



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

DIGGINS FROM DAKOTA

CENTRAL DAKOTA GEM & MINERAL SOCIETY

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 Capitol Electric Building on Highway 83, north of Bismarck.

VISITORS ARE ALWAYS WELCOME!

OFFICERS:

President	William Buresh	1527 N 19th St.	Bismarck	223-0611
Vice-President	Duane Robey	2119 Ave F East	Bismarck	255-0576
Secretary	Stanley Fairaizl	205 6th Ave. N. E.	Handan	663-9712
Treasurer	Dick Bergantine	703 12th Ave. N. W.	Handan	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	Handan	663-3904
Librarian	Owen O'Neill	906 1st Ave. N. W.	Handan	663-3748
Field Trip Chairman	Frank Herr	528 West Villard	Dickinson	225-8712
Nominations	Ted Giese		New Salem	843-7005
Refreshments	Mrs. Sue Randall	928 N. 16th St.	Bismarck	223-1625
Annual Show	Earle Campbell	1134 N. 28th St.	Bismarck	225-3658
Historian	Mrs. Albert Anderson	Rt # 2	Bismarck	673-4585
Doorman & Greeter	Dick Merrill	1428 N 22nd St.	Bismarck	223-7275
Pebble Pup Leader	Patricia Brady	1401 Sunny Road	Handan	663-3904
Editor & Publicity	Mrs. Sally O'Neill	906 1st Ave. N. W.	Handan	663-3748
Membership Chairman				
& Subscription Agent	Larry Strand	713 1/2 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., Handan, North Dakota, 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.

MARCH MEETING

The meeting was called to order at 2:30 p.m. by President Bill Buresh and the minutes were read and approved as read.

Bill Collins was given an honorary membership in the club for presenting last month's program.

A report on the progress of the upcoming show was given by Earle Campbell and a field trip to South Dakota was discussed for later in the year.

Dr. Gordon Bell donated maps to the library which may be obtained from the North Dakota Geological Survey for \$.10.

PROGRAM - A silent auction was held with many beautiful specimens for sale.

GUESTS - John Monaghan, Bismarck - Mary Jane Borman, Bismarck - Ray Schubert, Richardton

DOOR COUNT - 63 members and guests - 7 Pebble Pups

LUNCH - Lunch was served by Mrs. Ramburg, Mrs. Pederson, and Helen Nelson

DOOR PRIZE - Emma Fischer won a Hemimorphite crystal donated by Bob Randall which he obtained while at the show in Tucson and, wonder of wonders, yours truly won a beautiful silver belt buckle donated by Frank Herr of Dickinson.

APRIL MEETING

The program for April will be a film titled "The Land."

Lunch committee for April will be Blossomae Campbell, Katherine Anderson, and Katherine Muggli.

The April Meeting will be held at 7:30 p.m.

EDITOR'S NOTE

I was hospitalized on March 5 and it looks like I may be here for some time yet but thanks to my daughter-in-law, Linda, who will type up the stencils for me and to Stan, who will run them off for me this should get out in plenty of time. Thanks to everyone who sent in articles this time, it makes it easy for me to get a nice big newsletter out without too much effort on my part. Also thank you for the lovely flowers. Hope I can make it to the April meeting. I will also take this means of extending best wishes and a speedy recovery to Blossomae. Sorry to hear she is still hospitalized.

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I would like to thank fellow club members for their cards, visits and get-well wishes during my recent illness. It is so nice to be remembered.

Sincerely,
Blossomae Cambell

"AND A HAPPY ST. PAT'S DAY
TO YOU!"

LETTERS FROM THE PRESIDENT

Sixty-three adults plus visitors and pebble pups is a lot of rock hounds for a meeting of Central Dakota Gem & Mineral Society. I would like to think that it is my presidency which attracted the crowd but I guess I will have to admit that it was the silent auction. The proceeds from the auction will be a welcome addition to the show fund as well as an added incentive for the planning for a bigger and better show. Thank you program chairman, Harold Brady, for the promotion of the auction and also thanks to the many members, who responded to the appeal and turned in the entire proceeds from their sales.

The cooperative spirit and constructive discussion which prevailed following the report by Earle Campbell, show chairman, should also be an added inspiration to the show committee.

Since our last meeting, I have received a communication from club member, Dr. McClellan of Mobridge, S. Dak. stating that he would be available to lead a Memorial Day weekend (May 24, 25, & 26) field trip in that area. A call to Frank Herr, the field trip chairman, has iced the arrangement, so let us plan and look forward to that event. Thank you in advance, Dr. McClellan.

In closing I would like to commend Mrs. O'Neill, the editor of this publication, for a job well done. I have heard a number of complimentary comments about the "Dakota Diggin's." We are most grateful for the time and effort spent in preparing and mailing the newsletter each month.

P.S. I am very sorry to hear that Sally O'Neill and Blossomae have both been hospitalized recently. I hope they are both well on the way to recovery.

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"This Land" is the title of the film that will be the subject of the program for the April meeting. It is a Shell Oil Company production.

"This Land" looks at the building of our continent from the scientific viewpoint, giving some insight into the ways geologists have been able to reconstruct and make sense of events that occurred beyond the reach of human history.

The film also explores the vast natural resources of North America--precious metals and rare minerals, coal and oil, and how they were formed.

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Eleven members of the Central Dakota Gem & Mineral Society exhibited their specimens, fossils, lamps, spheres, and handcrafted jewelry at the Sixth Annual Religious Arts Festival on March 7, 8, and 9, 1975, at the First Presbyterian Church, Bismarck, ND.

Club members exhibiting were Evert and Nettie Nelson, Walter and Vi Weisenberger, Earle and Blossomae Campbell, Robert and Sue Randall, Ray Barnett, Rich Strom, Richard and Frances Bergantine, John and Cecilia Dosch, William and Genevieve Buresh, Richard and Bea Merrill, and Vernie and Elizabeth Peterson.

Other Exhibitors in the "Gem and Mineral" division were Mr. and Mrs. Jake Schlosser, Mandan, and Mr. and Mrs. Walter Bosley, Rugby.

A special feature was an hourly slide show, "Stones in Religion," with narration by Earle Campbell.

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Other art works displayed at the Festival included paintings in a variety of media, photographs, and copper sculpture. Demonstrators showed techniques of several types of egg artistry, pottery, and water color.

Dramatic arts were represented by a small cast from the Theater of Involvement, St. Paul, who presented the first act of George Bernard Shaw's "Back to Methuselah", and a portion of William Blake's "Heaven to Hell in the Here and Now."

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SIXTH ANNUAL RELIGIOUS FESTIVAL OF ARTS by BLOSSOMAE CAMPBELL

It didn't matter whether club members were Methodist, Lutheran, Catholic or Presbyterian -- it was an ecumenical display of lapidary art at the Sixth Annual Religious Art Festival held at the First Presbyterian Church in Bismarck on March 7, 8, and 9. Earle Campbell was chairman of the Lapidary display, ably assisted by Bob Randall.

Vernie and Betty Peterson had an outstanding display of cabs; Jake and Kay Schlosser showed some of their beautiful spheres and a case of jewelry. Evert and Nettie Nelson, Washburn, and Vi and Walt Weisenberger had cases of eye-catching jewelry. Blossomae Campbell and Bob Randall each had a display of lovely and unusual crystals. Rich Strom represented the Pebble Pups with an interesting display. Bill and Gen Buresh showed a very educational and outstanding petrified wood display, also their shale slabs with ginkgo leaves. Ray Barnett showed spheres along with the rough material from which they were fashioned plus a picture of Aaron's Breast Plate with specimens mentioned in the Bible. John Dosch's church lamp brought many ooh's and aah's. He and Dick Bergantine exhibited lamps made with agate slabs. Dick and Bea Merrill's case held an attractive collection of jewelry made of copper combined with cabs. Earle Campbell's display was a collection of various tumbled stones. Mr. and Mrs. Walter Bosley, Rugby, had an outstanding exhibit of handcrafted turquoise and sterling silver jewelry, also some with fire agate.

The Rocky Mountain Federation slide program "Stones in Religion" was shown numerous times all three days of the art festival.

Being a part of an art show was a new experience for members of our organization. From some of the comments made by viewers, it was a new experience for them also. Some found it hard to believe that spheres are made from rough rock or that crystals grow and are not glued together to form interesting shapes.

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THE TUCSON GEM & MINERAL SHOW

An article in the January 1975 issue of "Rock and Gem" magazine referred to the Tucson Gem and Mineral Show as the greatest mineral show in the world.

Since we were planning a trip south this winter we decided to time it so that we could take in the 21st Annual Tucson Gem & Mineral Show at Tucson, Arizona. We left Bismarck via Frontier Airlines shortly after 6 a.m. on Thursday, Feb. 13, with snow falling and a cold wind blowing. A short stop in Rapid City and new passengers boarded the plane. We learned that the family sitting in front of us was headed for Tucson and the Gem & Mineral Show. At Denver we saw at least two more persons board who had the same destination.

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THE TUCSON GEM & MINERAL SHOW (cont)

The plane landed in Tucson at about 10:15 a.m. with warm sun shining. In walking through the terminal we found a beautiful display of Arizona minerals in the lobby. Tucson is an interesting city. The beautiful new Community Center where the Gem & Mineral Show has been held since 1972, and downtown Tucson was all within easy walking distance of our motel. The Community Center includes a large exhibition hall and arena, a music hall and a small theatre along with new Federal, State, and County buildings. The grounds are beautifully landscaped with a number of rock gardens, fountains, and shaded benches. The adjacent La Placita provides a number of unique shops, spacious plazas and restaurants.

In the lobby of our motel we discovered another display of minerals including some very nice fluorescent specimens. In addition the directory board at the motel listed the meeting time and place of organizations related to mineralogy. It seemed like everyone we saw, and every place we went, had an interest in the show.

The doors of the show opened at 10:00 on Friday morning. At about 10:30 when we arrived there was a long line at the entrance and the floor of the show was filled with people. It was a fantastic show! There were special exhibits from many parts of our country and several from other parts of the world. A few of these were: Smithsonian Institution; Harvard University; American Museum of Natural History; Los Angeles County Museum; San Diego Museum of Natural History; Royal Ontario Museum; August Becker, Idar-Oberstein, Germany; Dr. Alfredo Ferri, Milan, Italy; Luis Teizere-Leite, Pretoria, Republic of South Africa; Roger Titeux, Nancy, France; and John Woolfe, New South Wales, Australia. There were also many fine mineral specimens from private collections and a number of lapidary and Jewelry exhibits.

Dealers from all over the country had a great variety of specimens for sale and the lapidary artist could find about anything that he might want. There were demonstrations on faceting, channel jewelry making, silversmithing, and gem carving. There were also several lectures and other meetings associated with the show.

After a good part of two days at the show it is hard to single out any one thing that impressed us most except the show itself. There were three displays that are most vivid in memory at this time, a couple of weeks later. There were: first, a display of four specimens by Dave Wilbur. These four were the Rhodochrosite specimen shown on the cover of Rock and Gem magazine October 1974, the Topaz on Rock and Gem cover of April 1974, a beautiful large Stibnite specimen and a large Quartz crystal with a halo of smaller Rosy Quartz crystals around the termination of the large crystal. The second display was of a large (10 to 12 inches across) brilliant Crocoite flanked on both sides by large Rhodochrosite specimens and some smaller minerals in the foreground. Another display, and one which earned a Masters Award in the Educational Class was a collection of Turquoise and related minerals. It showed various grades of turquoise, how turquoise is treated and stabilized and how it is restructured. It also showed the similar minerals which are occasionally mistaken for turquoise.

It was a wonderful experience to see this show. Don't miss it if you ever have the opportunity.

Bob and Sue Randall
928 N. 16th St.
Bismarck, ND

ED & KATHERINE MUGGLI'S MEXICAN TRIP

We joined a caravan at McAllen, Texas and crossed over the border into Mexico on December 14. There were twenty-three units from sixteen states in our caravan; campers, motor homes, trailers, and vans, plus our guide's, wagon master's, and mechanic's units. David and Mike Polon of "Caravans and Safaris" Mexico were our guides.

Our first stop was at Ciudad, Victoria and then Tampico. Most of this area is quite dry. The most important crop is corn and some of our cereal manufacturers have large corn farms in this area. Henequen, a plant that looks like a large pineapple, is grown extensively here and throughout most of the territory we traveled and into the Yucatan. The fiber obtained from the henequen called sisal, is used to make rope, hats, bags, etc.

Going south along the Gulf from Tampico to Veracruz, it becomes very lush and green. Beautiful scenery of mountains and jungle. The rainfall is as much as a hundred inches a year here. We saw a great many orange, grapefruit, and tangerine orchards. Mangos are also grown here, but they weren't in season. The vanilla bean from which vanilla extract is obtained also is grown here.

We camped at the city of Papantla a few days and visited the pyramids of Tajin. Some of the people in this area still wear their traditional native dress. Men wear balloon pants, made of white cotton material.

As we traveled on towards Veracruz we passed many banana and coconut groves. We could buy a dozen or so of bananas for 15 cents.

We camped near the beach at Veracruz for several days. This is where Cortez landed in 1519 and it is the oldest port in North America. It is a clean, beautiful city. I had great fun on the beach gathering sand dollars and other shells. Also watched the natives bring in their huge fishing nets in the morning.

We continued traveling southeast on Highway 180. This is oil country and traffic was extremely heavy. We have never seen so many buses, trucks, and tankers anywhere. There is just one two lane highway and it was narrow and rough. Driving through the cities was very hectic and it was a miracle we got through without a mishap. They don't have many traffic lights and don't follow rules like we do in the States, so it is go, go, go. Everyone trying to get ahead of the other. Mexicans are slow and easy going except when they are behind the steering wheel. In this area they grow pineapple, sugar cane, and tobacco. I bought an eight pound pineapple for 32 cents and it was delicious. Cigars are manufactured at Tuxtla. One can get plain chocolate or vanilla flavored ones.

We camped one night in the port city of Coatzacoalcas. Then on to Villahermosa. Here we went to the Museum, "La Venta", where they have the largest collection of ancient Indian artifacts in Mexico. Our next stop was at the pyramids of Palenque.

We traveled northward on the Yucatan Peninsula and arrived at Campecho December 23. Here we camped near a hotel on the beach. We went shopping and sightseeing in Campecho on the 24th and had a Christmas Eve party in the hotel dining room. We trimmed a tree, Santa paid us a visit and had dinner. The weather was hot and humid, about 90°, so it really didn't seem much like Christmas.

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Muggli Letter cont.

The day after Christmas we went to Merida. In this area we visited the pyramids of Chichen Itza, Uxmal and Kabob. These were built by the Mayans about the 7th to the 10th centuries A.D. It is believed that the Mayans lived here since 1000 B.C. It was very interesting to visit these archeological sites. Thousands of pyramids were built but not many have been excavated and restored.

The women's traditional Native dress in Yucatan is a straight white dress with beautiful embroidery at the bottom and the neckline.

We returned to the hotel at Campecho for our New Year's Eve party. I can't say much for the meals in the restaurants. They weren't the best. Fortunately, we could cook our meals in our campers.

Here again at Campecho I did some beach combing, gathered shells and coral, and also found a large live conch and some starfish.

Now we had to retrace our steps back to Coatzacoalcos. From there we took Highway 185 south to Juchitan and Tehuantepec on the Pacific. Then northwest to Oaxaca, Cuernavaca and Mexico City. This was mountainous all the way. The scenery is beautiful and the weather is perfect. Never too hot or cold, just warm enough to be pleasant. Since we had been through here three years ago, we didn't go on all the side trips. At Cuernavaca and Oaxaca we took a taxi and went into the cities on our own. We had a marvelous time shopping in the native markets and sight-seeing. Oaxaca has the largest, most fantastic native street market.

As you may have noticed, we didn't do any rock hounding on this trip, but did go to a rock shop in San Juan del Rio, where we made a few purchases. Here is where the fire opal mines are located.

We spent one night at San Luis Potasi. The next day we headed for Victoria again. Before we came to Victoria we had to climb some very high mountains and then we dropped down into the city on the other side. The next day, January 12, we returned to McAllen.

The poverty throughout Mexico is unbelievable. Eighty percent of the people are poor. We in this country don't know what real poverty is like. There is no welfare or help from the government like here in the States. Everywhere we saw people living in shacks about the size of our car garages with no windows or doors. Some are adobe, some cement or wood with palm roofs. The chickens, turkeys and pigs run in and out. They have a lot of children, but of twelve or fifteen born only about 5 or 6 will live beyond the age of 5. This is due to not enough food and no medical care.

There are people living in the back country that have no schools, no doctors, no cars, telephones, radios, etc., in fact they haven't even seen any of these. They just live in their own little world and know nothing about the world outside. Some of this isn't too far from the Texas border. At Tampico we saw people living on the city dump grounds.

One of the things that amazes me is how the women carry everything on their heads. Even large buckets of water. I have attempted to try this, but don't think I'll try a buck of water.

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In many ways they are about a hundred years behind us. We saw many ox teams being used. They plow their fields with oxen and a plow made from a few pieces of wood. All the grass along the roads is cut by hand with a knife and so is the sugar cane and corn.

When we were there three years ago everything was cheap, but it's not anymore. They are having inflation too. Regular gasoline was 70 cents a gallon and premium was \$1.00.

We had a very interesting trip. The people and their way of life is so different from ours.

Before we started for home we went to Big Bend for a few days. We went to a ranch to look for red plume agate, but it was so cold and windy we decided to head for home. After traveling about 11,000 miles we returned home on January 25. We enjoyed our travels but it's good to be home.

Katherine Muggli

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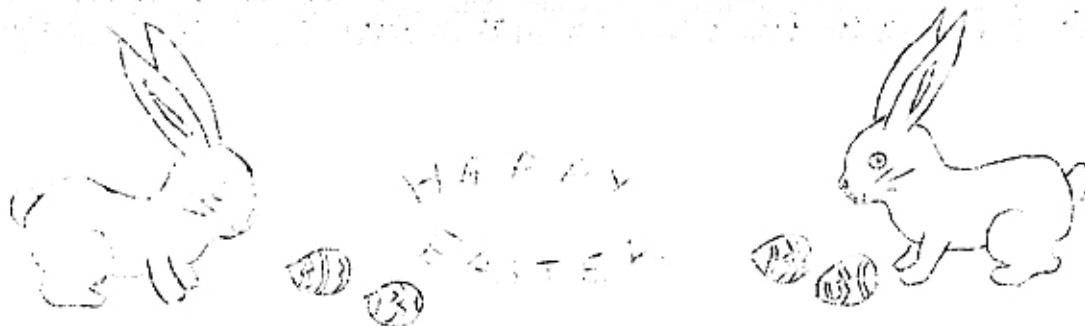
CENTRAL DAKOTA GEM & MINERAL SOCIETY _ 1975 - PAID UP MEMBERS

Mr. & Mrs. Russell Batten
Bonnie & Emil Hilkin
Anna & Frank Herr
Marjorie & Warren Pederson
Burnham Toepke
Marlene & Al White
Ralph Anderson
Rosa & Julius Theis
Katherine & John Anderson
Marjorie & Ernest Knudson
Norma & Art Jorgenson
Janice & Larry Strand
Beth & Gordon Bell
Blossomae & Earle Campbell
Sally & Owen O'Neill
Mrs. M. T. Nelson
Philip Solberg
Clara & Ewald Muggli
Nettie & Evert Nelson
Verna & Ted Giese
Mae & Stan Fairaizl

Vina & Albert Anderson
Bertha & Ray Barnett
Beatrice & Richard Merrill
Sue & Bob Randall
Ida Mae Ramberg
Cecelia & John Dosch
Gen & Bill Buresh
Fran & Dick Bergantine
Elaine & Elven Haugen
Margaret & John Tonander
Elizabeth & Vernie Peterson
Vi & Walt Weisenberger
Ledores & Duanè Robey
Emma & Harold Brady
Dr. H. F. McCiellan, Sr.
Harold Larson
Ed & Katherine Muggli
Pius & Emma Fischer
Henry Solberg
Patricia Dooley

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FROM AMFS NEWSLETTER

The combined American-Rocky Mountain Show, hosted by the Denver Council of Gem and Mineral Societies Inc. will be held at the National Western's Hall of Education, June 19-22, 1975. Chairman Walt Risch and the host societies have worked many years to make this the "Best Show Ever".

The deadline for pre-registration is May 1st. You may register by contacting the Registration Chairman, P. O. Box 1975, Denver, Colorado 80201. Fees for adults (4-day) \$5.00; Junior (4-day) \$2.50; Adult daily admission \$1.50 and Junior daily admission \$.75.

Convention headquarters is the Capitol Plaza Inn, 303 West Colfax Avenue, Denver, Colorado 80204. Phone (303) 292-9010. You may write for reservations

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The South Central Federation Show and Convention will be held in the Civic Center of Burkburnett, Texas, April 4th through 6th. Serving as host will be the North Texas Gem and Mineral Society of Wichita Falls. Admission is \$1.00 for adults, \$.50 for students and children under 12 with adults will be admitted free.

For further information on this gem and mineral show, please contact the show chairman Jim Belcher, 4021 Featherstone, Wichita Falls, Texas 76308.

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SHOWS COMING UP

March 14-16	Kansas City Gem and Mineral Club Show, Kansas City, Kansas
March 15-16	Gem & Mineral Show, Vermillion, South Dakota
April 6	Minn. Valley Gem & Mineral Club Show, Madison East Mall, Mankato, MN.
April 11-13	Chadron State Earth Science Show, Chadron, Nebraska
April 12-13	Minn. Mineral Club Show, Brookdale Shopping Center, Minneapolis
April 18-20	Gem & Mineral Show, Hastings, Nebraska
April 12-13	Sioux Empire Gem & Mineral Society Show, Sioux Falls, South Dakota
April 25-27	Gem & Mineral Show, Wichita, Kansas
May 10-11	Gem & Mineral Show, Lincoln, Nebraska
May 17-18	Picture City Gem & Mineral Show, Hot Springs, South Dakota
May 17-18	Central Minnesota Gem & Mineral Club Show, Jr. High School, Monticello, Minnesota

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MARCH BIRTHSTONE

Bloodstone or Aquamarine, a couple of green stones used for hope. The bloodstone flecked with red jasper is also called heliotrope, as well as carnelian. The stone is not red but is called bloodstone because the ancients claimed it stopped the flow of blood. A ring on the finger made you slow to anger and it kept away the evil eye.