



MONTHLY PUBLICATION OF THE CENTRAL DAKOTA GEM & MINERAL SOCIETY

P.O. Box 2445, Bismarck, ND 58502-2445

SERVING BISMARCK, MANDAN, AND SURROUNDING AREAS IN NORTH DAKOTA

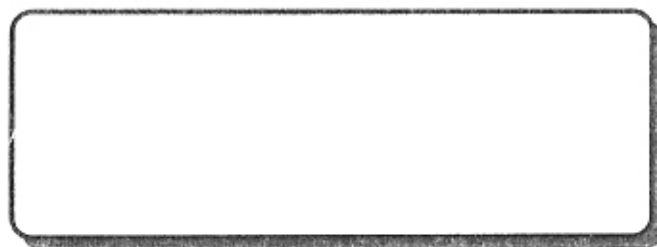
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DIGGIN'S FROM DAKOTA
606 Nth 12th St.
Bismarck, ND 58501-4301

Volume 31, #4
April, 1996

FIRST CLASS

SAVE STAMPS FOR
STAMP CHAIRMAN

RMFMS - 2nd PLACE, SMALL BULLETINS, 1992
RMFMS - 2nd PLACE, SMALL BULLETINS, 1987
AFMS - 2nd PLACE, SMALL BULLETINS, 1985
RMFMS - 4th PLACE, SMALL BULLETINS, 1985
RMFMS - 2nd PLACE, SMALL BULLETINS, 1981





DIGGIN'S FROM DAKOTA

Published by the CENTRAL DAKOTA GEM & MINERAL SOCIETY
P.O. Box 2445, BISMARCK, ND 58502

Member of

ROCKY MOUNTAIN FEDERATION OF MINERALOGICAL SOCIETIES and
AMERICAN FEDERATION OF MINERALOGICAL SOCIETIES



Organized March 1966

- OBJECT:** 1. To further the study of mineralogy and geology;
2. To arrange field trips to collect minerals, gems, and fossils;
3. To assist its members to improve in the art of cutting, polishing, and mounting gem materials;
4. To provide opportunities for the exchange, purchase, and exhibition of specimens and materials;
5. To share knowledge about gems, minerals, and activities of the Society with the general public.
— Article II, CDGMS Constitution

MEETINGS: First Sunday of each month at Masonic Bldg., 1810 Schafer Street, Bismarck, ND;

EARLY CLASS: One - half hour before each meeting. **VISITORS ARE WELCOME**

2:00 p.m. November - March; 7:00 p.m. April - October.

ANNUAL DUES: Family - \$10.00; Individual Adult - \$8.00; Individual Jr. - \$4.00

1996 OFFICERS

PRESIDENT - BETTY MAUTZ,	RR. 1, Box 368, Garrison,	ND 58540	337-5775
VICE PRESIDENT - RUSS OLIGER,	RR. 1, Box 52B, Menoken,	ND 58558	255-6440
SECRETARY - ROBB MORRIS,	615 N. 13th St., Bismarck,	ND 58501	221-3205
TREASURER - NEILL BURNETT,	1002 Arthur Dr., Bismarck,	ND 58501	223-6758

COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN

PROGRAM:	Betty Mautz	337-5775	EARLY CLASS:	John Atwood	222-0389
	Ray Oliger	223-4986		Harold Brady	663-3903 or 663-3904
HOSP. - LUNCH:	Carol Hickie	794-3342	GREETER:	Betty Mautz	337-5775
	Emma Brady	663-3903 or 663-3904	LIBRARIAN/HISTORIAN:	Sue Randall	223-1625
HOSP. - CARDS:	Gen Buresh	663-5397	PARLIAMENTARIAN:		
FIELD TRIP:	Norman Mautz	337-5775	PUBLICITY:		
	John Campbell	223-6754	STAMP CHR.:	Doris Hickie	794-3173
EDITORS:	Nevland Bros.	223-6900	DOOR COUNT:	Betty Mautz	337-5775
FEDERATION REP.:	Ray Oliger	233-4986			
ANNUAL SHOW 1995:	Rodney Hickie	794-3342,			
		Ray Oliger 223-4986,			
		Harold Brady 663-3903			

RMFMS - STATE DIRECTOR FOR ND: Betty Mautz, Rt. 1 Box 368, Garrison ND 58540 337-5775

All members are encourage to submit articles/news items for publication.

Material for the bulletin should reach the editor by the 10th of each month.

Advertisements from members will be accepted for the bulletin. (\$2.00 for 1/8 page)

Permission is granted to reprint non-copyrighted articles if proper credit is given.

Central Dakota Gem & Mineral Society's 22nd Annual

GEM & MINERAL SHOW COMMUNITY CENTER — MANDAN, ND

Sept. 28 - 29, 1996

Chr.: Rodney Hickie, HC2, Box 191, Center, ND 58530

Phone — 701-794-3342



Editors note.

The Pius Fischer Auction that was held on April 20, 1996 had a wide variety of equipment and rocks that were auctioned at a very reasonable price. I estimated that I paid \$.10 to \$.15 per pound for the rocks I bought that include many types of picture jasper, Montana agate, and polished cabs. The equipment also sold for less than what I had expected. The auction was well attended by the general public, but I would have liked to see more rock club members there.

NOTE FROM FORMER MEMBER — Mabel Stavem, Wilton, called recently when in Bismarck for a medical appointment. Her husband, "Ole" and she were regular attendees at CDGMS meetings when we joined the club in late 1971. He passed away about a year and a half ago. She said she would like to sell the items for lapidary work that are left from Ole's workshop. He used to make and display some very fine jewelry. Items include mainly findings, including ends for bola ties, cords for bola ties, and some small stones she described as "very nice." Mabel's address is box 102, Wilton, ND 58579, and the telephone number is 701-734-6933.

- Gen Buresh -

MEMBERS

Membership lists were sent to every member with the March DIGGIN'S. Please retain your membership list and add new members as they join the club. For this month please add these names to your list and welcome them at upcoming meetings:

DeKREY, PHILLIP/MARLA, HCO 2, Pettibone, ND 58475. Tel: 701-273-6951.

PETERSON, DR. JOHN K. 3111 Winnipeg Dr., Bismarck, ND 58501. Tel: 258-4538.

SPRONG, BOB/RAE, Box 454, Regina Beach, Sask., Canada. SOG4CO.

NEVLAND, JERRY/MELODY and MURIAH, 606 North 12th Street, Bismarck, ND 58501-4301. Tel: 223-6900.

Jerry Nevland is the father of Jr. member Zach Nevland. He indicated a special interest in agates, crystals, fossils, and using agates in stained glass windows. In addition to these interests, he likes to work with computers, and offered to be the next editor for the bulletin. That offer came at exactly the right time, as the the previous editor tripped getting off a kitchen stool after the meeting Sunday evening, fell in a heap, and broke her right wrist. She is typing this with her left hand. HOW? SLOWLY! G. Buresh

BIRTHDAYS

MAY BIRTHSTONE (Emerald)

MAY FLOWER (Lily of the Valley)

May 2:	Leigh Johnson	May 7:	Jim Nevland
4:	Jim Ellis	9:	Gloria Wanner
4:	Deanna Wanner	25:	Gene Larson
5:	Allison Wanner		

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO ALL OF YOU !

Correction of a telephone number:

Please change the telephone number for Elma Rambough on your copy of the membership roster to: 701-845-3379.

MEMBERS RECUPERATING

Earle Campbell, Vernie Peterson, and Orna Swanick are all reported improved after recent stays in the hospital. Betty Peterson has also been ill at home. Gen Buresh also spent the rest of last Sunday night in the hospital after a cast was put on her right wrist.

Mr. Peterson reports that he will be 90 on his next birthday, September 20.

- GEN B. -

At this time, on behalf of the members of the rock club, I would like to take the opportunity to thank Bill and Gen Buresh for their sincere dedication and time given in the ongoing effort to produce one of the finest monthly newsletters in the region. Your expertise and knowledge of the subject of rocks and minerals that you have accumulated over the years have been shared with other members, and hopefully you will continue to contribute your knowledge as we proceed into the future. The best of life to you both and may the good Lord continue to bless and keep you. Thanks again..... The Editor.

ATTENTION:

Please send any and all correspondence to the new editors of the "DIGGIN'S newsletter to:

DIGGIN'S NEWSLETTER

Jerry Nevland
606 North 12th Street
Bismarck, ND 58501-4301
Telephone #: 701-223-6900

Uncle Sam sells off faux gems

Associated Press

TUCSON, ARIZ. — Want a good deal on some gems? Uncle Sam's got 'em. And his prices can't be beat.

Among the hundreds of display booths at Tucson's recent Gem and Mineral Show was a vendor trying to fatten the American public's pocketbook.

The Defense National Stockpile Center was selling off synthetic gemstones that once were considered vital to the nation's war-making ability, but no longer are needed to keep America safe.

So this obscure agency has turned entrepreneur, offering customers items once used to build lasers, or space-age metals being peddled in plastic bags. Tiny amounts drawn from tons of mica and soapstone, synthetic ruby and white sapphire, were on display.

The materials are among stockpiled supplies of 92 commodities, from antimony to zinc, valued at more than \$6 billion. The materials sold at the Tucson gem show, one of the world's biggest, were suitable for synthetic gemstones or for other artistic, craft and decorative uses.

Larry Venezia of Boston browsed through the tent and held up a bag filled with pieces of thin, translucent mica.

"This is actually a real good

deal, a buck for this bag of absolutely clear mica," said Venezia, who has bought and sold mineral specimens at the annual exhibition for 15 years.

"This is the best mica you can possibly find. No one buys mica for a buck a pound. Nobody uses it anymore."

Not quite nobody.

Once used as an insulator in vacuum tubes and toasters, mica is still used by artists in Tiffany-style lampshades. The center sold all 633 pounds of mica it shipped to Tucson. It will fill other, bigger orders directly from among its 85 depots — with one customer having ordered 1,000 pounds.

Beryl ore, 800 pounds of it, sold out. Beryllium used in spacecraft and aircraft comes from the ore. Other big sellers were 2,600 pounds of talc or soapstone, once used for spacers in electronic tubes and transmitting equipment. Buyers also snapped up 85 pounds of synthetic ruby and white sapphire, once used in laser and electrical applications.

The price were right. Green beryl sold for \$10 a pound, dark blue for \$15. Man-made ruby rods went for 12 cents a carat, white sapphire for 11 cents.

Materials normally are sold by the truck or large load, and buyers range from industrial us-

ers to artists and craftsmen.

"Selling individually is not the norm for us," said Bob O'Brien, deputy administrator of the center, based at Fort Belvoir, Va. "Last year we sold in excess of \$400 million in excess commodities that we brought back to the taxpayer."

At best, its Tucson gem-show sales might be a fraction of that. But two years ago in a gem show, the center sold \$3.2 million worth of quartz crystals.

Congressional oversight precludes such sell-offs from being disruptive to national or international markets, O'Brien said.

The center had no fine gem-quality diamonds, emeralds, sapphires or rubies, so gem dealers had no worry about the market being flooded.

The inventory does include 50-year-old industrial diamonds that could fetch \$700 a carat after being cut, faceted and polished, O'Brien said. "We have 7,000 tons of beryl ore in the stockpile inventory, but a very small amount of that is gem quality that will bring a value to either the hobbyist or the jewelry manufacturer," he said.

"They're probably more of a novelty because they come from the defense stockpile than [for] their gemological interest," said Peggy Willett of the American Gem Trade Association.

Reprinted from the Minneapolis Tribune

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- May 05 BISMARCK, ND — Central Dakota Gem & Mineral Soc. Early Class — 6:30 p.m.
Meeting — 7:00 p.m. Masonic Center, 1810 Schafer St.
- May 18 BISMARCK, ND — ND Paleontological Soc. Meeting, 7:30 p.m.
Cap. Elec. Bldg., Highway 83 north of Bismarck

SAFETY REMINDER:

Is your tetanus immunization up to date? It is important for those of us who go on field trips or work in our lapidary areas. It may be activated after years of dormancy once it comes in contact with human or animal blood. Booster shots are now "good" for up to five years. Without the shot, you have virtually no protection against lock jaw. via Petrograph, January, 1992.