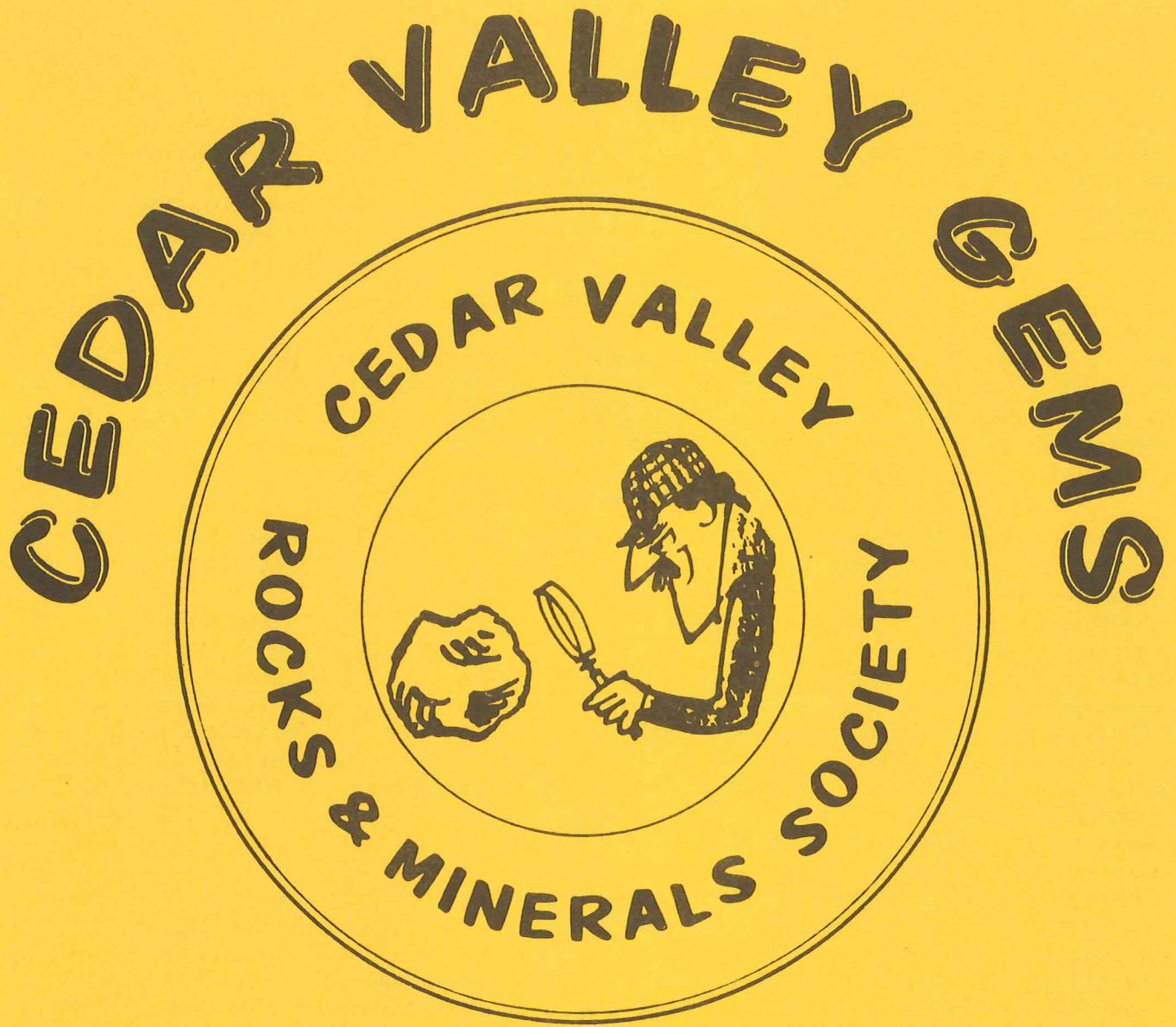


John Jeffers



NOV 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
Vice Pres.	Roger Dabler	6102 Underwood Ave. S.W.	Cedar Rapids, IA	396-3406
Secretary	Helen Troxel	1138 Prairie Dr. N.E.	Cedar Rapids, IA	365-3451
Treasurer	Marian Peters	1475 - 24th Street	Marion, IA	377-2839
Liaison	Fran Bates	2739 - 2nd Ave. S.E.	Cedar Rapids, IA	366-6012
Editor	Leslie Blin	505 - 5th Avenue	Marion, IA	377-3339

BOARD MEMBERS

Term ends:

Dec. 1979	Don Bates	2739 - 2nd Ave.	Cedar Rapids, IA	366-6012
Dec. 1980	Skinny Lutz	Wiley Blvd & Rogers Rd. N.W.	Cedar Rapids, IA	396-6194
Dec. 1981	Helen Shedenhelm	2111 Chandler St. S.W.	Cedar Rapids, IA	365-3089
Immed. Past Pres.	Larry DeSotel	247 Sussex Dr. N.E.	Cedar Rapids, IA	377-1641

COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS

Membership	Mary Dickens	531 - 30th St. S.E.	Cedar Rapids, IA	363-7693
Hospitality	Rosie Richardson	Route 1	Ely, IA	848-4040
Telephone/Publicity & Sunshine	Jackie Steiner	4406 Walker St. N.E.	Cedar Rapids, IA	393-4152
Display	Don Bates	2739 - 2nd Ave.	Cedar Rapids, IA	366-6012
Supply	Craig Simmons	2501 Falbrook Dr. N.E.	Cedar Rapids, IA	393-0444
Librarian	Edith & Jeff Nekola	800 - 25th St. N.E.	Cedar Rapids, IA	363-9792
Historian	Alice Brown	360 Tonga Dr.	Hiawatha, IA	393-7193
Field Trips	Rick Austin	440 - 10th St.	Marion, IA	377-4741
Property	Skinny Lutz	Wiley Blvd & Rogers Rd. N.W.	Cedar Rapids, IA	396-6194
Resource Materials	Leslie Blin, Gladys Zobac & Jeff Nekola			
Pebble Pups	Sponsored by Club Members			
Bulletin Staff:				
Editor	Leslie Blin	505 - 5th Avenue	Marion, IA	377-3339
Co-Editor	Gladys Zobac	2101 - 0 Ave. N.W.	Cedar Rapids, IA	396-0210
Illustrator	Pat Blin	505 - 5th Avenue	Marion, IA	377-3339
Printing	Robert, Bobby, & Mike Blin		Marion, IA	377-3339
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.

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

NOV. 1979
VOL. 7, ISSUE 3
PAGE 1

NOVEMBER MEETING

Wednesday, NOV. 14, 7:00 P.M.
(this is the SECOND Wednesday)

THE
BIG EVENT
1978
MWF SHOW

REC BUILDING IN MARION

PROGRAM - The "1978 MWF SHOW", slides taken of the August 1978 Federation Show. Sorted and arranged by Norman & Alice Brown. Come see yourself at the BIG SHOW!! A lot of PRETTY rocks, too!!

BOARD MEETING - IMMEDIATELY following the regular meeting Nov. 14th. ALL MEMBERS ARE WELCOME TO ATTEND!!

DISPLAY TABLE - Birthstone of the month is TOPAZ.

HOSTS- Skinny & Helen Lutz, Bill & Gert Myers and Ora Mae Cozart

CHRISTMAS POTLUCK AND PARTY



- Don't forget to mark you calendars for DECEMBER 8, a Saturday. We have the gym reserved from 5 til 10 pm. There will be a gift exchange, Bingo, games & who knows what Pat Dabler, Party Ch. will think up. We will be collecting staples & money for the Christmas baskets too.

A CONTEST!!!!

Fran Bates is making the flyer for the April Show and would like an idea for a theme and a design. Write your idea, or draw it all out on a piece of paper, with the theme and design. A rough sketch will do. Bring it to the Nov. 14th meeting. Fran will be the judge. (Prize is a stack of flyers to pass out!!)

REMEMBER.....C.V.R.& M.S. Gem & Mineral Show..APRIL 13-14,1980

TOMORROW

He was going to be all he wanted to be - tomorrow.
None would be braver nor kinder than he - tomorrow.
A friend who was troubles and weary, he knew,
Would be glad of a lift and needed it, too;
On him he would call, see what he could do - tomorrow.
Each morning he thought of the letters he'd write - tomorrow.
And thought of the folks he would fill with delight - tomorrow.
The greatest of workers this man might have been;
The world would have opened its heart to him then.
But in fact he passed on and faded from view,
And all that he left when his living was through
Was a mountain of things he intended to do - tomorrow.

From Achates via Table Talk

SECRETARY'S REPORT - OCTOBER MEETING

The October program was most interesting and educational. Our guest speaker was Professor Paul Garvin from Cornell College in Mt. Vernon, Iowa. His presentation was "NATURAL DANGERS OF THE EARTH". The four dangers he chose to speak about were; earthquakes, landslides, flooding and volcanoes.

Our guests included Ron Jacobson, member of our club who has moved back from Utah, and the Gene Gieger family from Mt. Vernon.

The regular meeting of the Cedar Valley Rocks and Minerals Society was called to order by President Roger Dabler at 8:20 P.M., October 17, 1979, at the Marion REC Building.

The secretary's minutes were approved as printed.

The treasurer's report was read and approved. Balance on hand as of September 30, 1979 was \$791.81. Final report on Show for 1979 was given--minus \$190.22.

A second scholarship of \$200.00 was voted for Cornell College. Scholarship money should be sent out now to University of Iowa and Cornell College.

Jim Dickens was elected Vice-President. A motion was made to destroy election ballots.

A Christmas Basket Committee will be appointed by Roger Dabler.

Correspondence from Don Bates; Des Moines Club Show will be November 10-11 at the Red Horse Armory.

From Alberta Cray: A Wedding invitation from Octavia Pratt and Harold Moore of the Old Capitol Geological Club of Iowa City.

Also Old Capitol has invited 10-12 members from our club on a field trip to River Products on Nov. 4th. Meet at the east gate at 9:00am/.

The November meeting will be November 14, 1979 at 7:00 P.M. One week early due to Thanksgiving.

Motion made and second that the meeting be adjourned.

Pat Dabler, Secretary -Pro-tem

From the October AFMS NEWSLETTER

The Associated Press reports a 50-mile strip of land in the northeast tip of Minnesota contains the nation's largest nickel and cobalt reserves. The area also contains enough copper to make Minnesota the second-largest copper producer in the country. It estimates the three mile wide strip contains more than \$50 billion in copper-nickel reserves. The strip runs through the Superior National Forest from just south of Hoyt Lakes north-northeast to the edge of the Boundary Waters Canoe Area southeast of Ely. Mining the strip would curtail an expected decline of population in the region.

SECRETARY'S REPORT - OCTOBER BOARD MEETING

The Board meeting of the Cedar Valley Rocks and Minerals Society was held on October 17m 1979 at the REC Building in Marion.

Roger Dabler, President, called the meeting to order at 8:55 P.M. Board members present were: Roger Dabler, Jim Dickens, Helen Shedenhelm, Leslie Blin, Skinny Lutz, Fran Bates, Larry DeSotel, Marian Peters and Don Bates. Other members present were: Pat Dabler, Betty DeSotel, Helen Lutz, Ray Shedenhelm and Robert Blin.

No correspondence.

OLD BUSINESS: Must appoint a member to take duties for gathering information for MERIT AWARDS.

NEW BUSINESS: A Display Chairperson is needed for our displays which include local libraries, hospitals, University of Iowa and a display case on I-80.

Roger Dabler will take scholarship checks to University of Iowa and Cornell College.

There was a motion made by Larry DeSotel and second and passed that the club also have a second-vice-president who will move up to the office of first-vice-president and the first-vice-president will become the president. Of these, under normal circumstances, only the second-vice-president will be elected when term expires. Effective date May 1981. Also that all officers serve only one term.

The Club Christmas Potluck & Party will be Saturday, December 8, 1979 at the Marion Community Center 5 -10 P.M.

Motion was made and second at 9:30 P.M. that the meeting be adjourned.

Pat Dabler, Secretary Pro-tem

COPPER BRACELETS - From the Agatizer, via Pick and Chisel

Is it true that copper bracelets relieve arthritis?

The folk remedy has been in dispepute for several years, but now researchers have discovered th/ere may indeed be something to it. Copper, they found, reacts with skin chemicals to produce an anes-
thetic called "ethylene" which can be absorbed into the body.

TO CLEAN COPPER - From Deming Rock Chips, via Pick and Chisel

Catsup spread on your copper specimens, left to dry a few minutes and then rinsed off, will brighten them.

FROM PICK AND CHISEL:

- ARTHRITIS - Twinges in the hinges
- ULCERS - The result of too much mountain-climbing over mole hills.
- LARYNGITIS -Conversation peace.
- DANDRUFF - Personal fallout.

GEODE HUNTING AT SHAFFLERS.....by Roger Dabler

This field trip was attended by Roger Dabler, Rod Dabler, Kirk Klamers, Jim Smalldridge, Bob & Adam Baxa, Rick Austin, Jeff and Fred Nekola. This field trip was in June, 1979.

We left Cedar Rapids K-Mart West at 6:30 AM. It took 2½ hours to get there, due to a stop at Mt. Pleasant for breakfast. We went to the Rock Shop and signed in. It cost \$10.00 and this allows you to get 100 lbs. Then we went up to the diggings. There were eight of us. All it takes is a lot of HARD WORK!, and it paid off. We all had excellent luck. Five of us got over our 100 lbs and some of the geodes were large. The luck is still with Jeff Nekola and Rick Austin. They found the BIG ones.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Balance on hand \$1610.02

Disbursements:

R. Dabler (Buresh rentals)	13.52
All Iowa Fair	200.00
Buresh Rental (tables)	
1979 Show	478.53

R. Blin	
Duplicating fluid	5.59
paper 46.66, stamp 19.50	66.16

W. Lutz (rent on building)	60.00
total disbursements	818.21

818.21
<u>791.81</u>

Submitted by Marian Peters, Treasurer

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

Someone has said that there are (4) kinds of "bones" in every organization. There are the "Wishbones" who spend their time wishing someone else would do the work. There are the "Jaw Bones" who do all the talking but very little else. Next there are the "Knuckle Bones" who knock everything any one ever tries to do and finally there are the "Back Bones" who get under the load and do all the work which are you? Via World of Treasures, from Midwest Historical Detectors Club, Omaha, NE

In the ACHATES I found the rest of the above story:

BE A BACKBONE AND MAKE THE JOB EASIER FOR ALL.

Don't ask what your club can do for you, but what you can do for your club, and yourself. The job is not that hard and your back won't ache if you will only try.

BY TRYING, YOUR ORGANIZATION GROWS STRONG.

The following is the perpetual prayer for the backbones:

" We the willing, led by the unknowing, are doing the impossible for the ungrateful - and have done so much for so long with...turn to p.8

OLD FASHIONED SWAP & POTLUCK

Sunday, Oct. 28, an old fashioned Swap and potluck was held at the Marion Community Center from 9 am until 6 pm. Twelve rockhounds had swapping tables (some just bragging tables). The swapping, with no selling, went better than most had expected.

Fifty or so rockhounds attended the potluck at one o'clock. Everyone agreed that rockhounds are good cooks! The best! 39 of our members plus rockhounds from Iowa City (George & Gert Vacik, P. Poggenpohl & Francis & Esther McDowell) Rog & Mary Moore from Waterloo and Bill Klein & Andrea Mann from Dubuque signed our book. Many rockhounds visited the swap but didn't sign our book so we aren't certain how many attended.

The August 1978 MWF Show slides were shown in the afternoon in the gym for all interested people. The purpose was to identify people in the slides and cases at the show. Jeff Nekola did a super job as "name tag reader" on the slides, with his help quite a few rockhounds in the slides were identified. Alice & Norm Brown have spent many, many hours sorting and arranging these slides and writing up the story for each slide but they still have a few slides of cases with no name. A nice record of the BIG Show, if you haven't seen them they will be shown at the Nov. 14th meeting

Everyone agreed that the day was a success and we should do it again this winter, especially the eating & visiting part! Thanks to everyone who participated, you helped make it a nice day for rockhounds.

TREE HAS BEEN IN COAL BED 250 MILLION YEARS - From NISHNA VALLEY GRINDSTONE

Iowa City, Iowa (AP) - Part of a tree that has laid in a coal bed near Pella for more than 250 Million years will be moved to a new resting place at the University of Iowa Saturday. The prehistoric tree trunk weighs 16 tons and measures 15 feet tall, 9 feet wide and 4 and a half feet thick.

Jeff Schabillon, associate professor of botany and geology, said the rock is "the largest, most intact specimen of its kind ever studied in North America." Schabillon, along with a group of students, discovered the rock in an abandoned strip mine near Pella last fall. He said it is the fossil of a tree that lived in a Coal Age Swamp between 250 and 280 million years ago, long before dinosaurs roamed the earth. He speculates that the tree fell to earth either shortly before or during a flood and was covered by mud and sand. The tree's scientific name, *Lepidodendron*, literally means "scale tree" and the trunk resembles the scales that cover a reptile. Because of its large size, Schabillon called the office of Gov. Robert Ray for help in moving the fossil. As a result of his request, the Iowa National Guard built a road to the fossil, lifted it aboard a truck and moved it to Iowa City where it has been stored aboard a truck ever since.

Saturday guardsmen plan to move the rock from the flatbed truck to a concrete slab near the west side of the U of I Botany Annex. Schabillon said he hopes to enclose the rock in a permanent structure so that it can be studied yearround. From the Atlantic News Telegraph, June 1979 (Editor's note. How about a field trip to see this???)

1978 in review.....by LaVonne Grove, Historian

Cedar Valley Rocks and Minerals Society members were twice as busy in 1978, doing their Club activities and finalizing plans for the 1978 Midwest Federation Show.

Executive Committee members were: President - Larry DeSotel, Vice-President - Alice Brown, Secretary - Alberta Cray, Treasurer - Marian Peters, Liaison Officer - Fran Bates, Editor - Leslie Blin, Co-Editor - Helen Troxel, Members of the Board - Bill Myers, Don Bates, "Skinny" Lutz and Past-President - Jim Dickens.

Committee Chairman were: Membership - Helen Shedenhelm, Hospitality - Fran Bates, Telephone/Publicity - Ora Mae Cozart, Displays - Don Bates, Librarian - Jeff Nekola, Historian - Lavonne Grove, Supplies - Pat Blin, Resource material - Helen Troxel, Field Trips - Rick Austin.

Programs for meetings were: JAN. - slide program of 1977 Show presented by V.P. Alice Brown; FEB. - MWF slide program "Plant Life Through The Ages"; MARCH - a White Elephant auction was held to raise funds for the AFMS Scholarship Fund; April - "A Historical Perspective of the Lead and Zinc Deposits of Dubuque, Iowa", a slide presentation by Jim A. Dockal, GRADUATE STUDENT OF THE SUI Geology Dept.; MAY - "Aspen Trails" a slide program, presented by Bob Jensen, of the Old Capitol Geological Society; SEPT. - Annual "Brag" night, members brought their favorite rock acquired during the summer, to show and tell; OCT. - V.P. Alice Brown showed slides of the 1978 MWF Show that were taken by Bob Jensen; NOV. - Richard Hager, SUI Geology student, recipient of the C.V. R. & M. S. 1978 Scholarship Award, showed slides taken on his summer field trip course and National Parks and Monuments he visited enroute; DEC. - Annual Christmas Party and Potluck, gift exchange. Helen Troxel and Leslie Blin organized "Rock Bingo", led members in singing carols and Patty Blin taught some members the "Jingle Bell Rock". Members donated food and money for Christmas baskets to three elderly ladies. Picnics were held in JUNE, JULY and AUGUST. Because the MWF Show was fast approaching, Show planning sessions were held at the picnics. The June and July picnic was held in Thomas Park, Marion. The August picnic - corn roast was held at the Howard Meeks farm (the host furnished the corn.)

C.V. again gave \$25. for monetary prizes to the Eastern Iowa Science Fair Brad Carollo of Marshalltown recieved the \$15. award and Julie Wortman of Anamosa was awarded the \$10. prize. Jim Dickens and Truman Ramsell were judges and because they felt that the Anamosa student, Kipp Harpily also deserved a prize, they made a "special" prize of \$5, that they contributed themselves. The C.V. Scholarship award of \$200. was given to SUI geology student Richard Hager. C.V. contributed additional funds to AFMS Scholarship Funds to become 600% contributors. C.V. gave \$200. to Red Cross for their assistance in the first aid at the MWF Show, C.V. renewed the Earth Science subscriptions for the two Public libraries and nine High Schools in the Cedar Rapids- Marion area. C.V. gave a copy of C.V. Resource book to all the State Directors in the MWF. A book on fluorescents was presented to the Cedar Rapids Library in memory of Truman Ramsell.

Truman Ramsell dies October 29, 1978, following an extended illness. He was a very active member and we will all miss his ready wit, his indomitable spirit and his willing hands. He was Assistant Show Chairman 1970 thru 1973, Show Co-ordinator 1974 thru 1977, member of the Board 1970 thru 1975, Swap Chm. 1971 and 1972, was auctioneer for the Club until his illness prevented it, was Show advisor for the 1978 MWF.....

1978 in review (continued)

Show (we are all so grateful that he was still with us for that show) T.J. was very active as the Iowa Director for the MWF and gave a lot of time to other clubs. He gave programs for their meetings, auctioneered for their Swaps and exhibited and demonstrated at their Shows.

Field Trip Chairman Rick Austin conducted field trips to Farley and Millville, Guttenburg areas, in April. Thirteen members attended and collected onyx, galena, calcite, fossilized sponge and other fossils. In June, Rick led a field trip to the Coralville, Lake McBride and Tipton areas, to collect coral and other fossils. In Oct., he led members to Graf for fossils and to the Dubuque area for minerals and crystals. On Jan. 15, eighteen members enjoyed an indoor Field Trip to Des Moines. They spent the morning at the Iowa Historical museum and then to the Drake University Open House in the afternoon.

The "Pebble Pups" were very active in 1978. John and Helen Troxel spent a lot of time and energy with the "Pups" with some able assistance from Don Bates, they learned some lapidary, identified rocks, made up a mineral collection, and went on field trips to the Waterloo Show and Pint's Quarry, in April; to the Vinton Quarry and gravel pit, in March; to the Dubuque area and another trip to Urbana, in Oct. (Don Bates donated the mineral collection to the group).

In October the Club finally solved its' perennial problem of where to store the Club's property. The Board voted to build a storage building and Board members, Jim Dickens, Larry, "Skinny" Lutz and Bill Myers, spent the weekend working on the shed. (Skinny and Helen Lutz offered their backyard as a building site and were quickly accepted.) Helen Lutz painted the building and later on Bill Myers added shelves. The Club property (black light booth, show cases, P.A. system, electrical equipment, etc.) has finally found a home under one roof. The Club owes a big vote of thanks to these industrious people.

A Fossil Club was organized February 4, 1978. Twenty people from seven MWF clubs attended the organizational meeting. C.V. members Alice Brown and Alberta Cray attended the meeting, which was held at Augustana College. Alberta was elected Secretary for the club.

LaVonne Grove and Leslie Blin were appointed to rewrite the C.V. By-laws. After many hours of research writing, rewriting, a visit to a lawyer for advice, they were presented to the Executive Committee who spent three long sessions reviewing them. A final draft was finally presented to the general membership in November and was accepted by the membership with a few more changes.

There was no Swap held, by the C.V., because the MWF Show did not leave enough time and energy to plan one.

Cedar Valley members again contributed much to their community, other clubs and other organizations. Babe Barnett presented a program for the Blackhawk Club, in Waterloo, in May. (Larry DeSotel and Truman Ramsell also attended that meeting). Norm and Alice Brown attended the Lincoln, Neb. Show and distributed materials to advertise the MWF Show. Bud and Alberta Cray, Norm and Alice Brown, Garry and Joe Kysilka, Don, Marie & Craig Simmons and Chuck and Dorothy Shoemaker attended the Chicago Rock and Gem Show and distributed more material to promote the MWF Show.....

1978 in review (continued)

Leslie and Pat Blin and Jeff Nekola placed an exhibit of Linn Co. rocks and minerals in the Indian Creek Nature Center. Leslie and Pat Blin presented a program on rocks and minerals to two fifth grade classes at the Linn Mar Novak School. Merrill and La Vonne Frove took part of their collection to a Boy Scout troop meeting, at Kenwood Methodist Church, and gave a talk on rock collecting.

(this is all I can scrounge up on 1978 members activities. I usually assist in compiling info for club's annual report but didn't this year. Fran Bates sent her only list in with the report so this can't be finished until its returned.) LaVonne Grove Historian

Lincoln, N.
★

I-80

C.R.

★
Marion

I-80 to LINCOLN in '80..

The American Federation Show and the Midwest Federation Show will be hosted by the Lincoln Gem and Mineral Club, Inc. of Lincoln, Nebraska, on June 12-15, 1980, in the Bob Devaney Sports Complex. (Did you read the MWF newsletter in your Oct. C.V. Gems??) Now that you have you will understand why we say:

CONGRATULATIONS! to NORMAN BROWN

Bernice McCloskey, President of the Midwest Federation of Mineralogical and Geological Society, has appointed Norman Brown as chairperson for the silent auctions to be held at the Federation Show in Lincoln, Nebr. on June 12-15, 1980, in the Bob Devaney Sports Complex.

While plans are only in the formative stages; I am anxious for all Federation clubs and members to be aware of the auction. It isn't too early for you or your club to get your material together. Get your specimens labeled and be sure each box is clearly marked as to the club's name, city and state. (there are several clubs with the same or similar names--confusing.)

If your club is to receive just recognition for the amount earned toward their scholarship fund, the above information is a must! More information will become available as plans are finalized.

If you have any questions or some helpful suggestions pertaining to the auction, please contact Norman Brown, 360 Tonga Drive, Hiawatha, Iowa. 52233 Phone 319-393-7193

BACKBONES..continued from page 4

so little. We are now qualified to do anything with nothing. Amen".
BACKBONES FOREVER.

Nature is man's teacher. She unfolds her treasure to his search, unseals his eye, illumes his mind, and purifies his heart.

From Earth Science News, via REAR TRUNK

TOPAZ In Depth: The Story of November's Birthstone..... by Jeff Nikola

The cold, blustery month of November has been chosen as the month that Topaz is King. Its warm browns, that are most familiar to most of us, tend to remind me (at least) of Thanksgiving warmth and the aged splendor of the Autumn leaves (looks like my poetic side got the best of me again). My goal was to write an interesting report on this lovely gemstone, so let's get to it.

Topaz itself is known to advanced rockhounds and mineralogists by the chemical formula $Al_2SiO_5(F,OH)_2$ (Aluminum Fluorosilicate). It possesses a hardness of around 8, with a relatively high specific gravity of 3.57 to 3.69. Taking on an Orthorhombic crystal habit, Topaz also has a comparatively high refractive index (ability to split light into different colors) of 1.62 (times more than water). Topaz also has a wide range of colors, from the basic yellow-brown we know, to colorless, white, pink, green, and blue. Topaz is also found in a large range of environments, from pegmatites (coarse granite) to basalt flows. The greatest quantity comes from the pegmatites, such as the deposits in Brazil, Russia, Texas, and Maine, but not so in the western U.S. where the most Topaz is to be found in basalt flows. Gem quality Topaz has also been found in Tin and Tungsten ores, such as in Cornwall, England and Nigerian deposits.

Skimming over this last paragraph, one might ask why Topaz is relatively inexpensive in regard to other gemstones. The answer is really two-fold. You may know the credentials a gemstone needs to be termed precious, they are: 1)Beauty 2)Hardness 3)Wearability 4)Rarity. Unfortunately, Topaz only meets two of these, #1 and #2 (which it passes with flying colors) but flunks the next two. Why? Well, as far as number 3 is concerned, Topaz has a perfect, basal cleavage, and has a nasty tendency to cleave into two or more pieces if hit in the right (or wrong) spot. Don't wear your Topaz (if you have one) everywhere you go, like you would a Diamond or Ruby, for most likely someday you'll come home with two stones instead of one. Also some Topazes (such as the one's from Utah) will fade if left in the sun for too long. The pretty yellow stone you bought will fade colorless. As for #4, Topaz is really a fairly common mineral, being found all around the world. Tremendous quantities are being found in Minas Gerais, Brazil, along with other localities, and the market has been flooded. Even in the U.S. 5 localities for top-notch material come to mind (I'm sure there's more), so Topaz isn't really that hard to come by. Topaz can, though, receive a commanding price on the gem market, the blues and yellows most frequently, but the common colorless material is really cheap, in fact most beginning faceters will use colorless topaz as their practice material.

So now your appetite has been wetted and you want to find Topaz on your own? Depending what you want is where you go. If browns are what you crave, then you have a choice of where to go. Most notable and famous is the Thomas Range in southwestern Utah. This range of basalt flows has been a mecca for Topaz seekers for over 100 years, and good material is still found frequently. Also, Nathrop, Colorado is a good place to hunt for this gem material in basalt flows, if that's your bag. If you would rather go to southern California, the pegmatites of San Diego County are the place for you. Here the Yellow-brown stones are found in their regular environment. How 'bout blue the others ask, well your in luck too. Mason County, Texas is probably the most famous source. Here the water-worn pebbles are found in streams where they were

TOPAZ (continued)



eroded from the pegmatites of the area. If the New England states are more to your liking, blue Topaz occurs there too. The pegmatites in which they occur are located at Topsham, Maine and Baldface Mountain, New Hampshire. The crystals found at Topsham have been quite large (5 inches long), and many smaller stones have been found. Basically, if you are hunting in any complex (many minerals) pegmatites, keep your eyes open for Topaz, for it is probably found there (but ~~is~~ only in small fractured specimens).

One last word before signing off, not all things called Topaz **is** Aluminum fluosilicate. Topaz has been copied in name and looks by other materials, namely Citrine, & form of Quartz. Cut and sold under the name of "Spanish Topaz" and others, the unsuspecting buyer might buy what he (or she) thought was Topaz but was really common Quartz, so let the buyer beware. If the name isn't plain "Topaz" then it probably isn't, but if you don't know, ask the jeweler and find out.

So there it is, the Topaz story. Everything you wanted to know about this beautiful November birthstone, but were afraid to ask.

NEXT MONTH: Find the true, untold story of Turquoise, December's Birthstone.

LAWS TO LIVE BY - in moments of trouble

MURPHY'S LAW - If something can go wrong, it will.

BROWNORTH'S LAW - Anytime things seem to be going better, you've overlooked something.

PLUMPER'S LAW - Nothing is impossible for the man who doesn't have to do it himself.

FINAGLE'S LAW - Once a job is fouled up, anything done to improve it makes it worse.

BIRD'S LAW - There's never time to do it right, but there's always time to do it over.

CRANE'S LAW - There's no such thing as a free lunch.

DINGLE'S LAW - When somebody drops the ball, everybody else will kick it around instead of picking it up.

By Bob Archer

From the Sphere, via Rock Hustlers News, via Pick and Chisel

HINTS:

To tell the difference between nickel and chrome plating, blow on it. If the moisture clears without irridescence, it is chrome; if it leaves a rainbow, it is nickel.

Add a couple of tablespoons of liquid detergent to your cutting oil. If you have a plastic lid on the saw, this will be the first time you have ever been able to see through the top after that first slab.

For slabbing irregular rocks just glue the rock to a square piece of scrap lumber with automotive body repair compound. You can get it in gallon cans and a little heat will remove the last thin butt. The wood and rock seal will hold firm with the wood held in the vise and the rock extended. Use new wood each time.

via Golden Spike News and several other bulletins

A taxpayer is a person who doesn't have to pass an exam to work for the gov't. TOM CARMEL Valley Prospector, via Golden Spike News

WITH OUR MEMBERSHAPPY BIRTHDAY!!!

To Jeff Nekola who was 15 on October 16th. Three years til you can be Pres.....we'll wait!

To Gladys Zobag, who is happy to be out of the hospital and on the mend. Still on lots of medication and has bad days but able to do more work around the house. She says she hopes to make it to the Christmas Party.

Jim Dickens tells me that some of our members are already heading south with the geese. Merrill & LaVonne headed for Ariz. and Chuck & Vera for Texas. Jim tells me he has a strong urge to go with them. Goose blood??

Vance Oliphants, former members, have moved to Minn. Before they left they donated several boxes of rocks to the Pebble Pit. We can thank them for a start on the April Show. Their address now is : 875 No. Main, Hutchinson, MN. 55350.

HELP!!

We need volunteers to help with the Pebble PUPs. Would you be willing to plan and carry out a program or field trip for ONE month. Helen Troxel will help. Please call her if you'd be willing to help.

CONGRATULATIONS!

Helen Troxel was accepted by the C.R. Choral singing group. Watch for a T.V. program of Christmas music in early Dec, she doesn't know the time or date right now. Also they will sing with the C.R. Symphony on Dec. 1-2 and give a Christmas Concert on Dec 9-10 in C.R.

GET WELL WISHES TO ANN!!!

I talked to Ann Grisham Wed. morning. She is feeling better and they were moving her to Hallmar (extended care wing) at Mercy Hospital that day. She wants to thank everyone for all their kindness, cards and visits.

According to the exchange bulletin I receive, Jim & Mary Dickens, Norm & Alice Brown and Robert & Kathleen Starks attended the All Ill. Rock Roundup in Camp Milan, Ill.

From the Illowa News Grinder: Lloyde Rose has moved. Here is his address: W. Lloyde Rose, Rte. 1, Wayah Valley Road, Franklin, North Carolina. Altho not a member of our club he is well known by many members and a familiar face at all our Shows and Swaps, etc.

THANKS to Pat Dabler for typing the Sec. minutes and to Jeff Nelola for writing the story on Topaz and typing it on a master, and to Roger Dabler for the field trip story, ...I'm hoping some more of the members will write up their summer vacations and field trip stories soon, we need them!! Or write an article on the "Gem of the Month" you pick the Gem.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS - Joe & Gerry Kysilka Gerry just called to say
Unionville, Iowa 52594 they were taking the last load.
515-452-6614 They extend an invitation for
everyone whos in the area to stop &
visit.

WANT A FINGERPRINT OF YOUR DIAMOND?

Knight-Ridder Newspapers

It looks like a photograph of a starry night, but gemologists will recognize it instantly for what it really is---a diamond's fingerprint. Some call it a Gemprint, this visual record of the "Milky Way" image that's produced when a low-level helium-neon gas laser beam is focused inside a diamond. The procedure, developed by the Weizmann Institute of Science in Israel, produces a foolproof diamond identification system capable of establishing absolute ownership if your valuable gem ever is lost or stolen.

No matter how many times the same diamond is photographed, the pattern of lights inside it never changes. The chance that two stones could have the same interior is even more remote than the possibility of two people having identical fingerprints. "The Gemprint also is infallible when it comes to detecting fake diamonds", says Irving Getz of Mayor's Jewelry in Miami, Florida. "The reflective pattern of imitation stones is distinctly different from the pattern of genuine diamonds." The fingerprints of genuine diamonds are a random pattern of small points. Synthetic stones, on the other hand, reflect larger spots, flared shapes, clusters, blotches and asymmetrical patterns. It costs approximately \$20 each to have your stones and jewelry pieces Gemprinted. For the price, you get one starry-night print of each stone for your records. Another print goes to a master computer, which knows everything but doesn't tell. From Des Moines Register Sept.1979, via THE NISHNA VALLEY GRINDSTONE.

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