

DIGGINS FROM DAKOTA



Central Dakota Gem & Mineral Society
Mrs. Sally O'Neill, Editor
906 1st Ave. N.W.
Bandan, North Dakota 58554

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CENTRAL DAKOTA GEM & MINERAL SOCIETY

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

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

VISITORS ARE ALWAYS WELCOME:

OFFICERS:

President	Bill 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	Mrs. Gen Buresh	1527 N. 19th St.	Bismarck	223-0611
Program Chairman	Harold Brady	1401 Sunny Road	Mandan	663-3904
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		New Salem	343-7005
Refreshments	Mrs. Bob Randall	928 N. 16th St.	Bismarck	223-1625
Annual Show	Earle Campbell	1134 N. 28th St.	Bismarck	255-3658
Historian	Mrs. Albert Anderson	RR # 2	Bismarck	673-4585
Doorman & Greeter	Dick Merrill	1428 N. 22nd St.	Bismarck	223-7275
Pebble Pup Leader	Patricia Brady	1401 Sunny Road	Mandan	663-3904
Editor & Publicity	Mrs. Sally O'Neill	906 1st Ave. N. W.	Mandan	663-3748
Membership Chairman				
& Subscription Agent	Larry Strand	713½ N. 19th St.	Bismarck	258-5128

All contributions for this bulletin should be mailed to the Editor, Mrs. Sally O'Neill, 906 1st Ave. N. W., Mandan, N. Dak., 58554 by the 10th of each month.

Other editors may reprint any article from this bulletin. A credit line would be appreciated.

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

DIGGERS FROM DAKOTA
FEBRUARY 1975



FEBRUARY MEETING

The meeting was called to order at 2:30 P.M. Sunday, Feb. 2nd. The minutes were read and approved as read. An analysis of last years financial status as to money received and paid out was given as compiled by Earle Campbell and it was decided that last years projects were well worth while. There were 39 families that were paid up members. It was decided that any unpaid members as of Jan. 1st would not be eligible for the

door prizes and any unpaid members after April 1st would be dropped from the mailing list.

It was moved that a \$10.00 donation be sent to the Crippled Children's School and that \$50.00 be given to Capitol Electric for the use of the room to be used for furnishings or the betterment of the facility.

Membership Chairman and Subscription Agent Larry Strind was requested to take advantage of subscriptions to the Lapidary Journal and any other magazines the members may want by subscribing through the club to take advantage of a reduction of price, so contact Larry about any magazines you may be interested in.

Mrs. Weisenburger's name was added to the committee for the annual show and Ralph Anderson's name was added to the committee on nominations.

It was decided that the March meeting will be held at 2:30 P.M. again because of the uncertainty of the weather.

The February program was presented by Bill Collins of Harvey. Bill is employed by the Bureau of Reclamation at Harvey and attended school in Missouri. He had a very good display of minerals from Missouri which he described and presented slides on minerals from Missouri which was very informative and well presented.

The door prize was donated by Bill Buresh and won by Ralph Anderson.

Lunch was served by Mrs. Dick Merrill, Mrs. John Dosch and Mrs. Walt Weisenburger.

The door count was 36 adults and 13 junior members.

MARCH MEETING

There will be a silent auction at the March meeting so bring your minerals, rocks, cabs, or whatever you want to auction off.

Hostesses for the March meeting will be Mrs. Hamburg, Mrs. Pederson and Helen Nelson.

Isn't it strange how small talk comes in large doses . . . since

Small boy to playmate, "There's my mother at the screen door again."
Marjorie McGuire

PRESIDENT TO BE HONORED

Our President Bill Buresh will be honored at a banquet Thursday with an award of certificate and 25 year membership pin in the Knights of Columbus.

Congratulations ---

ARTS FESTIVAL

There will be a Religious Arts Festival at the Presbyterian Church at 3rd and Mosser in Bismarck on March 7, 8, and 9th featuring painting, pottery, and egg decorating and related art projects. This is a community project and is not limited to this area or church and many groups will be represented including a group from St. Paul who will present a play. There will also be a number of fellow rock hounds who will have displays and anyone interested in having a display featuring Lapidary or minerals of aesthetic beauty should contact Earle Campbell at 255-3658. I'm sure he'd be happy to hear from you. There will also be a slide program of Stones in Religion presented at regular intervals during the festival. The slides are a Midwest Federation Program feature consisting of 96 slides lasting approximately 40 minutes and showing religious carvings, grottos, and the use of precious stones and gems in religious articles. If you would like more information on this please contact Earle.

FUTURE PROGRAMS

In consulting Harold Brady on the program it seems that our programs are pretty well taken care of for the next several months. In March we will have the silent auction and in April there will be films. Harold suggested the idea for a Rock Swap in May which sounds very interesting and he asked that I get an article in this issue about it. It would involve a matter of everyone gathering up excess specimens or cabs or whatever and bringing them to the May meeting. He also thought it would be a good idea to include arrowheads and some Indian artifacts and some antiques such as old bottles, horseshoes, insulators or whatever you may want to trade. Maybe you have some of these things that you have picked up in your travels and really aren't too fond of them and perhaps someone else has something you really would like to have. If you haven't got anything to bring then you wouldn't have anything to swap, but I'm sure everyone has at least a couple of items they may exchange for something else they want more. And you never know, maybe you'll find just what you've been looking for in those boxes and you'll have a fine time swapping and dickering. So start looking over your supply these cold winter days and see what you can come with.

PEARL-BLUE STONE

Amethyst as a purple or violet stone is for the contentment and sincerity to the wearer. The Egyptians used it as the zodiacal sign of the goat. The goat was an enemy of vines, so the stone was therefore a foe to wine. They believed that the wearer would not become intoxicated. It was also a stone good for intellect. The name of the stone comes from the Greek, which means without drunkenness. They also thought that if it were tied around the neck with peacock's hairs and the feather of a swallow, it would protect you from sorcery. It could also cure you of the gout.

Amethyst

Amethyst

Amethyst

PEBBLE PUP NOTES

At the last meeting there were seven very bright pebble pups. I won't have any problem teaching them because they know quite a bit. In talking to them, we decided that we're not only going to learn more about rocks, but we're going to try and make some projects also. Some suggestions were crystal growing, making landforms and somehow constructing a volcano.

If anyone knows anything about growing crystals I'd like to hear from them. We're pretty vague as to how to go about the procedure.

I look forward to a good and interesting year with the pebble pups.

Pat Brady, Pebble Pup Leader

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MISSOURI'S MOZARKITE

Rockhounds go for Missouri's mozarkite, for it has several qualities that make it a favorite. First, it is generously found in the south central section of Missouri, especially from 30 miles south of Sedalia and extending through the Ozarks to the Arkansas line. In fact, legend says that the State line was established where the mozarkite ran out. Mozarkite is a form of cryptocrystalline quartz, a highly polished chert. It has a hardness of 7 on the Mohs scale, hard enough to slab well and take a high polish, and it also tumbles well. The colors range from pastels in pink, yellow, blue and grey, to deeper colors such as purple, brilliant reds and dark blues. The Mozarkite found on or near the top of the ground is usually in the pastel colors, while specimens found deeper in the heavier moist clay are generally the darker tones.

In buying mozarkite at rock shops, buy specimens on which the corner has been chipped, or a side cut to show the colors. Common chert is predominately grey with very little color in it.

The most colorful mozarkite is dug out of the ground. It is so plentiful that digging never becomes a chore. Pieces range from the size of lemons to about like grapefruit, although occasional specimens up to 2 feet in diameter have been found.

If you go to Missouri's Ozark country, you'll find mozarkite generously distributed over the southern part of the State. Even roadside outcroppings can be productive, and farmers willingly give permission to dig on their property.

For digging mozarkite, you'll need a pick, long handled shovel, and a rock hammer. Also a bucket or gunny sacks for carrying the specimens.

Mozarkite is a hard stone that may be cut or polished into colorful jewelry and novelties. Because no 2 stones are exactly alike, there is an endless variety of patterns and color combinations.

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BITS FROM ALES FEB - 1975

DATE TO REMEMBER ----- JUNE 19-21, 1975 ----- ALES CONVENTION - DENVER, COLORADO

AFMS - CONTDINTERNATIONAL FLAVOR FOR CONVENTIONS

Information about the Midwest Federation Convention for 1975 comes from Detroit. The Central Canadian Federation of Ontario and Quebec, will hold their annual convention in Windsor, across the river, at the same time, and many activities, including the banquet will be international. Over 60,000 square feet of floor space are available for the show, scheduled for October 9-12.

RE: NATIONAL PARK CONCEPT

"The Hammer" of Racine Geological Society lists the nine units of the Wisconsin Ice Age National Reserve, a new national park concept for a scattered area which tells an important geological story. These are: Devils Lake State Park, Mill Bluff State Park, St. Croix Falls Interstate Park, Kettle Moraine Forest, Chippewa Moraine, Sheboygan Marsh, Cross Plains Unit, Campbell Sport Unit and the Two Creeks buried forest. Visitors can study the kettle lakes, drumlins, moraines, and other remnants of the glacier which advanced on Wisconsin about 75,000 years ago and remained there for about 60,000 years.

THOUGHTS ON GETTING OUR MONIES' WORTH

Mary Anderson, AFMS President

I am a better shopper than I used to be, how about you? These days I am on the lookout for "getting my money's worth". Not so long ago I bought with no attention to competitive products thinking that a few cents here or there really made no difference, not counting all the extra cents that I am sure amounted to much larger sums than I would have thought possible. I am a little proud now about my ability to handle money more efficiently, and the people to whom I talk seem to feel the same way I do. So, personally, feel that one thing our publicized economy is doing, is teaching us the value of money and its variable purchasing power.

So, this month I am asking all of our committee chairman to face squarely their respective budgets and see if a little trimming here and there can be made possible. I am not asking you to be "chintzy" as the mod expression is, but I am asking all of you to go over your budget programs again to work on as economical a one as possible.

With rising costs and our dues remaining the same this year, I am sure our finances are going to be hard put to make out. We all realize this from our personal budgets. Also I have heard some people express their opinions on economy in no uncertain terms as something about which "they are sick and tired of hearing". In fact, I think that at one time I had for awhile the same reaction. But, we learn, my fellow members, we learn, and I hope our lesson will not be any harder than today. We have been tempted, I know, to try to give as much service to our members as possible and consequently spend more than had been allotted for that purpose. As in my own case, a few pennies here and a few pennies there did not seem to make an appreciable difference. No one took the trouble to count up the cost after the expense had been totaled and paid.

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We will probably have to bring in more creativity and more originality in our way of doing to compensate for our tightening of the purse strings, but I sincerely think that it can be done. We have such a wonderful talent and many efficient business heads that it will work into a challenge rather than a hardship.

If any of you have ideas which would be of help to other groups of our federation, please write to me so that I can have your ideas published and put into practice. Any money saving idea or budget trimming thought will be deeply appreciated and thankfully accepted.

I am anxiously waiting to hear from our committee chairman. This is such a timely subject and one which I know we will all be glad to participate in.

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SCRIBBER IN 10 MINUTES

Those felt tipped pens that always seem to be dried up when you want one to use, can be transformed into excellent scribbers for use with templates. The pens vary somewhat in construction, but the essential process is simple. Remove the felt tip with pliers and a twisting force. Usually the tip and a little plastic piece will come out as a unit. Cut off the opposite end with a sharp knife or a fine toothed saw. Now remove the paper or felt ink holder from the barrel. Poke it out, insert a wood screw into the large end, give it a few turns until it grabs the paper and pull it out. After washing the barrel, find an aluminum nail that will fit into the small end and which has a head that will slip into the large end. You can always file down the nail head or drill out the small end if necessary. Apply a generous amount of epoxy around the nail head and drop the nail through the barrel until the head seats in the small end. Hang the assembly by a thread or wire to allow the epoxy to flow down around the nail head before hardening. When the epoxy has hardened, sharpen your scribber and keep it sharp. By substituting concrete or tempered steel nails you can make small picks and chisels for cleaning specimens. Wax-forming tools can be made from appropriate lengths of coat hanger wire, brazing rod, or what have you. Flatten one end of the length so it will pull through and then cement into place as before. The exposed end can then be flattened after the epoxy has hardened, bent at an angle if desired, and then smoothed and polished.

From A & C

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SYNTHETIC BLACK OPAL

Pierre Gilson has done it again. His new, black opal is so good that Robert Cranningshield of the Gemological Institute of America says, "Beautiful, and you can't pick it out from a handful of natural stones with the naked eye." The French genius is talking of growing opals as large as 2 carats. Price, around \$350 per carat.

Via Rock Vein - The Rear Trunk,

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CLEANING AND PREPARATION OF FOSSILS

(Excerpts from a taped lecture given by Dr. Dwayne Stone, Marietta College, Ohio at Mansfield, Ohio, 1971)

The simplest and cheapest way to clean fossil specimens is by the kerosene technique. First heat the specimen in the oven or in a pot on top of the stove for 10 to 15 minutes to drive the moisture from the microscopic pores on the rock. One may then cool or leave the stones hot and place them into any type of container that is large enough to hold ample amount of kerosene to cover the specimen. Air bubbles will start to escape from the holes and when all air pockets are saturated with kerosene, which may take a week, more or less, it is then poured off. A person can reuse the kerosene by straining or filtering it back into a clean container.

The kerosened rock is then placed in water. Hot water is preferred to speed up the cleaning process. As soon as rock and kerosene come into contact with the water, the rock starts to change color and the shale falls apart from the specimen forming a mud fairly rapidly.

To understand what takes place, it is that the kerosene is pulled from the pores of the rock by the water and in turn helps to expand the pores and draw the mud from them. Sometimes the process is fairly rapid, depending on the type of shale. It may take hours, days, or a week to clean all the mud from the pores.

One can see when mud is formed around the fossil. It is then time to remove the specimen from the water to remove the mud. Perhaps one will have to scrub it thoroughly. Let it dry fully.

There are substances that are superior to kerosene, quicker but are more hazardous, such as gasoline. The process is about the same as for kerosene, but it is so flammable it is not as practical.

One can use just a single brachiopod with its surrounding rock or it is possible to treat a good many brachiopods or corals using the same material. The kerosene method is safer for microscopic animals or little fishes.

Another method of cleaning fossils is fairly new to the field is called "Quinary O", an axle grease material. The color is brown and texture is like grease. The rock does not have to be heated as in the kerosene method, but does have to be dry. The rocks containing fossils are placed in an old metal cooking pot. An unwanted pot in the kitchen is ideal. Add water to cover the rocks and add a few lumps of this grease-like substance. The amount of grease has not been determined. Use just enough to do the job. Put pot of rocks, water and grease on the stove and boil. You should not have the pot too full. It takes about fifteen minutes for a brown and black foam to form on top of the boiling water. Watch the pot and try to keep it from boiling over on the stove. Be sure there is always enough water to cover the rocks while it is boiling. This grease is an excellent detergent and cleans the rock from the fossil. Some rocks may have to boil several hours to dissolve the rock into mud. Be sure to check your specimen with tongs during the boiling process to see when the fossil is white and clean. Use a spray from the sink or a garden hose and spray the mud from the fossil. There should be no need to brush if you use a good spray. Now let your fossils dry.

DO NOT PUT TRILOBITES INTO THIS SOLUTION OF "QUINARY O", THEY WILL DISSOLVE

FOSSILS CONTD

Hydrogen Peroxide, 15% not the common type from the drugstore, which is only 1%, may be used but it is not as simple or practical a method. The Vibro Tool is also used to vibrate the rock from the fossil. It is not very practical as it will possibly ruin specimens or not clean as thoroughly. The vibration is noisy and the machine is moderately expensive. A brass brush which costs about twenty cents can be used to remove limey particles and other foreign matter. The bristles will abrade the fossil and give it a fake pyritic appearance and this coppery color cannot be removed. An Ultra-Sonic Vibrator (approximately \$260.00) may be used to vibrate the matrix from the fossil. The vibrator tank is filled with water, fossil is placed in it and the sound waves dissolve the shale. Be sure to keep your hands out or it may dissolve your fingernails.

Concretions with fossil inside cannot be cleaned as we cannot remove the matrix from the fossil. DO NOT USE SANDS TO ABRASIVE THE FOSSIL IF YOU WANT TO EXHIBIT THEM, as it gives the fossil an artificial look.

via Tulip City Conglomerate - Grand Valley Lithogram

THE PRICE OF A SMILE

A smile costs nothing but gives much. It enriches those who receive it, without making poorer those who give it. It takes but a moment, but the memory of it sometimes lasts forever. No one is so rich or mighty that he can get along without it, and no one is so poor but that he can be made rich by it. A smile creates happiness in the home, fosters good will in business, and is the counter-sign of friendship. It brings rest to the weary, cheer to the discouraged, sunshine to the sad, and is nature's best antidote for trouble. Yet it cannot be bought, begged, borrowed, or stolen; for it is something that is of no value to anyone until it is given away. Some people are too tired to give a smile. Give them one of yours, as no one needs a smile so much as he who has none to give.

via Rock Vein, Mesabi Media

 ELEPHANT STEW
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1 medium size elephant
 2 rabbits (optional)
 salt and pepper

Cut the elephant into small, bite-size pieces. Add enough brown gravy to cover. Cook over kerosene fire about four weeks at 465 degrees. This will serve 3800 people. If more are expected, two rabbits may be added. But do this only in an emergency; most people do not like hare in their stew.

via Geode newsletter-Loess Bulletin - S.D.S.S. Club News

 SHOWS
 March 15-16 Gem & Mineral Show, Vermillion, S. Dak.
 April 12-13 Sioux Empire Gem & Mineral Show, Sioux Falls, S. Dak.
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