



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**

# DIGGIN'S FROM DAKOTA

Volume 13, No. 2

February, 1978

## NEXT MEETING -- MARCH 5

The next regular meeting will convene at 2:30 p.m. on March 5, 1978, in the meeting room of the Capital Electric Building north of Bismarck on Highway 83.

As usual, the regular meeting will be preceded by the Pebble Pups' and Beginners' Session at 1:30 p.m. Everyone is welcome to participate.

Program Chairman Ernie Knudson announced that a silent auction will follow the business session. He asks that each member attending the meeting bring some good material for the auction.

The lunch committee for March will be Sharon Springer, Alice Springer, and Ida Mae Ramberg.

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## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- Mar. 5 Capital Electric Building, Bismarck, ND--Regular meeting of the Central Dakota Gem & Mineral Society at 2:30 p.m.
- Mar. 10-12 Deming, New Mexico--Second Annual Deming Rock Hound Roundup at State Fair Grounds
- Apr. 8-9 Willmar, Minn.--Little Crow Gem & Mineral Show, KANDI-MALL, South Highway 71, Willmar
- May 20-21 Hot Springs, S.D.--Picture City Gem & Mineral Show
- June 9-11 Colorado Springs, Col.--Rocky Mountain Federation Show
- June 24-25 Missoula, Mont.--Montana Council State Show
- July 13-16 Winnipeg, Manitoba--Ninth International Gem and Mineral Show
- July 14-16 Monroe, Wash.--Northwest Federation Show
- July 27-30 Pleasanton, Calif.--American Federation Show
- Aug. 10-13 Cedar Rapids, Iowa--Midwest Federation Show
- 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 AND MINERAL SOCIETY

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## AT THE LAST MEETING--FEBRUARY 5

Forty-six adults and eight juniors were reported present, including one guest, John Althouse, 2400 Astronaut Drive, Bismarck, ND. In a conversation with the editor, he stated that he had enjoyed the meeting and was thinking of joining the club.

(cont.)

AT THE LAST MEETING, cont.

Earle Campbell reported on behalf of the Auditing Committee, which in addition to himself included Ernie Knudson. He reported that both the club treasurer's books and the show treasurer's books were audited and were found to be in good order.

Earle Campbell, reporting as Show Chairman, stated that the ninth and final dealer for the 1978 Show had returned a signed contract. The contract was signed by Bruce Simon on behalf of "The Simons" from Lincoln, Nebraska. They participated in our Show in 1976.

Genevieve Buresh reported on behalf of the Name Badge Committee that committee action was pending the arrival of a firm price commitment on the badges.

Sharon Springer, Chairman of the Jacket Committee, reported that she and Mae Fairaizl had found green material for the club vests at Herberger's. A discussion followed on how to proceed with the purchasing, sewing, taking orders, and the determination of the price per vest. It was decided that the Committee study the matter further and report their conclusions, with an order blank, in the "Diggin's." (Details on another page.)

The program consisted of a talk by club member Duane Robey, who traced the history of glaciation in the northern hemisphere from the earliest time, describing the climate and the aftermaths of the most recent glaciers in the local area. He indicated that another ice age may be in the making, but cautioned his audience not to pack up their suitcases and leave tomorrow inasmuch as it takes thousands of years for a glacier to grow and start moving. (Might it be that this winter is a chilly indicator that the new ice age is well on its way?--Ed.)

The door prize was won by Duane Robey--a reward, perhaps, for his enlightening program. The prize consisted of three single turritella fossils, another donation from Emil Rosenau of Ogden, Utah, and delivered by Earle and Blossomae Campbell.

Serving lunch after the meeting were Marjorie Krein, Becky Newstrom, and Mary Osborn.

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WELCOME TO THE FOLD

New member Herb Thompson of Mercer, ND, joined the club recently by submitting his dues to President Stanley Fairaizl at the F & F Sales & Service, Mandan.

\* \* \* \* \*

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

FELLOW CLUB MEMBERS: With pleasure I start this letter the same as every other one that I have written. It was another well attended meeting, both the beginners' session and the regular meeting. We had a very good but not very encouraging program, and a fine lunch was served by the ladies.

For those of you who were not at the meeting, I must say something about the money in our treasury. The report showed a balance of only fifty dollars and the January and February bulletins are not yet paid for. After the meeting I tried to find a reason why we are so low and also why it is getting worse. I don't want to take the blame any more than any of you, and I don't want to pass the buck and blame someone else.

After a lot of thinking I decided that our Show Chairman has the right approach. In my opinion Earle sees the future better than most of us. He talked about it in many of his reports but none of us listened. This is what I mean. The dealer booth at the first show cost me \$25.00. I did not have one at the second show. The third show booth cost \$75.00 and this year it will cost me \$100.00. (cont.)

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE, cont.

Our club expenses are going up and up, and there seems to be no end in sight, but our income remains the same. When we organized in 1966, we set our dues at \$5.00 per family. Now 12 years later our dues are still \$5.00 per family. At that time a commission of 10% on all sales at meetings was directed into the club treasury. Twelve years later it is still 10%. Is it any wonder we cannot get moving ahead? I think we should ask Earle for advice.

Your Executive Committee met and decided to raise the club's commission on all sales at all meetings to 20% with the hopes that it will be approved by the membership. I urge every one of you to vote for this increase at the next meeting.

In the meantime I hope that each one of you will bring a lot of good material for the silent auction at the March meeting and that you will go home with a lot of purchased material to work on. That way everyone will benefit, including our club treasury.

Our club patches should be here by the March meeting and club money spent for them should be coming back and we should have our heads above water again. Until we find a permanent remedy, I urge everyone to give this situation serious thought and come up with some suggestions. See you all March 5th.

Stanley Fairaizl

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JACKETS, ANYONE?

At the January meeting President Fairaizl appointed a Jacket Committee consisting of Chairman Sharon Springer, Mae Fairaizl, and Genevieve Buresh. The Committee reported at the February meeting, indicating prices of material available for both jackets and linings, with samples. The Committee was instructed to insert information concerning the cost of the material as well as the cost of having a jacket sewed, with an order form, in the February "Diggin's."

Each member should indicate on the enclosed order form how many jackets he/she would like to order, and whether he/she wishes to purchase material only or whether he/she also wishes to place an order with Sharon Springer to have the jacket(s) sewed. (Seamstresses at Herberger's will sew jackets for \$6.00 each. Sharon is offering to do it for \$3.00 each.)

If we buy the materials in bulk in bolts, Herberger's have promised us a 10% discount, which will reduce the cost for each jacket.

The jacket material selected is polyester (\$3.99/yd), with a full lining of a lighter weight material (\$1.79/yd), both in kelly green. (It is a near match to the green in the badge and similar in color to the jackets worn at the 1977 Show by Bill and Gen Buresh.)

Since the material for the jackets is 60 inches wide, we are quoting a price of \$4.25 per jacket for 23 inches of material, which will be sufficient for jacket length, seams, etc., for even tall people. (The discount has already been subtracted and the sales tax added.)

Please fill out the form as soon as possible and enclose a check for the full amount of your order. Make out checks to Central Dakota Gem & Mineral Society and mail both the order and check to Sharon Springer at the address listed on the order form; or you may bring them to the meeting on March 5. Material will be ordered after the meeting for all orders received by that date.

NOTE: The price quoted does not include the emblem or sewing the emblem on the jacket. Emblems may be purchased from the treasurer as soon as they arrive from the supplier.

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TEMPSKYA--by Bill Buresh

Two articles by William R. West, "North Carolina Tempskya Update" in the January, 1978 issue of the Lapidary Journal and "Tempskya in North Carolina" in the February, 1977 issue of the same journal, have aroused my interest. The cover of the January, 1978 Journal also features a magnified cross-sectional view of a small portion of a slab of this fossil.

Tempskya is a genus of several known species of extinct tree ferns which grew during the Cretaceous Period some 70 to 135 million years ago, according to West. His articles, illustrated with numerous photographs, describe Tempskya fossils which he has collected in Harnett County, North Carolina, some as recently as January, 1977.

West states further that the fossils of this extinct tree fern are widespread, an indication that the plants were abundant over a large area. He points out that fossils of one species of Tempskya were found in Montana in 1924 and that since that date fossils of the tree fern have been found in all of the western states except California and Washington.

My interest has been aroused for two reasons. First, I collected a specimen of what I believe to be Tempskya as float in southwestern North Dakota in 1976; and secondly, June Culp Zeitner states in her article, "Lapidary Materials in the Midwest," also in the January, 1978 issue of the Lapidary Journal, that "Petrified wood is a widespread lapidary material in North Dakota. Much of the wood is of unusual interest, such as the redwood, the osmundites, the tempskya, and the teredo wood."

In a North Dakota Geological Survey publication, "The Face of North Dakota: The Geological Story" (1977), Dr. John P. Bluemle also states on page 38 that the Tempskya fern and Osmundites may be found with petrified wood in the Hell Creek Formation in North Dakota.

I have not seen Tempskya in any of the local rockhounds' collections, nor do I recall seeing it displayed at any of the shows that I have attended. I have heard of only one other person in the area having a specimen of this fossil. Therefore I would like to hear from anyone having this fossil or hear about anyone who might have a specimen. Better yet, if you have one, bring it to the next club meeting--I will bring mine and we can compare notes.

I would also like to suggest that you avail yourself of the two cited issues of the Lapidary Journal, Feb. 1977 and Jan. 1978, and that you read the articles about Tempskya.

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PSEUDOQUARTZITE

Many of the southwestern North Dakota ridges and buttes have a cover of pseudo-quartzite boulders that help to protect the underlying sediment and minimize erosion. Typical examples of pseudoquartzite-covered hills are Pretty Rock Butte in southwestern Grant County, Rocky Ridge north of Hettinger in Adams County, and numerous others throughout the area.

Pseudoquartzite formed from swamp deposits in Miocene or Pliocene time. It contains numerous petrified plant stems and holes that once contained plant stems. Apparently, fine silt composed mainly of quartz was blown into swamps where it accumulated and eventually solidified as the swamps dried. Pseudoquartzite is essentially pure, non-crystalline quartz, and it is extremely hard.--John P. Bluemle, "Guide to the Geology of Southwestern North Dakota," Educational Series 9, North Dakota Department of Public Instruction/North Dakota Geological Survey, 1975



## THIS AND THAT

Steven Newstrom was hospitalized in December with an acute appendectomy. He is up and around again as evidenced by his presence at the last meeting. Steven's occupation is servicing and repairing some of the sophisticated hospital equipment, so it could be said that he was right at hand if needed even when sick in bed.

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Emma Fischer was also hospitalized in January, and is convalescing at home at the time of this writing but is due to report back to the hospital again for further checks. She reports that she will be present at the March meeting.

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Ida Mae Ramberg returned from Alaska in time for the February meeting and was showing off her jewelry with Alaskan coral, which she acquired there. She visited a daughter and her family in Anchorage.

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James and Elsie Garrett and boys transferred to Sioux Falls, SD 57103, in January. Their address there is 4500 South Cliff Avenue. They have promised to join us on our field trip to South Dakota this spring when it is scheduled.

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Sue and Bob Randall left for Tucson last Thursday to attend the 24th Annual Gem and Mineral Show. They promised to be back in ten days, hoping that the weather will have eased up by then. It is hoped that they will bring back a report on the unveiling in Tucson of "The KILLER Specimen," a \$100,000 specimen of Legrandite (zinc arsenate) just recently collected at Napimí, Mexico.

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The latest (February 1978) issue of the Lapidary Journal includes an article (the second in a series) by June Culp Zeitner titled, "SHOWS, SHOWS, SHOWS." The article describes the operation of numerous shows throughout the country, pointing out good features in particular, with photographs from various shows. Among them are two pictures of the 1977 Central Dakota Gem & Mineral Show held in Mandan.

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Prairies magazine, a 58-page neighborhood type publication published in Ashley, ND, includes in its December issue an article titled, "All I Want for Christmas Is a Great Big Pile of Rocks." It is a seven-page feature story with pictures of club members Alma and Ed Hilgemann and some of the displays in their rock museum in Leola, SD. The magazine will be at the March meeting for your enjoyment.

Thank you, Edna Mausehund, for this contribution.

(Prairies also includes many photos of fashionable women's clothing, artfully modeled by local women from Ashley and surrounding towns. Interesting . . . . .  
--Asst. Ed.)

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Every club member is a reporter! Will each of you please keep the editors informed of happenings about our members?

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DUES ARE DUE -- Dues were due January 1. The grace period ends March 31, 1978.

SHOW EXHIBITS AND CASES, by Bill Buresh

In response to the Show Chairman's call at the February meeting for a volunteer Exhibit Chairman for the 1978 Show, I have accepted this responsibility. Thank you, Duane Robey, for your offer of assistance.

It has been my contention that our one weakness in our three shows in Mandan has been the lack of a sufficient number of exhibits by our own club members. There were a total of 46 exhibits at our 1977 Show. Of these exhibits, 20 were provided by visitors and just 26 by local club members. Only 16 members exhibited, with several of them having two or even three cases. This is a very small percentage of our total membership. There are members in our club of many years' standing, some probably charter members, who have yet to exhibit at a show.

As Exhibit Chairman, I am setting a goal of 50 exhibits from our club members for the 1978 Show. Adding those to the 20 outsiders that exhibited in 1977 could bring our total number of exhibits to 70 or more for 1978. I ask your cooperation in attempting to reach this goal.

One of the excuses in the past has been the lack of display cases. It is the responsibility of each exhibitor to acquire at least one display case. I have three--I have been using two and have loaned out the other one.

In 1976 Harold Brady was generous with his time and effort in drawing up plans and constructing a model case and displaying it at one of our meetings. It is a very compact hinged model that folds up into two pieces and is light to transport.

The plans for this case will be available at the next meeting and thereafter on request. (Since the plans are difficult to reproduce on a mimeograph and expensive to have printed, they will be provided on request rather than in the "Diggin's" at this time. They were published in the "Diggin's" in March 1976.) I will also try to have a model of this case for inspection at the meeting on March 5.

Last year, club member Pius Fischer took orders for the construction of cases for club members. That offer may still be good this year. Contact Pius if you have need for a carpenter to construct a case.

Thank you, Steven Newstrom, for your offer to loan three-quarter inch plywood for erecting risers for the exhibits. We may need more--are there other offers?

Watch for more on 1978 exhibits in future bulletins.

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ADDITIONS TO THE 1978 MEMBERSHIP LIST

The following people have paid their 1978 dues since the publication of the last issue of the "Diggin's". Please add these names to your membership list.

The editors' apologies go to Joe and Mary Subart for omitting their names from the roster in the January issue. Their dues were paid previously; the omission was inadvertent. They are thus being included in the following list.

61. Anderson, Albert & Vina	Route #2	Bismarck, ND 58501	673-3189
62. Collins, Bill	Box 32	Harvey, ND 58341	342-2511
63. Dallman, A. J.		Zap, ND 58580	
64. Larson, Harold	Box 182	Mandan, ND 58554	663-6148
65. McClellan, Dr. & Mrs. H. F.	409 Third Ave. W.	Mobridge, SD 57601	
66. Ness, Ken		Washburn, ND 58577	
67. Subart, Joe & Mary		Robinson, ND 58478	392-5405
68. Thompson, Herb		Mercer, ND 58559	