

# DIGGINS FROM DAKOTA



CENTRAL DAKOTA GEM AND MINERAL SOCIETY  
Ida Mae Hamberg, Editor  
1325 N. 15th Street  
Bismarck, North Dakota 58501



# DIGGIN'S 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 the 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	Stanley Fairaizl	205 6th Ave. N.W.	Mandan	663 9712
Treasurer	Dick Bergantine	703 12th Ave. NW	Mandan	663 3419
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Program Chairman	Duane Robey	2119 Ave. F East	Bismarck	255 0576
Librarian	Owen O'Neill	906 1st Ave. NW	Mandan	663 3748
Field Trip Chairman	Ewald Muggli	Box 27	Glen Ullin	348 3897
Nominations	John Dosch	1425 N. 15th St.	Bismarck	255 1924
Refreshments	Emma Brady	1401 Sunny Road	Mandan	663 3904
Annual Show	Earle Campbell	1134 N. 28th St.	Bismarck	255 3658
Historian	Vian Anderson	R.R. #2	Bismarck	673 4585
Doorman and Greeter	Ole Stavem		Wilton	734 6933
Pebble Pup Leaders	Pat & Harold Brady	1401 Sunny Road	Mandan	663 3904, 390
Publicity	Blossomae Campbell	1134 N. 28th St.	Bismarck	258 3658
Editor	Ida Mae Ramberg	1325 N. 15th St.	Bismarck	223 6296
Membership Chairman				
& Subscription Agent	Larry Strand	913 1/2 N 19th St.	Bismarck	258 5128
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**ZIP CODES** Bismarck, 58501

Mandan 58554

Glen Ullin 58631

All contributions for this Bulletin should be mailed to the Editor, Ida Mae Ramberg 1325 N. 15th Street, Bismarck, ND 58501, by the tenth 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.

**DUES:** \$5.00 per family; **SUBSCRIPTIONS** to DIGGIN'S FROM DAKOTA: \$3.00 a year.

**ADVERTISING:** \$2.00 per month; \$11.00 for six months; \$22.00 for a year, in advance.

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.



# North Dakota's Annual GEM AND MINERAL SHOW

Mandan Community Center

Sept. 11 & 12, 1975

PRESIDENT'S COMMENTS

It was nice to have visitors from another club at our February meeting -- three couples from the Knife River Gem and Mineral Society of the Beulah - Hazen area. There should be more of this type of inter-club fellowship. In that way one gets to see first hand what other clubs do and how. I hope that some time this summer a group of us from this Society will be able to make a return visit to a meeting of the Knife River Society.

"Piping" was the subject of the program at this same meeting. For most of us the title of the program was meaningless until Dr. Bell's introduction of the phenomenon of this type of erosion. He is following up the program with an article which appears elsewhere in this newsletter. I am sure that from now on, when on rock hunts in the Badlands, we will give this type of erosion more than just a passing glance. Thank you, Dr. Bell, for the informative presentation.

TID BIT DIGGIN'S FROM THE FEBRUARY MEETING

In attendance at the February meeting were 45 members, 8 guests and 12 Pebble Pups. Six members of the Beulah-Hazen Club, (KNIFE RIVER CLUB) were guests. They were MR. & MRS. DUANE JOHNSON, MR. & MRS. MARVIN W. SCHNAIDT, AND MR. & MRS. H. A. OSTER. Other guests were MR. & MRS. JOE HAUER, Bismarck,.

EWALD MUGGLI, field trip chairman told of tentative plans for a South Dakota field trip on Memorial Day week end, and another during the Labor Day week-end. There will be more details later. Members are urged to let him know of good areas for this activity. EARLE CAMPBELL, show chairman, asked for planning of a tour during the State Show- either for specimens or just for looking, that would be near enough to incorporate into the show.

Owen O'Neill, Society librarian, stated that there are many good books and magazines in the library. He brings them every time and would like to see more use made of them. Stop and Look next time. Ida Mae also has issues of the Exchange Bulletin for those who would like to read them. She brings current ones each month.

Earle Campbell, show chairman, gave a report on the progress of the planning for the September 11, 12, 1976 Show. We will have nine dealers, including a new one on factoring. The names of the dealers will be listed at a later date. It is difficult to choose when there are so many good ones.

All members are being urged to exhibit, as well as keep busy, visiting with guests and helping with the show.

Vian Anderson, Historian, had the scrap book at the meeting and urged the members to submit pictures and articles about the members for it.

A letter from Western Treasures Magazine was read. Ida Mae Ramberg was asked to mail in the questionnaire. We will be getting monthly newspapers from them.

The traveling Cypress Petrified Wood book ends from Swift Current, Saskatchewan, Canada were again on display and were passed on to the Knife River Club-who were our guests. They will pass it on to another club. These book ends have been back and forth across the border many times.

The Sequoia Gem and Mineral Society of Redwood City, California, asked for a slab of the state fossil, Teredo Wood, in the shape of the state. Stanley Fairaizl will again take care of this, as he did for the Austin, Texas Club where the American Federation

NEW PUBLICATION OUT

"GUIDE TO THE GEOLOGY OF SOUTHWESTERN NORTH DAKOTA" by John P. Blueemle, a 1975 publication, was prepared by the North Dakota Geological Survey in cooperation with the North Dakota Department of Public Instruction. It is referred to as "An Earth Science Guide for North Dakota School Students."

The introduction states in part: "This publication describes the geology of southwest North Dakota in a nontechnical manner for those with little training in geology. Students, teachers, farmers and indeed, anyone interested in the land, should be able to use the booklet as source of geologic information to explain the variation in rocks, soils, and land-forms observable from cars, buses, trains, or planes. The valleys, badlands, hills, and plains take on new meaning when they are viewed with an understanding of their origin and history. The geologic map in the pocket at the back of the booklet shows the distribution and age of the surface rocks of southwest North Dakota. Several roadlogs have been included to enable the reader to observe certain areas in greater detail. ..."

For further information and availability of this booklet write to the North Dakota Geological Survey, University Station, Grand Forks, North Dakota 58201.

TID BIT DIGGIN'S FROM THE FEBRUARY MEETING (Continued)

Show will be held June 17-20, 1976. If you plan to go and wish space, the request must be in by February 24.

The Door Prize was a beautiful specimen of youngite, donated by Frank Herr and won by Bill Collins.

The program was on Piping in the North Dakota Badlands by Dr. Gordon Bell. An article is elsewhere in the bulletin.

Lunch was served by hostesses, Emma Fischer, Cecelia Mosch and Ida Mae Ramberg, assisted by Emma Brady. Emma Brady announced that the next hostesses would be Vian Anderson, Rosa Theis and Verna Giese.

HOSPITALIZED

Since our last meeting three members have been in the St Alexius hospital. Blossomae Campbell had another operation on her back and is home again. Marjorie Peterson had surgery on her hand, and has been released. Pius Fischer had gall stone and appendiz surgery and at this writing is still in the hospital. Our best wishes go to all of these members.

SHOWING OUR HOBBY

About forty hobbyists in many different areas of activity demonstrated their wares at the Jeanette Myrie School, January 22 and 23. Emma Fischer and Ida Mae Ramberg had a rock display. Ida Mae explained some of the rocks and how the hobby can be started and showed rough rocks for them to handle. Emma showed finished products and presented each child with a specimen.

Mr. Isaak, who engraved the emblem we have at our meetings, demonstrated rock engraving. Steve Fairaizl had a biology and wildlife display. There were many more interesting activities, such as stamps, Telle Ruder's wood carving, screen printing, crocheting, knitting and others. Ida Mae and Emma were too busy to see the others. They received beautiful Thank you notes for the enjoyable time spent there.

PIPING IN THE BADLANDS OF NORTH DAKOTA, by Dr. Gordon L. Bell, State Highway Department

Subsurface erosion and drainage called piping is an important process in the development of the scenic Badlands of western North Dakota. Piping produces a system of tunnels, tubes and caves associated with sinkholes and irregular pipe orifices. The geologic setting is given with engineering characteristics of the sediments for greater clarity in identifying the process and results of piping.

The Badlands of North Dakota include the vast canyon complex of the Little Missouri River drainage system. The deep meandering inner valley is bounded by a maze of branching side canyons and more extensive tributaries that head along a broad drainage divide on the upland. This belt of rough terrain is from 10 miles to 25 miles wide along 180 airline miles of the north flowing Little Missouri River. Schmitz(1955) and Petter(1956) report that these Badlands include at least 2,700 square miles. The river at 2,245 feet altitude near Medora is 535 feet below the upland. More detailed appraisals would include consideration of the relief of the upland, as well as different features in the Badlands. It is significant to note that microrelief features developed by piping in some of the exposed faces or canyon walls contain most of the forms of the major Badlands...

The principal stages in the erosion of the Badlands are associated with the development of terraces that in turn relate directly to the piping process. Starting with the present Little Missouri River as Terrace I and proceeding upward through the canyons, to the upland with its scattered buttes and mesas, the terraces along Interstate Highway 94 and Sheep Creek east of Medora are listed below to establish the setting for the main class of piping and subsurface erosion.

## ALTITUDE AND GRADIENTS OF TERRACES IN THE LATITUDE OF MEDORA

Terrace NO.	Altitude in Feet	Characteristics
5	2780'	Upland
4	2600'	Pliocene level
3	2285' to 2600'	Sheet wash and lake deposits
2	2255' to 2285'	Little Missouri River flood plain
1	2245'	Present Little Missouri River

Historically, Little Missouri River was pirated and diverted eastward where it eroded a trench more than 300 feet below Terrace 4 to reach the grade of the master stream, Missouri River. The time of deep dissection(erosion) with its consequent landslides on the over steepened walls was followed by the sequence, alluviation, terracing in the valleys, minor alluviation, and present dissection and piping in the valley fill. Early landslides and rotated slump blocks were consumed or contained step-toe like in the rhythmically bedded fill of Terrace 3. These blocks require special design to support routes of transportation.

Piping was at a minimum until the semiarid climate with cold winters evolved and the modern piping process began. Modern piping has attacked Terraces 2,3,and 4 and their associated landslides throughout the Badlands and made this a most impressive process in the development of the scenic landforms.

Piping in alluvium and weakly cemented siltstone, silty clay and shale bedrock is an effective erosional process in this dry-land region. Piping develops as a short cut in the total drainage system where any physical and chemical advantages help intercept surface water. The water erodes tubes, pipes, and chambers in its rush, and spurts with lumps of silt and clay, to the nearest impermeable layer or its base level, a surface channel. The sounds of active piping are distinctive and worth recording. Piping proceeds as a zone of internal erosion.

The pipes range in size from a few inches to chambers ten feet high. Many of these cavities contain water, charged with humus and resins from lignite, iron compounds, and sodium, calcium, and magnesium salts. The water may remain for months and years with infrequent recharge and its solution of the salts, dispersion of the bonding clay, and migration are aided by capillarity until the soil is saturated.

The pockets of water aid piping by disintegration of the silt aggregates and chemical solution of the salts of calcium, magnesium, and sodium. The water may be used by landslides where it is included in that important process of degradation. Pockets of water are occasionally opened, during construction of highways, and the different stages



PIPING IN THE BADLANDS OF NORTH DAKOTA by Dr. Bell (Continued)

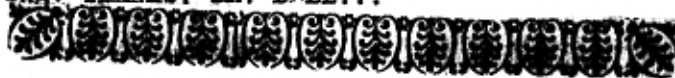
of their downward migration can be studied. They are stopped temporarily at places by layers of bentonite or lignite and these situations produce excellent examples of the variable permeability process. At places the permeability of the silt aggregate permits percolation. Permeability decreases with increase in bentonite(montmorillonite-beidellite) content and piping is stopped or deflected by beds of bentonite. The solutions progress laterally to other pipes or outlets in the canyon wall. The water reduces the shear strength of the underlying clay and landslides result.

This intricately dissected region with its limited areas of ground water storage associated with beds of lignite and impermeable sandstone allows areation and weathering to various depths in the formations.

Local areas of pseudokarst topography are most conspicuous in the valley alluvium of Terrace 3, in the natural slopes of the canyons, and in the areas of landslide debris. The pseudokarst cycle like the solution karst cycle starts and ends with surface drainage.

\*\*\*The above is condensed from a sixteen page paper on the subject. Space did not allow us to bring it in its entirety, but he will be glad to let you read it.

\*\*\* This is a good follow-up on the program of slides and discussion Dr. Bell presented at the February meeting. THANKS. DR. BELL!!!

LAPIDARY CLASS INSTRUCTION by Stanley Fairaizl

About the middle of November I was visited by Mr. Schmiss of the University of North Dakota and asked to come to Grand Forks to take part in a workshop, demonstrating the art of cutting, grinding and polishing stones. Because of other commitments on that day I could not go. I was then asked to take part in the University of North Dakota Workshop on Thursday, November 8. I left home early Thursday morning. I worked with a class of twenty-six high school teachers and principals, who are planning to add a lapidary class to their curriculum.

I found this to be a very interesting and helpful experience. These people were a very nice group to work with and the interest shown was very plain. While the saw was cutting slabs, we were grinding another stone. The interest in the work itself showed more enthusiasm than the equipment. It surely made me feel good to be a part of this great hobby that is spreading so fast.

I had made up my mind to give away a piece of jewelry. I was not sure we would finish one there so I took a necklace with me. However, we finished a beautiful agate, mounted it, and so gave two door prizes instead of one. They were won by Eva Scherbensky and Diane Fox

MORE FROM OUR SECRETARY STANLEY FAIRAIZL

Fellow club members and friends; Last year I announced that for the first time since we organized, I asked for your vote to my office and said I would do so the next year. This year the nominating committee remembered that and again nominated me for secretary, and you elected me. I take this means of thanking you for the privilege of serving you as secretary for nine full consecutive years. Today (February 1) starts my tenth year. So far I have missed only one meeting and with God's help, a year from now I will be thanking you for ten consecutive years, as your secretary.

(Stanley has been most faithful and the club says "Thank You" to you too)



DOPPING HINT-- The best dopping system- cold or otherwise- in my book is one of the cyanacrylate fast setting cements. Eastman 931, Krazy Glue or others of the same character are good. Just immerse the stone in acetone for one minute and it can be easily removed. John T. Alf, via OSAGE HILLS GEMS

# STYLE

## GARY DAHL UNLEASHES THE PET ROCK CRAZE

**R**ocks as pets? Why not. As Art Carney, who keeps five of them, put it, "They're wonderful. You don't have to feed them, take them for walks—and you can leave them for months and they're fine when you get back."

It is, apparently, an idea whose moment is regrettably here. Like the Hula Hoops, mink-lined shoehorns and giant paper clips of yore, Pet Rocks are the new national mania, selling like crazy in stores ranging from I. Magnin in San Francisco to Neiman-Marcus in Dallas. Says Dennis Hamel, gift buyer at New York's Bloomingdale's: "It's unbelievable. We're selling 400 a day."

They are not, of course, prosaic pebbles, but egg-shaped Mexican beach stones, nestled on a bed of excelsior and packaged in a little doggy carrying case, equipped with breathing holes. The kit, selling for \$4, is the concoction of Gary Dahl, a 38-year-old advertising copywriter from Los Gatos, Calif., who claims he hit on the idea while boozing with pals. He attributes its success to the fact that "people are so damn bored, tired of all their problems. This takes them on a fantasy trip—you might say we've packaged a sense of humor."

To aid new owners, Dahl has also written a manual, *The Care and Training of Your Pet Rock*. Sample: If, when you remove the rock from its box, it appears to be excited, place it on some old newspapers. The rock will know what the paper is for. Among suggested tricks: the Roll Over (best taught on a hillside) and Play Dead (rocks love to practice it on their own).

By now Dahl feels he has reached rock bottom when it comes to jokes about his brainstorm. But he should care. While the flash fad lasts, he is selling 100,000 Pet Rocks a day (and clearing 95¢ a sale). And so, just three weeks before Christmas, Gary Dahl has become a millionaire. □

Submitted by Al White  
Source unknown

### AM I JUST A ROCK?

I am a rock  
As you can see,  
Pick me up  
And cut into me.

Sometimes I'm hollow  
With crystals inside;  
Sometimes I'm solid  
With pictures that hide;

Sometimes I have holes  
Where the worms crawled out;  
When people find me  
They really shout.

Sometimes I look  
Like part of a tree;  
I'm petrified wood  
As hard as can be.

Sometimes I'm tumbled  
And hung on a chain;  
Sometimes I'm polished  
To bring out the grain.

Am I just a rock?  
by Tom Dosch  
Age 9, grade 4

## The River

Take a lesson from the river;  
When obstructions try to block,  
It just keeps on flowing over  
Or around each stone and rock.

When a mountain looms unnoticed  
And is suddenly ahead,  
The river meets the challenge;  
Finds another course instead.

Oh the music of the river  
Is a sweeter song by far,  
Than if there were no obstructions  
That would try its path to mar.

For the boulders add their beauty  
To the foamy, rhythmic beat;  
It inspires the birds to singing  
And the travelers to retreat.

Can a life be like a river?  
Can it sing through strife and pain?  
Can a person go on living  
Through each sorrow, stress and strain?

We can find a richer channel  
Round each problem hard to solve  
With a faith and trust in Jesus,  
Walking hand in hand with God.

He can make the music sweeter  
And more beautiful to sing;  
And each mile growing stronger  
With deeper love it brings.

For the pebbles make the music  
As the river flows along;  
Each obstruction adds its key notes  
To the music of the song.

Submitted by Anna Herr

## Scholarship fund

\$200,000

The fund of the AFMS Scholarship Foundation continues at an ever increasing pace. The total reported by the Treasurer, Ellis W. Courter, is now \$202,792.05 as of 12/31/75, this having been received during the past year. This does not include previous contributions for one year.

Of the increased income realized from the growing fund, the year (which is the only part used) allowed three AFMS scholarships to be pledged during the year in addition to the usual six grants, making a total of \$11,250 awarded during the year to support college graduate students working on their masters or doctorate degrees in science fields.

Beginning with the new 1976 awards, the amount of each grant will be increased to \$1,000 per year with each grant covering two years. The usual six two-year grants will be awarded and hopefully funds will also be available for an additional award. To date, 52 students have been assisted in their education for a total expenditure of \$51,900.



ADD THESE TO YOUR LIST OF PAID UP MEMBERS

Dr. & Mrs. Gordon Bell, 515 N. 22nd St., Bismarck, ND 58501, (Beth) 223 5146  
 Mr. & Mrs. Joe Hauer, 2102 N. 8th St., Bismarck, ND 58501 (Florence) 223 7222  
 Mr. & Mrs. Art Jorgensen, 2433 Atlas Drive, Bismarck, ND 58501 (Norma) 258 4833  
 Mr. & Mrs. Leo J. Krank, Route 2 Box 40, Dickinson ND 58601  
 Dr. & Mrs. H. F. McClellan Sr., 409 Third Ave. W., Mobridge, SD. 57601  
 Mr. & Mrs. Ewald Muggli, Box 27, Glen Ullin, ND 58631 (Clara) 348 3897  
 Mr. & Mrs. A.O. Nelson, 806 15th Ave. West, Williston, ND 58801  
 Mrs. Helen Nelson, 1111 North First St. Box 29, Bismarck, N.D. 58501 223 9404  
 S Mr. & Mrs. Marvin W. Schnaidt, 210 4th Ave. N.W., Beulah, ND 58523  
 Mr. & Mrs. Julius Theis, Menoken, ND 58558 (Rosa)



DIGGIN'S FROM FELLOW ROCK HOUND BULLETINS (They are available from your editor)

MINERALS COOP, February, 1976 (Salt Lake City, Utah)

UNUSUAL HEADSTONES by Dave Lewis; There was an old fellow who worked the Eagle Mine in Colorado, James Ammon Murley, who enjoyed spinning yarns about the old days working in some of the famous mines. When he was a youth he worked in Magdalene, New Mexico in the Kelly Mine where they mined lead and zinc. The Cowboy Stops was famous for the large beautiful pieces of Smithsonite with its Robins-egg blue crystals that came out of it. According to Ammon some of the crystals were  $1\frac{1}{2}$ " X 1" and some of the specimens were so large and beautiful that they were used as headstones for most of the graves in the cemetery. What a sight that must have been!

Years later when he visited the town of Magdalene again, the smithsonite gravestones had been replaced by conventional headstones. It seems that the valuable specimens of smithsonite had been hauled away one by one by unscrupulous mineral collectors who realized the value of these elegant mineral specimens.

(There is also an article about Smithsonite in this paper.)

G. I. NUGGET, Grand Island, Nebraska, February, 1976

THEY STUDIED A DIFFERENT BOOK, BY Darline Janzen

All you petrified wood fans should get a kick out of this. We camped out one weekend and as it was too cold to be outside, I had TV on during the "kids" time on Saturday. Besides-- I'm a "Fat Albert" fan.

An old, old rerun of "The Cisco Kid" (circa 1935) concerned repeated stolen shipments of jewelry made of petrified wood destined for Phoenix. The reason for the robberies-- those crystals that sometimes form were found to be "diamonds" and the bad guys were stealing the shipments from the wagon trains to get them. The story is certainly written by an uneducated rockhound-- and so long ago.

SOUTH DAKOTA STATE GEM AND MINERAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER. Hot Springs, SD. February, 1976

**SATURDAY, May 15, 1976**

**10:00 A.M.**

**TO**

**10:00 P.M.**

**SUNDAY 5/16**

**10:00 A.M.**

**TO**

**5:00 P.M.**

**14th  
Annual**

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## MASTODON PARK

A committee of housewives near St. Louis is winning its fight to save a notable fossil site from which the skeletons of sixty mastodons have been removed. The state had sold the land for a development when concerned housewives decided to take action. The ladies were told that they would have to raise a half million dollars to buy the land and preserve it as a park. They were also given a deadline for coming up with the money. The Federal Bureau of Outdoor Recreation agreed to match funds and the State Legislature provided \$200,000. When it appeared that the ladies would meet their goal, the final \$28,000 was pledged by the McDonnell Aircraft Company of St. Louis.

Now a Mastodon Park is assured and the four housewives and their helpers are starting to think of a museum dedicated to the extinct resident of their area.

The McDonnell Douglas Gem and Mineral Club helped the Mastodon Park Committee at their recent annual show. McDonnell and other St. Louis area clubs will host the Midwest Federation Convention in July.

**WE HAVE ALL SEEN THE SIGNS!!!**

**PITCH IN\*\* MEANING:--PITCH YOUR LITTER IN  
APPROPRIATE CONTAINERS\*-- HELP KEEP AMERICA CLEAN**

## ASK FOR COMMEMORATIVE ISSUES

Commemorative stamps are the ones most needed in the Stamps for Food Program. The Federation endorses this program and urges its member clubs to participate in it. When you buy stamps for your letters or your club bulletin mailings, ask your postmaster for commemorative issues. Those receiving the bulletins and letters are urged to save them and take them to their club member in charge of the program in their club.

## LARGEST BLACK OPAL

The world's largest black opal, weighing an astonishing 145 pounds, was recently found at Andamooka, Australia. Professional lapidary, Bill Moriarty, will soon cut the opal into about 30,000 pieces. The stones could bring over three and a half million dollars on the market according to an officer of the Australian Jeweler's Association. The king-sized gem was found by a miner and sold to John Roberts and Yoshe Goldberg who named it Koninderle, the Aborigine word for rainbow.

AFMS NEWSLETTER  
February 1976

Page 3

**"GIVE A HOOT--DON'T POLUTE"  
"IF YOU DO YOUR THING--AND --I DO MY H  
THING-- WE WILL ALL ENJOY A CLEANER  
AND MORE BEAUTIFUL AMERICA!! "**



EARLE H. CAMPBELL

BLOSSOMAE CAMPBELL

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Australian Marine Agate  
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