

"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



MAKE DAD'S DAY SPECIAL !



Jerry Nevland, Editor
"DIGGINS FROM DAKOTA"
606 North 12th Street
Bismarck, ND 58501- 4301

Volume 33 #6 June, 1998



SAVE STAMPS FOR STAMP
CHAIRMAN

FLY THE FLAG PROUDLY ! **FIRST CLASS**

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



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

EARLY CLASS: John Atwood - 222-0389 and
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

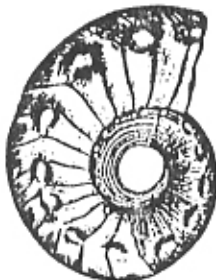
GEM & MINERAL SHOW

COMMUNITY CENTER — MANDAN, ND

Sept. 26 & 27, 1998

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

Phone — 701-794-3342



FOR YOUR INFORMATION — MINUTES OF MEETING

The monthly meeting of the Central Dakota Gem & Mineral Society was held on June 7, 1998 at the Masonic Center. President Russ Oliger called the meeting to order.

The next meeting will be on July 12, 1998, due to the first Sunday in July falling on the 4th of July Holiday.

A moment of silence was observed by all present in memory of Ida Mae Ramberg.

The minutes from the May meeting were approved as read.

Treasurer, Ray Oliger, reported a balance on hand of \$199.69 Ray stated that no money had been paid yet on the outstanding bill for the copier, but he will make arrangements to pay it.

Committees:

Steve Newstrom reported back on the fund raiser for the club. They will hold a garage/bake sale at an area that is yet to be agreed upon, on June 20, 1998, starting at 8:00 AM. Club members can drop off anything they want to donate at either Steve & Darlene Newstrom's home or Colleen Huber's home. Anything that doesn't sell will be donated to the Dakota Boys Ranch. 100% of the proceeds raised through the garage/bake sale will go to the club. Anyone willing to donate their time on June 20th, please contact Steve or Darlene Newstrom.

Field Trip:

Darlene Newstrom reported on the club trip to Montana. She said that although it was raining and became "greasy," members still wanted to go rockhunting. Quite a few nice fossils were found.

Communications:

Ray Oliger updated the members present about any communications that were received the past month.

The program was presented by Ray Oliger. He showed the members photographs that were taken in space by a Landstat Satellite. A wide variety of photos of excellent quality were showing such areas as the Himalayan Mountain Range in Nepal, the Straits of Hormuz, the Tropical rainforest in Central America and the Sahara Desert in Africa. It was a very interesting program enjoyed by everyone. The title of the program was called: "Earth from Space."

The servers for the next scheduled meeting are Darlene Newstrom and Betty Mautz.

The junior doorprize was won by Justin Leidholm and the adult doorprize was won by Gen Buresh.

Meeting was adjourned and a great lunch was served by Verna Giese and Lenora Opp.

Minutes by Secretary,

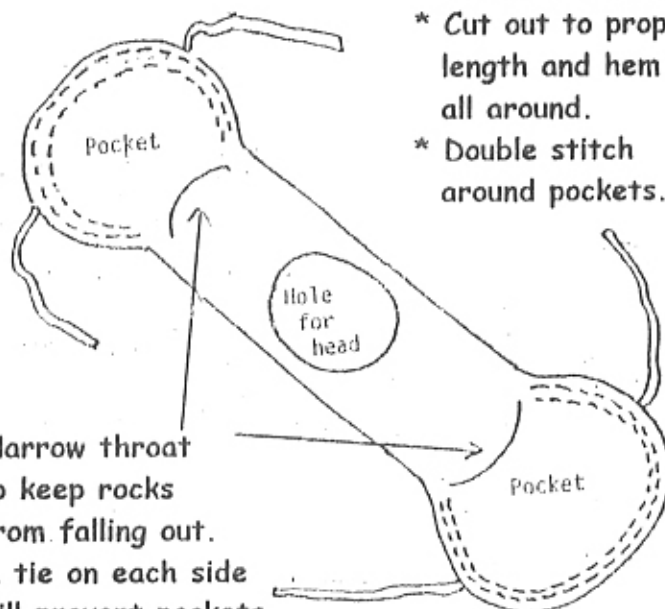
Lenora Opp

CARRYING ROCKS CAN BE "SEW" EASY

The following was taken from the May 1988 Carmel Valley Prospector. For those of you who can sew — it would make a great gift for a fellow rockhound or just for yourself.

HANDY SLIP OVER VEST FOR CARRYING ROCKS

- * Denim or canvas
- * Cut out to proper length and hem all around.
- * Double stitch around pockets.



- * Narrow throat to keep rocks from falling out.
- * A tie on each side will prevent pockets swinging out to obscure vision while looking for more rocks.

2519 Mount Drive

*** Designed by Ruby Terwilliger, from April, 1983, DOPSTICK.

SHOW YOUR SUPPORT — ATTEND YOUR
ROCK CLUB'S MONTHLY MEETINGS.
GET INVOLVED!



BIRTHSTONE

RUBY

FLOWER

LARKSPUR

- JULY:**
- 1 - Keith Brady (1970)
 - 2 - Terry Ellis
 - 11 - Ann Hoerner
 - 15 - Matt Wanner (1985)
 - 23 - Lee Brady (1971)
 - 27 - Kyle Wanner (1987)
 - 27 - Harold Brady (1919)
 - 31 - Marjorie Bechtold

WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES

- JULY:**
- 5 - William & Genevieve Buresh
 - 20 - Melvin & Agnes Berg
 - 22 - Michael & Susan Simonson

Adolescence is that period in kid's lives when their parents become more difficult. — RYAN O' NEAL

ARTICLES, ARTICLES, ARTICLES . . .

Do you have an interesting topic or prior field trip that you truly enjoyed or found to be financially rewarding or unusual. Send me, your pleading Editor an article of interest to share with the other members of your deserving Rock Club. Everyone has a tale or story to tell — Let's hear yours. Your Editor, Jerry Nevland

THE DAY YOU DID WITHOUT COPPER

By Anna Domitrovic in Asarco via ROCK TALK.

11/96 via Quarry Quips, 10/97

These are some of the things you did without, the day you did without copper. You had:

No lights	No shower	No toaster
No telephone	No refrigerator	No cooling
No television	No paper	No car
No radio	No change	and... no door knob.

Which didn't matter. You had no door keys either.

Because this was the day you did without copper. Every single one of those things is made with the eternal metal, or relies heavily on it, or won't work without it. Keys and cards and coins and coolers can't cut it these days without copper. It's one non-precious metal we'd have a hard time replacing.

For one thing, almost everything that runs with electricity relies on copper. Water pipes get their long lives from copper. The rivets on your jeans are rustless copper. Copper is sandwiched into our coins. The sturdiest keys and locks made to last -- come from brass, a stout copper alloy.

But copper's a bashful servant. Keeps pretty much behind the scenes. Yet even though you don't see too much of it, you can't do much without it. In fact, it's a safe bet you're using some copper right now. Wherever you are. Man's most versatile metal. Man's most durable metal. And there's one state that mines more of this jack-of-all-trades metal than the other 49 lumped together. ARIZONA !!!

From Chaparral Chatter 9/97, via Quarry Quips, 10/97

ROCK OF THE MONTH: Willemite

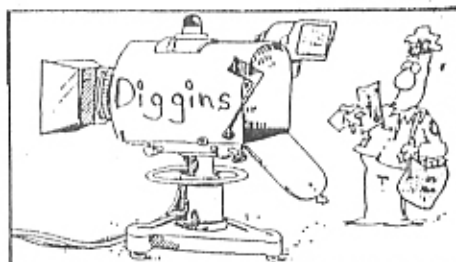
Hexagonal prismatic crystals, which are frequently terminated by rhombohedra, are formed by this mineral. It may also occur in massive, fibrous, compact, and granular habits. Willemite may be white, colorless, gray, green, yellow, brown, or reddish. The streak is colorless. Willemite is transparent to translucent, and it has a vitreous or resinous luster.

FORMATION: Forms in the oxidized zone of zinc ore deposits, in veins, by secondary alteration, and in metamorphosed limestone rocks.

WORD OF THE MONTH: EARTHY

Nonreflective, mineral luster

It is my belief, you cannot deal with the most serious things in the world unless you understand the most amusing. — Winston Churchill



IN MEMORY OF IDA MAE RAMBERG

Ida Mae Ramberg was a Charter Member of the Central Dakota Gem & Mineral Society. She enjoyed socializing with the other members of the rock club and loved to talk and discuss the value and share her knowledge in the world of rockhounding and geology. Ida Mae was born on July 6, 1909 and passed on May 16, 1998. She will truly be missed by all those individuals that she "touched" and shared her life.

Ray Olinger was asked to talk about rocks at Mrs Stubbs, 3rd grade class at the Prairie Rose School in Bismarck, ND. Ray "enlightened" the children with his knowledge and expertise in identifying and the process of collecting various types of rocks and minerals. His informational dialogue was concluded in about one hour and a half. Below you will see the *Thank You Card* that was sent to Ray from the children and the teacher at the Prairie Rose School. Once again, thank you Ray for sharing your knowledge with these bright "future" young rockhounds.

FIRST ANNUAL C.D.G.&M.S. GARAGE SALE

The first annual garage sale for the Central Dakota Gem & Mineral Society will be held on June 20, 1998, from 8:00 AM to whenever everything is sold. If you have any items that you want to donate to the rock club, please bring it to either the residence of:

Steve & Darlene Newstrom - 2519 Grant Drive
Bismarck, ND or

Colleen Huber - 802 Johns Drive, Mandan, ND

Please Note: All items donated to the club to be sold at the garage sale shall remain the sole property of the club and any items not sold at the garage sale will be donated to a worthwhile charitable organization. The money received from the sale of such items will go 100% to the general fund of the Central Dakota Gem & Mineral Society. If you expect restitution or your item returned to you, please do not include it in your donation.

Some items that would be appreciated would be: Clothes, books, rock and minerals, plants, baked good, (cookies, bars etc.), beverages such as coffee, lemonade, soft drinks, etc.

Let's work together as a team and make this event as prosperous for the club as possible.
VOLUNTEERS ARE ALSO NEEDED AT SALE!



REQUIREMENTS FOR CLUB OFFICERS

1. Must have good eye sight and be able to distinguish a mountain from a mole hill at fifty paces.
2. Must have a tough hide to be able to fend off back biters.
3. Must have an adjustable hearing aid in order to tune out loud arguments, yet be able to hear the slightest rumblings of club unrest.
4. Must have a flexible time table.
5. Must have a complete set of fingernails to chew during meetings.
6. Past Presidents: MUST HAVE POOR MEMORY, and NEVER BEGIN A SENTENCE WITH "WHEN I WAS PRESIDENT."

From: The Burro Express, 4/98, via others

GIVE A KID A ROCK ?*By Jeff Bailey*

Did I happen to see some of you giving kids rocks during the last clubshow? Do you realize what the consequences of that might lead to? "What can happen," you say? Well, let me tell you the story of Domer and Dorothy Knight . . .

Domer and Dorothy were out on the banks of a new dig in Florida, looking for fossils, when a tall, gangly, 11 year old boy who had noticed them from across the barge canal came up and asked what they were doing. His curiosity was further aroused when they told him they were looking for fossils and calcite. The boy, intrigued, followed them, finding a few insignificant treasures (that received high praise). Finally Domer proceeded to give him a very nice fossil he had recently found. The boy was very excited. He also very much liked the yellow calcites that he was finding. By the end of the hour, with his pockets bulging and his parents checking on his new friends, more gifts (rocks) found their way into the boy's collection. Names, addresses, and phone numbers were exchanged and everyone left for their respective destinations. The Knights lived in Florida, the boy was from North Carolina, down on vacation.

Let's call it whatever, but all the way home, the boy thought about his finds. His mother had told him that somewhere his older brother had an abandoned rock collection he could look for in the attic. The Knights had told him that North Carolina was perhaps the best state in the United States to collect. It was full of gems in the mountains, unusual minerals in the plains, and remarkable fossils on the coast. This was fuel for the fire inside this kid, his desire to learn more and find more began.

Trips to the library were one of the first places to begin, checking out book after book about rocks and minerals. It was like a mad scientist pursuing the whys of the universe. Sometimes this kid would even sneak books into his room and stay up most of the night reading. To make matters get even more interesting, he quickly re-infected his older brother who had a car and free weekends.

Knowledge was gaining, trips to mines, more research, trips to rock shows, more research. Trips to hunt rocks were now the primary focus of most weekends not taken up by other youthful activities. In fact, this kid had collected some very nice pegmatite minerals and the local rock "people" watched him grow up and get deeper and deeper, wiser and more knowledgeable.

At the age of 17, and 6 years a "pro," this young man turned this interest into the pursuits of a college education. All the while the Knights added minerals to his now growing collection, his parents supporting his endeavors and education. He received mineral industry scholarships, his college of choice centered →



around where the best geology and mining engineering schools and collecting locations would be located.

I know you are starting to get concerned about some of those kids that we had at our recent show. Have you put them on a path like this? It should turn out O.K. Do not worry, it did for this kid.

Well . . . for that kid it turned out pretty well. He is now a kid of 40, a geological engineer and an avid collector of mineral and fossils who still plans his vacations around prospecting for new rocks for "their" collections with the help of his own family. He even still makes work decisions based on where the best localities to collect might be found. I have personal knowledge that he will be moving to Mexico, and I am sure he will be out looking for minerals in his spare time. I know this because that kid was me.

At the time of this writing, Jeff Bailey was president of the Fort Worth Gem & Mineral Club from whose Newsletter, the Cowtown Cutter of October, 1997, this article was taken.

From: Sooner Rockologist, 5/98

ODE TO ROCKING*By Doug Hanson*

(Honorable Mention/1997 AFMS Poetry Contest)

*Folks like us will gladly travel
To a spot where rocks abound.
Sifting through the sand and gravel
And digging up the ground.*

*We go to faraway places
Where keepers have been found.
With dirt on our hands and faces
Checking out the leaverite mound.*

*Sometimes we go out by ourselves
Not knowing where we're bound
Searching cliffs, washes, draws, and shelves
With no one else around.*

*Shovels, hammers, chisels, and picks
To dig and chip and pound.
Just a way to get our kicks
As the blows and scrapes resound.*

*We'll bring stuff home to tumble and slice
Sawing and grinding, what a joyous sound.
Some come out ugly, others come out nice
Making a freeform, oval or round.*

*We'll join a club and have a show.
Contest winners will be crowned.
And that's just part, as you know
On the road from Pebble Pub to Rock Hound.*

From: The Rock and Hammer, 10/96 via
Rocky Mountain Federation News, 5/98

ROSE QUARTZ

South Dakota moved from 25th place in 1990 to 5th place in U.S. Gem production in 1991. This is the result of a new Rose Quartz operation by International Rose Quartz and Minerals Inc. of Oberland Park, SD. They do no blasting, but mine (or quarry) rose quartz hydraulically. Top quality faceting or star rose quartz sells for as much as \$300.00 to \$3,000.00 per pound. Some choice material is being made into tile that runs from \$50.00 to \$150.00 per square foot. Another product is 4 X 8 foot panels made from crushed material bonded with a resin material. It is also estimated there is a \$28 million dollar demand from Taiwan for making beads. Not bad for South Dakota's State Minerals that many of us have taken for granted for many years! This information is from "Colored Stone Magazine" submitted by A.R. Wilson to SEGAMS Club Bulletin "Rock Dust."

From: The Rear Trunk, 5/98 via Rock Rollers, 11/92
via P.L.S. CONGLOMERATE, 10/92

A CLARIFICATION OF MINERAL SIZES

Minerals are often described by size. Over a period of time, various words have come to mean very specific things. To clear up some of the confusion in regards to nomenclature, we offer the following, taken from the reference "Crystal and Mineral Collecting" cited from A.F.M.S. Uniform Rules.

MUSEUM SPECIMEN: Refers to a very large specimen weighing perhaps several hundred pounds. Does not indicate quality nor do most museums house many minerals this size.

LARGE CABINET SPECIMEN: Generally 5 X 10 inches. This is about as large as is suitable for a private collection.

CABINET SPECIMEN: Generally referred to as specimens of sufficient size to display well in a glass cabinet. Up to hand size (another often used term) or 4 X 5 inches. Smaller cabinet specimens would be about 2 X 3 inches.

MINIATURES: According to A.F.M.S. rules, a miniature mineral is one that will fit in a 2 - inch cube.

THUMBNAI LS: Again according to A.F.M.S., minerals which will fit into a 1 - inch tube.

MICROMOUNTS: Single crystals or groups of crystals requiring magnification to identify and evaluate. Must fit into a 1 X 1 - 1/2 X 1 inch box.

From: Rear Trunk, 5/98 via P.E.S.A. Rock News & Triassic Valley Bulletin



TREES: A NEW WAY TO FIND GOLD

Trees may offer revealing evidence in the search for valuable ore deposits. A report by the U. S. Geological Survey found that young conifers such as Douglas fir, pine, and spruce take up trace amounts of over thirty different metals.

Hansford Shacklette, a now retired USGS scientist who headed the study, confirms that chemical analysis of the needles of the trees gives an idea of the probability of an ore being located below.

By growing trees in mineral laden plots, researchers verified a correlation between the amount in the soil and an amount in the tree. They believe fungi in the roots break down minerals from a deposit below, allowing absorption by the trees.

The technique is already being used commercially in the search for gold.

From: The Rock Vein, May/June, 1998 via Science Digest Magazine & Others

DIVINE INTERVENTION ?

A businessman who needed millions of dollars to clinch an important deal went to church to pray for the money. By chance, he knelt next to a man who was praying for \$100.00 to pay an urgent debt. The businessman took out his wallet and pressed \$100.00 into the other man's hand. Overjoyed, the man got up and left the church. The businessman then closed his eyes and prayed, "And now, Lord, that I have your undivided attention . . ."

From: The Rock Vein, May/June, 1998 via Thunder Bay Gems, 2/98

DISPLAY LABEL INK

Quinine and water makes a brilliant blue fluorescent ink for fluorescent mineral display labels.

From: The Rock Vein, May/June, 1998 via Others.

E - MAIL ADDRESS

If you want or desire to E - Mail me, your Editor of the Diggins From Dakota Newsletter, I would appreciate hearing from you. You can reach me at: jnevland@yahoo.com

ARE YOU SOUNDING OFF ?

Editorial from the AFMS Newsletter,
June, July, August, 1998

Are you letting your Congressmen and your state Representative know *YOUR* views about the use of public land? *OR* - are you sitting there quietly while the exclusionists push for rules that would stop ALL rock, gem, and mineral collecting for ALL time on ALL federal land.

Can't happen? Re-read the old story about the camel and the test. The strategy is to remove and restrict use of public lands one rule at a time until ALL use is restricted to Wilderness Area Rules.

George Loud, Chair of the AFMS Conservation and Legislation Committee sent a warning in January. There is again the prospect of a change in land management by Presidential Decree again bypassing Congress. The proposed decree would (1) Change the definition of a roadless area to include parcels as small as 1000 acres - currently 5000 acres is the lower limit for such designation. (2) Impose a moratorium on planned activities in roadless areas. (3) Provide a new definition of "roadless" whereby areas now considered "roaded" would be reclassified "roadless." (4) Impose new restrictions for these "roadless" areas beyond a moratorium on timber harvesting. Expect road and trail closings. (5) Direct a new inventory by taken of "roadless" areas with a call for further areas to be designated wilderness. Look for defacto wilderness management of roadless areas.

SOUND OFF REGULARLY to your Representatives and Senators. Make them aware that you consider that you have rights and interest in public land that are legal and proper. Let them know you want those rights defended. It is indeed now or never. Federal regulations *NEVER* move towards fewer restrictions.

ATTENTION — CAMPING ALERT

In case anyone is considering doing some camping this summer, please note the following public service announcement. In Alaska, tourists are warned to wear tiny bells on their clothing when hiking in bear country. The bells warn away *MOST* bears. Tourists are also cautioned to watch the ground on the trail, paying particular attention to bear droppings to be alert for the presence of Grizzly Bears. One can tell a Grizzly dropping because it has tiny bells in it.

From: *Sooner Rockologist*, 5/98 via
The Stone Chipper, 3/98

"RV" ers — BEWARE . . .

RV-ing is a way of life. Freedom of the open road, freedom to enjoy the U.S. is a dream realized by many. Nothing is more relaxing than to spend time boondocking in open non-commercial areas.

This lifestyle is being threatened, and may be destroyed. The powerful R.V. Campground Owners Association (ARVC) is pushing for legislation via Senate Bill 314 and House Bill 716 that would prohibit the use of non-commercial, open areas and public parks. This legislation would further the ARVC interest only. ARVC represents the owners of commercial parks. It is easy to understand why they are lobbying for such a law. This legislation would force RVers who now use non-commercial parks, to use only commercial parks.

This cannot be allowed to happen. RVers are banding together to protest such a bill. This kind of legislation, not only hurts RVers, but every small community. RVers are not parasitic and DO support the small communities they visit. The small communities would lose thousands of dollars in revenue.

RV manufacturers are also at risk to lose revenue. Hopefully, the manufacturers will join the RVers in their protest of this legislation.

As RVers, we can stop this type of legislation by writing to our Senators and Congresspersons, local newspapers, Chamber of Commerce, RV Manufacturers, National News media and if push comes to shove, a nationwide RV caravan to Washington, D.C. to make our voices heard. Don't give up the fight!

— From: *RMS NEWS* —

SEARCHING . . .

Some people search for diamonds,
Some people search for gold,
Some people only pick up rocks,
At least that's what we're told.

The diamonds make you famous.
The gold you have to spend.
The rocks just bring you pleasure
And a host of happy friends.

From: *The Swire Express*, 4/98
via others.

THE HUMAN RACE HAS ONLY ONE
REALLY EFFECTIVE WEAPON, AND THAT'S
LAUGHTER. THE MOMENT IT ARISES,
ALL OUR IRRITATIONS AND RESENT-
MENTS SLIP AWAY, AND A SUNNY SPIRIT
TAKES THEIR PLACES. — Mark Twain

A LITTLE ABOUT PETRIFICATION

By Michael J. Papay

Have you ever wondered how petrification occurs? How does wood turn into stone? In so far as I can tell there are several events that occur in the process of petrification. Aside from the fact that the trees must first grow to provide the wood, the first step in the process of petrification is burial. The wood must be deeply buried either while still standing or soon after falling in order to prevent its destruction by the activity of ants, beetles, termites, and fungi. The environment in which the wood is buried must also be anoxic (without oxygen) otherwise micro-organisms would soon destroy the wood.

The matrix encapsulating the deeply buried wood must be rather firm in the shape of the wood through the vagaries of time. Instead the matrix would have to be rather like a porous concrete or consolidated sand. The porosity is important because porosity allows the introduction of water.

Once the wood is deeply buried in a consolidated, porous matrix in an anoxic environment it can only be transformed from wood to stone if quartz and water are present under the right conditions. No quartz, no water, no petrified wood.

Fortunately, quartz is a common and very abundant mineral, and even the deserts have their days in the rain. As the fallen rain passes down through the ground, it picks up and carries a little quartz dissolved in its waters. This solution then permeates the buried wood. Now the miracle happens. A little wood dissolves into the water and a little quartz is deposited in its place; and the water moves on its way carrying away a little carbon, leaving behind a little quartz.

The slow process of removing organic material while depositing quartz may take thousands of years to reach completion. In fact, petrification may not reach completion before favorable conditions end.

If you have collected petrified wood in the field, you will know first hand that not all specimens are the same. The most sought-after petrified wood are specimens in which the process went to completion leaving behind highly agatized or opalized wood.



These specimens can be sawed and the sawed ends given a mirror polish to reveal the beauty of the specimen. Specimens too small for sawing are tumbled to mirror finishes which are highly attractive.

Wood that was not agatized or opalized may be shunned by collectors that fail to see the rugged beauty of the uncut, unpolished specimens. Other collectors favor these exquisite specimens as fossils of a bygone age and as natural works of art wrought by nature and not the hand of man.

Believe it or not, some portions of a specimen may be preserved as the original wood while other portions of the same specimen are lignified or petrified to various degrees. While the rockhound may not appreciate these specimens, scientists may rejoice over the intact wood for it may reveal through their methods the ancestry and biology of the tree which otherwise they could never behold.

From: THE GLACIAL DRIETER, 2/98 via OTHERS

VOLUNTEERS, GOD BLESS THEM

From: Rock Chips, 3/98 via The Rockrider

Many will be shocked to find
When the day of judgment nears
That there's a special place in Heaven
Set aside for volunteers.

Furnished with recliners,
Satin couches and footstools,
Where there are no committee chairman,
No group leaders or car pools.

No eager team that needs a coach,
No bazaar and no bake sale;
Not one thing to staple,
Not one thing to mail.

Telephone lists will be outlawed,
But a finger snap will bring
A cold drink and gourmet dinner
And treats fit for a king.

Who'll serve these privileged few
and work for all they're worth?
Why all those who reaped the benefits
And not volunteered once on Earth!



A. ROUNDTROOT, INC.

Jewelers & Gemcutters
Jewelry Repair Evaluation Form

Dear: _____

Thank you for entrusting me with the job of (repairing/ recutting/ replacing) your valuable (ring, watch, earring, brooch, tie tack, nose ring, glass eye.) I am sure that you will be satisfied with the work we plan to do and that we will get to know each other very well over the next 10 to 16 months.

While I am aware that your item was in fact manufactured here at A.R.I. and that it was indeed covered by your unconditional guarantee, unfortunately you foolishly voided said guarantee when you:

- A) Opened the box,
- B) took the piece out of the box, and/or
- C) you actually had the nerve to wear the item!

With this in mind, I will evaluate the necessary work for your approval.

Preliminary reconstruction and analysis of the fragments indicate that:

- ☐ The piece appeared to have survived a short-range nuclear warhead hit - or it has spent several extremely traumatic days in a woman's purse.
- ☐ An excessive amount of explosive was used to blow the safe
- ☐ An apparently hyperactive child used the item as a hockey puck.
- ☐ It appears that this item was used for the purpose of opening a few "cold ones" - perhaps you should discover twist-caps and pull-tab cans?
- ☐ Your item, while requiring only minimal repairs, suffered from somewhat rough handling by our jeweler who had just returned from another stay at the de-tox center.
- ☐ Our standard thermal conductivity test of the stone appears to have melted your valuable heirloom "diamond" solitaire.
- ☐ Your _____ ct. (sapphire/ diamond/ ruby/ emerald) is deemed irreparable. It will take some time to replace as we are fresh out of Bromoseltzer bottles/ Bakelite/ red & green ashtrays.

Estimated cost of said work is \$ _____. By sending us your credit card number, we will begin the work immediately. In fact, you might as well send us the whole card - you'll not be using it again for some time and we can put it to so much better use

Sincerely yours and now ours,

your name here