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

MAY 1988 . VOLUME 15 ISSUE 9
PAGE 1

May 18, 1988, Wednesday - 7:15 P.M. Cedar Valley Rocks & Minerals Society will meet at the Linn County Historical Museum at 101 - 8th Ave. S.E.

Our May meeting is our annual "Almost Anything Goes Auction." In other words, YOU bring IT, Larry will sell IT. IT may be a house plant, books, magazines, rocks, jewelry, fossils, bric-a-brac, whatnots, goodies from your kitchen.

HOST and HOSTESSES will be Dick & Millie Smouse and Sue Houg.

MUSEUM MEETING ROOM - A Committee is studying the possibility of a fee for use of the meeting room. It seems there are several groups meeting at the Museum which has increased the use of heating/cooling and lights. It looks like, if it goes through, the fee will be around \$10 per meeting. Nothing is settled yet. I did point out that we had purchased several show cases which should pay our way for a while. I had hoped we would be doing enough volunteer work to reciprocate for our space, and it may be that will be the case - time will tell.

OLD CAPITOL MEETING - Several members from Cedar Valley journeyed to Coralville to visit the Old Capitol Geological Club for their April meeting. Dr Brian Glennister gave a fine, interesting and informative program. His presentation included slides of Conklin Quarry.

Dr. Glennister extended an invitation to the members of each of our clubs to come to the University for an indoor field trip. Hopefully we can schedule something for late fall - when outdoor field trips are done.

FIELD TRIP - Cedar Valley members were invited to join the Old Capitol Club on a field trip to the Conklin Quarry May 1. I had really planned to go, but at the last minute, I had to cancel. I hear there were some fabulous finds - trilobites, crinoids and more! It was such a beautiful day, too. Well, maybe next time.

CONKLIN QUARRY FIELD TRIP - by Sharon Sonnleitner

Seven cars met at the entrance to Conklin Quarry at 9:00 A.M. on May 1. Bill Mitchell, who arranged the field trip, announced that we could hunt until 3 and Bill, Diane Greer, Gladys Wanek, Marv Houg, Pappe Phillips, Dale, Jeff and Joey Stout, and the Sonnleitner family were off in a cloud of dust.

The Stouts found a nice Phacopa soon after we started hunting. People spread to all parts of the quarry in search of treasures. By noon the Stouts, Marv and Pappe were working on extracting two crinoid finds. Millerite and coral heads were gathered and Marv and I found several more trilobites. A couple of the cars left shortly after noon, but four of us persevered until 2:30, when we decided to try our luck at Fairfax.

Bill, Marv, Pappe, and we headed north and invaded the Fairfax Quarry. The four guys went up a steep incline to hunt at the top of the quarry, while the kids and I checked out a pile of nontrilobite-bearing rock. After we found some pyrite and the ever-popular clay, I labored up the hill to see what the guys were finding. There they were sitting about 10-15 feet apart in a roughly square formation all facing east, digging in the rocks, looking like prospectors who had staked their claims. We did end up finding several trilobites before Bill and we left about 5. Marv and Pappe probably stayed until dark, so you'll have to ask them what else they found.

HERE AND THERE WITH OUR MEMBERS AND FRIENDS

Please add the following names to your membership books:

Bill Husted, R.R., Shellsburg, Iowa 52332 - Phone - 436-2074

Rick & Chris Austin, Ian and Aaron, 440 - 10th St., Marion, Ia 52302 377-4741 Also, there were four names listed in the April bulletin which you will want to list in your book in order to keep it up to date.

IN MEMORIAM

HOWARD "BABE" BARNETT - March 3, 1909 - May 3, 1988

Babe was a long-time member of Cedar Valley Rocks and Minerals. He had served on several committees, chaired the gold panning demonstration at the show for several years, and often gave a program at club meetings. Due to health reasons, Babe had not been able to attend meetings for a year or two.

When Babe was not busy with the gold panning at the show, he liked to take his harmonica out of his pocket and play a little tune. He especially liked to show the children how to play it. He felt that it was an instrument that was being overlooked. He encouraged the kids to try it.

that was being overlooked. He encouraged the kids to try it.

Babe was active in many organizations. He will be greatly missed by his

family and friends.

"God hath not promised skies always blue, Flower-strewn pathways all our lives through. God hath not promised sun without rain, Joy without sorrow, peace without pain. God hath not promised we shall not know Toil and temptation, trouble and woe. He hath not told us we shall not bear Many a burden, many a care. But God hath promised strength for the day, Rest for the laborer, light for the way, Grace for the trials, help from above, Unfailing sympathy, undying love."

John Ramsell, the elder son of Truman and Wilma, sent me a copy of the poems Truman had written. From time to time we will share one of them with you.

THE ROCK COLLECTION

I sit here and look around the room In the basement of our home Where I have mounted on the walls Cabinets to house our stones.

I think of all the wonderful things therein That Nature has formed and we've found Or purchased or traded to acquire. They all help our collection to abound.

There's crystals and minerals and metals, too, And stones that don't look like much, Dinosaur bone and lava rocks, Plant and animal fossils and such.

They represent many hours of joy We've had hunting in areas around, The many friends you meet in the search And the fun when a new rock you've found.

By Truman J. Ramsell

OLD CEDAR VALLEY BULLETINS - While digging in the attic for something for the museum rummage sale, I came across some <u>older</u> bulletins and some really ancient pages which had seemed too good to throw away. Still good articles. I will bring those to the May meeting. First come first served. I thought

I had cleaned them all out for handouts at the show. These have been buried for a few years.

MID AMERICA PALEONTOLOGY SOCIETY - EXPO 1988

Wow! It was three days long and yet it seemed so very short. Seemed like one day it started and before you knew it, it was over. We saw fossils such as we had never seen before. Fabulous!!!... I wish you could have seen the beautiful fossil crabs from Italy. Just beautiful. Also the nautiloids from Montana and South Dakota. Trilobites from everywhere, and of course, Dennis Kingery from Wyoming had a fossil frog there that had all of us offering to baby sit for, or otherwise provide a home for, this "little feller." Just unbelievable.

And there were all of our friends whom we see only once or twice a year. Just not enough time to visit with everyone and look at fossils, too.

Members from Cedar Valley who attended were Marv and Sue Houg, Sharon Sonnleitner, Bud and Alberta Cray, Pappe Phillips, Dale and Jeff Stout.

I hope that someday each of you will get a chance to see EXPO. There were people there from foreign countries, California, Texas, New York, Canada and almost every state in between.

SECRETARY'S REPORT

The April 20, 1988, meeting of the Cedar Valley Rocks and Minerals Society was called to order by President Marv Houg at 7:15 P.M. at the Linn County Historical Museum, Cedar Rapids, Iowa.

Thirty-nine members and three guests were present.

Larry DeSotel moved that the Secretary's minutes be approved as published. John Hotz seconded and the motion carried.

Treasurer Dale Stout reported on the proceeds of the Show and auction. The balance in checking is \$757.47. Pappe Phillips moved that the treasurer's report be accepted. Bud Cray seconded and the motion carried.

Following discussion of how much to give for scholarships, Alberta Cray moved that we give \$500 each to Cornell and the University of Iowa. Betty DeSotel seconded and the motion carried.

Adrian Anderson thanked the club for the donation to the Historical Museum of \$60 worth of cases purchased from the auction. He then introduced the speaker, Dirk Mikusec, who presented a program on his archaeological work along the proposed Highway 61 route.

The meeting recessed at 7:35 for the program and reconvened at 8:20. CORRESPONDENCE: Larry DeSotel read a letter announcing an auction. SHOW COMMITTEE: Show Chairman Sharon Sonnleitner reported the paid attendance at over 1100 and thanked all the club members who worked so hard to make the show a success. She also asked for written reports from the various chairmen to use for future reference.

In response to a question of how many people attended the Show, both paid and unpaid, it was suggested that in the future we keep track of all who attend for our own information, perhaps by having leaders sign a book listing the number of kids they brought or by giving different tickets to kids and having special door prizes for kids. Other suggestions included better explanation of what the Show is about for new members, putting "silent auction on the flyers, and getting flyers out earlier.

Marv Houg presented possible dates for next year's Show. Larry DeSotel moved we hold the Show March 18-19, 1989. Bud Cray seconded and the motion carried.

FIELD TRIPS: Marv Houg announced the following field trips: April 24 -- University of Iowa Museum of Natural History trip to New London to hunt geodes May 1 - Iowa City Club-sponsored trip to Conklin Quarry in Coralville to hunt Millerite and fossils. Brian Glennister will speak about the quarry at the Iowa City Club's meeting April 28.

June 11 - Fairfax Quarry to hunt trilobites and other fossils with the Elgin, Illinois. club.

ANNOUNCEMENTS: Betty DeSotel announced that the scholarship auction will be held at the May meeting.

Larry DeSotel moved that we adjourn. Angela Hotz seconded. The motion carried with adjournment at 8:50.

Respectfully submitted, Sharon Sonnleitner, Secretary

AUCTION REPORT

Sunday, April 17, a doubleheader auction was held to dispose of the lifetime collections of Truman Ramsell and Rev. Raymon Ferguson. We had a very good turn-out with persons from all around Iowa coming to buy some of the goodies available.

The club purchased a number of the cases which had been Truman's and which they donated to the museum.

Cookies, coffee and punch were served. Lots of hard work went into hauling and setting up the rocks for this auction. I think it is just great the way our club works together. Thanks guys.

MAIL DELIVERY - We all complain about poor service, late deliveries, etc. Here's one for the books. I took the April issue of our Newsletter to the Post Office (Main P.O.) at ll:00 P.M. on a Monday night. Thursday of the same week, I found the News Grinder, Bulletin of the Illowa Gem and Mineral Society in my mailbox -- carrying the article about the double header auction. I still find it difficult to believe. Our special thanks to Shirley Coven, editor of the News Grinder.

MUSEUM RUMMAGE - Several of the members are pooling their efforts for a rummage sale to be held at the Recreation Hall at the Bali Hai Trailer Courts in Hiawatha. The rummage will be open Friday and Saturday, May 13 and 14. If you have some items you wish to donate, give me a call or take them to Bali Hai. The rummage items are currently stored at the museum. We will be moving into the Recreation Center on Thursday evening, the 12th.

SUMMER POTLUCKS - Remember our May meeting is our last indoor meeting until September. We will have a potluck June 15 at the Overlook Pavilion, Ellis Park; Shawnee Pavilion, Shawnee Park on July 20; the Lagoon Pavilion at Noelridge Park on August 17. We will have more about that in the June Bulletin. Mark your calendars now and save these dates.

COMING EVENTS

PRAIRIE - WILDFLOWER WALK - Sorry I don't have the particulars on this event. Mr. Crossman, who was at the Fossil Expo, and who went with us on some of the events a couple summers ago when we went north to camp in Stark's farmyard near Riceville, Iowa, told Sue Houg about a wildflower walk at the prairie - Crossman's Prairie. There would possibly be an opportunity to do some hunting also. I do not know what the hours are. Perhaps when Mary Stark reads this I will hear from her. If you are interested, let me know and I will pass the information to you as soon as I get it.

AUCTION - There will be an auction June 3rd at 6:00 P.M. in Dysart. This is the Ed Hix estate. You will be getting more information on this just a bit later. Marv says there is lots of machinery which was owned by Ed and another fellow together. There will be lots of rocks. Ed had one of the finest collections of Pint's Quarry; also lots of lapidary materials.

FOR SALE - Dr. Douglas Heath has for sale his father's case which is like some of our club cases and those owned by a number of our members. If you are interested call Dr. Heath at 377-1043. Clinic is at 585-5th Ave. Marion.

STICKS AND SHAPS

- May 21-22 Wisconsin Geological Society -SHOW- Hart Park, 7300 W. Chestnut St., Wauwatos, Wis. Sat. 10-6; Sun. 10-5. (entrance on 72nd and State St.)
- May 28, 29 and 30 -Chicagoland Gem & Mineral SHOW, Dupage County Fairgrounds, 2015 Manchester Road, Wheaton, Ill. Retail and wholesale dealers, also lots of demonstrating dealers Sat. 10-7; Sun. 10-7; Man. 10-5/ Camping on premises, swapping
- June 4 -Rockwood Gem and Mineral Soc. SWAP -, Schroeder Park, Manchester, Mo. Buy-Sell & Trade. Free Camping. 9 6
- June 10,11 & 12 Lawrence County Rock Club SWAP 4H Fairgrounds, Bedford, Indiana (see last months bulletin
- June 17, 18 19 Central Dakota Gem & Mineral Soc. hosts Rocky Mountain Federation of Mineralogical Soc., Bismarck Civic Center, Sixth St. & Sweet Ave., Bismarck, N. Dak. Fri. 10-8; Sat. 10-7; Sun. 10-5
- July 14-17 Geodeland Earth Science Clubs hosts Midwest Federation Convention and Show., Western Hall, Western Illinois University. Macomb. Ill.

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ADMISSIONS	DAILY	4 DAY PASS
Adults	\$3	\$10.
Students	2	6.
Senior citizen	2.50	8.

Advance registrations for delegates or those planning to attend any of the following events must be made by June 6, 1988. No exceptions. Bulletin Editors Breakfast, M.W.F. Executive Committe Luncheon, Bar-b-que and Dance-Dinner, Midwest Fed. Delegates Luncheon or the Awards Banquet-Dinner

There are several motels or there are rooms on the campus at the Clson Conference Center. Reservation deadline is June 15. Rooms are available with or without meals. Cancellations made by 4:30, July 6, 1988 will receive refund.

There are three places nearby where you can camp. Self-contained units may camp on the grounds, however hookups and dump stations are not available. Showers and rest rooms will be available during show hours. Camping reservations with a depost required.

There will be Swapping Thurs., Fri., and Sat. 10-4; Sun. 10-3. Swap tables \$4. for 6ft. or \$2. for half table. \$10. per table for the four days and \$5. for half table for 4 days. First come, first served. Swap buck will be available and must be cashed in before the close of the show, with the dealers on the premises.

And don't forget the MWF Auction which Norm and Alice Brown will be chairing Thursday and Friday. Geodeland members will handle it Sat. and Sun. Receipts will go to the MWF Endowment fund. Any material that our club contributes for the auction will give us credit toward another 100%. Let's send Alice and Norm off with some good stuff. Get it to them any time before they leave for the MWF Show.

Please keep this list of shows and swaps as most of them will not be repeated next month. Check April's list also.

HELP SAVE OUR COLLECTING SITES

from: AFMS NEWSLETTER 4/88

BY JUNE CULP ZEITNER

An environmentalist group, the National Parks and Conservation Association (not affiliated with the government) has recommended to the National Park Service that the existing boundaries of over 200 National Parks and Monuments be enlarged and that over 100 new National Parks be added to the system.

Sounds innocent enough, doesn't it? I was alerted to these overwhelming plans when a front page article in our daily paper showed the proposed enlargement of Badlands National Park in South Dakota. The map takes in all the National Grasslands area where thousands of rock collectors from all over the nation have enjoyed free access. If taken into the National Park System, visitors could not touch a single rock. Anyone who has been rock hunting in these National Grasslands rock beds of South Dakota and Nebraska realizes that there is nothing unique about them which is not better illustrated in the present National Park. In fact the National Grasslands main attraction is the availability and freedom of the rock beds on public land.

After a few calls and letters I found that these radical recommendations were made with a \$270,000. grant and that the conservation group behind it, with offices in Washington, has a \$3,000,000. a year budget.

But it is not only the South Dakota collecting areas which will be swallowed up if this goes through. Some of the best spots in many states will be included in the Federal grab. Among the Parks to be enlarged are many places where collecting has been allowed on B.L.M. or Forest Service land, or on nearby private land.

Some of the Parks due to be enlarged are Big Bend, Texas (would this grab up Needle Peak home of pom pom agate and agate pseudomorphs?), Capitol Roof, UT, Cedar Breaks, UT, Colorado National Monument, CO, Florissant Fossil Beds, CO, Fossil Butte, WY, John Day Fossil Beds, OR, Lassen, CA, Petrified Forest, AZ (Several excellent fee areas for digging outside of the present boundaries). Yellowstone, MT and WY. (good petrified wood and agate sites near present boundaries). New National Parks are to be along the Mississippi in Iowa, Minnesota, and Wisconsin, (there go a lot of agate and fossil sites), part of the Upper Peninsula of Michigan, (- is it good-by copper?) The Nebraska Sandhills, the Owyhee canyonlands of Idaho, the San Juan Mountains of Colorado, Escalante Canyons of Utah, Hells and Owyhee Canyons in Oregon, the Jemez Mountains, New Mexico, and many more.

All are important to our hobby. There are many I am not sure of, and many which I know will threaten us not at all. For instance on the list are such places as Robert Frost's farm in Vermont, the Walt Whitman House in New Jersey and the John Deere home in Illinois, which might well be included in the National Park empire some day, with little opposition.

What we should be concerned about are two things, if these border lands of National Parks, and these new areas are taken into the system, no gem, mineral, or fossil collecting will ever be allowed. (Another proposal of this group is that the government acquire all mining rights and curtail claims). Second is that the money for all of this will come right out of the pockets of us --the taxpayers. In effect we will be paying for ending some of our best collecting.

next page, please

What can we do? The only thing which will help is lots and lots of LETTERS of protest as individuals. Write to your representatives and senators and to the Director of the National Park Service:

William Penn Mott, 18th and "C" N.W., Washington, D.C. 20240

We emphasize that while we love the National Parks, we also feel that there should be some public lands in these areas free from restrictive legislation. Point out the benefits to the sciences and the arts which have resulted from our collecting. We do not have \$3,000,000 a year to protect ourselves against this land grab, but maybe 30,000 letters will help. For more information please write John Boland, 2211 Valley Road, LaCrosse, Wi 54601; or June Zeitner, 5203 S. Canyon Rd., Rapid City, S.D. 57702.

A QUICK fluorescent light can be made for use in camp by using a flashlight. Purchase a piece of cobalt blue glass from a company that makes stained glass windows, cut a circle the size of the flashlight lens & substitute this for a flashlight when in the

IT HAS BEEN SAID: The one who has a Rock Collection must have: A HOUSE big enough to hold it, a SOUL big enough to appreciate it, a HEART big enough to share it, a HEAD big enough to hold the surplus.

Peter Kuon, "Lithojots" - via Earth Science, Achates

SOMETHING NEW with tigereye. Try cementing three pieces of tigereye together so that the grain of each is perpendicular to the next. Cabachons and other stones can then be cut with interesting chatoyancy effects. SIES Club News - Achates

THE BABY RATTLE once owned by Egypt's King Farouk had a jade handle topped by a diamond-encrusted crown, and the pebbles that made it rattle were rubies! LAPS - ACHATES

!!!WOW!!! 22,892.5 cts. IT'S FINISHED !!

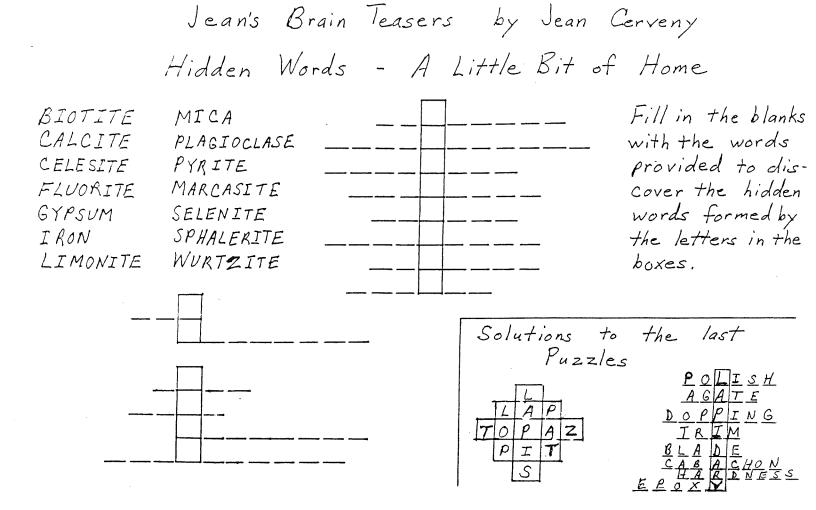
THE CUTTING AND POLISHING OF THE WORLD'S LARGEST FACETED GEMSTONE HAS BEEN COMPLETED. This huge, beautiful, light golden Topaz was transported to Richland, Washington and measured on a scale with the capacity to accurately weigh a stone this large.

This rectangular cushion cut gemstone has 172 facets and weighs 22,892.5 cts $(+ \text{ or } - \frac{1}{2} \text{ ct})$. It has an overall width of 149.2 mm with a table facet that is 105.3 mm long and 93.7 mm across. The length and depth of the stone could not be measured because no suitable measuring gauge of sufficient size was available. The original rough was a waterworn crystal that weighed 26 pounds.

John Samson White, Curator-in-charge, Department of Mineral Sciences, has informed us that acceptance of the Topaz is now official as it has been approved by the Director of the Natural History Museum. The formal transfer to the Smithsonian is being tentatively planned to take place about May 3-4-or 5, in the Gem Hall of the Smithsonian in Washington, D.C. Of course any rockhound who is interested is invited and encouraged to be present for this presentation to our National Museum from our Hobby Group.

After the ceremony, the topaz will be placed on display in the Gem Hall for about a month, after which time it will be available to each of the Regional Federation Shows starting with the Rocky Mountain Federation Show in Bismarck, North Dakota, June 17 through 19.

> Via Earth Science News Northwest Newsletter 2/88 and 3/88



SCIENCE IS WONDERFUL...BUT WHERE ARE THESE ANSWERS?

. Modern science is wonderful...it has developed more knowledge in the last 30 years than was ever known before. We consider the early 1980's to be the dark ages...BUT...

Ancient Jewelry has been found in the Middle East and the high country of Peru...made of smelted_platinum. Platinum requires a heat of 3275° F to melt. How did they do that over 2000 years ago?

The Chinese made aluminum ornaments 2000 years ago. To produce aluminum from ore is a sophisticated electro-chemical process. How did they do it?

American aborigines tempered copper. This process was not developed until the 1930's. How did they do it?

In the high country of Peru near Sueshusmsa there is a quarried and dressed rock that has been moved one-half mile from the quarry site. It is istimated to weigh 20,000 tons. Even today, we have no equipment to move a rock of that size...How did they do it?

...thanks to Osage Hills Gems via The T-Town Rockhound Shawmish Roktawk

WE ALMOST LOST THE PETRIFIED FOREST

The Petrified Forest was formally discovered by Whipple and Marconi in 1853, although the Indians had known about it for years. Soon after this time, the petrified wood was being removed from the forest and shipped East to be used for Oriental purposes. Drake & Co, of Sious Falls, SD, was one of the largest users. In fact, the summer of 1887 they had a stock pile in excess of 350,000 pounds. Although this seems to be quite a large amount to be removed, the forest was so vast it didn't appear to deplete the supply noticeably.

About this time the Armstrong Abrasive Co. had made plans to erect a crushing plant in the petrified forest to reduce the logs to abrasive powder and grits. In fact they had a crushing plant dismantled, and it was on a side track at Adama, AZ, railroad station.

The sudden appearance of the market of a cheap Canadian emory fortunately saved the forest. By this time, public opinion was high for preservation of the petrified forest, so the territory of Arizona (Arizona was made a state in 1911) sent its request to Congress. Finally in 1899, Smithsonian was sent to evaluate first and make a report. After several years, 1906 to be exact, the petrified forest national monument, consisting of 44,000 acres below Adamana, AZ, was permanently set aside. In 1932 50,000 acres more was annexed. One of the many interesting and unusual places is agate bridge. Here one log 100 feet long, in one piece, is laying across a ravine.

By Ray Bendrick (first appeared in The Fulton Democrat, 3/29/67)

GOOD LUCK CHARMS?

- 1. An arrowhead or stone ax will ward off lightning.
- 2. Moss agate, when worn, is insurance against spider or scorpion bites.
- 3. Agate of any kind, and of one color, when worn by a wrestler, will make him invincible.
- 4. An amber necklace is insurance against colds, asthma and whooping cough.
- 5. Amethyst necklace, if strung on a baboon's hair or a swallow's feather will be positive proof against poison.
- 6. Amethyst, when worn as a gem, prevents drunkeness.'
- 7. Iris agate protects the wearer against bites of wild beasts.
- 8. Jet, worn as a gem, protects the wearer against the evil eye and all forms of witchcraft.
- 9. Alabaster and rocksalt, powdered together and swallowed with water, will cure halitosis and toothache.
- 10. Chalcedony of any kind, worn as a gem, protects the wearer against fatigue and tired muscles.
- 11. Garnet jewelry, when worn, protects the wearer against nightmares.
- 12. Coal, worn as a gem, protects against colds.

Via The T-Town Rockhound and Shawmish Roktawk

IN THE OLD DAYS if anyone missed a stage coach he was content to wait a day or two for the next one. Now a person squawks if they miss one section of a revolving door.

Wia Little Gem & Achates

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