



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



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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 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 28 - 29, 1979

NEXT MEETING: June 3, 1979, 7:30 p.m. (Beginners' class, 6:30 p.m.)

PROGRAM: Show and Tell--Bring the goodies that you collect during the Memorial Day Field Trip. Display them at the meeting and tell others about them. If you don't know what some of them are, this might be a good time to get them identified. Those of you who are not going to Custer, dust off your favorite bragging rock and bring it to the meeting to show to other club members.

LUNCH COMMITTEE: Harold Brady, Ted Giese, Rod Hickie, and Verl Mausehund
This meeting has been proclaimed as "Ladies' Day"---the day when the men serve and the ladies eat. (Apparently it takes four men to do the work that was formerly done by three ladies.--Ed. WAB)

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Hi, Everyone!

We sure had a wonderful meeting even if our program people (silversmithing) didn't show up. I believe we had the largest number of guests we've ever had. Everyone had a great time just talking and discussing rocks until late in the evening.

Our program chairman, Stanley, tells me that we will have "Show and Tell" for our next program. That means that all who attend the Memorial Day field trip should show what they found and tell all about it. Even those that don't go, I'm sure, have something they'd like to share with us. I've had some good luck lately myself and I'm planning to bring what I've found.

Now, also, is a good time to start gathering your trading stock for the Rapid City show. It'll be here in a few short weeks--sooner than we think.

One last thing, don't forget about the beginners' class, which meets one hour before the regular meeting.

See you all at the next meeting!

H. A. Brady

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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- May 26-27 Memorial Day Field Trip to the Black Hills (See page 2 for details)
- June 3 Bismarck, ND--7:30 p.m., Regular Meeting, Central Dakota Gem & Mineral Society, Capital Electric Bldg., Highway 83 North of City
- June 8-10 Rapid City, SD--ROCKY MOUNTAIN FEDERATION SHOW
- July 12-15 Tampa, Florida--AMERICAN FEDERATION GEM & MINERAL SHOW
- July 19-20 Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada--10th International Gem & Mineral Show, Winnipeg Rock & Mineral Club
- Aug. 11-12 Mitchell, SD--Corn Palace Rock Club Show
- Sept. 8-9 Aberdeen, SD--South Dakota State Show, Lakota Glacier Rock Club
- Sept. 14-16 Williston, ND--Williston Gem & Mineral Show
- SEPT. 28-29 MANDAN, ND--NORTH DAKOTA'S FIFTH ANNUAL SHOW--Central Dakota Gem & Mineral Society

MEMORIAL DAY FIELD TRIP, by Rod Hickle

We will have our Annual Black Hills Field Trip on Memorial Day weekend, May 26-27.

Mr. Louis Stratton of Wagon Train Rock Shop, Custer, SD, will be our guide both days.

We will meet both days at 9:00 a.m., Mountain Daylight Time, two miles west of Custer on Highway 16 at the end of the four-lane highway.

On Saturday, May 26th, we will travel 14 miles west on Highway 16 to hunt for Teepee Canyon agates.

Mr. Stratton said there are many rocks and minerals to be found in the Black Hills, so we should let him know what materials we are interested in.

The guide fee will be \$25.00 for the first 6 people and \$1.50 for each additional person each day. The fee will be shared by all who participate in the field trip.

There are several campgrounds and motels in the area so we should have no trouble finding a place to stay.

Get your hunting and camping equipment together and we will see you in the Black Hills.

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AT THE LAST MEETING--April 6

Thirty-three members, one junior, and one child attended the last meeting. The following guests were also present: Cliff Mitschke, Steele; Mr. & Mrs. Harold Michelson, Lyle Mundell, Mr. & Mrs. Mark Scarff, and Mr. & Mrs. Calvin Henry, all of Bismarck; Alvin Campbell, Elgin; and Mr. & Mrs. James Swanick, Mandan.

Show Chairman Earle Campbell distributed show flyers and asked members to post them at rock shops and other centers of interest as they travel this summer. He reported that the theme for this year's show will be "A Rockhound's Dream" and urged all members to prepare at least one exhibit and possibly two or three.

Rod Hickle, Field Trip Chairman, reported on the Memorial Day field trip. Louis Stratton, Custer, SD, will be the guide for both Saturday and Sunday. His services will be shared with the Dickinson club. Further details for directions are included in the field trip story in this issue.

Rod is also planning a field trip to the McClusky Canal in June and another jaunt to the Cannonball River, perhaps in Aug.

Gen and Bill Buresh were elected delegates to the Rocky Mountain Federation Convention and Show to be held in Rapid City, SD, on June 8-10. Earle and Blossomae Campbell were elected as alternates.

Carol Hickle won the door prize, a mineral specimen donated by Blossomae Campbell.

Serving lunch following the meeting were Katherine Muggli, Dan Meth, and Norman Little.

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FIELD TRIP--April 29

Nine carloads of members and several guests braved the chilly wind and ventured on a field trip to a glacial moraine south of New Salem on Sunday morning, April 29. (Some members wondered if the breezes were still coming off a hidden glacier!)

There were many crocuses blooming on the north slopes of the hills but not much in the way of collectibles. Some of the newer members were pleased to find specimens of feldspar and hornblende. While absorbing the sun and resting on the south slopes of a hill, one group enjoyed yarns by Ken Ness about collecting emeralds in North Carolina.

The participants wish to thank Rod Hickle, Field Trip Chairman, for arranging this first field trip for 1979. It was good to get out after a long winter.

--by Bill Buresh



WELCOME, NEW MEMBERS

These five visitors present at the last meeting have joined the club:

Alvin Campbell, Elgin, ND 58533
 Lyle Mundell, 607 N. 32nd St.,
 Bismarck, ND Tele. 258-9168
 Cliff Mitschke, Box 192, Steele, ND
 58482 Tele. 475-2495
 James/Orma Swanick, 307 - 14th Ave. NW,
 Mandan, ND Tele. 663-9778

Also please add to your roster the names of these 1979 members:

George/Betty Robinson, P.O. Box 1662,
 Bismarck, ND Tele. 255-3030

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THIS-N-THAT

Club member Al Hartl has been named as Campaign Chairman of the 1979 United Way fund drive in Bismarck, according to an article in a recent Bismarck Tribune.

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Charter Member Ida Mae Ramberg has been elected as president of the Bismarck-Mandan Retired Teachers' Association. She was installed to that position at their regular meeting on May 15, according to a Bismarck Tribune article.

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The Fairaizls, Earle Campbells, and Bureshes are planning to have exhibits at the Rocky Mountain Federation Show in Rapid City, SD, in June.

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Earle and Blossomae Campbell will spend their annual vacation by participating in Central Dakota's Memorial Day field trip in the Black Hills. From there they will proceed to Kansas to visit relatives. And on their way back they will attend the Federation Show in Rapid City. This sounds like a well-planned trip for conservation of both time and gasoline.

SOJOURN IN TEXAS, by Gen Buresh

In a brief escape from late "winter" weather, Bill and I left Bismarck on April 3 for an ornithological meeting in Omaha, Neb. We also participated in two field trips there at Lake Manawa and at Fontanelle Forest, both along the Missouri River in or near Omaha. On April 8 we headed south on a tour of bird refuges, beaches, and state parks in Texas. Particularly interesting was the drive along the Gulf Coast from Gilchrist to Brownsville, and up the Rio Grande to Laredo (with temperatures often up to the high 80's). Fortunately we missed the tornado at Wichita Falls, two hail storms, and an 8½-inch rainfall at Edinburg.

From Laredo we drove home on Highway #83, except for a short scenic loop through the beautiful Texas "Hill Country." Imagine our surprise to find snowbanks in shelterbelts, ravines, and roadsides, and ice on the ponds, when we returned on April 25, with the temperature in the mid-40's, as when we left!

Except for hunting shells on several beaches, hiking a few gravel bars, and visiting friends in Pharr, TX, this trip was devoted to our other hobby--birding. The many miles of hiking and the sunny days along the coast have put us in the mood for some good rock hunts.

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AFMS PRESIDENT DIES; REPLACEMENT NAMED

AFMS President Ellis Courter died on March 21 in Michigan from complications of a heart attack suffered on the way to the national show in Calif. last summer. Mr. Courter had served the AFMS, the Midwest Federation, and the Michigan Mineralogical Society for many years.

Dr. Ellwood T. Rees, AFMS Executive Vice President, has assumed the duty of Acting President of the Federation. Dr. Rees lives in Twin Falls, Idaho.--Inf. from AFMS Newsletter, May 1979.

FEDERATION SHOW AT RAPID CITY

by Gen Buresh

This year's Rocky Mountain Federation Show is probably as close as it will ever get unless North Dakota's "blue laws" are amended. If you have never been to a Federation Show, because of distance or for any other reason, here is an opportunity of a lifetime.

Many activities have been planned to keep visitors busy three days or more, including field trips before and after the show, demonstrations, programs, swap tables, silent auctions, and door prizes! These are in addition to the main event--the show itself, with competitive, non-competitive, and special exhibits! Whatever your interests in the lapidary field, you're sure to find exhibits and programs that will be both educational and inspirational for you. Try not to miss the tour of the Museum of the South Dakota School of Mines.

This is our Federation. Why not take an active part in it?

WHAT? Rocky Mountain Federation
1979 Gem & Mineral Show

WHERE? Rushmore Plaza Civic Center,
Rapid City, South Dakota

WHEN? June 8-9-10, 1979

IDA MAE HOWELL DIES

We were saddened to read of the recent death of Ida Mae Howell, an exchange editor who attended our 1978 show last October with her husband, Jim, who at that time was president of the Rocky Mountain Federation. Ida Mae was editor of a Tri-State Bulletin for clubs in three states. The Howells lived in Guymon, Oklahoma.

THANK YOU to Blossomae Campbell for the fine job she did in publishing the "Diggin's" in April. It was one of the first items read from the mail bag when we returned from our trip. EDS.

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THOUGHT FOR THE MONTH

In these days of frustration, we may become so immobile with the thought of the magnitude of others' needs that we feel extremely inadequate. So much to do and so little time. Try this prescription.

One seed at a time and the garden grows
One drop at a time and the river flows
One word at a time and the book is read
One stroke at a time and the paint is spread
One chip at a time and the statue's unveiled
One step at a time and the mountain is scaled
One thing at a time and that done well
Is the only sure way to succeed and excel--
You can write, you can paint, you can sculpt or climb--
You can do it by taking one step at a time.--by Lucille Boeskin, CRYSTAL

CLUSTER via S.I.E.S. CLUB NEWS

"DON'TS" FOR ROCKHOUNDERS

Don't stand under trees during a thunderstorm.
Don't wander too far away from the car or camp.
Don't step without looking--
(a) You may sprain an ankle by stepping in holes;
(b) You may step on a snake.
Don't hunt alone. --LAKELAND GEMS CHIPS AND BITS

INFLATION IS BRINGING true democracy. For the first time in history, luxuries and necessities are selling for the same price.

WANTED!!! #

TYPISTS _ Volunteers to help #
address labels for show packets. #
If you can help with this project, #
call Bob Randall NOW. #
223-1625 #
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SHOW EXHIBITS. by Bill Pacesh,
1979 Show Exhibit Chairman

It is later than you think--as far as the annual show is concerned.

I was not able to attend the last regular club meeting, but the notes that I received about the meeting indicate that the Show Chairman urged every member to have an exhibit for the 1979 show. I wish to repeat his urging. Application forms for space for exhibitors will be available for you to fill out at the June meeting.

Printed below is a portion of an article appearing in the May, 1979 American Federation Newsletter. These suggestions are appropriate for exhibiting at any show, national, state, or local.

THIS IS SHOW SEASON,

By Barbara Goss, AFMS Secretary

All over the country society members are preparing for shows--local, federation and national. We all know displays are necessary for successful shows, but many of us "Let Joe do it." Do you want your hobby to continue and grow? Are you doing your part? If you do not want to go into competition you can enter the local, federation, or national show with a non-competitive case. I would like to share with you an article I feel should be read and followed by all members. It was written by George Williams and appeared in the Hy Grader to urge people to show at Coos Bay, Oregon show: Share Your Hobby--Show Your Collection.

Why Do We Display? For the Pleasure It Brings

1. It's satisfying to see our collection attractively set up in a display. We can rightly be proud of what we show.
2. There is much joy and reward in sharing our collection with others who have similar interests.
3. It's exciting to be an important part of a group project.
4. After working diligently at our hobby we deserve a little praise and we can get this only by sharing.
5. Displaying in a show sets up opportunities to meet other people who have found pleasure in the same interests as you. Many life-long friendships can be started in this way.
6. Sometimes we get a little stale at what we do. Preparing for a show brings new inspiration and rejuvenates your interests.

Because It's An Educational Experience

1. Arranging a display makes you more critical of your material and challenges you to improve your quality.
2. Planning a display around a theme requires some study and you end up with a greater knowledge of your collection.
3. After fussing over your own display you will look more critically at other exhibits allowing you to profit from others' techniques.

The Fun of Non-Competitive Display

1. Here you have free reign to follow through any idea you have for an exhibit without any concern for fitting it into the limitations of rules.
2. Any Federation show is obligated to accept an exhibit in the non-competitive section unless dimensions of the display make it impractical.
3. Try standing beside your exhibit for a time. Be ready to greet strangers as they show an interest in what you have done. You'll exchange some good information and meet some great people. . . .

The above very well says: Enter your display in the next possible show! . . .

ITACOLUMITE--THE ROCK THAT BENDS

by Gen and Bill Buresh

Itacolumite (it-a-KOL-ya-mit) is defined in Funk & Wagnalls Standard College Dictionary as "A variety of sandstone that is flexible in thin slabs. After Itacolumi, a mountain in eastern Brazil" It is a variety of porous yellow sandstone believed to be the source of the abundant diamonds of the Minas Gerais district in Brazil. It is also the best-known example of a flexible sandstone.

If a piece of itacolumite one foot long and one-half inch thick is supported at its ends, it will gradually bend under its own weight; if it then is turned over, it will bend in the opposite direction. If a piece fifteen inches long and about one-half inch thick is placed on a table, the center can be slowly lifted as much as one inch without causing the ends to leave the table.

More technically, itacolumite is a quartzose schist resulting from incomplete metamorphosis of sandstone to quartzite.

Some quartzites are products of a metamorphosis whereby quartz crystals in a sandstone are cemented together by circulating solutions containing silica. In some sandstone this process does not add enough silica to each sand grain to fill the voids and lock the grains firmly together. Although the grains cannot be separated, a slight movement is permitted between them. The presence of muscovite (mica) in the sandstone tends to increase its flexibility in slab form.

No practical use is known for this bending rock. However, it is very interesting and a nice specimen always provides a conversation piece.

Sources:Encyclopaedia BritannicaFunk & Wagnalls Standard College DictionaryMinerals and Man, by Cornelius S.

Hurlbut, Jr., Random House, NY, 1970

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Ed. Note: Club Member Bob Randall has a specimen of itacolumite.

LAPIDARY TIP

There is great danger in placing too large a grinding wheel on a small diameter spindle or grinding arbor. People have been known to mount a 12-inch grinding wheel on a $\frac{1}{4}$ -inch or $\frac{1}{2}$ -inch spindle, and operating it at a standard speed. The wheels have sometimes been torn or broken off at high speed creating a very dangerous condition.

Spindle sizes considered to be safe under most conditions are:

6 x 1-inch wheel----- $\frac{1}{8}$ -inch spindle
 9 x 1-inch wheel----- $3/4$ -inch spindle
 12 x 1-inch wheel----- 1-inch spindle
 20 x 1-inch wheel----- $1\frac{1}{2}$ -inch spindle

The standard speed used is usually 6,000 surface feet per minute. It is best to buy factory assembled equipment or get help from an expert machinist if you make your own grinder.

When wet grinding wheels are used, do not let a wheel stand partially immersed in water for a period of time. The water-soaked portion, being heavier, may throw the wheel dangerously out of balance. If a wheel has been subjected to rough handling in shipping, a crack may develop, so in starting a new wheel in operation, stand to one side until after full wheel speed has developed for a few minutes. Do not remove the washers of blotting paper which are placed at the factory as this compressible material is there for a good reason, and not just for looks. When tightening arbor (spindle) end nuts, do not use more pressure than to hold the wheel firmly.--THE CYCAD, April, 1979

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POLISHING GEODES

When polishing geodes or other material with cavities, dampened soap powder packed into the cavity will prevent grits or polish from entering and later it can be washed out easily.

--From THE TEMPLATE via THE ROCK VEIN. May 1979