

DIGGINS FROM DAKOTA



CENTRAL DAKOTA GEM AND MINERAL SOCIETY
Ida Mae Ramberg, 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
Past President	Earle Campbell	1134 28th St. N.	Bismarck	255 3658
Parliamentarian	Genevieve Buresh	1527 N. 19th St.	Bismarck	223 0611
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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
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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
Federation Represent..	Ernest Knudson	2020 Catherine Dr.	Bismarck	255 4796

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

Inasmuch as the President is also the editor of this issue the message for this month is going to be short.

I would like to hear some announcements of candidates to fill the vacancy of the club treasurer--how about one of the ladies--let's not let the men monopolize all the offices.

I did enjoy the South Dakota field trip very much and I am sure that all the other participants did likewise. Thank you, Dr. McClellan, Sr. and your party for your leadership. I also wish to thank our state director, Betty Watts of Hot Springs, S.D., for the invitation to join their club in a potluck picnic. Unfortunately our schedule did not allow us to accept. However I understand that some of our group, who got separated from the caravan because of the rain, did enjoy the hospitality of Betty and her husband Connie at their home on Sunday. We did enjoy your company, Betty and Connie, in the Hot Springs area. I hope the two of you will be able to join us on one of our field trips in North Dakota.

I hope our editor is enjoying her Alaskan vacation while I am struggling with this issue.

Bill Buresh

SUMMER CALENDAR

June 27 - Field trip to Medora, N.D.

July 11 - Regular meeting, (Note date change).

July ? - Cannonball River field trip. (Date to be set)

Aug. 1 - Field trip to Almont-Glen Ullin, picnic in Glen Ullin. No meeting on this date.

Aug. 22 - Regular meeting - Final plans for Sept. show.

Sept. 11 & 12-North Dakota's Second Annual Gem and Mineral Show

* OFFICIAL NOTICE *
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* Special election for the Club Treasurer will be held at the *
* regular meeting on Sunday, July 11, 1976 *

MEETING NOTES

Present at the June meeting were 30 members, two juniors, two Pebble Pups, and one guest, Mrs. Berta Renz of Moffit, N. D.

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The hostesses for the meeting were Ledoris Robey and Marjorie Knudson. For the July meeting the hostesses will be Blossonae Campbell, Helen Nelson and a third to be announced.

*** **

Since the first Sunday in July falls on the 4th, the July meeting will be postponed until the following Sunday, July the 11th, and the Aug. meeting was moved from the 1st of Aug. to the 22nd day of Aug. to take care of details that will involve the September show. The annual picnic will still be held on August 1. Details are listed elsewhere in this bulletin.

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Show Chairman, Earle Campbell, urged all members to prepare a show display for the September show and recommended the use of a standardized display case. Pius Fischer is taking orders for making of the cases.

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The President announced that a vacancy existed in the office of Treasurer due to the resignation of Richard Bergantine, who, along with his family, has recently moved to Dickinson. To fill the vacancy, a special election will be held at the July meeting on the 11th day of July.

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The annual picnic was scheduled for Aug. 1 at Glen Ullin in conjunction with a field trip in that area. For the picnic, each family will provide sandwiches and beverage for their family members and an additional dish for the potluck. The dish may be a salad, dessert, or a hot dish. Each family will also provide their own plates, cups and tools to eat with.

FIELD TRIP

The second field trip of the season is scheduled for Sunday, June 27th. The site for the rock hunt will be an area west of Medora where agatized wood, chalcedony, pyrite concretions, and possibly some fossils may be found.

Frank Herr believes that the recent heavy rains in the western part of the state should have washed up some new finds.

The meeting places for the rockhounds on Sunday will be at the Herr Rock Shop in Dickinson at 9:00 A.M. Mountain Time. The shop is located on main (Villard Street) about 2 blocks west of the underpass. For those who want to join the group in Medora, the meeting place will be the picnic area in west Medora at approximately 10:00 A.M. Mountain Time.

WHEN YOU
DRIVE



PROGRAM for the evening was a "Show and Tell" about the South Dakota field trip during the Memorial Day weekend. The various field trip participants showed what they had found and got help in identifying their "finds" if they were not able to do so themselves. Among the specimens shown were marcasite, orthoclase feldspar, muscovite mica, mammary hematite, prairie agates, rose quartz, barite crystals, tourmaline, palm wood, Colorado agatized wood, tufa, ammonite and belemnite fossils, fluorescent chalcedony and calcite, Fairburn agates, jasp agates, fossils in jasper and nice colorful jasper.

Duane Robey was the moderator. He also announced that the program for the July meeting will be a presentation on how to make an attractive show display.

THIS and THAT

Edil Hilkin, after several weeks in the hospital, is now recuperating at home, but still cannot be very active.

The Dick Bergantine family did a little rock hounding on their own on Memorial Day near the Little Missouri State Park. They brought home some nice large Selenite crystals.

Frank Herr reports that the Memorial Day weekend field trip in Western North Dakota for the Lake Agassiz Club of Fargo-Moorehead was a great success.

We regret we must report the passing of Owen O'Neill's sister. Owen and Sally missed the last meeting to attend her funeral in Wyoming.

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Do you want to know how to become a rockhound? Buy a bag of marbles. Drop one marble every time you pick up a rock. When you have lost all your marbles you have become a full fledged rockhound.

Told by Mrs. Ed Muggli during the South Dakota Field Trip.

DRAWS LINE AT BEING A "FOSSIL" *from the Chicago Tribune*

Maybe Tennessee State Sen. Fred Berry wouldn't have minded being named a "rock" or a "gem," but he drew the line at "fossil." Berry, 63, offered a bill in the Tennessee legislature last week to name an official state fossil, an official rock, and an official gem. Because the bill was offered late in the legislative session, often a time for lighter moments, the bill was amended by voice vote to designate Berry, a Knoxville Republican, the state's official fossil. Berry withdrew the bill. Hmmm....maybe Springfield, Illinois, isn't the clown capital of the world after all.

AFMS NEWSLETTER
June 1976

NEW MINERAL NAMED FOR MILO OLMSTEAD

A new mineral has been named for Milo Olmstead of Rapid City, South Dakota. Olmsteadite is a phosphate and was first found near Glendale, South Dakota in 1973. It was first examined by Willard Roberts, curator of Mineralogy of South Dakota School of Mines, who sent it to Chicago for analysis. It was reported that the sample contained potassium, niobium, iron, phosphorus and was a new mineral. The name has been accepted. Olmstead and Roberts are both active in the Black Hills Mineral Society, and the Black Hills Micromount Seminar.

AFMS NEWSLETTER
June 1976

NOTES FROM A ROCKHOUND'S WIFE

An enthusiastic band of would-be collectors from the Central Dakota Gem and Mineral Society assembled in Custer, South Dakota, for a field trip on Saturday, May 29. Arriving by different routes and at different times, ten vehicles formed a caravan at 10:00 a.m. at Ken's Rock Shop, east Custer, as scheduled. The leader of the expedition was Dr. H. F. McClellan, Sr., accompanied by his son, Dr. H. F. McClellan, Jr., and his grandson. Others in the group included Mr. and Mrs. Ed Muggli, Deane Lavachek and family, Mr. and Mrs. Owen O'Neill, Mr. and Mrs. John Dosch and family, Mr. and Mrs. Earle Campbell, Mr. and Mrs. Bob Randall and Bob, Jr., Becky Lind, Mr. and Mrs. Bill Buresh, Duane Robey, and Larry Strand. The Ernest Knudson family was unfortunately detained in Custer because of an illness in the family, but they were able to do some "rockhounding" in the Custer area until Sunday. Connie and Betty Watts joined the caravan in Hot Springs.

Although a form of mica and orthoclase were common in the campground at Custer, the first serious rock hunting began at the Cascade Creek bed, where tufa was plentiful plus types of petrified wood. The next stop was at the Ardmore agate fields, where Fairburn agates and colorful jasper were collected. Apparently recent rains had helped uncover new specimens.

Ominous black clouds, lightning, and thunder sent people scurrying for better roads and a place to camp for the night. In spite of comments that Toadstool Park, our planned stopover, was not a good place to be when it rained, most of the group camped there. Mr. and Mrs. Watts had returned to Hot Springs, and Lavachecks, Campbells, Duane Robey, and Larry Strand also left the caravan.

Toadstool Park's curious name intrigued me. I assume the name is meant to describe the peculiar mound-like bare hills just west of the campground. The campground itself is on flat prairie with no trees. A sod building had been constructed on the premises, the only structure in sight except for the outhouses. The rain began soon after we arrived, and continued for about six hours. With absolutely no car traffic, the only sounds we heard except for cows were those of trains rumbling through the valleys from miles away until they passed our area and passed again into the distance. It was isolated enough to make one wonder how the pioneers felt when they traveled through the country in covered wagons a century or so ago.

While waiting for roads to dry off next morning, the O'Neill's pickup was used to taxi a refreshed and eager crew up into the hills to collect fluorescent chalcedony and calcite as well as gumbo-covered shoes.

The next destination was Crawford, Nebraska. Fortunately we reached pavement en route. After checking motels and parks to see if any others of our group were there, we continued north to the agate beds at Oelrichs, South Dakota, where rocky outcroppings on hilltops were similar to those at Ardmore. With sunny skies and no worries about rain, sixteen Fairburn or Fairburn-type agates were found, as well as more colorful jasper.

Another stop in that area, for those still with energy enough for a long hike, yielded an interesting ball-like form of marcasite plus clacite and barite crystals.

Tired but happy, the group started scattering to find lodging for another night. Three of us--the Dosch, Randall, and Buresh families--stayed at a nice but very full National Forest campground north of Hot Springs. As soon as we had parked for the night we had visitors--club members from Colorado also there on a collectors' field trip, who had spotted the advertising poster for our September show in our car window. They graciously shared notes on collecting sites.

Again it rained in the night, but we ventured off on a side road next morning and found some rose quartz and tourmaline, thanks to directions from our Colorado friends from the campground.

At this point everyone left to find his own route home. As we like to follow new trails, we chose one that took us through Wall, Phillip, and north through central South Dakota.

As a double bounty on field trips, we like to also keep lists of bird species sighted while traveling. Our highest daily count was 60 species on Friday, May 28, from Shade Hill to Custer, South Dakota. Forty-eight species were sighted on the last day, May 31. The highlight of our birding was seeing two western tanagers in the National Forest campground.

From all reports, others had equally good hunting and pleasant camping experiences.

It was a good field trip. -- Gen Buresh

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LAPIDARY WORKSHOPS FOR STUDENTS

Stanley Fairaizl, Secretary, CDGMS

On March 19 I was asked to explain and demonstrate the art of lapidary to approximately 125 school children at Roosevelt School in Mandan, ND. I loaded my machine and went to school, where my first class consisted of about sixty boys and girls. I really felt good to see the interest the youngsters showed in every step of cutting, grinding, and polishing a cab.

Time did not allow me to let students try, but some of the most enthusiastic ones did a little work. Then came the question and answer period. It was a very good feeling to hear thirty or forty kids asking questions all at the same time. With the aid of their teachers, a more orderly system was soon worked out, and then it was that many hands in the air at the same time. Some of the questions were expected of young children, yet it is very surprising what some of them will ask. Many times that afternoon I wished I was a geologist. The second class started at 2:45 and was a repetition of the first. We got the answers worked out, gave a few prizes, and everyone went home happy.

After supper I sat in my favorite chair thinking about the afternoon spent with the kids at Roosevelt. Somehow I wish I could be here to see what our hobby will be like when these kids grow up.

On April 8 Darlene, my daughter-in-law, and I took a tumbler, stones, and findings and went to conduct a workshop at St. Joseph's School. Here we worked with four groups, smaller than the previous sessions. The classes were on tumbling and what to do with the tumbled stones. I talked about tumbling stones, and Darlene took over the making of jewelry. Again I must say I have never seen a more industrious group of kids. Some of the creations they came up with is enough to tax anyone's imagination. Each child was allowed three stones, caps, and jump rings. Almost all of them finished with five, and a few even made things to give to the Sisters.

The first class started at 9:30 a.m., and the last session finished at 4:00 p.m. We were glad when the busy day was over, but the satisfaction we got from it all was well worth all the time we spent there. Greater yet was the satisfaction of having our workshop chosen from a total of sixteen workshops as one of four to be seen on TV. Our classes were filled throughout the day, and a great day it was.

URGE TURQUOISE BE NAMED NATIONAL GEMSTONE

*From the Congressional Record
by Mr. Domenici*

S.J. Res. 160. A joint resolution to designate the stone commonly known as turquoise as the national gemstone of the United States. Referred to Committee on the Judiciary.

Mr. Domenici. Mr. President, I take great pleasure in introducing a joint resolution in the Senate similar to a bill introduced in the House of Representatives by Congressman Manuel Lujan. This is legislation that is most appropriate in this Bicentennial Year.

The measure is one which will make turquoise the official national gemstone of the United States. In addition to making turquoise the national gemstone, I think it most appropriate that the gemstone be designated the official gem of our National Bicentennial of 1976.

There are numerous reasons for selecting turquoise as our national gemstone. According to the Library of Congress, turquoise was the first stone in the recorded history of man to be used as a gem. And, in our own Nation, turquoise is the gemstone most prized by the native American.

For hundreds of years the Indian culture of this country

has included turquoise. The god of gambling, Noholipi, according to Indian legend, owed his remarkable luck to a piece of turquoise.

Turquoise has been used to ward off evil and bring good luck. In general, there was hardly any phase of Indian life which did not include turquoise in some way or another. Not only do today's American Indians make exquisite jewelry, the focal point of which is turquoise, but in the earliest years, they used this precious stone as money.

Turquoise is the most prevalent gemstone found in the United States. It is found in such widespread places as New Jersey, Alabama, Virginia, Texas, Nevada, Colorado, Arizona, California, and New Mexico. Turquoise is the only gemstone in our Nation which is found in great quantity in so many of our States.


The United States should have a national gemstone—a stone which is of this country, a stone which is truly a representative of our great heritage and history, a stone which is symbolic of the greatest democracy in the history of the world. We need a stone which shows the strength and character of this land and its people and yet which is gentle and graceful.

We have this stone—Turquoise. It is the only stone that meets these high standards. Mr. President, I am proud to introduce this legislation and I urge this body's favorable consideration.

AFMS NEWSLETTER
May 1976

SHOW

LAKE AGASSIZ ROCK CLUB
show, July 10 - 16,
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