

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

MARCH 1988

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PAGE 1

March 16, 1988. Cedar Valley Rocks & Minerals Society will meet at 101 - 8th Ave. S.E. at the Linn County Historical Museum - Wednesday 7:15 PM.

PROGRAM - Betty DeSotel, program chairman, reports Milo Cervený will present the program, "Milo's Tips on Grinding Cabochons and Trouble Shooting Lapidary Problems." It has been a long time since we have had a lapidary program, so those of you who have any interest or thoughts about lapidary will surely want to make this a must.

Hosts will be Dale Stout and Blane (Pappe) Phillips.

LOOKING AHEAD -

APRIL - Tentative - Historic Pottery by Anton Till, an archaeologist.

MAY - Our annual Scholarship Auction. While you are cleaning house, set aside those "white elephant" items for the auction...rock related items, baked goods, books or any unwanted items

CEDAR VALLEY ROCKS AND MINERALS SHOW - March 26-27, 1988

Are you ready?? Have you gotten your case out, dusted it off and decided what you are going to exhibit? There are labels to make, liners and risers to get arranged. Be sure to let Sharon know how many feet of space you will need. Bring along an extra extension cord, glass cleaner, a spare bulb, and whatever else you may need. Ready, Set, Go!! Time is very short. If at all possible, try to label your materials. We want the youth groups to find this to be a learning experience. It is hard to learn if you don't know what you are looking at.

Have you sorted out some material for the Pebble Pit? What about an item or two for door prizes. Something you would like to receive as a gift.

There will be a pot luck supper served at the show Friday evening during the set-up time. Dealers and exhibitors will be our guests. Please plan to bring a well-filled basket. Plan your dishes large enough to feed all the extra guests.

We will eat about 6:30 P.M.

Our catered supper on Saturday night at the show will be roast beef and chicken with au gratin potatoes, escalloped corn, tossed salad, apple crisp/cheese cake - for \$4.50 each. Reservations must be made by early Friday evening at the show. If you can let Marv or Sue know ahead of that, please do so. The show closes at 6. Supper will be served as soon as possible after the closing.

To our exchange clubs - Thanks to those of you who copied the flyer and used it in your mailings, and thanks to those who passed the information on to your members. We do appreciate it.

SHOW REPORT - Sharon Sonnleitner

Nine members met at Marv and Sue's on February 21 to put together another 127 egg cartons for a total of 226, 24 of which have already been sold.

Marv also entertained us with a tape of a herd of 35 deer and a flock of wild turkeys which he had filmed near Elgin.

Marv has flyers. If anyone needs them for distribution, call him. About 500 were handed out at the Environmental Fair at Westdale on February 27. Larry DeSotel, Alberta and Bud Cray, Marv Houg, Pappe Phillips, Dale Stout, Milo and Jean Cervený and I worked our exhibit.

Cake is being added to our menu, so everyone is asked to bring 3 dozen cookies or bars or a cake (or two). We prefer the bars and cake be uncut, if possible. We also need more help with serving in the kitchen, so please sign up at the meeting.

Also be sure to sign up if you're bringing an exhibit, and indicate if you need a case. We also need door prizes.

Set up will be Friday, March 25, starting about 9-9:30 A.M. Potluck is Friday night at 6:30. Catered dinner Saturday night. Must get reservations in to Marv or Sue. We should have a great show. Sharon.

### ENVIRONMENTAL FAIR

Milo and Jean Cerveny exhibited a case of jewelry. Larry DeSotel exhibited jewelry and mineral specimens. Bud and Alberta Cray exhibited crystals and minerals. Marv Houg and Sharon Sonnleitner shared a case with Marv exhibiting a variety of Iowa fossils, including those fabulous trilobites; Humboldt and Dubuque materials. Sharon exhibited some of those great bison bones which she had so carefully prepared (from the Marion peat farm).

We handed out lots of flyers advertising our show. Many of the people showed a great interest. It was surprising how many people there were that had been picking up rocks for years. Some really good contacts were made. Alberta.

### HERE AND THERE WITH OUR MEMBERS AND FRIENDS

Clarke Mason, Central City, passed away February 16, 1988. Clarke was a long-time member some years back.

Clarke was an excellent faceter. He delighted in puzzling us with his artistry. It was nearly impossible to tell if his most recent creation was faceted from a 7-Up bottle, a piece of antique glass or a true gemstone. Clarke was always there to give a program if we needed him. Though he has been absent from our membership and meetings for a number of years, it is nice to recall what a fun-loving fellow he was. Clarke was a well-known piano technician/tuner by trade.

We extend our sympathy to his wife, Lois, and their family.

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Leslie Blin was hospitalized for major surgery since our last meeting. She is at home recovering. We wish her a speedy recovery.

Leslie wants to thank everyone for the cards they sent while she was in the hospital and thanks those who came to visit.

### HELP HELP HELP

You will recall several of our members will be teaching classes in various facets of rockhounding at the Science Center.

Helen Troxel will be teaching identification. She needs some small specimens of feldspar and something that will make a colored streak on the streak plate. She suggests possibly an ore. She does not know just how many students she will have, but will need to have a number of specimens for this purpose.

### MUSEUM PROGRAM - March 14, 1988

Dan Long, Coordinator of Social Studies in the Cedar Rapids Schools will speak to the membership about teaching Iowa History in the Public Schools, and outline some of the outreach projects where the Linn County Historical Museum may supplement the program.

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OLD CAPITOL GEOLOGICAL CLUB

Pappe Phillips, Bud and Alberta Cray attended the February meeting of the Old Capitol Geological Club.

Several of the Old Capitol members are also members of the Cedar Valley Club. It is always nice to get together with them.

Kevin Sexton, manager of Vortex Crystal and Gem, presented the program. He brought along a number of fine mineral specimens - beautiful amethyst, a huge quartz crystal, a selenite the likes of which I have never seen. All just beautiful.

The following article was discussed at the meeting. Perhaps we will want to give it some consideration at our March meeting.

THE YELLOW TOPAZ - - - Should We Contribute?

At the annual meeting in Oklahoma City last June, there was a proposal made that the AFMS purchase the world's largest gem 22,000 plus carat yellow topaz, to be placed in the Smithsonian Institute. The proposal was turned down since the AFMS DID NOT HAVE THE FUNDS. The cost is \$40,000, which breaks down to less than \$2.00 per carat. But interested members later, at the convention, discussed the proposition and started a fund which has grown to about \$20,000 as of January 1988. It is a combined effort of Rockhounds in all 6 Regional Federations. None of the funds collected will be used for administrative purposes. If the goal of \$40,000 is not met, the monies collected will be turned over to the AFMS Scholarship Fund. . . or if requested, it can be returned to the club contributing. This Brazilian Topaz, which weighed 23,000 carats before cutting, would eventually be available on loan to Federation Shows. The name of the owner and the cutter are being kept confidential. The Midwest Federation encourages each club to contribute to this purchase if you can.

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SPECIAL PICTORIAL CANCELLATION

Mid America Paleontology's theme for their Show April 22-24 is "Fishes." Anthony Verdi has created a special cancellation depicting the Fossil fish 'Diplomystus.' Anthony Verdi will be there with special envelopes and the Mineral stamps, or you may bring your own envelopes. A postal employee will also be there to service your needs.

SHOWS AND SWAPS

- March 5-6 - E.S.C.O.N.I. Gem & Mineral Show, College of DuPage (Building K), 22nd St. & Lambert Road, Glen Ellyn, Ill. Sat. 10-5; Sun. 11-5. There is a map on the back of their flyer. Call me if you plan to go.
- March 11-13 - GREATER KANSAS CITY Show, Market Center, Kansas City, Missouri.
- March 19-20 - BADGER LAPIDARY AND GEOLOGICAL SOCIETY - SHOW - High School M, Room 1600 - 26th St., Monroe, Wisconsin
- March 26-27 - CEDAR VALLEY ROCKS AND MINERALS SOCIETY - SHOW - IBEW Hall, Cedar Rapids, Iowa. Sat. 10-6; Sun. 10-5
- April 9-10 - FULTON COUNTY ROCKHOUNDERS - SHOW - 250 So. Ave. D, Canton, Illinois. Sat. 10-7; Sun. 10-5
- April 22-24 - MID-AMERICA PALEONTOLOGY SOCIETY. BUY-SELL-SWAP - SHOW - Western Illinois University, Macomb, Illinois. FOSSILS ONLY. It's a great show! Opens for set up 8 A.M. Friday. The fun begins when the first boxes are opened. Show closes 3 P.M. Sunday.

(Continued on page 4)

The February 17, 1988, meeting of the Cedar Valley Rocks & Minerals Society was called to order by President Marv Houg at 7:15 pm at the Linn County Historical Museum, Cedar Rapids, Iowa.

Twenty-five members and three guests were present. Following introduction of guests Bob and Phyllis Huey, the meeting was recessed for a very entertaining program given by Dr. Holmes Semken, Geology Head of Dept., University of Iowa, on his field trips in the Soviet Union.

The meeting resumed at 9:00. Larry DeSotel moved that the Secretary's minutes be approved as published. Alberta Cray seconded, and the motion carried.

Treasurer Dale Stout reported a balance of \$467.72 in checking. Harold Moore moved that the Treasurer's report be accepted. Milo Cerveny seconded, and the motion carried.

Phyllis Huey reported on a study course at the Wm. Holland Institute of Lapidary Arts, Young Harris, Georgia.

Alberta Cray announced that Clark Mason had passed away.

SHOW COMMITTEE REPORT: Jean & Milo Cerveny sent out 85 flyers to area clubs. Larry DeSotel announced he had given several talks recently and handed out flyers. The following were selected by show of hands for the Saturday catered dinner: chicken/beef, au gratin potatoes, scalloped corn, tossed salad, apple crisp/cheese cake, roll & butter. Larry DeSotel moved we have the dinner. Bud Cray seconded and the motion carried. Bud Cray moved we invite non-member exhibitors to the pot luck and dinner as guests and invite Glen Siegfried, who designed the flyers, to the pot luck, show, and dinner as our guest. Milo Cerveny seconded and the motion carried. Marv Houg announced set-up for the environmental fair would be at 8am with the fair closing at 5pm.

ABERNATHY CATALOGING COMMITTEE: The committee is up to rock #90 (about half way) and could use some help. Marv Houg will talk to Bob Sweet about setting up the black light display at the museum.

ANNOUNCEMENTS: Dr Henry Rapplus' wife, Helen, passed away. MWF directories are available--3 people indicated interest.

Mary Ann Owen moved the meeting be adjourned. Alberta Cray seconded and the motion carried with adjournment at 9:45.

Respectfully submitted, Sharon Sonnleitner, Secretary.

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#### SHOWS AND SWAPS (Continued)

- April 16-17 - RIVER VALLEY ROCKHOUNDS - SHOW - Salvation Army Temple,  
126 N. 7th St., Fort Dodge, Iowa
- April 23-24 - MINNESOTA MINERAL CLUB ROCKHOUNDS - SHOW - Signals Hills Mall,  
So. Robert St. at Butler Ave., West St. Paul, Minn. Sat. 10-6; Sun. 12-5
- May 28-30 - CHICAGOLAND GEMS AND MINERALS ASSOC. - SHOW - DuPage County  
Fairgrounds, Wheaton, Illinois
- June 10-12 - LAWRENCE COUNTY ROCK CLUB - SWAP - 4-H Fairgrounds, Bedford, Ind.
- July 14-17 - MIDWEST FEDERATION SHOW & CONVENTION - Hosted by GEODELAND EARTH  
SCIENCE CLUBS, INC., Western Hall, WIU, Macomb, Illinois

We will have more about these events next month. I have received a packet telling about the Midwest show. If you need more details, call me.

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HINTS - When lapping or polishing geodes, keep the crystals sparkling clean by packing them with damp Ivory Flakes. The grit or polishing agent washes right out and the remaining soap will soak away in warm water. Via GI Nugget, Skagit Gems, Breccia Rock Rustler's News, Kentucky Agate and Chip and Lick

A good way to tell how solid a slab is, is to heat it in hot water. The surface will dry immediately. If there are holes or fractures, every one will be lined with water. These can be marked with a pencil and used to orient your stone. Via Pegmatite, Mineral Memos, Flint Flashes and Chip and Lick

LAPIDARY TERMS MATCH-UP

by Jean Cerveny

Directions: Write the letter of the lapidary term on the line in front of its definition.

- 1. Compound such as silicon carbide or diamond that provides grinding action.
2. Art of cutting and polishing stones; artist who cuts and polishes stones.
3. A flat, broad slice of rock.
4. A stick on which a stone is held while being cut.
5. Fine grained chalcedony having various colors arranged in stripes, bands, clouds or showing mosslike forms.
6. A piece of stone roughly blocked out for later shaping.
7. Degree of resistance to being scratched.
8. Small articles used in the making of jewelry such as mountings, jump rings, etc.
9. Thin pattern used in laying out and scribing a work piece.
10. A style of cutting gems, polished but not faceted.

- A. Lapidary B. Cabochon C. Slab D. Finding E. Agate
F. Hardness G. Abrasive H. Dop I. Template J. Blank

Answers: 1-G, 2-A, 3-C, 4-H, 5-E, 6-J, 7-F, 8-D, 9-I, 10-B

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And now...something for the Junior Members...this puzzle was printed in the FUTURE ROCKHOUSES OF AMERICA NEWSLETTER and was designed by Jason Staller, 9-1/2 years old and in the 4th grade.

A L E E M N O X Y T B Z
U S W P P L A T E S V O
A T B C I I D E F N L J
D R N T I N C A R S T L
U A T S R Q E E P O N M
V I W F A U L T N X Y Z
X N T X N R A X X T N L
M C D U Q R V D J X E C
Z I G P M M A N T L E R
L S T R E M O R T K W U
Y Z Q A V P T S F P U S
A C O R E S I D B T L T
V P R S U G W C V O P Q
M A R G O M S I E S X M
X J H L V K C U D N G N
K C O H S R E T F A T V
Y E Y B F X Z G A C P E
G Z A B C L N A V Y Z X
R I C H T E R S C A L E
S F T K J O R G V E Y P

Find these words

- Aftershock
Core
Crust
Epicenter
Fault
Geologist
Lava
Mantle
Plates
Richter Scale
Seismogram
Strain
Tremor

ARE YOU A ROCKHOUND?

If you can answer yes to the following questions you can sign your name/Rockhound.

- 1. Do you own 1/2 ton of rocks?
2. Do you use your rocks to decorate the yard?
3. Instead of bric-a-brac in your house do you have rocks sitting on floor, tables and shelves?
4. Do you belong to a Rock Club?
5. Have you attended at least 2 Swaps or Rock Shows this past year?

Signed Evelyn Adams/Rockhound
From CHIP & LICK

--from ROCKY REVIEW (Jun/Jul 86)

Borrowed from Dinny's Doin's Fossils For Fun Society, Inc. January/February 1988

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ALASKA'S CORAL

Deep within Alaska's frigid waters, divers have discovered a valuable new resource, Alaskan Coral!!! An Alaskan, Roger Pike, former Jade Shop owner and fisherman, has retrieved sufficient quantities of coral from 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 natural state. After having been cleaned, cut and polished, the coral produces a hard stone which shimmers in mottled green, blue, yellow, brown, and black.

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

(via Gem City Rock News 2-88 and others)

## THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN MAMMOTHS AND MASTODONS

1. Mammoths and mastodons represent different lines of development among the proboscideans, or elephant-like mammals. (The origin of mastodons goes back about 25 million years, mammoths from about 7 million years ago.)
2. Of the two, mammoths are closer to the two living species—the African elephant and the Asian Elephant. Mammoths, together with the living species, are called true elephants.
3. The main difference between the two groups lies in the structure of their molars or cheek teeth. Both have "outsized" molars, but mastodon teeth are low-crowned whereas mammoth (living elephant) teeth are high-crowned. (The crown is the part of the tooth that grows out above the gum line.) Mastodon molars have rounded cusps separated by valleys. Mammoths and living elephants molars consist of a series of cement-filled, ridge-like plates.
4. Mastodons and mammoths differed in diet and habitat. The low-crowned mastodon teeth were an adaptation to browsing on the relatively soft twigs and leaves of open woodlands. The cement-hardened high-crowned mammoth molars were efficient mills for grinding up tough prairie grasses. Of the two, the mammoth could exploit a wider range of habitat.

from G. I. Nugget and others  
VIA REAR TRUNK

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I have only just a minute,  
Only sixty seconds in it,  
Forced upon me, can't refuse it,  
Didn't seek it, didn't choose it,  
But it's up to me to use it,  
Give account, if I abuse it,  
Just a tiny little minute,  
But eternity is in it.

Author Unknown

## MEET THE QUARTZ FAMILY

Papa and Mama Quartz Crystal belong to a very large family of rocks. They are called the Quartz Crystal family to distinguish them from Uncle Agate's family and Aunt Opal's family and a whole raft of Cousin Quartzes. Mama Quartz' maiden name was Rock Crystal. They came from Herkimer County, New York, and Papa often called her his little "Herkimer Diamond". She was very lovely--nicely shaped, perfectly clear, and sparkling. Papa Quartz was Milky Quartz, and while he was nicely shaped, too, he didn't sparkle like Mama.

Papa and Mama Quartz had quite a large family. First there was lovely Rose Quartz. She often bemoaned the fact that she was dumpy and didn't have Mama's nice figure. But she was so sweet and such a rosy pink that no one cared about her shape. She got her healthy color from eating her Titanium every morning when she was a baby.

Next came Amethyst. She took after Mama Quartz with her nice shape and sparkling clear color, except that Amethyst was just the color of violets. She hadn't cared much for Titanium as a baby, but she loved Manganese, which gave her the lovely lavender hue.

Smokey Quartz was the oldest boy in the family. Mama Quartz really had a time at breakfast with her babies; each one a different food. Smokey wouldn't eat anything but Carbon, so he had a grayish color.

Little Citrine Quartz started out to look like her sister Amethyst, but one day in the hot summer, she got overheated and her lavender color turned to a deep yellow. But she didn't care, really, because she was different from the others and still quite pretty.

The Quartz Crystal children had a younger brother whose name was Ferruginous Quartz, but almost everyone called him "Ferry". He was quite a handsome boy with an attractive red color which Mama Quartz insisted was because he was such a good child and ate his daily portion of Iron eagerly. That's just about all the Quartz Crystal family, except the Ghost. He was known as Phantom Crystal and he looked like all the rest of the family except that you could look right through him and see another crystal inside.

The Quartz Crystals were all quite important people. Papa Quartz was content to do just ordinary things, but Mama was a brilliant actress and little Rose, Amethyst, and Citrine Quartz Crystal grew up to be lovely jewels. Smokey and Ferruginous, the boys, took after their father and worked ordinary jobs. Papa and Mama Quartz Crystal were certainly very proud of their big family.

via THE ROCKPILE

## SOME INTERESTING FACTS

With earthquakes in the news, we hear a lot of the Richter Scale to denote the strength of the quake. This scale was developed by the seismologist, Charles Richter, in 1935. Each number is ten times more powerful than the previous one. Thus a measurement of 5 would be ten times more than a 4, which is ten times more than a 3, so the 5 would be  $10 \times 10$ , that is 100 times more powerful than a 3. Humans can feel shocks of 2. A quake of 5 can cause minor damage while over 8 means almost total destruction. The strength of the quake is measured in seismographs scattered around the country.

from Gem City Rock News courtesy of Les Petery 1/88

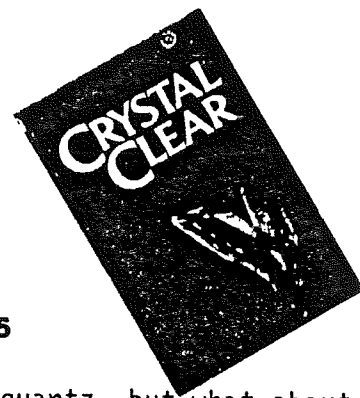
## CRYSTALS

This advertisement was found recently  
in the book section of the newspaper.

(Note--price includes a **CRYSTAL CLEAR** by Connie Church.  
crystal!!) Enhance your life through the power of  
crystals. (Abridged)

## PEBBLE POWERS

1 cassette packaged with a crystal. \$14.95



By now everyone has read about the remarkable powers of quartz, but what about some other rocks?

**AGATE** To prevent snake and insect bites, engrave upon an agate a serpent, and wear it as an amulet...makes the bearer eloquent...strengthens his heart... prevents storms.

**AMETHYST** Worn to bed, it helps one fall asleep and brings good dreams. Worn to prevent drunkenness, it also gives sure victory in battle.

**FLINT** Worn as an amulet, keeps away evil spirits. A flint amulet with a hole in it keeps away nightmares. Cast flint stones behind your back toward the West to bring rain.

**GARNET** Engraved with a lion, it guards from all perils while traveling and cures the wearer of all diseases. Prevents poisoning, hinders sadness and bad dreams. Fades if bearer becomes ill.

**JET** No poison can injure the person who carries this stone with him. Sorcery will not injure him. If a person afflicted with any disease takes the stone in liquid, he will soon be well. In whatsoever house it may be, no demon can stay therein.

**LODESTONE (MAGNETITE)** Enables you to foretell the future, endows you with divine inspiration and secret knowledge. Egyptians used it as a test for truth and faithfulness.

**OBSIDIAN** In the Aztec story of Creation, "Now the Obsidian stone is created by the precious Xibalbay, the glorius Xibalbay, and man is made by the Maker, the Creator. The Obsidian stone was his sustainer, when man was made." It represents the solid structure of material life.

**TURQUOISE** It assures the arrow will speed straight to its target, according to Apache belief. Also protects the limbs when one trown to the ground, on horse, or when walking.

Many other stones are said to possess magical powers. This particular information was taken from: "Complete Book of Magic & Witchcraft"; "Mexican & Central American Mythology"; "Anglo-Saxon Charms"; "Egyptian Secrets".

S.I.E.S.C Club News

by Diane Dare -SIESC member 1/88

\* \* \*

Temper is a quality that at a critical moment brings out the best in steel and the worst in people!

Doing nothing is the most tiresome job in the world because you can't quit and rest!





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