


CEDAR VALLEY GEMS

CEDAR VALLEY
ROCKS & MINERALS SOCIETY



MAY 1979

CEDAR RAPIDS, IOWA



CEDAR VALLEY ROCKS AND MINERALS SOCIETY

CEDAR RAPIDS, IOWA

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

OFFICERS

President	Jack Bevauns	2011 Northgate Dr. N.E.	Cedar Rapids, IA	365-9365
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Editor	Leslie Blin	505 - 5th Avenue	Marion, IA	377-3339

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Dec. 1980	Skinny Lutz	Wiley Blvd & Rogers Rd. N.W.	Cedar Rapids, IA	396-6194
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Immed. Past Pres.	Larry DeSotel	247 Sussex Dr. N.E.	Cedar Rapids, IA	377-1641

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Resource Materials	Leslie Blin, Gladys Zobac & Jeff Nekola			
Pebble Pups	Sponsored by Club Members			
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Assembling & Mailing	The Blins, Jeff Nekola, Gladys Zobac and club members			

MEMBERS are requested to contribute articles to be published in the bulletin. Articles should be given to the Editor or Co-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.

CLUB MEETINGS: Third Wednesday of each month except June, July & August (we have picnics at parks) and December (2nd Saturday night is our Christmas Potluck and Party).
7:30 PM at Linn County Rural Electric Cooperative Building at 999 - 35th St., Marion, Iowa.

BOARD MEETINGS: Fourth Wednesday of each month except June, July & August.
At place announced by the President. 7:30 PM.

CLUB DUES: Due and payable January 1 of each year. Deadline if March 1.
REGULAR MEMBERSHIP - \$6.00 per adult couple; \$4.00 per single adult;
\$6.00 per family membership

JUNIOR or PEBBLE PUP - \$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.

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MAY 1979
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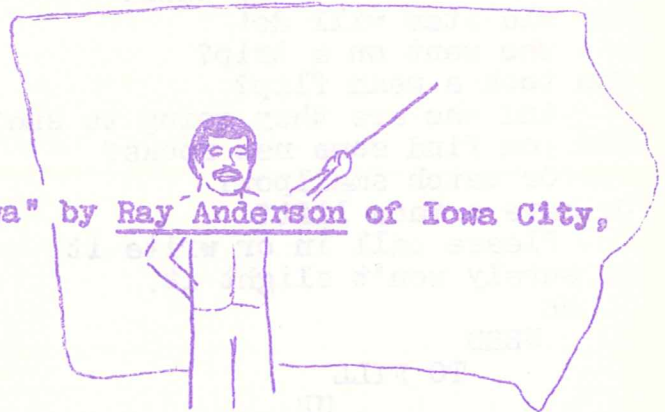
MAY MEETING

Wednesday, MAY 16, 7:30 pm

REC Building in Marion

PROGRAM - "Geological History of Iowa" by Ray Anderson of Iowa City,
Iowa Geological Survey.

GOODIES-Gladys Zobac
Gertie Myers
Alberta Cray



DISPLAY TABLE -With all this beautiful spring weather we've been having
and Shows all around everyone should have a prize specimen
to "show & tell", lets fill up the display table!

BOARD MEETING - Wednesday, May 23, 7:30 pm at the home of Don & Fran
Bates. Board members who cannot attend please contact
Pres. Jack Bevauns. ALL MEMBERS ARE WELCOME.

FIELD TRIPS??? - Local field trips are being planned but I haven't
recieved any reports so come to the meeting for de-
tails. Also the South Dakota trip over the 4th will
be discussed at the May meeting so be there!

EDITOR'S REPORT - For those of you who noticed the "April Fool" page
in the April newsletter I will try to explain the
reason for it. Club typewriter broke down on Mon.,
Gladys did the minutes on our manuel, Tues. Gladys
typed at home on her typewriter, Mike fixed the club
typewriter on Tues. but in hurrying to get finished
I made a mistake counting pages, this wasn't discover-
ed til we were running it off!! No time to type more
so we added "April Fool" to keep you from calling to
say you get a blank page.....

Please remember to get articles to me by the 1st of each month. The
newsletter must be MAILED on the 2nd Wednesday of the month. June will
be the last newsletter til Sept. issue, so get those articles in by the
FIRST of June.

Mrs. Elsie S. Matthews, Conservation and Multiple Use of Public Lands
chairman of the Rocky Mountain Federation, is gathering clippings about
conservation and related subjects from newspapers and magazines through-
out the country. In this way she feels she can be better informed about
activities in the different regions and states and plan a more vigorous
attack on the whole conservation matter.

Clippings should be sent to her at 926 Sandstone, Bartlesville, OK 74003
From the April AFMS newsletter.

HEPL KEEP AMERICA CLEAN

DON'T LITTER!!!

SORRY, NO SECRETARY'S REPORT THIS MONTH.

EDITORS LAMENT

Won't somebody please
contribute some news?
Any old item will do!
Who went on a trip?
Who took a mean flip?
And who are they going to sue?
Did you find some new rocks?
Or catch smallpox?
Or have a face lift?
Please call in or write it,
We surely won't slight it.

WE
NEED
TO FILL
UP

THIS
SPACE!!!!!!!

by the late Helen Greer from Michigan Lapidary Society via Smoke Signals

EIGHT YEARS AGO - Remember?

Minnesota Field Trip or---Happiness is Licking a Rock and Finding Bands.

May 29 about 35 of our members journeyed north to one of the many resort areas in Minnesota for a three day field trip for agates.

Those who went were Don & Neva Shaw, Frank, Bert and Bob Ehrenberger, Chuck and Vera Vyskocil, the Bob Blin family, Ray & Helen Shedenhelm, Cleo, Anne and David Grisham, Bertie and Olie Klegseth, Al & Wilma True-sdell, Carroll & Ruth Slager, Bill Betty and Mary Jo Beranek, Jim & Mary Dickens, Norman & Alice Brown, Mr. & Mrs Ron Jacobson, Larry & Betty DeSotel, Bud & Alberta Cray.

Lots and lots of agates were found. I think probably Patty and Bobby Blin got some of the largest and nicest ones, although in such a large group there were many agates collected which I didn't see. Larry and Betty DeSotel and Ron Jacobson and his wife had real good luck also.

On Sunday evening 27 of us got together at a local restaurant for a Smorgasbord. Saturday evening all of us who were camping pooled our efforts for a best-ever pot luck.

All in all, it was a fun week-end and the weatherman cooperated beautifully. By Alberta Cray, from June 1971 Cedar Valley Gems

The Black Hawk Gem and Mineral Society had a poetry contest last month:

I liked this one:
Twenty-two years and what do you get?

A house full of specimens and deeper in grit.

St. Peter don't ya call me, cause I'd never go -

"Till I finish my case for the Rock Club Show.

By Lois Fleming



From Tulip City
Conglomerate

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- MAY 20.....Griswold, Iowa (Swap) Cocklin Fish Farm, 1 1/2 mi. north on Hwy 48, Nishna Valley Rock Club
- MAY 26-28..Wheaton, Ill. (Show) Dupage County Fairgrounds, Chicago and Gems & Minerals Association
- JUNE 10....Louisiana, Mo. (Swap) and Picnic: Hickory Grove Comm. Center Pike County Mineral & Gem Society
- JUNE 9-10..Oregon, Ill. (Show & Swap) Ogle County Fairgrounds
- " 8-10..Rapid City, S.D. (Rocky Mts. Fed. Show)
- " 16-17...Iowa City, Iowa (Mini-Show & Swap) Izaak Walton Clubhouse Highway 218 South of Iowa City, Old Capitol Geological Club. Camping, Auctions, potluck, dealers, exhibits.
- " 22--24...Ottumwa, Iowa (ALL IOWA SWAP) Park Pavilion, Sac & Fox Lapidary Club, camping, Sat. potluck.
- " 23-24....Harrison, Michigan (Educational Seminar)
- JULY 14-15...Joy, Ill. (Swap) Edwards River Earth Science Club, Aledo Camping, auctions, potluck, Joy City Park, 7 miles west of Aledo, Ill.
- JULY 13-15...Dubuque, Iowa (Show) Kennedy Mall, Tri-State Gem & Mineral Society
- August 5.....Between Russel & Chariton, Iowa (Swap) Benton Co. Township Comm. Hall Chariton River Pebble Pickers
- " 2-5....Columbus, Ohio (MWF Show)
- " 11-12...Grandview, Iowa (Swap) Academy Park, Muscatine Mineral Study Club.
- " 18-19...Oakdale, Wisc. (Swap) Oakdale Park Shelter, Driftless Area Gem & Mineral Club
- Sept. 15-16...Camp Milan, Ill. (Swap) (ALL ILLINOIS ROUND-UP) Blackhawk Gem & Mineral Club
- " 8-9.....Findlay, Ohio (Show) Hancock Co. Fairgrounds, Hancock Geo. Society
- " 14-16....Greenfield, Ind. (Swap) Fairgrounds, Earth Science Club
- " 21-23....St. Louis, Mo. (Show) Greensfelder Rec. Building, McDonell Douglas Gem & Mineral Society
- Oct. 6-7.....Mendota, Ill. (Show) High School Gym Starved Rock Rockhounds

Speaking of Shows..... heres a P.S. for Alice Brown's article:

The Browns, Abernathys, DeSotels and Bates took displays to the Mason City Show April 21 & 22. They hope that more members will take displays to the neighboring shows this summer because most all of these clubs brought cases to our show. Lets all try and get a display to the Iowa City Show June 16 & 17 and any others you can on the Calendar of events.

The club has recieved the Jan. 1979 issue of IOWA GEOLOGY from the Iowa Geological Survey, if you would like to read it check it out at the May meeting.

Did you see the article about the footprints by Mary Leakey "Footprints in the Ashes of Time", in the April issue of NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC?

From Iowa City Club :

WANTED TO BUY: Trim Saw and Grinder/Polisher with water attachment
Call or write..Lowell Jaeger, Route 2, Iowa City, Iowa
52240 Phone 319-643-2898

TREASURER'S REPORT --- MARCH 1979

Bank balance 3-1-79 \$3,135.41

Receipts

Refund from State Comptroller ('78 show)	528.09
Lapcraft Co.-Table rent	60.00
Magazine Sub. (Kysilka)	13.05
1979 dues	10.00
Directory Sales	.75
Auction	88.30
	<u>\$3,835.60</u>

Disbursements -- March '79

Illowa Gem & Mineral Soc.	\$150.00
Charles City Rock & Gem	200.00
Tri-State Gem & Mineral	50.00
Mineral Study Club	100.00
Edward River Earth Science	100.00
N.E. Iowa Rock Club	100.00
Old Capitol Geologic Club	300.00
Show expenses (postage, calls, flyers, trophies Sunshine)	111.32
	13.00
D. Bates (black lights & paper for tables)	186.46
L. Blin (postage)	26.90
Lapidary Subscription	13.05
Maurice Breen (Federal tax return)	288.20
	<u>\$1,638.93</u>

Balance -- \$2,196.67

TEMPSKYA (Fern)

TEMPSKYA - a fern of the Lower Cretaceous Age. The remains found have consisted of corrugated trunklike structures. They resemble half-decayed palm axes. A cross section shows that they consist of small, scattered irregularly circle bodies (roots) enclosing round or lobed figures representing stems. These are really a many-branched single stem in which each branch, all resembling the original stem, is encased in a mass of roots. The stems and roots grew parallel and formed a large rope-like mass or a false trunk. Tempskya was first found in Russia in 1845. The first found in the United States was in 1911 in Maryland and was poor quality. In 1924, some was found in Montana and since then it has been found in all the western states except California and Washington. In 1964, it was found in North Carolina. It seems to occur along with Palm wood. Very little large specimens are available. It occurs usually as float. The growth habit and affinities of this unique fern are not yet completely understood. When the material is sliced cross grain, the pattern shows "eyes" and "horseshoe" shapes which are true stems or leaf stems. Slices with the grain show tubes or rods in a mass of small strings. The large tubes are stems & the smaller ones are roots. The porous trunk of the Tempskya was well suited to silicification. Trunks which fell into water became buried in silt & other sediments. The silica would be deposited, helped by a chemical change or acidity of the plant tissues. In time the process would preserve the Tempskya. Specimens found are light colored on the outside & dark brown or black inside. Some fine pieces have been found to contain jasper & chalcedony. These will take a high polish. While the colors range from fawn, beige & brown, some yellows, reds, cream and black have been found. This past fall, while we were in Utah, we were fortunate to find Tempskya and it was quite a thrill. The material we found cabbed well and took a good polish.

VIA CHIP AND LICK by

Laverna & John Mercer. Information taken from Lapidary Journal, 2/77
and Common Fossil plants of Western North America.

GEM AND MINERAL SHOW-----Mason City, Iowa....By Alice Brown

The Show at Mason City was presented by the Minowa Four

- (1) Austin Gem & Mineral Club-----Austin, Minn.
- (2) Charles City Rock & Gem Club-----Charles City, Iowa
- (3) Northeast Iowa Rock Club-----Sumner, Iowa
- (4) North Iowa Rock Club-----Mason City, Iowa

You could literally say this show went to the dogs. Tsk! Tsk! Well, we were grossly outnumbered. This was a fairground show and two large buildings on the grounds had been rented for a dog show. Surely there were some of every breed (unless you were looking for a Heinz 57). Certainly there were many breeds unfamiliar to me.

With a brilliant spring morning on Saturday one could see row after row of cars, vans and trailers complete with people, dogs and portable pens and grooming tables. Soon there were grooming tables set up everywhere; like rock tables at a rock swap. The dogs were placed on the tables and each animal was groomed meticulously. Just for exercise and from curiosity I set out to tour the area. Very interesting.

Like rocks, there are many, many, varieties; and if you intend to show a winner it takes a certain amount of work and polish. 'Course the rocks don't eat much and you certainly don't have to run them.

Another interesting distraction during the show was watching a large motor home get extricated from axle deep mud. It was not so interesting when it became firmly implanted at about 2:00 A.M. After rocking to and fro; otherwise known as the digging in process; I believe most of the campground became aware they were there.

Now talk about Lady Luck! The National Guard had some activities going on at another area of the fairgrounds. It seemed only another training exercise for them to hook a heavy army winch on the rear of the motor-home; they were out of the mud in minutes. "That's Uncle Sam working for YOU."

Hm, you thought this article was about a rock show??? So it is. There were many very fine cases of jewelry, some hand crafted mountings. Lots of polished slabs and unmounted cut stones, petrified wood, artifacts, fossils, agates and minerals filled the innumerable cases.

George Bullock, a dealer, has a new material called Trans-Montana. It is from Brazil. Some cuts will give you bandings as in Brazilian agates and sometimes dendrites as in Montana agates. Very pretty and interesting.

Most outstanding was Maynard Green's Australian tiger-iron and some cases of gorgeously polished Dryhead agates exhibited by Miss Jiran. (I think) Gary Svec and his father from Industrial Diamond Co. of Cedar Rapids exhibited a moon rock and a rock from David's sling.

Lapidary demonstrations were accomplished by Don Paul and Floyd Zook manned the faceting machine. The Mel Abernathy's, The Don Bates & the DeSotels, Uncle Tom's, J.J & L Rocks and Minerals, Westwood and one other dealer. Sorry, I didn't get his name, had just about anything a rockhound could want or ask for.

Our hosts were a very hospitable group and we found the show to be very enjoyable.

COOKING - SCOUTING - AND ROCK COLLECTING -By Reuben Lampe
From Ozark Earth Science News

What has cooking to do with rock collecting? As a starter, cooking is supposed to be a "do-it-yourself" project. Old time recipes said, "Take a dab of this and a pinch of that" and a good cook was supposed to know how much - mostly by experience. Times change. Our local newspaper promotes a cooking contest, or rather it is a recipe contest; and this autumn'd recipes said, "Take a can of this and a package of that". Home Cooking?

How about rock collecting? Is it done only at Shows? Do you restrict your collecting to "take a package of this and a slab of that?" Just specimens already cut and identified? Where's your "home cooking?"

Boy Scouts learn knots. I spent twenty-nine years in Scouting and I've helped many boys learn to tie knots; but not just as knots. "This knot is to fasten your mother's clothesline at the end, and here is one to repair a broken line. Now if you want to tie your dog and not have him choke, do it this way." That made it purposeful, rather than, "This is a rolling two half-hitch, and this is a square knot, and this next is a cowboy bowline." These Scouts learned uses.

Part of my Scouting was as a Merit Badge Counselor and on many different skills. One boy came to be judged on Life Saving and declared he knew all the answers in the book. I found he didn't know how to swim. Another came with a big notebook on Astronomy - and he had never looked at the stars. I insisted they know how to use - "home cooking."

One well versed Scout came for rock collecting and he certainly knew his stuff and he had been getting top grades in High School. But he flunked on one requirement - "Bring a display which the Scout has collected and identified." His specimens had price tags! I refused to accept a "package of this and a can of that".

Maybe I'm just old fashioned. To me a rock collector is one who collects rocks, one who goes and gets them and then does something with them. This applies to women too, as they have their rights to crawl through poison ivy, fall into creeks, skin their knees or twist their ankles, and have just as much fun as men do. Just so they do something with what they collect.

Clean the specimens or cut them or label them or talk about them. Prove that you're a collector. As the philosopher Gibrán said "A little knowledge that acts is worth infinitely more than much knowledge that is idle."

MORE KWAZY KWIK KWIZ - from The GRAVEL

<u>Anytown in California</u>	<u>Pebble Pups</u>
<u>City in Michigan</u>	<u>Mad race without attire</u>
<u>Raquel Welch Feature</u>	<u>Buccaneer</u>
<u>Mr. Klein's mother's sister</u>	<u>Trumpet Duet</u>
<u>New Brand of soda pop</u>	<u>Seed from lemon-like fruit</u>
<u>Prerequisite for Xmas Dinner</u>	<u>Dishonest Merchant's Creed</u>
<u>Mr. and Mrs. Z and all the little Z's</u>	<u>Song in a particular key</u>
	<u>Line-up of beauty parlor patrons</u>

SEE IF YOU CAN GUESS THESE.

Remember, the answers are play on words and even puns. (but about rocks? Yes! Answers back page.

RESOURCE BOOK CHANGES- Please write these changes and additions in your Resource book.

- Page 2 - 1978-1979 Iowa State Director - Larry DeSotel
 Assistant State Director - Lyle Waterman
 " " " - Wilbur Campbell
 " to Convention & Show - Norman Brown
 " to Uniform Rules - Dorothy Shoemaker
 " to Credentials Comm. - LaVonne Grove
- Page 21 - Under Misc. Rockhounding Addresses change Fluorescent Min. Soc. address to - Paul Morris, 713 Kentucky Street, No. 2, Vallejo, California 94590
- Page 24 - Under Alaska (continued) add - Information circular 18, "Amateur Gold Prospecting in Alaska", Division of Geological and Geophysical Survey, Box 80007, College, Alaska 99701
- Page 32 - Under Georgia, State Recreation Info. add - Lanny Williams, Tourist Division, Dept. FC, P.O. Box 38097, Atlanta, Georgia 30334
- Page 33 - Under Idaho, Rockhound Info (free) add - ask for "Gemstone Guide" and also "Idaho Recreation Guide" 50¢ (free)
- Page 33 - Under Idaho (BLM) write above address there - U.S. Dept. of the Interior, Bureau of Land Management, Salmon District, P.O. Box 430, Salmon, Idaho 83467
- Page 47 - Under Montana, State Rec. Info add - Montana Travel Promotion Unit, Helena, Montana 59601
- Page 43 - Under Massachusetts, Rockhound Info add - Publications for Mass, R.I. and Conn. contact Helen Troxel
- Page 45 - Under Minn., Rockhound Info, correct address to read - "Tourism Division, Dept. Of Ec. Dev., Cedar St., St. Paul, Minn., 55401 New 1979 book available "Rocks and Minerals of Minn." free
- Page 48 - Under Montana, Rockhound Info, add Marv's Rock shop, Motel & Conoco, Box 60, Alder, Montana 59710 (842-5297) Will tell where to go for Sapphires.
- Page 50 - Under Nevada, Geo. Surveys, add - "Placer Mining in Nevada" Price \$3.00. Nevada Bureau of Mines, Room 310, Scrugham Engineering, U. of Nevada, Reno, Nevada 89557
- Page 51 - Under Nevada, Rockhounding Info, add "Nevada Rockhounding" above address given.
- Page 53 - Under New York, State Rec., add "Gems of New York" above the address given.
- Page 54 - Under N.C., Rockhound Info add - "North Carolina Gems" above address given and add P.O. Box 27678 to it and correct zip to 27611
- Page 55 - Under New York add - Troxels " Lets Hunt for Herkimer Diamonds "
- Page 60 - Under Oregon, Rockhound Info, add - "Oregon Rocks, Fossils and Minerals" above address given.
- Page 62 - Under S.C., State Rec Info, add "South Carolina Minerals and Gems" above address given.
- Page 63 - Under S.D., Rockhound Info. add "S.D. Rockhound Guide", Dept. of Economic & Tourism Dev., 423 East Capitol, Pierre, S.D. 57501
- Page 69 - Under Washington, Rockhound Info. add "Handbook of Gold Prospectors in Washington" (Info. Circular # 57) Dept. of Natural Resources, Div. of Geological & Earth Res., Olympia, Washington, 98504 - Price \$1.50.
- Page 71 - Under Wyoming, Rockhound Info. add "Minerals & Rocks of Wyoming" Price - \$2.00.

IRON ORE DEPOSIT FOUND IN IOWA

A 'fairly rich' iron ore deposit has been discovered in northwest Iowa. State Geologist Stanley C. Grant reports that mineralogical studies are being conducted on a core sample which indicates a 90 feet thick vein located 540 feet below the earth's surface. Grant believes there are some 'significant resources' of lead and zinc in that area also. Gravity and aeromagnetic studies made in the 1960's brought out some mining companies to check a number of areas where anomalies, (something irregular) exist.

"They saw this big trench, the Midcontinent gravity anomaly. It's a huge trench that goes down through the State of Iowa and comes out at Nebraska and drops on down to Oklahoma. It's a fossil-rift valley," Grant said.

Grant thinks Iowa's four northern tiers of counties have 'real mineral potential' for lead, zinc iron and maybe copper. He specifically singled out the Waterloo area as having potential for minerals.

From an article by Harrison Weber -- Waterloo Courier - 1-25-79 via Rock Talk

MODEST WEIGHT LOSS PLAN

If you drive from the north central Iowa town of Blairsburg 40 miles east to Wellsburg, your weight will drop about half an ounce. Unfortunately, if you return to Blairsburg, you'll gain it back. The weight fluctuation results from the Mid-Continent Gravity Anomaly, according to Robert Carmichael, Associate Professor of geology at the University of Iowa.

He says that more than a billion years ago the North American continent tried unsuccessfully to slip apart along a seam about 60 miles wide and 600 miles long from Lake Superior southwest through Minnesota, Iowa, and into Nebraska. Massive amounts of volcanic rock were forced into the seam, he says, leaving a 'great scar' that now begins a few thousand feet beneath the surface and extends thousands of feet farther down. Because the volcanic rock is denser than surrounding rock, it exerts a greater gravity pull; hence, you weigh more than normal when standing over it. Along the edges of the seam are troughs where less dense sedimentary rock filled in. Over those buried troughs, you weigh less than normal. Gravity is measured in milligals. The average gravitational force at the earth's surface is 980,000 milligals. Around Wellsburg, the gravitational force is 95 milligals below average. Around Blairsburg, it's 65 milligals above average.

The 160-milligal variation accounts for a half-ounce weight loss for a 180-pound person who travels from Blairsburg to Wellsburg. A heavier person would lose slightly more, a lighter person, slightly less. A good javelin throw would fly half an inch farther in Wellsburg than in Blairsburg according to Carmichael.

Nowhere else in North America does the gravity force change that much in so short a distance, Carmichael says. He is studying the ancient rift in the earth's crust to gain a greater ability to predict where earthquakes might occur.

From University of Iowa Spectator, December 1978 -- via Rock Talk.

The following article was written for "The Limestone Rattler" by Wm. (Bill) McConnell of the Madison County Rockhounds, Inc., Winterset, Iowa

At the February meeting of the Madison County Rock Club someone said something about Indians, and I said something about what I am now going to write about, and was asked to tell what I had seen in an article for the Rattler.

I was driving in the vicinity just North of Marshal, Missouri, on Highway 41, with very little reason if any for being there and saw this sign Van Meter State

(continued from previous page)

Park and was curious because of the same name as a near-by town here in Iowa so drove in. Upon entering the Park, there was a tiny emetery with a high well-constructed stone wall around it. A bronze placque stated it was the family cemetery of the Van Meter family who had come down from the North to help a tribe of near-by Indians who were having more problems than they could handle. I stayed around there quite a while and then drove up the hill a ways to the picnic and camping area and was directed on up to the top of the ridge where an Indian Village was being uncovered by a group of college students.

An old barn considered to be one of the first built had been burned down and in cleaning up the debris a flat stone, four or five feet across, was uncovered. In digging on down another foot or so about five flat stones standing sixteen or so inches high were uncovered and they were evenly spaced around this large stone. Locating the bottom of these stones and then spreading outward, a ring of old bones of game animals were found, and this was the wall of their teepee or whatever it was called. Further probing and digging had located several other places just like the first one, evenly spaced and in a straight line. Stone blades for knives were found with what had been stag horn handles, and some still looked like stag horns. It was preserved so well. The knife blades were a lot more true and sharper than one would think possible to get a piece of stone. Large bones of deer, etc., with scars on them where they had been hit by the knives in getting off the flesh were found. These were a tribe called Mississippian; they were unusually tall people. The skeleton remains of a woman in the grave site in a building just built showed here with all her working tools buried with her (bone needles, knives, etc.) and it was six feet and one inch tall, perfectly preserved and undisturbed.

Back to their lodging sites -- it was about five feet from ground surface to the floor of where they lived. I wonder - did they go that much below the ground to build or did the land raise up that much in the time between then and now?

SCIENTISTS FIND NEW TYPE OF ROCK IN METEORITE FOUND IN ANTARCTICA

Washington, D.C. (AP). A meteorite found in antarctica last winter has been identified as the first of an entirely new class of space rock, the National Science Foundation announced recently. The rare meteorite, one of hundreds of well-preserved samples recovered by a U.S.-Japanese expedition, is a type called achondrite. Samples of this general type comprise only about seven percent of all known meteorites. Dr. Brian Mason, a curator in the Smithsonian Institution's Mineral Sciences Department, said the new meteorite has features in common with two classes of achondrites called chassignite and diagenite. "In its mineralogy, the specimen I examined shows resemblances to these two classes, but its overall composition is significantly different," said Mason.

Meteorites are chunks of stony or metallic material from space that survive the searing trip through earth's atmosphere to strike the surface. Scientists believe they are remnants of the solar system's formation 4.5 billion years ago and may provide valuable clues to the origin of the planets. Achondrites bear a closer resemblance to earth rocks, particularly igneous types, than all other meteorites. The new specimen Mason examined is composed of 55 percent olivine, 35 percent pyroxene and eight percent maskelynite. Olivine and pyroxene are iron-magnesium silicates found extensively in earth rocks. Maskelynite is a form of the glassy mineral feldspar. Mason said the conversion of feldspar to maskelynite had to have occurred in space under great pressures from a tremendous shock. He speculated that the shock must have come from the breakup of the meteorite from a parent body, probably one of the asteroids in a belt between Mars and Jupiter. The meteorites found in Antarctica on the west side of McMurdo Sound are thought to be the cleanest, best preserved specimens ever recovered. The samples were preserved under the ideal conditions of

(continued from previous page)

constant cold and extremely dry air, which protected against erosion and chemical reactions that destroy meteorites elsewhere. The new achondrite is the second extremely rare meteorite fragment to be classified this summer from the Antarctic cache. In June 1978 experts identified a Type II carbonaceous chondrite, one of only about 16 known to exist in the world's collection of several thousand meteorites.

From Des Moines Register and given to The Nishna Valley Grindstone by
Harvey Cocklin

THE SOLAR ECLIPSE

February 26, 1979 was the date of a spectacular show--the day of the total eclipse in the Northwest U.S. and Canada; and 83% total in Cedar Rapids. I stayed outdoors with it from start to finish except to watch the live TV coverage from Helena, Montana. I was outdoors just before the start and made my own observations during the entire time, not only of the progress of the eclipse, but also of other happenings. The light outdoors became more and more eerie as the eclipse progressed. Shadows of branches and trees on the snow and on the back of the house became more and more blurred. On the house, the shadows from branches made a sort of double image, and in appearance looked like branches of birch trees.

There was no glare from the sun on the snow. It was possible to look at the snow without having to turn away from the glare that would ordinarily be there. In the house (when I came in to get warmed up or watch live coverage from the northwest U.S. on TV), it proceeded to get darker and darker as though the sun was setting; this in spite of the fact that we have a large picture window to the south and two bedrooms with south windows where the sunlight pours in on winter days. Concerning temperature, I noted a drop of two degrees at the 83% peak.

Before maximum coverage here in Cedar Rapids, watching the total eclipse on TV live from Helena was a thrilling experience. At the time of totality, the TV screen turned completely dark--TV newsmen in front of the camera could not be seen and the lights in Helena could be seen coming on. A large gathering of people, many grouped around campfires, on a mountain in Montana, cheered when the sun became totally covered. Several people were interviewed and expressed how thrilled they were to have witnessed this spectacular show. It was a never-to-be-forgotten experience to see the diamond ring effect, "Bailey's Beads" and the Corona--awe-inspiring phenomena that occur during a total eclipse. Newsmen covering the "show" were also thrilled by these events.

Even 83% of totality is awe-inspiring. I have watched the partial eclipses of 1932 (which was 70%), 1954 and 1972. These all occurred in the summer months. It was interesting to note the progress of those of '54 and '72 by watching patterns of light on the side of the house made by the sun shining through openings amongst the leaves in the trees. Ordinarily, these are circular patches of light, but during an eclipse the pattern becomes a crescent equal to the amount of sun left uncovered by the moon. I did not attempt too hard to locate the planet Venus during this 1979 eclipse, though I have tracked it all day even on sunny, cloudless days since it is visible during daylight hours at the right time of year.

By being in the back yard all morning on February 26th, where the birds feed all day at the feeders at the house, I was really disturbing them. I did not see any attempt by these birds to roost during the eclipse. However, the dogs in the neighborhood, of which there are many, barked continuously that morning; since they do a great deal of barking anyway, it would be hard to say if it was just one of those barking days or if they were really unusually "disturbed."

by Gladys Zebac

Midwest Federations NEWSLETTER

Published montly except July and August as a service to member clubs. All news, articles, subscription orders and requests for information should be sent to the Editor, Haydon Peterson, Parrot Printing, 2125 Forest Ave., Des Moines, Iowa 50311

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May 1979 - Issue No. 195

1979 DIRECTORY DISTRIBUTED: YOURS SHOULD HAVE BEEN RECEIVED

The 1979 MWF Directory has been completed and by now your club should have their two free copies. These are sent to the person designated on the information sheet to receive Federation Mail. It is up to that person to see that the Directories are given to the right people or placed in the club library or otherwise made available to the club members.

Our thanks to all the people who filled out and sent in information forms! A special thanks to those who sent them in early, and those who completely spelled out city names (sometimes a common local abbreviation can be confusing).

Please check your club's listing in the green pages, your show/event listing in the Calender, and your MWF committee listing -- if it is not correct, please let me know. Diane Dare, Directory Chairman, 747 E. Blackford Ave., Evansville, IN 47713.

CORRECTIONS FOR THE 1979 DIRECTORY:

The following information was received after the Directory went to press.

CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE:

Mrs. Esther (Robert) Mullaly, 30018 Dawson St., Garden City, MI. 48135
Asst. Mrs. Ethel Becker, 558 Southbrook Dr., Kirkwood, MO. 63122
Asst. Mrs. Iris (Dean) Riely, 7030 Brantford Rd., Dayton, OH 45414
Asst. Miss Susan Jolene Taylor, 910 New Hampshire St., Lincoln, NE. 68508

JUNIOR ACTIVITIES: Correct Zip for Virginia Popp is 60618

LONG RANGE PLANNING: Chairman is Howard Taylor. Assts. are Hazel Kuntz, and Past President Paul Good, 1029 Reder Rd., Griffith, IN. 46319

PROGRAM REQUESTS: Correct Zip for Ervin Moser is 49639

BOUNDARY COMMITTEE: Calvin George, 5 - S. 144 Webster, Naperville, IL. 60540

NOMINATING COMMITTEE: Mark Harris, 607 Marion Drive, Columbia, MO 65201

MIDWEST SHOW PROMISES TO BE OUTSTANDING

The host clubs of the Midwest Convention, scheduled for the Columbus, Ohio Veterans Memorial Auditorium, August 2-5 have made some of the most extensive, original and excellent plans ever made for a top flight show. The Columbus Rock and Mineral Society, the Good Earth Mineral Society and the Rockwell International Gem and Mineral Club have spared no effort or expense in preparing for one of the most complete and memorable shows ever seen.

Hundreds of displays are expected, including exhibits from many major museums and universities, and to spur competition there are innovative new classes. Cash awards will be made for the best single mineral, and fossil, and artifact, all self collected, and for the best single piece of hand crafted jewelry, and original lapidary work. Qualified and experienced judges are assured for all classes. The speakers list reads like the Who's Who of the twin worlds of earth science and lapidary art. Continuous programs will include movies, slides, lectures, panel discussions, seminars

and demonstrations. Topics covered will be varied and comprehensive, from the oldest in Ohio archeology finds to the newest fake gems, from well known fossils to the mysteries of radiation, from field trips to metalcraft. No special interest has been neglected.

Auctions, swaps, meetings, and a banquet with an important and entertaining speaker are also on the crowded 4 day schedule. Even the printed souvenir programs are of exceptional interest.

Columbus is the beautiful Capital of Ohio, situated on the Scioto and Olentangy Rivers. Accomodations of all price ranges are readily accessible. For more information please write Show Chairman Carlton Davis, 2452 Buckley Dr., Columbus, Ohio 43220.

JERRY HUBER

We have just learned of the death of Jerry Huber, Hoyt Lakes, Minn. Jerry served as Assistant State Representative for Minnesota during 1965-66. He was the Midwest Treasurer two years, 1966-67 and 1967-68.

New program

"The Fossil Story" is the name of our newest program; with 59 slides depicting fossils, locations, basics on their history. The author, Arlene Buehler, the immediate past Michigan State Director, says she uses this with her high school talks, but many adults would enjoy this also. An excellent follow up would be "Michigan Alpena County Fossils - 89 slides."

Send your request for this program, and all others, to Donald Stinnett, 29462 Aspen Drive, Flat Rock, MI 48134. Remember, there is no charge for the use of any Midwest program.

SCHOLARSHIP FOUNDATION SELECTS HONORARY AWARD WINNER FOR MIDWEST

The AFMS Scholarship Foundation has selected Dr. Dwayne D. Stone of Marietta College, Ohio as the Honorary Award Winner from the Midwest Federation for the year. There will be ten scholarships awarded this year to students working on advanced degrees in one of the Earth Sciences. It will be Dr. Stone's responsibility to select the three who will be chosen from this federation's territory. Fossil exhibitors and collectors are well aware of the great contribution to our hobby that Dr. Stone has made since he started judging competitive exhibits in 1967. His wideranging knowledge and meticulous attention to detail has helped every serious collector in the federation.

NEW TROPHIES FOR MIDWEST FEDERATION EXHIBITORS

At the Midwest Federation Show this August in Columbus, Ohio there will be several new trophies available to be earned by competitive exhibitors. All of the trophies awarded by the AFMS will have Midwest counterparts. See Part IV page 53 of the Uniform Rules Book for a listing of these 25 categories. In addition we will continue to have the Midwest trophies for Self-collected Fossils as well as one for Archeology.

DR. ELLWOOD T. REES ACTING AFMS PRESIDENT

Dr. Ellwood T. Rees, Executive Vice President of the AFMS, has assumed the duty of Acting President of AFMS. Dr. Rees lives in Twin Falls, Idaho, with his wife 'Freddie' and is well known in the Federation. He is well qualified to assume this position. He has contacted the present committee chairman and has requested they continue to serve in their various capacities.

SCHOLARSHIP

In order to save time and errors, our Midwest Scholarship Chairman, Katharine Steinbrenner, would appreciate it when you send scholarship checks or write for scholarship information that you be sure to include the name of your club and the number of members in your club. Address all your correspondence and send all your checks directly to Katharine Steinbrenner, 2813 Patricia Drive, Des Moines, Iowa 50322

NOTES FROM THE SUPPLY CHAIRMAN

The AFMS approved Reference List of Lapidary Material Names, better known as "Gem List", Fourth Edition, 1978, off-white in color, is available at a tentative price of 75c, plus postage and handling. Postage on a single copy is 20c, so the price of one copy would be 95c total. However, seven copies can be mailed to a single address for 50c. Thus, seven copies would be \$5.75.

The 1977 edition of the Uniform Rules, blue cover, are available free. Four copies can be mailed to a single address for a 50c postage and handling charge. These books are not valid after December 31, 1979.

The AFMS Exhibitors Manual is now out of print. This manual is to be revised and reprinted at some later date.

The above items can be ordered from Clinton Heckert, 725 Stewart Ave., Elgin, IL 60120. Please include check with order in the correct amount. Do not ask for shipments in July as Clinton is on vacation.

ELLIS COURTER, AFMS PRESIDENT, DIES

Ellis W. Courter, our American Federation President, died March 21 in Providence Hospital, Southfield, Mich. Ellis suffered a heart attack last summer in Butte, Montana while on a vacation trip that was to take him to Pleasanton, Calif. for the AFMS annual convention in July. After several weeks hospitalization in Butte he returned home. However, his heart condition made it impossible for him to survive when he contracted pneumonia.

Ellis is survived by his wife Clara, a daughter Kay Borough, of near Detroit, a son Gerald W. of Georgia, and nine grandchildren.

He served as President of the Michigan Mineralogical Society for two years and was editor of the official publication of that society, "The Conglomerate" for ten years. He served the Midwest Federation in several capacities and was elected its President in 1968. He became a Regional Vice President of the AFMS in 1974 and progressed through the chairs to his election as its President in 1978.

PICK AND DOP STICK PUBLICATION

The Pick and Dop Stick of Chicago published a useful list of mineral publications available for Illinois and its neighbor states, taken from the most helpful nationwide list made by A.E. Smith and D.R. Cook for the January-February Mineralogical Record.

WITH OUR MEMBERS

I recieved word that VAL BARTA has had an eye transplant. He was in the hospital for quite a long time but is home now and can see some. He also said he misses the club meetings and hopes he can attend again.

HELEN TROXEL isn't feeling very well, arthritis she says. Not bedfast but cant' get out and about much and would appreciate calls from members.

MERRILL & LAVONNE GROVE are finally home from Ariz. Is it warm enough for you here today? The temperature is 85° as I type this, How hot do you like it? Welcome Home!

GERRY KYSILKA has retired from her job at Farmers State Bank after working there 15 years. She had her traveling plans so hope she is having a good time. Is it true she left you home, Joe?

DON SHAW got home from the hospital for 2 days, got sick and is back in St. Lukes again, Room 315. Hope you're feeling better and can get back home again soon, Don.

I haven't had much news about members this month, everyone must be busy or rock hunting, well anyway I hope.

Here's the WINNER of the poetry contest at the Waterloo, Blackhawk Gem & Mineral Club:

IT'S NEVER TOO LATE

I joined Bob Jenk's lapidary class,

At the age of fifty-nine.

It seemed the time would quickly pass

And our projects turned out fine.

But had I known it was such fun

To turn out gems one by one,

I would have started long before

To enjoy our hobby more.

So, in this poem, I'd like to state,

If you want to learn, it's never too late.

- Lillian Knipp

Leslie, Gladys, Robert, Pat, Jeff & Bob

LITHOGRAPH CITY..from IOWA INSIDE OUT by Herb Hake

via ROCK TALK

In 1910, a geologist discovered some unusual stone along the Cedar River in the northern part of Floyd County, Iowa. Laboratory tests convinced him that it was the same kind of porous limestone which was believed to exist only in Bavaria. Lithography, the method of printing pictures from stone, had originated in Europe, but it had been adopted in America to replace the cumbersome process of printing pictures from woodcuts or steel engravings. In 1914, the geologist decided to build a town where he could prepare and market the Iowa stone for lithograph work. World War I had begun in Europe, and Bavarian stone could not be imported at any price. By 1915, a thriving community had been built, fourteen miles northwest of Charles City, and the stone polishing plant was in full operation.

But a stroke of fate suddenly cut off the bright hopes of Lithograph City. Shortly after the town began to prosper, printers discovered that zinc and copper could be used for printing pictures by a process known as photoengraving. The demand for lithograph stone collapsed, and Lithograph City died completely. Its existence was so brief that it didn't even have time to establish a post office.

There is only an empty field on the site of Lithograph City today. The town was literally plowed under.

Answers-Calcite, Flint, cleavage, antileite, sodalite, -zeon, eard, streak, pyrite, horn- blende, limestone, steel, minor, mavelite.

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