

# DIGGIN'S FROM DAKOTA



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.

OFFICERS AND COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS:

President	Stanley Fairaizl	205 6th Ave. N.W.	Mandan	663-9712
Vice president	Harold Brady	1401 Sunny Road	Mandan	663-3904
Secretary	Mary Osborn	309 - 12th Ave. NW	Mandan	663-9603
Treasurer	Ted Giese	Route 1	New Salem	843-7005
Bulletin Editors	Genevieve L. & William A. Buresh	1527 N. 19th St.	Bismarck	223-0611
Parliamentarian	Genevieve L. Buresh	1527 N. 18th St.	Bismarck	223-0611
Publicity	Blossomae Campbell	1134 N. 28th St.	Bismarck	255-3658
Program	Ernest Knudson	2020 Catherine Dr.	Bismarck	255-4796
Librarian	Fred Springer	1119 S. 9th St.	Bismarck	255-4232
Field Trip	Gordon Bell and Larry Strand	515 N. 22nd St. 913 N. 19th St.	Bismarck	223-5146 258-5128
Annual Show	Earle Campbell	1134 N. 28th St.	Bismarck	255-3658
Pebble Pup Leader	Pat Brady	1401 Sunny Road	Mandan	663-3904
Historian	Emma Brady	1401 Sunny Road	Mandan	663-3904
Hospitality	Emma Fischer	501 S. 13th St.	Bismarck	223-4362
Membership & Subscription Agent	John Dosch	2118 Marian Dr.	Bismarck	255-1924
Federation Rep.	Ida Mae Ramberg	1325 N. 15th St.	Bismarck	223-6296
Refreshments	Emma Fischer	501 S. 13th St.	Bismarck	223-4362

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**

# DIGGIN'S FROM DAKOTA

Volume 13, No. 8

August, 1978

## NEXT MEETING--September 10

Since the first Sunday of September is part of the Labor Day weekend, the next regular meeting of the Society will be held on the second Sunday, Sept. 10. The program for the evening will be a presentation on "North Dakota Land-slides" by Dr. Gordon Bell, according to Ernie Knudson, Program Chairman.

The Lunch Committee for this meeting will be Emma Brady, Mae Fairaizl, and Marlene White.

\* \* \* \* \*

LAPIDARY TIP--In shaping turquoise, one of the most popular stones today, it is advisable to use only the 220 wheel rather than the coarser ones. The 100-grit wheel will take desirable material from such a soft material. The author had great results with his crater wheel. Some of the more friable and chalky types of turquoise are difficult to polish with cerium or tin oxide; try a muslin buff with stick rouge. Since it is such a porous stone, oil may discolor it, so try sawing with a water coolant after soaking overnight. This prevents breaking your stone.--NEWS AND VIEWS

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- |             |                                                                                                                |
|-------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Aug. 20     | Medora, N.D.--Field Trip, Central Dakota Gem & Mineral Society                                                 |
| Aug. 27     | Almont, N.D.--Field Trip, Central Dakota Gem & Mineral Society                                                 |
| Sept. 10    | Bismarck, N.D., Capital Electric Building--Regular Meeting,<br>7:30 p.m.--Central Dakota Gem & Mineral Society |
| Sept. 16-17 | Williston, N.D.--Annual Show, Williston Gem & Mineral Society                                                  |
| Sept. 16-17 | Aberdeen, S.D.--Lakota Glacier Gem & Mineral Show                                                              |
| OCT. 7-8    | MANDAN, N.D.--                                                                                                 |

NORTH DAKOTA'S FOURTH ANNUAL SHOW--

CENTRAL DAKOTA GEM & MINERAL SOCIETY

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE--Stanley Fairaizl

FELLOW CLUB MEMBERS: The weather was fine, the meeting was good, and the picnic was great--lots of food, a good variety, and a very good attendance.

I will not say much this time except to urge you to get your vests. There still is time if you act now.

Show preparations are in full swing. What we need most is your display, so please bring one, two, or three--the more the better.

I also want to urge every member to come to the Sept. 10 meeting. I am sure Earle will have final plans and layouts for us to see. Come and tell him how you wish to help out during the show.

See you all Sept. 10.

Stanley

\* \* \* \* \*

EDUCATION is what you get from reading the small print in a contract. Experience is what you get from not reading it. . . . .

DID YOU HEAR about the computer that refused to work until it was promised at least two circuit breaks? . . . . .

MEDORA FIELD TRIP -- August 20, 1978

The members who wish to participate in the field trip on August 20 will assemble in Medora in the picnic area adjacent to the remains of the packing plant at 10:00 a.m. Mountain Daylight Time.

From there the group will proceed to an area where agatized wood, chalcedony, maracite, and fossils may be found.

Bring whatever your family will need for the day--lunch, beverages, water, etc.

\* \* \* \* \*

ALMONT FIELD TRIP -- August 27, 1978

Club members who wish to participate in the field trip on August 27 to the fossil leaf beds will assemble at I-94 Exit #26 (Almont Exit) at 10:30 am. Central Daylight Time.

From Exit #26 the group will proceed in a caravan. As on other field trips, bring along all provisions for your own needs for the day.

\* \* \* \* \*

AT THE LAST MEETING--August 6

Thirty-seven members, five juniors, and six guests took advantage of the beautiful weather to attend the annual picnic and regular meeting of the Society at the Fort Lincoln State Park south of Mandan on August 6.

Among the guests were Ted and Helen Pfeifle and Ed and Ellen Hochhalter, all of Renton, Washington. Helen and Ellen are twin sisters of Ida Mae Ramberg. The Hochhalters are subscribers to the "Diggin's."

The other two guests, Ed and Flora Costello of Dearborn, Mich., were rock-hounding in the area and were invited to the picnic by Pres. Fairaizl and the Campbells.

Everyone seemed to enjoy the abundance of delicious food and the relaxed atmosphere.

Field Trip Co-Chairman Larry Strand announced the scheduling of two more field trips. (See details above.)

Earle Campbell announced that he had had very favorable comments about the Teredo wood display at a local bank.

A motion was approved granting authority to the Society president to appoint a chaplain.

Charter Member Joel Ramberg was recognized for reaching the milestone of his 75th birthday.

The door prize, a finished picture rock donated by Pius Fischer, was won by Bill Buresh. (Thanks, Pius. This was my first door prize ever!--Ed.)

\* \* \* \* \*

CANNONBALL RIVER FIELD TRIP

Eighteen vehicles transported over 40 Central Dakota rockhounds to the sand bars of the Cannonball River on July 30. Everyone went home with a bag full or more of "goodies." The prize find of the day was a large piece of Turritella, the first such specimen known to have come from this location, discovered by Alice Springer. Bill Buresh was fortunate in finding another fossilized sequoia cone and a large flint scraper. Others also finding large scrapers were Don Campbell and Blossomae Campbell.

A great variety of fossilized wood was the bulk of the take-home material. Hopefully some of it will end up as "give-aways" at the annual show.

Thanks to Field Trip Co-Chairman Larry Strand for planning another good field trip and to John Dosch for obtaining permission to hunt at this site.

\* \* \* \* \*

\*TRUTHFULLY, the only women who dress to please their husbands are the ones who are wearing last year's clothes!

\*A HUSBAND is a bachelor who winked back just once too often.

SHOW EXHIBITS--AGAIN!

August 15th, the date set for exhibit application returns, has just passed and only ten members responded so far. Three indicated that they would have more than one exhibit.

We are getting a good response for exhibits from non-members. We need more exhibits from members. I am hoping that it is just a neglect in not getting the forms mailed in during these busy times. We will continue to accept all entries of exhibits to the show until the day of the show.

Thanks to those of you who did respond by the 15th. This facilitates planning for counter space for the displays.

Bill Buresh  
Chairman, Show Exhibits

\* \* \* \* \*

JADE--HIGH POLISH: Audrey "Mom" Carety, Anchorage, Alaska, gets a high polish on jade "that just won't polish" by finishing sanding with a wet 600-grit cloth, then she smears the outside  $1\frac{1}{2}$ " of a leather polishing lap with #1200 metal lapping compound and works the stone on it. This produces a dull polish which is quickly brought to a high gloss with tin or cerium oxide. This compound can be found in auto supply stores (good also for tigereye, aventurine, everything but soft stones).

--The Rock Box

\* \* \* \* \*

\* H I L K E N ' S R O C K S H O P \*

\* Lapidary Supplies, Polishes \*

\* Rough and Finished Rocks \*

\* Clocks and Bola Ties, Gifts \*

\* \* \* \* \*

\* Emil G. Hilken (701) 734-6411 \*

\* Box 216 Wilton, N.D. 58579 \*

\* \* \* \* \*

WEAR YOUR VEST

THIS-N-THAT

Hospitalized in Bismarck since the last "Diggin's" were Emma Fischer (twice) and Verna Giese. Both are back home again.

- - - - -

Attending the Mitchell, S.D., Gem and Mineral Show were Emma and Pius Fischer and Julius Theis.

- - - - -

The Ewald Muggli family, Bonnie and Emil Hilken, Don Campbell, Sue and Bob Randall, and Gen and Bill Buresh attended the Midwest Federation Show held at Cedar Rapids, Iowa, on August 10-13.

- - - - -

According to word received by Blossomae and Earle Campbell, Bill Collins went to Vernal, Utah, on a work assignment. While there he tried "dinosaur hunting" but was able to find only gastroliths and opal so far.

\* \* \* \* \*

DID YOU KNOW that the largest slab of marble is the coping stone of the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier at Arlington, Va., weighing more than 50 ton, cut from a 100-ton slab from Yule, Colorado?

--The Korn Krib

\* \* \* \* \*

\* W A N T E D \*

\* M O R E E X H I B I T S \*

\* Specimens, Fossils, Cabs, Jewelry \*

\* FOR THE ANNUAL SHOW \*

\* October 7-8, 1978 \*

\* Call BILL BURESH 223-0611 \*

\* \* \* \* \*

WEAR YOUR BADGE

## WHAT SORT OF MINERAL IS SOAPSTONE?

The Chinese have treasured soapstone for centuries and used it to carve their delicate figures. The Eskimos use it to make lamps and cooking pots. In ancient Babylon it was used to make signet rings and other pieces of jewelry. In North America, the early pioneers used it to make laundry tubs. But this is not why it is called soapstone. The mineral got its name because of the waxy polished surface, which looks and feels soapy.

Geologists classify soapstone as a hydrous magnesium silicate and call it a steatite mineral related to talc. Its main ingredients are magnesium oxide, silicon and moisture. It is one of the softest stones, easily carved with a knife and polished to shine with a waxy glow. Its color may be pearly or bluish gray, milky white or pastel yellow. A few rare samples of vivid apple green are opaque, like dense rock, others translucent - like foggy glass.

Since early times artists have treasured its lovely colors and soft carvable qualities. It makes durable lining for boilers and electric furnaces because it insulates for both heat and electricity. It resists all stain and corrosion. As a filler ingredient, powdered soapstone gives body to certain papers and paints and spreading quality to face powder.

Soapstone is classified as a metamorphic rock, and a mineral completely altered from its original form by a tremendous force within the earth's crust. The original mineral was most likely lava, rich in magnesium and silicates fused in the furnace of some ancient volcano. For ages it was buried amid the seething activity of growing mountains. Steaming underground waters and enormous pressures gradually remodeled and refined its texture. The original mineral was metamorphosed, and completely changed into something different. The various colors were added by traces of magnesium, chlorite, mica and other ingredients that seeped into the recipe.

Considering its long history of hardships, it is not surprising that the lovely soft mineral is not marred by its experience.

--From ARROWHEAD CHIPS via JADE JOURNAL

## SOAPSTONE--

Most of the world's steatite minerals are mined in North America, and both soapstone and talc, its somewhat softer relative, are found in the western mountains of California. More massive deposits are in the eastern Appalachians. Near Schuyler, Virginia, the soapstone mines are along a belt thirty miles long and occur in blocks, some thicker than 300 feet and more than 1500 feet long.

--From PEGMATITE BULLETIN via JADE JOURNAL

\* \* \* \* \*

NOTE: Although Alaska is not listed as a state producing soapstone, locally mined Alaskan soapstone has been used by native Alaskans for carving for many years. Land and sea animals and Eskimo hunters are popular subjects for soapstone sculpture in Alaska.---Ed.