# 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
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AFMS - 2nd PLACE, SMALL BULLETINS, 1985
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SAVE STAMPS FOR CHAIRMAN STAMP

FIRST CLASS

Happy New Year

# 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: $8.00, 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 Nevland - 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 Nevland - 223-6900
**ANNUAL SHOW:** (1998) Rodney Hickle - 794-3342

**EARLY CLASS:** John Atwood - 222-0389
Harold Brady - 663-3903
**Parliamentarian:** Gen Buresh - 663-5397
**STAMP CHAIRMAN:** Doris Hickle - 794-3173
**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**

## Minutes from January 4, 1998

The monthly meeting of the CDG&MS was held on January 4, 1998, at the Masonic Center. President Russ Oliger called the meeting to order.

The next meeting will be on February 1, 1998. Minutes were approved as corrected. Treasurer, Ray Oliger, reported a balance on hand of $75.17

COMMITTEES:

*Field Trip:* Steve Newstrom told members that he has compiled information about a future fossil and sapphire trip and had distributed copies of the map to the members at the meeting. He also said that articles are still needed for the "Favorite Fieldtrip" column in the "Diggins" Newsletter.

*Hospitality:* Carol Hickle asked members to sign up to serve for the new year. A sign-up sheet was passed around. Servers for the next meeting will be; Duane & Ledores Robey and Ed & Lois Horning.

*Show Chairman:* Rodney Hickle informed the members that the Dealer Contracts are being sent out. Carol Hickle gave a treasurer's report on the *Show Committee* as follows:

Income: $2,344.81 - Expenses: $2,068.75 which equals a net profit of $276.06 for the 1997 annual rock show.

The club has a CD of $7,163.79 and there is $1,600.35 in the checking account.

Bob Randall told members that the club's showcases are in need of repairs. If anyone is interested in repairing them, please contact either Bob Randall or Rodney Hickle.

There were 23 adults and six juniors present at the meeting.

Ray Oliger asked members where they would like to have the club's summer picnic. The shelter should be reserved now, before the summer begins. The club decided to have their picnic at Sibley Park.

The adult doorprize was won by Richard Hoerner and the junior doorprize was won by Robert Ellis.

The program that followed was given by Ray Oliger and Bob Randall on fluorescent rocks.

Meeting was adjourned and lunch was served by all the new officers.

Minutes by the Secretary,

*Lenora Opp*

## MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT . . . .

I hope everyone had a good holiday season, and that all of you are well and enjoying the new year. I had a nice quiet New Years' Eve. I stayed home and had my rock saw running. Other than that, I've been working on my grinders turning out cabochons, now all I have to do is make a couple of rings that I promised people I would do.

For those of you who missed our January meeting, you missed a really good show on fluorescence. Ray Oliger and Bob Randall did an excellent job explaining how and why rocks fluoresce with plenty of specimens for everyone to "oohhh and aahhh" over. Next month's program is tentatively set to feature John Hogenson, the N. D. State Paleontologist.

Steve and Darlene Newstrom have lined up a second field trip for next summer, out to the sapphire mines in western Montana. Besides sapphires, people also find agates, jaspers, and several other minerals, but its the sapphires we are going after — anything else is just bonus.

Rodney Hickie says that many of our club showcases are unusable. So anyone with any woodworking skills that would like to volunteer to repair one or two cases should give Rodney a call and he will bring some down at the next meeting.

I hope to see all of you at the February meeting on the first.

*Russell Oliger*

## CONFUSED ?

Here's a poem to help you remember which grows up and which hangs down:

The "C" in stalactite meanings ceiling.

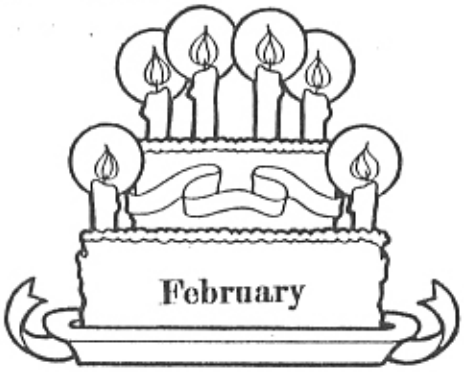
The "G" in stalagmite means ground.

via Mohave Co. Gemstones, 8/97, via The Ammonite, 11/97

## BONE IDENTIFICATION

What kind of bone are you? A *wishbone* wishes someone else would work. A *jawbone* talks, but accomplishes little. The old *knucklebone* knocks everything done, but the *backbone* gets busy to do the job. From: Alice Wynne, 9/97, Obsidian Observer

**ATTEND YOUR ROCK CLUB MEETING REGULARLY — SHOW YOUR SUPPORT**




## Birthstone

**Amethyst**

## Flower

**Violet**

**February**

5 - Bill Buresh (1915)
7 - Zach Nevland (1983)
22 - Orma Swanick (1912)
23 - Nettie Nelson (1914)
26 - Colleen Huber

## WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES

(No wedding anniversaries on record)

**Rock of the Month:** Chrysocolla

This mineral forms as acicular, microscopic crystals, in radiating groups, or in close-packed aggregates. It also occurs in massive, earthy, cryptocrystalline, and botryoidal habits. The color is green, blue, and blue-green. Chrysocolla can also be brown to black when impurities are present. The streak is white. This mineral is translucent to nearly opaque, and it has a vitreous to earthy luster.

FORMATION: Forms in the oxidation zone of copper deposits. It occurs with azurite, malachite, and cuprite. Chryscolla is also an important mineral for ore prospectors because its presence may suggest that copper ore deposits are nearby.

**Word of the Month:** Cryptocrystalline

Crystalline, but very fine-grained. Individual components need to be viewed under a microscope.


## LABRADORITE

No author given, Via many bulletins, specifically *Roc-Tok* 11/94

In 1770 a Moravian missionary collected this stone at the Isle of St. Paul off the coast of Labrador. Later in 1775, Bishop Lanitz introduced the rough material to the European gem cutters. In the early days it was known as Labrador stone.

In Europe it became popular and of great value. It is recorded that pieces weighing less than a pound, polished on a surface, were snapped up at $100.00. When the ship captains learned of its great value, they would stop long enough at Isle St. Paul to send hands out to quarry a few blocks, and this added supply eventually brought the price down.

Later, fine grade Labradorite was found far inland, and the original coast locality became exhausted. The earlier gem cutters had great difficulty with this material. They had to learn that in order to get the best play of color, it was essential that each rough piece must first be carefully studied and then cut at the correct angle. Labradorite is a good deal like the layered opal of Australia, where the finest play of color rests in a thin vein or layer. Locating the correct layer is even more tricky in Labradorite than in opal.

At one time, Labradorite was widely used to ornament costly table tops. Skilled gem cutters were employed to saw the rough into slabs for their popularity, the gem cutters did not have the modern precision diamond saw. The circular saws in use at that time could not be used to cut large sections of this high cleavage material, so they were obliged to use the old hand operated bow and wire, with crude emery grit.

These table tops were unique in that when viewed from one direction the surface apeared like ordinary grey marble. With a slight change in position, the viewer would be struck by a blaze of color reflections. The remarkable play of red, blue and green colors on the polished surface is not due to any chemical constituent. It is purely an optical property. Along the cleavage plane, there is a lamellar structure, similar to a complex system of gratings. The light falling upon this surface is, in part, broken up into various primary colors.

This material has a marked cleavage, so for reasons of mechanical strength, slabs should be cut thick. It is rather soft and easily cut by even a "worn" diamond saw.

From: The Rockhound Gazette, 11/97

**A RULE TO REMEMBER . . .**

**Do all the good you can.**
**In all the means you can,**
**In all the ways you can,**
**In all the places you can,**
**At all the times you can,**
**To all the people you can,**
**As long as ever you can.**

*** John Wesley ***

## A MODERN PARABLE

Once upon a time, there was a rock club. It's members were all old hands at the hobby. Whenever they met and talked, they wished that more people would join the club. "We cannot do the things the club once did because we are so few." they tried and tried to get new young members. And they often did. Then, in a few meetings, the new ones disappeared. And the older members looked at each other and said, "What did we do wrong?" *And no one answered.*

There came a time the club had two new families as members. The youngsters were vibrating with excitement and curiosity at each meeting. Then slowly, one family came less often and less often. A field trip was scheduled - the first since last year and the second since the year before. The meeting was Thursday, the trip on Saturday. The trip was to local fossil sites where much wonder abounded. Both families were going. But, the club building needed work. At the meeting, the older members said, "I've got lots of fossils, let's fix the shed instead." So the new families hunted no fossils.

Another field trip was scheduled. The Saturday after the next meeting. To dig crystals at a famous mineral site. The kids were excited. They had asked friends to join them. Then the old members said, "Well, we've lots of crystals - and if we go a week later, we can go to a swap and talk with other friends, instead." So they moved and voted to change and forget the crystals. And the new members frowned.

Once upon a time, there was a rock club. It's members were all old hands at the hobby. Whenever they met and talked, they wished that more people would join the club. "We cannot do the things the club once did because we are so few." They tried and tried to get new young members. And they often did. Then, in a few meetings, the new ones disappeared. And the older members looked at each other and said, "What did we do wrong?" *And no one answered.*

From: The AFMS Newsletter, Dec., Jan. /1997-1998

## A FULL LIFE

**Author: Unknown**

There are 168 golden hours in every week. I sleep 10 hours a night or 70 hours a week and that leaves 98 golden hours. I eat 3 meals a day and take an hour for each and that's 21 hours and leaves 77 golden hours. Every morning, I shower, shave, clean my teeth and get dressed and that takes another seven hours and leaves 70 golden hours. It takes an hour to drive to work and an hour to drive home and that is 10 hours and leaves 60 golden hours. I watch the news every evening on TV for 1 1/2 hours and that leaves 49.5 golden hours. We go to church every Sunday and that's 2 1/2 hours and leaves 47 golden hours. Of course, we have to go shopping, go to the doctor and dentist, pay bills, mow the yard, rake leaves and more and those take 12 hours a week and that leaves 35 golden hours. And life isn't all work and duties. We meet friends, go to the movies and the like and that's another 5 hours a week and that leaves 30 golden hours a week. Then the kids have music lessons, soccer and scouts and that takes 14 hours a week and that leaves 16 golden hours a week. Then I work in the rock shop at least an hour a day and that leaves 9 golden hours. Then my boss comes along and complains that I'm not doing my part. Why is he so grouchy? I give him a solid 9 hours a week - that's ALL that I have to spare!

From: The AFMS Newsletter, Dec., Jan. /1997

## R U COMPUTER WISE?

The definitions below prove that rockhounds are far more familiar with computers than they believe:

1. "HARD DRIVE" — Climbing a steep, muddy hill with a full load in your four-wheel drive.
2. "KEYBOARD" — Place to hang your truck keys.
3. "WINDOW" — Place in the truck to display your guns.
4. "FLOPPY" — When you run out of Polygrip.
5. "MODEM" — How you got rid of your dandelions.
6. "REBOOT" — What you do when the first pair gets covered with barnyard stuff.
7. "NETWORK" — Activity meant to provide bait for your trot line.

From: *The AFMS Newsletter,* Dec., Jan./1997-1998

Don't discard the inner plastic rings from scotch tape. They make handy stands for spheres and other material.

*From:* Deming Rock Chips, 9/97 via T - Town Rockhound, 12/97

## WHAT IS YOUR STATE ROCK ?

**By: Jean Rhodd, TRMS**

"What is your state rock?" Everywhere I would travel I would ask that question.

Since I have been a rockhound I have wanted to know what all the state rocks were. I was surprised to find out, all the states do not have state rocks. The further I investigated, I found they had gems, minerals, or fossils.

While searching, I found out some interesting trivia. for instance, Idaho is called the "gem state" and Arizona's accepted neck wear is a bola tie. Did everyone know that but me?

Credit must go to Wayne Mouser for encouraging me to get started, to Ron & Lilik Hakola for pulling a list off the Internet, and to Bob Rice for sending me a list he had compiled over the years. Last, but not least is the *Almanac, Awards Edition,* which was my source for the years in which some of the states adopted rocks.

My list is like most others; it's not complete, and I may have made some mistakes! Who, me? Well, if anyone can improve on this I would expect add-ons, or constructive criticism. It certainly has been a fun and enlightening endeavor.

Sources:
http://www.jewelrymall.com (from Internet)
*Almanac, Awards Edition*

## ALAA RECOGNIZED BY AFMS

**From: Leaverite News, 1/97 via Rocky Mountain Federation News, 12/97**

In a resolution passed at the Jackson MS, AFMS/EFMLS Show October 17 - 19, 1997, the AFMS said: "Now therefore, let it be resolved that the AFMS declares that it recognizes the benefits which accrue to its members and, indeed to all the efforts of the American Lands Access Association to preserve collecting rights, and it further declares that it considers the ALAA to be a representative of the aforementioned interest of the AFMS." In another statement, they said it did not mean that this child, now declared legitimate, would get an allowance.

## THIS LAND WAS YOUR LAND

For those who do not yet understand just what the federal government can do with your property rights, be sure to dig up a copy of the October, 1997 "Reader's Digest" and read the article, "This Land was Your Land."
It is a lesson on what could happen to all of us who own property, and what we can do with this property if the government decides we have an endangered species on it. It would seem that common sense is lost ! JJS (RMFN 12/97)

| State | Gem | Mineral | Rock | Fossil |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1. Alabama | Star Blue Quartz 1990 | Hematite, 1967 | Blue Seam Agate | *Basilosaurus cedoides*, 1984 |
| 2. Alaska | Jade, 1968 | Gold, 1968 | | Wooly Mammoth, 1986 |
| 3. Arizona | Turquoise, 1974 | Chalcopyrite, 1975 | Fire Agate | |
| 4. Arkansas | Ark. Diamond Quartz | Bauxite | | |
| 5. California | Serpentine | Native Gold, 1971 | Benitoite | |
| 6. Colorado | Aquamarine, 1971 | | Onyx | Stegosaurus, 1991 |
| 7. Connecticut | Garnet | | | *Eubrontes gegonteus*, 1991 |
| 8. Delaware | | | Sillimanite | |
| 9. Florida | Moonstone | | Agatized coral | |
| 10. Georgia | Quartz | Staurolite | | |
| 11. Hawaii | | | | |
| 12. Idaho | Star Garnet, 1967 | | Moss Agate | *Hagerman (horse)*, 1988 |
| 13. Illinois | | Massive fluorite 1965 | | |
| 14. Indiana | | | Chert | |
| 15. Iowa | Keswick agate | | Geode | |
| 16. Kansas | Opal | | Post rock | |
| 17. Kentucky | Banded agate | | | |
| 18. Louisiana | | | Palm wood | |
| 19. Maine | Tourmaline | | | *Pertica quadrifaria*, 1985 |
| 20. Maryland | | | | |

| State | Gem | Mineral | Rock | Fossil |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 21. Massachusetts | Rhodinite | | | |
| 22. Michigan | Chlorastrolite 1972 | | Petoskey stone 1965 | |
| 23. Minnesota | | | Mary Ellen jasper | |
| 24. Mississippi | Agate | | Petrified wood, 1976 | Prehistoric whale, 1981 |
| 25. Missouri | | Galena, 1967 | Mozarkite, 1967 | Crinoid, 1989 |
| 26. Montana | Sapphire,1969 | | Moss agate, 1969 | |
| 27. Nebraska | Blue agate, 1967 | | Prairie agate, 1967 | Mammoth, 1967 |
| 28. Nevada | Black fire opal, 1987 | Silver, 1977 | Sandstone, 1987 | Ichthyosaur 1977 |
| 29. New Hampshire | Smoky quartz | Beryl | Granite | |
| 30. New Jersey | | | | |
| 31. New Mexico | Turquoise | | | Coelophysis 1967 |
| 32. New York | Garnet | Herkimer diamond | Copelite | |
| 33. North Carolina | | | Rhodolite | |
| 34. North Dakota | | | | Teredo Petrified wood, 1967 |
| 35. Ohio | | | Flint | |
| 36. Oklahoma | | | Barite Rose | |
| 37. Oregon | Sunstone (Heliolite) | | Thunder eggs | |
| 38. Pennsylvania | | | Melarmokite | |
| 39. Rhode Island | | Bowenite | Cumberlandite | |
| 40. South Caroiina | Amethyst | Saganite | | |
| 41. South Dakota | Rose quartz | | Fairburn agate | |
| 42. Tennessee | Pearl | | Puddingstone | |
| 43 Texas | Blue topaz | | Palm wood | |
| 44. Utah | Topaz | | Copelite | Allosaurus,1988 |
| 45. Vermont | | | Red & Black jasper | |
| 46. Virginia | Unakite | | | |
| 47. Washington | Petrified wood | | Lace agate | |
| 48. West Virginia | Lithostrotionella | | | |
| 49. Wisconsin | | Galena | Red granite | Trilobite, 1985 |
| 50 Wyoming | Jade | | Turitella agate | |

From: *T - Town Rockhound*, Jan./1998

## TIPS FOR BEADERS

Silk thread is very strong and is great for stringing, but lacks abrasion resistance. Nylon thread has abrasion resistance, but it is not as strong as silk and also stretches with the tension required for beading. The solution: Use silk on non-abrasive materials such as pearls, turquoise, mother of pearl, lapis. Use nylon on abrasive materials such as onyx, metal beads, amethyst, rose quartz. To eliminate stretching after you have carefully knotted a strand with nylon, suspend the cord on a doorknob (several loops are okay) then hang a pliers from the loops and leave overnight. The nylon is now pre-stretched and will not become loose after being strung. (No Author Given)

From: Flatirons Facets, Dec./1997 via News and Views 1/97 and Stoney Statements, 7/96

Did you hear about the Buddhist who refused his dentist's Novocain during root canal work? He wanted to transcend dental medication.

From: The AFMS Newsletter, Dec., Jan./1997-1998

When I die, I want to die in my sleep like my grandpa - not yelling and screaming like his passengers.

Money was invented to let us know exactly how far behind we are.

From: AFMS Newsletter, DecJan./1997-1998

## ANSWERS TO NEOPHYTE QUESTIONS

BY: RUBY LINGELBACH. From: The Rockhound Gazette, 9/88 & 10/88, via The Rockhound Gazette, 12/97

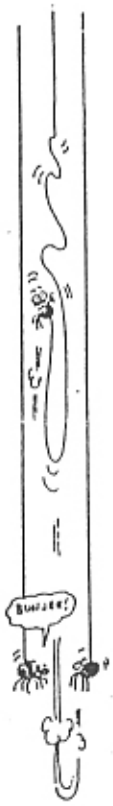
What do you look for? Each type of rock can have its own unique identifiers. There are many books to tell you what a specific rock should look like or a guide can show you. If you are looking for agates on a gravel bar, one way to spot them is to let the sun shine through them. Agates are translucent and shine out when the light is right — and better when they are wet. It takes practice in the field to really learn.

Sometimes you need to sit down and "get acquainted" with what you are looking for. When Dan and I were field tripping on our own from directions received at the Colorado Springs Show, we slowly walked around the area trying to find zircons. We did'nt find a thing! After so long a time I finally sat down, rather disappointed, in a large hole left by other rockhounds. (Leaving holes is ordinarily a no-no, but this time it came in handy.)

I sat there several minutes, not especially looking for anything, when suddenly a good sized zircon "jumped right out of the wall." Then, since I knew what to look for, they were all over the place. This technique works on most any type of hunt. See what material looks like in, or on the ground.

When you are looking for blue barite crystals, watch for the blue color, clear quartz crystals will look black while still in the loose dirt pushed up by a dozer. If you are looking for petrified wood, look for angular "grain-type" rocks; for Fairburn agates, you look for that distinctive pattern. for Dryhead agates you watch for a specific kind of nodule, and hope you are quessing right. If you are in a pegmatite area and hope to find a pocket of crystals, watch for an indication of that type of material on the surface. Even with a guide to a specific place it is almost necessary to take some of the rocks home and work them to get acquainted with their characteristics to <u>really</u> know what to look for.

WHAT IS A GOOD ROCK? That depends upon what you are looking for and what you plan to do with it. Cutting rocks need to be solid, not porous, and with as few cracks as possible. Many times it is difficult to really see cracks, etc. out in the field when the rock is dirty and there is no water to clean it off.




A good rock will be a little heavier that a porous rock of the same size. Porous rock will be grainy and will absorb water faster. But get acquainted with what you hope to find! Many times great agates are hiding under a crust of other material that is grainy. Dryhead agate nodules from Montana, and "biscuits" from the Woodward Ranch in Texas are just two examples of great rocks having rough, porous looking exteriors.

A rock with lots of mica looks pretty as it sparkles in the sun, but it will be a pretty garden rock at home, and worthless for lapidary purposes. A lapidarist would never pick up a piece of teredo-bored petrified wood, but a special-features-in-petrified-wood-person would jump at the chance of finding such a disreputable-looking piece. A broken crystal does not usually interest a mineral collector, but someone who facets or cuts and polishes finds some of these to be "good rocks."

A good rock needs to have a good pattern and good color for whatever it is supposed to be. A pale blue with little pattern in an Owyhee jasper is not a good rock. Alot of black in malachite banding is not a good rock. Good bloodstone has sharp distinctions between the red spot and green matrix. Blended reds, whites and green can make a pretty rock and a pretty cab, but if you want good bloodstone, hold out for the distinct spots.

When you go to a show, look at the exhibits. Dealers displays will show what is that dealers' best materials. New exhibits are more likely to show the more typical specimens that are most easily found. But if you want to see what is the <u>best</u> quality in a rock, inspect the competitive exhibits carefully. Some of the competitive exhibits have been upgraded for many years, so will have the best that exhibitor has been able to find over a period of time — and if more rockhounds who do lapidary do not start <u>sharing their hobby</u> more, there will be no lapidary exhibits to help guide the newcomer.

— Think about it! —

# MARTIN LUTHER KING DAY — JANUARY 19, 1998

## YOU MIGHT BE A NORTH DAKOTAN IF . . . . . .

By: Jeffrey Seabloom

You Might Be a North Dakotan . . .

1. If you define summer as three months of bad sledding.
2. If your family breaks into violence during the NDSU-UND game.
3. If snow tires come standard on all your vehicles.
4. If a t least 50% of your relatives smell like beets.
5. If you have ever gotten frostbite and sunburned in the same week.
6. If you can identify a Minnesotan accent.
7. If you can point at the palm of your hand when telling people where you grew up.
8. If someone asks you if you've ever been to Europe and you answer, "No, but I've been to Warroad!"
9. If "Down South" to you means Aberdeen.
10. If you have any idea who Roger Maris is.
11. If people borrow things to you.
12. If you think "Going Up North" would be a great vacation . . . in January.
13. If you have no problem spelling Wahpeton.
14. If your nearest neighbor is a long distance call.
15. If you have as many Canadian coins in your pockets as you have American ones.
16. If your kid's baseball and softball games have ever been snowed out.
17. If you bake with "soda" and drink "pop."
18. If you drive 70 mph on the highway and pass on the right.
19. If you say "Eh" to make fun of them there Canadians.
20. If you 've seen snow eleven months in one year.
21. If you laugh when people complain about -10 degrees below zero.

Source: Unknown

## A NEW ROCK ON THE BLOCK

The "white bear," a new synthetic diamond, is so like the real thing that even experts have a hard time telling the difference. Manufactured in Russia, white bears may soon be coming to the U.S. — at least one hopeful entrepreneur plans to market them here as gems.

"Like natural diamonds," writes Bill Gifford in The New Republic, "these are crystals of pure carbon, glinting with light, not that zirconia junk sold on QVC. They equal natural diamonds in hardness and refractivity, the two qualities that mark the stone; you need a laboratory to tell the difference, they're just a few thousand years younger and about one tenth as expensive as mined diamonds."

From: The Rock Rattler, July/August 1997 via Flatirons Facets, Dec./1997

## SAD BUT TRUE

A freshman at Eagle Rock High School won first prize at the Greater Idaho Falls Science Fair, April 26. He was attempting to show how conditioned we have become to the alarmists practicing junk science and spreading fear of everything in our environment. In his project he urged people to sign a petition demanding strict control or total elimination of the chemical, "dihydrogen monoxide." and for plenty of good reasons, since:

1. It can cause excessive sweating and vomiting.
2. It is a major component in acid rain.
3. It can cause severe burns in its gaseous state.
4. Accidental inhalation of it can kill you.
5. It contributes to erosion.
6. It decreases effectiveness of automobile brakes.
7. It has been found in tumors of terminal cancer patients.

He asked 50 people if they supported a ban on the chemical. Forty-three said yes, six were undecided and only one knew that the chemical was WATER. The title of his prize-winning project was "How Gullible Are We?" He feels the conclusion is obvious.

From: *Midwest Federation Newsletter,* 12/97 via *Mel Albright* from the *Internet,* 9/97 via *Korn Krib News,* 12/97

## THE NEW YEAR

Remember the days that were sunny,
In the year that now is through.
Treasure the best they brought you
And Take it along with you.

Carry each cherished friendship
Into the year that's new
Along with the dear-bought lessons
The old year fashioned for you.

Leave your failures behind you,
There still is promise true
For all who have the faith to try
And the will within to do.

B.L. Bruce

From: SCRIPT, via The Glacial Drifter, 1/88

# December 1997 Rocky Mountain Federation News

**DECEMBER 1997**

**6th & 7th Los Alamos Geological Society's Earth Treasure Show**, Los Alamos Community Bldg. 475 20th St., Los Alamos, NM Show Chair: Shari Kelley, 1431 llth Street, Los Alamos, NM 87544 (505) 661-6171

**JANUARY 1998**

**23rd, 24th, & 25th - 4lst Gila County Gem & Mineral Show**

Gila County Fairgrounds, 3 miles north of jct. US 60 - 70, Globe, AZ. Show Chair: Liz Thatcher (520) 425-3093 - Dealer Chair: Lila Lambrecht (520) 425-3459

**FEBRUARY 1998**

**February 9 thru March 4, Rockamania 1998,** Hidalgo County Fairgrounds Lordsburg, NM Hosted by Rockamania Gem & Mineral Society. P.O. Box 386, Lordsburg, NM 88045 (505)542-8006, (505)542-9112 e-mail blangham@juno.com

If you have not yet sent your editor your 1998 Show and Swap Dates, it is time to get them in!

**March 1998**

**12th, 13th, 14th, & 15th, Deming 33rd Annual ROCKHOUND ROUND-UP** Southwest New Mexico Fairgrounds Deming, Deming, NM. Hosted by the Deming Gem & Mineral Society. For information contact: Larry McCormick (505) 546-0390 – Reservations Contact Mrs. Mary Remondini (505)546-6670

**21st & 22nd – 3lst Annual Gem & Mineral Show**. Hosted by The Silvery Colorado River Rock Club, Bullhead City Jr, High School gymnasium, Hancock at Lakeside, Bullhead City, AZ

Show Chair: Bob Andeway (520)768-1983, Dealer Chair: Don Feil, (520 763-1953

**May 1998**

**9th and 10th,51st Annual Grand Junction Gem & Mineral Show "Treasures of the Earth"** Hosted by Grand Junction . Gem & Mineral Club. Two Rivers Convention Center, 1st & Main, Grand Junction, CO. Show Chair: Tim Austin, PO Box 953, Grand Junction, CO (970)243-0109

**October 1998**

**23rd, 24th, & 25th ROCKY MOUNTAIN FEDERATION SHOW and CONVENTION** Hosted by Tulsa Rock & Mineral Society. Tulsa County Fairgrounds, Tulsa, OK Show Chairman: Richard Jaeger, P.O. Box 2292, Tulsa, OK 74101 (918) 481-0249

## Knife River Flint

By: John Bluemle
N. D. State Geologist

Chert is essentially pure, extremely hard, micro-crystalline quartz. The term is used loosely here and several types of siliceous materials can be conveniently grouped under this heading . . .

Another variety of chert is the Knife River Flint, which is of particular interest because it was used extensively as a raw material for tools by prehistoric man in the Northern Plains and the Midwest. The term "Knife River" is the English translation of an Indian name, which is said to have been given because flint for knives was quarried along the river. The Knife River flint is found as pebbles, cobbles, and boulders that are as much as two feet in diameter. It litters the surface of hill slopes in parts of Dunn and Mercer Counties. It is generally a nonporous, dark brown rock with a conchoidal fracture, making it an excellent material for tools.

Flint nodules a few inches in diameter are scattered on the surface of Sentinel Butte in Golden Valley County. Thye probably were derived from beds of Oligocene or Miocene age. This flint is more homogeneous than the Knife River Flint and has no visible internal surfaces. It is also more translucent and lighter colored and grayer than Knife River Flint.

From: The Face of North Dakota:The Geologic Story 1977, pp. 15-16, via Lake Agassiz Rock Hound, 1/98

## INDIAN VILLAGE SITE NOW A HISTORICAL LANDMARK

Bismarck, ND (AP). The Huff Indian Village site in Morton County has been designated as a National Historic Landmark, the State Historical Society said Wednesday. State officials said it is the fourth site in North Dakota to get such designation.

Historians say the Huff Site, 20 miles south of Mandan, is one of the earliest prehistoric farming communities on the Northern Plains.

The other sites designated as National Historic Landmarks in the state are the Big Hidatsa Site at the Knife River Indian Village near Scranton, the Fort Union National Historic Site near Williston, and the Menoken Indian village Site near Bismarck, ND. *THE FORUM*, March 6, 1997 via LAKE AGASSIZ ROCK HOUND, 1/98

## MONTANA AGATE TIP

Candle Montana agates just as you would eggs. Punch a small hole in the bottom of a coffee can. Turn it upside down and place a light inside. Hold the agate over the light coming through the hole and the dendrites will be see. From: Mohave County Gemstones, 11/97 via *Cutting Remarks*, 1/98