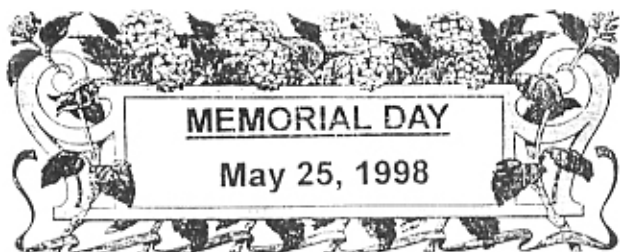


"DIGGIN'S FROM DAKOTA"



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



Mother's Day



FIRST CLASS

Jerry Nevland, Editor
"DIGGINS FROM DAKOTA"
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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
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DIGGIN'S FROM DAKOTA

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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

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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.

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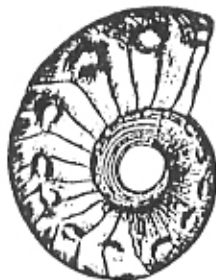
GEM & MINERAL SHOW

COMMUNITY CENTER — MANDAN, ND

Sept. 26 & 27, 1998

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

Phone — 701-794-3342



MINUTES — FOR YOUR INFORMATION . . .

The monthly meeting of the C.D.G. & M. S. was held on May 3, 1998 at the Masonic Center. President Russ Oliger called the meeting to order.

The minutes from the April meeting were approved as read.

Treasurer, Ray Oliger, reported a balance on hand of \$186.19. He also informed members that the club no longer has the \$500.00 in savings, as it had been cashed in 1996. The club has outstanding bills totaling \$356.02. It was decided to bring this issue back up during new business. Ray gave a short report on where the club's money was being spent. A discussion followed on the amount of money being spent on the club's copier.

Communications were read through.

Committees:

Fieldtrip: Steve Newstrom reminded members about the trip to Montana coming up on May 9th and brought along specimens of nodules (concretions) to show members what to look for during this trip. Steve then showed how to open the nodules and what you can expect to find in them.

Hospitality: Carol Hickie said there are servers for June, but more are needed for the rest of the year.

There were 27 adults present at the meeting. **New Business:** The issue was brought up of how to raise money for the club and discussion followed. Steve Newstrom made the motion that the club check into having a flea/garage sale, seconded by Jerry Nevland.

A committee was then formed to work on this task. Steve & Darlene Newstrom will be co-chairpersons with Colleen Huber, Duane & Ledores Robey, and Jerry Nevland to assist. This committee will give a report at the next meeting on June 7, 1998.

The adult doorprize was won by Carol Hickie. The program that followed was a "Show & Tell" on rock specimens by Dave Jensen.

Meeting was adjourned and lunch followed which was served by Mel & Ages Berg.

Minutes by Secretary,

Lenora Opp

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Hi Again:

Here it is, May! Our first field trip is planned for next week-end, May 8, 9, & 10, 1998. As much as I wanted to go, I can't. It turns out that this is the last week of class for my son and he has to move out of student family housing by the end of the second week-end in May and need the help of my pick-up to get everything moved. So while many of our members head off for the field trips, I'll be going in the opposite direction to haul furniture, lucky me!

Steve and Darlene Newstrom had several samples of the material that everyone will be looking for on this fieldtrip, and some of the nodules (concretions) had not yet been opened to reveal the fossils inside. Primarily ammonites, scapulites, and an occasional nautilus. They gave a good demonstration of how to crack the concretion open. For those who were at the meeting and are planning to go on the field trip, **GOOD HUNTING !!**

Don't forget our next meeting, June 7, 1998, at the Masonic Center, early class 6:30 PM — regular meeting time 7:00 PM.

Russ Oliger

WHO NAMED THE DINOSAUR ?

Sir Richard Owen (1804 - 1892) named the dinosaurs in 1841. At the time he was a famous British anatomist who had been asked to review all the fossil reptiles that had been described to that date from the British Isles. He was able to recognize that some fossil reptiles were totally unlike any other fossil remains. He gave them the name "dinosaur" meaning "terrible reptile." From the evidence Owen gathered, he was sure these reptiles were as big as elephants.

From: The Glacial Drifter, 4/98 via others

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

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



BIRTHSTONE

Pearl, Moonstone, or Alexandrite

FLOWER

Rose

- JUNE:**
- 4 - Clarence Atwood (1983)
 - 5 - Ellie Simonson (1995)
 - 19 - Jerry Nevland (1949)
 - 20 - Emma Brady
 - 20 - Tracy West
 - 21 - John Atwood
 - 22 - Elizabeth Atwood (1987)
 - 22 - Doug Hanson (1963)
 - 26 - Elizabeth Peterson

WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES

- JUNE:**
- 11 - Tim & Gloria Wanner
 - 18 - Duane & Ledores Robey
 - 21 - Jerry & Melody Nevland

Rock of the Month: Zircon

This mineral forms as prismatic crystals with bipyramidal terminations, and also as radiating fibrous aggregates. Twinned crystals are common. Other habits include irregular grains. It is colorless, red, brown, yellow, green, or gray. Zircon is a transparent to opaque mineral and its luster may be vitreous, adamantine, or greasy.

FORMATION: Forms in igneous rocks such as syenite, and in certain metamorphic rocks. Zircon also occurs in many detrital sedimentary rocks, where it is a product of weathering and erosion of primary, zircon-bearing rocks.

Word of the Month: Dendritic

Having a treelike habit.

SO YOU WANT TO DIG FOR DINOSAURS?

From: PTERODACTYL, 2/98, via Quarry Quips, 3/98

Source: Compressed Air Magazine, Jan-Feb, 1998.

Available Online at: <http://www.ingersoll-rand.com>

There are a few places that allow amateurs to dig up dinosaur bones:

Wyoming Dinosaur Center & Dig Sites, P.O. Box 868, Thermopolis, WY 82443 (800) 455-3466. The dig fee for a day is \$100.00. The best time is before July 15. Busiest and hottest times are from July 15 through August 15. Everything is provided. "Kid's Digs" for children 8 to 13 are available for \$40.00 per person. Dig site tours run hourly during the summer and cost \$10.00 and \$7.00. Combination museum and dig tours cost \$12.00 for adults, \$8.00 for children.

Museum of the Rockies Paleontology Field Program, Montana State University, 600 W. Kagy Blvd., Bozeman, Montana 59717-2730. Telephone: (406) 994-6618. The dig site is near Choteau, MT. Day digs are \$95.00 per person age 16 or older, \$75.00 for ages 10 to 14 with an adult. Week long digs are available for ages 15 and older at \$1,100.00. Other paleontological programs are available. Free dig site tours are held daily at 2:00 PM from late June through August.

Dinosaur Expeditions, Museum of Western Colorado, 362 Main Street, Grand Junction, CO 81501. Telephone: (970) 241-9210. Free Self-guided building site tours are allowed with prior museum permission. Day digs are offered from May to October on Thursdays and any other day that 5 or more people sign up. \$68.00 per person.

Dinosaur Discovery Expeditions, 550 Jurassic Court, Fruita, Colorado 81521. Telephone: (800) 344-3466. Five-day paleontological trips which include as much time in classes, labs, and museums as at dig sites cost \$850.00 to \$1200.00 per person for ages 13 and up. A five-day family dino camp is also offered.

DEE'S DOINS

Dee Holland
President, AFMS

The web site committee have made their report. This report is very complete and covers all aspects of what is to be included in the web site for the AFMS. We would like to list all officers and committee chairpersons, names, addresses, and telephone numbers as well as e-mail addresses if available; if there are any officers or chairpersons that do not want their address or telephone numbers listed contact: Mel Albright and he will delete them or list as you wish. The web site address is:

<http://www.galstar.com/~mela/afms.html>

I wish to thank the committee that have worked on getting this proposal put together, Ron Carmen, Chair person and the people who did the work on putting this all together. Mel Albright, John Alf, and Carolyn Weinberger, many thanks for a job well done.

The future rockhounds of America are back with us again after not being heard from for awhile. Anyone that would like to know more about these rockhounds of the future may contact Kathy and Bob Miller, the AFMS juniors chairpersons at: 106 Clayton Drive, South Bend, IN 46614 (219) 291-0332 they will give you all the information.

SAFETY

By Mel Albright — AFMS Safety Chair

One thing that we rockhounds do a whole bunch — pick up rocks — little rocks, bigger rocks, and big rocks. Rocks by themselves, rocks in boxes, rocks in buckets, rocks in sacks — all are ways we collect and move rocks. And heavy tool bags are lifted all too often.

The Classic joke picture of rockhounds is a bunch of people standing with straight legs, bent over at the waist, and touching the ground with their hands. It is too often true, unfortunately.

Another thing we rockhounds do is put those heavy tools and rocks into a vehicle — or take them out — often by swinging things.

And — the result is a lot of bad backs, sore backs, back strains, sometimes even permanently damaged backs. So, we need to learn — AND PRACTICE — the proper way to lift and lower heavy stuff (actually — light stuff, too) without hurting ourselves. To lift and move something, several steps should be followed.

1. Stand with your feet apart about shoulder width, the rock between your feet, and one foot slightly in front of the other (for balance).
2. Lower yourself by bending your knees until you can grab the rock. The rock should be close to your body. Keep your back straight and your chin tucked in.
3. SLOWLY lift the rock by straightening up your knees pushing with your leg muscles. Keep the rock in close to your body. DO NOT twist sideways.
4. Once standing. DO NOT TWIST your back. To move the rock sideways, turn your feet. Keep the rock in close to your body.
5. Once you get where you are going with the rock, reverse the steps you need to lift the rock. Remember — KEEP YOUR BACK STRAIGHT!
6. If the rock must go into the trunk or car or whatever, set it down on the edge keeping a straight back. Then slide it into the vehicle. Most of us will bend over at the waist and swing it in — a sure way to get a bad back!
7. You aren't SUPERMAN or SUPERWOMAN! If the rock or bucket or bag is too heavy for you to carry easily, do it another way. GET HELP. Use a skid made from a heavy cloth or a wood slat with a rope tied to the end. Roll the rock using a long handled tool to pry with. USE YOUR INGENUITY!



FOR THE ROCKHOUND AFIELD . . .

By O. G. Gilbert

By all means acquire a Ski Stick. These are of steel, aluminum, or bamboo construction, have a leather loop and comfortable handle to facilitate holding and carrying. They also have a sharp steel point which makes them practically slip-proof while hiking afield. They are a great help when climbing over rocky terrain, wading swift streams, digging or prying out specimens, and are a must when in rattlesnake country to knock against rock and brush to let Mr. Snake know you are coming and, in a pinch a good handy weapon if wild animals are encountered. Used ski poles can be found at most sporting goods stores. Goodwill stores are also a good source of supply. Cost is small, and the webbing on the bottom can be easily removed.

From: HY-GRADER, via Quarry Chips, 4/98 via others

THE TEN ROCKAMANDMENTS

1. Thou shalt not touch thy neighbor's minerals unless he places them in your hand.
2. Thou shalt not test the strength of crystals by pushing biting or squeezing.
3. Thou shalt not drop thy neighbor's fossil, for many do not bounce properly.
4. Thou shalt drop thy neighbor's specimen in thine own pocket.
5. Thou shalt not test thy neighbor's agates for hardness by rubbing them together.
6. Thou shalt not argue the name of that mineral too violently, sometimes thou could be wrong.
7. Thou shalt not climb above thy neighbor when on a field trip lest thou are willing to spend the remainder of the day digging him out.
8. Thou shalt protect thine own eyes, hands and feet so thou can enjoy many, many more field trips.
9. Thou shalt not encroach upon thy neighbor's diggings lest his hammer be dropped on thy toe.
10. Thou shalt not complain about or denounce thy club officers under penalty of being elected one thyself.

From: STRATA GEMS, 6/88, via SCRIBE via Quarry Quips, 4/98

Crime will not decrease in America until it becomes more dangerous to be a criminal than a victim. *Author Unknown*

ROCKY ORNITHOLOGY

These birds are so unusual they have never been photographed. So be on the lookout for them, they are very RARE and unusual.

The HAIRY-CHESTED ROCK BUSTER: Size is large and muscular. Always carries large objects. Perspires freely in warm weather. Rather quiet. Song: "Here let me break it." Found on rock outcrops all over the world.

The LOUD-MOUTHED CRYSTAL CATCHER: Member of the magpie family. Any size. does not perspire and persistently sounds like, "You ought to see the big calcite I got out the last trip." Habitat: Found sitting on outcrops throughout the U.S.

The EAGLE-EYED FOSSIL FINDER: Has peculiar stooped gait from moving around in the squatting position. Song: "The Brachiolium on the thorax is next to the diploid plate and pygidium." Habitat: Found only in areas of sedimentary rock.

The BROAD-BACKED AGATE PICKER: Female more plentiful than male. Sharp eyes, unusual shape. Spits on and licks rocks. Song: "Isn't this exquisite."

The RUBY-THROATED LAP GRINDER: Lovely creature, usually found around rock shops looking at wet slabs of rock. Song: "Wouldn't this make a lovely cab?"

FROM: PSEPHITE VIA GLACIAL DRIFTER, 2/98
VIA G.I. Nugget, 4/98

FEDERAL GOVERNMENT TO LICENSE ROCK PICKS

From: *The Rockhound Gazette*, 4/98

As a part of a sweeping set of new federal regulatory guidelines, the U.S. Congress has created an office within the Department of the Interior to license and register public ownership of rock hammers. The legislation was signed into law on November 31 of last year, established the National Rock Hammer Registry (NRHR) for this purpose. NRHR Director, April J. Ester, stated that starting January 1, the public will be required to register currently owned and newly purchased rock hammers by completing a form obtainable from gem & mineral dealers. A completed form must include an inked imprint of the hammer's striking face and a profile of the hammer's head.

Predictably, many mineral collectors and prospectors are upset. One angry rockhound, speaking on condition of anonymity, stated, "The only way they'll take my rock pick away is if they pry it from my cold dead fingers."

(Warning: Article taken from 1996 April (Fool's) issue of *Lithosphere*, Via *Chips*, 7/96 & *Pegmatite*, 4/98. *Chips* Editor commented, "Joke or not, this gives one food for thought for those of us who DON'T write letters regarding legislation that is closing off areas on which we enjoy rock hunting.")



MORE DISPLAY CASES

By Charles Hamming via *The Rockhound Gazette*, 4/98

After the Oklahoma State Council's Judges and Exhibitors Seminar in Stillwater, OK, last Saturday, Wilma and I were continuing the discussion of "How to get more novice rockhounds to display at shows," when I had one idea on how to help the beginner through all the "rules" of show cases.

At a club meeting or probably better, at a special "show cases work day," the members interested in beginning a case would be given a form on which to list all the things that they had or would like to display in a case. After the individual lists are completed, then a "rules experienced" member would work one on one with the beginner. The experienced member would help pick the best "class" for the items on their list and then guide them through the general and specific rules that apply to their case. Together the novice and mentor will discuss all the items that fit in the category, or if they do not quite fit. Discussion should include whether they have enough or too few items for the case, or even if maybe they and several other individuals can group their items together to make a "club" case.

Now all this is aimed toward more competitive cases where one strives to meet high standards of "A Perfect Rockhound Case" and win a trophy. But one must not forget the main goal of putting on a good rock show is to "Please and educate the public in our rockhound craft." And that can also be done for non-competitive displays where the only rules are "to be pleasing to the eye, intriguing and educational to the mind, and exciting to the imagination."

(ED. note: Another type of display in the "Special Display." This type is one that the host society asks for specifically. It is one that has won a trophy in the RMFMS or AFMS, or a dealer's display in which the dealer shows the very best from a long time of collecting and buying, or one from a museum, etc. My thanks go to Charles for this contribution.)

VINEGAR — THE MIRACLE LIQUID

The next time you go camping or rock hunting, be sure you take along the vinegar. It is said to be more effective on the hands than hand lotion. It also is used on itching bug bites, the early morning raspy throat and some people even use it on sunburn.

Vinegar has long been a seasoner, preservative, cleaner, purifier, and healing agent. There are more than 40 culinary uses for vinegar, but it is often overlooked or replaced by over-advertised products that cost more and are less effective. If you can't budge a corroded screw, soak it in vinegar for a few minutes. After you have fried fish, pour vinegar in the hot frying pan, the fish smell will fade away. To relieve the pain of minor burns, apply cold cider vinegar, for sunburn put it on gently. To decrease dandruff, rinse hair with a mixture of 1/4 cup of cider vinegar and 3/4 cup lukewarm water. Applied full strength, it not only helps repel insects, but eases the sting and itch of bites. Cheese will stay soft and moist and free of mold if wrapped in a wet cloth sprinkled with vinegar. Unclog a stopped-up sink by putting three cups of boiling vinegar down the drain. When washing dishes, add a little vinegar to the soapy water to help cut the grease.

From: *Korn Krib News*, 3/98 via *Rockrattler*, 3/96 via *Gem Time*, 4/96

COMING --- IN THE NEAR FUTURE --- A C.D.G.M.S. GARAGE SALE

EDITORIAL**Sure You Can!**

How many times have you said "I'd love to -----, but I (a) am not good enough, (b) am too dumb, (c) am too old, (d) could never do that, (e) have no talent, or (f) some other self-stopping statement? Have you ever considered that **YOUR ATTITUDE** is limiting you?

Perhaps we judge ourselves against perfection. I'll never make jewelry like Tiffany. I'll never write like Hemmingway. I'll never paint like Picasso. BUT, I can make jewelry that is pleasing. I can write something that people find interesting. I can paint a picture that pleases me.

YOU CAN DO ANYTHING YOU WANT! You may not be the best in the world or second or 20th or 10,000th. But that doesn't keep you from doing things. It keeps you from getting rich from doing them. The only limit is **YOUR ATTITUDE!**

It often seems to me that many of our rock clubs may be talking themselves out of things, too. Your show may not rival Tucson. Your school talk may not be ready for network TV. Your field trip may not involve moving science forward. You may not attract a world class lecturer for your programs. But, you **CAN** have a show. You **CAN** talk to kids. You **CAN** have interesting field trips. You **CAN** have interesting and varied programs. Only **YOUR** club's attitude limits your club's activities. And you **CAN** double your membership!

Another part of the self-limiting attitude that sometimes affects some of our clubs is the, "Yes, but" cold water reception to new ideas. "That's a good idea, but -----" Some clubs do that, but I know we can't. To prove it, I'll avoid helping and be as lukewarm in support as I can be. "We've never done it that way." We all know those negative naysayers. Let's just be sure **WE** are not being one of them. Good clubs are full of members bubbling with ideas **AND** other members willing to help realize those ideas.

Consider the world to be full of fascinating oysters that you haven't yet opened. Open every one you can and learn what amazing things you and your club can do. All it takes is saying, "We **CAN** do that! So, **GET GOING!!!**"

From: AFMS Newsletter, May, 1998

**THE AMERICAN FEDERATION****"Code of Ethics"**

1. I will respect both private and public property and will do no collecting on privately owned land without the owner's permission.
2. I will keep informed on all laws, regulations or rules governing collecting on public lands and will observe them.
3. I will, to the best of my ability, ascertain the boundary lines of property on which I plan to collect.
4. I will use no firearms or blasting material in collecting areas.
5. I will cause no willful damage to property of any kind — fences, signs buildings etc.
6. I will leave all gates as found.
7. I will build fires in designated or safe places only and will be certain they are completely extinguished before leaving the area.
8. I will discard no burning material — matches, cigarettes, etc.
9. I will fill all excavation holes which may be dangerous to livestock.
10. I will not contaminate wells, creeks, or other water supplies.
11. I will cause no willful damage to collecting material and will take home only what I can reasonably use.
12. I will support the rockhound project H.E.L.P., (Help Eliminate Litter Please) and will leave all collecting areas devoid of litter, regardless of how found.
13. I will cooperate with field-trip leaders and those in designated authority in all collecting areas.
14. I will report to my club or federation officers, Bureau of Land Management or other authorities, any deposit of petrified wood or other materials on public lands which should be protected for the enjoyment of future generations for public educational and scientific purposes.
15. I will appreciate and protect our heritage of natural resources.
16. I will observe the "Golden Rule," will use "Good Outdoor Manners," and will at all times conduct myself in a manner which will add to the stature and public "image" of rockhounds everywhere.

"ROCKHOUND" — Where did the word originate?

According to the American Geological Institute Glossary of Geologic Terms — "Rockhound" is a term first used by oil drillers for geologists, who often smell rock samples taken from the well cuttings for the odor of oil. They said, "He hunts for oil like a hound dog, thus he is a "Rockhound." Since then, anyone who picks up rocks is called a "Rockhound." From: Glauco Dolter, 4/88

WHAT ARE MICROMETEORITES ?From: Pick & Pack, 4/98 via G.I. Nugget, 9/96

There is an easy way to collect meteorites, but we must be satisfied with finding very small metal ones. They are actually microscopic, and are known as "micrometeorites." Tons of these fall on earth each day. To collect these small micrometeorites, you need find a place where they can become concentrated. The drains of a house or a building work well, since rainwater can wash particles off an entire roof and collect them at the drain spout. Tile roofs are best since they drain very well and do not produce many other sorts of particles or debris.

To find metallic micrometeorites, collect and dry some of the material from a deep bowl at the base of the drain spout. After removing leaves and other debris, place the remaining material on a piece of paper, and place a magnet under the paper. Tilt and tap the paper so that all the non-metallic particles fall off. Many of the remaining metallic particles are pieces of space dust! To examine them, place the paper under a microscope. High power will be required to see them clearly. Although most of the particles are not from space, the micrometeorites will show signs of their fiery trip through the atmosphere. They will be rounded and may have small pits on their surface.

FREE GOVERNMENT INFORMATION

The U.S. Geological Survey publishes a series of non-technical pamphlets about geology, hydrology, topographic mapping and related earth science topics. More than 125 titles, including such topics as: *Natural Gemstones*, *Geologic Time*, *Fossils*, *Rocks and Time*, *Gold*, *The Ice Age*, *Deserts-Geology & Resources*, *Earthquakes*, and *Geology of Caves*, are available. All publications are free upon request, so send for a catalog today. Ask for a free order blank from:

The Geological Survey
Branch of Information Services
Box 25386
Denver Federal Center, MS306
Denver, CO 80255

From: QUARRY QUIPS, 4/98**TO BELIEVE OR NOT TO BELIEVE**

An atheist was spending a quiet day fishing when suddenly his boat was attacked by the Loch Ness monster. In one easy flip, the beast tossed him and his boat high into the air. Then it opened its mouth to swallow them both. As the man sailed head over heels, he cried out, "Oh, my God! Help me!" At once the ferocious attack scene froze in place, and as the atheist hung in mid-air, a booming voice came down from the clouds, "I thought you didn't believe in Me!" "Come on, God, give me a break!" the man pleaded. "Two minutes ago I didn't believe in the Loch Ness monster either!"

From: Pegmatite, 1/98 via G.I. Nugget, 4/98**ROCKHOUND — DOUBLE TALK**By George Campbell — Ososoft MineralFROM: AFMS NEWSLETTER, 4/98

- KEYSTONE:** 1/2 the price marked. The real retail price. Wholesale is less in most cases, as long as you buy quantities.
- Wholesale:** The price that everyone but you is paying for the same specimens.
- Flat:** How my wallet looks after returning from Tucson. Also a flat cardboard box, roughly 12 in. X 18 in., more or less full of specimens, boxed and labeled.
- MEXICAN Flat:** A flat with no boxes, each specimen wrapped in very interesting foreign-language newspapers you can read after you get home. NOTE: The newspaper also hides the dings, bruises and cracks.
- Killer Specimen:** One you can't afford.
- Slipper:** That elusive specimen in the flat, which the seller missed. As in a Powellite specimen in a flat of cheap Indian zeolites.
- KITPER:** A specimen so over priced that the dealer will be taking it home.
- Flat Price:** How much you pay for the entire flat. Generally, there's one specimen in there that makes the whole flat look good.
- N.I.S.** (Yah right) But everything's for sale.
- KID ROCKS:** Cheap specimens kept on hand so everyone buys — something.
- BRUISE:** A small ding.
- DING:** A large bruise.
- CRACK:** A feature of a specimen — always caused in nature and never by human hands.
- WHOLESALE ONLY:** Sign outside of rooms containing mostly stuff you don't want anyhow. Ignore the sign if you like.
- RARE SPECIES:** Anything not available in at least 50% of the rooms at the show.
- GIMMY:** You can see some light through the crystal as long as the light is a halogen lamp.



ROCKHOUDING MADE SIMPLE

By Will Truscott,
via *The Prairie Gem*, April & May, 1998

So often at our meetings and get-togethers, I hear people who are out for the first time asking questions and getting high-class advice from us experts. I think it is time for some good, down-to-earth advice on the basic principles and activities of rockhounds. Perhaps someday I may write a book on the subject, but for now perhaps, a few common-sense tips that may be helpful to the beginner.

1. A rockhound is a person interested in hunting for rocks and perhaps cutting and polishing them. He is not a person who wiggles to rock music. He is not a dog, although his children may be *pebble pups*.
2. A rockhunt is when a rockhound goes hunting for rocks at a place where there are rocks and pick up only those that look hard enough to be shiny. This can be determined by licking the mud off them and holding them up to the sun.
3. If hunting in a large area, go to the far end of the field and work back because if you start at the near end, your bag will be full at the far end and you won't be able to carry it home. If in doubt as to whether a rock you have found is good or not, ask an old-timer. Most of them have shelves full of what they thought were good, but weren't.
4. If going on a hunt, equip yourself for all contingencies. Suggested musts are:
 - A. Boots — that fit and won't come off in the mud.
 - B. Hats — for the sun and the rain
 - C. Gloves, shirts, and jackets
 - D. Field glasses — to help you find your way back to your car.
 - E. Gem scoop — for picking up rocks when you're too tired to bend over
 - F. Squirrt bottle full of water — if you don't like to lick dirty rocks.
 - G. A rock bag — lunch pail; full of food; and a cooler of water
 - H. A small rock hammer and chisel
 - I. A bottle of sunburn lotion, and a change of clothing in case you get rained on.

There are some of the basics needed on the hunt. Other things can be left in the car.

Never walk into the wind on summerfallow or with the wind if the sun is in your eyes — go West in the morning and East in the afternoon.

Now I hope a few of our beginners will take note of these suggestions and won't be fooled by an expert who says "come as you are."

RMFMS PATCH UPDATE

From: George Finley
via *Rocky Mountain Federation News*, April, 1998

June, 1997, at the Rocky Mountain Federation House of Delegates meeting in Durango, Colorado, Mr. Wayne Mouser of the Tulsa Gem & Mineral Club, ask and it was put into motion, why didn't the RMFMS have a patch? It was passed and George Finley of the Shawnee Gem & Mineral Club of Oklahoma volunteered to investigate the cost of a 3 inch patch, and turn the findings over to the RMFMS President, Ruby Lingelbach.

President Ruby Lingelbach looked over the reports and then delegated them back to me to follow through.

RMFMS Treasurer, Keith Price was notified on the company and the cost of the patches. They were to send an invoice to RMFMS Treasurer Keith Price for pre-pay. We get a better price this way.

The finished patches are now in, the cost of each is \$3.00 each plus postage. Orders are to be sent the RMFMS Supply Chairperson, Pearl Burden, 3897 S.W. Indianola Road, Benton, Kansas 67017-9084.

So with great delight I say that my job is over. Thanks to all who helped me. Mr. Wayne Mouser is the one who got the ball rolling on the RMFMS patch; I hope the first patch goes to him.

The patch will make its first appearance at the Stillwater, OK Exhibitors Seminar on March 28, 1998.

TIPS FOR ROCKHOUDS

1. TO PRESERVE FOSSILS

After proper cleaning, paint just the fossil with diluted (half water) Elmer's glue. It dries fast and makes fossils look sharp and clean. It can also be washed off if necessary with no trouble.

2. SAVING SMALL STONES

To avoid spilling garnets or other small stones on a field trip, have a can with a plastic lid handy. Cut a plus (+) sign in the plastic lid and simply push the stones into the can through the plus sign. There is much less danger of spilling or losing small stones this way.

From: *The Prairie Gem*, Apr & May /1998
via *T. Owen Rockhound*, & Tulsa Rock
& Mineral Society

APRIL 1998 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

APRIL 1998

16th, 17th, 18th, & 19th 9th Annual Texas Big Bend Gem & Mineral Show, hosted by Texas Big Bend G&M Soc. & Alpine Chamber of Commerce, Alpine Civic Center, West Highway 90, between Holland Ave and "E" St., Alpine Texas. Show Chair: Art Worley, HC Box 600, Alpine, TX 79831 (915) 371-2521.

24th, 25th, & 26th Wichita Gem & Mineral Society Show, hosted by Wichita Gem & Mineral Society, Cessna Activity Center, 2744 George Washington Blvd., Wichita, KS Info: Wichita Gem & Mineral Society, PO Box 1464, Wichita, KS 67201

MAY 1998

1st, 2nd, & 3rd - 5th Annual McPherson Rock Swap, hosted by the McPherson Gem & Mineral Club, McPherson 4-H Building, McPherson, KS. Contact: Marvin Lundquist, 441 N. Charles, McPherson, KS (316) 241-7003 or Denise Schwantes, 1000 Shawnee Road, Lindsborg, KS (785) 227-2492

2nd Colorado Mineral Society Annual Silent Auction, from 1PM to 4PM at the Maple Grove Grange Hall, 3130 Youngfield St., Wheatridge, CO Auction Chair: Bruce Geller, 700 Vista Lane, Lakewood, CO 80215 (303) 237-2947

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

15th, 16th, & 17th - 25th Annual Ellinwood Rock Swap located at City Park, Northwest Corner of Town, Ellinwood, KS For more information contact: Helen Dickson, 203 Pembroke Lane, Ellinwood, KS 67526 (316) 564-2364 or Wes & Peggy Stambaugh, 1314 Holland St., Great Bend, KS 67530 (316) 793-6314

17th - Annual Colorado Chapter of Friends of Mineralogy Silent Auction from 7PM to 10PM at the Glendale Community Center, 999 S. Clermont St., Denver, CO Auction Chair: Bruce Geller, 700 Vista Lane, Lakewood, CO 80215 (303) 237-2947

JUNE 1998

11th, 12th, 13th, & 14th Mi High RAMS Annual Show Westminster Mall, Info Sue Kurtz (303) 466-4950

11th, 12th, & 13th 12th Annual American Gem & Mineral Show hosted by Flagstaff Gem & Mineral Soc. Located in the Little America Hotel, Butler Ave. & I-40, Flagstaff, AZ Show Chair: Ed. F. Lechner, PO Box 233, Williams, AZ 86046 (520) 635-1379

JULY 1998

2nd, 3rd, 4th & 5th - 7th Annual Big Sandy Rock Swap, at Farson, WY hosted by the Rock Springs G&M Club, Rock Springs WY Information Contact: Carolyn Jones, 1715 South Carolina Circle, Green River, WY 82935 (307) 875-5989, or Dave Freeman, (307) 382-3253 (Evenings only), or Ron Chenevert (307) 382-7364

Rocky Mountain Federation News

10th, 11th, & 12th - 46th Annual Show hosted by Four Corners G&M Club, Durango, CO, Fairgrounds on North Main St., Durango, CO for details write Show Chairman: PO Box 955, Durango, CO 813

18th & 19th 24th Annual Rockhounds' Roundup hosted by Ute Mountain G&M, Cortez, CO Montezuma County Annex Bldg., 103 N. Chestnut, Cortez, CO

18th & 19th Western Dakota Gem & Mineral Society Show, located in the Rushmore Civic Center, Rapid City, SD, hosted by Western Dakota G&M Soc. Show Chair: Paul Reiter, 110-9 Racine St., Rapid City, SD 57701, (605) 348-3467, Asst Show Chair: Tom Estes, 23773 Aero Road, Rapid City, SD 57701 (605) 342-2147

AUGUST 1998

7th, 8th, & 9th Contin-tail - Buena Vista, CO Fairgrounds, hosted by the Colorado Federation. Contact: John Haney, (303) 296-8268 or Bruce Geller, 700 Vista Lane, Lakewood, CO 80215 (303) 237-2947

SEPTEMBER 1998

5th, 6th, & 7th - 15th Annual Show, hosted by the Grant County Gem & Mineral Society. Silver City Recreation Center. Show Chair: Jim Lett, 2213 Ponderosa, Silver City, NM 88061 (505) 538-3216

19th & 20th Rock Swap, Murdo, SD Swap Chair: Sharon Bertsch, PO Box 153, Avon, SD 57315, Phone (605) 286-3304 or Tom Estes, 23773 Aero Road, Rapid City, SD 57701, Phone (605) 342-2147

OCTOBER 1998

10th & 11th - 42nd Annual Topeka Gem & Mineral Show, Ag Hall, Kansas Expocentre, 17th & Topeka Blvd., Topeka, KS Hosted by Topeka G&M Society. Show Chair: Steve Travis, PO Box 251, Overbrook, KS 66524 (785) 665-7775 or write Topeka G&M Society Show Committee, 1184 SW Collins Ave., Topeka, KS 66604-1525

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

NOVEMBER 1998

20th, 21st, & 22nd - Phoenix Treasure Market of Minerals, Fossils, Gems, & Jewelry. Hosted by the Mineralogical Society of Arizona in partnership with GeoExpositions. Phoenix Civic Plaza, Hall C, Phoenix, Arizona. Inquiries by mail should be directed to Mineralogical Society of Arizona, PO Box 902, Phoenix, AZ, 85001. E-mail may be directed to Lois Splendona (e-mail ID: lsplendona@msa.org). Show Co-Chair: Gilbert V. Flores, (602) 973-0429, and Shirley Fiske, (602) 938-3520

