


CEDAR VALLEY GEMS
CEDAR VALLEY
ROCKS & MINERALS SOCIETY



AUG 1978

CEDAR RAPIDS, IOWA



CEDAR VALLEY ROCKS AND MINERALS SOCIETY, INC.

CEDAR RAPIDS, IOWA

This corporation is organized for the purpose of studying the earth sciences of mineralogy, geology, paleontology, and the arts of lapidary. We were organized on June 12, 1951, incorporated on June 21, 1956, as a non-profit organization.

OFFICERS

President	Larry DeSotel	247 Sussex Drive N.E.	Cedar Rapids, Ia.	377-1641
Vice-Pres.	Alice Brown	360 Tonga Dr.	Hiawatha, Ia.	393-7193
Secretary	Alberta Cray	1125 J. Ave. N.W.	Cedar Rapids, Ia.	362-5530
Treasurer	Marian Peters	1475 24th St.	Marion, Ia.	377-2839
Liaison	Frances Bates	2739 2nd Ave. S.E.	Cedar Rapids, Ia.	366-6012
Editor	Leslie Blin	505 5th Ave.	Marion, Ia.	377-3339
Co-Editor	Helen Troxel	1138 Prairie Dr. N.E.	Cedar Rapids, Ia.	365-3451

BOARD MEMBERS

Term ends:				
Dec. 1978	Bill Myers	335 27th Ave. S.W.	Cedar Rapids, Ia.	362-7080
Dec. 1979	Don Bates	2739 2nd Ave. S.E.	Cedar Rapids, Ia.	366-6012
Dec. 1980	Skinny Lutz	Wiley Blvd & Rogers Rd. NW	Cedar Rapids, Ia.	396-6194
Past Pres.	Jim Dickens	531 30 th St. S.E.	Cedar Rapids, Ia.	363-7693

COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS

Membership	Helen Shedenhelm	2111 Chandler St. S.W.	Cedar Rapids, Ia.	365-3089
Hospitality	Rosie Richardson	Rt. 1,	Ely, Ia.	848-4040
	Frances Bates	2739 2nd Ave. S.E.	Cedar Rapids, Ia.	366-6012
Telephone & Sun shine	Ora Mae Cozart	2117 High Dr. S.E.	Cedar Rapids, Ia.	362-3471
Display	Don Bates	2739 2nd Ave. S.E.	Cedar Rapids, Ia.	366-6012
Supply	Pat Blin	505 5th Ave.	Marion, Ia.	377-3339
Librarian	Jeff Nekola	800 25th St. N.E.	Cedar Rapids, Ia.	363-9792
Historian	LaVonne Grove	700 35th St. #309	Marion, Ia.	377-3614
Field Trips	Rick Austin	2233½ 3rd Ave.	Marion, Ia.	377-4741
Resource Materials	Helen Troxel and Leslie Blin			
Pebble Pups	John and Helen Troxel, and Don and Frances Bates			

CLUB MEETINGS: Third Wednesday of each month except June, July, August, and December 7:30 P.M., R.E.C. Building in Marion -- 999 35th St.

BOARD MEETINGS: Fourth Wednesday of each month except June, July, and August -- 7:30P.M.

CLUB DUES: Due and payable January 1st of each year. Deadline is March 1st.
Regular membership -- \$6.00 per adult couple; \$4.00 per single adult; \$6.00 per family membership.
Junior or Pebble Pup Membership -- \$3.00 (A member under 18 years of age.
Associate Membership -- \$4.00 per family (associate members will receive the club bulletins but may not vote or hold office.)
 Persons joining during the year will pay dues to the nearest quarter.

Members are requested to contribute articles to be published in the bulletin. Articles should be given to the Editor by the FIRST of the month to be in that month's bulletin.

Articles may be reprinted if credit is given the author and the bulletin.

CEDAR VALLEY GEMS
CEDAR VALLEY ROCKS AND MINERALS SOCIETY
CEDAR RAPIDS, IOWA

SOUVENIR ISSUE

AUGUST 11, 1978

WELCOME to the Midwest Federation Editor's Breakfast.

At the Sheraton Motor Inn, Cedar Rapids, Iowa.

IN THE BEGINNING.....

The Cedar Valley Rocks and Minerals Society was organized in June of 1951 with 27 members. We celebrated our 25th anniversary in 1976.

Our newsletter, the Cedar Valley Gems, is 14 years old. Our first newsletter was sent out in May 1964 by our then Sec.-Treas., Alberta Cray. It was only one page, typed by Alberta. She "automatically" became the Editor in 1965 and increased the newsletter to 3 or 4 pages.

Our club emblem (on the front cover) was adopted in 1965. It was designed by Mr. and Mrs. William Julian.

Alberta held the job as Editor until Sept. 1973. Betty DeSotel was the Editor until 1977 when I became Editor. Alberta is Secretary now and types the minutes of the Sec. minutes for the newsletter so she is helping with the newsletter again.

This year we have 142 members. 12 junior members belong to the Pebble Pups Club which was organized in 1977.

Our first Rock Swap was held in July 1964
Our first Rock Show was held in April of 1965. (Believe it or not, our first Show Chairman is the same as we have this year, Norman Brown.)

IN THE BEGINNING.....

IT'S GOOD

Ah, it's good, said God, as He held the universe in His cupped hands.
Ah, it's good, with the black sky and the twinkling stars in the Milky Way.

God sneezed and the stars went tumbling about in the terrible wind.
As they bumped into each other, they caused a tinkling sound.
God laughed, and plucked a star between His fingers.

What have we here? This little ball of mud detracts from my universe.
Let's see, how can I spruce it up a bit?

God picked at it with His fingernail, and then He spat on it.
Waters filled the scratch marks, and the oceans were formed.
Boiling and tossing as God turned the ball of mud in His fingers.
His thumbnail crossed the surface, and the rivers were born.
Say, that's better, chuckled God as He pinched the mud into mountain ranges.

This will be my prize sculpture, and I shall call it Earth.
He danced with joy as He tossed His Earth from one hand to the other.

His laughter and singing boomed out through trackless space.
The seas raged, and the rivers overflowed their banks. (continued.....)

IT'S GOOD (continued....)

The wind and the rain beat at His Earth till the mountains lost their jagged peaks.
God paused in His merriment and looked at Earth again.
It's awfully dark, said He, placing a twinkle from His eye out in space.

And there was light and warmth; so the forest grew, and it was good.
I should have someone on Earth to enjoy the rivers, the mountains and forests.

By golly, I'll make myself a Rockhound, and his mate,
And God took a little pinch of rock dust and breathed on it,
And the very first Rockhounds were born,
And God said, "Ah, it's good."

(Original poem by Fred Andresen, Coopersville, Mich.)
(Taken from the Nov. 1971 Cedar Valley Gems)

THE EARTH IS A GREAT STONE BOOK

Each single layer of earth tells a story that's all its own;
The sand of the ancient beaches have changed into strata of stone.
The growths of coral and sea shells made limestones, marble and shales;
While animals, trees and vegetable growths made rocks which also tell tales.

Each stratum of what was created during one of the epochs of time.
Remains of life growths are now embedded in rocks that were once dirt and slime.

The limestone strata of the Himalayas grew in ocean waters' shoal;
The glacial markings in tropical lands are the epochs ice-cap scroll,
Siberian mammoths were buried alive, interrupting their tropic stroll;
A tropical land of the previous age, now lies ice-embalmed at the pole.

For the earth is a great stone book with strata of stone for pages;
In which we find, if we look, the living record of ancient ages.

From "Chit & Chat" via Joliet Gem Star, Ill.

The FIRST Editor's Breakfast..... "I still say it's spelled wrong"



CEDAR VALLEY GEMS---SOUVENIR ISSUE---MWF EDITOR'S BREAKFAST---AUG. 11,
1978

IN THE BEGINNING.....

HONEYMOON WITH THE ROCKS.....By Doris Frandsen(Cedar Valley Gems, Oct. 1973)

When Clary and I were married, January, 1937, we had three rooms of the old Frandsen farmhouse, (west of Cedar Falls) a Copperclad cookstove, an Allen Duplex heater, an oak library table, two oak chairs, a chest of drawers and a Jenny Lind bed. I put my suit box of crocheted doilies under the bed, and he shoved his peach crate of rocks in beside it.

That old farmhouse was so cold we had to break the dipper loose in the pail to get a drink. When I scrubbed the kitchen floor, I could have skated. If the wind blew, the curtains fluttered. So, between chore-times, he made wood and stocked it behind the stove, and I ran around the three rooms with my 49¢ dust mop looking for a speck of dust. (It wasn't that I cared that much for housework, I was just trying to keep warm.) I would dust the rungs of the two chairs, the shelves of the library table, and the spindles of the bed. Then, I would set my suit box of doilies up on the bed so I could dust the floor. (After a few times, I decided the rocks were too heavy.)

But, then they never got dusty or cobwebby, because every evening when I got out my crocheting, he would drag out his crate and caressingly lay his rocks out on the table one by one, naming them "sard agate, flint".....and relate to me when and where he found each one, some dating back to his early childhood. In a short time I became so well acquainted with his rocks that I could keep my eyes on my stitches, listen and nod.

Several times he brought neighbors or a feed salesman into the house to see his rocks. I worried about what they thought, so I would lavishly display my doilies on the chest of drawers and the library table, so they could see how practical ONE of us was. When my folks came to visit, my mother asked "Why does he keep those rocks?" And I shrugged, hoping she didn't ask HIM that. After all, I figured I had married him for better or worse, and if he wanted the rocks then I did, too. (I was also able to swallow a whole tablespoon of castor oil without making a face.)

One morning, I pushed the crate out into the lean-to, but, when he came in at noon, he put them back under the bed again without a word. When we got the Earl E. May's seed catalog, I planned a flower bed and wondered how his rocks would look around it. Good thing I did not mention it aloud or it would have broken his heart. When we butchered, I made head cheese, and I used the largest tomahawk to weight down the plate on the crock, but he brought in a piece of iron from the shed and put the tomahawk back in the crate.

One day he came in for a pencil to write "April 5, 1937" on the lid of the seeder. He said, "Come on, the oats are in, the suckers are running". So we walked down to the Cedar to fish. He kept looking to the sides - behind - on the ground and all around. "Snakes" I asked. "No, just rocks" and he found a walnut sized agate he prized more than the fish we caught. Nearly every day of spring plowing he spied another agate or another relic in the fresh furrow. He added them to the crate, when they began rolling off, he picked out a few to set on the window sill, and I was amazed to see how beautiful they were with the sun shining through them.

(continued next page,.....)

HONEYMOON ON THE ROCKS(continued.....)

Well, one hot day we went fishing at Dixieland on the Shell Rock. I couldn't keep my line from drifting into the snags so I meandered down the line to look at the pretty flowers. THEN IT HAPPENED! I will NEVER forget the sight! My first Superior Agate! There it was, cleaned by the rains, red and white bands ablaze in the sunlight, just waiting for me! What a thrill! He got ex cited too, and kept saying over and over, "Honey, YOU found an Agate!

The next week I canned peaches. I saved all the crates. And, I pinched up some egg money to buy another piece of furniture; a second-hand, glass-front oak bookcase for OUR rocks.

EARTH'S TREASURE

by
T. J. Ramsell

This earth of ours has many stones
We find within its soil.
Some have adorned the heads of Kings,
And others caused much turmoil.

There are many stones we class as gems,
Some are mineral of commerical use.
Also we find many crystal forms
And most of the rainbow hues.

The fossil forms we find, and adore,
Tells us of what has been,
So many millions of years before..
...Before the time of man.

There are many interesting things you find,
If a Reckhound's path you tread.
You really aren't some kind of nut.
And do not have holes in your head.

Instead a pleasant pastime is yours,
A hobby to follow with zest.
So if a friend wants to join with you,
Your phrase should be, "Be My Guest".

From Cedar Valley Gems, March 1971

THE FIRST ROCK TUMBLER

"If you'd take those rocks out of your mouth, Demosthenes,
maybe I could understand what you're talking about".



By Burr Shafer

CEDAR VALLEY GEMS-----SOUVENIR ISSUE-----MWF EDITOR'S BREAKFAST-AUG. 11
1978

These few paragraphs are only excerpts from the four page Board meeting report by our retiring Secretary, LaVonne Grove, in Jan. 1975. The report won her a "trophy" at the clubs "Purple Banana" Awards and Christmas Party. She recieved many comments from members. From the Jan. 1975 Cedar Valley Gems. We could call this..IN THE END.....

The Executive Board of the Cedar Valley Rocks and Minerals Society met Dec. 18, 1974 in the home of Truman and Wilma Ramsell.

(Since I became secretary of this club four years ago I have from time to time threatened to write the board meetings as they really happen. They all laughed at me--they were sure I wouldn't. But---this being my last board meeting I decided that now is the time. So, here is what really happened.)

When Merrill and I arrived the Ramsells, the Shenanhelms, the DeSotels the Steiners, and the Dickens were already there. Leslie Blin arrived Shortly thereafter. Someone said, "Norm Brown is coming?" I said, "Damn I wanted to pin a note on him for Alice."

Most members had already been in the kitchen for coffee. (Wilma had a three course meal laid out and Truman said to eat it or he'd get it in his lunch for a week. (Have you noticed how board members put on weight? Pres. Dickens said, "Shall we call this meeting to order" I said we might as well so he said, "lets start this meeting," everyone ignored him.

Larry DeSotel said that our Field Trip Chairman has resigned and also our phone committee chairman. Helen Shedenhelm said she'd take the phone committee and if they're going to split the Hospitality Committee duties up, she would like to take charge of sending cards to members who are ill. Larry said fine, you can have the job. Everyone listening agreed she can call it what she wants. There were no volunteers for the Field Trip Chairman. Leslie said maybe Robert would take the job. Someone suggested that when Robert comes to get Leslie, we can take him in the kitchen, give him coffee and food and Larry can work on him. (Yours truly went to the kitchen for coffee) Several conversations were in progress when I returned. Mary D. was giving Fran Bates the word on what a Liaison Officer was supposed to do (forgot to mention Fran Bates sneaked in there sometime) Jim Dickens did offer to be Field Trip Ch. on condition that ten percent of the members go on the first trip he planned. He plans to go to Arizona and Texas in Jan. and Feb. Everyone laughed.....

I got their attention by reading (in a very loud voice) a letter from Prof. Brian Glennister of the SUI Geology Dept.....

Jim announced that he will be absent for Jan. and Feb. board meetings because he'll be on vacation. Ray Shedenhelm moved that we not accept jim's excuse. TJ informed Ray that he was out of order because he doesn't become a board member until Jan. Fran Bates said, then the vote on the patches was illegal because she voted. I told her that's OK because the present board members all said aye.

Robert Blin arrived and was greeted profusely and taken to the kitchen for refreshments....

Truman Ramsell said he thinks that the board meetings should be more business like in 1975. Larry DeSotel said he intends to see that they are. Thirty seconds of silence was observed before members went back..

BOARD MEETING REPORT(continued....)

to their conversations.(Rots of Ruck, Barry)????????????????????!!!!!!!

Cliff Steiner said several members have asked that we have an auction in January. He asked if it should be a silent auction, that would take too long, or if it should be a live auction, which would be more fun, with E.J. auctioneering because T.J. is a comedian.(That's the way,Cliff hang in there) T.J. said that of course he wouldn't turn down a chance to show off his talent and reminded LaVonne that he is not a General. He said that all auctioneers are colonels. (So I am putting this here notice in the minutes, that T.J. is to be addressed as "Chicken Kernel T.J. Ramsell" from now on)Also T,J decided after much debate that we should limit members to three(3) items per family for auction-10% to remain in club treasury.

Pres. Dickens declared the meeting adjourned at 9:17 PM. Some members went to the basement to see T.J.'s collection of rocks. Some went to the kitchen to see Wilma's collection of food. I read more of T.J.'s poems and will some day write critique if I can find the proper words to describe them.

Helen reminded LaVonne that we hadn't discussed whether we are going to have the Christmas party at the REC next year..Someone said Rec isn't big enough.and doesn't have enough tables..Someone said bring more tables..Someone said Mohawk was better. Someone else said it was too smoky..With that I packed up and abandoned the meeting. Larry was still talking to Robert Blin.

Disrespectfully submitted,
LaVonne Grove, Secretary

In our rushing around getting ready for the Show our friend Willard Streett quoted us this poem. I hope we can keep it in mind thro the Show.

SLOW ME DOWN

Slow me down, Lord,
I'm goin too fast.

I can't see my brother
When he's walkin past.

I miss a lot of good things,
Day by day.

I don't know a blessing,
When it comes my way.

Author unknown

We're happy to see you at the Editors Breakfast and hope you enjoy your visit to Cedar Rapids and the Show.We'll be looking for you around the Show and stop by the Editor's Booth. Also come by the Pebble pit tent and chat with the Blins. We'll be working there most of the time.

Leslie Blin
Editor

Pat Blin
Artist

Bob Blin
Newsletter printer



In The Beginning...

A stylized, hand-drawn illustration of the Earth, showing continents and oceans in white and grey against a dark blue background.

**Cedar Valley Rocks and Minerals Society
Hosts the 1978**

**Midwest Federation
of Mineralogical and Geological Societies**

CONVENTION & SHOW

August 10-11-12-13, 1978

CEDAR RAPIDS, IOWA

HAWKEYE DOWNS - HIGHWAY 218 SOUTH

SHOW CHAIRMAN : Norman Brown - 319-393-7193

360 Tonga Dr.-Hiawatha, Iowa 52233

