

# 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 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 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
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Program Chairman	Harold Brady	1401 Sunny Road	Mandan	663 3904,39
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 4535
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 official annual meeting of the Society is held each year in December. At this meeting the officers of the Society are elected for the ensuing year.

At the meeting on December 7, the Nominating Committee chaired by Ted Giese will offer a slate of nominees for your consideration. Nominations from the floor will also be in order.

This annual meeting will again be followed by the usual potluck dinner with ham and all the trimmings.

Also, the program chairman, Harold Brady, is planning to sandwich in a silent auction, so bring along your selling material (rocks) and at the same time do your Christmas shopping (rocks, of course) for your friends.

Please note that the December meeting starts at 2:30 p.m. So will all the others through March.

Let's turn out in full force, participate in the democratic process, and also enjoy a ham dinner for which you have already paid.

Bill Buresh

POT LUCK DINNER--December 7 at 2:30 P.M.---If you have not signed up for your part, call Sue Randall 223 1625 so we will have plenty of everything.

IN DECEMBER\*\* Dues Due! Do Do Duty!!! Do Pay Dues when Due!!! Dick is Ready!!!

OPENING GEODES

In sawing geodes or agate-filled nodules, first look for the largest dome on the specimen. This dome was in the upright position when the specimen was forming. Saw through this largest dome and it is likely you will expose the "picture" or surface. Should the specimen be elongated or egg-shaped, saw it lengthwise to obtain the best exposure.

Often spherical or egg-shaped specimens have a tendency to slip in the vise used with the saw. To prevent this, pieces of masonite or other soft board attached to each side of the specimen, will often provide a better grip. The saw can then be allowed to cut through the board without damaging the diamond set of the saw.

--from "The Conglomerate" via AFMS Newsletter

Welcome to our New Bldg + Grand Opening Nov 22-30

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## THIS AND THAT

BLOSSOMMAE CAMPBELL was in the hospital at the time of the last meeting and is still there. Our prayers and get well wishes go out to her and Earle. We surely hope to see her at our Christmas meeting.

SALLY O'NEIL has again been in the hospital. We hope to see her too at the Potluck. The BARNETT family sent thanks for our tribute to RAY BARNETT. We miss him.

Visitors at the November meeting were DON LARSON, 900 Summitt Blvd, Bismarck and JOYCE REINHARDT, 1834 N. Washington. They enjoyed the meeting and made many purchases.

MARVE'S ROCK SHOP has paid a year's subscription to our DIGGIN'S. JOHN recruited him.

EMIL AND BONNIE HILKEN are gone for the winter. Their mail catching address will be % Donald Strom, 12837 Stone Canyon Road, Poway, California 92064. We hope they enjoy the travels around the Southwest.

The attendance prize was won by MRS. ROBEY. It was a Cameo Broch contributed by MR. & MRS. FISCHER.

Our secretary, STANLEY FAIRAIZL gave a demonstration to 26 high school teachers and principals on cutting and polishing at the University of North Dakota on November 5. More details will be in the December issue.

There were 42 present at the November meeting, plus the Pebble Pups (8??)

Hostesses were MRS. ROBEY, MRS. KNUDSON AND MRS. STRAND. We will ALL be hostesses next time. Be sure to call SUE RANDALL if you have not told her what you plan to bring.

How about a THEME FOR THE 1976 SHOW??? EARLE CAMPBELL wants your suggestions.

There will be an exhibit of State Gems at the National Show in Austin in June, 1976. STAN FAIRAIZL has offered to send a polished slab, a copy of the state seal and flag. Many thanks to STAN for this contribution to public relations.

ERNA WIECHMAN of New Salem is a new subscriber to the DIGGIN'S. Welcome!!!

JOHN DOSCH distributed the Emblems at the last meeting. He has disposed of most of those he had ordered. If you still want them, they must be ordered soon, at \$2.35

THE NEWSLETTER MONTHLY can be ordered for \$1.00 from STANLEY FAIRAIZL.

The program on North Dakota FOSSILS was given by HAROLD BRADY with audience participation. Many members had brought specimens to be studied after the program. It would be interesting to have a list of all of the fossils talked about in this presentation.

THE T-TOWN ROCKHOUND

TULSA, OK.

NOVEMBER 1975

FROM



WHEN....Sunday, December 7 at 2:30 P.M. WHERE....Capital Electric Building

%%%%%%%%%

DIGGIN'S FROM DAKOTA\* Published monthly- Annual dues, \$5.00, includes bulletin.  
Subscription rate for non-members- \$3.00; Ads: \$2.00, month; \$11.00, 6 months; \$22.00 year.

## THE ROCKHOUND

He is a special breed. He is a hunter, collector and craftsman. He loves nature's hills but is always trying to bring them home with him. He appreciates nature's beauty, but is never satisfied until he has polished it. He is a safety-minded citizen but is willing to scale a mile-high cliff for that "special" rock specimen. A rockhound has the swapping instinct of a pack-rat, the agility of a mountain goat, the immunity-to-rain of a duck and the perseverance and patience of Job. He is a person who searches for, finds and cherishes forever those bits of chemical beauty-rocks and minerals - and traces of former life - fossils - which afford him a glimpse of infinity on a shelf.

from the Palamar Gem via the AFMS Newsletter

EARLE H. CAMPBELL

BLOSSOMAE CAMPBELL

## Let Us Give Thanks

How many things to be thankful for  
Are lovingly sent from heaven's store  
Of life's good things -  
the sunlit sky,  
The smile of a neighbor passing by,  
The musical notes of  
a songbird gay,  
Shouts of the children at their play,  
The beautiful scenes that  
please us so  
As the changing seasons come and go,  
The love of friends who  
are so dear and true,  
Strength for the work that is  
ours to do  
Oh, who can name all the  
blessings rare  
That come from the Heavenly  
Father's care!

--Cleo King

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(Sorry the beautiful card blacked out in the last issue)

## RAMBLINGS FROM OTHER ROCKHOUNDS

**WARNING!!!** Warning on Silver Solder containing cadmium has been published in the "Science News and the Machinist" and "The Earth Science". The United States Public Health Service reported 2 deaths traced to improper use of silver solder containing this metal. Cadmium is found in solder commonly used in the aerospace and jewelry industries. With the popularity of home made projects and small home torches replacing soldering irons, more cadmium bearing solder is finding its way into homes. For more information write for Public Service Publication #1518, "Working With Silver Solder"; U.S. Dept of Health, Welfare, and Education., Washington, D.C. 20201. From THE GEODE, MESABI MEDIA via GEO-LOGIC

**THE LAKE AGASSIZ ROCK HOUND** reported that the Pebble Pups had studied different kinds of iron. The variety studied was great!!! They had been given specimens to study.

## FRIENDSHIP ON THE ROCKS

Rockhounds who have been in the hobby for some time begin to realize that the most precious gems they found are the friends they have made along the way. Some are still in the rough; some are highly polished; some seem dull and colorless until they are viewed in the right light; but they all have one thing in common: like everything else on this mundane sphere, they are imperfect and have flaws. If we are to enjoy them, we must accept them as they are, and realize that their beauty and warmth make up for their imperfections. If we concentrate our attention on their better aspects the flaws become insignificant and merely marks of individuality. From OREGON ROCKHOUND, ROCK RUSTLER via LAKE AGASSIZ ROCK HOUND

**ARROWHEADS CHIPS** OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE MONTANA COUNCIL OF ROCK AND MINERAL CLUBS has the most interesting cover that I would like to duplicate for the paper some time. "A picture is worth a thousand words" is portrayed here. The directory of member clubs is a helpful addition to the files.

For extra brilliance after silver has been cleaned, rub it with a piece of lemon. Wash and dry thoroughly, and silver will stay bright longer than with ordinary cleansing.

from Oregon Rockhound, Chips and Tips via FLINT ROCK & GEM NEWSLETTER

**ROCKHOUND:** The term rockhound has been widely accepted as the popular name for the rock hobbyist. Originally this name was given to the United States geologists who surveyed the West during the early nineteen hundreds.

The lapidarists find rocks intriguing because of their durable beauty. The mineralogist digs deep into the structure of the crystals for the reasons of their form and beauty. The fossil collector is interested in the story that the rocks tell about life on the earth through the ages. Many other fields exist in the rock hobby.

from Daily Journal, via CHIPS FROM THE ROCK PILE

## GEMSTONE NEWS

Diamond is sometimes over 100 times harder than sapphire although on the Mohs scale it is called 10 while sapphire is rated 9. Also, the actual difference in hardness between sapphire (9) and topaz (8) is greater than the differences between any of the lower numbers on the scale.

Gem news in the past 12 months included the naming of another gemstone by Tiffany's. It is the chrome green grossular garnet from Tanzania, named tsavorite for the nearby National Park of Kenya. Also, a major discovery, the first in many years, of jadeite, was announced in the USSR. A new emerald mine was discovered in drilling operations in Wyoming. A new supply of aventurine was of exceptional green color. A new gem in Canada was named trilliumite.

The price of most gemstones continues to increase. Rubies, sapphires, emeralds, aquamarine, tourmaline and amethyst are among those with the highest price increases per carat.

--from the AFMS Newsletter



To improve your tumble polishing use small pieces of styrofoam plastic instead of the hard round little plastic beads. Your polishing agent will do a better and quicker job of it. Those hundreds of polish impregnated little pieces will really put a shine on everything in the tumbler and will have disappeared from sight by the end of the cycle.

from PICK AND SHOVEL, ROCK RAMBLINGS via KORN KRIB NEWS.

THE T-TOWN ROCKHOUND has a complete-at the time published- of the official state stones. This is an informative piece of material that will stay in active files.

HANDY ROCK BAG. A member of the Las Vegas Gem Club made a handy rock bag by sewing up the bottoms of both legs of an old pair of pants. Even with both legs full of rocks it can easily be carried over the shoulder with one leg to the back and one to the front.

from DEL AIR BULLETIN, PEGMATITE, THE GEODE, via T-TOWN ROCKHOUND  
Also from T-TOWN ROCKHOUND, DID YOU KNOW that if you have sore hands from rock mining, soaking them in warm vinegar water will take the swelling and soreness out. GI NUGGET AND FLORAL CLAY is a must for trailer travelers. It can be used to anchor loose objects such as ashtrays, canisters, and even the doggie's water dish while traveling. It comes in handy. Galco Pebble Patter, ROK TOK.

# GEODE NEWSLETTER

Miami, Florida



## LEGEND IN RE GEODE PHOTOGRAPH ON FRONT COVER

The geode, a photograph of which appears on the front cover of our newsletter, was donated to the Guild by Mrs. Marian B. Casperson of Sebastian, Florida, who stated: "This specimen is from the personal collection of the late James G. Manchester of New York, and bears his label. It is half of a coral head, amber color around the rim, with botryoidal clear quartz crystal groups inside. The specimen is 2 1/2 inches high and weighs nearly a pound." It was found by Mr. Manchester at Ballast Point, in the Tampa Bay area.

The following brief excerpts were taken from an article written by the late William C. Casperson for the Science Monthly Magazine: (The article was reprinted in its entirety on Pages 4 and 5 of the November-December issue of our newsletter.)

Mr. Manchester was interested in the life history of corals and in a published article wrote in some detail of "these coral animals whose fossils we are now considering and which thrived millions of years ago in Floridian waters." Then he stated, "Coral animals when they die leave skeletons of lime, and these are called fossils. \* \* \* In the clay and sea water which covered these dead animals in the Tampa area there was much dissolved silica, which over a long period of time has replaced the limy corals in the form of a quartz mineral known as chalcedony. The resulting stone resembles a pseudomorph (a term applied to a mineral which has been changed into another mineral without losing its original form); hence the name 'chalcedony pseudomorph after coral' by which they are known."

## L A P I D A R Y

Author Unknown--Submitted by Dorothy Sanders, Librarian and Historian

The art of polishing, cutting and engraving valued stones is called lapidary. Centuries before recorded history various types of quartz were cut, engraved and polished with surprising skill and transformed into miniature works of art. Many of these tiny bits of sculpture, some smaller than a man's fingernail, remain today in excellent preservation.

Surprisingly, although the art of lapidary was practiced before recorded history, little was known until recently of the techniques that were used. The "secrets of the trade" were passed on from father to son to protect the occupation of the craftsmen who spent a lifetime becoming expert in their work.

There are several methods for fashioning gems -- some quite simple. Others require exceptional skills and training. The levels are divided into baroque jewelry making, cabochon cutting and faceting.

Baroques are naturally shaped stones, ones not cut into specific shapes but polished as they came. The polishing is done mechanically in a special machine called a tumbler, which imitates the rounding and polishing action of the sea. The tumbled stones can be set into jewelry mountings or displayed in a variety of other ways.

Cabochons are stones shaped in a number of ways, usually with a round or curved top. To cut the cabochon, the lapidist will need a diamond saw, a silicon carbide grinding wheel, a polisher, and a dop stick and wax. Often hobby clubs chip in to buy this equipment as a group Project.

The first step is cutting the stone in its rough shape. This is done by outlining to desired shape on the most attractive part of the stone. This is often done by cutting out a piece of adhesive tape the shape of the final stone, and taping it to the slab if you don't have a template. Naturally, this gives the artist the advantage of selecting the exact portion of the stone that he wants to use.

After cutting out the shape on the diamond saw, the hobbyist glues the stone to a dop stick by using heated dop wax. The dop wax stick allows the artist to hold the stone against the grinding wheel. Silicon carbide grinding wheels, of varying degrees of fineness, are used in shaping the stones. Gradually, the rough edges are worn away, the scratches disappear and the rounded top is formed.

The final step is polishing the stone against a leather, felt, muslin, or diamond wheel, using tin oxide or other polishing agents. As a final step the "cab", as it is known, is set into jewelry mounting.

The natural beauty of the swirled multi-colored agate set in a silver mounting can be as beautiful as a diamond to the owner who has the pride of knowing that he discovered this gem in a plain gray rock. In turning a plain gray stone into a beautiful jewel, the lapidist rediscovers the ancient mystery and allure of the gem.

From The T-Town Rockhound, The Geode and via THE HAMMER via JADE JOURNAL

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Experience is what teaches you that you need a lot more.

From "A collection of Gems" Via THE LAPIDARY JOURNAL JADE JOURNAL



## REPORT FROM ELSIE S. MATTHEWS, CHAIRMAN, CONSERVATION OF RECREATIONAL LANDS:

I recently received an Environmental Impact draft entitled "KAIPAROWITZ, Environment-Energy" on a proposed project prepared by an Interagency team, consisting of the Department of the Interior, with the Bureau of Land Management the lead agency, and the Forest Service Department of Agriculture and the Federal Energy Administration, concerning coal mining in an area of southern Utah, bordering on Arizona. The total project involves by way of necessary services, such as a generating station transmission system, limestone quarry, highways and a new town, areas in Arizona and California, as well as Utah. The statement consists of nine chapters in five large volumes. The text totals 2700 pages and there are also many maps, charts and other explanatory features. Besides asking for comments from Federal Department and State Department Agencies (Utah, Arizona, Nevada and California, and county commissions in area involved), some 63 local organizations have been invited to comment. These include Rocky Mountain Federation of Mineralogical Societies, Mineralogical Society of Utah, Western Rockhound Association, the Archeology Societies of both Utah and Arizona. Aside from these a few mining and cattlemen's organizations, most of the others are of the so-called environmentalist type.

I was sent a copy of the draft to review and comment on as Conservation of Recreational Lands Chairman of RMFMS, Inc. NO!! Such comments could not under any guise or circumstances be called lobbying. The statement concerning asking for comments reads - "Attached is a list of Federal, State and Local Entities with jurisdiction and expertise receiving copies of the draft statement."

I am also continuing to receive and record petitions re the selenite crystals of Salt Plains. I am keeping a record of each Club and number of signatures. I shall present the signatures without the club name of those clubs who do not wish their name used. You can of course get signatures from other persons, not just rockhounds. As usual I keep sending various pieces of pertinent information to persons I think should be concerned, as well as asking persons to attend meetings in their State or vicinity.

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## 1975-76 RMFMS COLOR SLIDE CONTEST REPORT:

Please take note of Page 8 of the September, 1975 Rocky Mountain News. There you will find the form "RMFMS COLOR SLIDE PROGRAM CONTEST INTENT TO ENTER FORM".

If you are making plans to enter this contest, please read the report and mail the form.

The contest closes March 1, 1976. The rules are in your May 1975 copy of the RMFMS Newsletter.

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## INTERESTED IN WRITING TO NEW ZEALAND ROCKHOUNDS?

Anyone interested in starting an exchange of letters and possibly a rock swap with persons in New Zealand, please refer to the September, 1975 Newsletter, page 7.

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ATTENTION ALL EDITORS OF ROCKY MOUNTAIN FEDERATIONS CLUBS -- WOULD YOU PLEASE  
SEND COPIES OF YOUR BULLETIN TO THE EDITOR OF THE NEWSLETTER:

MARY ANN DAVIS  
2426 LITCHFIELD  
WICHITA, KANSAS 67204

FROM THE PRESIDENT:

This is my last official letter to you as president of this wonderful federation. It has been a pleasure to serve you this past year. Without the help of so many willing workers we could not have accomplished as much as we have and I wish to THANK YOU ALL, each and every one! The cooperation that the other officers and I have received this year is gratefully appreciated.

I recently had the pleasure of visiting with Dr. J.R. Chelikowsky, our AFMS Scholarship Honorary Award winner, and Mr. Roxie L. Voran, the student who received the AFMS Scholarship. Mr. Voran is an excellent student, was a National Merit Scholarship Finalist in 1971 when he graduated from Chaparral High School, Anthony, Kansas, and graduated from Kansas State University this past May. He is now pursuing his education in the study of paleobiology at Kansas State University. He spent this past summer as an Assistant to a Geophysical Interpretation Team with Phillips Petroleum Company at Bartlesville, Oklahoma. He expresses his thanks to you in this letter:

"I would like to take this opportunity to thank you and your organization for the scholarship which I received. It is good to see organizations such as yours supporting education in this manner. Keep up the good work."

Sincerely yours,

(signed) Roxie L. Voran.

THANK YOU, again, for the privilege and honor you bestowed on me by allowing me to serve you as president of the Rocky Mountain Federation. It has been a very rewarding year add, thru my experiences, the many friendships made and renewed, and the many kindnesses shown me, one that I will cherish always.

Louellen Montgomery, President.

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Last year a copy of the Rocky Mountain Federation of Mineralogical Societies Articles of Incorporation, By Laws & Operating Procedures was sent to each member club of the RMFMS, additional copies are available to clubs or members together with the 1975 changes from the RMFMS Treasurer at a cost postpaid of \$1.00.

The following are also available at cost listed postpaid:

AFMS uniform Rules Books, 1973 ed.	@.60¢
AFMS Exhibitors Manual, blue 1969 ed.	@.35¢
AFMS Lapidary Material Names, Gem List	@.20¢
AFMS Fossil List	@.30¢
(The above will be used through 1976 AFMS Show.)	
AFMS Bulletin Editors Guide	@.75¢
RMFMS 1975 Club Directory	@\$1.25
RMFMS Blue Enamel Round pins (Please order 6 or more per order)	@\$1.00

Send Check and order to:

RMFMS Treasurer  
Dr. A. H. Schoondermark  
826 W. Myrtle  
Fort Collins, CO 80521

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DEADLINE FOR THE NOVEMBER NEWSLETTER ---- OCTOBER 10TH !!