



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.

The Central Dakota Gem and Mineral Society is affiliated with:
The Rocky Mountain Federation of Mineralogical Societies
The American Federation of Mineralogical Societies

MEETINGS: First Sunday of each month in the Hospitality Room of Capital Electric Co-op Building on Highway 83 north of Bismarck. Meeting time is 7:30 P. M.

VISITORS ARE ALWAYS WELCOME.

OFFICERS:

President.....	John Dosch.....	1425 N. 15th St., Bismarck.....	255-1924
Vice-President.....	Earle Campbell.....	1134 N. 28th St., Bismarck.....	255-3658
Secretary.....	Stanley Fairaizl.....	205 6th Ave. NW, Mandan.....	663-9712
Treasurer.....	William Buresh.....	1527 N. 19th St., Bismarck.....	223-0611
Program Chairman.....	DeLane Meier.....	516½ Gary Ave., Bismarck.....	223-8579
Field Trip Chairman...	Ronnie Stelter.....	Wilton.....	734-6483
Librarian.....	Ewald Muggli.....	Glen Ullin.....	348-3897
Nominations.....	Vernie Peterson.....	615 N. 12th St., Bismarck.....	223-9179
Refreshments.....	Mrs. Albert Anderson..	RR. #2, Bismarck.....	673-4585
Annual Show.....	Gordon Bell.....	515 N. 22nd St., Bismarck.....	223-5146
Historian.....	Mrs. Ted Giese.....	New Salem.....	843-7005
Official Greeter.....	Dick Bergantine.....	703 12th Ave. NW, Mandan.....	663-3419
Editor.....	Mrs. Earle Campbell..	1134 N. 28th St., Bismarck.....	255-3658
Pebble Pup Leader.....	Harold Brady.....	1401 Sunny Rd., Mandan.....	663-3904

All contributions should be mailed to the editor, Mrs. Earle Campbell, 1134 N. 28th Bismarck. Please have them in by the tenth of each month.

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



If I had to paint a picture of a man I think I'd
wait
Till he'd fought his selfish battles and had put
aside his hate.
I'd not catch him at his labors when his thoughts
are all of self,
On the long days and the dreary when he's striving
for himself.
I'd not take him when he's sneering, when he's
scornful or depressed,
But I'd look for him at Christmas when he's shining
at his best.

Man is ever in a struggle and he's oft misunder-
stood;
There are days the worst that's in him is the
master of the good,
But at Christmas kindness rules him and puts
himself aside
And his petty hates are vanquished and his heart
is opened wide.
Oh, I don't know how to say it, but somehow it
seems to me
That at Christmas man is almost what God sent
him here to be.

Edgar Guest



DECEMBER DINNER A SUCCESS!

The ham was delicious!! the baked beans, the salads, the hot dishes, the desserts were all scrumptious!!!! The company was congenial - what more could a person ask for? As usual Mae Fairaizl did an excellent job of preparing the baked ham. The feminine members of our organization proved once again that they are very good cooks. There was plenty to eat - more than enough for seconds and thirds. It is a good thing we have a dinner like that only once a year. My waistline could never take it!

A brief business meeting was held after the dinner.

Bill Buresh, treasurer, reported that the silent auction last month netted the club treasury \$69.50. Cash on hand is now \$159.40.

Earle Campbell brought the door prize, which was won by Stan Fairaizl.

Burnham Toepke thanked the club for the flowers he received during his recent stay in the Mandan Hospital.

Vina and Catherine Anderson will be hostesses for next month's meeting.

DUES ARE DUE!! HAVE YOU PAID YOUR DUES YET?

An election was held for officers to serve during 1974. Earle Campbell was elected president; Bill Buresh, vice-president; Stan Fairaizl, secretary and DeLane Heier, treasurer.

THIS 'n THAT

IT'S A GIRL! John and Cecelia Dosch are proud to announce the arrival of Diane Marie on December 6. She weighed in at 7 lbs., 2 ounces.

Last month was a bad month for our members. Three of them wound up in hospitals. Burnham Toepke spent a week in the Mandan Hospital. Dr. Gordon Bell and Ritchie Strom were patients at St. Alexius Hospital in Bismarck.

Emil and Bonnie Hilken are spending the winter in Arizona. We will be looking for a report on rock hunting when they return in the spring.

Mr. & Mrs. Earle Campbell attended the wedding of Miss Deborah Safratowich to their son, Larry, in Moorhead, Minn. on December 8. Debbie is the daughter of Mr. & Mrs. Michael Safratowich, Wadena, Minnesota. The young couple are students at Moorhead State College, where Debbie is majoring in secondary English education and Larry is majoring in social services.

The S.E.I.S. Club News of Southern Illinois is starting a new feature, LET'S LEARN ABOUT: for their members who are new to the hobby, as well as the members who would like to learn more about various facets of rock collecting. This seems to be a very good idea - so good that I plan to print some of their articles so that you may all share in their knowledge. (If any of our members would like to contribute an article to this series, I would be very happy to print it.)

LET'S LEARN ABOUT --- COLLECTING CRYSTALS

One of the most fascinating phases of the rockhound hobby is the collecting of minerals, and especially minerals in their crystal form. There are approximately 2,000 known minerals, and most of these are crystalized if conditions are favorable at the time they are formed.

Crystals are available to suit every pocketbook and display case. Many collect micromounts: very small specimens which will fit into a 7/8 by 7/8 box. A large collection may be housed in a few trays, but this type requires magnification. However, nature has a way of putting some of her choice specimens in small packages and some of them are truly magnificent.

The next group collect thumbnails, which are one inch or less in diameter. Most of these do not require magnification and may be displayed in small individual boxes. Miniatures form the next group, approximately 2 x 2 inches in size. Then comes the cabinet specimens from 2 to 6 inches in diameter, and finally the museum pieces, crystals of unusual size and beauty. These groups progressively cost more and require more space to display.

Many collect crystals of family groups, such as copper minerals. The beautiful forms and colors of the various copper minerals make this group ideal for display. The various colors and types of just one mineral may be collected, such as wulfenite, as they come in many crystal shapes and colors. An interesting diversion is the collection of as many crystals as possible belonging to one particular system.

Many wonder where to obtain crystals. It is possible, if a person is fortunate, to live in such an area, to collect a number personally. But usually the specimens in any given area are limited to a few varieties and they must be obtained from other sources as well. Perhaps the best and most economical way is to buy from reputable dealers.

One important thing to remember, buy the top quality material. The natural tendency for a person beginning a collection is to get as many specimens as possible, even though some are mediocre. As your collection grows, all of them will eventually be discarded. Buy only the best quality in the first place.

Another favorite method of building a collection is to trade with other collectors. Even if your area does not offer a great variety of materials, it frequently offers a quantity of one or more species. Good specimens from your area can be traded with other collectors who have different materials in their locality. Often you can trade gem cutting material for crystals with a person who has minerals in his area but no cutting material.

from article by Paul Doggett (Dallas County Rock Club), via Michigan Gem News

- CHISOLM'S LAW - Anytime things appear to be going better, you have overlooked something.
- MURPHY'S LAW - If something can go wrong, it will.
- WEILER'S LAW - Nothing is impossible for the person who doesn't have to do it himself.
- FINAGLE'S LAW - Once a job is fouled up, anything done to improve it makes it worse.
- PARKINSON'S LAW - Work expands to fill the time available.



IDENTIFICATION - LUSTRE

Lustre is a property that concerns the contact of light with a mineral. It indicates how a mineral reflects light. There are two main types of lustre - metallic and non-metallic.

If a specimen is shiny and looks as if it is made of metal, its lustre is metallic. Among the metallic group are the native ores, such as gold, silver and copper. Some others are compounds like pyrite, galena and molybdenite.

All of the other minerals that are not metallic in lustre are classed together as non-metallic but there are many different types. Some of the common ones are vitreous, adamantine, resinous, silky, pearly, and dull.

The word vitreous means "glassy", so it applies to those minerals, such as transparent quartz, which looks like glass.

Adamantine lustre refers to a brilliant but somewhat oily look such as diamond, zircon and corundum have.

Resinous lustre indicates a waxy-looking surface as found in chalcedony or amber.

A fibrous surface, such as satin spar and tiger-eye display, is known as a silky lustre.

Pearly lustre derives its name from its resemblance to the sheen of mother-of-pearl. Mica has this type of lustre.

A specimen which has no shine and looks earthy is said to have dull lustre. Chert and kaolin are examples of this.

from Halite Hilites via The Rock Vein
via Rockhound News

THE BOOK OF THE CHRONICLES OF THE ROCKHOUNDS

BY

Mabel Bass, Jay Em, Wyoming

Chapter 17

1. Now it came to pass in the five and fiftieth year of the 20th century, there dwelt a man in the middle western part of the USA.
2. And he prospered and increased in goods and became fat and waxed old, and his children grew up and departed from him.
3. And he retired from business and was afflicted with a serious heart ailment and a stiffening of his joints, and his soul became weary of his very existence, insomuch that he like Job, greatly desired to die and be buried and sleep with his fathers.
4. Now there was a day that in his search for entertainment he chanced to drop in at a Mineral and Gem Show.
5. While there he became vastly intrigued with the exhibits, in that he spent the entire day looking at fossils, admiring the collection of artifacts, enjoying the beauty of the crystals and collectives of gems and being amazed at the delicacy of the workmanship of the artificers in silver and cabochons.
6. And straightway when even was come he hastened and went home unto his wife and spoke unto her all that had come to pass.
7. And he said unto her, Go, too, now, let us make ourselves a collection of the rare and beautiful rocks. Let us gather them from our own country and from afar off, and let us remodel the basement that there may be room enough for their display.
8. And verily I say unto you, if there is not space enough in the basement, then they shall be placed on shelves in the dining room, and in drawers in the bed chamber, and even in cupboards in the kitchen.
9. And his wife consented thereto.
10. It came to pass on the morrow they arose early and made haste and prepared themselves a lunch and when the sun was risen they climbed into the chariot and departed to go into the mountains, and into the mountains they came.
11. And the man went to and fro and walked up and down in the mountains all the day long, even unto the eleventh hour.
12. And he lifted up his eyes and beheld a ledge of rock shining in the sun, and he hastened unto it and took rock hammer and broke it into many pieces, and piled the pieces in piles.
13. And carried heavy loads down the hill so that he was even unto the earth, and placed the rocks in his chariot to be taken to the place where he abode.
14. And his wife did likewise.
15. Again on a day and many times thereafter, they made ready and drove unto the hills and the badlands and the valleys of the rivers and to the caves in the mountains and throughout all the region roundabout, where they searched diligently.
16. They gathered many rocks of all sizes and descriptions and carried them unto their home where they piled them in piles in the courtyard and beside the house and along the paths and by every green tree and by every shrub.
17. And they heaped them in heaps along the driveway and in the garage so that they could hardly drive in there.
18. They builded themselves, also, a fireplace, a retaining wall, a patio, a bird-bath, a flagstone walk, and various and sundry other workings in stone.
19. After many days they journeyed into far countries where for many pieces of silver they purchased all manner of precious stones.

(continued on next page)

20. The first purchase was of various agates; the second, amethyst; the third, a turquoise; the fourth, rhodocrosite; the fifth, malachite;
21. the sixth, jasper; the seventh, jade; the eighth, tiger-eye; the ninth, an onyx; the tenth, azurite; the eleventh, chrysocolla; the twelfth, a thomsonite.
22. And besides these there were many others so that their numbers were like the sands of the seas for multitude.
23. And it came to pass when the man and his wife had returned to their own house and labeled and placed and arranged these specimens on the shelves and in the drawers which they had builded, that the man spake unto his wife saying:
24. "Now, lo, of a truth I perceive, that we must of necessity obtain tools and machinery to work with all and to fashion and to polish these stones so that their hidden beauty may be made plainly visible."
25. And he spake on and said, "Hearken now, let us take of the money which we have stored up and purchase a diamond saw and a trim saw and a grinder and a lap wheel and polishing abrasives and what-so-ever is needful for the cutting and polishing of rocks."
26. And his wife answered and said, "Know ye not that there must also be silver and copper wherefrom may be wrought settings and mountings and hangings for the cabochons and the baroque stones and the faceted gems."
27. And he said, "Let it be so, whatsoever thou desirest, let it be done."
28. And it was so.
29. Now when the fullness of the time was come that the man should report to his physician for his regular check up, he arose and shaved himself, and changed his raiment, and came unto his physician.
30. And he gave him a thorough examination from the top of his head unto the soles of his feet; and he found no infirmity in him.
31. There was no stiffening of the joints, he had lost 20 pounds of excess weight, and his cardiac condition was greatly improved.
32. And the physician was amazed at the soundness which he found in him.
33. And the physician opened his mouth and spake, saying, "Lo, it is enough. Now I truly believe that which I have heard of the benefits to be derived from the persuance of an earth science hobby."
34. For many words have come to my ears concerning the rockhounds for the fame of them has gone abroad throughout the country roundabout."
35. And he spake on and said, "Now behold of a truth, thou hast prolonged thy life by ten years. And I perceive in thee a willingness of spirit to live and be contented and useful until thou becomest old and full of days."
36. "I say unto you, cleave unto this hobby and depart not from it. And surely goodness and mercy shall follow thee all the days of thy life."

Manhattan Newsletter
via Agate Picker



The best things in life are appreciated most after they are lost.

A telephone pole never hits an auto except in self defense.