



MONTHLY PUBLICATION OF THE CENTRAL DAKOTA GEM & MINERAL SOCIETY

BISMARCK-MANDAN AND SURROUNDING AREAS

NORTH DAKOTA

DIGGIN'S FROM DAKOTA  
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1527 N. 19th St.  
Bismarck, ND 58501

# DIGGIN'S FROM DAKOTA

Volume 13, No. 9

September, 1978

## NEXT MEETING--October 1

The next regular meeting of the Society will be held at 7:30 p.m. on October 1 at the usual place. The meeting will again be preceded by a discussion period at 6:30 led by Harold Brady and Stan Fairaizl.

The program period will be used by Show Chairman Earle Campbell in taking care of last minute show details.

Hospitality Chairman Emma Brady announced that the Lunch Committee for the October meeting will be Carol Hickie, Ethel Heer, and Delores Helm.

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NOTE: Included with this issue of the "Diggin's" is a publicity poster for the show.

Use it to the best advantage. Place it somewhere to attract someone's attention. The poster will do the rest.

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## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- Sept. 16-17 Williston, ND--Annual Show, Williston Gem & Mineral Society
- Sept. 16-17 Aberdeen, SD--Lakota Glacier Gem and Mineral Show
- Sept. 25-Oct. 6-Bismarck, ND--Window Display, First National Bank, Fourth Street Display Area
- Oct. 1 Bismarck, ND, Capital Electric Building. Regular Meeting, 7:30 p.m.--Central Dakota Gem & Mineral Society
- Oct. 3 Channel 5, KFYZ TV--"Be Our Guest"--Personal Appearance, Publicizing the Annual Show
- Oct. 4 Channel 12, KXMB--"Did You Know - - -"--Personal Appearance, Publicizing the Annual Show
- Oct. 7-8 MANDAN, ND--NORTH DAKOTA'S FOURTH ANNUAL SHOW--

CENTRAL DAKOTA GEM & MINERAL SOCIETY

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Most of the shadows of this life are caused by standing in one's own sunshine.

Ralph Waldo Emerson

## MOONSTONE, PRECIOUS FORM OF FELDSPAR

Feldspars, a group of silicate minerals, share first rank with the quartz group for abundance in the Earth's crust. Silicates of alumina, each has a hardness of 6 in the Mohs scale and two easy cleavage planes, nearly at right angles to each other. Because it is so soft the moonstone, which is a semi-precious feldspar, is used only occasionally as a ring stone, but it brings unique beauty to necklaces, earrings and brooches.

Two feldspars, oligoclase and orthoclase, often show silvery to bluish opalescent spots when cut in steep cabochon shapes by an expert. This is partly caused by light reflecting from flat plates forming a twin structure inside the mineral. The thinner the plates, the bluer the stone. Less translucent plates may also be grey, green, blue, brown, yellow and white. These bluish-white spots, when held to light, produce a moonlight glow, and have therefore given the gem the name 'moonstone.' "In the Orient it is said that the moonstone holds the

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AT THE LAST MEETING--September 10

Forty-one members, three children, and five guests were reported present at the Sept. 10 meeting of the Society. The guests were Lyle Mundell, Glen Michaels, and Ron Wandler with daughters Deanna and Lisa--all of Bismarck.

Bob Randall reported for Show Chairman Earle Campbell. Following is a list of assignments and the persons who will be responsible for each activity at the show.

1. Hospitality--Vina Anderson, Chr.  
Tickets--Vina Anderson  
Club Booth--Sue Randall, Gen Buresh
2. Exhibits--Bill Buresh
3. Silent Auction--Ed & Kath. Muggli
4. Touch & See--Duane Robey
5. Swap Area--Duane Robey
6. Security--Harold Brady & Al White
7. Electrical--Al White
8. Special Features--Larry Strand
9. Fluorescent Display--Blossomae  
Campbell & Bob Randall
10. Show Awards--Earle Campbell, Gen &  
Bill Buresh
12. Petrified Wood for "Giveaway"--  
Duane Robey
13. "Set-up" Friday, Oct. 6, 12:00  
Noon until completed--All members  
who can help with arranging and  
covering tables. Individual  
exhibits may also be set up at  
this time.
14. Tear-down and Clean-up--All able-  
bodied members. From close of  
show October 8, 5:30 p.m., until  
completion.

Final details will be discussed further at the meeting October 1.

Bob Randall also appealed to members who did not return the blue membership ribbons after the last show to either return them before the forthcoming show

or remember to bring them to the show. Otherwise there may be about 60 members at the show without ribbons.

Reporting as Show Publicity Chairman, Bob Randall asked for assistance in distributing show posters in Bismarck, Mandan, and other area towns where members have an opportunity to do so.

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Gen. Buresh asked for approval to prepare and have printed an application form to be used in obtaining needed information from new members. Approval was granted by motion.

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The membership voted to donate \$50.00 to the Capital Electric Coop for the privilege of using their hospitality room for the monthly meetings.

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The program consisted of an interesting slide presentation on land slides by Dr. Gordon Bell. Dr. Bell explained the operation of various forces that bring about the slides, some very sudden and others rather gradual. The pictures illustrated various types and sizes of land slumping, some of which occurred recently and others which are now overgrown with trees and other vegetation. The pictures also showed the destruction of property produced by the slumping and some of the methods employed by man in predicting and controlling such activity.

The door prize, a quartz crystal cluster from Arkansas donated by Ed and Katherine Muggli, was won by Melvin Anderson.

Serving on the lunch committee for the evening were Mae Fairaizl, Emma Brady, and Marlene White.

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It is easy to make a mountain out of a molehill--just add more dirt.

SHOW EXHIBITS

A few more members indicated at the Sunday meeting that they will have exhibits at the show; however, members' exhibits are still lagging. Let's not let the outsiders outnumber us in the number of exhibits.

Bill Collins will transfer out-of-state before the show and is offering his exhibit case for sale. Here is an excellent chance to obtain a case. He just had it built by Pius Fischer. Bill Collins' address is Box 32, Harvey, ND 58341; Phone: 342-2511.

Bill Buresh, Show Exhibit Chairman

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WINDOW DISPLAY

Bob Randall, publicity chairman for the annual show, reports that a display will be set up in the First National Bank window on Fourth Street in Bismarck. The display will publicize the Society show scheduled for October 7-8. It will be in the window for two weeks prior to the show--Sept. 25 to Oct. 6.

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FIELD TRIPS

Eight carloads of Central Dakota Gem & Mineral Society rockhounds assembled in Medora on Sunday, August 20, for a jaunt up Andrews Creek. They were joined later by another car occupied by Adolph Nelson and Ralph Lindvig, two of our Williston members. The "pickin's" were rather slim that day and some of the rockhounds protested climbing the steep banks to the creek bed. In spite of the obstacles, there were a number of nice finds, among which was a beautiful chunk of golden petrified wood found by Bob Randall.

By coincidence there were also nine carloads of rockhounds at the Almont dig on Sunday, August 27, but not the same nine that were in Medora the previous week. The occupants of one of the cars were Wilma Hilgemann, our Leola, SD member and her sister, Alice Springer, of Fort Yates. This was Alice's third venture on a rockhound's field trip--all in 1978.

One of the participants described the group as "digging like gophers with only occasionally a head to be seen above ground." Reports indicate that there were some nice specimens collected.

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THIS-N-THAT

Joseph Metcalf is presently in the Mandan Hospital suffering from double pneumonia.

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Emil Hilken is reported to be confined to his home with a broken ankle. Details unknown.

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Earle Campbell is well on his way to recovery from a battle with a "bug" of some type. He was absent from the meeting on Sunday.

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Bill Collins, an active member of the Society for a number of years, is a geologist who has been involved with the Garrison Diversion Project. He has accepted a promotion and will be moving to Vernal, Utah, the first week in Oct.

Bill will be remembered here for his assistance in identifying specimens, his leadership on South Dakota trips, and his many Missouri specimens.

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The Mel Andersons have just returned from a trip to Wisconsin, Michigan, etc. At the meeting Mel was showing a few Lake Superior agates which he picked up along the way.

The Andersons are planning another tour, this time to the New England States and Canada by bus with a Senior Citizens group. They will be leaving about October 1.

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Ed and Katherine Muggli are also going to tour the New England States and Washington, D.C. They plan to be back by show time.

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Emma and Pius Fischer were doing a little agate hunting in Montana this past week. They reported finding a few.

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Ida Mae and Joel Ramberg are in Montana at present where Joel undoubtedly is doing a little fishing.

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Also present at the Midwest Federation Show at Cedar Rapids, Iowa, but not previously reported were club members James and Elsie Garrett and their two sons who now reside in Sioux City, SD.

## WANTED

MORE EXHIBITS  
Bill Buresh--223-0611

SWAPPING MATERIAL  
"TOUCH AND SEE" MATERIAL  
PETRIFIED WOOD FOR "GIVEAWAYS"

Duane Robey--225-0576

SILENT AUCTION MATERIAL

\* Ed & Katherine Muggli--348-3103

\* Bring these items to the show. Call  
\* the above if you have questions.

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MOONSTONE, cont. from page 1

radiance of moonlight within it and can thus banish fears and nightmares. It is also a symbol of friendship." (American Gem Society Leaflet)

### The Finest Stones

The best of these luminous stones were once furnished by the south-central district of Switzerland. Today the finest stones come from Ceylon, Southern India, Burma, and Tanzania. In India the moonstone is said to bring good fortune and is regarded as a sacred stone. When displayed for sale in that country it is always placed on a yellow cloth, for yellow is an especially sacred colour.

Not all moonstones are the same colour. A good quality yellow form is found in Madagascar and in South India. Rock-hounds have found moonstones in gravel piles in Mississippi (Lapidary Journal, November 1973) in great variety. Clear and/or white are most common, followed in order of abundance by blue, red, smoky, green, and black. It is possible that moonstones can be found in other gravel beds and have just been overlooked because they are difficult to see until polished. Those persons owning a good moonstone are fortunate indeed, for stones of gem quality are becoming more rare.--By Joan Hunter, Curator of Education, The Living Museum, Springfield, Ill., via THE ROCK VEIN

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HELPFUL HINTS - Instead of throwing away your worn sanding discs, try this: Mix in a small container 1/2 teaspoon of grit: 100, 200 or whatever size you want. Pour on top 1/2 teaspoon of waterglass (sodium silicate) mixed with 1/2 teaspoon of water. Mix and apply to used discs and let dry for two hours. You will have discs as good as new.--From CRYSTAL LOG via PIK-N-ROK

--Try cementing three pieces of tigereye together so that the "grain" of each is perpendicular to the next. When set, cabochons or other stones can be cut with interesting chatoyancy effects.--From ROCK CHIPPER