

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:

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Vice president	Harold Brady	1401 Sunny Road	Mandan	663-3904
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Subscription rates for non-members are \$3.00 per year.

All members are encouraged to submit articles, etc., for publication during the 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

September 28 - 29, 1979

"Down through the ages this message still rings,
While the years but increase all the joy that it brings--
'PEACE ON EARTH, AND GOOD WILL..' may it stay, like a song
Bringing joy to your heart every day, all year long!"
--Anonymous



A MERRY CHRISTMAS AND HAPPY NEW YEAR

TO EVERYONE !



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CALENDAR OF EVENTS--1979

- Jan. 7 Bismarck, ND. Regular meeting, Central Dakota Gem & Mineral Society,
 2:30 p.m., Capital Electric Building, Highway #83 North of City.
- Jan. 11-14 Denver, CO. Gem & Mineral Show--Denver Gem & Mineral Guild
- March 9-11 Ogden, Utah. Gem & Mineral Show--Golden Spike Gem & Mineral Society
- May 19-20 Hot Springs, SD. Gem & Mineral Show--Picture City Gem & Mineral Society
- May 19-20 Guymon, OK. Gem & Mineral Show--Tri-State Rock Club
- June 8-10 Rapid City, SD. Rocky Mountain Federation Show
- July 12-15 Tampa, FL. National Gem and Mineral Show
- SEPT. 28-29 MANDAN, ND. NORTH DAKOTA'S FIFTH ANNUAL SHOW--CENTRAL DAKOTA GEM &
 MINERAL SOCIETY

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NEXT MEETING--January 7, 1978, 2:30 p.m. (Beginners' class, 1:30 p.m.)
PROGRAM: Faceting Demonstration by Ed Muggli
LUNCH COMMITTEE: Cecelia Dosch, Blossomae Campbell, and Edna Mausehund

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Fellow Club Members: I don't have words to explain the feeling that came over me as I sat down to write this letter. I had so much to say and suddenly I can't think of a thing. After twelve years at the table I should be able to fill this bulletin with comments and thank-you's, and that you have.

I do feel that I am leaving the officers' table having done my best and I am happy with the help and cooperation you have given me. We started with 35 members and today we have 87. Our show started with twelve exhibits, most of which were Timex cases. They were the best of the lot; others were smaller and not as elaborate. This year we had 57 exhibits, with many regulation cases. And no comparison with what was inside of them. Our field trips were a far cry from what they were these last few years. I also have to mention our picnics--how they have improved over the years.

I was very proud of our programs. They were the best that I have ever watched. They have improved from the day we organized. Having held the position of program chairman for seven years, I know what a job it is to get a substitute when your guest demonstrator calls on Saturday and tells you, "I can't be there tomorrow." I must also mention our bulletin--Mr. and Mrs. Buresh are doing a beautiful job. And how about our annual dinner--that has grown unbelievably. And I had the privilege of helping with all of it. The many personal contacts, phone calls, and letters (especially the one I received yesterday) make me proud of having taken part.

I hope you enjoyed working with me as much as I have enjoyed working with you. Time and my physical condition, which you all know, have taken their share, and my attendance may not be 100% from now on, but I will still do all I can. If not at a meeting, I will be there in spirit. So, for the last time as your President, I say, "Thank you to all."

See you January 7.

Stanley

AT THE LAST MEETING--December 3

Fifty-four adults and seven children were reported present at the December meeting. It was obvious that every one of them enjoyed the delicious dinner.

The senior editor worked up a voracious appetite while carving one of the large turkeys, and I'm sure Al White did likewise cutting up the other one.

I am sure that everyone present would like to have the editors extend a big "Thank you" to Stanley and Mae Fairaizl for their generosity in providing the delicious stuffed turkeys, potatoes, and gravy--and to all the other members who had a hand in preparing the annual Christmas feast.

Among those who enjoyed the festivities was Erna Saure of Washburn, a guest of Nettie and Evert Nelson.

Show Chairman Earle Campbell announced that a bill has been prepared to amend the Sunday closing law in North Dakota. It will be presented to the appropriate legislative committee when the legislature convenes.

Show Treasurer Bob Randall reported that the final financial report for the 1978 Show reveals a net income of \$6.68.

The members voted to donate ten dollars to the Crippled Children's Home in Jamestown.

Ernie Knudson and Earle Campbell were appointed by the President to audit the treasurer's books for both the Society and the Show.

The slate of candidates for officers of the Society for the year 1979, which was presented by the Nominating Committee at the November meeting, were elected by ballot at the annual meeting in December. The officers for the coming year will be as follows:

President	Harold Brady
Vice President .	Mary Beth Osborn
Secretary	Ted Giese
Treasurer	Carol Hickie

Julius Theis was the lucky recipient of the door prize, a satin spar specimen donated by Nettie and Evert Nelson.

INFORMATION FROM AFMS

SHOULD THERE BE A NATIONAL GEM?

By June Zeitner

Chilton Company's magazine Jewelers' Circular Keystone is polling jewelers about their choice of a National Gemstone. It is not clear whether this would be offered as a bill for Congress, so that it would be official, or whether it would be merely a promotional choice for the benefit of the jewelry industry.

The idea undoubtedly came from the State Stone program originated and backed by hobbyists and clubs which has reulsted in the official declaration of 38 State Stones. If the National Gemstone is merely an unofficial jewelers promotion, the ballots furnished in Circular Keystone should be sufficient, but if it is to be an official National Gemstone, our organizations should have a voice. So should teachers, students, museum curators, scientists, doctors, the clergy, geological surveys, mine owners, etc. etc. etc.

Perhaps if the National Gemstone should become a bill for the new Congress, we should also ask for a National Mineral, a National Rock and a National Fossil at the same time.

Debates on any of these are likely to be long and heated. Proposed for the National Gem have been California tourmaline, Montana Sapphire and several others. Some insist that the National Gem be facetable. If we would choose quartz for a National Gemstone, we could have both faceted gems and cabochons, as quartz includes crystalline amethyst, smoky quartz, citrine, rose quartz and rock crystal and crypto-crystalline fire agate, jasper, chrysoprase, gem chrysocolla, chalcedony, moss, plume, and banded agate, carnelian, onyx, sard, flint, moxarkite, binghamite, petrified wood, agatized coral, agatized dinosaur bone, agate thundereggs, and more. No other choice would represent as many people or as many states. Seventeen states have already adopted some form of quartz as their official State Gem, Rock, Mineral or Fossil. Others may

push for corundum or garnet or another local favorite.

What should the criteria be? Benitoite, a fine, true American gem, is too rare and localized. North Carolina's emeralds have the same problem, plus the fact that they do not come in any shade of red, white or blue, which might be desirable in a National Gem. Topaz is found in several states--Utah, Texas, Colorado, California . . . but not in large enough sizes or sufficient quantities for mass produced jewelry.

How about a National Mineral? Should it be gold, the lure which developed the West, or hematite which helped us through the Revolution and created our industrial age, or copper which is widespread in this nation and which was used by early man, and which comes in many desirable colors and shapes? Or a uranium mineral of which we stand in awe and fear?

A National Rock? Some will say it should be granite, some might prefer basalt or limestone. There would be excellent reasons for the choice of any of these.

For a National Fossil, certainly mastodons would be the selection of many. But our trilobites are of great scientific interest. Fossil corals are found in many states. Important in the past of America were the dinosaurs, the saber tooth cats, and the tiny ancestral horses.

Certainly since this entire question is now open for discussion, we should make our opinions and our choices known. Fortunately, we in this organized hobby know more about this subject than the general public, and they will look to us for leadership.

Please fill out the ballot on page 4 as soon as possible and mail to me, June Zeitner, AFMS Newsletter, Mission, S.D. 57555.

Have your club vote on this. It is not official or binding, but is merely the

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NATIONAL GEM, cont.

choice of your club at this time. Results will be published. Letters on this subject are welcome.

Remember, the more of our clubs that take the time to respond to this, the better idea we will have as to which gems are the most popular and how much interest there is.--"The American Federation Newsletter," December, 1978

Editor's Note: Since this calls for one vote by the club, the ballot mentioned above is not reprinted here. WAB

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Mrs. Mignon Wagner, former Executive Secretary of the South Central Federation, is the newly appointed Executive Secretary of the AFMS.--"The American Federation Newsletter," December, 1978

DUES

Dues are due for the year 1979. Many have already fulfilled this obligation. The January issue of the "Diggin's" will include a list of all paid-up members, following the meeting January 7.

THIS-N-THAT

PIUS and EMMA FISCHER drove to Montana recently to see their son and to enjoy the results of his successful hunts for both elk and deer. (Ask Emma how she enjoys bus travel!)

ROSA and JULIUS THEIS departed for Phoenix, Arizona, in their camper on December 4. They planned to travel through Texas en route.

Marriage teaches you loyalty, forbearance self-restraint, meekness, and a great many other qualities you wouldn't need if you had stayed single.--The Geode

SLIDES, ANYONE?

It has been suggested that a program for one of the future meetings might consist of slides of club activities such as field trips, picnics, and shows. Are there enough slides among the members for a program?

WHAT ARE DENDRITES?

Mossy or treelike patterns on the inside of a mineral or on the surface of a rock are known as dendrites. These are the branching designs that make moss agate the distinctive gem it is, showing "eternal landscapes in stone."

Mineral matter, usually manganese oxide in the form of pyrolusite, or sometimes iron oxide, is deposited where it can spread out and crystallize in the way that frost forms on a window pane.

Dendrites in moss agate are typically black or brown, but fibers of chlorite are green, resembling seaweed, and some plume agate splashes an array of color. Moss agate from India has long been known as Mocha stone.--From THE GEODE, November, 1978, via SILVER RIVER NEWS and PICK AND CHISEL

SILVERSMITHING TIPS

A Stockton, California, club member uses stainless steel solder in silver work as it is cheaper, easier to handle, and does a beautiful job. . . .

When you get too much solder on a piece of jewelry and try to get rid of it by filing, it takes quite awhile. To get rid of the excess solder, take a narrow strip of silver about 1/3" wide and 3/4" long, cut a small slit in one end. Heat the piece with the excess solder on it, and touch the slit piece of silver to the excess solder. The excess solder will flow up the piece of silver.--Jim Silva, in THE GEODE, Nov. 1978

