

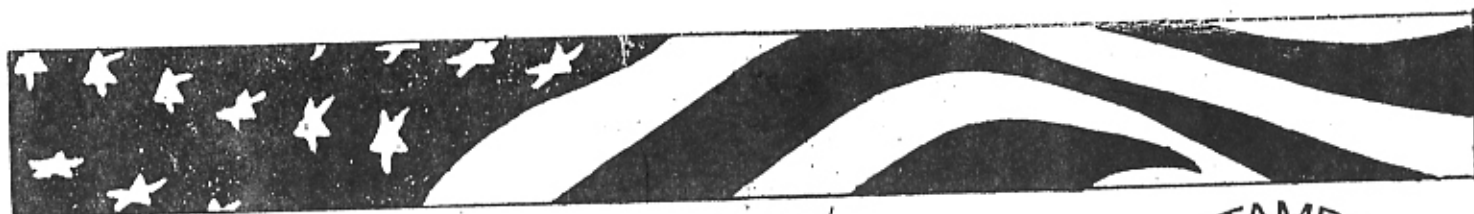
DIGGIN'S FROM DAKOTA



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



Jerry Nevland, Editor
DIGGIN'S FROM DAKOTA
606 North 12th Street
Bismarck, ND 58501-4301

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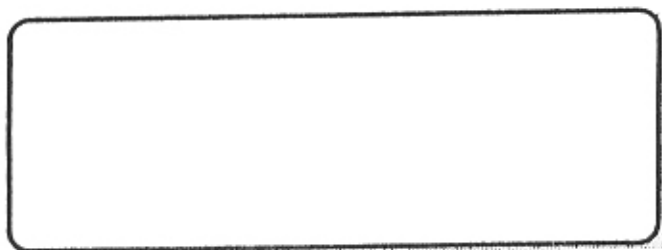


RMFMS - 3rd PLACE, SMALL BULLETINS, 1997, New Editor
RMFMS - 2nd PLACE, SMALL BULLETINS, 1992
RMFMS - 2nd PLACE, SMALL BULLETINS, 1987
AFMS - 2nd PLACE, SMALL BULLETINS, 1985
RMFMS - 4th PLACE, SMALL BULLETINS, 1985
RMFMS - 2nd PLACE, SMALL BULLETINS, 1981



SAVE STAMPS FOR STAMP
CHAIRMAN

FIRST CLASS





DIGGIN'S FROM DAKOTA

Published by : The Central Dakota Gem & Mineral Society
P.O. BOX 2445, Bismarck, ND 58502-2445



In Association With:

ROCKY MOUNTAIN FEDERATION OF MINERALOGICAL SOCIETIES AND
AMERICAN FEDERATION OF MINERALOGICAL SOCIETIES

OBJECT:

Organized: March, 1966

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 the Masonic Center, 1810 Schafer Street, Bismarck, ND

EARLY CLASS: One - half hour before each meeting.

ANNUAL DUES: Junior: \$6.00, Single Membership - \$10.00, Family Membership - \$12.00

MEETING TIMES: 2:00 pm, from November - March and 7:00 pm, from April - October

PRESIDENT: RUSS OLIGER, 13700 22nd Ave. SE, Menoken, ND - 701-255-6440

VICE PRESIDENT: JIM NEVLAND, 419 W. Broadway, Bismarck, ND - 701-221-2419

SECRETARY: LENORA OPP, 3010 E. Rosser Ave., #8, Bismarck, ND - 701-255-3973

TREASURER: RAY OLIGER, 516 North 20th Street, Bismarck, ND - 701-223-4986

COMMITTEE PERSONS

PROGRAM: Russ Oliger - 255-6440

Jim Nevlund - 221-2419

HOSPITALITY - LUNCH: Carol Hickle - 794-3342

Emma Brady - 663-3903

HOSPITAL - CARDS: Gen Buresh - 663-5397

FIELD TRIPS: Steve & Darlene Newstrom - 255-4675

John Campbell - 223-6754

EDITOR: Jerry Nevlund - 223-6900

ANNUAL SHOW: (1998) Rodney Hickle - 794-3342

Ray Oliger - 223-4986 & Harold Brady - 663-3903

EARLY CLASS: John Atwood - 222-0389

Harold Brady - 663-3903

GREETER: (Any Volunteers?)

Parliamentarian: Gen Buresh - 663-5397

PUBLICITY: (Any Volunteers?)

STAMP CHAIRMAN: Doris Hickle - 794-3173

DOOR COUNT: (Any Volunteers?)

LIBRARIAN: Agnes Berg - 442-5620

HISTORIAN: Betty Mautz - 337-5775

VISITORS AND GUESTS ARE ALWAYS WELCOME !

RMFMS - STATE DIRECTOR FOR ND: Ray Oliger, 516 North 20th St., Bismarck, ND 701-223-4986

All members are encouraged to submit articles/news items for publication. Material for the newsletter should reach the editor by the 10th of each month. Advertisements from members will be accepted for the newsletter. (\$2.00 for 1/8 page) Permission is granted to reprint non-copyrighted articles if proper credit is given. The Diggin's From Dakota Newsletter is published monthly.

Central Dakota Gem & Mineral Society's

24th Annual

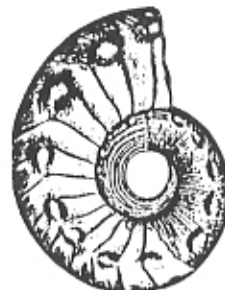
GEM & MINERAL SHOW

COMMUNITY CENTER — MANDAN, ND

Sept. 26 & 27, 1998

Chrm: Rodney Hickle, HC2, Box 191, Center, ND 58530

Phone — 701-794-3342



February 16, 1998 — "President's Day Holiday"**Minutes from February 1, 1998**

The monthly meeting of the CDG & MS was held on February 1, 1998, at the Masonic Center. President Russ Oliger called the meeting to order. In the absence of the Secretary, Lenora Opp, Gen Buresh was asked to take the minutes of the meeting. The minutes were approved as read. Treasurer Ray Oliger reported a balance on hand of \$91.67.

The President announced the next meeting will be held on March 1, 1998, with early class scheduled for 1:30, the meeting beginning at 2:00 p.m. The summer schedule with the evening meetings will start in April and continue through October. Lunch Committee for March are: Gen Buresh and Sue Randall.

Committees:

Field Trip: Steve Newstrom announced plans for the first field trip on May 9, 1998 — South of Glendive, MT to look for fossils. Plans are not yet complete for the proposed trip to hunt for sapphires. A fieldtrip to look for agates is also under consideration.

Hospitality: Lunch: Carol Hickie, Chairperson, Servers for March — Gen Buresh and Sue Randall. Members are asked to sign the serving committee list to complete the year through next November, 1998. (No committee is needed for December if the Christmas Dinner is served again at a restaurant.)

Show Chairman: Rodney Hickie gave a brief history of previous shows, consisting first of exhibits with members present to tell about each display. For a number of years members had exhibits, held at hotels and later at the Kirkwood Mall, some members also choosing to sell items they had made. Starting in 1975, club shows have been held in the Mandan Community Center, except for 1988, when CDGMS Hosted the annual Rocky Mountain Federation Show along with our annual local show. That show was held in the Bismarck Civic Center. The Mandan Center has again been reserved for Sept. 26 and 27, 1998.

Communications: Ray Oliger called attention to an excellent article on fluorescent minerals in a recent issue of "Rocks and Gems." He also had an interesting brochure on a new museum in Pembina, ND.

Carol Hickie reported the death of the son of former members, John & Agnes Boyd, who now live in Arizona. The death was due to a heart attack. He was the nephew of Betty Mautz.

Parliamentarian: Gen Buresh reported that Earl Campbell had been in the hospital recently. (He reported this week that he has had two sessions in a hospital and is now recuperating at home with the assistance of Home Health Care.)

Picnic: Ray Oliger announced that he has reserved Shelter No. 2, General Sibley Park, south of Bismarck on Washington Street for a picnic and meeting on Sunday, August 2nd, 1998, **MARK YOU CALENDAR.** Ray also stated that Kathryn Muggli sent greetings to members when she sent in her dues. Kathryn now lives in Gresham, Oregon, near one of her daughters.

Rodney Hickie announced that he has with him some of the club display cases that are in need of repair. Volunteers who offered to help with this project, please see him at his truck to unload the cases.

Ray Oliger, Program Committee, announced a "Silent Auction" is scheduled for the March, 1998 meeting. Bring items to sell, and a purse or wallet to take care of your purchases. (Looking at items for sale at a Silent Auction is a nice warm way to have a "Mini-field Trip" in winter. G. Buresh)

The meeting adjourned and lunch was served by Duane and Ledores Robey and Ed and Lois Horning.

Genevieve L. Buresh
Genevieve L. Buresh,
Secretary pro tem

VOLCANOES AREN'T ALL BAD...

Volcanic ash forms some of the world's richest soils. Pumice is used for polishing, grinding, and building materials. Veins of precious minerals form in underground volcanic cracks. The cones form great scenery and recreational areas. Heat and steam formed underground near volcanoes is used by people worldwide for energy. Obsidian makes fine surgical knives. Volcanic ash deposits have preserved plants, animals, and people from ancient days and provide valuable scientific information today.

From: The Rock Vein, Jan/Feb., 1998, via others



MESSAGE FROM THE CLUB PRESIDENT

Hi again,

Hope all is well with you. For those of you at the February meeting, you already know that John Hogenson, the ND State Paleontologist was not able to make it in to give his presentation. He was called out of town. John is real excited about coming in to talk with the club, so he wants to reschedule for April or May, 1998. I know that he has been working on quite a number of projects so when he makes it to the club meeting, he should have a interesting presentation with lots of new info on all that he's been up to.

Don't forget our March meeting, it is the 1998 annual silent auction and usually there is alot of good stuff to bid on. So everyone bring in your excess material and let's make this years' silent auction one of those to remember.

I have been busy this last month, working on my sphere machine, its almost done. The frame and all the mechanisms are done now, so it's just a matter of mounting the motors and a little fine tuning and I'll be done with building it and be able to start turning out spheres. It hasn't sunk in yet that after four years of talking about it and collecting good quality material for sphere making that I'll be using it by next week.

Ray and I will be going on our Caribbean cruise in another week, actually, there are a bunch of us going; brother, sisters, nieces, and nephews. So with any luck I'll be back with a nice tan and lots of good pictures.

Our next meeting is Sunday, March 1, 1998. Hope to see you there for what I'm hoping will be a successful auction.

RUSS OLIGER

THE CLOCK IS TICKING... MAKE THE MOST OF EACH DAY

To realize the value of ONE YEAR, just ask a student who has failed a final exam.

To realize the value of ONE MONTH, ask a mother who has given birth to a premature infant.

To realize the value of ONE WEEK, ask an editor of a weekly newspaper.

To realize the value of ONE DAY, ask a daily wage laborer who has ten kids to feed.

To realize the value of ONE HOUR, ask two lovers who are waiting to meet.

To realize the value of ONE MINUTE, ask a person who missed a train.

To realize the value of ONE SECOND, ask a person who has survived an accident.

To realize the value of ONE MILLISECOND, ask the person who has just won an Olympic Silver medal.

Treasure every moment that you have! And treasure it because you shared it with someone special... special enough to have your time. And remember, time waits for no one.

- Author Unknown -

**BIRTHSTONE**

Aquamarine or Bloodstone

Flower

Jonquil

- March:**
- 3 - Melody Nevland
 - 4 - Rebecca Atwood (1981)
 - 18 - Ted Giese (1916)
 - 22 - Carol Hickie (1949)
 - 25 - Edna Mausehund (1919)
 - 25 - Elma Rambough (1919)
 - 30 - Paul Jeffcoat-Sacco

WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES

March 11: BOB & RAE SPRONG

Rock of the Month: Amber

This rock is the fossil resin of extinct coniferous trees. Amber is soft and has a resinous or subvitreous luster. It varies from transparent to translucent. Insects and small vertebrates which were trapped in the original sticky resin are sometimes found fossilized in amber. Amber is frequently used to make jewelry.

Word of the Month: Intermediate Rock

Igneous rock with between 65% and 55% total silica.

**HAVE YOU WRITTEN YOUR EDITOR
AN ARTICLE LATELY ?**

(Maybe now is a good time — share your knowledge !)

A MESSAGE FROM RUBY LINGELBACH
RMFMS PRESIDENT 1997 - 1998

HAPPY NEW YEAR !
WE HAVE A LOT TO LOOK FORWARD
TO IN THIS YEAR 1998 !!!

I should be able to tell you where the 1999 RMFMS Show will be, but this message is being written before Thanksgiving. We do have an exciting prospect for that Show's Host Club, but the legalities must be taken care of first. If you club has been thinking about hosting a Federation Show, the years' 2001, 2002, and so on are still open. The next time the RMFMS hosts the AFMS Show, (after the 2000 - year show in Moab, UT) will be year 2007.

The legalities of hosting a Federation Show are: A written invitation from the club sent to the Secretary, Carol Holman. (Look on the Officer's page of the newsletter for her address.) Then the executive board must vote to approve or disapprove the application. The only time's "disapproval" might happen would be when another club had already been approved.

In case you do not know who is on the Official Board, it is composed of the officers, President down through the two Past Presidents listed on the Officers and Committees page, found on the back side of the cover page of this newsletter, plus the State Director from each of our states. Any legal transaction needing to be approved between Convention dates is done by these sixteen people by means of a mail in ballot.

Information on what responsibilities a host club has can be found in the RMFMS Operating Procedures, Pages 20 to 25. All clubs have one of these, but many are "MISPLACED" somewhere. I know for a fact just how easily that happens. Pearl Burden, Supplies Chairman, has copies of our Constitution, Bylaws, and O.P.'s with the updates. I have asked her to send a copy to any club that asks for one, at no charge to the club. Any postage can come out of the President's budget, if need be.

Also, any club asking to be admitted to the RMFMS will be sent a complete copy with its application form since there is a place to check that, "We have read the Constitution and Bylaws and agree to abide by their provisions." These cannot be read if the club does not have a copy.

You need to be getting on the ball with your Bulletin Contest entries. The deadline is January 31, 1998.



If you have not received this Contest information from Pauline Price, or have misfiled it, Pauline will be happy to send you another, especially if it means another entry in any of the categories.

We have a new All-American Club Chairman; Norma Beers, Box 132, Lingle, WY 82223, (307) 837-2161. I am very pleased because it is important to have members from all our states helping. This Contest deadline is later, but at this time, it is not known exactly when. The biggest benefit from the All American Club entry is the history of the club being compiled into one place. Most are surprised at how many members had helped during the year, and how many things their club had done. It does take some work on the part of at least one club member, but a committee to put it all together is better. All members should contribute things, such as any rock-type gift to a museum or government agency, etc.; letters written to Congressmen or Representatives, or Forest Service, etc. So do give this program a try. You will be pleased whether you win a Trophy or not; you still win when your club history is compiled into one place. There will be an unofficial meeting held at the Quartzsite Show on Feb. 7, 1998 at 2:00 p.m. in the afternoon. This will be held at the Quartzsite Improvement Association Building (the Pow Wow Headquarters Building.) An informal question and answer program will be held, so, those of you who have questions, bring them, if you have suggestions, bring them also.

The unofficial RMFMS meeting will be held during the Tucson Show on February 14, 1998, at the Convention Center. Check the program guide for the time and location.

May each of you have a very good and prosperous New Year.

Sincerely,
 Ruby Lingelbach, President

DUES FOR 1998 ARE NOW DUE !

***IF YOU HAVE NOT PAID YOUR DUES BY
 MARCH 1, 1998, YOU WILL NO LONGER
 RECEIVE THE "DIGGINS FROM DAKOTA"
 NEWSLETTER. SEND YOUR DUES NOW!***

A DEFINITION OF FLUORESCENCE

Most commonly, fluorescence refers to the property of emitting visible light during radiation by ultraviolet. The visible light given off can be of almost any color, depending on this substance which is fluorescing and to a lesser degree on the wavelength of the ultraviolet which causes the fluorescence.

The word "fluorescence" comes from the name of the mineral fluorite, in which a visible blue glow or fluorescence, resulting from the ultraviolet in sunlight, was noted and described by Sir George Stokes in the early 1800's. Sir Stokes made a rather comprehensive study of this phenomenon, which he called "fluorescence".

Fluorescence is caused not only by ultraviolet, but can also be caused by other radiations such as X rays and visible light. For example, a number of minerals will glow or fluoresce when exposed to X rays. Minerals have also been found which luminesce in the infrared region when irradiated with ultraviolet rays or more commonly with visible light.

Some 75 different mineral species in the collection of the Natural Museum have been found to fluoresce in the infrared region.

Since its discovery by Stokes, fluorescence has developed great practical significance. One of its most widespread applications is in the ordinary fluorescent light. The tube of a fluorescent light consists basically of a generator of ultraviolet energy. The inside of the tube is coated with a fluorescent powder or phosphor, which the ultraviolet causes to fluoresce brilliantly, thereby producing visible light.

Some of the minerals and the colors that they produce are as follows:

1. The color blue is represented by the minerals: Amber, Calcite, Celestite, Diamond, and Fluorite.
2. The colors orange, yellow, and gold are represented by the minerals: Barite, Calcite, Diamond, Scapolite, Sodalite, and Zircon.
3. The color green is represented by the minerals: Adamite, Aragonite, Diamond, Opal, Quartz, Uranium salts, and Willemite.
4. The colors red and pink are represented by the minerals: Aragonite, Calcite, Calomel, Corundum, fluorite, Halite and Spinel.
5. The colors white and cream are represented by the minerals: Aragonite, Barite, Brucite, Calcite, Dweylite, Fluorite, Petalite, Scheelite, Talc, and Witherite.

From: "The Story of Fluorescence," 1965

"MY FAVORITE FIELD TRIP"

Lake Superior's North Shore
By Steve Newstrom

If you get tired of going west to collect agates and gemstones, consider going east to the beautiful North Shore of Lake Superior. Starting at Duluth and going north, take Lake Shore Drive to Two Harbors. There is some gorgeous scenery along this drive and when you get to Two Harbors, go down to the lake shore at Agate Bay. There are agates to be found in the gravels along the lake shore at Agate Bay — especially after a storm when high waves turn over the gravels, exposing fresh agates.

Continue along the shore and stop at Silver Creek and follow the creek down to the lake and check in the gravels along the shore for agates. A very productive location.

Next stop along the lakeshore for agates is Gooseberry Falls and Beaver Bay. Check gravels along the shore line for agates. Thompsonite may be found along the lake about five miles south of Grand Marais. There is a rest stop here right on the lake at Thompsonite Beach. Follow the lakeshore south about .5 miles south to the bluffs and you will find large and small boulders of Basalt with Thompsonite nodules filling the gas pockets of the matrix. You will need a 3- 5 pound hand maul and assorted chisels to split the boulders and remove the nodules or search along the water for smaller stones and nodules that have been removed by wave action. Well, hope you enjoy the trip.

ONCE UPON A SILENT AUCTION

Somewhere at our silent auction,
I seemed to have lost reserve and caution;
Wrote my name on all the bid sheets,
Went back again with many repeats.
Attacked old ladies with my pen,
When I was outbid again.
Walked over babies, knocked down kids,
While trying to protect my bids.
I hovered over a trilobite,
That would have, if could have, taken flight.
I sighed as I touched a jasper ring,
Wondering how much it would bring.
As I raised the bid another dollar,
I could hear a nearby lady holler.
"I'm going to catch that nutty redhead,
And fill her pockets with a ton of lead."
So I hurried on to the next table,
Where I paused to read every label.
Then I heard the last two tables called,
As I stood there, so enthralled.
You can imagine my chagrin,
When I learned I'd bought what I'd brought in!

From: *The Rock Vela*, Jan./Feb., 1998 via others

NORTH DAKOTA NOTES NO. 2: BISON TRAILS & BUFFALO BOULDERS

By Bob Biek

Two of the more unusual landforms found in North Dakota are those created by once vast herds of bison. The bison, apparently, trampled shallow grooves across the prairie, forming bison trails, and created depression around many of the larger glacial erratics, now known as buffalo builders.

The bison trails were first recognized in North Dakota in the mid-1970's by former University of North Dakota geologist, Lee Clayton. The trails are shallow trenches generally a few feet deep, several feet wide, and several hundred feet long. Where they cross narrow depressions, the trails often form low ridges. The ridges probably formed as sediment was tracked downslope by thousands of hooves. Bison trails are common throughout the grasslands of the northern plains, and, in fact, many have previously been misinterpreted as bedrock joints or glacial features.

Bison trails are straight or gently curved, and show up on aerial photography as dark lines. The trails tend to parallel high-relief features such as bluffs and steep slopes, and otherwise often trend northwest to southeast, parallel to the prevailing wind direction. The trail formed, then, when sufficient numbers of bison converged on water holes or were funneled along a particular path by the constraints of topography. The trails are best preserved where they cross areas of sandy soil, such as outwash plains, perhaps because such soils are more permeable, allowing precipitation to infiltrate the soil rather than run off, eroding the slope and trails. Even so, I have seen similar trails that cross areas of glacial till.

Throughout the glaciated portion of North Dakota, large glacial erratics often seem to lie in a bowl-shaped depression. The depression formed when bison rubbed against the rock, trampling and loosening the soil which was subsequently blown away. Often the rock itself has been polished by their dirty gritty hides. Buffalo boulders, as they are called, have been recognized on the northern plains for a long time, though today they are perhaps better known as cattle rubbing stones.

From: North Dakota Geological Survey's Website at:
<http://www.state.nd.us/ndgs/Ndn2.html>
Via: Lake Agassiz Rock Hound, January, 1998

NEW ELEMENTS FOR THE PERIODIC TABLE I

"Politicism Po"

Contains a great deal of gas. Similar to radon in that it can reach lethal concentrations in the House.

"Congress Cg"

Atomic number 525. Can never be found in a solution.

"Budweiser Ps"

Has no taste or smell; is often indistinguishable from water.

"Snot Sn"

Bonds forever with corduroy.

From: The Internet, via Flatirons Facets, January, 1998

ATTENTION: BIG CHANGES AT QUARTZSITE

excerpts from Gems, Jan., 1998 via Quarry Quips, 1/98

If you are planning on visiting Quartzsite in February, 1998, be aware that the BLM has adopted new rules as part of the La Posa Interdisciplinary Management Plan, published in July, 1997, greatly restricts parking in and around Quartzsite. Within a 121,500 acre zone around "Q" camping will be allowed only in the La Posa LTVA (long term visitor area) and in 5 designated 14-day camping areas.

Dome Rock Camping Area; Roadrunner Camping Area (mile marker 90); High Jolly Camping Area, (mile marker, 112); Scaddam Wash Camping Area; and Polomosa Road Camping Area.

On BLM Land outside the 121,500 acre zone, you may camp on BLM public land, but only for a maximum of 14 days. You will not be allowed to camp beside a road within the designated 121,500 acre zone unless within the LTVA or one of the five 14-day camping zones.

The BLM will conduct routine ranger patrols to ensure boundary and camp closure compliance. A BLM volunteer will be stationed in the Quartzsite town hall during the winter visitation period to provide information to the public.

YOU KNOW IF YOU ARE ROCK HOUND IF:

Your cats are named "Onyx", "Jade", "Agate", "Galena" and "Tourmaline."

No one calls you "over the hill" — they know you have been there and back, with a pack full of jasper and agate — making the trip more than once.

You can't wait for your kids to graduate and go away to college, so you can turn their room into a "ROCK ROOM."

When you talk to your rocks more than to your wife.

From: Kyana Gemscoop, 12/97 via Quarry Quips, 1/98

"WHERE'S ETHYL?"

from Rocky Trails via others
via Quarry Quips 9/97, Pearl Burden, editor

Sometimes I really get upset with my husband for not giving me credit for being as smart as I am. Just like the other morning when I rode to his office with him so I could have the car.

As we drove by a service station, he turned to glance back. "Well, I see another business is getting rid of their Ethyl," he remarked.

"Ethyl who?" I asked curiously.

"Ethyl Gas," he said in an annoyed tone.

"What a terrible name," I said. "If I had one like that, I'd change it. Why are they getting rid of Ethyl, do you suppose?"

"Well, since everything's gotten so high, people just can't afford Ethyl anymore," he answered.

"Just what line of work is Ethyl in, anyway?" I inquired.

"You KNOW what Ethyl is," he snapped.

"There's regular and then there's ETHYL."

"I don't like the way you said that," I frowned.

"You say it like you would, 'There's Lillie Tomlin and then there's Dolly Parton.' Which class would I fit in?"

"Good grief," he exclaimed, "you're not either one."

"Thanks a lot. I guess I know where that leaves me."

"Look," he said, growing more exasperated, "Are you a fuel?"

"I certainly am not," I growled, "unless you know something I don't-and I'm beginning to wonder. You sure know a lot about Ethyl."

"Let's just drop the subject," he muttered. "But be sure and remind me when I get out to tell Bill about this."

"Why?" I asked. "Because he usually stops there on his way home to get Ethyl," he replied.

"You're kidding!" I exclaimed. "And he's got three kids. Does his wife know he stops there to get Ethyl?"

"Well, sure," my husband answered. "She stops with him a lot of times."

"Do you mean to tell me he stops and gets Ethyl when his wife is right there with him?"

"He sure does—in fact, I saw his wife put Ethyl in the car one time."

"I can't believe that!" I yelled. "She must be nuts about him—she'll put up with anything. Let me ask you something," I said seriously. "Have YOU ever stopped there to get Ethyl?"

"You know I've never put ETHYL in this car," he grumbled. "This car wouldn't run right with Ethyl in it."

"You better believe it," I said. "In fact, if you put Ethyl in this car, it would never run again after I got through with it."

"Do me a favor," he said, as he stopped the car to get out. "Don't tell anyone about this conversation. No one would believe my wife is so naive she doesn't know about Ethyl."

Well, I've got news for him. I'm not half as naive as he thinks I am. I found out where Ethyl went. I just happened to drive by a place the other day that had a big sign out in front proclaiming proudly, "WE HAVE ETHYL." And I've been watching that place ever since!

(ed. note: Pearl, this is a GREAT story! I laughed until my sides hurt!) G. I. NUGGET Jan. 1998



reprinted with permission of Erston Barnhart of the Central Pennsylvania Rock & Mineral Club.

DIG DIGGINS' FROM DAKOTA, Sept. 15 - Oct. 15, 1992

From: Mel Berg

RECIPE FOR A GOOD ROCK CLUB

From: G.I. Nugget, Nov/97 via Others

Assemble a group of rockhounds in assorted sizes and personalities.

MEASURE ACCURATELY -

One cup of friendly words;

One cup of understanding,

One cup of courtesy and patience.

Sift carefully and remove all malice and ego.

Add a dash of wit and humor, warm welcome for all and a heart full of cooperation. Praise when needed.

Mix well until blended into a smooth running organization. Sprinkle with good times and fun. Garnish with new members. Serve with warm greetings. Plenty for all. This is a tried and true recipe.

CENTRAL DAKOTA GEM & MINERAL SOCIETY

P.O. Box 2445

Bismarck, ND 58502-2445

POLICY STATEMENT GOVERNING THE ANNUAL SHOW

1. Following a decision by the members of the Central Dakota Gem & Mineral Society to have an annual show, the sponsor of the show shall be listed as: **CENTRAL DAKOTA GEM & MINERAL SOCIETY** and the name of the show shall be: "NORTH DAKOTA'S _____ ANNUAL GEM AND MINERAL SHOW."

(Number)

2. The term "Annual Show" as used in the policy statement shall refer to a show with a full program including dealers, exhibits, a silent auction, a swapping area, educational sessions of demonstrations, talks, and films related to the lapidary and mineral arts, and other appropriate activities.

3. The annual show shall be planned and managed by a *Show Committee*, consisting of a chairman and two additional members.

4. The *Show Committee* shall be appointed by the *Society's Executive Board* with full power to formulate and execute plans for an annual show. This committee shall serve from the time of their appointment until all transactions are completed for the show for which they were appointed.

5. The *Show Committee* for the following year shall be appointed and announced during each annual show, and the new chairman and new committee members shall assume their duties of making plans for the next show immediately upon their appointment.

6. The *Show Chairman* shall appoint appropriate sub-committees to carry out assigned responsibilities for a successful show.

7. A *Show Treasurer* shall be appointed by the *Show Committee*. The term of this office shall be from the time of the appointment until all business transactions have been completed for the show for which the treasurer was appointed.

8. All monies derived from each annual show shall be deposited in an account titled: "CENTRAL DAKOTA GEM & MINERAL SOCIETY — SHOW COMMITTEE."

9. Any portion of the monies derived from a silent auction at an annual show may be designated for donation to a scholarship fund at the discretion of the *Show Committee*.

10. After all the bills have been paid for a completed annual show, including any payment to a scholarship fund as authorized in Section 9, all monies remaining in the account of the **CENTRAL DAKOTA GEM & MINERAL SOCIETY — SHOW COMMITTEE** shall remain under the jurisdiction of the *Show Committee* for the purpose of financing the next annual show.

11. The *Show Treasurer* shall: (1) keep an accurate account of all receipts and expenditures for the annual show for which he was appointed; (2) prepare a final report of all receipts, expenditures, and assets of the *Show Committee* in charge of the recently completed annual show, and present both this report and the show treasurer's books for audit by the *Auditing Committee* of the Society; and (3) present the report of all receipts, expenditures, and assets of the *Show Committee* to the Society at the next regular scheduled meeting after the audit.

12. The *Show Committee* designated in this policy statement shall be responsible for the annual show only.

13. This policy statement does not prevent the Society or its members from participating in any other special exhibit(s) during the year.

14. In the event that the **CENTRAL DAKOTA GEM & MINERAL SOCIETY** ceases to sponsor an annual show, any monies in the account of the "CENTRAL DAKOTA GEM & MINERAL SOCIETY — SHOW COMMITTEE" shall be transferred to the account of the "CENTRAL DAKOTA GEM & MINERAL SOCIETY."

03/01/81

STONES AND "NEW AGE" THEORY

The ancients believed many gems and stones had the power to heal, and now the "New Agers" have either resurrected the old thoughts, or assigned new powers to some of the more common stones, some of which I found interesting.

Clear quartz: Stimulates the brain.

Snowflake obsidian and black onyx: Reduces stress

Aventurine: Eases anxiety.

Amethyst: Strengthens the immune system.

Lapis: Strengthens the skeletal system.

Leopardskin and red jasper: Powerful healers.

Malachite: Strengthens the heart.

Agate: Tones and Strengthens the body and mind.

Rhodonite: Aids the nervous system.

If you're one of the many of us that carry a "worry rock," one of the good feeling, smooth, pretty stones that for whatever reason we take a liking to, maybe it couldn't hurt to pick one that supposedly helps whatever may be causing you a bit of bother. It's no sillier than wishing on a star, and is there anyone out there who sees the first star of the night, that doesn't secretly make a wish?

Just some silliness, which I find lightens my life, and hope it brings a little diversion to yours.

From: Mid Georgia Gem Clips, 3/95, via The Coral Geode, 10/95, via The Glacial Drifter, 10/97

"SCRAPING ARTIFACTS"

By Harold Beatty, from *Rock Dust*, via *Cycad* 3/82

Of all the stone tools used by the plains Indians, the scrapers are by far the most abundant. As skins of wild animals were extensively used for clothing and shelter, the preparation of the skins required huge quantities of these implements.

Instead of being just a scraper, these numerous stone tools are a definite artifact, designed and made for a special purpose. Instead of being tapered on both edges, as are knives, the scrapers are flakes quite thick and with one side or end beveled by pressure flake.

Scrapers are classified as end, and side scrapers. The working edge of the end scraper is at the widest end, and are roughly sub-triangular or rectangular. As they were used by being held between the thumb and index finger, they are many times called "thumb scrapers". Sometimes the opposite end was pointed to be used as a drill for boring holes, or as a graver for marking pottery.

The side scrapers take all varieties of shapes and forms, and are used with the sharp working edge close to the skin to be worked.

FOSSIL CLEANING TIPS

In most cases, when a fossil is cleaned, the surface is usually left with a dull or chalky look, even if you're very careful. This is caused by the abrasion of the tool against the fossil's surface.

In an effort to make the fossil look better, some collectors use the quick method, and cover their specimens with clear plastic sprays to bring out the details and lessen the scratchy appearance. These collections are easy to recognize because every specimen looks as if it is wet or dipped in plastic. The trouble with this method is, that it puts an unnatural, glossy appearance on the fossil, as well as the matrix, giving your specimen poor contrast.

In their natural state, fossils are not usually glossy, and professional museum preparators will tell you that making a fossil something it never was, is poor practice. Clear sprays have a tendency to become cloudy over time, and the temptation to spruce up the collection by re-spraying specimens becomes a habit, which only puts more cloudy layers on the specimen. These coatings make photographing fossils difficult; they are very hard to remove and will sometimes render specimens useless for scientific study.

A simple and common sense way to get around these problems is to use an alcohol soluble, clear shellac. Just mix two parts shellac to eight parts alcohol, the ratio can vary slightly to suit personal tastes. This mixture will leave a pleasing, natural matte finish.

When using this method, make sure the fossil is clean of dust. With a small artist's brush, carefully coat only the fossil with the dilute shellac. This will reveal the specimen's actual color and allow the fossil to stand out against the natural matrix, giving excellent contrast. The more attention you give to coating delicate structures, the more beautiful the specimen will be. If you accidentally use too much - or if it runs on the matrix - just dip the brush in alcohol, and whisk the coating away. It dries in seconds.

Make no doubt about it, fossil collecting has become very sophisticated in recent years, and collections quickly prepared by obsolete or improper methods are now readily noticed by other collectors. For a good book on fossil preparation, I recommend, *The Practical Paleontologist*, by Steve Parker and Raymond L. Bernor, printed by Simon & Schuster.

From: *"Maps Digest"*, 7/9/95 via THE GLACIAL DRIFTER, 11/97, via *Others*