



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

# DIGGIN'S FROM DAKOTA



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. 6

June, 1978

### NEXT MEETING--July 9

The next regular meeting will convene at 7:30 p.m. on July 9, 1978, in the meeting room of the Capital Electric Building north of Bismarck on Highway 83. This shift from the first Sunday of the month was made because the first Sunday falls on the 4th-of-July weekend.

For the program, Bob Randall will give a slide presentation on the preparation of exhibits for shows.

The refreshment committee for the July meeting will be Walter Buck, Don Campbell, and Verna Giese.

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### NEXT FIELD TRIP--July 9

Field Trip Co-Chairman Larry Strand advises that another field trip has been scheduled for Sunday, July 9. Participants will meet at the Ewald Muggli Rock Shop at 701 Oak Avenue East, Glen Ullin, ND. At 10:00 a.m. Mountain Time, Ewald will lead the group in search of petrified wood in an area some five miles from Glen Ullin.

The Mugglis have enlarged their shop and are inviting all club members to visit the shop and to view their displays, so plan your arrival time so that you have plenty of time to view the displays and to do your visiting before 10:00 o'clock.

As on other field trips, all participants should bring their own lunches, eating utensils, and beverages, including drinking water.

PLEASE NOTE: As indicated above, July 9 is also the date of the next regular meeting, so make your plans accordingly.

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### CALENDAR OF EVENTS

June 24-25	Missoula, Mont.--Montana Council State Show
July 9	Capital Electric Building, Bismarck, ND--Regular meeting of the Central Dakota Gem & Mineral Society at 7:30 p.m.
July 9	Glen Ullin, ND--Field Trip, 10:00 a.m. (MT) (See details above)
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	NANDAN, N.D.--NORTH DAKOTA'S FOURTH ANNUAL SHOW, CENTRAL DAKOTA GEM AND MINERAL SOCIETY

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To get maximum attention it's hard to beat a good mistake!

Korn Krib News via Mineral Memos

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

FREECOY CLUB MEMBERS: Another meeting, another month, and thirty days closer to show time. Earle has certainly been busy. He has laid out the plan and charged all of us with things that have to be done. Noone has been assigned to any particular task, but by this time we all know what has to be done. How many of us have been thinking and planning and possibly talked to Earle, telling him what we can or would do to help? If you haven't, now is the time to do so. Time is flying by faster than we think.

Those of you who have attended the last two meetings may have noticed a little green showing. It almost reminds one of late spring. Just think how nice it will be when all the members have their vests and wear them. Those of you who do not have yours, contact Sharon Springer or Mae Fairaizl so they can get material if necessary. Let's not wait until a week before the show or you may find yourself without a vest. After all, it's just three months until show time. Let's all have our "green" before then.

I urge every member to come to the next meeting and volunteer your services.

See you all there.

Stan

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AT THE LAST MEETING--JUNE 4.

Forty-nine members and three guests were reported present at the June 4th meeting.

Guests were Lawrence Kroeger of New Salem, Ann Brunelle of Mandan, and Erna Sauer of Washburn. Bea and Dick Merrill, Society members who now reside in Worland, Wyoming, also made a surprise appearance at the meeting.

Members were reminded to take flyers for the October Show and to distribute them as they travel this summer.

Bob Randall asked for secretarial help in addressing labels for the show packets, which will be mailed out soon. About 400 addresses will have to be typed.

Earle Campbell told about an opportunity for the club to have a Teredo Wood display in the lobby of the Dakota Northwestern Bank in Bismarck from July 31 to August 18. Members are asked to offer good specimens for this display. From those available, a limited number of specimens will be selected to best represent the North Dakota State Fossil. Credit will be given to each member whose specimens are displayed. This will also provide another opportunity to advertise the Annual Show in October.

Club members voted to donate \$10.00 to the Crippled Children's School in Jamestown.

Badges ordered for club members have arrived and are on sale for \$1.00 each. The badges may be adorned with each member's choice of decoration, such as a cabochon, a mineral specimen, or a fossil.

It was mentioned that Jack Case in his daily column "Browsing Around" in the Bismarck Tribune had the following item: "It would be difficult for anyone who spent his boyhood on a farm to believe that Bismarck actually has a club whose members drove 350 miles over the Memorial Day holiday and paid a fee for the privilege of picking up rocks." It was suggested that the reporter be sent a membership application.

The first presentation of the program was given by Leiss Vantine, a staff member of the North Dakota State Historical Society. His topic was "Sioux Tales," in which he told about folklore as oral tradition handed down from one generation  
(cont.)

AT THE LAST MEETING, cont.

to another. He related that a storyteller remembers the basics--places and characters; that religious and non-religious details were blurred in the stories; that rocks, trees, etc., have spirits of their own; and that some myths are connected with their culture. He stated that the connection between oral literature and tradition was close and that the stories were for the purpose of entertaining as well as teaching the children.

As examples, Mr. Vantine told six stories from Indian lore. His presentation was well received.

The second part of the program was a report by Bill Collins on the Memorial Day field trip to South Dakota. Bill told about hunting for and collecting specimens in Tepee Canyon, Tin Mountain, and the tourmaline mine. A number of the members who were on the trip brought samples of what they had found which they displayed for "Show and Tell."

The door prize, a slab of Oregon material donated by Julius Theis, was won by Duane Robey.

The refreshment committee was not in attendance, therefore no refreshments were served.

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ANNUAL MEMORIAL DAY FIELD TRIP, by Blossomae Campbell

Just imagine sixteen people, ranging in age from thirteen-year-old Jon Hensen to octogenarian Ole Stavem, all down on their hands and knees in the middle of a fire road looking for garnets and staurolite crystals. That was one of the memories from our recent field trip to South Dakota over the Memorial Day weekend. Picking morel mushrooms under the tall pines--finding an old log building held together with square nails--camping among pine trees and discovering there were absolutely no birds--greeting the Garrett family after long months of missing them--meeting the best rock guide in southwestern South Dakota--enjoying the beauty of the wild flowers--silver-licking in the rock shops in Custer, South Dakota--these are but a few of the memories of another wonderful weekend spent with friends.

Seventeen eager rockhounds met Saturday, May 27, at the Pactola Dam Visitor Center. With Bill Collins leading us, we checked out several places for minerals--the Pactola Dam spillway, a deserted old mine with the roof caving in (No, we didn't get any farther than the mine opening), Silver City. On Sunday, Louis Stratton, the best rockhound guide in South Dakota, took us to Tepee Canyon for agate, Tin Mountain for garnets and staurolites, and south of Custer for tourmaline and larger garnets. I think not a single person came home disappointed with his goodies.

Bob Randall found the best Tepee Canyon agate. He also found a beautiful specimen loaded with calcite crystals. The Garets, naturally, found more and better staurolites than anyone else. Elsie Garrett found a beauty that is more than an inch in length and is perfectly formed. Bill Collins' find was some jamesonite near an old mine. I came home with a 16-pound beryl crystal for my collection.

Members who made the trip were Larry Strand, field trip chairman; Bill Collins; Bob and Sue Randall; Grace and Jon Henson; Ole and Mabel Stavem; Dan Meth; Mr. & Mrs. John Althouse; Earle and Blossomae Campbell. We were joined by the Garretts--Jim, Elsie, Rick and Ron--former Bismarck residents and club members who now live in Sioux Falls, South Dakota.

(cont.)

ANNUAL MEMORIAL DAY FIELD TRIP, by Blossomae Campbell--cont.

This was one trip that showed the usefulness of "CB's". When "Prospector" (Bill Collins) developed car trouble, "Church Key" (Jim Garrett) turned back to help him. Then on the way home after the trip, Bill's car was still giving him trouble. He was happy to have "The Kingfisher" (Bob Randall) and "The North Dakota Rockhound" (Earle Campbell) shepherd him back north.

Only eleven more months until next May!

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THIS-'N'-THAT

Club members attending the Miles City, Mont., show on June 3rd and 4th were Pius and Emma Fischer; Emma, Harold, and Pat Brady; Rosa and Julius Theis; and Clara and Ewald Muggli.

The Mugglis and the Fischers also attended the Rocky Mountain Federation Show in Colorado Springs, CO on June 9-11.

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Aaron & Eve Frandsen of Frandsen's Agates, Sidney, Montana, were also present at the Federation Show in Colorado Springs and they are forwarding via the Fischers a door prize for the July 9 meeting.

Frandsen's Agates will be one of the dealers at our club show in October.

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Albert and Ruth Hartl, newest members of Central Dakota Gem and Mineral Society, were recently honored by their church, which invested them as a Knight and Lady of the Holy Sepulchre of Jerusalem.

According to an article in the Dakota Catholic Action this honor is bestowed upon members who have done meritorious work for the Catholic Church.

It will be of special interest to other Wilton members that Mrs. Hartl is the former Ruth Stenquest of Wilton, ND. We are pleased that they have chosen to live in Bismarck after his recent retirement.

Mr. Hartl is the former president of Otter Tail Power Company of Fergus Falls, MN.

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In the fourth of a series of articles on shows in the June issue of the Lapidary Journal, June Culp Zeitner refers to and shows pictures of three displays at the 1977 Mandan show of the Central Dakota Gem and Mineral Society. The three members whose displays were singled out in the article are the Evert Nelsons, the Ed Mugglis, and the Ralph Lindvigs.

The June issue of the Journal will be available at the July meeting so that you can read the author's comments about the displays, if you wish.

Mrs. Zeitner has also referred to and shown other pictures of the 1977 Show in her previous articles in the Journal.

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Why did Humpty Dumpty have a great fall? To make up for a rotten summer.  
--Osage Hills Gems



EXHIBITS--1978 SHOW

I hope that all of you are working on your exhibits for the October 7-8 Show. The application forms for exhibitors will be ready by the publication date of the July issue of the "Diggin's" and one will be mailed out to each member of the Club at that time.

If you know of a rockhound who is not a club member, please invite him or her to exhibit at the show and give me their names so that an application form can be mailed to each of them.

Bill Buresh,  
1978 Show Exhibit Chairman

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THE WANDERING EDITORS RETURN

Gen and I wish to thank Blossomae Campbell, who so ably served as editor of the "Diggin's" while we journeyed through the Southwest and Hawaii.

We drove south to Texas and then westward to California, where we spent a week with Gen's twin brother, Ed Switzer, and his family in San Bernardino.

After heavy rains last winter, the desert plants were green and many in full bloom with a great profusion of flowers--a newsworthy event not seen every year in normally dry areas.

From California we flew to Hawaii, where we spent two weeks visiting our son Bill and his wife Karen, and marveled at the scenic Island with its beautiful mountains, vegetation, and birds.

Upon arrival back in California, we spent more time with Gen's brother and took in the American Birding Assoc. Convention at Riverside the first weekend in May. We were joined there by Bob and Sue Randall and other Audubon friends from Bismarck.

On the way home we drove northward to Arcata, Calif. to visit friends and then cut across country eastward to Bismarck.

Aside from visiting with friends and relatives, we devoted most of our efforts on this trip to birds. We did visit one rock shop at Carlsbad and gawked at the enormous crater at the copper mine at Bisbee, Ariz. We also called on a rockhound in Hawaii whose name we had seen in literature at home.

From now until October we'll concentrate on rocks and exhibits for the Club's forthcoming show in Mandan.

Gen and Bill Buresh

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SCIENTISTS WORKING IN ANTARCTICA have found a 898-pound meteorite, one of the largest ever found. The giant shiny brown chunk of rock from space was one of eleven found this winter by a U.S.-Japanese team in the Trans-Antarctic Mountains. The meteorites were found by Dr. Cassidy of Pittsburg, Dr. Olsen of Chicago, and Dr. Yanai of Tokyo. It was found in 33 pieces, the largest weighing 250 pounds--scattered over a 2-acre area. The discovery site is in Victoria Land, about 120 miles northwest of McMurdo. Meteorites are hunks of stony or metallic material that fly in from space and survive the searing trip.

--Via AFMS Newsletter

FIRE AGATE -- Fire agate is a chalcedony that has been deposited in layers. The fire comes from a thin coating of limonite deposited between the layers at the time of formation. Usually there is a large amount of matrix on the specimen, so soak it in water for at least ten minutes. This will help to determine which area of fire you want to bring out. Choose a portion that has a solid layer of chalcedony overlaying the dark fire area.

Fire agates aren't much to look at in the rough, and are often passed by, but when ground and polished properly they exhibit sparkling red and green fire. Trim the sides and bottom, cutting the matrix with a trim saw. Carefully start grinding on the sides to the shape you want it. Use 120 grit. Be careful not to overheat the stone. Mount the stone on a dopstick. Using 220 grit, work the top portion of the agate to high crown. As you grind down the top and sides, watch for fire. A stone can be ruined at this point. If it is ground too far and into the limonite area, the fire can be lost. Dop the stone close to the fire layer. Wet sanding can be used successfully, starting on 220 grit paper and paste and applied to a felt wheel for polishing will give you the best results.

Two things to remember: choosing the area in the stone with chalcedony overlaying the limonite area, and not overheating the stone.

--Via LAKOTA PEBBLES

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DECORATIVE CUTS FOR PALM WOOD -- There are three ways to cut palm root and each will give a different effect. All palm root seems to have a ring of agate around the eye of a colored center.

1. You can cut it right down the center; this gives the root a wood grain effect that is striking, but does not show the eye.
2. You can cut squarely across the grain and bring out the round eye.
3. Lastly, you can cut it diagonally and get an elliptical eye effect.

All will give patterns that make showy cabs.

--Via MINERAL MEMOS

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### "FRIENDSHIP ON THE ROCKS"

Rockhounds who have been in the hobby for some time begin to realize that the most precious gems they found are the friends they have made along the way. Some are still in the rough; some are highly polished; some seem dull and colorless until they are viewed in the right light; but they all have one thing in common: Like everything else on this mundane sphere, they are imperfect and have flaws. If we are to enjoy them, we must accept them as they are, and realize that their beauty and warmth make up for their imperfections. If we concentrate our attention on their better aspects, the flaws become insignificant and merely marks of their individuality.

--Via FMS Newsletter