

"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

COLUMBUS DAY HOLIDAY
October 12, 1998

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

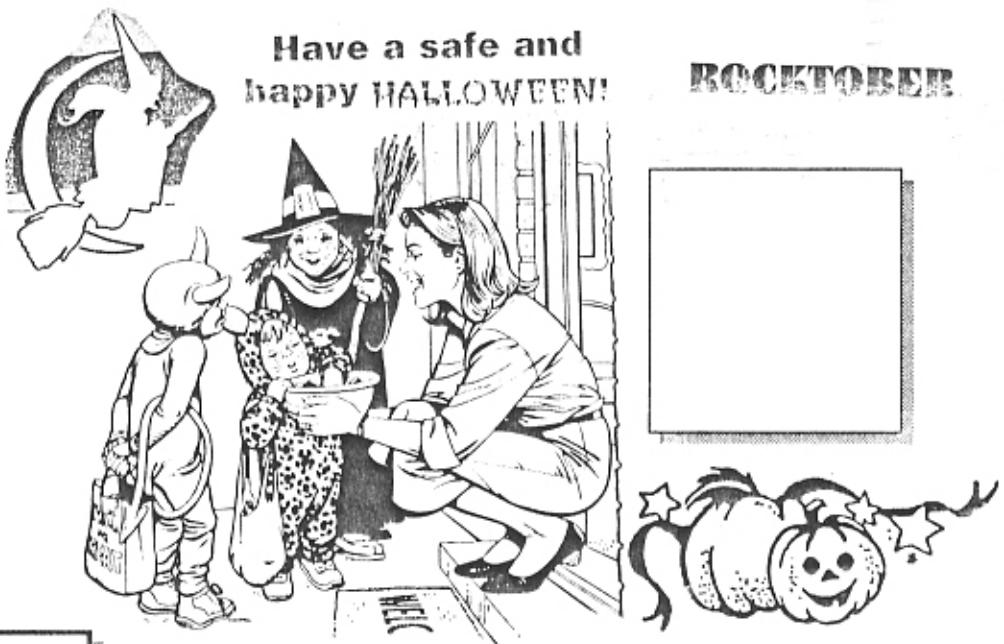


VOLUME 33, No. 10 October, 1998

AFMS - Honorable Mention, Small Bulletins, 1998
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

Have a safe and
happy HALLOWEEN!

ROCKTOBER



OCTOBER



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

Organized: March, 1966

OBJECTIVES

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 St., Bismarck, ND

EARLY CLASS: One - half hour before each meeting.

ANNUAL DUES: Junior Member - \$8.00, Single Membership - \$10.00, Family Membership - \$12.00

MEETING TIMES: 2:00 PM — From November thru March & 7:00 PM — From April thru October

COMMITTEE PERSONS

PROGRAM: Russ Olinger # 255 - 6440
Jim Nevland # 221 - 2419

HOSPITALITY Carol Hickle # 794 - 3342

and LUNCH: Emma Brady #663 - 3903

HOSPITAL/CARDS: Gen Buresh #663 - 5397

FIELD TRIPS: Steve & Darlene Newstrom #255 - 4675

EDITOR: Jerry Nevland # 223 - 6900

ANNUAL SHOW: (1999) Rodney Hickle #794 - 3342

EARLY CLASS: Harold Brady -#663 - 3903

GREETER: Any Volunteers?

PARLIAMENTARIAN: Gen Buresh -#663 - 5397

STAMP CHAIR: Doris Hickle -#794 - 3173

LIBRARIAN: Agnes Berg # 442 - 5620

PUBLICITY: Any Volunteers?

HISTORIAN: Betty Mautz -#337- 5775

DOOR COUNT: Any Volunteers?

VISITORS AND GUESTS ARE ALWAYS WELCOME !

RMFMS State Director for North Dakota: Ray Olinger, 516 N. 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 are encouraged for the Newsletter. (\$2.00 for 1/8 of a page per month or \$20.00 per year) Permission is granted to reprint non-copyrighted articles if proper credit is given. The "Diggins From Dakota" Newsletter is published monthly.

CENTRAL DAKOTA GEM & MINERAL SOCIETY'S 25th ANNUAL

GEM & MINERAL SHOW

COMMUNITY CENTER — MANDAN, ND

SEPTEMBER 25 & 26, 1999

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

Phone: 701 - 794 - 3342





FOR YOUR INFORMATION -Monthly Minutes

The monthly meeting of the Central Dakota Gem & Mineral Society was held October 4, 1998, at the Masonic Center in Bismarck, ND. President Russ Olinger called the meeting to order. The next meeting will be held on November 1, 1998 at the Central Standard Time of 1:30 & 2:00 PM. The minutes from the last meeting were approved as read.

Treasurer, Ray Olinger reported that the club had a balance of \$160.10. Ray also told the members that a new copier had been purchased. He tried to put a down payment of \$230.00 and the rest in payments, but the seller wanted payment in full. Ray paid the difference out of his own personal account and the show fund re-imburshed him for \$360.00. Later, Neill Burnett donated \$25.00 towards the purchase of a copier. It was decided to give this money to the show fund.

COMMITTEES:

Field Trip: Steve Newstrom informed the members of a field trip out to the Meyer Ranch. Anyone interested in going should meet next to the Mandan Golf Course on Highway #6 on Saturday, October 10th at 9:00 AM CST.

Nominating: Mel Berg stated that they have volunteers for every position except for Club Treasurer.

Show: Rodney Hickle, Show Chairman, said that our show had turned out to be a good one even though there were two dealers who opted not to come to the show. The other dealers' present seemed satisfied with the show. Total income taken in for the show was \$1980.73. The money taken in from the "Silent Auction," Cookie Bar, Grab Bags, and the free will offering were lower than anticipated and the total public attendance was also lower than last years. Rodney also announced that Steve Newstrom has dutifully volunteered to help him out next year with the 25th Annual Gem & Mineral Show.

Rodney told the members that the Mandan Community Center might be in the process of remodeling next year and other options are being considered in having our show at a different location. Rodney thanked everyone who helped set-up for the Show on Friday.

Jerry Nevland asked about changing the date for our show to attract more tourists in the summer. Rodney said that was another option being checked into. President Russ Olinger read the minutes from the Executive Board that had met during the show. (next column)



Rodney Hickle made the motion that the club hold a show again next year. Neill Burnett seconded and members voted unanimously in favor of having a show. Motion passed.

Doorcount: 18 adults and one junior present at the meeting.

Communications were read through by the Treasurer.

New Business: The issue of the club annual Christmas Dinner was brought up. Ray Olinger asked what the members wanted to do this year? It was decided that he would check into having it at Hotel Bismarck and report back at the next meeting.

Program: Neill Burnett gave a very interesting talk about Alice and Neill's trip to Arkansas to search for clear quartz crystals. He brought back some real beautiful clear specimens. He also educated the members on how to clean the quartz using oxalic acid and in its natural state is found in sorrel and rhubarb leaves.

Minutes by Secretary,
Lenora Opp



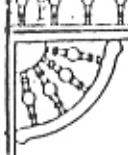
FLUID GLASS

Glass is a liquid at room temperatures! But, you'd have to wait longer than the age of the universe to observe any flow! Glass, a combination of silica sand, limestone, and sodium carbonate, is heated to over 2,500 degrees F. and ceases to flow when it cools to around 932 degrees.

The thicker bottoms of ancient cathedrals stained glass windows, is often given as proof that glass flows at ordinary temperatures, but scientists have proven that this glass does not flow. Ancient glass often came out thicker at one edge. It is said that ancient builders probably put the thicker edges at the bottoms of windows for better stability, but there are many windows with the glass thicker at the top.

Extracted from Popular Science, 9/99 via
No Stone Unturned, Sept. & Oct./1998

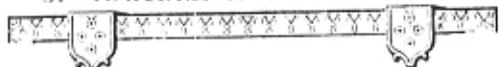
To remove a ring from a finger without cutting off the ring, thread an end of a piece of string under the ring and wrap the other longer end tight around the finger. Then begin unwrapping from the short end of the string. As you unwrap it, the ring comes with it.

**FLOWER****BIRTHSTONE****CALENDULA****OPAL**

- OCTOBER**
- 2 - Sara Atwood (1989)
 - 4 - Alice Burnett (1927)
 - 13 - Earle Campbell (1928)
 - 13 - Mike Simonson (1958)
 - 15 - Duane Robey (1923)
 - 19 - Terry Ringland
 - 22 - Ray Olinger
 - 26 - Robert Randall
 - 28 - Gen Buresh (1915)

WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES

- OCTOBER**
- 4 RODNEY & CAROL HICKLE
 - 10 RICHARD & ANNA HOERNER
 - 15 TED & VERA GIESE
 - 27 JOHN & KAREN ATWOOD
 - 31 HAROLD & EMMA BRADY

**ROCK OF THE MONTH: Witherite**

The crystals form as twinned prismatic, often pseudo-hexagonal, dipyramids. Witherite also occurs in massive, granular, fibrous, and columnar habits. It may be colorless, white, gray, yellow, green, or brown, with a white streak. Transparent to translucent, it has a vitreous to resinous luster.

Formation Forms in hydrothermal veins with quartz, calcite, and barite.

WORD OF THE MONTH: VITREOUS LUSTER

Having the luster of broken glass.

"There are three ways we teach our children"

The first is by *example*;
The second is by *example*;
and the third is by *example*.
-Albert Schweitzer-

From: Quarry Quips, 9/98

EACH CLUB - EACH YEAR - ONE ROCKHOUND

The Rocky Mountain Federation News Newsletter honors a member of each Rock Club registered with the R.M.F.N. and each year, each club, who enters an individual or couple who have done their part so graciously to help make a club prosper and grow in membership are chosen by the R.M.F.N. for the annual honor.

This year, 1998, Bill & Gen Buresh were chosen as the honored couple. The memorandum entered reads as follows:

William and Genevieve Buresh, Central Dakota Gem & Mineral Society, Bismarck, ND, RMFMS. William and Genevieve have been involved with our rock club for many years and were instrumental in the growth and prosperity of our club. They served together as a team as editors and publishers of our great newsletter "Diggins from Dakota". They were editors for over twenty years. They were also involved in organizing field trips and other activities that are essential in maintaining order in an organization such as a rock club. These two fine people really deserve such an honor for all their time and dedication to our rock club.

Congratulations Bill & Gen for receiving such a wonderful honor. Thank you for all the time and expertise and education that you have shared with the other members of the C.D.G. & M.S. And last, but not the least, THANK YOU for editing the "Diggins From Dakota" Newsletter for 20 plus years. I now realize the dedication required to produce such a fine newsletter. Best of health and good luck in all your future endeavors.

From: Jerry Nevland, Present Editor,
"Diggins From Dakota."

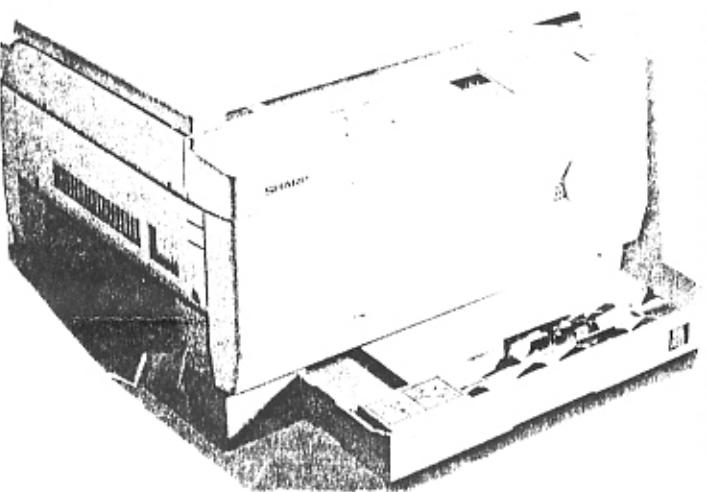
Vinegar has the same reaction to epoxy as acetone, only it does not attack opal, as acetone will. Some epoxy mixtures may take longer, depending on what brand of epoxy or ratio used in making the epoxy.

From "Deming Rock Chips" SEPT., 1997



COPIER FOR SALE

Sharp — Model SF - 7370 - Plain Paper Copier. A very reliable copier, but needs some work. Cost estimates are not known. To be purchased as is. Price? Sold to the person with the best offer. Make an offer, you may be the winner. Call: Jerry at 223-6900 or E-Mail me at: jnevland@yahoo.com.



HEAVEN OR WELL.....

There was a certain rockhound who liked rocks but didn't have time to work them so he stored them in the attic. His wife one day said, "What good are those rocks doing up in the attic?" He replied, "When I leave this Earth and go to Heaven, on the way up, I'm going to take them with me." One day he died. When things settled down his wife went up to the attic to see. They were all there. "That's what I thought . . . he must have gone the other way."

From: *Stone Age News*, via *Stoney Statements*, 8/98 via
NO STONE UNTURNED, SEPT & OCT/98

TICKLING YOUR FUNNY BONE !

(as seen through the eyes of a child)

- * No matter how hard you try, you can't baptize cats.
- * Never ask your 3 - year old brother to hold a tomato.
- * You can't hide a piece of broccoli in a glass of water.
- * Don't wear polka-dot underwear under white shorts.

From: *The Stone Chipper*, 5/98 via
Quarry Quips, 6/98



THE A - Z OF FRIENDSHIP

- (A)ccepts you as you are
- (B)elieves in "you"
- (C)alls you just to say "Hi"
- (D)oesn't give up on you
- (E)visions the whole of you
- (F)orgives your mistakes
- (G)ives unconditionally
- (H)elps you
- (I)nvites you over
- (J)ust "be" with you
- (K)eeps you close at heart
- (L)oves you for who you are
- (M)akes a difference in your life
- (N)ever judges
- (O)ffers support
- (P)icks you up
- (Q)uiets your fears
- (R)aises your spirits
- (S)says nice things about you
- (T)ells you the truth when you need it
- (U)nderstands you
- (V)alues you
- (W)alks besides you
- (X)-plain things you don't understand
- (Y)ells when you won't listen and
- (Z)aps you back to reality.

SOURCE UNKNOWN, courtesy Trudy Martin, Editor
Calgary Lapidary, via *Pickin's & Diggins'*, 6-98
via *Quarry Quips*, 9/98

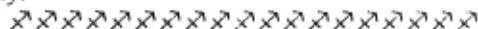
SHOP HINT

via Glacial Drifter and Rock Rollers
via Crystal Cluster 11/97

EPOXY PLUS
by Gary Watkins

How many of you use epoxy in your lapidary work for doping, but have a hard time breaking down the epoxy bond later? Next time try mixing some corn starch in with the epoxy. Not only will the corn starch make the epoxy thicker, but it will break down the epoxy without pulling chunks out of your stone. If you are in a hurry and not working with heat-sensitive material (i.e. opal) heat the bonded epoxy/corn starch mixture. When the corn starch is heated, it expands and shatters the hardened epoxy bond almost making the stone pop off. If the stone is heat sensitive or cleaves easily, soak the bonded item in vinegar for 24 hours.

Vinegar has the same reaction as acetone on epoxy, only it doesn't attack opal as acetone will. Some epoxy mixtures may take longer depending on what brand of epoxy or ratio used in working the epoxy.





THE COLOR OF GOLD

By Bill Glenn

The natural color of gold is yellow. And when mixed with other metals, it can be white, pink, or several other colors. Pure gold is too soft for jewelry and alloys are added as hardeners and modifiers. Pure gold is 24 karat. After alloying for jewelry, the fine gold contents of 18 and 14 karat gold are 75% and 58.8%. The percentages of gold stay the same. What changes is the types and proportions of the metals used as alloys. Gold is mixed with silver and copper to maintain the yellow shade. Pink or rose gold is a result of copper alloys. White gold is a mixture of copper, nickel or palladium and zinc with the gold. Green gold is a mixing of gold with silver and small amounts of copper and zinc.

Now comes the "tri-color" gold. Soldering three separate pieces together, or pressurized bonding. In pressurized bonding, no solder is ever used. Pressure is exerted to the sides of the piece to bond it together. The result is a tri-color bond. The piece can be highly polished or made a mixture of satin and shiny finishes.

A word of caution! Titanium, an inexpensive metal, sometimes takes on the same color as the tri-color gold.

From: Rockhound Rag, 1/95 via Pick & Pack, 6/98

PLATINUM - GROUP METALS

HERE'S A SAMPLING OF WHAT YOU CAN LEARN FROM THE MINERALS INFORMATION PAGE AT THE USGS WEBSITE.

By: J. Roger Loebenstein

The platinum - group metals (PGM) comprise six closely related metals: platinum, palladium, rhodium, ruthenium, iridium, and osmium, which commonly occur together in nature and are among the rarest of the metallic elements. Along with gold and silver, they are known as precious or noble metals. They occur as native alloys in placer deposits or, more commonly, in lode deposits associated with nickel and copper. Nearly all of the world's supply of these metals are extracted from lode deposits in four separate countries - the Republic of South Africa, the U.S.S.R., Canada, and the United States. The Republic of South Africa is the only country that produces all six PGM in substantial quantities.

PGM have become critical to industry because of their extraordinary physical and chemical properties - the manufacturers have used catalytic converters containing platinum, palladium, and rhodium to reduce automobile emissions. Similarly, the chemical and petroleum refining industries have relied on PGM catalysts to produce a wide variety of chemicals and petroleum products.

<http://minerals.er.usgs.gov/minerals/pubs/commodity/platinum/stat/>

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BOO



USING COFFEE FILTERS

By Phyllis George

Houston Gem & Mineral Society

You are always warned never to put the sludge resulting from grinding cabochons and gemstones into your household plumbing as it will plug it up. My cabochon machine uses a water-filled tray under the grinding wheels and a fish tank style air pump placed on the bottom of the tray to spurt water on the wheel in use. By the time I am ready to replace the water with fresh, there usually is quite a bit of sludge at the bottom of the tray from rough shaping the cabochon.

I use my cabochon machine in my kitchen, and trying to carry that water-filled low-sided tray out the back door into the back yard is out of the question. The water would slosh over the sides before I ever got there. The water must go down the sink.

My solution to the problem is to use coffee pot filters (the biggest I can find) to line a bowl-shaped strainer which has a flat bottom. The filters must extend several inches up on all sides so the water can't overflow and drain into the sink without being filtered. I usually put two filters in, but it is probably not necessary. I never find any residue on the bottom filter. The water usually takes overnight before it finally drains through the filter, and I find very little residue in my sink the next morning. So far, this solution has worked well for me.

(Mrs. George is Editor of *The Backbender's Gazette*: via The Rockpile, 10/97 via Pick & Pack, 2/98)

JEWELER'S SAW

A jeweler's saw is a very handy tool. Tear or cut narrow strips of cloth-backed silicon carbide (broken expanding drum belts are ideal). Clamp the ends in your jeweler's saw, tension up, and you have an excellent sander for those hard-to-get-at places in silverwork or carving.

From: Geolap News via Pick & Pack, 2/98

HEADLINES

Via Hale Sweeney

Man struck by lightning faces battery charge.
New study of obesity looks for larger test group.

Astronaut takes blame for gas in spacecraft.
Kids make nutritious snacks.

Chef throws his heart into helping feed needy.
Arson suspect is held in Massachusetts fire.
British union finds dwarfs in short supply.
Energizer bunny is jailed, charged with battery.

From: ROCKHOUND RAMBLINGS, 10/98



HOW TO SAW MONTANA AGATE

People not familiar with sawing and cutting Montana agate have perhaps, wondered how to "set-up" to saw the first nodules they acquire. Most Montana nodules are found in two shapes flat and slightly curving like the hand, or round and elongated. If the rock has good possibilities, it can be easily be ruined or several slabs spoiled by one saw cut at the wrong angle.

As this material probably has rolled hundreds of miles down turbulent streams, nearly all of it is cracked, some badly and some only to a depth of 1/4" to 1/2". These cracks have to be taken into consideration when sawing, to get the largest slabs with dendritic, scenic or color effect free from fracture.

The first thing to do is to look into the rocks as far as possible with a strong light to determine which way the moss or banding layers lie. Light cuts taken off an end and a side, at right angles to the layers, will then reveal whether the best scene or effect can be obtained by slabbing from end to end or from side to side.

Many people who are used to sawing the thunderegg-type a gates get used to sawing each nodule through the center to expose the pattern, moss, or plume. While this method works well with these nodules, it cannot be used to the best advantage with Montana material. It will probably ruin the best sprays as the larger and better ones usually lie toward the center. Sawing across them will render them valueless.

Only a very few specimens carry the fine large sprays, so do not be disappointed if the first few do not have them. About the time you are ready to give up, one of the poorest looking pieces may have the fine spray you are looking for. This is especially true with some that are milky in color and impossible to see into.

From: Gem Cutting Shop Helps, via Quarry Quips, 7/98 via others

SHOW CASE TIPS

Last minute washing may cause steam inside the glass to heat from the lights. Wash specimens at least 3 days prior to the show.

Don't use vinyl tape labels because they may warp under the case lights.



LAPIDARY DIGEST E-MAIL LIST

You are invited to join the Lapidary Digest E-Mail list, a free mail list devoted solely to all the lapidary arts except faceting. It focuses on the cutting, carving, shaping, knapping, polishing, and assembly of rocks and minerals into cabs, special shapes, intarsia and channel work pieces. Tumbling, slab and trim sawing, the types and properties of stones used for lapidary, and the treatment of these stones are all proper topics for discussions. The list has over 1200 subscribers and is sent out in digest form, about twice a week.

To join, send a message to: <<lapidary@mindspring.com>> with the word SUBSCRIBE on the subject line of the message. This is a programmed subscription which picks up your E-Mail address from your message, so be sure to subscribe from the computer to which you want the Digest to be sent. All future communications with the Digest computer must be from the same computer address.

A welcome letter will be sent to you shortly after you subscribe, containing policies and procedures for interacting with the Digest. We hope you will join and participate, and look forward to seeing you there.

~ Hale Sweeny, Administrator, Lapidary Digest,
in an E-Mail to the Rocks-and-Fossils List. ~
From: T-Town Rockhound, 10/98



HAPPY HALLOWEEN

Make sure you attend the next Rock Club Meeting in November.



Don't forget about the time change for the next Rock Club Meeting: 2:00 PM not 7:00 PM on Sunday, Nov. 1, 1998

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Trick-or-Treat



E -Mail the "Diggins" Editor at: jerrynevland@hotmail.com

FOSSIL COLLECTING VIEWS

In a recent issue of *Science News* – (*Science News*, Vol 153, 2/14/1998) there are some letters written to address the concerns on the prohibition of field collection of fossils by amateur fossil collectors. Lloyd Fowler, CFMS Director passed them on because of the interest of AFMS members in this area.

The letters below are reprinted with permission from *Science News*, the weekly news magazine of Science. © 1998 by Science Service. Further reproduction is prohibited without written permission of the publisher.

♦ **Paleontologists who condemn making profits from selling fossils are hypocrites ('Psst... Wanna Buy a *T. rex*?' SN: 12/13/97, p. 382)** They themselves profit from digging up fossils -after all, they don't work for nothing.

The free market eventually makes all desired goods and services available for the least Cost (assuming no collusion among sellers). The problem is not that good fossils are rare, it is that not enough of them are being found!

Concerns over excavation details are unfounded. If customers demand certain procedures with photos and logbooks, they'll get them-and the price will be reasonable, once the industry matures. Scientists will be relieved of those administrative tasks they typically despise. Instead, businessmen will do them; they are administrative experts. This will leave scientists free to do the things at which they are experts'. It's called efficiency.

People who prefer fieldwork will work for a company. Those who prefer theoretical work will stay at the university. This is the same choice facing most of us.

Welcome to the real world.

Wayne Batteiger, Rolla, Mo.

♦ **While I have the highest regard for professional paleontologists and collectors for museum and university collections, and I strongly agree with the need to preserve the integrity of fossil finds, I think the role of the serious amateur collector is vastly underrated. Many, if not most, professionals got their start as private collectors. Indeed, had it not been for serious amateurs, many fine displays in museums would not exist. Moreover, it seems to me that letting fossils weather out of the ground and risk being destroyed by erosion, wild animals, and so on is worse than collecting them.**

While it is wrong on the part of some collectors to destroy sites or lose scientific evidence, it is much worse when professionals, under the guise of professionalism, allow these valuable artifacts to languish in dusty corners of forgotten storage rooms through neglect, lack of interest, insufficient funds, or whatever. At least the amateur strives to protect and preserve his or her investment. Often, the best finds end up in a museum or other public display anyway.

The dealings surrounding Sue, the *Tyrannosaurus rex*, and the imprisonment of Larson, who in my Opinion did a thoroughly professional job in his private business, show that the pendulum has swung too far in protecting collecting sites for professionals.

Please give the serious amateurs and private professionals the credit they deserve. They most often are *not* the destroyers of history-they are the protectors of it.

Gene Meieran, Phoenix, Ariz.



Canyons can be gorge-ous.

Artists know where to draw the line.

From: [American Federation of Mineralogical Societies](#), 9/98



FROM ROCKS & FOSSILS LIST ON THE INTERNET

The "World Champion Quartz Crystal Dig" is being held in Mt. Ida, Arkansas on October 8-10, 1998. There is also the "Quartz, Quiltz, and Craftz Festival" on the 9th - 11th (with booth space available for dealers.) Two good sites to check for information are: www.mtidachamber.com and also www.commean.com/rocks.

From: T-Town Rockhound, 10/98

AM I GETTING ON?

I am the life of the party - till 8:30 PM.
I use hammers and pliers to open child proof containers.

I'm ready to go home before I get there.
I can travel an hour without a bathroom.
I'm awake some time before my legs will move.
I smile a lot in case you are telling a joke I can't hear.

I'm not grouchy. I just don't like noise, crowds, rock and roll, other drivers, and bad jokes.
I never forget what I'm goin _____.

From: [Rockhound Ramblings](#), 10/98





PROMOTING OUR HOBBY

George Campbell

Greetings:

One of the topics which comes up frequently in this hobby (and business) is how to encourage new collectors to begin and build collections. A couple of weeks ago, while I was in the local branch library, I noticed once again that they had an 8' X 8' lighted display case in the entryway.

So I asked the branch manager whether they would be interested in an exhibit on mineralogy and mineral collecting. I was amazed to find that the library had a very difficult time finding anyone to put "any" displays in the case. Most of the time it was just used for exhibits of books from the library, since nobody wanted to put a display in the case.

So...I volunteered to do a display. Two weeks later, it's in place and can stay there virtually as long as I want to leave it. I did a major educational display on mineralogy and collecting, including a systematic collection (a small one, of course, using miniatures and thumbnails), along with several other categories, such as gemstones, local minerals keyed to a local map, esthetic specimens, and all the usual sorts of things one finds in a museum display.

It took about three days to put together, with all the informational display cards, etc., and about three hours to install. No big deal, really.

I think this is an idea which could be adopted by many of the local clubs. I'm amazed, frankly, that the club in this area hasn't done such displays on a regular basis in all the branches of the library. Every branch has a display case and they're all available to just about anyone.

I'm a dealer, but I don't do a local trade in specimens, and didn't use this as any sort of advertising...just as an educational exhibit. I hope it stimulates some interest, and the branch librarian said that she'd keep an eye on circulation of related books, which should be a good measure of how popular the exhibit actually is.

Best wishes,, George Campbell, OsoSoft Mineral Connection, <http://www.osomin.com>

From: American Federation of Mineralogical Societies,

June, July, August/1998

You Might Be A North Dakotan If:

1. You know the real state bird is the mosquito.
2. You always said you were going to leave when you grew up.
3. People from other states love to hear you say words with "O's" in them.



Presidents Message

From Ruby Lingelbach
President 1998 – 1999

October 1998

AFMS SHOW & MEETING

The Rocky Mountain Federation was respectfully represented the AFMS Show in Houghton, Michigan. I had never been to Michigan before and with the Show titled, "Red Gold and Tarnished Silver", and with my previous experience with the copper mining areas of Arizona, I was expecting short grass type hills covering red dirt. My! Was I ever wrong! The fir, pine, spruce, etc. were beautiful. When the ground could be seen it more usually grayish. The people were most friendly and helpful. The Show Committee, headed by Steve Whelan, did a masterful job of organizing the field trips as well as the Show. Those of us who had not collected this type of rocks began to learn what to look for, but few were successful in finding the coveted datolite. Guides from the area clubs were present to help anyway that was needed. They could not keep anything they found while serving as a guide, so they gave whatever it was to the nearest neophyte collector. (And most of us were neophyte collectors.) Those who had been able to obtain a metal detector had the advantage. We do thank the members of the Copper Country Rock & Mineral Club and the Midwest Federation for their generous hospitality.

From: [Rocky Mountain Federation News, 10/98](#)

People who say they sleep like a baby usually don't have one. — Leo J. Burke

Rocky Mountain Federation News, 10/98

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

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

6th, 7th, & 8th - Flatirons Annual Gem & Mineral Show, hosted by the Flatirons Mineral Club, Boulder, CO held at Crossroads Mall, Boulder, CO Show Chair: Brad Willkomm, Info: Call Connie Hauser (303) 530-0462

14th & 15th - 24th Annual Mineral & Gem Show, hosted by Huachuca Mineral & Gem Club, Show location Oscar Yrun Community Center, 3020 Tacoma, Sierra Vista, AZ Show Chair: Lawrence O. Stallcup, PO Box 1596, Sierra Vista, AZ 85636

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 Splendoria (e-mail ID: lois.splendoria@juno.com). Show Co-Chair: Gilbert V. Flores, (602) 973-0429, and Shirley Fiske, (602) 938-3520

21st, & 22nd - 29th Annual Havasu Festival, hosted by Lake Havasu G & M Society. Held at Nautical Inn Conference Center, 1000 McCulloch Blvd., Lake Havasu City, AZ Chairperson: Marie Wanciak, PO Box 0990, Lake Havasu City, AZ 86405-0990 (520) 855-9854 or Co-Chair: Roberta Gordon, (520) 453-3401

DECEMBER 1998

4th, 5th, & 6th - 2nd Annual Gemboree, hosted by The Deming Rock and Gem Society. SW New Mexico Fairgrounds. Field trips the week after the show. Show Chairman: Larry McCormick, Deming Rock & Gem Soc. PO Box 2708, Deming, NM 88031-2708 (505) 546-0393 or Alf Bennett (505) 544-0967 Show registration inquiries may be mailed to Deming Rock and Gem Society, PO Box 2708, Deming, NM 88031-2708



JANUARY 1999

22nd and 23rd - 42nd Annual Gila County Gem & Mineral Show, hosted by Gila Cnty G&M Soc., Miami, AZ Gila County Fairgrounds, 3 miles north of Jct. US 60-70, Show Chair John Baker PO Box 487, Miami, AZ 85539 (602) 503-0651, Dealer Chair Lila Lambrecht, same address, (520) 425-3459

FEBRUARY 1999

11th, 12th, 13th, & 14th, 1999 Tucson Gem & Mineral Show, Convention Center, Tucson, AZ Admission: Adults 5.50, children 14 and under free with paying adult. Feature: Minerals of Mexico Information: contact: Tucson Gem & Mineral Soc., Ph: (520) 322-5773: Fax: (520) 322-6031 e-mail: tgmgsb@azstarnet.com

MARCH 1999

11th, 12th, 13th, & 14th - 34th Annual Rockhound Roundup, hosted by Deming Gem & Mineral Soc., Deming, NM SW New Mexico Fairgrounds. Field trips during show. Information: Mary Remondini, (505) 546-6670, Deming Gem & Mineral Soc. PO Box 1459, Deming, NM 88031

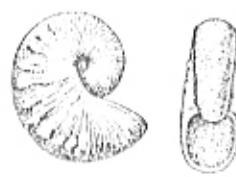
NEW BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT GUIDEBOOK

The US Bureau of Land Management has published a 400 page guide detailing recreation opportunities on BLM land: **BEYOND THE NATIONAL PARKS - RECREATION GUIDE TO PUBLIC LANDS IN THE WEST**, covers more than 170 recreation destinations in 17 states.

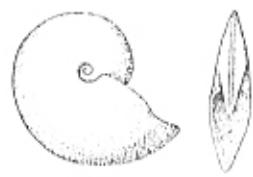
The book contains 160 color maps of sharp photographs and nearly 190 color maps of recreational sites and the states in which they're located. The guide also provides information on routes, fees, accessibility and other practical tips. The book describes sites in New Mexico, where the BLM has 12.8 million acres that contain desert landscapes, sand dunes, mountain ranges, arroyos, caves, lava flows, badlands, and grass prairies.

The book is available for \$19.95 plus \$3.50 shipping & handling from: **Smithsonian Institution Press** at: (800) 782-4612.

From: Paul Bradley via **Obsidian Observer**, 5/98
via **No Stone Unturned**, 6/98



Scaphites



Placenticeras