

# "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

DIGGINS FROM DAKOTA

Jim Ellis Editor

3235 16 St. S.W.

CENTER N.D.

58530

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RMFMS - 1st Place, Small Bulletins, 1998  
RMFMS - 3rd Place, Small Bulletins, 1997, New Editor  
RMFMS - 2nd Place, Small Bulletins, 1992  
RMFMS - 2nd Place, Small Bulletins, 1987  
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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



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 - \$6.00, 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: Neill Burnett #223-6758

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: Jim Ellis #794-3192

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 Oliger, 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



**Central Dakota Gem & Mineral Society**  
Minutes From May 2, 1999

The meeting was called to order by President Niell Burnett and the Pledge of Allegiance was recited. The next meeting will be Sunday June 6, 1999 at the Masonic Center in Bismarck, N.D. at 7:00 PM.

The minutes of the last meeting were read and approved with two changes. The Treasurer then reported that the beginning balance for the clubs' account was \$205.42. Expenditures and Income for the month left an ending balance of \$269.92.

**COMMITTEES:**

Field Trip: Any Volunteers?

Hospitality: Servers for June; Betty Mautz and Justin Leidholm.

Hospital: Gen Buresh is in St. Alexius Hospital, Room 4426

Old Business: Russ Oliger reported that he hadn't been able to get through to John Hoganson about visiting the triceratops dig but would keep trying. President Neill Burnett gave a big "Thanks" to vice-president Jim Nevland for covering for him at the April meeting

New Business: Ray Oliger will give a presentation to some Boy Scouts on Tuesday and Ray and Russ Oliger will be giving a program to 150 Girl Scouts at the GSA Jamboree in June.

There were 24 adults and 5 jrs present. The adult door prize was won by Jim Nevland and the junior door prize was won by Laura Ellis.

The meeting was adjourned and the floor was turned over to Duane Robey for an excellent class on how to remove opal from the matrix.

Submitted by Secretary

Russell Oliger

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**NEXT MEETING**

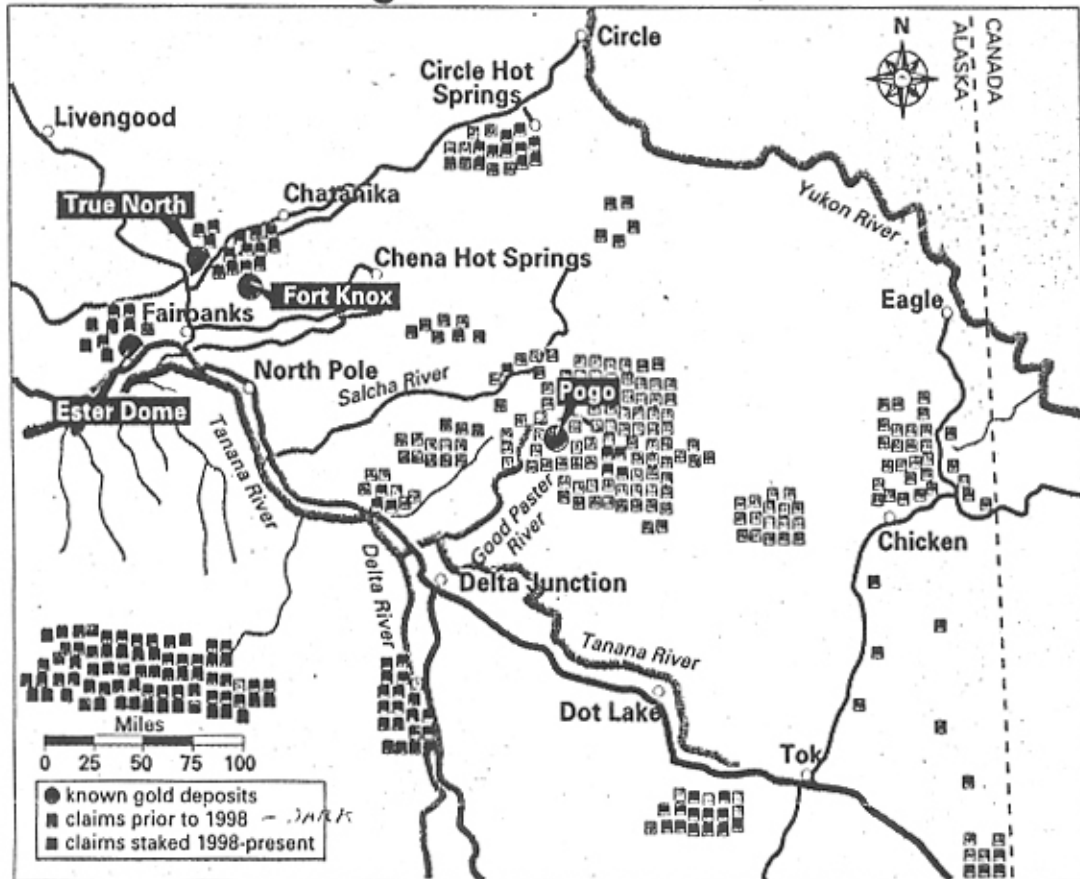
The next meeting of the Central Dakota Gem & Mineral Society will be held at the Masonic Center, 1810 Schafer St. Bismarck N.D. on Sunday, June 3, 1999 at 7:00 PM. Early class will be at 6:30 PM.

Dave Jensen will host a presentation titled: Our love affair with the Heart River.



The following is from the Sunday, April, 11, 1999 issue of the Fairbanks Daily News-Miner. Used with permission.

## Gold claim staking in Interior Alaska



Source: Northern Mapping and Database Management

Scotti Veala/News-Miner

# Interior the hot spot for gold exploration

By PATRICIA JONES  
Staff Writer

Last year, gold prospectors played a competitive game of cat and mouse with helicopter-supported claim-staking crews who worked secretly to grab up a half-million acres of state land in the hills northwest of the Delta area.

This summer, helicopters will continue to buzz prospectors around the upper Goodpastor River, the focus of an intense exploration effort that could rack up more than \$22 million in spending by about a dozen or more companies surveyed by the News-Miner.

Throughout Interior Alaska, gold prospectors plan to spend a total of \$27 million, which includes work on properties in the Fairbanks area, in the Circle Mining District and other, less-publicized prospects near the Canadian border.

That estimated \$27 million in exploration spending, which comes primarily from cash raised in equity markets by publicly traded companies, could easily double, prospectors say. Gold prices have languished below the \$300 mark for more than a year.

"We're all having troubles raising money . . . but (Alaska) is viewed as one of the most prospective areas in the world, where exploration dollars are being converted into gold ounces readily," said Greg



Patricia Jones/News-Miner

**SAMPLING**—Bill Hulash, a geologist working for Kinross Gold, examines the results of his panning dirt and rock taken from a drill sample on March 31 at the Gil claims on the Fort Knox property. Drilling work on the Interior Alaska property began in March this year, part of a planned \$1 million exploration effort by Kinross.

Sheardown, president of Ventures Resources of Toronto. Ventures is a publicly traded exploration company, a newcomer in the field with gold exploration projects on Doyon lands in eastern Interior Alaska.

Exploration in Alaska decreased last year about 1 percent, he noted, dropping \$1.4 million from the \$57.8 million spent in 1997. "In comparison, the rest of the world saw about a 35 percent decrease in exploration spending," Sheardown

said.

This summer, rather than working secretly to lay claim to choice ground, exploration companies such as Sheardown's will be trumpeting their search for another rich gold deposit like the alluring neighbor, the Pogo prospect located 40 miles northeast of Delta in the upper Goodpastor River.

Drilling work completed last summer estimates that the underground hard rock deposit contains at least 5.2 million

ounces of gold. Each ton of rock at Pogo contains a half-ounce of gold, on average, far richer than the Fort Knox mine average grade of .025 ounces per ton.

Pogo developers have publicly stated " . . . there's potential for adding to the size, and that is the excitement," said Dick Swainbank, mineral development specialist for the state Department of Commerce and Economic Development. "Even with depressed gold prices, you can still make a mine out of that."

Canadian-based Teck Exploration, which manages the exploration effort at Pogo, plans to spend \$15 million this year on the property, according to Alaska regional manager Karl Hanneman of Fairbanks.

While most of that money will go toward building a mile-long underground tunnel to get to the gold deposit, some will be spent on reconnaissance exploration on other parts of the 72-square-mile Pogo claim block.

"Teck has staked some state claims in the region and will do some regional work, very preliminary exploration," Hanneman said.

That includes geological mapping and sampling, taking stream sediment samples and hiking the rolling hill ridge tops to collect rock samples.

It's all part of the basic, and sometimes tedious and boring, field work that points prospectors toward possible locations of buried mineral deposits.

Now that other claim stakers have their land rights sewed up, it's time to start costly and less glamorous work. The goal is to find enough clues to suggest the presence of gold to warrant even more expensive drilling work.

"I think the push will be there from the market, which will want to see drilling out there as soon as possible," said David Caulfield, president of Equities Engineering, a Vancouver, B.C.-based geological consulting firm that staked claims around Pogo for several different clients.

"A geologist in a perfect world would like to do things slow and methodical," he added. "But guys raising money in the market do not get excited about stream or soil sampling."

Topography and transportation to the upper Goodpastor makes it a costly prospecting area, especially when compared to the last land rush that occurred just north of Fairbanks in the mid-1990s.

"Access is only by helicopters, so you're not going to have a lot of little groups go out after work and stake claims," said Erik Hansen, a local geologist and land status researcher.

That aspect of the emerging mining district helped reduce conflict among claim stakers, he said. "You don't have any phony staking, because how else would you prove you've been out there, without a flight log or canceled check for the helicopter cost."

Beginning in early 1998, shortly after the first resource estimates about the Pogo project were publicly released, claim stakers began swarming the hills and valleys northeast of Delta. About 500,000 acres in either mining claims and prospecting sites have been filed with the



"... probably bigger than anything we've seen around here for a long time," said Swainbank. "It was quite a bit bigger than what happened in Fairbanks, almost 10 times the amount of land."

Whether the same amount of gold will be discovered is another matter. The Fairbanks Mining District, already well worked by placer miners and dredges, offers a network of well-established dirt and rock roads to transport gear, prospectors and drill rigs.

Everything in and around Pogo must be flown in, draining between 30 to 40 percent of an exploration budget for basic logistical support, Caulfield said.

He is organizing a joint exploration effort for this summer's season among three or more of his clients. The companies will pool their money and send a crew out to work on several different properties, staged out of one camp.

"Once you get into a place where the logistical aspect of everything is so intense, it makes sense to share," Caulfield said. "We've done it lots. It's quite common. But we do not share the geological information, just the logistics to bring the costs down. . . it puts money into the ground instead of up in the air."

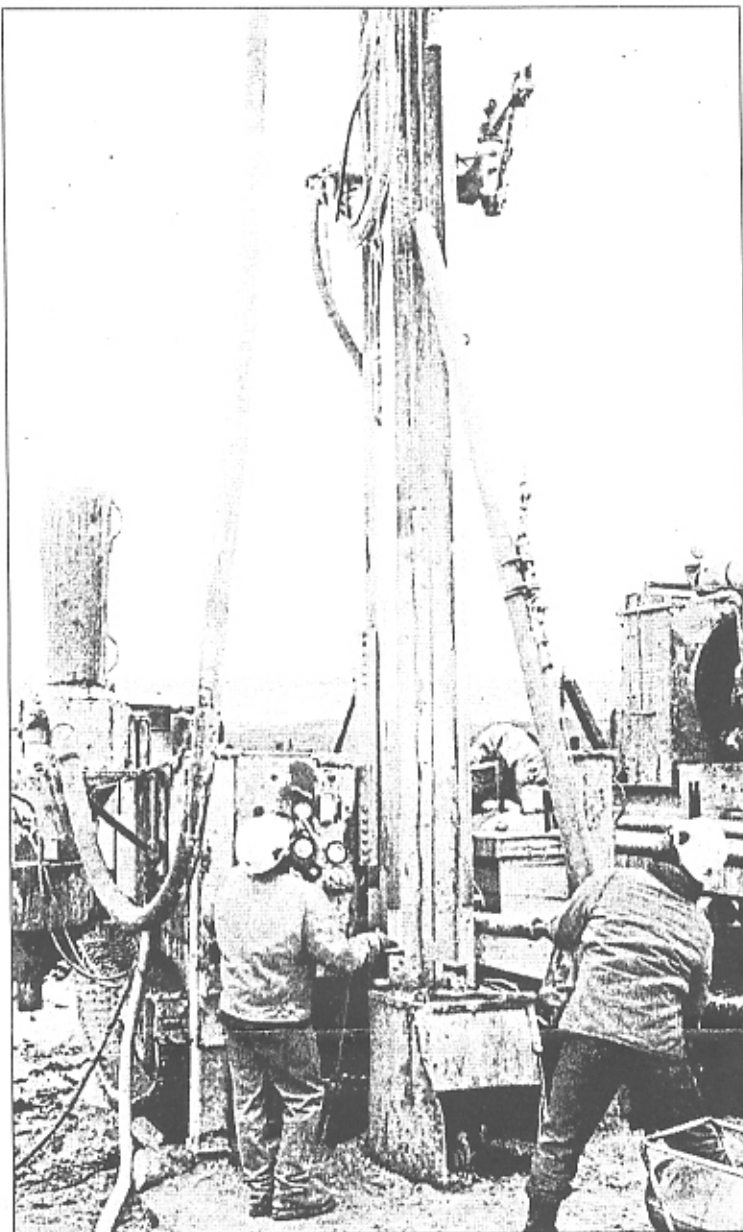
That's important for junior-sized prospecting companies that must continue to operate in the low gold price environment or else close up shop.

"The snake oil salesmen and the used car dealers are gone.

What's left are the survivors," said Curt Freeman, a Fairbanks-based geological consultant who also is organizing a joint exploration camp near Pogo this summer. "It's time to quit wringing our hands about low metal prices and get out and go."

Mining companies and prospectors alike share that conclusion, and those new participants in Alaska's mineral industry see less risk here for their precious exploration investments.

"Alaska is bucking the trend (of reduced exploration). If it wasn't for the price of gold, you'd see two to three times the level of investment in exploration," said Harry Barr, president of International Freegold, a publicly traded prospecting company that holds property in the Fairbanks area. "Everywhere I go, Alaska comes up as one of best places to put your money into."



Patricia Jones/News-Miner

**DRILL**—Tom DePeter, left, a driller working for GF Back Drilling Co. of Fairbanks, runs controls of a reverse-circulation drill rig while Derek Lynn inserts an additional section of steel pipe. Fort Knox geologists hired GF Back to take drill samples on the Gil claims, located five miles east of the mine's known gold deposit. The machine uses water to force rock cutting to the surface, where geologists collect and prepare the samples for chemical testing. Kinross Gold, owner of the Fort Knox gold mine, plans to spend about \$1 million on exploration at Gil, hoping to find another mineable gold deposit.

## WORDS OF WISDOM

"We the people are the rightful masters, both of Congress and the Courts, not to overthrow the Constitution, but to overthrow the men who pervert the Constitution."

Abraham Lincoln

"Truth will ultimately prevail where there is pains taken to bring it to light."

George Washington

"As long as our Government is administered for the good of the people, and is regulated by their will; as long as it secures to us the rights of persons and of property, liberty of conscience and of the press, it will be worth defending."

Andrew Jackson

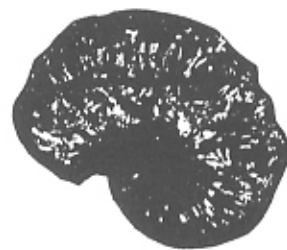
## HINTS & TIPS

When grinding and sanding Obsidian, always grind from the center out. Otherwise the wheel and sanding belts will pick up tiny chips of glass that will scratch your stone.

From Contact Zone via Gneiss Times 2/98

To cut unlined Obsidian, first immerse in water. Hold it up and look at it against the sunlight while turning it. You will see a point where the coloration is the brightest. Cut parallel to that point.

From Rock Writings via Gneiss Times 2/98  
VIA Flatirons Facts 4/99



## NOT A UFO, NOT A LIGHTNING BALL

### IT'S AN EARTHQUAKE LIGHT!

Earthquake lights have long been observed by the US Geological Survey for some time. They occur simultaneously with earthquakes, and are located along the faults on the earth's surface where the quake is centered.

Recently, the lookout on the observation point at the Yakima Indian Reservation in Washington thought he saw fire. It then turned out to be a very strong white light approximately the size of a basketball, floating down a slope without any noise at all. Scientists refer to these balls of light as "luminous phenomena" and they theorize that they occur as a result of strain in a region where the crust is moving.

The light may result from a release of strain in a region. There is strong correlation between the number of earthquakes and any monthly increases in report of sightings of these lights. In the 1970's, before the eruption of Mt. St. Helens, there were many more luminous phenomena sighted than at any time subsequent to the eruption. Between 1972 and 1977, eighty-two such phenomena were reported on the Yakima reservation. Some researchers think they may be connected with earthquakes that are of a very small magnitude. Others hope that they may be a way of predicting earthquakes and eruptions.

Reprinted from Pick & Pack 3/98 via Open Line Bulletin via Tips And Chips 11/97 via T-Town Rockhound 1/98 Via Flatirons Facets 4-99

## NO GOLD SHORTAGE IN SPACE

A distant star which can be seen with the naked eye has an unusually abundant supply of gold, perhaps thousands of times more than Earth. Two NASA researchers at the Goddard Space Center discovered the gold in a star in the Cancer Constellation. One of the men estimated the amount of gold would be a billion tons. Different elements give off light of different energy levels, and spectrographic analysis of light is used to identify the elements in stars.

(from Lake Agassiz Rock Hound 11/96, via Gates Rockhound Bulletin 11/97, via Glacial Drifter 9/98, via Strata Gem 2/99)

via the Burro Express 3-99

### Headlines That Make You Go HMMMMM . . .

- Police Begin Campaign To Run Down Jaywalkers
- Safety Experts Say School Bus Passengers Should Be Belted
- Drunk Gets Nine Months In Violin Case
- British Left Waffles On Falkland Islands
- Teachers Strike Idle Kids
- Stolen Painting Found By Tree
- War Dims Hope For Peace
- Deer Kill 17,000
- Man Struck By Lightning Faces Battery Charge
- Kids Make Nutritious Snacks
- Chef Throws His Heart Into Helping Feed Needy

*Contributed by John McLaughlin  
from the Internet*

Via Rockhound Record, 3/99  
via Quarry Quips 3-99

### ROCKY SEZ



as seen on barbershop marquee in Grand Island, Nebraska  
via G.I. Nugget 4-99