



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  
P.O. Box 2445, Bismarck, ND 58501

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:

|                  |                                  |                                      |                      |                      |
|------------------|----------------------------------|--------------------------------------|----------------------|----------------------|
| President        | Harold Brady                     | 1401 Sunny Road                      | Mandan               | 663-3904             |
| Vice President   | Mary Beth Osborn                 | 310 - 12th Ave. NW                   | Mandan               | 663-1056             |
| Secretary        | Ted Giese                        | Route 1                              | New Salem            | 843-7005             |
| Treasurer        | Carol Hickie                     |                                      | Center               | 794-3342             |
| Chaplain         | Earle Campbell                   | 1134 N. 28th St.                     | Bismarck             | 255-3658             |
| Bulletin Editors | Gen & Bill Buresh                | 44 Captain Marsh Dr.                 | Mandan               | 663-5397             |
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| Parliamentarian  | Gen Buresh                       | 44 Captain Marsh Dr.                 | Mandan               | 663-5397             |
| Program          | Larry Strand &<br>Earle Campbell | 1318 N. 19th St.<br>1134 N. 28th St. | Bismarck<br>Bismarck | 258-5128<br>255-3658 |
| Librarian        | Fred Springer                    | 1119 S. 9th St.                      | Bismarck             | 255-4232             |
| Field Trip       | Rodney Hickie                    |                                      | Center               | 794-3342             |
| Annual Show      | Don Campbell                     | 1119 Memorial Hwy.                   | Bismarck             | 258-1194             |
| Pebble Pups      | Duane Robey                      | 2119 Ave. F East                     | Bismarck             | 255-0576             |
| Historian        | Emma Brady                       | 1401 Sunny Road                      | Mandan               | 663-3904             |
| Hospitality      | Emma Fischer                     | 501 S. 13th St.                      | Bismarck             | 223-4362             |
| Membership       | Stan Fairaizl                    | 1406 Pioneer Dr.                     | Mandan               | 663-9712             |
| Refreshments     | Verna Giese                      | Route 1                              | New Salem            | 843-7005             |
| Federation Rep.  | Ida Mae Ramberg                  | 1325 N. 15th St.                     | Bismarck             | 223-6296             |

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 26 - 27, 1980

NEXT MEETING: April 6, 1980, 7:30 p.m. (Beginners' class, 6:30 p.m.)

PROGRAM: Silversmithing Demonstration, by Bob Wilson

LUNCH COMMITTEE: Mary Beth Osborn, Gen Buresh, and Glenn Michaels

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IRISH BLESSING

May the road rise up to meet you, may the wind be  
always at your back, may the sun shine warm upon  
your face, the rains fall soft upon your fields, and,  
until we meet again, may God hold you in the palm of his hand.



--From SOOFER SNOOPER via THE BLACK HILLS  
PROSPECTOR, March 1980

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Hi, Everyone,

Well, here comes another letter after a fine meeting. We caught up on all the old business and finished some new business. We also had a good report from our field trip chairman, Rodney Hickle. He says we will be having some good field trips soon. We also received permission to keep a small library on wheels in the meeting room. Our next meeting will be in the evening so we will have all day on Sunday to hunt rocks.

(cont.)

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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

|             |  |
|-------------|--|
| March 29-30 | Mankato, MN--Minnesota Valley Gem & Mineral Club Show  |
| March 29-30 | Watertown, SD--South Dakota State Gem and Mineral Show   |
| April 6     | Bismarck, ND--7:30 p.m. Regular Meeting, Central Dakota Gem & Mineral Society, Capital Electric Bldg., Highway 83 North of City  |
| April 19-20 | Hibbing, MN--Mesabi Rock & Mineral Club Show   |
| April 19-20 | Sioux Falls, SD--Sioux Empire Gem & Mineral Show   |
| April 26-27 | Fairmont, MN--Minnowa Rock & Mineral Club Show   |
| May 17-18   | Hot Springs, SD--18th Annual Gem & Mineral Show, Picture City Gem & Mineral Society  |
| June 6-8    | Topeka, KS--Rocky Mountain Federation Show   |
| June 12-15  | Lincoln, NE--American Federation/Midwest Federation Show   |
| SEPT. 26-27 | MANDAN, ND--NORTH DAKOTA'S SIXTH ANNUAL SHOW, sponsored at Mandan Community Center by Central Dakota Gem & Mineral Society. Show Chairman: Don Campbell, 1119 Memorial Highway, Bismarck, ND 58501 |

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In the game of life, as in other sports, you can pick out the winners - they are the ones who aren't complaining about the officiating.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE, cont.

I have been hunting rocks the last week and had all kinds of good luck. I guess my good luck came about because I had to hunt in places I never bother to look in the summer, such as cliffs, coulees, and washouts. These places don't have any snow on the sides. I'll bring a few of the specimens I found to the next meeting.

I am in the process of moving our specimens from our old museum to the new house we built. I have built 118 show cases in the basement and I am sure now that I won't have enough cases, which means I have to build more this summer. You sure don't know how many rocks you have accumulated until you have to move them!

See you all at the next meeting.

Sincerely,



H. A. Brady

AT THE LAST MEETING - March 2

Forty-one adults and eleven children were reported present at the last meeting. Among the adults were Bob and Karolyn Wilson of Mandan and Weldee Paetsch of Bismarck.

President Brady stated that he had received approval from Capital Electric to maintain a club library in the meeting room, provided the cabinet is moveable. A motion was approved to have Pius Fischer build the cabinet, which will rest on casters to make it mobile.

Earle Campbell reported receiving show publicity packets from both the Rocky Mountain and American Federations.

Bob Randall reported that club pins are available for purchase by anyone interested.

The Auditing Committee's report on the show treasurer's accounts for 1979 was read by the secretary and approved by the membership.

The secretary also read a letter from club member Spencer Bobb indicating that he has fluorescent material to swap.

The date for the next meeting was discussed. It was decided to hold the meeting on the scheduled date, April 6, at 7:30 p.m., even though it will be on Easter Sunday.

The door prize, a piece of rhyolite rough donated by the Gillilands, was won by Edna Mausehund.

A silent auction followed, with a lot of activity.

Lunch was served by Fred Springer, Don Campbell, and Harold Brady. A special treat was a surprise birthday cake in honor of Patrick Osborn's birthday.

CLUB PIN PROJECT

The Show Committee is promoting the sale of club pins, which can be used to adorn your green club vests or whatever you choose and can also be used as trading stock for pins from members of other clubs.

The pins are the shape of a shield about one inch across with the same design as the club patch. They are available for one dollar each from Bob Randall. The proceeds from these sales will be used for the benefit of the show.

Bob states that he has already sold more than one hundred pins but that he still has a good supply. He urges all club members to purchase at least one--more if you plan to trade. He also has available for sale some pins from other clubs which were obtained in trade with those clubs.

Bob brings the assortment to each meeting and asks that you look them <sup>over</sup> for possible purchase. Pins may also be obtained by mail from Bob. His address is 928 N. 16th St., Bismarck, ND 58501.



TODAY'S CHUCKLE--A small town is a place where everyone knows whose check is good.. and whose husband isn't!--OSAGE HILLS GEMS

OUR TRIP TO THE SOUTHWEST

--Carol & Rodney Hickle

We left home in subzero temperature and drove in cold, snow, and ice all the way to New Mexico.

We spent two days in Albuquerque, where we visited Old Town, the zoo, the Atomic Museum located on Kirtland Air Force Base, and several rock shops and jewelry stores.

We then headed south to Truth or Consequences where we visited Elephant Butte State Park, had a hot mineral bath, and hunted rhyolite.

We spent several days hunting rocks in the Demming and Silver City area. We found honey onyx at Columbia, blue agate at the Big Diggin's, geodes and jasper at Rockhound State Park, and agate and chalcedony in the Gila National Forest.

We also went to the Santa Rita open pit copper mine, Gila Cliff Dwellings, the catwalk, and Nogollon, an old gold mining town.

We then headed west to the Clifton, Ariz. area, where we found fire agates and some nice chalcedony roses.

We got to Tucson late February 6 and spent three hours finding a room. The lady told us it was the last one in town.

There were dealer shows in every large hotel and motel in Tucson. We got some very nice material.

The Tucson Gem and Mineral Show was very good. The theme of the show was "All That Glitters Is Not Gold." Nearly all the displays were minerals. There were several displays of pyrite; some were very large collections. There were also several displays of gold.

Micro-Mounts must be very popular; there were several cases of them.

They had several demonstrations: Silver-smithing, Cab cutting, Faceting, Gold panning, and Mineral Identification.

We left Tucson with the intention of going to Quartzite but got in Phoenix rush hour traffic and missed our turn,

so we decided to go to Wickenburg, spend the night, and go to Quartzite the next morning.

When we got to Wickenburg we found out they were having their Gold Rush Days celebration, so we decided to stay for their celebration instead.

We had the most fun of our vacation there. We went to their old time drama that evening. The next day they had a three-hour parade with several floats, old cars and trucks, and about 1,000 horses and riders. They also had a rock show, flea market, carnival, pit barbecue, gold panning, and a large rodeo.

The next day we went west of Kingman to Ed's Camp and dug fire agates. We got some nice ones, but it is very hard work getting them out of the rock seams.

We were running out of time so we went to Las Vegas for a day and headed home, back to the same cold and snowy weather as when we left.

EXPENSES FOR THE "DIGGIN'S", 1979

|                             |       |        |
|-----------------------------|-------|--------|
| Supplies                    |       |        |
| Paper                       | 36.49 |        |
| Stencils                    | 16.20 |        |
| Ink                         | 5.67  |        |
| Staples                     | 2.87  | 61.23  |
| Printing                    |       |        |
| Covers                      | 43.07 |        |
| Show edition<br>w. pictures | 30.73 | 73.80  |
| Postage                     |       | 223.35 |
| TOTAL                       |       | 358.38 |

The Eds.

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FIELD TRIP LAST SUNDAY IN APRIL?

I will try to line up a field trip for the afternoon of April 27th. I will have more details at the next meeting.

Rodney Hickle, Field Trip Chr.



WANTED: THEME SUGGESTIONS

Show Chairman Don Campbell announced at the last meeting that between then and the April meeting he will be expecting a telephone call from each club member suggesting a theme for the next show. So let's all of us put on our thinking caps and don't let him down.

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ROCKHUNTING RESTRICTIONS, by Bill Buresh

This is in response to an inquiry at the last meeting about restrictions on rock hunting in active gravel pits and quarries.

At present the Federal Mines and Safety Act requires that persons entering a mine, quarry, or gravel pit must wear hard-toe safety shoes, safety goggles, hard hats, and be accompanied by a certified guide. It also requires that all persons entering must be covered by insurance of the owner operator of the mine, pit, or quarry.

However, H.B. 1603, which is now in the Education and Labor Subcommittee on Health and Safety, would exclude gravel pits and quarries from the Federal Mines and Safety Act.

It might be well for all club members to write their Congressmen and urge them to vote in favor of H.B. 1603.

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THIS-N-THAT

A. J. and Ruby Dallman have recently visited in Nigeria, Africa. It would be interesting to have a report from them on their experiences there.

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Rod and Carol Nickle are back home after attending the Tucson Show and visiting other areas in the Southwest. The account of their trip is elsewhere in the "Diggin's." Thanks, Rod & Carol, for the story.

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John and Jean Althouse have moved to Denver.

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Stanley Fairaizl is still recuperating in the Mandan Hospital, after additional surgery. He expects to be released in about a week.

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Darrell and Donna Snyder of Mandan were guests at the February meeting but they did not join the club as reported in the last "Diggin's."

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ZEOLITES

Zeolites are a group of beautiful usually fibrous minerals that are hydrous and always contain aluminum and may contain either barium, potassium, sodium, or calcium to form the different zeolite minerals which occur in altered volcanic igneous rocks. The 40 or more zeolite minerals are soft and the fibers usually radiate out into long acicular crystals that make beautiful cabinet specimens.

The zeolites, both natural and artificial, have been widely used as water softeners.

The most common zeolite minerals are natrolite, chabazite, analcime, heulandite, stilbite, thompsonite, apophyllite, harmontome, and phillipsite.  
--THE CYCAD, Hot Springs, SD, Mar. 1980

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AQUAMARINE: MARCH BIRTHSTONE

Aquamarine is the birthstone for March. It is a blue or blue-green beryl, which is a silicate of two light metals, beryllium and aluminum. Beryl is one of the major gem stones. Pretty aquamarine crystals are found at the very summit of 14,245-foot Mt. Antero, Colorado, the highest mineral locality in North America. Aquamarine crystals often weigh several hundred pounds.



## CONTEMPLATIONS

I'm glad I am a rockhound  
and a-hunting I can go  
Over hill and dale, thru wind and rain  
yes, even thru the snow.

The rock I pick, the loot I tote,  
the friends I make and see,  
Are just a joke to a lot of folk  
but are very real treasures to me.

--The Black Hills Prospector

PREDICTIONS FOR THE 1980's FOR OUR HOBBY: More societies like the Gem Carvers, The Opal Society, The Mid-American Paleontological Society, The Micromounters, etc., etc. More states will adopt state stones and those who have state stones will go for fossils or gems. There will probably be fewer shows. More clubs will go together to put on their shows such as the Chicagoland organization. There will still be lots of good books, but more of them will be paperback, and more will be black and white. Some astounding inventions will make lapidary processes easier and better than ever before. There will be more synthetics and we will learn to enhance poor materials.

More collectors will specialize. More lapidaries will try difficult techniques such as gem carving. There will be more fee basis collecting areas, and we will get some quarry collecting areas back, with stricter regulations. Government organizations and pseudo-environmentalists will continue to oppose us on public land issues. Prices will go higher... and higher. Duties on gems will be relaxed. Our collections will be worth more. Look for \$1,000.00 per ounce for gold.

--by June Zeitner, via AFMS NEWSLETTER, March 1980

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### HOW TO TAKE CARE OF YOUR OPAL. . . AND OPAL JEWELRY

The opal is a fragile stone that can be damaged by extremes in temperature. Extreme cold can crack the stone or shrink it. Check the setting whenever you think that the stone has become chilled.

You should not wear your opal rings in direct, hot sunlight; this can crack the opal, too. Do not wear opal around hot dishwater or around frozen foods. Opals are absorbent. If you expose them to dyes or dirt, they may absorb impurities and be ruined. They are soft stones and scratch easily.

Opal contains water. If opal dries out it loses its iridescence. One thing you can do is to give your stones a bath in a mixture of glycerine and water occasionally. This will prevent them from drying out and losing their fire.

An opal needs a lot of care. If ever there was a true "pet rock," it is the opal.

--From "Antique Jewelry" via Lakota Pebbles, March 1980

## THE TREASURER'S DREAM

I fell asleep the other night,  
and while I had my snooze,  
I dreamed each member stepped right up  
and promptly paid his dues!  
But when I found it was a dream,  
I nearly had a fit!  
It's up to you to make it true  
So won't you PLEASE REMIT??



(From The Golden Mugget, via The Black Hills Prospector)

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AND BY THE WAY, the grace period has expired. This will be the last issue of the "Diggin's" that will be mailed to members whose dues are not paid by the April club meeting. NO DUES ----- NO "DIGGIN'S"!!!

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A CRYSTAL

A crystal is one of the strangest objects in nature. It is not alive, yet it grows. A crystal attracts the same kind of materials of which it is composed, arranges them with great accuracy in geometrical forms, cements the parts together and holds them. Place a crystal in a liquid or vapor composed of the same ingredients as the crystal, and the process of accumulation immediately begins. If a crystal is broken in two parts and placed in a bath of liquified crystal the broken surface will be repaired and each part will grow into another crystal, providing other conditions favorable for crystal growth are present.

Soon after a crystal has been worn until it is but a rounded grain of sand, it will speedily become a crystal again if placed in a solution containing the ingredients of which it is composed. There is no known limit to the ability of crystal thus to repair itself and resume its growth.

Under a microscope, a crystalline solution can be seen forming into crystals, and it is a wonderful sight. First, innumerable dark spots form in the fluid; they stand still and then begin to move. It is soon seen that the movement arranges the spots in straight lines, like beads. The beads quickly coalesce into rods--the rods arrange themselves into layers until a crystal is created.

The process proceeds so rapidly that it is almost impossible to follow it closely.

--From REAR TRUNK of Omaha via THE CYCAD, Nov. 1979

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ADDITIONS TO THE 1980 MEMBERSHIP LIST

The following members have paid their 1980 dues since the publication of the last issue of the "Diggin's". Please add these names to your membership roster:

|                             |                  |               |       |          |
|-----------------------------|------------------|---------------|-------|----------|
| 63. Robb, Spencer/Maxine    |                  | Taylor, ND    | 58656 | 974-3441 |
| 64. Hartl, Al & Ruth        | 1111 N. 1st St.  | Bismarck, ND  | 58501 | 258-0761 |
| 65. Johnson, Darwin/Claryce | Box 217          | Garrison, ND  | 58540 | 463-2402 |
| 66. Ramberg, Joel/Ida Nae   | 1325 N. 15th St. | Bismarck, ND  | 58501 | 223-6296 |
| 67. Strand, Larry/Janice    | 1318 N. 19th St. | Bismarck, ND  | 58501 | 258-5128 |
| 68. Vetter, Joe/Agnes       |                  | Strasburg, ND | 58573 |          |