

DIGGINS FROM DAKOTA



CENTRAL DAKOTA GEM AND MINERAL SOCIETY
Ida Mae Ramberg, Editor
1325 North Fifteenth Street
Bismarck, North Dakota 58501

DIGGINS FROM DAKOTA

CENTRAL DAKOTA GEM AND MINERAL SOCIETY

- AIMS:**
1. The study of Minerology and Geology
 2. To foster field trips to collect minerals, gems and fossils
 3. The improvement of ots members in the art of cutting, posishing and mounting gem material.
 4. To provide opportunity for exchange ,purchase and exhibition of specimens and material.

MEETINGS: First Sunday of each month in the Hospitality Room of the Capital Electric Building on Highway 83, north of Bismarck

VISITORS ARE ALWAYS WELCOME: at the club functions, meetings, field trips, Annual shows, etc.

OFFICERS AND COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN

President	William A. Buresh	1527 N. 19th St	Bismarck	223 0611
Vice President	Duane Robey	2119 Ave. F East	Bismarck	255 0576
Secretary	Stan Fairaizl	205 6th Ave. N.W.	Mandan	663 9712
Treasurer	Dick Bergantine	703 12th Ave. N.W.	Mandan	663 3419
Past President	Earle Campbell	1134 28th St.	Bismarck	255 3658
Parliamentarian	Genevieve(Mrs.W)Buresh	1527 N. 19th St.	Bismarck	223 0611
Program Chairman	Harold Brady	1401 Sunny Road	Mandan	663 3904, 3903
Librarian	Owen O'Neill	906 1st Ave.N.W.	Mandan	663 3748
Field Trip Chairman	Frank Herr	528 West Villard	Dickinson	225 8712
Nominations	Ted Giese	Zip 58563	New Salem	843 7005
Refreshments	Sue(Mrs.Bob)Randall	928 N. 16th St	Bismarck	223 1625
Annual Show	Earle Campbell	1134 N. 28th St.	Bismarck	255 3658
Historian	Vian(Mrs.A.)Anderson	R.R. # 2	Bismarck	673 4585
Doorman and Greeter	Dick Merrill	1428 N. 22nd St.	Bismarck	223 7275
Pebble Pup Leader	Patricia Brady	1401 Sunny Road	Mandan	663 3904
Editor &Publicity	Ida Mae(Mrs.J)Ramberg	1325 N. 15th St.	Bismarck	223 6296
Membership chairman				
&Subscription Agent	Larry Strand	913½ N. 19th St.	Bismarck	258 5128
Zip Codes	Bismarck, 58501	Mandan 58554	Dickinson 58601	

All contributions for this bulletin should be mailed to the Editor, Ida Mae Ramberg, 1325 N. 15th Street, Bismarck, N.Dak. 58501, by the 10th of each month.

Each member should consider submitting articles etc.for publication each year.

Other editors may reprint articles from this bulletin, A credit line would be appreciated. Exchange bulletins are welcomed and should be mailed to the editor at her home address.

The Central Dakota Gem and Mineral Society is a member of the Rocky Mountain Federation of Mineralogical Societies and the American Federation of Mineralogical Societies.

PRESIDENT'S COMMENTS

"The First Annual North Dakota Gem and Mineral Show will be held on September sixth and seventh at the new and spacious Community Center building in Mandan, North Dakota." That was the pronouncement of Earle Campbell, the show chairman, at our April meeting.

The stage is set and cast has been selected by director Campbell. All of us are not naturally born actors, but all of us have that little something that qualifies us to be a stage hand, and there is need for a great many stage hands to put on a show of this magnitude. So, whether we are on the stage or behind the scenes, if we do our part, the show cannot help but be a great success.

It is with regret that I have to announce the resignation of Sally O'Neill as publicity chairwoman and editor of "Diggins from Dakota". She was doing an admirable job with the Society newsletter and it is unfortunate that her illness prevents her from continuing. We are very grateful to you for your great effort, Sally, even while you were in the hospital, in making sure that the last issue came out on time. We are looking forward to seeing you very soon at the meetings again.

At the same time we are very fortunate in having another experienced member who is willing to carry on with the publication. Ida Mae Ramberg, the first editor of "Diggins from Dakota", has again assumed that responsibility and I am sure we can expect a great future for the Society's publication.

Club member, Frank Herr, has again come through with his generosity. He again lugged pounds and pounds of Mexican Cocomuts, slabbed cab material, etc., down those stairs to the meeting room and at a silent auction provided an opportunity for the club members to purchase some good working material at very reasonable prices. It is just too bad that he again had to lug so much of it back up the stairs. He donated eighty per cent of the proceeds of the sale to the show fund for working capital. This netted a total of \$93.60. It must be said that Frank has already done his part towards the show effort. On behalf of the Society, Frank, we thank you.

Mrs. Pius(Emma)Fischer is also in the "spirit of things" in regard to the show. She has crocheted a beautiful afghan, which she has donated to the Society for a fund raising project. She has taken it upon herself to accept donations from club members at the meetings. With each donation, your name will be dropped into a box. At the June meeting a drawing will be made from the box and someone will be the lucky possessor of the afghan. Thank you also, Mrs. Fischer, for a great idea.

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be held on May 3, 1975, at 7:30 P.M. Program Chairman, Harold Brady, is planning a "ROCK SWAP" and is asking one and all to bring rocks, fossils, specimens, lapidary items, or any other "rockhound items" to swap with other members. Remember, you must each bring something in order to participate in this activity.

The lunch committee for the May meeting will consist of Clara Muggli, Vina Anderson, and one more "Volunteer."

SHOW NEWS

Show chairman, Earle Campbell, announces that committee assignments and other details concerning the Gem and Mineral Show to be held next September 6-7 will be published in the next DIGGINS FROM DAKOTA.

WANTED: Two volunteer typists to type for the Central Dakota Gem and Mineral Society Show Committee. Call Earle Campbell, 255 3658.

ILLNESSES

Reports were received of the hospitalization of Mrs. John Tonander and Mrs. Evert Nelson. We wish them a speedy recovery.

MEMBERSHIPS

New: Mr. and Mrs. Roy Schubert, Richardton, ND

Renewal: Mr. and Mrs. DeLane and Myra Meier, Bismarck, ND

Correction: Joel Ramberg's name was inadvertently omitted from the March membership list

Renewal: Miriam Keffler,

OLDEST ROCKS ON EARTH

Where do you have to go to find the oldest rocks on earth? No farther than to our neighboring state to the east. According to an article in a recent issue of the Current Science magazine, rocks, calculated to be the oldest ever found on earth--3.8 billion years old--were just uncovered in southwestern Minnesota. These rocks were found in the scenic valley of the Minnesota river.

Their age was found by determining how much of the radioactive element, rubidium, had decayed (changed) into another substance. Scientists know that rubidium decays at a constant rate over billions of years, therefore they can determine the age of the rocks by noting the amount of rubidium and the other substance that is present.

Rocks older than 3 billion years are very rare because the 4.5-billion-year-old earth continually "recycles" its rocks through episodes of volcanic eruptions and mountain building. Beneath the earth's crust, the earth's mantle slowly churns away in response to great stores of heat energy. The mantle pulls continental rocks down into the depths of the earth in long "troughs." The rocks are then recycled within the mantle and leave the mantle at volcanic "ridges."

No one knows exactly how or why, but somehow the old Minnesota rocks narrowly missed the "down escalator" during their long history. Now the geologists are having a great time studying them.

MYSTERY METEORITE

A 50 lb. iron meteorite has just recently been rediscovered after lying in an old Vermont barn for 50 years. The mystery surrounds the fact that few meteorites have ever been found in New England and therefore this could be an important discovery.



Spring is coming mighty slow
About as fast as this stage can go;
An open, nearly all year,
Then all this late snow did appear.
But Spring will come, it always will,
Then field trips, our days can fill.

APRIL MEETING

The meeting was called to order on April 6, 1975, at 7:30 p.m. by President Bill Buresh.

The minutes were read and approved.

The treasurer reported a balance on hand of \$256.25.

Dick Merrill, Greeter, reported that those present included 30 members, 8 Pebble Pups, and 5 guests--Mr. and Mrs. Jim Swanick, Mandan; Roy and Bruce Schubert, Richardton; and John Bell, Bismarck.

President Buresh reported two items of business discussed at the Executive Board meeting on March 31:

- (1) Revision of the Society constitution. A final draft of the revision will be presented for consideration and adoption by the Society at a later date.
- (2) Plans for the annual fall Gem and Mineral Show.

Earle Campbell, Show Chairman, reported on details of plans for the annual fall Gem and Mineral Show. The dates for the Show were approved for September 6-7, 1975. The site this year will be the new Mandan Community Center, Mandan, ND. A budget was approved for this activity, with authorization for the Show Chairman to establish a special bank account for all funds received and all expenditures for the Show.

The first field trip of the year is tentatively scheduled for all interested members to tour points in South Dakota on May 24-25-26, 1975, under the direction of club member Dr. M. F. McClelland, Mobridge, South Dakota. The time and starting point of the tour will be announced later.

Information has been received that the Williston Club will hold their Gem and Mineral Show on September 19-20-21, 1975.

The program for the evening included a film, This Land, which dealt with the evolution of the North American continent, from 570 million years ago to the present time. The film was followed by a silent auction with materials provided by club member Frank Herr.

Mrs. Pius Fischer won the door prize, a beautiful half of a Brazilian agate donated by Frank Herr.

Lunch was provided by Catherine Anderson and Blossomae Campbell.

HELPFUL HINT: In some displays you want to use a slab of rock to show how it looks before polishing. Water won't stay wet, grease looks greasy, some waxes turn white under heat, but if you rub the surface with liquid detergent and wipe it off there is no shine and it will show the pattern.

L.A. Lapidary Society via
AFMS Newsletter -
from Sooner Rockologist

federation news

William Stewart



midwest federation

Do It Now -- This Year in '75

As you all know the Midwest Federation Show will be held here in 1976, but don't hold back until then. You newer members just joining, or maybe some of you not-so-new members just waiting "til you have more" (in knowledge or specimens -- Do It Now This Year In '75 In Our Show. Compete under the same rules to be used in the MWF Show. Learn by doing, and also ask for help. Make use of knowledge gained by other club members who have agreed to help work with the 1975 Show Committee. They can give you much information gained through competitive display. They can help point out those mislabels, that poor showmanship item, maybe help with the correct identification here or point out an out of class specimen there, but don't expect them to do it all for you. Remember it may be your case that noses out theirs, or mine. So, if you've been holding back -- don't. See me for contacts as my helper list grows. DO IT NOW -- THIS YEAR and best of luck for a "Best of Show" this year. Let us all work together for a "Best Show" each year



american federation

THE EDUCATIONAL ASPECTS OF A FEDERATION SHOW
by Frank Tratnik, NWAFMS President

Some of the finest educational opportunities offered a rockhound are available at a gem and mineral show. A wide variety of displays are on exhibit for your viewing pleasure. They are beautiful and many hours of work and thought are represented in each display.

The rockhound, whether he be interested in lapidary, mineralogy, or fossils in his pursuit of the hobby can learn where material is found, how it is formed, the era in which it developed and some of the things associated with it during the development time. In crystals and agate you learn the chemical composition and the various forms in which they develop.

There are top lecturers at all of our Federation Shows and the lectures cover almost every facet of the hobby. There are many lectures and working demonstrations -- all scheduled and arranged for your benefit and to make the hobby more educational and interesting.

Everyone interested, whether a displayer or a non-displayer, is welcome to attend the Rules and Awards Seminar which is held the day after the judging. Methods of improving your display are discussed and suggestions to correct errors in displaying are given.

Ribbon winners, Delegates and Directors, please persuade your Club members to display; in doing so they will learn more about the hobby and will ESCALATE THE IMAGE OF THE NORTHWEST FEDERATION.

from THE NORTHWEST NEWSLETTER

FROM MIDWEST FEDERATION NEWSLETTER

Try more publicity

This may not be a problem with big clubs in heavily populated areas, but it definitely is a problem in small clubs and in rural areas. Attendance! Or rather lack of it! Many meetings are held with so few in attendance that the business meeting is skipped or might as well be, or the program chairman is embarrassed to introduce a speaker from away to put on a program for a mere fraction of the membership.

Clubs in sparsely settled areas may draw members from 60 miles away or more. That makes over 100 miles round trip. Adverse weather makes driving hazardous in winter months. All of the small rural towns have a wide assortment of activities often scheduled on "rock club" night. These are only some of the reasons for small attendance, but often as not the reason is "I forgot" or "I didn't think the meeting would be important enough or the program good enough."

There is one way to fight this. And that is with plenty of good publicity. This seems to be the age when the media is called on to serve all kinds of American enterprises and that includes rock clubs. Each club should have reminders of each meeting in the press and over radio and T.V. for each and every meeting. The attendance will pick up in direct proportion to your publicity coverage.

Each club needs a forceful publicity director to see that this is done. Virtually all small city newspapers and rural weeklies will give space to a well-written story announcing the program and meeting. T.V. channels have public event calendars for listing noteworthy meetings. Radio stations devote much to local news. And the nearest big city dailies are eager to get more subscribers from rural areas, so will gladly accept well-written stories.

The publicity committee needs to meet the persons in charge of these various free media public services. Very few will ever turn down a club like one of ours if properly approached.

Many publicity chairmen wait until the week before the meeting to send in their announcements. Say the small town paper comes out on Friday and the club meeting is Thursday. The deadline for news is Monday. In such a case, the story would have to be in the mail on Saturday two weeks before the meeting in order to be printed in time to remind members. It is really better for an important meeting or program to have two stories in a row, in which case the chairman would really have to start to work three weeks early.

In some places, even in cities, there are phoning committees, or the secretaries send out cards, or the bulletin carries the story of the future meeting and comes a few days before the meeting. Those are all important, but do not take the place of good publicity if a build up of attendance is desired. The bulletins or cards go to only present paid up members. Perhaps the newspaper stories will draw out old members, new potential members, or visitors from other clubs.

The publicity chairman does not have to have had journalism. (But it helps.) The publicity chairman's main qualification should be that she (or he) is a lively, vivacious, persuasive



From Tulip City Conglomerate

"Hobbies are fine, but who got him interested in collecting rocks for gosh sakes?"

person, who has a true interest in the club. Such a person can make the right contact, learn how to write releases, and become deadline oriented.

How does the publicity chairman write stories which will be accepted? First, keep the story objective and to the point. Tell who, what, where, when, and sometimes why. The famous 5 "W"s of journalism. Mention the names of people. People make news. Qualify the speaker. Why is he an authority? A newspaper story gives all of the important facts in the first or lead paragraph. The story should be typed and double spaced with plenty of room left at the top for headlines. Pictures should be black and white glossy, and sharp and detailed.

The first paragraph alone is probably all the radio and T.V. stations want. This is more acceptable if typed on heavy, non static paper.

Stories should be sent directly to the person in charge of the page or program. A story addressed just to the "Daily News" might wind up on the advertising desk, subscription department, or "Letters to the Editor".

Write about things which sound unusual, exciting, unique, important. Do not write about the wit and wisdom of the president, the fashionable clothes of his wife, the financial details of the club, or who is on the lunch committee. Do not thank people for get well wishes, report on who missed the last meeting, or what plans are being made for the next Christmas party. Keep the story here and now!

Don't write that the program will be about Cretaceous Coelenterates. Write that it will feature the coral reef which once lived where your town now stands. Keep your stories slanted so the general public will read and understand them.

The same things go about show publicity as for publicity of meetings. Only the show stores have to start earlier and run oftener. Proper publicity is important in all that we do. Has your club really given it a good try?

June Zestner

care to try swapping _____ Roddie Larson

If you have never swapped before and are afraid of trying because you don't know how, here are a few guidelines which may help you.

First, after saving your finest specimen for your own collection, divide the remainder of your field trip loot into four piles: extremely good, very good, too good to throw away, and trash. It is the first and second piles which should be your trading material. Other swappers, like you, are out to better their collections and if you offer them junk, you will get junk, or nothing, in return. If you have room, take the third pile along to give to the kids when they offer you a piece of granite for your finest calcite.

Second, make sure everything is properly labeled with the name and locality of the specimen (some people also like to know the year it was collected). Trim and clean your rocks and display them attractively in flats, small boxes, or on foam mountings. At the swap, spread them out on a tailgate or table, rather than on the ground. If in doubt, bring along a folding table and chair.

Once you have set up, leave your rocks and look around at other swappers' wares. Make a mental note of what you like and what you have of similar value that could be traded off. As a beginner, I knew nothing of the value of rocks, but looking back over the years, I realize that only one person has ever tried to take advantage of me. . .

In trying to acquire a certain specimen, tell the owner you would like to have it and invite him to accompany you to your table to see if there is anything he likes. If he looks over your rocks and says, "Sorry, there is nothing here I really need," don't take it personally. Also, don't be unreasonable about trading. If you especially desire a nice specimen from someone who wants something of yours that is worth more, why turn the trade down if you can easily come by more stock? After all, you're there to increase your collection, aren't you?

Don't downgrade the other fellow's materials. You will antagonize him and he certainly won't be fooled into trading any cheaper. Also, if there is something special about your material (phantoms, closed location, etc.), don't hesitate to use this as a selling point.

Bring along some paper towels to wrap new specimens and pencil and paper in case they are without labels. Bring along a lunch or snacks and leave the area clean when you leave.

GOOD LUCK AND HAVE FUN!

from THE OSHKOSH QUARRIER
via FLINT CHIPS From THE GEODE

Two little rocks were sitting along a stream. One was a little boy rock; one was a little girl rock. The little girl rock said to the little boy rock, "I wish you were a little boulder."

via EMERALD GEMS
FROM THE GEODE

THE GLACIAL DRIFTER

An era is a period of time with features of its own that makes it different from previous and following eras. It can be a period of human history, much as the Christian Era that began some 2,000 years ago. The eras of the earth's history may span millions of years.

We do not know the exact age of our planet, but certainly it has traveled more than 4 billion yearly orbits around the sun. Throughout this immense span of time its restless surface has been changing continuously. Each long, patient geological event was followed by another, perhaps on this or another side of the globe. The story of these major events is recorded in the rocky formation of the earth's crust. Scientists pieced these records together to form an overall picture of our planet's immense and staggering history.

The formation of massive mountain chains spanned ages of time, and for ages the seas submerged vast areas of the continents. Each of these major geological events, however, had an end and a beginning. They occupied a chapter or epoch of the earth's history. We call these immense epochs the geological era. It was decided to name the eras for chapters in the story of life rather than for the dramatic geological events of the time.

The Archeozoic Era means the early beginning of life. It spans billions of years when the earth was forming its first crust. Massive ranges rose in eastern Canada, and much later the earliest life forms may have appeared, though they left no fossil records.

The Proterozoic Era suffered an Ice Age and uplifted mountains in Minnesota and Wisconsin. Simple life forms struggled in its seas. The Paleozoic Era spanned more than 300 million years. It uplifted the massive Appalachians and brought an Ice Age to the tropics. The story of life advanced from the trilobites to salamanders and land forests. The Mesozoic Era spanned 125 million years and covered the rise and fall of the fabulous dinosaurs. It created our western mountains and lifted the Panama Ridge to join the two Americas.

The fifth chapter (Cenozoic Era) opened a mere 60 million years ago and began to unfold the story of the mammals. So far, it has lifted the Alps, Himalayas and our Coast ranges, brought a series of Ice Ages and no one knows what other dramatic events it has in store.

A major mountain formation lasts millions of years and after the dramatic events the earth seems to rest. The pause that follows is often the end of a chapter of life and geological history. These pauses between chapters mark natural divisions in the earth's long history. They were used as a basis for dividing the story of our planet into five geological eras.

from "Ask Andy", Tulsa Daily World,
via T-Town Rockhound- Glacial Drifter



THE COMBINED
AMERICAN

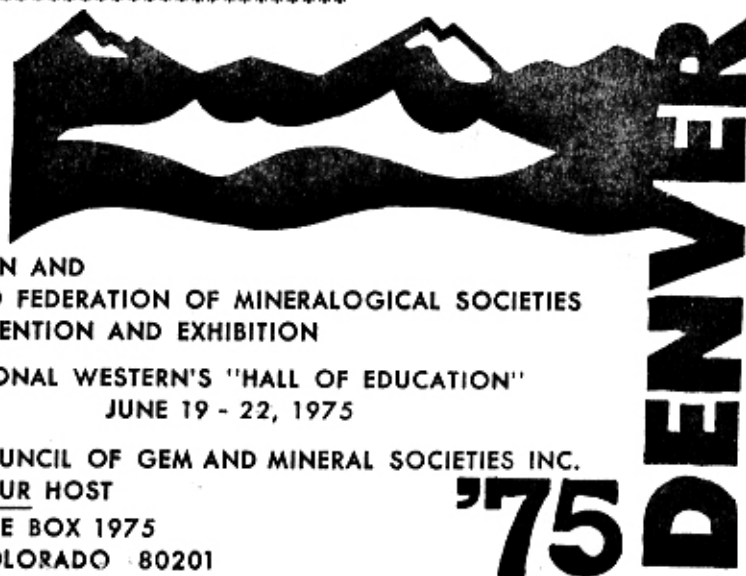
ROCKY MOUNTAIN AND

COLORADO FEDERATION OF MINERALOGICAL SOCIETIES
CONVENTION AND EXHIBITION

NATIONAL WESTERN'S "HALL OF EDUCATION"

JUNE 19 - 22, 1975

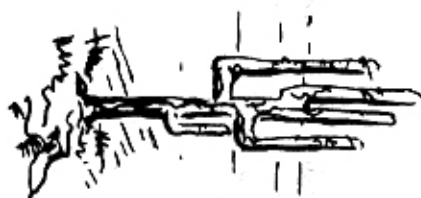
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THIS IS THE ROCKY MOUNTAIN FEDERATION



The Rocky Mountain Federation covers a ten state area, with a total of 114 clubs and 7,732 dedicated rock hounds.



From ROCKY MOUNTAIN FEDERATION OF MINERALOGICAL SOCIETIES
Directory, 1974

Official Rocky Mountain Federation trophy

