

WE THANK THEE

We thank Thee, Lord, for pumpkin pie  
And turkey with its filling,  
For sweet potatoes, cranberries,  
And appetites so willing?

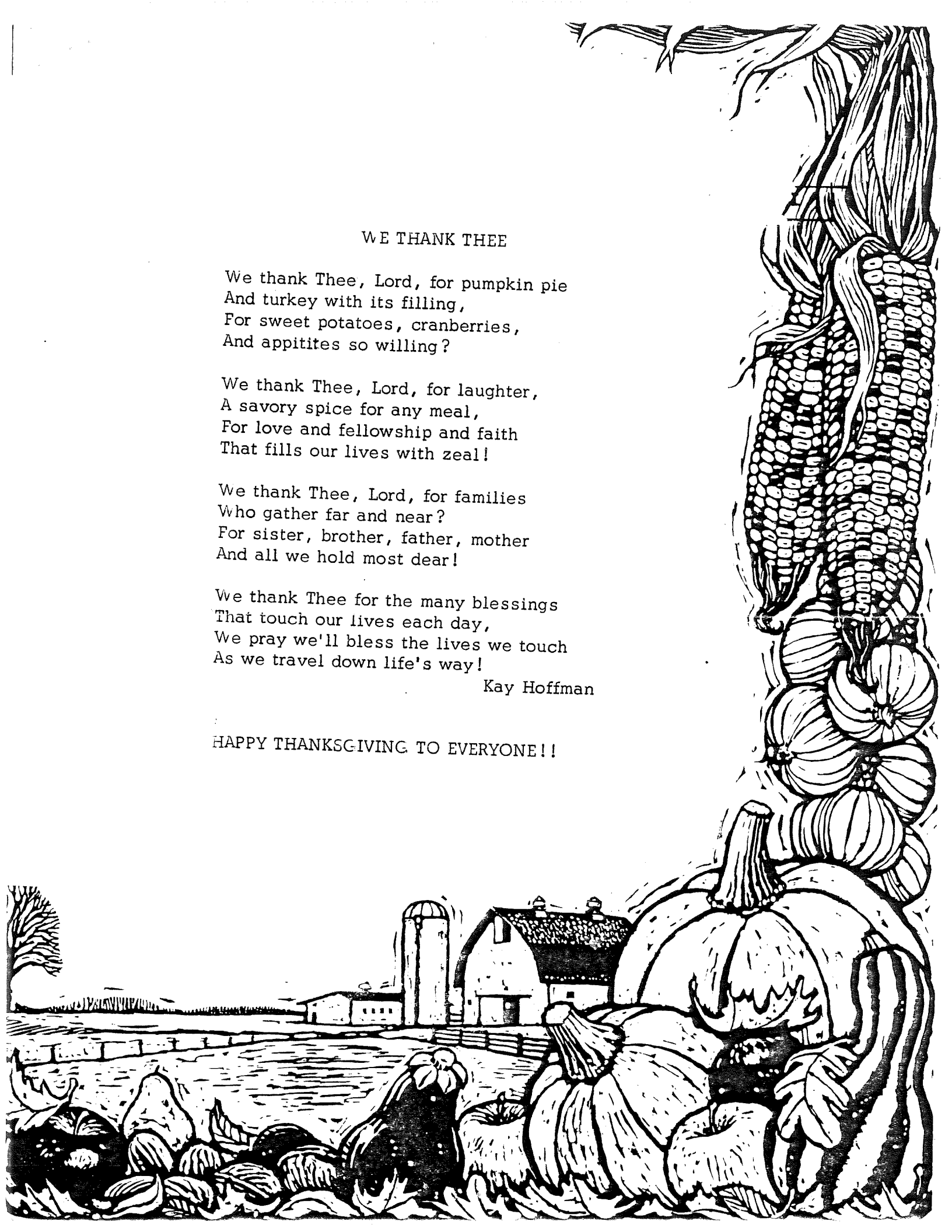
We thank Thee, Lord, for laughter,  
A savory spice for any meal,  
For love and fellowship and faith  
That fills our lives with zeal!

We thank Thee, Lord, for families  
Who gather far and near?  
For sister, brother, father, mother  
And all we hold most dear!

We thank Thee for the many blessings  
That touch our lives each day,  
We pray we'll bless the lives we touch  
As we travel down life's way!

Kay Hoffman

HAPPY THANKSGIVING TO EVERYONE!!



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

NOVEMBER 30, 1988

VOLUME 16

ISSUE 3

PAGE 1

PLEASE NOTE CHANGE OF DATE

November 30 will be the date of our meeting. The fourth Wednesday fell the night before Thanksgiving, so we felt it wise to change the date. Don't forget - we will meet at NORWEST BANK, the corner of 3rd Ave. and 1st St. S.W. The Meeting will start at 7:15 P.M.

The program will be presented by our scholarship student from Cornell College.

We will be doing Christmas baskets for the needy again this year. Please bring your staple items - canned goods, jellos, pudding, sugar, flour, etc. to the November meeting, if possible. I believe the Christmas Party and meeting will be held at the REC Building in Marion, Dec. 17. It will be a potluck supper. More details in the next bulletin.

NOVEMBER 20, SHOW MEETING AT SONNELEITNERS Sharon says, bring your egg cartons and material to fill them. Flyers are ready to be picked up. Is your name on the list of committees? There is still a need for co-chairpersons, and/or helpers. Please plan now to join us for an afternoon of fun. Meet at 1 PM. SEE THE MAP ON ANOTHER PAGE.

Sharon has most of the information about the dealers in the Oct. 5th show meeting report, however, Roger Dabler has given me the following report, or list of dealers and demonstrating dealers.

DeSotel's Rock Shop, Cedar Rapids, Iowa	
Rockhounds Limited, Madison, Wis.	(findings)
David Crawford, Rockford, Ill.	(minerals)
J. J. & L., Hickman, Nebr	(rough rock)
Ahrens Rock Shop, Madrid, Iowa	(brazilians)

He has a fossil dealer also - I am not positive of the name, so more about that later.

Demonstrating dealers

MelChar, Keithsburg, Ill	(electroplating)
Carl Dach's Rock and Wirecraft, Rockford, Ill.	
Gene Eno, Lincoln, Nebr.	(glass sculpture)
J & M Gems, Fairfax, IA	(cabbing and silvercasting)
Dr. Neuschafer, Fremont, Wis.	(sand bottles)
Roger Moore, Cedar Falls, IA	(faceting)
Ladora's Sand Art, Dawson, IOWA	

Sounds like quite a line up. All we need is YOU. Remember this is our 25th Anniversary Show. Let's make it a BIG one!!!

A show meeting of the Cedar Valley Rocks and Minerals Society was called to order by Marv Houg at 7:00 at his house on October 5, 1988. Fifteen members were present.

Marv passed a sign-up sheet for chairpeople with the following results:

	<u>CHAIRMAN</u>	<u>HELPER</u>
FLOOR.....	Marv Houg.....	Pappe Phillips
PUBLICITY.....	Marv Houg.....	Pappe Phillips, Larry DeSotel
HOST/HOSTESS.....	Gladys Zobac.....	
YOUTH GROUP LETTERS.....	Gladys Zobac.....	Betty DeSotel
MAIL FLYERS.....	Jean & Milo Cerveny	
P.A. SYSTEM.....	George Vacik.....	
DEALER CHAIRMAN.....	Roger Dabler.....	Pappe Phillips
SHOW FLYERS.....	Marv Houg.....	Pappe Phillips
SIGNS.....	Darlene Sweet.....	Pappe Phillips
KITCHEN.....	Sue Houg.....	
SECURITY.....		Milo J. Cerveny, Jr.
PEBBLE PIT.....	Dale Stout.....	Pappe Phillips
	George Vacik.....	
BOOKS/PUBLICATIONS.....	Alberta Cray.....	Pappe Phillips
SILENT AUCTION.....	Richard Smouse.....	
DOOR PRIZES.....	George Vacik.....	Pappe Phillips
EXHIBITOR RIBBONS.....		Betty DeSotel
TICKETS.....	Dale Stout.....	Pappe Phillips
ELECTRICAL.....	Bob Sweet.....	Pappe Phillips
CLUB DEMONSTRATIONS.....	Robert & Leslie Blin.....	Pappe Phillips
PROGRAMS.....		

Sharon Sonnleitner was appointed show chairperson. There was some discussion of this being our 25th show, with a suggestion of silver for a theme.

George Vacik asked for door prize suggestions. Ideas were: boooks, cookbooks, Audubon books, fossils, geodes. About 35 prizes are needed. Tickets and special door prizes for kids were also suggested.

Spinner or pinball games for kids were suggested. It was decided to do egg cartons again, although there are quite a few left, and add fossil cards if possible. Rockford was suggested as a good source of fossils for that purpose.

Marv announced the following dealers have committed: Rockhound Limited, Dave Crawford Minerals, Larry DeSotel, JJ & L. Ahrens Jewelry & Rocks and Guy Darrrough (fossils) will be contacted. Demonstrating dealers will be Mil-Char Jewelry, Gene Eno (glass blowing), and J&M Gems. Dr. Neuschafer (sand bottles) will not know until just before the show. Others to be considered are Carl Dach, LaDora (sand art), Roger Moore (faceting), Arthur J. Boehm (stone-age replicas).

A discussion of rent for the club shed followed. Pappe Phillips moved that we pay Skinny Lutz \$6/mo. for the shed. Betty DeSotel seconded and the motion carried.

The meeting place was the next item of business. The Linn County Historical Museum would be \$10/mo. with a possibility of our receiving a donation of \$5/mo. back. Pappe reported that People's Bank (now Norwest) has a free meeting room accessible by elevator or stairs and with ample parking. Meeting date would have to shift to the 4th Wednesday of the month. It was decided to move our meetings there.

Sign-up for refreshments for regular meetings was passed.

It was decided to have a pot luck Friday night and have HyVee cater Saturday Night.

There was some discussion about having the silent auction, library displays and promoting the silver anniversary show through the Chamber of Commerce or Armstrongs. It was announced the Science Station will be featuring a dinosaur exhibit from Nov. 9-Jan. 8 and will display local fossils with the exhibit. We

will try to have flyers there also. Larry DeSotel mentioned that Orren Plocker had built a twin sphere machine and might be able to demonstrate. It was suggested we request displays from the University of Iowa and Cornell.

Dr. Gene Hinman will be giving a talk on "Everything You Always Wanted to Know About Dinosaurs...and Don't Be Afraid to Ask" on Nov. 13 at 2:00 at Beems Auditorium at the Library.

Jean Cerveny announced Montgomery Ward would be selling its fine jewelry display cases. Contact Gary Wher for information.

Further discussion of a theme led to a consensus of having either silver or dinosaurs as the theme and featuring it at the show.

Larry DeSotel moved we adjourn. Pappe seconded and the meeting adjourned at 9:15. Pappe provided refreshments.

Respectfully submitted, Sharon Sonnleitner, Secretary

The October 26, 1988, meeting of the Cedar Valley Rocks & Minerals Society was called to order by President Marv Houg at 7:20 at the Norwest Bank in Cedar Rapids, Iowa. Twenty-one members were present.

Larry DeSotel moved that the Secretary's minutes be approved as posted. Jean Cerveny seconded and the motion carried.

Treasurer Dale Stout reported corrected a balance of \$207.30 in checking. Betty DeSotel moved the treasurer's report be accepted. Pappe Phillips seconded and the motion carried.

COMMITTEE REPORTS: Show Committee: Betty DeSotel said she has some banners that could be used for the Silver Anniversary Show. It was decided to have "silver" for the theme. Dick Smouse said he has some native silver. We may ask local jewelers for displays. Pappe suggested opening geodes for door prizes at the show. Ahrens Jewelry & Rocks has committed as the last dealer; Carl Dach (wire art) and LaDora (sand art) are coming as demonstrating dealers, and Roger Moore (faceting) as demonstrator.

Marv announced the Science Station is looking for dinosaur-related material to display with its dinosaur exhibit. They are also looking for volunteers during the dinosaur exhibit--contact Margaret Fitzgerald. A show meeting was set for November 20 at 1:00 at Sonnleitners'.

OLD BUSINESS: Leslie Blin asked for volunteers to work at the Linn Historical Museum Thursday nights. Abernathy's rocks need to be finished and the black-light exhibit needs to be built.

A check for \$40 to be added to the scholarship fund in honor of Babe Barnett was received from Sylvia Barnett.

Helen Troxel moved that \$25 be donated to the scholarship fund in honor of Wilma Ramsell and \$25 to the Linn Historical Museum in honor of Babe Barnett. Leslie Blin seconded and the motion carried.

ANNOUNCEMENTS: Larry DeSotel announced he will talk to four classes at Taft on October 27.

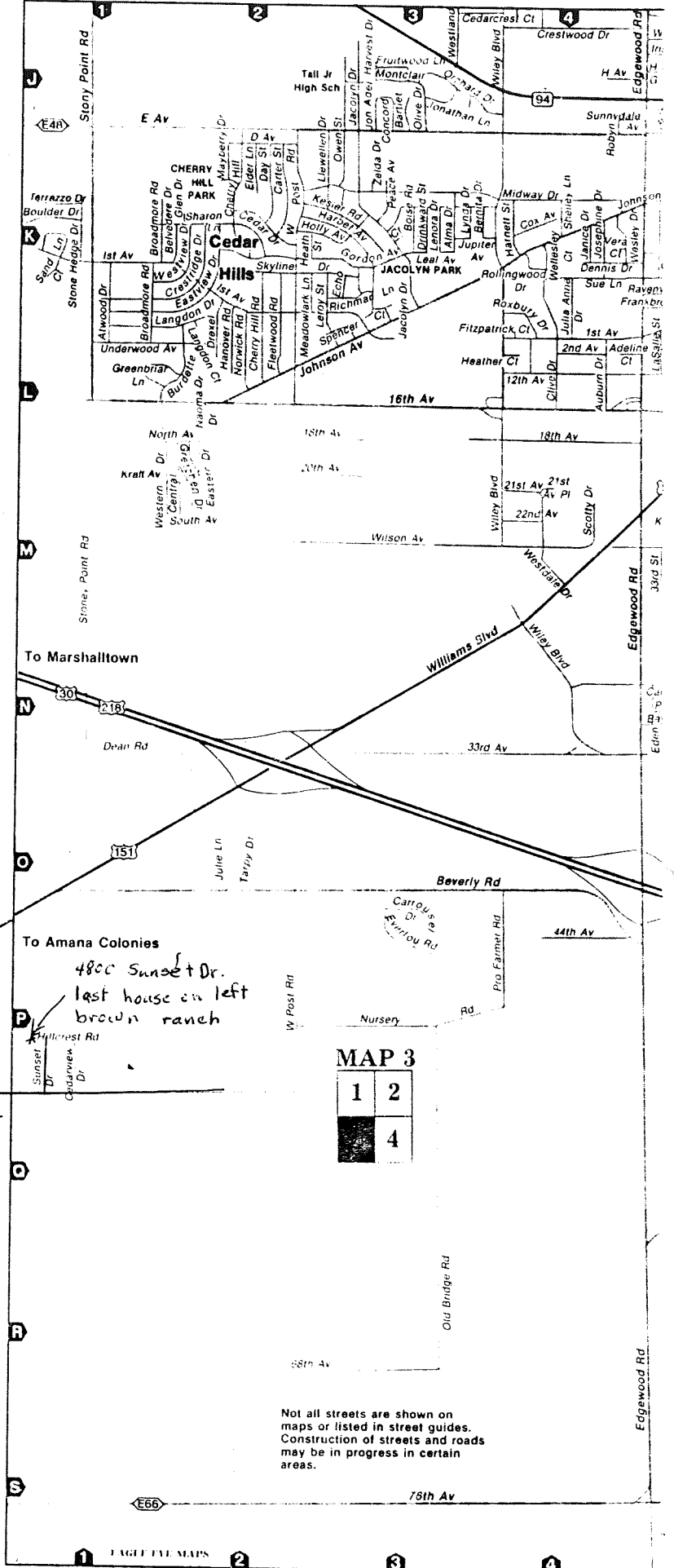
Election of officers will be held at the November meeting. The Nominating Committee will be Pappe Phillips, Alberta Cray, Sharon Sonnleitner, Marv Houg, and Betty DeSotel. Marv will try to get the bank for a meeting November 30. Leslie will check on getting the REC on December 10 or 17 for the Christmas party. Food for the food baskets should be brought to the November meeting.

A correction to a recipe in our Gem of a Cookbook was noted: The Hunts All-Purpose Sauce, page 48, should have 2 6 oz. cans tomato paste.

Larry DeSotel moved we adjourn. Milo Cerveny seconded and the motion carried with adjournment at 8:20.

Phil Bowman from the University of Iowa Geology Department gave a very informative talk about collecting crystals at the Coleman Crystal Mine in Arkansas.

Respectfully submitted, Sharon Sonnleitner, Secretary



80th St.

Cemetery Rd.  
Handimart

Fairfax

To Marshalltown

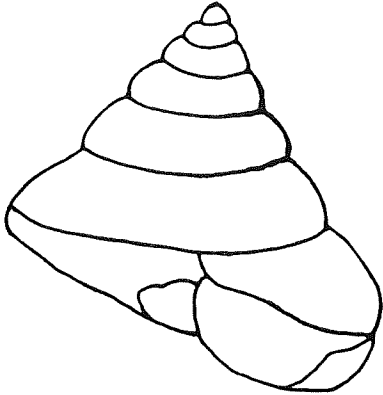
To Amana Colonies

4800 Sunset Dr.  
last house on left  
brown ranch

MAP 3

1	2
	4

Not all streets are shown on maps or listed in street guides. Construction of streets and roads may be in progress in certain areas.



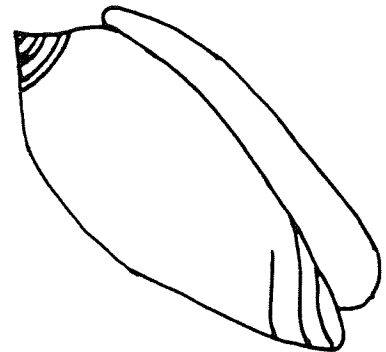
### THE MAGIC OF SHELLS

Shells have fascinated man since the beginning of civilization - and they have become part of man's life in thousands of ways. As food, as trade goods, as money, as medicine, as tools, as ornaments, as objects of art, design and scientific investigation.

The study of shells dates back before the Dark Ages, and the Ancient World's greatest scientists, Aristotle and Pliny, wrote thousands of words on the subject. Victorian England referred to the study of shells as "conchology," and the French called it "malacology." It was called "the Queen of Natural History Sciences" in nineteenth century Europe and as the "Emperor's Science" in Japan.

Physicians are intrigued by the potent venom of some cones and octopuses. Parasitologists spend years studying fatal diseases carried by certain tropic freshwater snails. Biochemists are studying the antiviral and antibacterial powers of the juice of clams and abalone in their search for a cancer cure. Mathematicians find models of symmetry in the chambered nautilus and artists have used the scallop motif for thousands of years.

The sources of shells found in graves and kitchen middens have helped archeologists identify long forgotten trade routes of vanished civilizations. The once tropical climate of Greenland and New England have been verified by the types of shells unearthed in recent digs and Paleontologists can predict the presence of oil and other fuels by the types of mollusks and other invertebrates found fossilized in layers of ancient rock.



Most of all, the average person can enjoy the pleasure, beauty and interest of shell collecting, whether that collection consists of several hundred specimens or only a few.

From The Southwest Florida Shell News  
via The Tully To US via EARTH SCIENCE NEWS  
1978

### DENTURES 3,000 YEARS OLD

It may amaze you to learn that bridges with false teeth were made 3,000 years ago by the Etruscans, who worked with gold. Dentures, including "complete" dentures for people with no teeth left, have been made for about 300 years. In early times false teeth were made from bone, ivory and Hippopotamus teeth. Sometimes the entire bridge was carved from the same material and it was all one piece that fit in the mouth. Later individual human or animal teeth were used (usually sheep teeth). These were mounted on a gold or ivory base. At the end of the 13th century, teeth were made of porcelain and some individual teeth mounted on gold or platinum bases.

\* VIA the PICK AND CHISEL  
\* \* \* \* \*

The time to be happy is now.

A couple articles about silver. Thought some of you might want to try this 'Silver Tree' idea for our Silver Anniversary Show. If any of you come across any articles on silver, we will be glad to copy them and share them with the rest of the members.

### CRAFT A SILVER TREE

A crafty suggestion for craft oriented rockhounds...

Form a few strands of copper wire into a tree-like form and place into a large glass vessel. Dissolve two grams of  $\text{AgNO}_3$  (silver nitrate) in 4 liters of distilled water. Transfer this solution to the vessel containing the wire tree. A reaction will become apparent immediately and will be completed within a few hours. Silver crystals will form on the copper tree. Copper is oxidized in a solution of silver nitrate at the same time silver ions are reduced to metallic silver, which forms a soft white lustrous metal attached to the limbs of the giving the appearance of snow.

...thanks to Rockhound Record, Eureka News, Pegmatite and others via The(Tulsa)..T-Town Rockhound

to us via THE SHAWMISH ROKTAWK

### QUICKSILVER

The name "quicksilver" means "Living Silver". If you drop a glob of it onto a tray, it will break apart and roll around in shiny little silver balls. If you tip the tray in the right direction, the balls will merge into a thick silvery puddle. This is because quicksilver is a liquid metal. It is the only metal to remain liquid at room temperature.

Mercury is the common for quicksilver. It is one of the basic elements and it is more than 13.5 times as heavy as water. Pure mercury is used in thermometers. If it is combined with other elements it will make a great number of useful chemical compounds. Though its compounds are poisonous, some of them can be converted into germicides and safe medicines. It is unwise to touch mercury with your bare hands.

...thanks to Ozark Earth Science News via Allen Gentzler in Pick and Chisel

## *Hints for Rockhounds*

Got some marcasite that is going to pieces? You're not alone, as this material is very unstable. Here are some hints for preserving it. Mix one heaping tablespoon of baking soda in one quart of water. Let it effervescence and wash the marcasite in it. Rinse well in clear water and dry. Then dip marcasite in medium weight mineral oil and drain well.

The Crystal Log, Rockhound Reporter & The Rock Box

One method of keeping the sludge problem down in your slab saw is to add one cup of Mr. Clean to your coolant.

From Diggin's from Dakota & Lake Agassiz Rock Hound

A picture frame can be made from a polished slab of a hollow geode.

From The Rock Dust via Lake Agassiz Rock Hound

To us via Rock Rustler's News

THE TALE of the GOLD (Au) DUST KID  
(An Elemental Tale Designed to Produce a Reaction)

The kid mounted his trusty steed, old (B)\_\_\_\_. His shooting (Fe)\_\_\_\_ strapped to his side. He headed out for the bright (Ne)\_\_\_\_ lights of Sabattus, aiming to rob the Litchfield stage. There was to be a load of precious (U)\_\_\_\_, and probably (K)\_\_\_\_ too. Inhaling a deep breath of (O)\_\_\_\_, he coughed on the (S)\_\_\_\_ from the nearby mill. Since the (Hg)\_\_\_\_ was climbing, he quenched his thirst with some water, tasting the (Cl)\_\_\_\_ all big cities like Wales had. His bones ached as he headed north, from (Ca)\_\_\_\_ deposits built up over years of riding the (Zn)\_\_\_\_ trail. Overhead a (He)\_\_\_\_ filled balloon floated in the breeze; the sun beat down like burning (P)\_\_\_\_.

Soon he spotted the stage guarded by the sheriff with a (Sn)\_\_\_\_ badge. "Halt" he yelled, or "I'll fill you full of (PB)\_\_\_\_." The sheriff drew his gun but, alas, he was too slow. The kid's gun, blazing like flaming (Mg)\_\_\_\_ did the (Cu)\_\_\_\_ in. Anyone who drew on the kid should know his life wasn't worth a plugged (Ni)\_\_\_\_. A (Pt)\_\_\_\_ blonde, riding inside of the (Al) framed coach, ran for her life when the kid pulled out some (N)\_\_\_\_ compounds, preparing to blow the safe to atoms.

Suddenly a shout rang out, "Hi Ho (Ag)\_\_\_\_" and a masked man on a white horse raced across the (Si)\_\_\_\_ sands of the blueberry fields like (Na)\_\_\_\_ skittering on (H<sub>2</sub>O)\_\_\_\_. A (H)\_\_\_\_ bomb would not have stopped the lawman; the kid met his doom. The rest of his life was spent behind (Co)\_\_\_\_ steel bars. He was a warning to all who flirt with danger. Your first detention may be the initial step in a (C)\_\_\_\_ copy of the saga of the (Au)\_\_\_\_ Dust Kid.

Via Cracked Slab, The Gem-N-I, Escom & Ozark Earth Science News

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## Articles for Rockhounds

### CORAL FOUND IN ALASKA'S COAST

Deep within Alaska's frigid coastal water, divers have discovered a valuable new resource: Alaskan Coral!!! Alaskan Roger Pike, former jade shop manager and commercial fisherman, has retrieved sufficient quantities of coral in Alaskan waters to produce a new and genuine line of precious stone jewelry from the 49th state.

The coral, fresh from the sea, is brilliant pink and remarkably heavy in its watery state. Once it is cleaned, the potential material for jewelry is but a tiny fraction of the original "catch". After being cut and polished, the coral produces a hard stone which shimmers in mottled green-blues, yellows, browns and blacks.

Stories of fishermen pulling up coral in their nets intrigued Pike, since coral has traditionally been associated with warm water regions. A year-long search, involving underwater television cameras and divers was responsible for Roger Pike's eventual discovery of extensive coral forests.

from several bulletins via Pick and Chisel  
to us via ROCK RUSTLER'S NEWS



A WEALTH OF DIFFERENCE

(know your terminology)

- GOLD FILLED:** A layer of gold backed with another metal such as chrome, nickel, copper or silver.
- GOLD PLATE:** The process of placing a base metal, such as copper in a bath and sealing the two metals through electroplate.
- GOLD LEAF:** A sheet of gold varying from four to five millionths of an inch in thickness used for gilding and other purposes.
- YELLOW GOLD:** A metal generally used for jewelry, comprised of 53% gold, 25% silver and 22% copper.
- LIQUID GOLD:** Finely divided gold suspended in a vegetable oil and used for gilded ceramics.
- VERMEL:** 14 Karat gold overlaid on sterling silver.
- STERLING SILVER:** Silver of a purity of 925 parts per 1,000. The content is 92.5% silver and 7.5% another metal, usually copper.
- SILVER PLATE:** Silver that has been coated over a base metal such as copper, nickel, silver, or brass in a dipping process that includes sealing the two metals through electroplating.

...thanks to Back Benders Gazette, Rok Tok via Osage Hills Gems

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Try using alcohol to clean any of your water soluble minerals...halite is one.

**GRAF, IOWA**

Those of you who have hunted cephalopods in Graf may be surprised to learn that the site is actually private property. Martin Stries, who owns the property, called me recently to let me know that he will be closing the site to collecting in the spring because he is worried about liability. He will be putting up a fence and posting the area with "no trespassing" signs. He said he has contacted the people in Iowa City about purchasing the property so it could be preserved as a collecting site, and they told him to contact the State. However, the State has shown no interest in the property. He also said he has someone interested in hauling the rock away for fill! I asked him if he objected to people collecting until the spring and he said he did. So if any of you are planning to collect from the site, I suggest you contact Martin and ask permission. He said he farms just north of the site.

Sharon Sonneleitner

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