

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
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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.

FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK

Enthusiasm still runs high among our members when it comes to talking about our hobby! Talking is fine! Let's put some action in our talk! Bring some good material for the Silent Auction! Share your good fortune with the entire Society! All kinds of good material will sell!!! Everyone has something he might bring to auction.

Speaking of bringing -- How about inviting and bringing prospective members? Let them enjoy our program and "Rockhound Fellowship"!!!!

Earle Campbell

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SILENT AUCTION IN APRIL

The program for April will be a silent auction. Bring your extra rocks, fossils, crystals, etc. and be prepared to have some fun.

For those who have not attended a silent auction here are the rules:

Each specimen at the sale should be marked with the owner's name, identity of the rock and where it was 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. NO BIDDING IS ALLOWED UNTIL THE SIGNAL IS GIVEN. Bids must be increased by twenty-five cents each time. 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 percent of the money collected. (if you want to set a minimum price on your specimen please mark the auction slip accordingly.

(Note from John Anderson)

Mrs. Francis Wold has accepted my invitation to attend the April rock meeting. She is a news correspondent for the Wilton News. She carries her note book where ever she goes and she will be looking for names and news items, so bring your best specimens and get a little free advertising.

John Anderson

This is one program (beside the Christmas Dinner) where everyone can be involved in the program. Even if you don't want to do any bidding, you can discuss the merits of the various specimens. Bidding is open to every one - including the Pebble Pups.

Ten percent of each sale will be put into the club treasury. You will be helping our organization while enlarging your collection. So, come out, join the fun!

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You may look down on your fellow men,
That fact is very true ---
But that doesn't necessarily mean
They're looking up at you.

from Nodak New Days

MARCH MEETING

The show dates were set for September 7 for the Mandan show and September 14 for the Bismarck show. These shows will be held in the same places as last year - The Lewis and Clark Hotel in Mandan and the Kirkwood Plaza Mall in Bismarck.

Stan Fairaizl told about sending a specimen of teredo wood to the Che-Anna Rock & Mineral Club in Pennsylvania for their collection. Members voted to reimburse Stan \$10.00 for the specimen.

Ole Stavem told about Wilton celebrating its 75th anniversary in June. He thought it would be nice if some of our members could have displays for the celebration. Ole is to check on space to see if the organization could have a show similar to our September shows. The dates of the celebration are June 21, 22, and 23. On Saturday, June 22, will be Ukrainian Day. A barbeque will be held on Sunday, June 23.

Dick Merrill asked for the return of his rubbers which were taken by mistake at the February meeting. Check your footware, men. Are you the one who took Dick's rubbers and left yours there?

The door prize was furnished by Julius Theis. Neither Clara Muggli or John Anderson were there to claim it when their names were drawn. When Verna Giese name was drawn it was suggested that it be given to her, even though she was not there to claim it. Verna was in Rochester, preparing to undergo surgery.

Frank and Anna Herr donated a lovely brachiopod for another door prize. This one was won by Bea Merrill.

Visitors at the March meeting were:

Janet Chapman	107 12th St. N.W.	Mandan
Helen Nelson	603 9th St. N.W.	Mandan
Ernest Knudson	2020 Catherine Drive	Bismarck
Duane Robey	2119 Ave. F West	Bismarck
Larry Strand	713½ North 19th St.	Bismarck
Mr. & Mrs. John Wagner	Carson, North Dakota	

Dick Bergantine, program chairman, showed a slide program "Buttes, Beauty and Badlands in the Heart of the Nation". This was a very interesting program for some members because we had visited many of the places shown.

Hostesses for April will be Emma Brady and Sally O'Neill.

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"Candle" your Montana agates as you would eggs. Punch a small hole in the bottom of a two pound coffee can. Turn it upside down and place a light inside. It is surprising how the light coming through the hole will show the dendrites. This saves cutting time.

via Halite Hilites, The T-Town Rockhound
The Osage Hills Gem, from Best of the
Best

To keep your tools from rusting, simply spray with "Pam".

via The Geode, Magic Valley Gem News, from
The T-Town Rockhound

COMING EVENTS

April 20-21 BILLINGS, MONTANA - Billings Gem & Mineral Club
 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 Federation 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 Societies,
 Midwest Federation of Mineralogical Societies,
 Nebraska Association 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
 Sept. 7 MANDAN, NORTH DAKOTA - Central Dakota Gem & Mineral Society
 Sept. 14 BISMARCK, NORTH DAKOTA - Central Dakota Gem & Mineral Society
 Sept. 20-22 WILLISTON, NORTH DAKOTA - Williston Rock & Mineral Club

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HOW OLD ARE YOU?

Age is a quality of mind --
 If you have left your Dreams behind,
 If hope is lost,
 If you no longer look ahead,
 If your ambitions' fires are dead --
 Then you are old.

But if from life you take the best,
 And if in life you keep the jest

If love you hold --
 No matter how the years go by,
 No matter how the birthdays fly
 You are not old.

Nodak New Days
 Dianne Wiegel, Editor

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ROCKY MOUNTAIN FEDERATION "BEST OF BEST" STORIES AND ARTICLES

The Rocky Mountain Federation is putting out an edition of "Best of Best" articles gleaned from bulletins and publications of gem & mineral clubs. I received my first copy of "Rocky Mountain Federation Best of Best" last week. There are many good articles in it. If any member of our organization would care to contribute an article concerning our hobby I would print it and then submit it to the Federation for their consideration. Wouldn't you like to see your name in print?

FOR THE FOSSIL COLLECTOR

Three Things to Help You Get Started.

The neophyte fossil collector should do at least three things to get himself started in the fascinating world of paleontology. First, he should get the materials put out by the state university department of paleontology to become familiar with the fossils of his area so that when he does find something he will have a guide by which to identify it. Secondly, he should learn about the geologic ages: the eras, periods, and the epochs. These can be found in any elementary book on the subject, usually with a chart which simplifies the learning process. Thirdly, he should become acquainted with a few elemental facts about fossils such as the four principal ways in which they are preserved and learn to determine which are which by examination.

(1) Original Remains. Although this form is relatively rare they do exist as the frozen bodies of mammoths which were trapped in glaciers. The teeth of sharks is another example of original remains and shells of sea organisms which become consolidated with cement to form limestone.

(2) Replaced Remains. Many times the fossil looks exactly like the original organism but minerals dissolved in ground water may have replaced the original materials. The best example of this is the petrified trees of our great petrified forests. Most of these have been replaced with silica. Many shells have had the lime replaced with silica. In Florida, coral has had its limey skeleton replaced with the quartz of chalcedony. In some places the replacement is calcite.

(3) Molds and Casts. Sometimes the original plant or bone has been completely dissolved from the rock in which it was preserved leaving a mold which may be filled with another material which forms a cast of the original fossil. This is quite common with shellfish. The molds of many plants are found in rocks, as well as fish. The hardened resin that we call amber contains the perfectly preserved molds of insects which were left there millions of years ago.

(4) Impressions. The impressions that moving animals left in mud and sands may be preserved when those sediments become rock. In these shales and sandstones we find footprints of dinosaurs, worm trails, raindrops and ripple marks of waves.

From AFMS Newsletter, April, 1974

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MEETING TIME FOR APRIL WILL BE 7:30 P.M. See you there!

THIS 'n THAT

Ted and Verna Giese have returned from Rochester, Minnesota, where Verna underwent surgery. She is slowly recuperating and hopes to be at the April meeting.

Do you have your name tag yet? You know you and I know you, but do some of the other members know who you are? If you would like to have a name tag, see Al Strom, our official greeter.

THE COPPER INDIAN

Centuries before the Spaniards came over to raze, rape and destroy a civilization, the Indians throughout the South American mountains had discovered how to work with copper, and make a metal we call bronze. These Incas and pre-Incas were not miners; they gathered from the surface, digging pits. Eventually, they dug individual tunnels barely big enough for a man to crawl into, and they used these to dig for that most prized of stones, the blue-green turquoise, as well as small pieces of copper.

In the village of Chuquikama, this was the main way of life for all the male Indians, burrowing into the mountainside and using their stone tools to gather the copper and the turquoise and take it back for all to work with and to share.

One Indian did not return home at the end of the day. His tunnel had caved in.

Centuries passed. The white men (the Conquistadors) came with their fearful weapons. The Inca, the Atahualpa were put to death. They found the valley of Chuquikama and laid it to waste and ruin. The little village lay open to the erosion of the weather.

Years and years passed by. The village was a wasteland. One day more white men entered the valley. Instead of weapons they carried tools and machinery and the valley sprang to life with mills as the machinery tore into the mountain sides.

One day one of the workers called for the boss to come quick. They had unearthed a man's foot and leg. Carefully they unearthed the rest of him. His braided hair still lay over his shoulders. He was clad in his breech-cloth, and in his hand was his heavy stone hammer. He lay on one side with a knee drawn up just as he was lying when the earth fell in on him. His sack lay by him half filled with ore. Over the centuries his body had been replaced with copper.

They took a picture of him with his tools. He lies today in a glass case in the American Museum of Natural History in New York City. In the case is also a picture of an X-ray picture and it shows the bone structure. The guide will tell you that some day she still weeps for the great tragedy that befell him. Sure enough, she was weeping as your editor stood by the case.

via AFMS Newsletter, January, 1974

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HOW NOT TO DO IT.

He was a loser. Everything he tried went sour, so he decided life wasn't worth living. So-o-o, he got a rope, a gun, a can of gasoline, a bottle of poison and found a limb that hung out over a river. He tied the rope to the limb and also to his neck, poured the gasoline over himself, swallowed the poison, held the gun towards his head, lit the gasoline and jumped.

He fired the gun, but missed his head and hit the rope. That dropped him in the river and put out the fire. He swallowed so much water that he threw up the poison, and he said that if he hadn't been such a darned good swimmer he would have drowned!

From Santa Rosa Mineral & Gem Society
via The Polished Slab via Rock Vein

TRAGIC SEQUEL

In last month's "Diggins" I carried an article with a sketch of the rocks that have walked in a certain place in the California desert. The following paragraph tells about the tragic end of these rocks.

When I saw Paul Seel in Tucson, he gave me more recent information as to this situation. He had been there more than once and had witnessed this phenomenon. So had many others who didn't practice the AFMS Code of Ethics and started carrying off the "rocks that walked". When officials realized what was happening, they built a fence around the area, but mere fences could not stop these marauding criminals and rapists of our environment. With their 4-wheel drive vehicles, they could break down fences and carry off the rest of the "walking rocks" -- which they have done. The "walking rocks" are all gone! Once again we are reminded of the bitter truth -- "Man is the only animal who destroys his environment."

AFMS Newsletter, April 1974

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CARE TO TRY SWAPPING?

By Roddie Larsen

When asked recently why I was so enthusiastic about attending rock swaps, I found myself without a definite answer. Later, I began to think about that and discovered there really were several reasons. The most obvious motivation to attend a swap is, of course, to increase the size of my collection. Specimens can be collected in the field, and those with the inclination and means can purchase them. I do a lot of the former and a little of the latter, but the bulk of my collection has come from swapping. Attending a swap is like going on several field trips at once. Spread out before me are fine examples of specimens from many locations, sometimes known only to collectors in that area. I have a chance to collect from many places without the hard work, travel time and expense, and heat, cold, rain or insects.

I also like to swap to upgrade the quality of my collection. Most swappers bring their best duplicates for trade, so there is an excellent chance for me to replace a mediocre specimen in my collection with one of high grade. This urge to increase the quantity and quality of my collection is what led me to attend my first swap; and although as a newcomer to rockhounding and trading I did poorly that day, I discovered something that has kept me coming to swaps and enjoying them immensely even when I go home skunked....PEOPLE! People of all sizes and shapes and interests and ages and personalities are what make a swap so much fun for me. I have friends from Maine to Colorado, made simply by swapping, and each time I attend a swap, whether local or on vacation, I look forward with delight to seeing them all again, as well as making new friends.

Divide It Up

If you have never swapped before and are afraid of trying because you don't know how, let me set down a few guidelines which may help you. First of all, after saving your finest specimen for your own collection, divide the remainder of your field trip loot into four piles: extremely good, very good, too good to throw away, and trash. It is the first and second piles which should be your trading material. Other swappers, like you, are out to better their collections, and if you offer them junk, you

(continued)

will get junk, or nothing, in return. If you have room, take the third pile along to give to the kids when they offer you a piece of granite for your finest calcite.

Label It

Second, make sure everything is properly labelled with the name and locality of the specimen (some people also like to know the year it was collected). Trim and clean your rocks and display them attractively in flats, small boxes or on foam mountings. At the swap, spread them out on a tailgate or table, rather than on the ground. If in doubt, bring along a folding table and chair.

Take a Look

Once you have set up, leave your rocks (in someone's care - Ed.) and look around at other swappers' wares. Make a mental note of what you like and what you have of similar value that could be traded for it. As a beginner I knew nothing of the value of rocks, but looking back over the years I realize that only one person has ever tried to take advantage of me. I also recall the man from Nebraska who wanted a rock of mine, and when I picked out one of his that I liked and said I felt it would make an equal trade, he said "Not quite...take it, and keep picking out rocks until I tell you to stop!"

How to Trade

In trying to acquire a certain specimen, tell the owner you would like to have it, and invite him to accompany you to your table to see if there is anything he likes. If he looks over your rocks and says, "Sorry, there is nothing here I really need", don't take it personally. Also, don't be unreasonable about trading something of yours that is worth more - why turn the trade down if you can easily come by more stock? After all, you're here to increase your collection, aren't you?

Don't downgrade the other fellow's material. You will antagonize him, and he certainly won't be fooled into trading any cheaper. Also, if there is something special about your material (phantoms, closed location) don't hesitate to use this as a selling point.

Bring along some paper towels to wrap new specimens and pencil and paper in case they are without labels. Bring along a lunch or snacks, and leave the area clean when you leave.

See you at the next swap; look for the green and yellow hat!

from The Rock Vein via The Oshkosh
Quarrier via The Pyriter

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JEWEL-SPARKLING SIDEWALK

The streets of Joplin, Missouri, may not be paved with gold, but there's a stretch of sidewalk that is paved with something just as unusual - precious stones! Harry Butterfield, a jeweller, owns a shop in the downtown area where an urban renewal program is under way. In cutting and setting gems he had collected an amazing amount of chips. There were pieces of all sizes from emeralds, rubies, diamonds and other precious stones, too pretty to throw away; so Butterfield decided to dispose of them in a different way. When concrete was poured for his new shop he scattered the jewel pieces over it, rolled into the fresh concrete. Result - the most unusual sidewalk in town!

via Rock Vein from Halite Hilites

RALPH'S DREAM

The other evening we had company and I ate too much "popcorn" before going to bed, which made me dream. The first picture was the four of us sitting in the dining room. A fox was running around so we tried to catch it, but all at once there was an opening under one wall and the fox went out. After what must have been an eighteen minute gap in the tape, the next picture was my brother and I in bed. Suddenly he jumped up and started running around the room - and there was the fox again. He went under the bed so I crawled to the foot of the bed, and there he was! I reached out to get him by the tail but all I could find was a hind leg. Of course, I expected him to pull away but he put his front feet upon the bed and started to lick my face. This woke me up.

Well, I figured the excitement was over so I washed my face and went back to sleep.

Ralph Anderson

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WHY STONES BREAK ON THE FINAL OPERATION

By Paul Bartecheer, Sr.

What is Murphy's Law? One of the greatest scientists who ever lived was the author of the well-known law -- Murphy's Law. Don't look for his name in your favorite encyclopedia, however, for you will be wasting your time. Murphy appears to be the victim of his own law. Even his first name seems to be in doubt, although some claim it to be Edsel.

His basic law stated in its simplest terms: "If anything can go wrong - it will". Murphy's Law says that no matter in which direction you may be driving, all the empty parking spaces will be on the other side of the street. A camper will find that any rope, cut to the proper length, will be too short. Out of 100 slices of jellied bread tossed into the air at random, 98 will fall to the floor jelly-side down and the other two will have stuck to the walls or ceiling. In a sheet of 100 postage stamps, the one with the tear will be the one next to the plate block.

Rockhounds are no strangers to Murphy's Law. Early American Indians were aware of this law when they discovered a thin seam of catlinite (pipestone) under a 40-foot layer of solid quartzite. Everyone knows that a dropped specimen will always land on the side where the most damage is caused. (This is known as the Law of Selective Gravitation). In an average household, some 250 pounds of junk mail will arrive each month in spotless condition. But the Lapidary Journal will arrive with both covers torn off and half the pages mutilated.

It's a pity that this man is no longer with us so that we may offer him suitable recognition. While he was out walking one day he took special care to walk on the left side of the road, facing traffic. He was run over by an English driver who had just arrived in this country.

From The Rock Vein, via The Geode
via Chipper's Chatter

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Soviet geologists in the Far North have found a new variety of diamond, Yakutit. Though it looks like slag, it is as hard as conventional diamonds and drill all types of rocks.

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