

"DIGGIN'S FROM DAKOTA"



MONTHLY PUBLICATION OF THE "CENTRAL DAKOTA GEM & MINERAL SOCIETY"
P.O. BOX 2445, BISMARCK, ND 58502 - 2445
SERVING: BISMARCK, MANDAN, AND SURROUNDING AREAS IN NORTH DAKOTA

DIGGINS FROM DAKOTA
Jim Ellis Editor
3235 16 St. S.W.
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58530

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RMFMS - 1st Place, Small Bulletins, 1998
RMFMS - 3rd Place, Small Bulletins, 1997, New Editor
RMFMS - 2nd Place, Small Bulletins, 1992
RMFMS - 2nd Place, Small Bulletins, 1987
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P. O. Box 2445, Bismarck, ND 58502 - 2445



In Association With:
Rocky Mountain Federation of Mineralogical Societies
and American Federation of Mineralogical Societies

Organized: March, 1966

OBJECTIVES

1. To further the study of mineralogy and geology.
2. To arrange field trips to collect minerals, gems, and fossils.
3. To assist its members to improve in the art of cutting, polishing, and mounting gem materials;
4. To provide opportunities for the exchange, purchase, and exhibition of specimens and materials;
5. To share knowledge about gems, minerals, and activities of the Society with the general public.

— Article II, CDGMS Constitution

MEETINGS: First Sunday of each month at the Masonic Center, 1810 Schafer St., Bismarck, ND

EARLY CLASS: One - half hour before each meeting.

ANNUAL DUES: Junior Member - \$6.00, Single Membership - \$10.00, Family Membership - \$12.00

MEETING TIMES: 2:00 PM — From November thru March & 7:00 PM — From April thru October

COMMITTEE PERSONS

AREA CODE 701

PROGRAM: Neill Burnett #223-6758

Jim Nevland #221 - 2419

HOSPITALITY Carol Hickle #794 - 3342

and LUNCH: Emma Brady #663 - 3903

HOSPITAL/CARDS: Gen Buresh #663 - 5397

FIELD TRIPS: Steve & Darlene Newstrom #255 - 4675

EDITOR: Jim Ellis #794-3192

ANNUAL SHOW: (1999) Rodney Hickle #794 - 3342

EARLY CLASS: Harold Brady #663 - 3903

GREETER: Any Volunteers?

Parliamentarian: Gen Buresh #663 - 5397

STAMP CHAIR: Doris Hickle #794 - 3173

LIBRARIAN: Agnes Berg #442 - 5620

PUBLICITY: Any Volunteers?

HISTORIAN: Betty Mautz #337- 5775

DOOR COUNT: Any Volunteers?

VISITORS AND GUESTS ARE ALWAYS WELCOME !

RMFMS State Director for North Dakota: Ray Oliger, 516 N. 20th St., Bismarck, ND #701 - 223 - 4986

All members are encouraged to submit articles/news items for publication. Material for the Newsletter should reach the Editor by the 10th of each month. Advertisements are encouraged for the Newsletter. (\$2.00 for 1/8 of a page per month or \$20.00 per year) Permission is granted to reprint non-copyrighted articles if proper credit is given. The "Digging From Dakota" Newsletter is published monthly.

CENTRAL DAKOTA GEM & MINERAL SOCIETY'S

25th ANNUAL

GEM & MINERAL SHOW

COMMUNITY CENTER — MANDAN, ND

SEPTEMBER 25 & 26, 1999

Chairman: Rodney Hickle, HC2, Box 191, Center, ND 58530

Phone: 701 - 794 - 3342



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Unfortunately, we had a very poor attendance at our regular meeting on Sunday, 11 July 1999. We had 17 Adults and two Juniors present.

The early class at 6:30 was presented by Harold Brady. Harold gave an excellent presentation on meteorites, and showed us several examples of rocks including how some can be mistaken for meteorites. For those of you who missed our meeting, you missed getting educated on heavenly bodies.

The regular class was a video of the June Culp Zeitner collection from South Dakota. What a Gal, and what a collection. We also were shown some pictures by Duane Robey of some very beautiful Opal, and some specimens collected by Russ and Ray Oliger from the Cannonball.

I would like to take the rest of this message to reiterate our schedule for the next few months.

- 1 August 1999 - This is our annual PICNIC. It will be held at Sibley Park. Our reservation is for all day. Everyone should bring Pot Luck. We will plan to have a short business meeting and eat at 1:30 PM. It is also SWAP DAY, so bring whatever you have that you would like to swap, and let's have some finagling.
- 5 September 1999 - Our program will consist of two parts. First we will discuss the upcoming Gem Show at the Mandan Community Center (see below). Second, we will have a presentation by Mr. Gary Jochim, (this is a correction from last month) who will talk about Flint Napping. This should be interesting. I would be willing to bet that not many of you understand the art of chipping and napping flint and obsidian.
- 25 - 26 September 1999 - Our annual Gem And Mineral Show. Rodney Hickle, our Show Chairman will need all the help he can get, so let us all get with it and help out. We need enthusiasm, talking it up and lots of volunteers. Remember, this is our show, and we all need to pitch in and make a success of it.
- 3 October 1999 - Bring your most unusual rock, your prettiest rock, your ugliest rock or your proudest rock. We will have a contest and award prizes. You will be expected to defend your selection. This should be a fun night, so start planning on it now. This will be the last month that our meetings will start in the evening.
- 7 November 1999 - Meetings start at 1:30 - Early Class and 2:00 Regular Meeting. The program will be fluorescent rocks. Everyone is asked to bring their own rocks that glow (or they think they glow) and your instruments. This will be a free-for-all. It should be fun. Bring a guest and your own knowledge and experience concerning fluorescence and enjoy.
- 5 December 1999 - This will be our annual Christmas Brunch. Details will be announced later.
- Sunday 9 January 2000 - **WOW** - If we make it past Y2K we will have a meeting on Paleontology. I am proposing that we skip 2 January since it is the day after New Years. More later. I think this is appropriate since our last meeting would have been in the last Century.

Yours in Rocks,
Your President, Neill C Burnett



Next Meeting...

The next meeting of the Central Dakota Gem & Mineral Society will be on Sunday September 5 1999 at the Masonic Center, 1310 Schafer St. Bismarck, North Dakota. Servers for the Sept, meeting are, David & Ruby Jensen and Debra Martineson.

Birthstones of the month July-Ruby August-Sardonyx or Peridot BIRTHDAYS

July-

2-Terry Ellis
5-Rachel Atwood
11- Ann Hoerner
4-Cindy Doll
26-Kristy Scwindt
20-Jessica Liffbrig
27-Harold Brady
31-Margery Bechtold

August-

12-Joey Liffbrig
20-Walter Bosley
24-Richard Hoerner
24-Jerome Nygaard
24-Ledores Robey
25-Esther Nygaard
29-Rae Sprong
29-Gary Ellis

ANNIVERSARYS

July-

20-Melvin & Agnes Berg

August-

15-Robrt & Sue Randall
28-Lee & Colleen Huber

"CAST DOWN YOUR BUCKET WHERE YOU ARE!"

On September 18, 1895, Booker T. Washington delivered an address to the Atlanta Cotton States and International Exposition. The African-American founder of Tuskegee Institute began with a story:

A ship lost at sea for many days suddenly sighted a friendly vessel. From the mast of the unfortunate vessel was seen a signal, "Water, water; we die of thirst!" The answer from the friendly vessel at once came back, "Cast down your bucket where you are."

A second time the signal, "Water, water send us water!" ran up from the distressed vessel, and was answered, "Cast down your bucket where you are." And a third and a fourth signal for water was answered, "Cast down your bucket where you are."

The captain of the distressed vessel, at last heeding the injunction, cast down his bucket, and it came up full of fresh sparkling water from the mouth of the Amazon river.

A REMINDER!!!

The Central Dakota Gem & Mineral Society's 25th annual Gem & Mineral Show is on September 25 & 26, 1999 at the Mandan Community Center in Mandan North Dakota.

For more information contact show chairman Rodney Hickle, HC2, Box 191, Center N.D.
Phone: 1-701-794-3342

METEORITE VERIFICATION LABORATORIES

Several museums and laboratories in the United States are equipped to examine and authenticate any suspected meteorite specimen sent to them. This requires that a small sample, if not the entire specimen, be sent to them for analysis. Usually the service is performed free of charge; however, if the specimen proves to be a meteorite, the institution may request that the finder consider donating the specimen to the institute, or they may offer to purchase part or all of the specimen.

The American Museum
of Natural History
Central Park West
at 79th Street
New York, N.Y. 10024

Institute of Meteoritics
Department of Geology
University of New Mexico
Albuquerque, N.M. 87131

Center for Meteorite Studies
Arizona State University
Tempe, A.Z. 85281

Lunar and Planetary Laboratory
Space Sciences Building
University of Arizona
Tucson, A.Z. 85721

The Field Museum
of Natural History
S. Lake Shore Drive
Chicago, I.L. 60605

National Museum
of Natural History
Department of Mineral Sciences
Smithsonian Institution
Washington, D.C. 20560

Institute of Geophysics
and Planetary Sciences
University of California
Los Angeles, C.A. 90024

New England
Meteoritical Services
P.O. Box 440-A
Mendon, M.A. 01756

THE STONE AGE
by Michael J. Papay

It's a strange thing that when we think about cavemen we think about their dependence on rocks, but when we think of modern man the notion of rocks never come to mind. Cars, jets, television, and computers - they come to mind but not rocks.

The funny thing is that today, and each and every day, we modern humans dig up more rocks than all the cavemen ever did in ancient history, yet nobody thinks of this as the stone age. In all our history we've never made more use of rocks than we do right now. Never.

It's a shame more folks don't realize it. The car they're driving came out of the ground. So did the road they're riding on. So did the building they work in. So did the glass, aluminum, steel and copper in their house.

This is the stone age. We'd like to hide that fact from ourselves - unless of course, you're a rockhound. Then, perhaps, you won't. Perhaps, just as me, you'll see the earth at our feet is a thing of wonder, a thing to ponder, a place to explore. And by looking down - your mind might soar.

in Rockhound Roundup 1/98, via The Conglomerate (Kentucky) 1/98, via The Glaciel Drifter 2/99. VIA THE VOICE 3-1999

A NEW ALERT.....AND IT IS SCARY...SO PLEASE TAKE NOTICE.

This was given to me by club member, Betty Clinton, who got it from a friend from her place of employment....

SUBJECT: SAFETY BULLETIN

DATE: Wednesday, Feb 17, 1999

For your information, a couple of weeks ago, in a Dallas movie theater, a person sat on something sharp in one of the seats. When she stood up to see what it was, a needle was found poking through the seat with an attached note saying, "you have been infected with HIV". The Centers for Disease Control in Atlanta reports similar events have taken place in several other cities recently. All of the needles tested HAVE been POSITIVE FOR HIV. The CDC also reports that needles have been found in the coin return areas of pay phones and soda machines.

Everyone is asked to use extreme caution when confronted with these types of situations. All public chairs should be thoroughly but safely inspected prior to any use. A thorough visual inspection is considered the bare minimum. Furthermore, they ask that everyone notify their family members and friends of the potential dangers, as well.

The previous information was sent from the Dallas Police Department to all of the local governments in the Washington area and was interdepartmentally dispersed. We were all asked to pass this to as many people as possible.

Kind of scary to say the least, huh?

Via the Sooner Rockologist 4-1999

For more than a century the voices that recalled and relived the myths and mysteries and hard fact memories of New Mexico mining lore have spellbound listeners when recounting the saga of the Bridal Chamber.

Lake Valley was one of three mining camps to emerge near the south end of the Black Range about 1880. Hillsboro and Kingston, the other two, were a few miles away. They all are on the west side of the Rio Grande Rift. All had extensive gold and silver claims. Hillsboro was basically a gold camp and the other two, silver bonanzas. As so often true on the early frontier, these dramatic discoveries were quiet memories before the century's end. The boom towns became a silent listener to the winds and the ghosts.

The first claim discovery site at the Bridal Chamber area was made by a cowboy prospector, George Lufkin. In August 1878, Lufkin found a partner, Chris Watson, but they depleted their meager resources quickly. Soon they began to seek an infusion of new funds.

Meanwhile, Indian raids (Apache) delayed their return to the original diggings. Their actual work on the discovery remained stagnant until they interested a Fort Bayard Trading post owner, John Miller, in the claims. As many such historical webs are woven, the discoverer loses control of the treasure for necessary financing.

Based on assays at the initial discovery, Miller hired an experienced mining engineer, George Daly from Leadville, Colorado. Daly later secured the assistance of Bernard MacDonald, also from Leadville.

Although highly recommended as a potentially valuable deposit, one could hardly have imagined its extraordinary example of nature at her creative heights. A small opening into the fabulous ore body was broken through by MacDonald in mid August, 1881. The "Chamber" measured more than 100 feet by 100 feet and varied from 10 to 20 feet from floor to ceiling. Almost the entire room was lined and filled with interlaced crystals of Chlorargyrite (Cerargyrite), Silver Chloride (AgCl), Calcite and Native Silver.

The light from candles, lamps and torches sparkled back reflections that numbed the senses. The dark room was reflecting light from the glistening crystals. The sight must have stunned those eyes that first tried to focus on its magnificence! No one ever had viewed such a sight before - or since. No where on earth has a comparable deposit of silver ever been discovered.

A candle would melt the Cerargyrite stalactites into silver globs. Much of the silver was mined with axes and hatchets. Saws were used to cut the silver into blocks. One horn silver crystal mass weighed over 10,000 pounds!

Records indicate 2.5 million ounces of silver was recovered from the Bridal Chamber. A nearby "lesser" discovery, the Thirty Stope, produced a million ounces. It is doubtful these records allow for the actual amount removed. Most early official reports of precious metal extraction were on the low side.

A very sad footnote to history: At the very hour the Chamber entrance was broken into, Mr. Daly whose appraisal of the location was so instrumental in funding the search, was killed with three of his friends. An Apache party, led by Chief Nane', ambushed them nearby.

Twenty-two months later, the infamous Victorio would lead his Apache band to kill 16 more men at Lake Valley. Life on the frontier indeed had its hazards, and mine safety was only one of them.

The whispering breezes that waft these learned hills and valleys are all that remember those wretched days of hope and toil and those dramatic nights of whiskey, women, wild card games and wounds that bled.

from NEWS NUGGETS 4/98 (Albuquerque, NM)



These drawings are from *De Re Metallica* by Georgius Agricola a book on mining first printed in 1556. This is a fascinating book to read I recommend it to anyone interested in how mining was done in the 1500s.

