

# DIGGINS FROM DAKOTA



Central Dakota Gem and Mineral Society  
Mrs. Blossom 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	663-8712
Treasurer	DeLane Meier	RR 1, Mr. B's Est.	Bismarck	223-8579
<del>Pub. Executive</del>	John Dorsch	1425 N. 15th St.	Bismarck	255-1924
Parliamentarian	Mrs. William Buresh	1527 N. 19th St.	Bismarck	223-0611
Program Chairman	Dick Barentine	703 12th Ave. NW	Mandan	663-3419
Librarian	Owen O'Neill	906 1st Ave. NW	Mandan	663-3748
Field Trip Chairman	Harold Brady	1401 Sunny Road	Mandan	663-3904
Nominations	Ole Stavem		Wilton	734-6746
Refreshments	Mrs. Bob Randall	928 N. 16th	Bismarck	223-1625
Annual Show	John Dorsch	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.

APRIL MEETING

The minutes of the March meeting were read and approved.

Our treasurer was unable to be at the meeting so we had no treasurer's report.

Al Strom, doorman and greeter, reported twelve guests and fifty members present.

Ole Stavem reported on the Wilton Celebration in June. We will have space for displaying our specimens if a building they are now working on is completed by then.

Door prize which was furnished by David Jensen was won by Art Jorgenson.

Guests were:

Mr. & Mrs. Clinton Berndt	Regan, N. D.
Mrs. Frances Wold	Regan, N. D.
Mrs. LaVonne Opp	New Salem, N. D.
Mr. & Mrs. Evert Nelson	Washburn, N. D.
Jim Fay	Wentworth, Wisconsin
Russ Batton	Dickinson, N. D.
Pat Dooley	Dickinson, N. D.
Duane Robey 2119 Ave. F. W.	Bismarck, N. D.
Larry Strand 713½ N. 19th	Bismarck, N. D.
Ernest Knudson 2020 Catherine Dr.	Bismarck, N. D.

Mrs. DeLane Meier and Mrs. Walt Weisenberger will be hostesses at the May meeting.

The meeting was then turned over to the program chairman, Dick Bergantine. Dick explained the rules of the silent auction. The rest of the evening was spent in the silent auction. The tables were loaded with all kinds of goodies, except fossils - unless you want to call teredo wood a fossil. There were several nice specimens of that put up for bids. At the end of the evening when the sales were added up it was found that nearly \$300.00 had changed hands. Ten per cent, or approximately \$30.00 was put in the club's treasury.

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FRANK HERR GUEST SPEAKER IN MAY

Frank Herr, Dickinson, will be guest speaker at the May meeting of the Gem & Mineral Society. Frank is well known to rockhounds of this area. Frank is the owner of Herr's Rock Shop in Dickinson and is an able guide for finding specimens in the Badlands.

Frank will give a demonstration on cutting cabs.

The date is May 4. Don't miss it!

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NEW MEMBERS

Add these names to your membership list:

Ernest and Martha Knudson	2020 Catherine Drive	Bismarck, N. D.	58501
Larry and Janice Strand	713½ North 19th	Bismarck, N. D.	58501
Evert and Nettie Nelson		Washburn, N. D.	58577

OOPS! DEPT.

Those pesky gremlins have come out of hiding again! This time they scooped the figure "1" right out of Ray Barnett's address in last month's membership list! We all know that Ray still lives at 406 North 17th - not 406 North 7th Street!!!! Sorry about that, Ray!

Those naughty gremlins also mislaid a thank you note from the Crippled Children's School at Jamestown. We did receive a note telling us how much our gift meant to the school.

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LAKE SUPERIOR AGATES

One of the popular North American gemstones is the Lake Superior Agate. It derives its name from the Lake Superior Till or Red Till of Minnesota, and not from the fact that it was originally formed in the late Precambrian Keweenawan age basalt flows. Occasionally a specimen is still found enclosed in the basaltic matrix. Lakers, as they are often called, may be the real oldsters of the agate world as the Keweenawan Basalts are approximately a billion years old.

Lake Superior agates were removed from their basaltic host by Pleistocene glaciers during the last great ice age. The continental icecaps removed the agates from their place of origin, in the Canadian Shield, several hundred miles north and east of Duluth, Minnesota. The agates rode slowly advancing ice packs and were laid down as far west as southeastern Nebraska and as far south as southern Illinois. Many choice specimens are also found in Iowa, Missouri, Minnesota, Wisconsin and Michigan.

Lakers make their most numerous appearances in gravel pits in Wisconsin, Minnesota, Illinois and Iowa. Lakers are much harder to find in northeastern Kansas and southeastern Nebraska but some very large specimens are found there, especially in plowed fields.

Lakers are best known for their colors and their ability to produce matched sets of jewelry, the latter being an uncommon characteristic for agates. Browns and reds are perhaps the most common colors found in Lakers. Grays are a little less common. Blue, black and green Lake Superiors Agates are almost unknown. They may often show a prominent white band which functions nicely as the subject of a gem. Some specimens have white bands separated by very clear bands which produces an effect of depth in a stone.

One of the most unusual phenomena of Lakers are eyes. Eyes are concentric bands of agate that are restricted to the outside of the stone. Eyes may have once been zeolite minerals that were replaced with agate. Eyes make a very interesting subject for gemstones.

by Roger K. Padian

via Pick & Shovel from Glacial

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Drifter

MEMBERSHIP CHAIRMAN

At the April meeting, Stan Fairaizl offered to be Membership Chairman. This is one job each and every member should help with. If you know someone interested in our hobby - invite him to attend our meetings! If you realize you haven't seen one of members at some of the meetings - call him and tell him (or her) about our programs. Let them know they have been missed.

INFORMATION NEEDED ABOUT TEREDO

I recently received a letter from a fellow editor from Idaho. She is doing a series of articles about state rocks, gems and fossils. She asked about our state fossil and would like any information we can give her about it.

I know that a teredo is not really a worm but is a salt water mollusk and that the family name is Teredinidae. What information can you give about our state fossil? If you write an article about it GREAT! I can print it in the Diggins. If you only know one or two facts about it - let me know. We can pool our information.

One of the questions this lady editor asked was did we have a specimen of our state fossil on display somewhere? I have heard that somewhere in this capitol city there is a specimen of teredo on display. Can someone tell me just where it is?

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COMING EVENTS

April 27-28	SIOUX FALLS, SOUTH DAKOTA -	Sioux Empire Gem & Mineral Society
May 4-5	WATERTOWN, SOUTH DAKOTA -	South Dakota State Gem & Mineral Societies
May 18-19	HOT SPRINGS, SOUTH DAKOTA -	Picture City Gem & Mineral Society
June 7-9	CHEYENNE, WYOMING - - - -	Rocky Mountain Ferderation of Mineralogical Societies, Wyoming State Federation of Mineralogical Societies
June 8-9	MILES CITY, MONTANA - - - -	Yellowstone Agate Club - Montana State Gem & Mineral Show
June 13-16	LINCOLN, NEBRASKA - - - -	American Federation of Mineralogical Soc., Midwest Federation of Mineralogical Societies Nebraska Assoc. of Earth Science Clubs, Inc.
June 14-16	CASPER, WYOMING - - - - -	Natrona County Rockhound Club
July 19-21	WINNIPEG, MANITOBA, CANADA	Winnipeg Rock & Mineral Club
July 6-12	FARGO, NORTH DAKOTA - - - -	Red River Valley Fair and Rock Show, Lake Agassiz Rock Club
August 17-18	MITCHELL, SOUTH DAKOTA - -	Corn Palace Rock Club
September 7	MANDAN, NORTH DAKOTA - - -	Central Dakota Gem & Mineral Society
September 14	BISMARCK, NORTH DAKOTA - -	Central Dakota Gem & Mineral Society
Sept. 20-22	WILLISTON, NORTH DAKOTA - -	Williston Rock & Mineral Club

The Winnipeg Rock Club is having their show in conjunction with Winnipeg's centennial celebration. One of exhibits at the show will be a sample of moon rock which the United States Government will loan them. An attempt to get an astronaut to accompany the moon rock was unsuccessful.

The theme for the Hot Springs, South Dakota show is "Fossil Plants".

At the National Gem & Mineral Show in Lincoln, Nebraska there will be acres of free parking but there will be a fee for camping. Admission to the fairgrounds will be \$2.00 per day for adults or \$5.00 for the four days. Persons between the ages of 13 and 17 may be admitted for one-half the adult fee. Children under 12 will be admitted free when accompanied by their parents.

The Jade State Jamboree in Cheyenne Wyoming will not have guided field trips but will furnish information for visitors about where to go for collecting. General admission at that show will be \$1.00 a day or \$2.50 for three days. Students over 12 - 75¢ a day or \$1.75 for 3 days.

AMERICA'S MINERAL HERITAGE  
COMMEMORATED BY U.S. POSTAL SERVICE

During the 20th annual show of the Tucson Gem and Mineral Society in Tucson, Arizona the U. S. Postal Service unveiled designs of the four mineral stamps, to be issued as a set, to commemorate America's Mineral Heritage.

Senior Assistant Postmaster General Benjamin F. Bailar was principal speaker at the ceremony which climaxed nearly ten years of effort by the American Federation to encourage the issuance of stamps in connection with the mineral and general rock hobby.

The stamps will have their first day of issue on June 13 at the National Gem and Mineral show in Lincoln, Nebraska. Ceremonies will be at the State Fair Grounds with the Lincoln Gem and Mineral Club as host in conjunction with the combined Midwest Federation and American Federation conventions.

STAMP STATISTICS

Designs of the four 10¢ Mineral Heritage Postage Stamps represent a new United States treatment of the classic square format.

The stamps depict amethyst, rhodochrosite, tourmaline, petrified wood, cut and polished as gems. The stamps were modeled by Mr. Buckley and Frank Waslick. Vignette engravers were Edward P. Archer, amethyst; Thomas Hitchen, rhodochrosite; Joseph S. Creamer, Jr., tourmaline; Arthur W. Dintaman, petrified wood.

Albert Saavedra engraved the lettering. Like Mr. Buckley, these men are with the Bureau of Engraving and Printing.

The stamps will be printed in eight inks. Three passes will be made through the offset press, with yellow and blue being applied during the first pass, brown and gray during the second pass, and green during the third. The Giori press will be used to add purple, brown and red.

The size of a single stamp in the set is 1.075 by 1.075 inches. There are 48 stamps to a pane, and there will be one plate number. This is the first time four stamps have been issued as a group with the numbers on a bias so that when displayed with the numbers in an upright position the block forms a diamond.

First-day cancellation requests should be sent to Postmaster, Mineral Heritage Stamps, Lincoln, Nebraska 68501. Proper remittance must be included, and the request must be postmarked no later than June 13, 1974. Enclose 40 cents for a block of four. Requests for single 10-cent stamps will be honored by providing the name of the gem desired in the upper right hand corner of the cover.

from Midwest Federation Newsletter

FIRST DAY MINERAL HERITAGE STAMP COVER OFFERED

A two-colored cacheted first day cover for the June 13 Mineral Heritage stamp issue is being offered by the Lincoln Stamp Club in cooperation with the Lincoln Gem and Mineral Club.

The ten-cent se-tenant block of four commemoratives will be issued by the U. S. Postal Service during the National Gem and Mineral show at the Nebraska State Fair Grounds in Lincoln, Nebraska.

The bi-color cachet, which will feature one of the stones illustrated on the stamps, is the only cachet officially sanctioned by the four participating mineral and gem organizations.

(continued)



(Stamps - continued)

Covers with the se-tenant block of four and an informational insert sheet are available at \$1.00 each. The stamps will be affixed to the covers and the official first day cancellation will be applied and the cover sent to you. To order, send \$1.00 for each cover desired plus a #10 self-addressed and stamped envelope. The envelope being used to send your cover to you. If you wish your cover sent directly through the mails, send a self-addressed gummed label. No envelope necessary when sending the gummed label. Mail your order to: Mineral Heritage Cachets, c/o Lincoln Stamp Club, Box 80951, Lincoln, Nebraska 68501.

Like most hobbists, stamp collectors, known as philatelist, have various terms they use in their hobby. In the above story some of these stamp collecting terms are mentioned. To help those not familiar with stamp collecting terms the following definitions will help.

Philately: From the Latin meaning "love of tax free things". The term refers to the field of postage stamp collecting.

Philatelist: A collector of postage stamps.

Cachet (pronounced CASH-ey): The illustration usually on the left side of an envelope, usually found on the first day a new postage stamp is issued. The cachet generally extends the theme of the stamp with dates of battles, symbols of organizations, quotations, etc. Although stamps can be cancelled on a plain envelope on the first day of issue, the cachet usually enhances the stamp's beauty.

Cover: Basically, the same as an envelope upon which a postage stamp has been placed and sent through the country's postal system.

FDC: First day of issue cover. An envelope or cover with a new stamp cancelled at the post office the first day it is officially available to the general public.

Se-tenant block of four: Indicates that there are four separate stamps connected together sometimes forming one complete picture when left intact. Each stamp, if torn off, could be used for mailing purposes. Recent examples are the Boston Tea Party (8¢ each) and Cape Hatteras (2¢ each).

Commemorative stamp: A postage stamp issue which remembers or commemorates anniversaries, centennials, historic events or personalities, etc. These are generally printed in limited quantities and available a short time.

AFMS NEWSLETTER, May 1974

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An elderly rockhound preacher was praying with great oratorical effect in the midst of a violent hurricane. As the earth quivered and the heavens roared, he cried out, "Oh God, my rock and my strength, Who art in the clefts of the rocks, we are mindful of the rock of thy Strength - send us the spirit of the children of Israel, send us the children of Moses, send us the children of the Promised Land....." Another old rockhound with less oratory but more directness, cried out: "Lord, don't send nobody! Come Yourself!!! This ain't no time for children!!!!"

from Emerald Gems via The Rock Vein

Warning to cannibals! Humans are not safe to eat! The Food and Drug Administration has set the maximum DDT concentration allowable in commercially sold fish at 5 parts per million, yet the average human body contains 12 parts per million

from The Geode via The Rock Vein

Don't let yesterday take up too much of today.

Will Rogers

ANNIVERSARY ROCKS

1st Onyx	29th Amazonite
2nd Jasper	30th Black Pearl
3rd Sard	31st Amber
4th Bloodstone	32nd Chrysoberyl
5th Rose Quartz	33rd Golden Beryl
6th Chrysoprase	34th Aventurine
7th Moss Agate	35th Coral
8th Tigereye	36th Spinel
9th Carnelian	37th Kunzite
10th Golden Pearl	38th Pink Pearl
11th Citrine	39th Labradorite
12th Jade	40th Ruby or Star Ruby
13th Amethyst	41st Tanzanite
14th Ivory	42nd Malachite
15th Crystal or Colorless Diamond	43rd Rubalite
16th Garnet	44th Rhodochrosite
17th Turquoise	45th Sapphire or Star Sapphire
18th Lapis Lazuli	46th Green Beryl
19th Moonstone	47th Chrysocolla
20th Aquamarine	48th Andalusite
21st Opal	49th Sphene
22nd Blue Pearl	50th Gold or Green Diamond
23rd Zircon	55th Emerald
24th Morganite	60th Chrysoberyl Cat's Eye
25th Silver or Canary Diamond	65th Platinum
26th Green Tourmaline	70th Alexandrite
27th Peridot	75th Pink Diamond
28th Iolite	

from Halite Hillites

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BARITE ROSES

The nodular objects known in central Oklahoma as "rose rocks" in allusion to their reddish-brown color and general similarity to a rose in full bloom, consist of radiating tabular barite crystals that grew as concretionary nodules in a porous sandstone. Because barite is less soluble than other cementing materials in the sandstone, the rosettes weather first into small knobs on an exposed rock face, and finally they weather entirely free from the rock. The loose specimens are highly prized by collectors.

The petal-like form is solely the result of the normal growth habit of the mineral barite, or barium sulphate,  $\text{BaSO}_4$ , when its tabular crystals grow as diverging clusters. As the clusters grow in the red sandstone, they incorporate quartz sand grains and acquire the red color of the rock. The concretions consist of sand and barite in approximately equal proportions, and have a distinctive rosette shape, and thus are known to geologists as sand-barite rosettes.

Although known from California, Kansas and Egypt, the sand-barite rosettes probably have their greatest concentration in the world in the Garber Sandstone, of early Permian age, in a narrow outcrop belt that extends northwards for about 50 miles through central Oklahoma. The area just east of Norman is particularly renowned for its abundant and well-formed specimens.

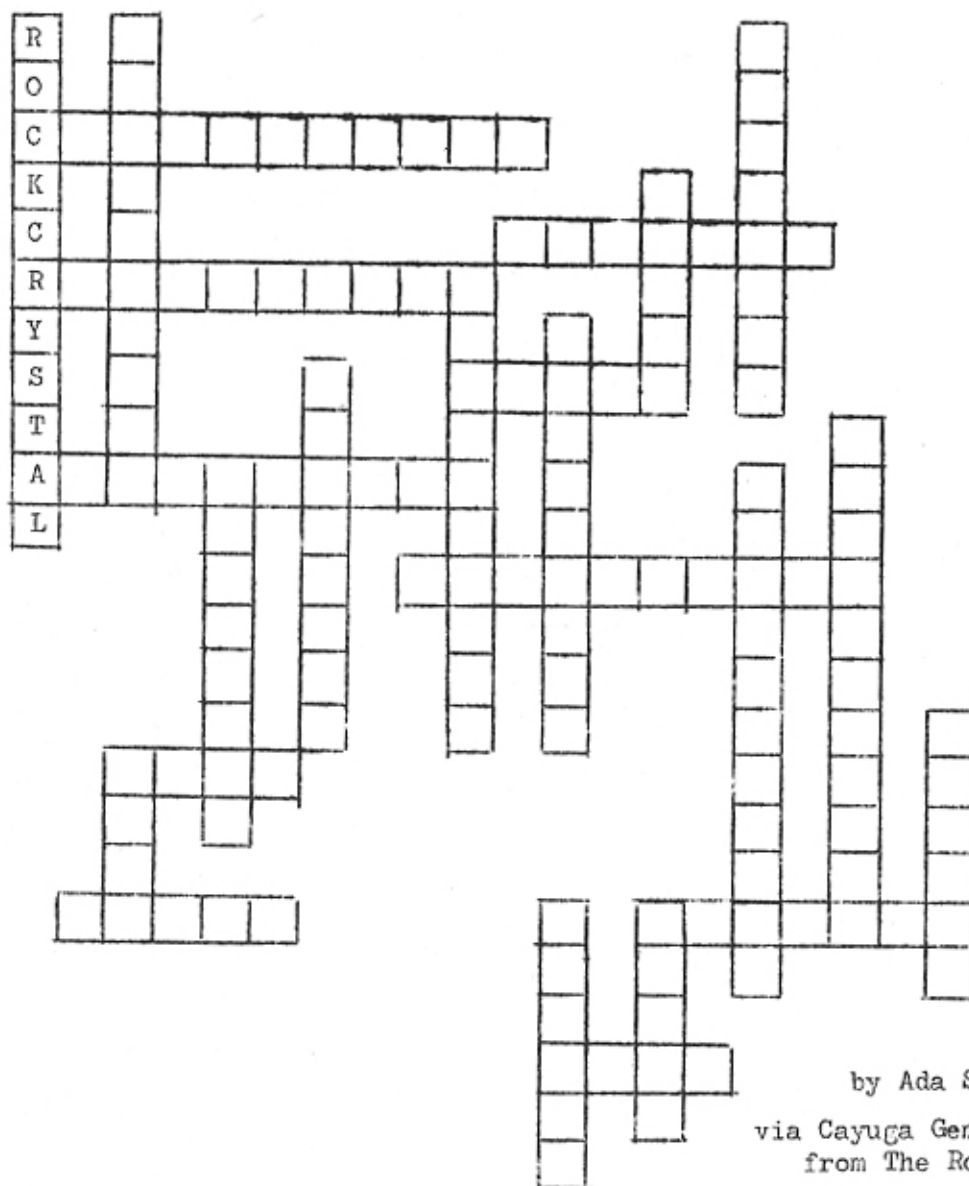
by William E. Ham - Oklahoma Geological  
Survey

via The Rock Vein from The Pyriter



QUARTZ FAMILY FILL-IN

Here is a crossword puzzle with a difference. Looks easy, doesn't it?  
Answers next month.

WORDS TO USE

onyx  
opal  
sard  
agate  
chert  
flint  
prase  
jasper  
plasma  
catseye  
citrine  
amethyst  
basanite  
sardonyx  
tigereye  
carnelian  
aventurine  
bloodstone  
chalcedony  
rosequartz  
chrysoprase  
crocidolite  
rock crystal  
smokyquartz

by Ada Smith  
via Cayuga Gem and The Geode  
from The Rock Vein

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The "No Wash" Method of Tumble<sup>®</sup> Polishing

Start with No. 80 grit. Tumble a week. Don't empty tumbler, but add 5 teaspoons full of new grit to the mixture in a 3 pound tumbler. Follow this procedure through with no. 190, 320 and 600 grits. Thoroughly wash the stones and tumbler before polish and final powders.

For a glossy finish, after washing out add three spoons of sugar, one level spoon of Cascade or All or any non-sudsing detergent, and about ten drops of muriatic acid if you have some. Let stand open one minute, close tub and tumble for a week.

Rocky Mountain Federation  
Newsletter