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.

PSALM 100
A Psalm of Thanksgiving

Make a joyful noise unto the Lord, all ye lands.
Serve the Lord with gladness; come before his presence with singing.
Know ye that the Lord he is God: it is he that hath made us, and not we ourselves; we are his people, and the sheep of his pasture.
Enter into his gates with thanksgiving, and into his courts with praise; he thankful unto him, and bless his name.
For the Lord is good; his mercy is everlasting; and his truth endureth to all generations.

NOVEMBER MEETING

Dick Bergantine, door man, announced there were 51 members and guests present.

Guests were:

Vince Swenson --- 718 North 11th, Bismarck
Don Steckle ---- 1030 North 9th, Bismarck
Frank and Anna Herr -- 528 West Villard, Dickinson

Treasurer Bill Buresh reported a healthy $73.12 in the club treasury.

The nominating committee composed of Vernie Peterson, chairman, Ray Barnett and John Dosch, presented the following slate of officers for 1974:

President ------ Earle Campbell
Vice President - Bill Buresh
Secretary ------ Dick Bergantine
Treasurer ------ DeLane Meier

There can also be nominations from the floor. Come out and vote!!!!!

Bill Buresh thanked the club members for the lovely flowers he received while he was in the hospital last month.

The program for the evening was a silent auction with 10 percent of each sale going to the club. Almost $70.00 was donated to the treasury when the sale was over.

Frank and Anna Herr brought some very nice Australian marine agate. They gave all proceeds of their sales to the club. Harold Woodcock sent some uncut sapphires from Thailand to be sold. He also gave the money from their sales to the treasury. For their generous donations, Mr. & Mrs. Herr and "Woody" were made honorary members for the coming year. By the time you get this newsletter, Woody will be on his way to Okinawa, where he will be stationed for the next 18 months.

Bill Buresh brought the door prize which was won by Stan Fairaizl.

Change of address:

Delane and Myra Meier -- Brentwood Estates, RR #1, Bismarck.

Because of the dinner meeting in December, it was decided to have next month's meeting start at 6:00 p.m. instead of 7:30. Details of the dinner are printed on the next page.

There will be no program in December. The dinner will be the program.

DECEMBER POTLUCK DINNER

For the December meeting only - the time has been changed to 6:00 P.M. Meeting place, as usual, is the Hospitality Room of the Capital Electric Co-op Building. The piece de resistance is to be ham, which Mae Fairaizl will prepare. Listed below is the menu and which members will bring the various dishes. If your name is not listed, pick out what you want to bring and come out and enjoy the festivities!

MENU:

Potato Salad:

J. Anderson
O'Neill
Randall
_____
_____

Baked Beans or Hot Dish:

Campbell
Buresh
Aune
Giese
Meier

Salad, Jello, etc.

Stavem
Merrill
Brady
Buck
Larson
Tonander
_____
_____

BUNS: (3 dozen)

Bergantine
Ewald Muggli
A. Anderson
Mandigo

Pickles:

Theis
Toepke
H. Solberg

Butter:

P. Solberg

Cake or Bars

R. Anderson
Weisenberger
Pederson
Dosch
_____
_____

Hot Chocalate

Dosch

Plates and cups will be furnished but members are asked to bring their own silver service.

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SHOP HINT

Have you ever removed a stone from the freezer, popped it off the dop, then discovered fractures or chipped places that weren't there before? It can happen --- not in the freezer necessarily, but when your fingers touch it. The wide difference in temperature between the cold stone and your warm fingers can cause damage to obsidian, agate, and possibly other materials. To be safe, use a kitchen mitt or a towel to remove the stone, then let it warm up a bit before picking it up with your bare hand.

from Gemdrops, via Pseudomorph, via Earth Science News, via Flint Rock & Gem

WHERE IS CHALK FROM?

The "chalk" you are familiar with and use in the classroom is really not chalk at all. It is a product made out of gypsum. Natural chalk is a soft limestone rock. This rock is formed from the cells of small one-celled animals called Foraminifera. These animals live floating in the surface of the sea. When they die, their shells drop to the ocean floor. After a long period of time layers of these shells, mixed with grains of sand, become cemented and compressed into a soft limestone which we call chalk.

The most famous chalk deposits in the world are the great White Cliffs at Dover, England, and across the English Channel at Dieppe, in France. Chalk is soft and crumbles easily. It leaves a white dust when it is rubbed. It may be colored with impurities or mixed with clay. The finest natural chalk comes from England. Chalk has many uses in industry. Quicklime, whiting, and many toothpastes are made of chalk either by itself or in combination with other materials. Farmers use it in fertilizers to sweeten the soil. Whiting, which is washed chalk, is used in paints, putty, and polishing powders. Chalk can be prepared chemically from lime and soda ash, but the natural deposits of chalk are still very valuable to man.

Chalk deposits may be seen in many places in Kansas, Arkansas, and Texas. These deposits have been pushed upward by shifting rock layers or exposed by shrinking seas.

From 'Tell Me Why', Lorain Journal,
via Magma, via The Rock Vein

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THE ROCKHOUND'S CREED

By Harry Zollars

The Rockhound's creed is a simple one
But it leads to a happy life
In a cold and ever-changing world
Where selfishness is rife.
To search the hills for gemmy rocks
And take and leave a few;
To share with those who cannot go
As others have shared with you;
To leave a camp that is clean and neat,
Unmarred by the vandal's taint;
To gain permission to come and go
Nor risk an owner's complaint;
To polish a stone to its highest sheen
And bring out its beauty rare;
Ever strive for a perfect gem
For to adorn some lady fair;
To make of each daily hour a gem
Which may brighten someone's day;
To gaze on high with a faith serene
When he comes to the end of the way.

From The Rockytier
via Jade Journal

METHOD OF CUTTING OPAL IN AUSTRALIA

Cut some 1/16 slices of black obsidian or apache tears and grind one side flat for backing pieces.

Flatten the best side of an opal slice on the side of a fine (220) grit wheel, Diamond lap on a plate glass with 220 grit and water.

Lightly rub black marking pencil over this slice of opal on flattened side.

Glueing: I use Crystal Clear made by Epoxy Coating of California for both the cap and backing, but no doubt there are similar clear, fairly thin epoxy coatings available to you. Mix required amount of glue with a suitable dye (black). Black ball point pen ink is suitable in minute quantities if proper epoxy dye is not available.

Wipe opal slice and backing with methylated spirits (alcohol) to remove any oil or grease.

Gently warm backing and opal. Place blackened side of opal on back with a small amount of glue between. Rub with a circular motion to remove air bubbles. Allow to set in a warm - not hot - spot.

When hard, flatten opal slice by same method described before. Make this very thin to obtain maximum fire and color. With care you can get down to 5-10 thousandths of an inch. Sand this face on the 500 paper on sanding disc (flat) or on plate glass with 500 grit silicon carbide and water.

Select a suitable sized quartx triplet top for pieces thinned and line up for best colors.

Mix clear epoxy resin. Wipe quartz top and opal with alcohol and warm both slightly. Place pinch of glue on top and place with circular motion on opal. Check to see that all air bubbles are removed by doing this operation under a strong incandescent light. Fluorescent light will not show up these bubbles.

When dry, grind off excess backing and opal at a fair angle and polish over. Be careful when dopping and polishing not to overheat. Nails of varying sizes are very good for dop sticks. (Note from editor of The Lithnics: The fair angle referred to is a chamfer which will allow the finished triplet to seat in the mounting without ever stressing the edge of the brittle obsidian backing when the bezel or prongs are set. Chamfering of the back edge is good practice on any cabochon cut stone.)

Grant S. Marks - The Lithnics
via The Flint Rock & Gem Club

Happy Thanksgiving!