

DIGGINS FROM DAKOTA



Central Dakota Gem and Mineral Society
Mrs. Blossomae Campbell, Editor
1134 North 28th Street
Bismarck, North Dakota 58501

DIGGINS FROM DAKOTA

CENTRAL DAKOTA GEM & MINERAL SOCIETY

- AIM: 1. The study of Mineralogy and Geology.
2. To foster field trips to collect minerals, gems and fossils.
3. The improvement of its members in the art of cutting, polishing and mounting gem material.
4. To provide opportunity for the exchange, purchase and exhibition of specimens and material.

MEETINGS: First Sunday of each month in the Hospitality Room of Capitol Electric Building on Highway 83, north of Bismarck.

VISITORS ARE ALWAYS WELCOME!

OFFICERS:

President	Earle Campbell	1134 N. 28th St.	Bismarck	255-3658
Vice-President	William Buresh	1527 N. 19th St.	Bismarck	223-0611
Secretary	Stanley Mizrahi	205 6th Ave. N. W.	Mandan	663-9712
Treasurer	DeLane Meier	RR 1, Mr. B's Est.	Bismarck	223-8579
Field Trip Chair	John Bosch	1425 N. 15th St.	Bismarck	255-1924
Parliamentarian	Mrs. William Buresh	1527 N. 19th St.	Bismarck	223-0611
Programs Chairman	Dick Bergastine	703 12th Ave. NW	Mandan	663-3419
Librarian	Gwen Gilbail	906 1st Ave. NW	Mandan	663-5748
Field Trip Chairman	Harold Brady	1401 Sunny Road	Mandan	663-3304
Nominations	Ole Staven		Wilton	734-8746
Refreshments	Mrs. Bob Randall	928 N. 16th	Bismarck	223-1625
Annual Show	John Bosch	1425 N. 15th	Bismarck	255-1924
Historian	Mrs. Albert Anderson	RR # 2	Bismarck	673-4585
Doorman & Greeter	Allen Strom	212 Ave. F West	Bismarck	258-3646
Editor & Publicity	Mrs. Earle Campbell	1134 N. 28th St.	Bismarck	255-3658
Pebble Pup Leader	DeLane Meier	RR 1, Mr. B's Est.	Bismarck	223-8579

All contributions for this bulletin should be mailed to the Editor, Mrs. Earle Campbell, 1134 N. 28th Street, Bismarck, by the 10th of each month.

Other editors may reprint any article from this Bulletin. A credit line would be appreciated.

The Central Dakota Gem & Mineral Society is a member of The Rocky Mountain Federation of Mineralogical Societies and The American Federation of Mineralogical Societies.



Some wise man said, "It's never too soon to be kind for if you wait it will be too late."



Kindness is prevalent at Christmas time because the Day commemorates kindness and charity. Elation marks the coming of a New Year, a new chance, and a new hope, and brings with it a spirit of comradeship toward all men.



Let's resolve to wrap our packages of accomplishment with ribbons of kindness at the time when the thought occurs. The spirit of Christmas will keep that thought constantly in our minds.

By Carlyle D. Onsrud



YOUR PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Our new officers will be taking over their duties at the next meeting of our society. My wish for them is that you will continue to give them the good cooperation and help that has been very evident during the past year!!! For this cooperation and help I say a heartfelt "Thank you!" Many good things happened only because each of you helped willingly when asked --- You volunteered your services without being asked ---you helped get things done for the good of the Society, instead of for personal gain. This has made our Society a much better organization.

We are growing. We are learning. We will continue growing and learning only if you continue your interest and help!!!!

Thank you all again!.

Earle Campbell

SALLY O'NEILL NEW EDITOR!!!*****!!!! (Yippee)

Sally O'Neill has graciously consented to take the position of editor of "Diggins from Dakota" starting with the January issue. Sally's phone number is 663-3748. Her address is 906 First Avenue Northwest, Mandan, N. D. This is a new adventure for Sally so if she asks you for help, please accept the charge willingly. I know that Sally will do a first rate job as editor but she will need your help and cooperation.

ROLLING ROCK ROLLS ON!

The International Rolling Rock which has been in our possession since last August has continued its journey across the international boundary.

Last September, Earle and I became acquainted with Charlie and Edie Green from Winnipeg, Manitoba. We met them at the Williston Rock & Mineral Club Show. When we told them about the "Rolling Rock" they decided they would like to visit our club and take the rock back with them. Just before Thanksgiving Day they called us to say that they were headed our way. The Greens spent that weekend in Bismarck, making new friends, swapping rocks, and enjoying themselves. They attended the December meeting of our Society and had a great time. When they left they took the rock with them. The Greens are members of the Winnipeg Rock and Mineral Club.

ABOUT DOOR PRIZES

You say you have never won a door prize? You wonder if your name will ever be drawn? Take heart! You might still have a chance! In all the years that John and Cecelia Dosch have been members (they were charter members) Cecelia had never won a prize. John had won several nice prizes but Cecelia - never! Then at the December meeting it happened!! She won a lovely selenite crystal donated by Charlie and Edie Green. So you see, you, too, have a chance.

Frank Herr donated a fossil fish which was won by Mae Fairaizl, and a pen set which was won by Joel Ramberg.

I wonder if some day I might win one of those nice door prizes??????????

LOSING AN EDITOR?

by June Zeitner

When I read that Ellis Courter, Editor of the Michigan Mineralogical Society bulletin "The Conglomerate" was going to resign, it reminded me that each year as high as 15% of our clubs have to look for a new editor. In most cases this poses more of a crisis to the club than if the president should resign. Not that the president isn't important, but there is usually a qualified vice president ready to take over, and there is usually not an eager new editor waiting in the wings.

New editors are selected three ways: by election, by appointment, or by a volunteer, which is to say that anyone who says he will take it is immediately elected or appointed.

Why is a new editor so hard to find? For one thing, most editors have served several years, and club members get to identifying the bulletin with them and taking the bulletin for granted. The editor has to be an unusually dedicated club member, has to have a real interest in and knowledge of all club activities, and has to be ready to devote far more time to his job than most club officers do. He has to have a sense of priority, and top priority has to be honoring deadlines. The editor has to be observing, tactful and persuasive. He has to be original enough to write something to fill spaces when promised stories don't appear. He has to have strength, closet space and a sense of humor. He should know how to type, though two fingers will do, and he should know enough about spelling to know how to use Webster's. He needs a good alarm clock, an understanding helpmate, and it helps if he has a broken television and likes his meals cold.

If your club needs a new editor, try to make the job more attractive for him or her. Be active bulletin helpers. See that the equipment is good, that the budget is adequate. Put the editor on your board and include him in all plans. And, last but not least, treat that retiring editor so well that the future editor will think, "Well, maybe in the end, it will all be worth it."

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HAPPINESS IS.....(for a bulletin editor)

1. When you are so swamped with articles from club members that you're forced to hold some for next month's issue.
2. When the ink flows smoothly and all your sheets print clearly.
3. When you find an article just the right size to fill the remainder of the sheet.
4. Receiving exchange bulletins and the valuable information which they provide.
5. Finding one of your articles reprinted in another bulletin.

by Dan Mikletz, Editor P.E.S.A. Rock News, via The Geode
via Tulip City Conglomerate

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SAFETY TIP

If you are burned, you probably have been told to rub butter on the burn. Don't. It is now agreed by most medical authorities that the burned area can be soaked immediately in a container of cold water in which ice has been placed, or if you have an ice cube, rub it over the area.

Midwest Federation Newsletter

DECEMBER MEETING

Even though it was election time, there was a small turnout for our December meeting. This was probably due to the Thanksgiving Day vacation.

The question of the sales tax we were told we had to pay from sales at the September shows was brought up again. Our president, Earle Campbell, tried to explain it so that all could understand. He finally suggested that if any members wanted more information they should visit the tax department at the Capitol Building and get the information they wanted from the young men there.

It was announced that Mrs. Owen (Sally) O'Neill had accepted the position of Editor of our society's bulletin "Diggins from Dakota".

Guests were Charlie and Edie Green, Winnipeg, Manitoba.

John Dosch made a motion that the society pay Earle Campbell \$12.48 for the plaque which Earle had purchased and attached to the case of the Rolling Rock. The plaque had the club name and the date engraved on it. Each club which has had the rock have had a plaque with its name and date put on the case.

Election of officers for the coming year was held. The officers are: Bill Buresh, president; Duane Robey, vice president; Stan Fairaizl, secretary; and Dick Bergenfine, treasurer.

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DECEMBER DINNER SCRUMPTIOUS

If anyone was counting calories, our annual Christmas dinner was not the place to be! The ham was delicious, the salads tempting, the deserts, mouth-watering, the rolls were feather-light! There was enough food so that one could have seconds - and even thirds.

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The program for January will be a slide feature entitled "Rocks, Artifacts and Minerals". It is about rockhunting in Wyoming. Meeting time is January 5, 1975, 2:30.

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DUES ARE DUE! DUES ARE DUE! DUES ARE DUE! DUES ARE DUE! DUES ARE DUE! DUES ARE DUE!  
DUE! DUES ARE DUE! DUES ARE DUE! DUES ARE DUE! DUES ARE DUE! DUES ARE DUE!

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"It's the hand we clasp with an honest grasp...that gives us a hearty thrill...
It's the good we pour into other's lives...that comes back our own to fill...
It's the dregs we drain from another's cup...that makes our own seem sweet...
And the hours we give to another's need...that makes our life complete."..

from Manhattan Newsletter via The
Tumbleweed, via Pick and Shovel

December, 1974

McAllen, Texas
Dec. 13, 1974

Dear Club Members,

We arrived here three days ago and have been very busy with last minute preparations for our trip to Mexico. We leave tomorrow morning and will return to McAllen January 12. There are twenty-four units (trailers, campers and motor homes) in our caravan. A couple from Boise, Idaho, who were on tour with us to Mexico three years ago, are with us again. It was a surprise to meet them here and a pleasure to see them again.

It is about two months since we left home and have had a marvelous time so far. We camped at Wheatland, Wyoming, the first night where we met a couple from the Billings rock club. We had made their acquaintance at the Billings rock show last spring. Small world! The following day we went to several rock shops in Wheatland.

Going through Colorado reminded us of our experience in the dust storm last year. This time, though, the weather was beautiful.

At Dixon, New Mexico, we went to the Harding mine and did some rock hounding. We went there on a chance that someone would be there to let us in, since we couldn't go there without permission. Luck was with us again. About one half mile from the mine, a car was parked, so we stopped to ask for information and this man was waiting to take a rock club group from Espanola to the mine. We got his permission and joined the group when they arrived a few minutes later. We found some iceland spar and lepidolite and had a real nice time with the group.

It was late afternoon when we got to Superior City, Arizona, but we managed to gather two gallons of apache tears before dark. We camped right there on the mountains that night. No one else stayed, so we were the only ones there. Got up early the next morning and picked up two more gallons. It rained during most of the night, so I didn't sleep well. I was worried the roads would be slippery or the creek we had to cross flooded. Didn't seem to bother Ed any. We took a different road down so had no difficulty getting back to the highway.

Seems it rains every time we are in Arizona, therefore we didn't go out looking for rocks as much as would have liked to. We visited Ed's nephew and wife in Mesa and went to Salt River Canyon. Then on to the Petrified Forest.

We spent several days at Lake Havasu. Saw London Bridge. Met some rock hounds from Greensboro, North Carolina and went to a rock swap and field trip at Needles, California with them. We were looking for blue agate, a precious stone, but weren't very successful. It had to be chiseled out of very hard rock. We also were to a rock show in Lake Havasu City.

In California we visited our daughter in Los Angeles and our son in Thousand Oaks. We attended his wedding December 6 and left the day after. It is 1700 miles from L. A. to here. It took us almost four days. It snowed and was windy going through New Mexico and at El Paso. That made it seem like good old North Dakota.

The weather in California was just beautiful all the while we were there. Sunshine and warm every day. It has been cool and cloudy here, but soon we should be in a warmer climate.

Christmas we will be in Merida, Yucatan. Wish all of you could be there with us.

A very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to all.

Sincerely,
Katherine & Ed Muggli

POLISHING SMALL PIECES ON A VIBRATING LAP - by Joe S. Anderson

When one has several small pieces of rock to run on the flat vibrating lap it is not always easy to do. They are so light that they tend to float in the slurry and do not grind properly. And they are hard to bumper so that they won't hit against one another as they vibrate. A way to solve these problems is to cast several pieces into one block, using a metal form and casting plaster. This way as much weight as needed can easily be applied and it is easy to keep the mold from bumping other things on the lap.

I use two-pound coffee cans, opened at both ends and cut in half, for the molds. Each half of the can makes a separate mold and has a reinforced rim which is to be the lower edge. For proper grinding it is necessary to have the rocks lower than the rim of the mold. This is accomplished by cutting a round hole in 1/8" plywood slightly smaller than the diameter of the mold (Fig. 2). In another piece of plywood, cut a hole that is just big enough to let the mold slide through (Fig. 1). Join the two pieces of wood with glue or screws. The mold will now fit inside the hole of the upper piece and rest on the edge of the hole in the lower piece.

Apply grease to all edges of the plywood that will come in contact with the plaster. Place the plywood on a piece of glass and put the mold into the hole in the plywood. Place the rocks on the glass inside the mold, and then pour a thin mixture of the plaster around the rocks, making sure they remain flat and in place. This could necessitate pouring a thin layer and letting it set up a little before filling the mold to cover the rocks. If the resulting block is not heavy enough, weights can be put into the plaster.

When the lapping process is all done, chip out the plaster to release the rocks. One caution needs to be given: don't put so many rocks into the mold that you have no room to use a chipping tool to remove the plaster. This is important, for otherwise you may chip your polished rocks in removing them from the plaster. The casting plaster washes off easily with water and a scrub brush.

Article is a "Star Tip" from the Stars and Garnets, bulletin of the Moscow Star Garnet Club, Nov. 1974, via The Diggers, Potlatch, Idaho

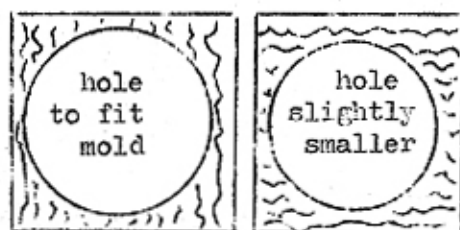
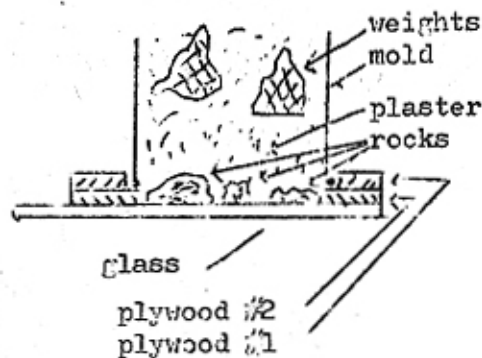


Figure 1 Figure 2
Plywood Plywood



FIRE AGATE

Fire agate is a chalcedony that has been deposited in layers. The fire comes from a thin coating of iridescent limonite deposited between the layers at the time of formation. Usually there is a large amount of matrix on the specimen, so soak it in water for at least ten minutes. This will help determine which area of fire you want to bring out. Choose a portion that has a solid layer of chalcedony over the dark fire layer.

Fire agates aren't much to look at in the rough and are often passed by, but when properly ground and polished it exhibits sparkling green and red fire. Trim the sides and bottom, cutting the matrix away with a trim saw. Carefully start grinding on the sides to "the almost" shape you want using 120 grit. BE CAREFUL NOT TO OVER HEAT THE STONE!!!

Mount the stone on a dop stick. Using 220 grit wheel, work on the top portion of the agate toward the high crown. As you grind down the top and sides, watch for fire. A stone can be ruined at this point; if it is ground too far and into the limonite layer the fire can be lost. Dip the stone into clear water frequently and examine it for fire. Be very careful that you do not grind too close to the fire layer.

Wet sanding can be used successfully, first on 220 grit paper and finish on 320 grit paper. BE SURE YOU DO NOT OVERHEAT!! Cerium oxide, mixed with water to a thick paste and applied to a felt wheel for polishing will give you the best results.

The four important points to remember are: 1. Choosing the area in the stone with the chalcedony overlaying the limonite area. 2. Grinding carefully, leaving the crown until last. 3. Not grinding into the limonite area. 4. Not overheating the stone.

from Jade Journal, via The Nishna
Valley Grindstone, via The Agateer

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Two doctors were discussing brain research - The younger Doc asked "Where do we get the material for research?" To which the older Doc replied: "Doctor brains are worth about \$50.00 per oz., lawyer brains about \$75.00 per oz., but a rockhound's brains are worth \$250.00 per oz." "But why are the rockhound's brains so expensive?" inquired the young Doc. "Do you realize how many rockhounds it would take to get an ounce of brains?" replied the older Doc.

Robert Bird via Lakeland  
Chips and Bits

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This is an indispensable item for all persons. For years people have been saying, "I'll do it as soon as I can get a round tuit". This item on the side is a round tuit. Cut it out. Keep it handy and you'll have no more trouble getting all those extras done, for you finally have gotten a round tuit.

*Pat. Pending by Chet Hackett Round Tuit Co., from
Puget Sounder, via Rock Rollers, via S.E.I.S Club
News