



MONTHLY PUBLICATION OF THE CENTRAL DAKOTA GEM & MINERAL SOCIETY

BISMARCK-MANDAN AND SURROUNDING AREAS

NORTH DAKOTA

DIGGIN'S FROM DAKOTA
Gen & Bill Buresh, Editors
1527 N. 19th St.
Bismarck, ND 58501



Published by the CENTRAL DAKOTA GEM & MINERAL SOCIETY

Member

Rocky Mountain Federation of Mineralogical Societies
and

American Federation of Mineralogical Societies



- AIMS: 1. To encourage the study of mineralogy and geology.
2. To foster field trips for collection of minerals, gems and fossils.
3. To improve the skills of its members in the arts of cutting, polishing and gem mounting.
4. To provide opportunity to exchange, purchase and exhibit specimens and other material.

MEETINGS: First Sunday of each month in the Hospitality Room, Capital Electric Building on Highway 83, north of Bismarck; 7:30 P.M. from April through October and 2:30 P.M. the rest of the year. VISITORS ARE ALWAYS WELCOME.

DUES: \$5.00 per family per year.

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Subscription rates for non-members are \$3.00 per year.

All material for the bulletin should be received by the editor by the 10th of each month. Advertizing in the bulletin by members will also be accepted.

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



North Dakota's Annual
GEM AND MINERAL SHOW
Mandan Community Center
October 7-8, 1978

APRIL MEETING

The Central Dakota Gem and Mineral Society met April 5th at 2:30 p.m. Because of the adverse weather we have had, it was decided to keep winter hours for this one meeting. Forty-one adults and 4 pebble pups were present.

Larry Strand is still making arrangements for our annual Memorial Day field trip.

Article VIII of the By-Laws was passed, raising the society's percentage from 10% to 20% for items sold at club meetings.

Members are still trying to get specimens of our North Dakota state fossil, Teredo Wood, on display, either in the Capitol Building or in the new Heritage Center (when it is built).

It was decided that hereafter hostesses for the society's social hour would be chosen alphabetically. If one cannot be there when it is her turn, then she is to find someone to take her place.

Door prize was won by Walter Buck. This was a slab of graveyard agate donated by Julius Thies.

Hostesses were Rosie Thies and Emma Fischer. Clara Muggli would also have been a hostess but the Mugglis were snowed in at Glen Ullin and were unable to attend the meeting.

Program Chairman, Ernie Knudson, introduced Carl Ellison who gave a very interesting and informative talk on faceting. Characteristics of good faceting stones that bring out the beauty are transparency, color and refractive index. Durability of a stone are shown by its hardness and toughness. Jade is more durable than diamond. The diamond is the hardest but more scratchable.

The next meeting will be May 7th. Time will be back to 7:30 p.m. (summer hours). The program will be presented by John Althouse. His topic will be "The Scientific (?) Approach to Digging for Dryhead Agates".

Hostesses for the May meeting will be Alice Hensen, Viola Anderson and Lee Robey.

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PATCHES, VESTS, BADGES

Our society's patches are here. They may be obtained from treasurer, Ted Giese. Price - \$1.50. Buy several!

The material has arrived for our vests. Sharon Springer and Darlene Fairaizl will cut the material and bring it to the May meeting. Members who plan to make their own vests may pick up the material then. If everyone gets busy and makes their vests we will be ready for the show next October.

Earle Campbell has received a proof badge to check for errors. The badge is just what we ordered so he initialed the order and returned it. Here's hoping the complete order will soon arrive.

X-X-X-X-X-X-X-X-X-X-X

Lord, when we are wrong, make us willing to change.
And when we are right, make us easy to live with.

Peter Marshall

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

May 6-7 Watertown, S. D. - Coteau Des Plaines Gem & Mineral Society
 May 20-21 Hot Springs, S. D. - Picture City Gem & Mineral Society
 June 9-11 Colorado Springs, Colo. - Rocky Mountain Federation Show
 June 3-4 Miles City, Montana - Yellowstone Agate Club
 July 13-16 Winnipeg, Manitoba - Ninth International Federation Show
 July 14-16 Monroe, Washington - Northwest Federation Show
 July 31-Aug. 7 Regina, Sask. - Prairie Rock & Gem Society
 Aug. 5-6 Mitchell, S. D. - Corn Palace Rock Club
 Aug. 10-13 Cedar Rapids, Iowa - Midwest Federation Show
 Sept. 10 Pickstown, S. D. - Annual Swap and Show
 Sept. 16-17 Aberdeen, S. D. - Lakota Glacier Gem & Mineral Show
 Sept. 16-17 Williston, N. D. - Williston Rock & Mineral Club
 Oct. 7-8 Chamberlain, S.D. - Chamberlain Gem & Mineral Society
 Oct. 7-8 MANDAN, NORTH DAKOTA - NORTH DAKOTA'S FOURTH ANNUAL SHOW, Central
 Dakota Gem & Mineral Society

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IT'S PERFECT: Mr. and Mrs. Leonard Small of La Jolla, California, have a weather stone hangin in their back yard which they say is the perfect weather indicator. The stone, 12 inches in diameter, hangs from a chain has become a perfect conversation topic.

A dry stone means that it is not raining.

A wet stone means it is raining.

A shadow under the stone means the sun is shining.

If the stone is swinging it means there is a strong wind blowing.

If the stone jumps up and down it means there is an earthquake.

And if it is ever white on top, believe it or not, it is snowing!

From the Hutchinson News via HALITE HILITES
 via OSAGE HILLS GEMS

X-X-X-X-X-X-X-X

SHOP 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 a shine and it will show the pattern.

X-X-X-X-X-X-X-X

IT'S A BOY!!!

Steven John Dosch chose a cold, stormy, snowy day to make his debut in this great world. He arrived April 12th and weighed in at 8 pounds, 4 ounces. Proud parents are John and Cecelia Dosch. Mom and Pop are making a slow recovery but Steve's brothers and sisters are enthusiastic about the new arrival. Congratulations!

IN MEMORIAM
JOE MARTINECK
1892 - 1978

WANTED! Emma Brady, historian, would like 1977 issues of Diggins for the society's scrapbook. If anyone has any 1977 issues he would be willing to part with, see Emma, or call her at 663-3904. She would also like to have copies of newspaper articles or items about club activities for 1977.

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SILVER: New Medical Wonder Kills Diseases...
via Daily Republic Mar. 9, 1978

Silver is emerging as a new wonder of modern medicine. It kills some 650 different disease organisms, compared with a half-dozen killed by an antibiotic, and is virtually non-toxic.

A pioneering silver researcher, Dr. Harry Margraf, Director of Biochemistry in St. Louis' Washington University's Department of Surgery reports in the current Science Digest that silver "is the best all around germ-fighter we have".

A silver compound known as silver sulfadiazine, developed by Columbia University's Dr. Charles Fox, is used in 70 percent of the burn centers in the United States. This, the magazine reports, represents a momentous breakthrough for it is the first new silver compound to win approval of the Food and Drug Administration and to become generally available.

Among its many other uses, according to Science Digest, silver:

- Stops the herpes virus responsible for cold sores and fever blisters.
- Works against syphilis, cholera and malaria.
- Is now being employed by half the world's airlines to guard against dysentery and other water borne diseases.
- Fights deadly poisons and can purify air, including the conversion of carbon monoxide to carbon dioxide.
- Is highly successful in promoting the healing of chronic skin ulcers, and has saved many diabetics from needless amputations.

In four years, 87 new important medical uses have been found for silver, and Richard L. Davis, executive director of the Silver Institute told Science Digest: "We're just beginning to see to what extent silver can relieve suffering and save lives".

via KORN KRIB NEWS

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SAFETY TIP: Always carry a hammer with the pick down. In steep, rugged country a slip of the foot can cause a nasty spill, broken bones, or even cost a life. By carrying the hammer pick down, if one loses his footing, he can simply throw the hammer forward and snag a rock, shrub, or a clump of grass. It is surprising how much holding power a pick hammer has when thrust into dry sand.

from THE GEMOLOGIST, via THE DIGGERS

The best way to forget your own problems is to help someone else solve theirs.

Temper is what gets most of us into trouble. Pride is what keeps us there.

FLORIDA GEM AND MINERAL SHOW

While on vacation in the Sunshine (????) State of Florida during February, we had the opportunity to attend the Vero Beach Gem & Mineral Show. The show was held February 18 and 19 at the Community Center Building which was located near the downtown area. There was plenty of room for parking but the space provided for the show wasn't quite adequate for the large crowds that attended both days.

This show was different from our local show in that there were a number of retail dealers and only a few individual exhibits. There were approximately 15 dealers present and only four or five local exhibits. It was noted that most of the dealers were from Florida and a few from North Carolina and Maryland. They had the usual items for sale, including finished jewelry, polished cabs, cut slabs and rough rock.

Because it was new to us, one of the more interesting items for sale was the Florida agatized coral. We were told this was the official state gem stone. It is found only in the Tampa Bay area along the west coast. The specimens on display had different colors with various shades of black, brown and white. The hollow-branch shaped specimens can either be sawed in half lengthwise and then polished for display purposes or they can be cut crosswise in thin slices and tumble polished to be used for jewelry. These slices when polished look much like pretzels.

The few local exhibits on display included one case of fossils, one display of various types of petrified wood found in Montana and a couple of cases of miscellaneous rocks. We thought the most interesting display was that shown by a junior member of the local club.

On our return trip home we stopped in Louisville, Kentucky, to do some sight-seeing. While there, we visited the Museum of Natural History and Science, which had a very interesting collection of rocks and minerals. Many of the specimens on display were from Europe.

Mel and Viola Anderson

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HINTS

(from many bulletins)

When grinding obsidian and sanding it, always grind from the center out; otherwise the wheel and sanding belts will pick up minute chips of glass that will scratch your stone.

A good way to tell how solid a slab is - heat it in hot water. The surface will dry immediately when removed from the water, but fractures will still be filled with water and show clearly.

Forest Rangers advise that after killing a rattlesnake you make certain that at least its head is buried. Wasps and yellow-jackets are meat eaters and when eating on the head of the rattler may get the venom in their system. Then when they sting someone enough venom is in the sting to make people very ill, and it can become fatal.

It is a good practice to always grind, sand and polish tigereye in the direction of the fibers of the material to eliminate undercutting and damaging the fibers at the surface which will prevent a perfect finish.

Just the right size to carry in a pocket is an ordinary shoe horn for cleaning out a dirt filled crack, or to dig into sandy soil for loose crystals, fossils, etc.

This may be only April but it isn't too early to start thinking about your display for North Dakota's Fourth Annual Gem and Mineral Show held in Mandan, October 7 & 8. If you don't have any ideas about what to display, start looking NOW. You might just cut that perfect cab for a special pendant to build a display around - or you might find an outstanding fossil on a field trip - or maybe silver pick a lovely mineral specimen. Here is an article about preparing a display case. Save it! Read it! Use it!

TIPS FOR PREPARING A DISPLAY CASE

SHOWMANSHIP - Displaying your favorite collection should be the highlight of your hobby. Showmanship is very important in presenting an interesting and outstanding exhibit. It is the ability of the exhibitor to use the material, lighting arrangement, placing and labeling, to create a display which will be educational and will attract and hold the interest of the viewer.

One collection may impress you as just mediocre, when actually it contains outstanding specimens; conversely another may have you dazzled by the beauty of a very ordinary collection. Showmanship is the basic difference.

CLEANLINESS - Do not display a dusty or finger-printed specimen or case. Material that cannot be polished should be as clean as possible with emphasis on the perfection and rarity of the article. This would include fossils, artifacts, crystals, etc. with correct nomenclature and, if rare, brief historic information to make it more interesting to the layman. Be neat, display with no lint, dust or foreign objects to distract the viewer's observation.

LIGHTING - Good lighting is essential to gem displays. Scenic agate slabs are best viewed with a good light behind them. Spotlights are suitable for large spectacular pieces, but in most cases tube lights directly above or inside each case are best. Check for shadows and do not use mirrors.

BACKGROUND - Make your case as inconspicuous as possible, devoting time to risers & background to keep the eye focused on the subject of the display. Materials used as liners should be of such color and texture as to enhance rather than detract from the theme of the display. Riser stands and any form of simulation should be unobtrusive.

1. Use light gray, beige, or pastel material with displays of variety.
2. Use velvet for real fine jewelry.
3. Use dark color material with discretion...perhaps when all one color specimen.
4. Do not use satin as it reflects too much light.
5. Do not use patterned material, it detracts from the display.
6. Do not gather, pleat, or ruffle the background material.

Black velvet is perfect for a polished slab of rhodocrosite or a beautiful gem. Black jade would be lost on it. Whites are choice background for rich color like carnelian or softer tints like blue are excellent for chalcedony or rose quartz. White would not compliment rutilated quartz or moonstone or a milk opal.

A piece of silvery driftwood against a sea-blue drop to set off a collection of beach agates would be effective.

Some experimenting shows that a gray tone of blue is most versatile as a background material, because there is just enough color to set off tints as well as shades. The palest pinks look a little richer on the blue backgrounds. The white of Wyoming dendrite agate shows well against blue. Here again, the blues of Mexico chalcedony, aquamarine or opal do not take to a blue background. The black of snowflake obsidian is dramatic against blue.

(Preparing a case - cont.)

RISERS- Styrofoam is suitable for background risers and is useful in creating split-levels. All styrofoam risers should be covered. A piece of paper folded over the edges of the styrofoam covers rough edges of cut material.

ARRANGEMENT - Good arrangement has balance, good proportion, pleasing color harmony, rhythm, design and suitable background. Fine gems or specimens scattered hit or miss detract from one another because they make your eyes jump. The eye is trained to read in a straight line, or follow a curved, graceful line. Specimens can be arranged in geometric patterns, curves, ovals, or any pleasing design, so long as they are uncluttered and uncomplicated.

If you have prize specimens which you are anxious to show off, give them plenty of space. Overcrowding is a sin of which most are guilty. It is easier for the mind and eye to concentrate on simplicity than on a muddle.

BALANCE - A display should have its weight toward the back of the display. Therefore, all large items naturally go toward the back, the most spectacular specimens toward the center and smaller items in the foreground. Every good display should have margins - the widest at the bottom, next widest at the top and the two sides equal to or a little narrower than the top.

As you try to balance your case, remember that bright colors strike the eye before dull colors. Bright colors can be used effectively if watched carefully. For example, if you have four good specimens of electric blue chrysocolla and you placed one in each corner, these bright spots would tend to draw your eyes in four directions at once. Your center of interest in the center of the case would be lost.

A piece of pale pink quartz should not be forced to compete with malachite green or carnelian red. But if it is placed in a rhythmic swirl starting with pink quartz using varying hues of pinks and reds, each stone a little brighter than the preceding one, and finally ending with carnelian, then your eyes follow the pleasing pattern encompassing all your colors. One large specimen can be balanced by a group of smaller ones; one bright specimen can be balanced by several duller ones.

via '74 Emerald Gems & Alaska Pebble Patter
via S.I.E.S Club News via Golden Spike News

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BROSTE ROCK MUSEUM

Parshall, North Dakota

MAY: Open Sundays only - 1:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.

MEMORIAL DAY thru LABOR DAY: Open daily 9:00 am to 6:00 p.m.

SEPTEMBER: Open Sundays only - 1:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.

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Did you know that more than 90 per cent of the animal types which have disappeared from the earth did so before the advent of man--and that's a fact!!

Osage Hills Gems

ROCK LICKING---Don't taste a rock until you know what it contains. Arsenic, mercury, selenium, some of the boron minerals, some phosphates are poisonous. Use a squirt bottle and water.

via several club bulletins, via Osage Hills Gems



FOR SALE

31 POUNDS OF GOOD LAKE SUPERIOR AGATE.....\$200.00
This fine-banded, prepolished, good cutting sizes up to two inches.
Good quality Superior agate is getting scarce. To be sold as one lot.

ONE MODEL MD-232 MOTO FLEX TOOL.....\$50.00 complete
This Dremel tool is like new!!!! Can be bench or wall mounted. Has
20,000 RPM ballbearing handpiece. Used only twice. Regular price new \$64.95

ONE DOROTHY BLAKE COMPACT GEM POLISHER.....\$50.00
Never been used. Has a six-station maple-drummed unit using diamond
compound to finish gem materials after they have been shaped thru the 220
grit stage on other machines. Complete with motor, but no diamond
compounds. Sold new for \$74.50.

For any and all above mentioned items---
Call Don Campbell for details!!!! Phone 258-1194

XX
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STOCK REDUCTION

SALE

TUMBLERS.....Lortone or Beacon Star---Discount prices - while stock lasts!

Are your grinding wheels bumpy? Buy yourself a DIAMOND T-BAR at a special price!
Regular \$19.95 - now \$16.95

Do you use 3M EPOXY? Special 1/2 price sale 50% each

GRINDING WHEELS - 8x1 1/2x1 - 100 grit or 220 grit -- \$15.00 each

OPTIVISORS with loupe, complete --- \$17.95 (reg. \$20.95)

CERIUM OXIDE BRUCE BARS \$3.00 each

PLASTIC PELLETS for tumble polishing - floatable, top quality 50% lb.

Try DIAMOND LUBE in your trim saw. 1 pint makes 5 gallons coolant. \$3.00 pint

All sales subject to present inventory.

Call Earle Campbell for appointment - weekends only
phone 255-3658 - 1134 N. 28th St., Bismarck, N. D.