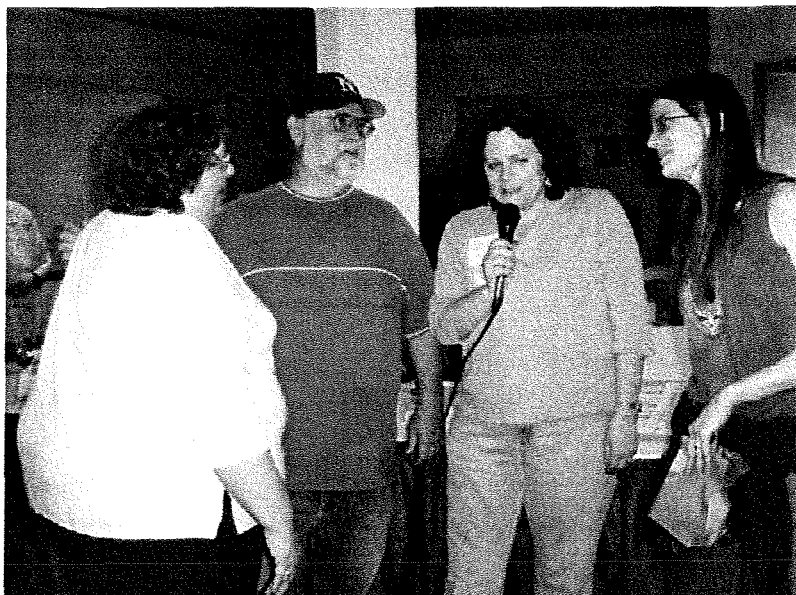
Judy Reilly and her niece, Allison Baehr, pose by their display



Phyllis Parks & great grandson, Taylor, at the Sunday breakfast.



Juniors set up the gem dig.



LGMC Choir closes the show with "Happy Trails to You."

Rock Hunting in an Iraqi Combat Zone**(Rockhounding at its Extreme)****PART 2 of ??? – March 2005**

by

Yonis E. Lone Eagle

Howdy fellow “Hunters of Nature’s Wonders.” (Another name for Rockhounds) Well, it has been a very interesting first three months over here just outside Tikrit, Iraq. Located on the west bank of the Tigris river, Tikrit is located up along highway “1” northwest of Baghdad, about 1/3 the distance between Baghdad and Mosul. It is the hometown of the former dictator, Saddam Hussein. The population here is about 75,000.

The thirty-two-bed hospital where I work is located on FOB (Forward Operation Base) Speicher (pronounced Spiker), one of the many U.S. military base camps here Iraq. FOB Speicher is a former Iraqi Air Force base. It is located just northwest of the town of Tikrit. The barracks we are living once housed the students of the Iraqi Air Force Academy. After the initial invasion, locals looted and ransacked the base stealing anything and everything that they could sell for money; light fixtures, sinks, air conditioners, toilets, heaters, motors, scrap metal, etc. If you could sell it for money, they took it. So when the U.S. forces returned to set up a FOB here, there was not much left to work with. About 80% of the buildings were in major disrepair with bullet holes, bomb damage, no electricity or running water. Our troops had their work cut out for them to make this place functional as well as livable. One of the first things they had to do was to clear out all the tons of unexploded ordinances in the area.

Now eighteen months later, there have been major improvements in certain areas while other area are slowly being worked on. While the military has taken care of most of the major elements; roads, electricity, dining facilities, gyms, and morale recreation centers, the sleeping areas have been left up to the individual units. Every battalion size unit is given \$25,000 a month to use for fixing, repairing and make the living and sleeping areas comfortable for the thousands of troops here. During the winter, the temperature drops to the upper 20s to low 30s. So the units bought heaters for the rooms. And during the summer with ground temperatures getting up around 130+ degrees, air conditioners were bought. And to keep the troops entertained, satellite TV’s were bought so they could watch their favorite sports and movies. We have a BX (Base Exchange) here on the FOB, along with Pizza Hut, Subway, Burger King, a Beauty Salon and Spa, Barber Shop, Alterations/Cleaners, a Photo Lab, a Bazaar and Gift Shop. Other facilities include a gym, three great dining facilities, a post theater, a recreation hall, and use of the old stadium. All the basics of a small military base.

With all the ongoing construction and troop movements, there is a very large amount of DUST created on all the back and side roads on the FOB. And here lately, its been the rainy season here in Iraq. From late January to early March, it rains every couple of days. So all the DUST turns to MUD. To combat this dust and mud problem, the US Army Corps of Engineers and KBR contractors have brought in TONS upon TONS upon TONS of well-tumbled river rock to cover the dirt roads and pathways around the FOB.

The day I arrived here at FOB Speicher, we had a briefing by our company commander on the local situation. One thing he said was that no one would be leaving the FOB. If I could not leave the FOB, how could I look for rocks? The FOB is very flat and desolate place. When I look around, all I see is lots of dust, sand and miscellaneous leaverite limestone. All the river rock I saw reminded me of the river rock back home in the Texas Hill Country along the Guadalupe River, basic limestone. Not until I noticed some color did I take a closer look. All the rocks were very dirty and dusty, so to lick or spit. Heck, I pulled out my canteen to rinse them off, and to my surprise, I have struck the “Mother Load” of all collecting sites. What a place to have a field trip. And this brings us to the “Rock” portion of this report. But first a little background on the source of the rocks, the Tigris River.

The Tigris River starts her journey in the Taurus Mountains of southeast Turkey. It flows 1165 miles southeasterly into Iraq after briefly forming the extreme eastern portion of the border between Syria and Turkey. Once in Iraq, the Tigris zigzags slowly to the southeast, and its valley flattens and widens. There are at least five major tributaries that flow into the Tigris in Iraq. They are the Adhem, the Diyaleh, the Great Zab (Zab Ala), the Lesser Zab (Zab Asfal), and the Zakko or eastern Tigris. But only two of them, the Great Zab and the lesser Zab flow into the Tigris above Tikrit. As a result of these two major tributaries, and the melting snows from the Taurus Mountains in Turkey and the Elburz

Mountains in far western Iran, the Tigris is more subject to major flooding than the Euphrates River. This produces a large amount of erosion from several locations, thus, the wide variety of rocks.

To date, I have found and identified Igneous, Sedimentary and Metamorphic rocks to include different Agates, Conglomerates, Fossils, possibly Jade, Jaspers, Lavas, Limestone's, Petrified Woods, Quartzes and Quartzite's. They range in a very wide variety of colors, from blacks to grays to whites, from greens, yellows, oranges, reds, maroons, purples to combinations of two or more colors in unique and unusual patterns. Some of the unusual rocks I have found include Astronomy Rocks, Diseased Rocks and Finger Rocks. Some of the unique ones I have found went through tremendous Tectonic Forces to create the beautiful and colorful artistic designs in them.

With the question of where they came from, one would have to explore the rivers to the north, with southeastern Turkey, extreme western Iran or extreme northern Iraq to choose from. But due to the geography and geology of Iraq and the border areas, I strongly suspect that at least 90% of the rocks washed down from Turkey. The other 10% probably came from extreme northern Iraq with maybe a trace from extreme western Iran.

So far, I've collected well over fifty pounds that I could easily place into over a half dozen categories. I have to limit myself, because at this rate, I'll be one very overweight soldier returning home.

Back on the 18th of January, I found my first fossil near the helipad of our hospital, multiple "Gastropods" in a dark gray matrix. I took a S.W.A.G., (Scientific Wild Ass Guess) as to how old it is and I'm guessing about 150 million years old. And then on the 4th of February I found my second fossil, some "Fusulinids" in a tan matrix of different shapes and sizes. They range in size from about 1/16 of an inch to about 1/4 of an inch. Some long and skinny, some short and fat. Being an index fossil, they are at least 245 million years old. Being well formed, I suspect they are around 275 million years old. And the recently on the 2nd of March, I found a baby Trilobite in a light tan matrix. It is 3/4 of an inch long and a shape I have never seen before. With an average of one fossil per month and their scarcity, they must have traveled a very long distance.

Over these last three months, I've picked up several nicknames from my fellow soldiers since I've been here, Sergeant Rock Pockets, because the pants we wear have large cargo pockets on the sides and that's where I carry my rocks. I'm also called the Rock Man, the Rock Doctor, Sergeant Rock, and probably my favorite, the Rock Warrior because if we are ever attacked, I've got plenty of rocks in my pockets to throw at the enemy.

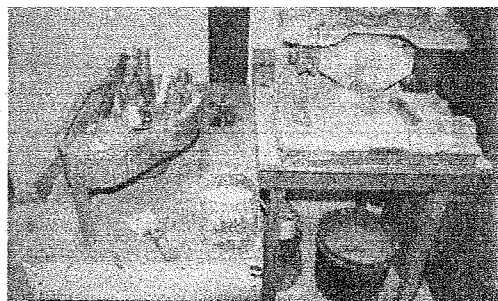
So far, there are about a dozen other soldiers who have gotten "Hooked" on collecting the many different rocks around the FOB here. I guess they saw me with my head down looking at the ground and picken up some rocks. They ask what the heck I was doing. And when I explained to them... Now, almost a day doesn't go by where someone will stop by and ask me about a rock they found. But to all Rockhound Cheechako's, one must explain the difference between keeperites and leaverites.

Well folks, until next time... Happy Hunting and Safe Collecting.

And by the way, for yall folks who are wondering what the heck are Astronomy Rocks, Diseased Rocks and Finger Rocks are... Well, I have to have something to write about in my next report. And I will also be reporting on my trip down to the Persian Gulf country of Qatar and the rocks and fossil I found down there

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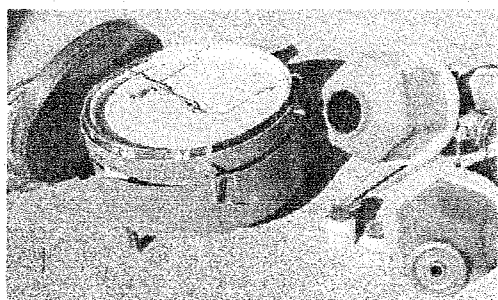
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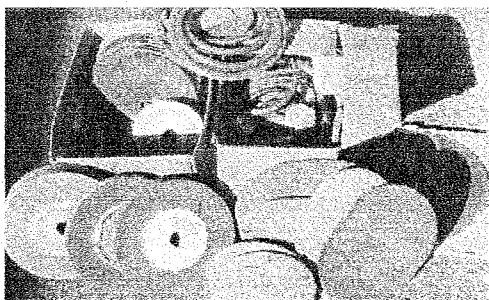
Gem maker/Grinder



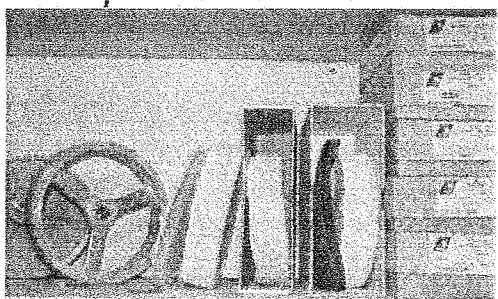
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Many Accessories



More Accessories



Many great rocks

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 4144 South 88th Street
 Lincoln, NE 68520 402-489-4595

This complete lab was purchased from Art Howlette's estate and includes tables, motors, and comprehensive accessories. Includes:

10" Beacon/Star Slab & Trim Saw w/ 5 diamond blades, saw oil, extra arbor, and accessories.

B & I 10" Gem Maker Model 1422 Complete w/ accessories and operating instructions.

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Conservative estimate based on 1991 prices if new \$2,250. Selling price for all the above \$625

2005 ELECTED OFFICERS

President	James Marburger	332 Locust	Hickman, NE	68372	402	792-2348
1 st Vice Pres.	Pat Akins, Jr.	5017 N. 6 th St.	Lincoln, NE	68521		477-1322
2 nd Vice Pres.	Roger Pittard	1013 Road K	Geneva, NE	68361	402	759-4623
Treasurer	Vera Lyman	420 N. 56 th St.	Lincoln, NE	68504		464-6089
Secretary	Sharon Marburger	332 Locust	Hickman, NE	68372	402	792-2348
Board Member	James Atkins	3028 S. 35 th St.	Lincoln, NE	68506		483-1610
Board Member	John Harrison	330 Locust	Hickman, NE	68372	402	792-2337
Board Member	Judy Reilly	4050 Worthington Ave	Lincoln, NE	68502		421-3064
Board Member	Charles Wooldridge	10305 202 nd St.	Greenwood, NE	68366	402	789-8100

Nominating Committee

3 years	John Harrison Susan Esquivel
2 years	Mary Pittard Phyllis Parks
1 year	Amy Dexter-Guy Edward Ridge

Chairman: Immediate Past-President Susan McMahan

Long-Range Planning & By-Laws Committee

3 years	Daniel Dexter-Guy Phyllis Parks
2 years	Susan Taylor Edward Ridge
1 year	Vera M. Lyman Roger K. Pabian

Standing Committees

Education /Librarian:	Roger Pabian	MWF Liaison:	Vera Lyman
Field Trips:	Pat Akins, Coordinator	Scholarship:	Vera Lyman
Historian:	Sharon Marburger	Christmas Party:	Edward Ridge
Membership Record:	Edward Ridge	2005 Show:	John E. Harrison
Programs:	David Heffelbower	2006 Show:	Patrick Akins, Jr.
Property:	Pat Akins, Jr. & James Marburger	2005 Swap:	Roger Pittard
Youth Activities:	New Committee in place	2006 Swap:	
Refreshments/Door Prizes:	Judy Reilly		
Housing Committee:	Susy McMahan, Pat Akins, Charles Wooldridge & Vera Lyman		
Auditing Committee:	John Harrison, Roger Pabian & James Marburger		
Geology Day Coordinator:	2nd Vice President		

L. G. M. C. web address—courtesy of Jim Atkins:

<http://incolor.inetnebr.com/jna/gemclub/lgmc.htm>

Your PICK & SHOVEL Staff

Publisher: Lincoln Gem & Mineral Club, Inc., P.O. Box 5342, Lincoln, NE 68505-0342

Editor: **Judy Reilly** 421-3064
4050 Worthington Ave., Lincoln, NE 68502
Email: jshannonreilly@aol.com

Circulation: Phyllis N. Parks 476-6798
Business Reporter: Vera Lyman 464-6089
News Reporters: All Club Members

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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, especially to youth and student groups.

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48th Annual Show
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PERSHING CENTER
226 Centennial Mall South

*** March 25 - 26, 2006 ***

Show Chairman - Patrick Akins, Jr.

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Subscription to the Pick & Shovel is \$10.00 per year mailed.

Dues to Lincoln Gem & Mineral Club are as follows:

Adults (age 16 and over) \$10 per year Juniors (age 12 to 16) \$2 per year

Family Membership (Couple, resident children under age 16) \$22 per year

New memberships must be approved by the Board, after the applicant attends at least one meeting of the club and pays the above dues plus a \$5 registration fee.

Meetings: Fourth Thursday, Sept. through May except December & January to be announced. Held at Antelope Park Indoor Shelter, near 30th and Sumner, next to the Veterans Memorial and the children's playground.