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 Fairaizl	205 6th Ave. N. W.	Mandan	663-9712
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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.

REMEMBER

2:30

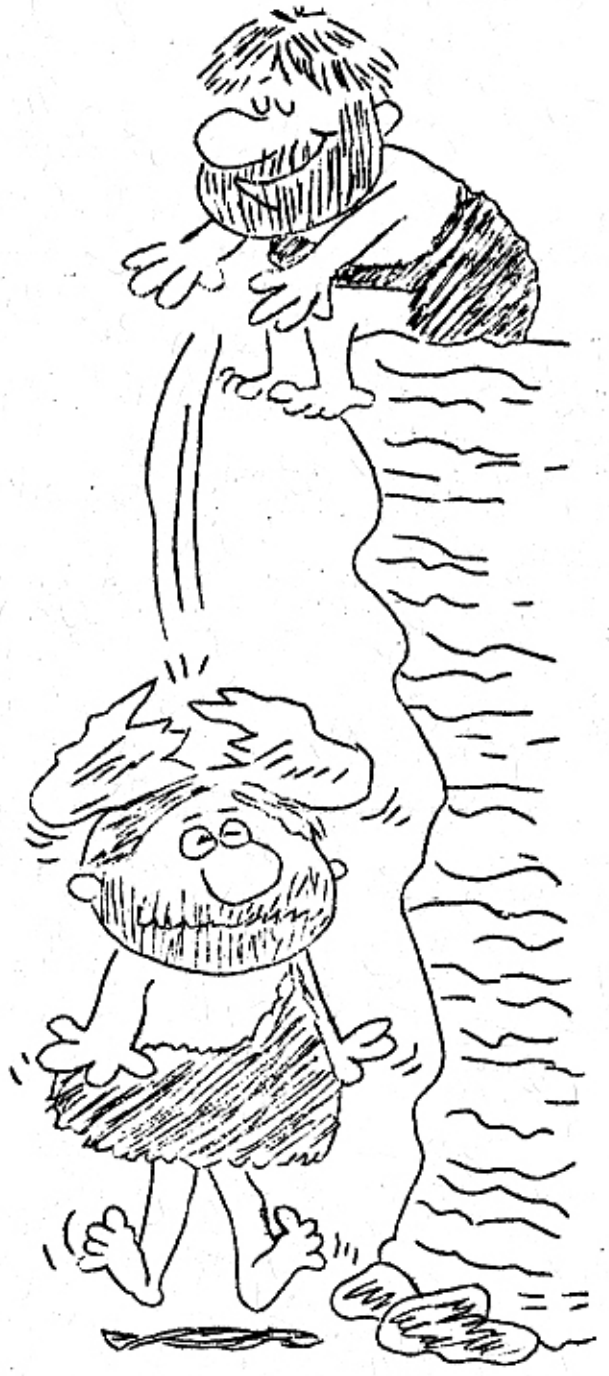
NOVEMBER 3, 1974

Hospitality Room

CAPITOL ELECTRIC CO-OP

BE THERE!!!

2:30



PROGRAM: SILENT AUCTION

OCTOBER MEETING

We had a nice turn out for the October meeting - about 50 members, 3 guests and about 12 or 14 pebble pups.

Guests were: Bill Collins, Harvey, North Dakota
Mr. & Mrs. Otto Jacobson, 410 South 13th St., Bismarck

It was announced that we would have a silent auction in November. Details about this event are printed elsewhere in the bulletin. December will be our dinner meeting and election of officers.

Earle Campbell, president, announced that he would not be a candidate next year. If anyone has any suggestions for new officers see Ole Stavem. Ole is chairman of the Nominating committee.

There was some discussion about having a North Dakota State Show in Bismarck next year. A committee will be chosen to work out details. There will be more about this project in future issues of the Diggins.

Door prize for the evening was won by Mrs. Ed Muggli. It was a piece of Mexican crazy lace provided by Earle Campbell.

Hostesses for the November meeting will be Clara (Mrs. Ewald) Muggli, Bea Merrill and Ida Mae Ramberg.

Duane Robey presented a very interesting and informative program about minerals and other common rocks. Not only did he have generous samples to demonstrate his lecture but he also had charts so that one could become familiar with the different types of minerals. There was a question and answer period following the lecture.

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THIS 'n THAT

The Wilton News had a very good write-up about Julius and Rosie Theis. They showed some of their rock specimens and told about them at the Regan Homemakers Club at the home of Mrs. Barney Strand, Jr. of Regan. There was also a picture to accompany the article.

Julius and Rosie celebrated their fortieth wedding anniversary earlier this month. May they have many more happy rockhunting years together.

Joh and Katie, and Albert and Vina Anderson took a trip to Canada last month to go fishing. The weather was chilly but the fish were biting. They brought back some very nice specimens (fish, that is). I heard that the rock hunting was terrible in the locale where they were camped.

At this time of the year, Earle Campbell is busy either visiting several grade schools and telling the students about rocks and minerals or else the classes come to the Campbell home to see our "rock museum". Fourth and fifth graders study about the different types of rocks in science classes; Earle shows them samples of the three kinds, igneous, sedimentary and metamorphic.

RULES FOR SILENT AUCTION

For those who have not attended one of our silent auctions, here are the rules:

Each specimen at the sale should be marked with the owner's name, identity of the rock (if known) and where found. The specimens will be placed on tables with a silent auction form in front of each specimen. At a given signal the bidder writes his name on the paper and the amount he will pay for that particular rock, piece of jewelry, or whatever. NO BIDDING IS ALLOWED UNTIL THE SIGNAL IS GIVEN!!!! Bids must be increased by the amount stated on the form. Bidding must stop when the second signal is given. If you put your name down after the signal, your bid will be disqualified and the name above yours will get the specimen. Each successful bidder must bring the auction slip and specimen to the person who brought the specimen and pay for it. The former owner of said rock then pays the cashier (treasurer) ten per cent of the money collecte (If you want to set a minimum price on your specimen please mark the auction slip accordingly.)

Bidding will be open to everyone - including the Pebble Pups. Check your specimens. Do you have an extra fossil, crystal, geode that someone else would like to have? Bring it and set a price on it. Do you want to enlarge your collection? Come out and look the merchandise over, then start bidding.

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GIANT CRYSTALS

The study of giant crystals is a fascinating experience. One cannot help but be amazed at the large size of some of the crystals that have been found!

The most fascinating diamond ever found was the famous Cullinan, in the Premier mine of South Africa in 1905. This stone weighed 3,024.75 carats, or over one and one-third pounds! The shape of the crystals suggested that the Cullinan diamond was part of a crystal over twice its size.

The most remarkable occurance of celestite ever discovered was found by a farmer drilling a well at Put-In-Bay, South Bass Island in Lake Erie. When the drilling equipment dropped into a hole at the depth of 17 feet, he discovered a grotto 15 feet wide, 12 feet high and 25 feet long. The entire inside was completely lined with pale blue celestite crystals up to 18 inches in length.

A gem quality aquamarine crystal was found in Minas Garais, Brazil, that weighed over 200 pounds and was shipped to Germany where it was cut into 200,000 carats of smaller stones.

One of the most beautiful topaz crystals ever found was an ice-blue giant from Brazil weighing 200 pounds. It had brilliant mirror-like faces the size of the palm of the hand.

The largest quartz crystal ever recorded comes from Brazil and weighs over 5 tons. Incidentally, the largest "rock crystal" sphere ever cut from a quartz crystal is a 13 inch flawless sphere weighing 107 pounds, on display in the Smithsonian Institute.

Some of the largest apatite crystals are found at the Halliburton-Bancroft district of Ontario, where specimens approaching the size of small tree trunks have been found.

At Gore Mountain in the Adirondacks, large red-brown almandite garnets are found up to a foot in diameter.

Probably the grand-daddy of all giant crystals are the feldspar giants found at

several locations: at Bradbury Mountain, Maine, the largest measured 180 square feet in cross section (10' x 18') - the length of the original crystal is unknown. Near Kristiansand, Norway, with dimensions of 7 x 12 x 30 feet. Probably the largest feldspar crystal ever found was located in the Ural Mountains. In this case, a single quarry 30 x 30 feet was opened to mine a single feldspar crystal of unknown depth.

The largest geode ever found was discovered in Rio Grande de Sul, Brazil. Its dimensions were 10 x 16½ x 33 feet and was estimated to weigh 70,000 pounds. The interior of the geode was completely lined with beautiful purple amethyst crystals.

from article by Carl Erickson in the Pyriter, via The Geode, via S.E.I.S. Club News

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WHY THE DINOSAURS DISAPPEARED

British professor Tony Swain presented a theory suggesting that dinosaurs were victims of their own feeble taste buds. When flowering plants first appeared, unlike mammals or insects, the dinosaurs were unable to detect the bitter and poisonous alkaloids the plants contained.

Experiments have shown that tortoises, modern-day reptiles, are 40 times less sensitive to the taste of alkaloids than mammals.

The extinction of the dinosaurs took place in two stages. First the coming of the flowering plants 120 million years ago displaced evergreens and ferns the dinosaurs ate. These early plants contained few alkaloids, but did have tannins, which the reptiles found unpalatable, so they were forced to range farther to find enough food. Then plant species appeared with poisonous alkaloids they couldn't taste, and they ate sufficient plants to poison themselves, which would explain why fossil dinosaurs are often found in contorted attitudes, head back and tail curled, similar to mammals that died from strychine poisoning, says Swain. Alkaloids also could contribute to thinning dinosaur eggshells.

from article in St. Louis Globe-Democrat, via S.E.I.S.

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ODE TO MY WIFE

I;m dejected, sad and gloomy - I'm a rockhound in distress.
I'm a rockhound in trouble - I'm an outcast more or less.
I have fossils in the kitchen - minerals in the hall,
I have crystals in the bath tub - relics on the wall.
I have tin oxide on the carpets - oil upon the floor,
I have blacklights in the parlor - boxes behind each door.
Wifey thinks I'm goofy - I don't know, she may be right,
She insists I have silicoses, or some form of ite.
Says my head is lined with agate - a freak pseudo of the bone,
Says my brain is just a nodule - my heart has turned to stone.
Are you rated as a fossil? Are you obliged to live alone?
How do you enjoy your hobby - and still have a happy home?

from San Jacinto Hemet Rockhounds, via Little Gem
via Geode Newsletter

NDEA Mini-Lab

At the NDEA Teachers Convention held in Bismarck on October 24 and 25, Earle Campbell was asked to have a mini-lab on lapidary. Many schools are becoming interested in this branch of science, either as a classroom study or as a hobby club. The Fargo school system has had classes in lapidary for several years. Instructors in this area have been asking to have this interest included in their curriculum.

Vince Anderson, owner of Beacon Engineering Co, Rothsay, Minnesota, flew in with a load of equipment - saws, vibra-laps, tumblers - and assisted Earle in the workshop. M. Douglas Johnson, teacher at Bismarck High School, was coOordinator of the project.

At the workshop two tables of books and one table of periodicals were on display. The books ranged from elementary geology to field guides to "how-to" books on tumbling, cutting cabs, silversmithing. These books are on a consignment basis. Some of the books that were not sold will be available at the November 3rd meeting of the Central Dakota Gem & Mineral Society. THEY WILL NOT BE PART OF THE SILENT AUCTION.

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SENIOR CITIZENS INTERESTED IN LAPIDARY!

Our president, Earle Campbell, has been extremely busy this past month promoting our hobby! Besides the workshop at the NDEA Convention, visiting 4th and 5th grades at the schools, having a class visit our collection in our home, he has also helped a group of senior citizens set up a class in tumbling and polishing stones and jewelry making.

Several senior citizens had visited the Gem and Mineral Show at Kirkwood Plaza in September and had become interested in some of the projects. They asked Earle to help them. He was only too glad to assist them. Now they are busy polishing and tumbling rocks and hope to make jewelry and other articles with the finished product.

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NEW BOOKS FOR LIBRARY

When the Central Dakota Gem & Mineral Society voted in September to give me $10.00 for the printing of the Gem and Mineral Society Show bulletins I decided to use the money help our organization. The first, and only, thought that popped into my mind was books for our library. Here are the books I selected. They will be placed in the library at the November 3rd meeting.

Crystals and Crystal Growing by Alan Holden and Phylis Singer. With my interest in crystals this was the first book I selected. It is a very good book about crystals. It even gives formulas and tells a person how to grow their own. The only difficulty is trying to find the needed chemiclas in Bismarck.

Rocks and Minerals (Knowledge through Color Series) by Joel Arem. Easily read, many pictures in color.

Minerals of the World by Charles A. Sorrell. A guide to field identification - also many pictures in color.

Family Fun with Rocks by the Authors and Staff of Gems & Minerals Magazine. A good paperback book that shows projects even children can do.

Gem Cutting is Easy by Martin Walter. A beginner's course in cutting and polishing cabochons and faceted stones.

Owen O'Neill is librarian. See him to check out these books.

FACETING IS FUN!

by Herbert Olmstead

I have been faceting for about a year and have ground and polished about a dozen beautiful gems. When I display my stones, someone usually says, "It must be fun to facet". Well, it is, and I want to tell you all about it.

The first thing you do, as a beginner, is to get all your equipment set up, struggle through the instruction book, marvel at all the strange words and figure out how to do it. Then after several hours of looking at the stone, dopping it and redopping, setting and resetting, grinding and regrinding, polishing and repolishing, you get the pavilion finished. After admiring the beauty of half a gem, you discover there isn't nearly enough material left for the other half. This is where the fun begins -- you start over.

You have preformed a beautiful stone and have cut the culet facets for a standard brilliant with no trouble at all. Now you are ready for the girdle or break facets, that is as soon as you figure out just which facet is left and which facet is right. You will, no doubt, come to the conclusion and proceed with the facets one after another Of course, the fun starts when you polish these facets. You start to polish a facet and find it has a large deep scratch across the face, so you try to polish it out. However, it soon becomes apparent that the facet is getting larger and larger and larger and crookeder. You look at it, curse it, take up smoking, and start again.

After a few incidentes you get the pavilion finished and you begin to get a little bit excited to see the sparkle of the gem starting to show. Whoops! You dropped it. Why do good gem stones have to be so brittle??? Of course, you might be lucky and only knock the stone off the dop stick. This is really fun because all you have to do is redop the stone exactly as it was before. However, if it doesn't go back just right you can (a) do the stone over, (b) use a new set of index numbers or (c) use the cheater until you are ready to climb the walls.

Speaking of using the cheater (this adjusts settings to the right or to the left) it is a great pleasure to move it in the wrong direction. This makes the facet you are working on completely out of shape, and by the time you get it straightened up you have recut half your stone. This is always good for a laugh.

There is something about setting the index numbers that makes faceting a thrill, something like getting a row of facets finished and discovering you have set the index wrong on the last facet. This is, you discover, you've just formed a new design. I think this must be how new designs are created.

You are moving along facet to facet quite smoothly and the gem will soon be finished. You begin to sing, "The Flowers that Bloom in the Spring, Tra La" when it happens. You have just carelessly rubbed or bumped your gem against the side of the lap. This makes a nice scalloped edge to your stone and again you have created a new design. It isn't exactly the one you wanted, so you just sit and meditate because you have just run out of swear words.

Faceting seems to be my favorite sport and I love it so much. Doing a complicated design on a rectangle is a real fascinating event. The directions say this design is a real sparkler and, of course, many facets which meet at a point help to make it so. This particular one has several groups of eight which meet at a point. You get seven of them to meet and you are almost a winner! Then the last one you over cut!! Believe me, this brings on the thrill of a lifetime.

There are many other things that make faceting such a joy -- like setting the wrong angle degree. This is just as much fun as anything. Anyway, I love to facet because I have all the attributes that make a good faceter: patience, time, a four letter word vocabulary, and a straight jacket!!!!

S.E.I.S. Club News via The Agateer, via Rock Rollers

FOSSIL MYSTERY (Something to think about)

More than 100 years ago a Scotsman named Hugh Miller became curious about red sandstone fossil deposits in the northern part of his country. He found layer upon layer of fossil sea life. There were myriad fishes which seemed to have met a very sudden and violent death. Their remains showed them in very odd positions, tails wrapped about their heads and fins widespread as if they had died in agony.

In this area of some 10,000 square miles, every specimen of 10 to 12 different types of animals died within seconds of each other. Not any part of the specimens had been gnawed by animals of prey. When a fish dies in its native habitat, some other fish eats it. But in this case, the predators died with the prey.

Some sort of illness could be the cause of this calamity, but an epidemic which attacks one species does not infect all the other species at the same time, nor would it cause every animal in its path to die violently.

If this catastrophe in Scotland were an isolated instance, perhaps some logical explanation would be forthcoming; but this area is only one of many, and in each, death was violent and instantaneous.

Millions of animals died in the Tanana Valley in Alaska under the most peculiar circumstances, which was also responsible for the uprooting of great forests. The wood was actually splintered and intermingled with these qooden shreds were the mangled remains of mammoths, bisons, prehistoric horses and mastodons. All this debris was mashed together and moved for miles down the valley.

Volcanic eruptions? Glaciers? No. Volcanic action would have made charcoal of the forests in place, not torn them living from the ground. Pumice and lava would have enveloped the animal life, not shredded it and moved it, without any trace of pumice or lava. And at this time, there were no glaciers.

Animals such as mastodons, mammoths and others, are supposed to have become extinct because of starvation, yet most of the specimens found in Alaska and northern Siberia have undigested food in their stomachs. Food was still in their mouths when sudden death came upon them. The food was analyzed and found to be vegetation which grew in southern parts of the country, not northern. An investigation of skins of these animals showed presence of red blood corpuscles, which meant they died of suffocation.

Fossils animals are found in many other places where it is impossible that they could have existed during this time: for instance in the British Isles, reindeer from Lapland and hippopotami from the Congo are found side by side in caves. They could never have lived in communal caves so far from their normal habitats.

Whale deposits in Michigan occured after the glaciers were gone. Whales are not land animals, and Michigan is far from the sea. A body of water sufficient to enable whales to swim into Lake Michigan (582 feet above sea level) would have wiped out the eastern part of the U. S., and there is no geological evidence of this taking place.

What sort of immense power could take whales of enormous tonnage from their home in the Atlantic and smash them to bits on land 600 feet above sea level? And in Scotland destroy every thing living in an area of more than 10,000 square miles?

Articles have been written about the uprooted forests of Siberia. These trees lie flung outward and upward as if some great explosion had tossed them about like matchsticks. A great force of water, had it been the cause, would have washed the trees all in one direction.

In the well-kept records of some Tibetan monastaries, we are told of a highly intelligent civilization in the Pacific Ocean. This land was also suddenly destroyed.

Antlantis, upon whose land some of the people of the Pacific Lemuria settled, was a victim of the dame type of instantaneous disaster.

Albert W. Hart discussed one of the areas he encountered when as one of thefirst engineers to graduate from MIT, he was assigned a difficult project in the interior of Africa. On his way with his bearers into an almost inaccessible region, they traversed a great desert. He was unable to explain the amazing large expanse of greenish glass that covered the desert. Later in life, in America, he passed the White Sands area after the first atomic explosion and recognized the same type of silica fusion.

Are the fossil remains spread over the earth results of a prehistoric fission?

by Margaret Casson, via Rock Rollers, via Blab and Slab, via S.E.I.S. Club News

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RED FACE DEPT.

Two months ago John Anderson wrote me a letter to be printed in the Diggins. I had planned to put it in the next issue but in the meantime Earle cleaned and straightened our office. Anyone who has seen this office would know what I am talking abot when I say that with everything in "apple pie" order I can't find a thing! Somewhere within these four walls is that elusive letter. As soon as I find it, John, I will publish it. Please accept my apologies for not having done so yet.

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When a member of our organization is in the hospital, we send him (or her) flowers. But when the flower-sender is in the hospital who sends the flowers? In this case, nobody. Stan Fairaizl spent time in the hospital last month.. We didn't find out until the next meeting about his sojourn in the hospital. At present Stan is waiting for the doctor's verdict as to whether he will have to reenter the hospital or if he will be able to be treated at home. Our best wishes, Stan.

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WATCH THOSE PILLS!!!!

Soon after swallowing what he thought was an aspirin tablet, a man learned to his panicky dismay that the pellet was of the type his wife feeds her petunia plants.

Seeking immediate aid and advice, the man (with a real headache by then) was called by an Agricultural expert who explained that he had merely taken the equivalent of 18 bushels of horse manure and had nothing to worry about!

from The Jade Journal, via Arrowhead Chips, via Halite Hilites