

CEDAR VALLEY GEMS

CEDAR VALLEY ROCK & MINERAL SOCIETY

CEDAR RAPIDS, IOWA

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MARCH 1994

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CEDAR VALLEY ROCKS AND MINERALS SOCIETY will meet March 16, 1994 at the AEGON BLDG, corner of Edgewood Rd and 42nd St. N.E., Cedar Rapids, IA, at 7:15 P.M.

Sharon Sonnleitner reports our program will be presented by our two scholarship recipients from Cornell College, Mt. Vernon, IA, Norman Nondorf of Spring Green, Wisconsin and Daniel Miller of Longmont, Colorado. (Yes, this is the program that was scheduled for January when the meeting was cancelled.)

Norm has worked with Dr. Paul Garvin in the Linwood Mine, and will tell us about his experiences in the mine.

Dan attended Arizona State's field course, which will be the subject of his presentation.

Hostesses will be Sue Houg and Julie Sova.

Guests are always welcome. Bring along a friend.

MEMBERSHIP BOOKS

We plan to print new membership books in April. If your address or phone number is incorrect, or has been changed - PLEASE LET US KNOW NOW!!

It has been suggested that we put a brief sketch about each member in the membership book. (Look on the page where new members are listed. It will look something like that.) Your sketch might tell which facet of rockhounding you enjoy most, what you work at or what is your profession, other hobbies, favorite past time, etc.

There is very little time to get this material to us. Please bring it to the March meeting, or to the show. The information will all have to be put in the computer, pages set up properly for the printer, etc. etc. We will try to include all information which we receive by April 6. However, if everyone waits until then, there may not be time to get it all together. You may give the information to Dale Stout, Gladys Zobac or Alberta Cray. (if possible, type the information)

S H O W B I Z

Everything is GO, GO, GO!!

Members who can help with table set-up should be at the IBEW Hall around 8:30 or 9 AM, Friday, March 18. You may want to bring gloves to wear while handling the tables. Bring scissors for cutting paper as we cover the tables. Dealers will be coming in around noon or before; we need to have the tables covered and ready.

Dress comfortably. Don't forget - the doors will be open a good bit of the time while tables, cases and dealers are moving in. It can be drafty and cool in the hall until everyone has moved in.

The club will furnish coffee and rolls in the morning and sandwich 'makings' and soft drinks for lunch for the workers.

Friday we will have a potluck supper around 5:30 or 6. Bring a well filled basket and your own table service. Our out-of-town dealers will be our guests for supper. Plan to make an extra large salad or casserole or ??

The show opens at 9 AM Saturday morning. Your help is needed!! More help is needed at the hostess table, the book booth, fluorescent booth, Pebble Pit and others. The book booth will require some record keeping as we will have books from 4 or 5 sources. Please volunteer to help in one of these areas so everyone has a chance for a break.

Allen Mitchell, of Iowa City, will present a slide program about micro-crystals at 11 AM.

Dr. Brian Glennister, of the University of Iowa, will give a presentation at 2 PM Saturday - "Rocks and Fossils of Devonian Fossil Gorge (Coralville Lake Spillway) and their Modern Caribbean Analogs".

We will have a VCR tape of the Flood of '93 going most of the day, both days. We will also have tapes of the flood for sale at the show.

There will be interesting demonstrations going on each day - Sphere Making, Stained Glass, Flint Knapping, cab making, Electroplating, geode cracking, and all those exciting materials and specimens at the dealer's booths!!

Are your exhibits ready? We need to have enough exhibits to fill the tables. Each family should plan to bring at least 1 case, if possible. The club has extra cases to loan if you need one. Help us fill the tables.

Specimens, jewelry or books are needed for door prizes. Also some good items for the Silent Auction table. If you are cleaning up your collection, or doing some high-grading, remember the Pebble Pit. The Pebble Pit needs lots and lots of material. We will have lots of children.

Dostals will be catering the food at the show this year, so we are not asking for cookies, or cake, and we will not need help for the kitchen. This should 'free-up' some of you to help in the other booths.

We are doing a countdown!! Are you ready?? Our show is just a week away!! A WEEK YOU SAY?? Hurry, Hurry, Hurry!!

HERE AND THERE WITH OUR MEMBERS AND FRIENDS

Mary Ann Owens had surgery on her knee, February 9th. She was scheduled to have the stitches out (all 27 of them) March 1. She was hospitalized for 6 days in Iowa City. This is the third time she has had this knee repaired; she has a chrome ball and a plastic socket.

Our sympathy goes out to Bob and Darlene Sweet. Bob's father, William, passed away Feb. 23rd at the age of 87. He was from New Hampton, Iowa.

We extend our sympathy to Bev Johnson and to Allan and Jan Johnson. Bev's father, William R. Grafton, passed away February 11, here in Cedar Rapids. Mr. Grafton was Allan's (A.J.'s) grand father.

We welcome new members:

Jenise Blong and Ithiel Matteson
1113 B 265th St. # B
Tipton, IA 52772

hunting, collecting, preparation, earth history education walks in the woods & art with natural objects.

FEBRUARY PROGRAM.

The program was presented by Randy Haas of the Corps of Engineers of Coralville lake. He shared with us a video of the water going over the spillway of the dam for the first time in 35 years. The water first went over the spillway on July 6, and continued for 28 days. Randy said from Halloween of 1992 through September of 1993, they recorded 72.36 inches of precipitation. The spillway water eroded away soil and trees down to the bedrock exposing many Devonian fossils from an area that had been a large, popular campground.

Randy told us of the events that followed the flood and of some of the plans for the future. More than 200,000 people visited the area since mid-August. This summer they plan to develop the area if there is enough support from the public. They are discussing plans for a boardwalk to make the area more accessible for handicapped persons, and to protect 3 or 4 areas of fossils. The Corps of Engineers are short of finances because of all the flood damage to repair.

Randy reported he had asked Marv Houg, our club president, to assist them with some of the engineering and designing of the board walk. Randy extended his thanks to Marv for agreeing to help and for donating his services.

GOING OUT OF BUSINESS SALE

ROCKHOUND TRADER

George and Neva Baker are closing their doors after 33 years of business. They are open 9 - 5 daily. Everything discounted until the doors are closed.

They have rough rock, gemstones, lapidary supplies, tumblers, jade, Australian opal, cut stones, cabs, fossils, jewelry and a large saw, etc.

They are located at 1215 Hartman, Waterloo, Iowa
Phone 319-235-0862

SECRETARY'S REPORT

Cedar Valley Rocks & Minerals Society met Wednesday, February 16, 1944, at the AEGON Bldg, Cedar Rapids, IA. First Vice-President Sharon Sonnleitner presided. Twenty three members and two guests were present.

The Secretary's and Treasurer's reports were approved.

Sharon introduced Randy Haas, of the Corps of Engineers at Coralville Lake, our speaker for the evening. (report of the program will follow in another paragraph)

Randy closed his program by inviting our club members to come out and help with the school groups and guided tours. He suggested we try a half day, or all day to see if we like it. We can sit in on the "crash courses" they will be giving the Corps of Engineers people around the last of May or first of June. Dr. Glennister will let volunteers sit in on his fall classes.

Pappe Phillips asked about painting a "time line" on the spillway walls. Randy said they have ask for ideas for the walls from some of the school art departments but have not had time for response from them yet.

The NAME THE SITE contest closed February 15 with 800 names having been submitted. They will announce the name on Saturday Feb. 26 at the Visitor's Center. A program, "Rocks & Fossils of Coralville Lake Spillway and Their Modern Caribbean Analogs", will be presented by Dr. Brian Glennister, of the University of Iowa.

Following refreshments and visiting with Randy we resumed the business meeting.

Sharon announced we will meet at her home Sat., Feb. 19, at 3 PM to fill egg cartons and glue rocks on cards for the show. We will need small rocks and minerals. A potluck will be held about 5 PM

Sharon said we will meet at IBEW Hall at 9am, Friday, March 18, to set up and cover tables. She reminded us there will be a potluck supper Friday about 5:30 or 6. Bring extra food as we invite the dealers to enjoy the potluck with us. Sharon passed a sign up sheet for the Saturday evening supper, catered by Hy-Vee, \$6.30 a person, same menu as last year. Reservation deadline around noon, Friday, March 18.

A sign up sheet for those bringing displays was passed. Sharon asked members to let her know if they need to borrow a club case for exhibiting at the show.

Kitchen Chairperson Sue Houg reported the kitchen will be different this year. Because of new management, we cannot serve from behind the counter, must have a health permit, wear gloves, etc. etc. Sue and Sharon will check it out and we will discuss it at the Board meeting.

Larry DeSotel reported he has not heard from the MWF insurance. Richard Smouse made a motion, "Let the Board make the decision on insurance so we are insured for the show". Motion passed.

Sharon announced Allen Mitchell will give a program on micro-crystals at the show on Saturday morning and we will have a video tape of the Flood of '93 from Randy Haas for later programming.

Sharon asked for a volunteer to attend the Linn County Environmental meeting Tues., March 1, at the C.R. Library, Beems Auditorium - 7 - 9 P.M.

The Science Fair will be March 19. After discussion, Dale Stout made a motion that we donate \$30. and two trophies. Motion carried.

Bill Mitchell told us about a 1000 specimen mineral display at the State Bank lobby in West Branch. It will be there through March 10, weekdays only.

Treasurer Dale Stout announced that club members can get a discount on Lapidary Journal and Rock and Gem magazines if he sends in the subscriptions on a proper form.

Larry DeSotel made a motion to raise admissions to \$1.50 for the 1995 show. Childrens' rates would be the same. Motion vetoed.

Sue Houg reported that Marv has received a request from a 'home school group' for geology materials to use for a program. Members agreed it was a good idea. Will take it up after the show.

Sharon reported Randy Haas asked her to ask the club members if they would be willing to put together fossil, rock and mineral specimens to sell at the Visitor's Center. This will be discussed further after the show.

Milo Cerveney suggested we revise the membership books by adding a little bit about member's other interests, hobbies, etc.

Sharon announced the MAPS meeting program will be about the Green River Fossils, Saturday March 5, 2PM, at U. of Iowa, Trowbridge Hall.

Respectfully submitted. Secretary, Leslie Blin

BITS AND PIECES from the Secretary's Report - Board Meeting, March 3, at Marv & Sue Houg's.

After discussing the kitchen problem, Larry DeSotel made a motion that the club not have the food concession this year at the Show. Motion carried. Larry made a motion that we ask Dostals to do the catering at the show. Seconded by Jeff Groff. Carried.

Alberta Cray made a motion we replace our short wave fluorescent lamps before the show. Seconded and approved.

Sharon will write a news release for the Gazette. Leslie will get flyers to media, ad in Penny Saver and Gazette. *+ Neepher sign*

Club insurance was discussed. Jeff made a motion that the Board recommend that the club take the MWF liability insurance if when Marv speaks to the person in charge, it meets our needs. Carried.

Marv read the contract for the 1995 show. Treasurer Dale Stout wrote a check for \$100. for a damage deposit for the Teamster's Hall. We will ask about a couple extra rooms.

Pappe Phillips will check on borrowing a large chunk of Devonian fossils for the show.

Marv Houg made a motion that the club pay for the food for lunch for the workers on Friday, set-up day. *conv* Alberta Cray will pick up the meats, bread, etc. Larry DeSotel will pick up the drinks for lunch. Sue Houg will bring the drinks for the Saturday night supper.

adjourn 10pm

Leslie Blin, Secretary

ALAA - The American Lands Access Assoc. , (lobbying arm of AFMS) has two prime House sponsors for its bill, THE PALEONTOLOGICAL RESOURCES PRESERVATION ACT OF 1993/94. This bill would allow amateurs to casual collect fossils on public lands without a permit. This is the amateurs answer to Senator Baucus bill S-3107 which only allows professionals with a permit to collect. WRITE to your Congressman and ask for his support via PEBBLE PUSHER

CLUB LIBRARY - The club library has resource material for most states and Canada, also Topo maps, magazines, books and lots more. Members may check material out. Call Leslie 377-3339 daytime or evening.

HERE'S WHAT'S HAPPENING

- March 18, 19 & 20, 1994 GREATER KANSAS CITY - SHOW, 1775 Universal Ave., Kansas City, MO
- March 19 - 20, 1994 CEDAR VALLEY ROCKS & MINERALS SOCIETY - SHOW, IBEW HALL, Cedar Rapids, IA Sat. 9 - 6; Sun. 10 - 5
- MARCH 26 - 27, 1994 LINCOLN GEM & MINERAL CLUB - SHOW, "A JURASSIC FAIR", Pershing Auditorium, Lincoln, NE
- March 25 - 27, 1994 ROCK HOBBY CLUB of GREATER ST. LOUIS, Machinists Auditorium, St. Louis, MO
- March 26 - 27, 1994 DES PLAINES VALLEY GEOLOGICAL SOCIETY - SHOW, Rand Park Field House, Des Plaines, IL
- March 26 - 27, 1994 RIVER VALLEY ROCK HOUND CLUB - SHOW, Iowa Central Community College, Fort Dodge, IA
- APRIL 9 - 10, 1994 FULTON COUNTY ROCKHOUNDERS - SHOW, Wallace Park, 250 South Ave. D, Canton, IL, Sat. 10 - 7; Sun. 10 - 5
- APRIL 15, 16 & 17, 1994 MID AMERICA PALEONTOLOGY SOCIETY - NATIONAL FOSSIL EXPOSITION, Western Illinois University Student Union, Macomb, IL Fri. 8 - 6; Sat. 8 - 5; Sun. 8 - 3. Many people leave for home on Saturday evening following the auction. Fri. and Sat. are definitely the best days to attend. There is a seminar Sunday morning. FOSSILS ONLY!!

QUARTZ OR CHALCEDONY??

Quartz, the most familiar of the gem minerals, occurs in two distinct types according to the temperature of formation - alpha or low quartz and beta or high quartz are the names usually applied to them. In gemology, however, and for the mineral collector, quartz and chalcedony are the two main types of common silica. They differ in the nature of their crystallinity and only slightly in their composition. Many mineralogists consider them the same mineral, while others prefer to regard them as two different species. The variations of quartz proper are frequently found in crystals, perhaps of large size or high degree of perfection and transparency. Chalcedony, however, never grows as crystals,

but instead has a rounded or irregular shape, more like pieces of broken porcelain. Its varieties are opaque or nearly so.

Quartz itself includes such important varieties as amethyst (purple), citrine (yellow), smoky quartz (dark brown to black), rose quartz (pink) and rock crystal (colorless). Familiar varieties of chalcedony include carnelian (red to orange), sard (brown), prase and chrysoprase (green), bloodstone (red spots on a green background), agate and jasper. ♦

-excerpts of "1001 Questions Answered about the Mineral Kingdom, by R.M. Pearl

FROM: *Achates* 1/94

Each year the federations (AFMS & regional) award authors for their contributions of published articles. The following is the CFMS 1991 Trophy Award for best educational article.

Amber, the Precious Gem

by Sarah Plumb, Chips, issue 12/90



Amber has a great past. It is known as the Golden Gem of the Ages.

Amber is a fossilized resin from prehistoric evergreen trees. These trees flourished in large forests as long as 50 million years ago. It is a mixture of organic compounds, including succinic acid and succinic resins, originating from the polymerization of terpenes and resinous acids. It is collected from waters of the Baltic Sea as well as mined from the earth. There are approximately 200 different color varieties that are known. Some of the most valued hues are yellow, orange and brown. It can be transparent or cloudy. Insects in every detail can be found in Baltic amber which adds to the value.

The oldest amber guild was organized as early as 1303. At that time its chief product being beads for rosaries. Techniques and styles of ornaments have changed while traditional styles are still often used. Many artists create elaborate fused silver work ornamented by golden amber stones.

In Poland (the Kaszuby region) in the 17th and 18th century very large quantities of amber were mined in Pomerania. While extending the port of Gdansk, Polish engineers were using large hoses under high pressure to wash out the earth in order to sink concrete piles. To their surprise the hoses began to wash out large quantities of amber. When the news was heard other prospectors joined the hunt and things soon got out of hand. Now most of this collecting is highly regulated by the state and for most purposes considered illegal today.

Today motorized equipment with power grinding wheels and buffing machines are used in working amber, while hand polishing is a thing of the past. In grinding the outer crust of a large lump of amber a motorized rotating sanding disk is used. It is shaped and sanded until smooth. Running water is used when sanding. However, if amber is not pressed hard too long against the wheel there is no need for constant running water. Wet sanding is still advised by most

publications. After it is smoothed and shaped, polish as applied with a muslin buff and white silver polish. Primitive methods in handworking amber were used from generation to generation. All working stages were done by hand as late as the 17th century.

To determine the value of amber, dealers are fairly consistent in pointing out size and color as primary considerations. If a given piece contains organic inclusions — leaves and other parts of plants or insects — and if the inclusion is centered in the piece, so much the better, as to the object's value. Actually inclusions are pretty much a matter of personal preference.

Examine the piece closely, looking for both clarity and the presence of natural inclusions. If it shows speckles it is obvious that it has been treated. Again, real natural amber represents the slow fossilization of tree sap which bled millions of years ago, then oxidized and polymerized into resin. Natural amber has often been modified by man to improve clarity through a process of boiling the cloudy material in oil. Sometimes color has been added to improve appearance and very often labeled "natural." A premium is placed on amber that is clear.

Organic gemstone material from the Baltic is prized — and valued now more than ever for its scarcity. To complicate things a product on the market called *ambroid* is pressed or reconstructed amber. This product is formed by fusing small pieces (left overs) of amber together with heat and pressure. Various "binders" are added during the process. The pressed material is very similar to natural amber. The binders are used in small amounts to help fuse the pieces and color can be added during the process. It differs in appearance under close examination as it appears "lifeless."

Today much plastic resembling amber is on the market. There are various amounts of sculpted or engraved objects produced (mainly from India and China) and are now appearing on the market as old and antique. Modern pieces of silver

ANOTHER PAIR OF EYES

by Tom Warren

"ACCUSTOM YOUR EYES TO THE DARK"

In order to fully appreciate the fluorescent response, it is best to accustom your eyes to the dark. If possible, do your experimenting in a room with the shades down and the lights turned off. Since you will be using an ultraviolet source, either short or longwave, both of which are relatively weak compared to white light, you can obtain better contrast and effects by working in the dark.

The most common fluorescence is found in calcites. All fluorescent minerals including calcite fluoresce because of an impurity called an activator. An impurity may be only a few parts per million or it may be a small percentage of the mineral. For example, manganese is the main impurity that causes calcite to fluoresce red. Almost every known fluorescent color can be found in calcites which seem to attract the greatest variety of activators.

Several of the minerals pictured in this article are from Franklin, New Jersey. It has been designated the Fluorescent Mineral Capital of the World because the zinc mines there have produced more fluorescent minerals than any other one location in the world. In addition, these minerals are spectacular in their brightness and variety of colors.

The brilliant red of calcite and the yellow-green of willemite found in Franklin, New Jersey are probably the most beautiful of all fluorescent specimens. Although closed since 1957, the Franklin mines had produced willemite, a rich source of zinc, for over one hundred years.

Willemite is an ore of zinc and it is often found in conjunction with calcite. The fluorescent color of willemite is always green although varying through every shade of green. Manganese is the activator associated with the zinc. The red fluorescence of calcite is also due to the presence of manganese. The manganese varies from one percent to five percent. Less than one percent or more than five percent of manganese causes the calcite to be non-fluorescent.

Another interesting zinc mineral is sphalerite, a zinc sulphide. Under certain conditions, this mineral fluoresces vivid orange. Certain lithium minerals are fluorescent. Such an example is eucryptite which fluoresces a beautiful purplish-red.

Certain uranium ores are also fluorescent, especially autunite, schroekingcritc, metauranco-circite and a few others. Uranium salts may also contaminate other minerals such as quartz, agate, opal and hyalite. The fluorescence, in this case, is usually a softer green.

Zirconium is another valuable metal used in industry. It has the ability to remain strong while hot. Zirconium is found in the mineral zircon that is also recognizable as a gemstone. Zircon fluoresces a deep orange-yellow. Although they are not concentrated enough to be of value, this zircon is commonly found as brilliant yellow fluorescent specks in the stream sands of the Rocky Mountains. ??? Strangely though, gem zircon, the clear kind, is seldom fluorescent. Some scientists believe the fluorescence in zircon is probably due to a very rare element called hafnium.

The minerals listed above may or may not be radioactive, however the minerals that fluoresce with uranium salts are never radioactive. They are always safe to handle and some may be very beautiful specimens. The amount of uranium in stones with uranium salts is only a few molecules per million. This amount of contamination is very widespread over the earth and probably causes more fluorescence in minerals than any other activation.

Earlier I mentioned there was a difference between longwave ultraviolet lamps and shortwave ultraviolet lamps. In order to make a lamp that has both longwave and shortwave, it is necessary to convert one half of the shortwave energy to longwave energy. This reduces the shortwave fluorescent energy by one half. When ninety percent of your minerals respond best to shortwave energy and you cut the available energy in half, you will find that you have lost much of the brilliance of your fluorescing minerals. Further, the range of the ultraviolet light is drastically cut down. More multiband ultraviolet lamps are sold than shortwave ultraviolet lamps, but I wonder if you are not really short-changing yourself with such a purchase.

How valuable is this longwave lamp that will fluoresce ten percent of the minerals you may find? I have used both kinds of lamps in the fields, and my preference is the shortwave ultraviolet lamp. With the shortwave lamp I can see farther and fluorescent glow is brighter. During outdoor use there is rarely any need for stooping or bending over to see fluorescence.

In the mineral hobby one finds many branches of interest. There is the cutting, polishing and the

making of jewelry which includes spheres and cabochons. Many hobbyists become collectors of crystals and a variety of minerals. Some hobbyists specialize in certain forms of minerals, and some collect fossils. The variety of minerals one can collect is about as limitless as your imagination.

The collecting of fluorescent minerals is my greatest interest. I can collect hundreds of varieties and colors. I can cut and polish fluorescent cabochons, a smooth surface makes the fluorescence brighter. The fluorescence of polished spheres is more interesting than many uncut stones. If anyone has an artistic eye, they can paint with fluorescent minerals.

Now I have explained how this extra pair of eyes enables you to see things you have never seen before. You know what happens and why it happens, so the next time you go on a weekend trip or vacation, be sure to take an extra pair of eyes with you. You never know what you may be walking over. Hidden values may be under your feet.

This brings us to a very interesting aspect that you may have never thought of before. That is, this rock now becomes a source of light. You have to change your whole program of thinking when you look at the fluorescent minerals. All of your life you have seen everything around you by reflected light. Now you are looking at minerals that glow because they, themselves, are actually sources of light. They receive this invisible energy, change it, and send it back to us as color. So when you take an ultraviolet lamp on a nighttime exploring trip, you may find rocks that glow and each color you see will be characteristic of the minerals in that particular rock. The glowing

colors are a means of identification. As you roam an area outdoors, you will often see tiny particles of light shining in the darkness. These are light beacons drawing your attention to a mineral hidden among other non-fluorescent rocks.

It is noteworthy that most minerals are non-fluorescent. However when you do find one that is fluorescent it will glow. This glow may be bright or dull depending on the size of the rock, but usually it will stand out sharply because of what we call a high contrast ratio—a glowing color against a dark background.

The Chinese have a proverb which says that a picture is worth a thousand words. Those of us who have the fluorescent mineral hobby are provided not only one picture. We have the means to combine science and beauty. With an ultraviolet lamp we can amaze our friends with fluorescent colors in our minerals which they have to see before they believe.

The end.

- From Lizzadro Museum Bulletin 9/93. Reprinted with permission of the author and Lizzadro Museum

Our Thanks to The ROCKFINDER

jewelry of Arabic origin are being set with pieces of plastic instead of amber. The tremendous confusion in the market and difficulty in distinguishing amber from the many types of plastic, have greatly diminished the respect this material enjoyed in the past.

It is suggested by many writers that a number of tests be used to identify natural and untreated from treated from imitation amber. Among such methods are several tests based on touch, sight, and smell. Amber is not as hard as glass or pebbles. Amber has a distinctly resinous odor that is strongly evident when the material is vigorously rubbed or heated. The method used by the ancients is to rub the gemstone with cloth to determine if it will hold a charge of static electricity. This method is not foolproof since some synthetics substitutes also produce static electricity.

There is much to be learned of this Golden Gem of the Ages. Amber appears in a variety of colors: light yellow and white to dark brown, with the rarest forms (most valued) being blue and red. Large quantities of very fine amber have been obtained from the Dominican Republic. In some areas in Mexico it is also being mined. The USSR took over deposits of Baltic amber at the end of World War II. In the late 1970's trade was established between West Germany and Russia. Many think that the amber worked in Germany is the best quality. Amber the Golden Gem of the Ages has been highly prized in Europe as jewelry for hundreds of years and is becoming very fashionable in the United States.

I wish all of you much luck who love and enjoy working with this precious gem.

references:

Amber, Golden Gem of the Ages by Patty C. Rice, Ph.D., Gems and Min., Dec '84

Selecting Organic Gemstone Material by Rosalind S. Medoff, Assoc. Ed., Lap. J., May '86

Guide to Gems & Precious Stones by Curzio Cipriani & Alessandro Borelli

via the AFMS Newsletter, February 1994

Sue Hougs' LEMONADE DESSERT

60 Ritz crackers, crushed
1 stick margarine, melted
¼ cup powdered sugar

Mix together and pat into a 9 x 13 pan, reserving ½ cup for topping.

Mix together 1 - 8 oz. carton Cool whip
1 can sweetened condensed milk
1 small can lemonade

Place on crust, sprinkle with reserved crumbs and refrigerate.

MMMM Good

H I N T S

To clean pyrite, first soak it in muriatic acid until all the limestone is dissolved. Then clean it in hydrogen peroxide. It comes out shining like gold nuggets.

via Rock N' Rose and Stoney Statements, to us via THE ROCKPILE 11/93

By using pieces of styrofoam plastic, instead of the hard, round little plastic beads, your polishing agent will do a better and quicker job. These hundreds of polish impregnated little styfoam pieces will really put a shine on everything in the tumbler and will disappear from sight by the end of the polishing cycle.

Stoney Statements via Carny Hound 10/93

SAFETY - A study in Korea where many people use charcoal briquettes for heat, has revealed that a good whiff of vinegar given to victims of carbon monoxide has proven to be 100% effective in 40 tests on humans, dogs and rabbits who fainted after being exposed to carbon monoxide for extended periods of time.

What the vinegar does is not understood, but the study team believed that the acetic acid increases the blood's ability to carry oxygen to the vital organs. Tuck this away in your memory, you never know when this might save a life.

Snoopy and others via Quarry Quips, 1/94 Both of the above hints come to us via THE TULIP CITY CONGLOMERATE

HOW ROCKS ARE CHANGED-----

GRANITE, an igneous rock, when subjected to weathering breaks up into the minerals composing it.

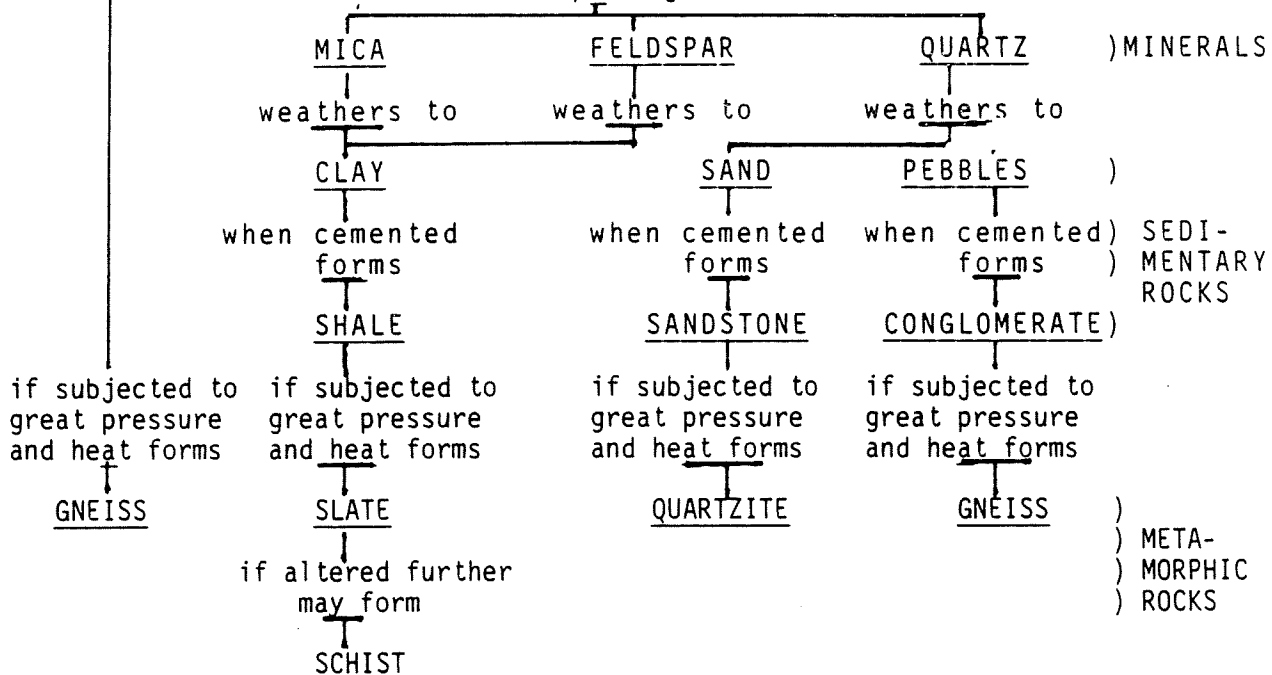


DIAGRAM FROM "AUDUBON NATURE BULLETIN"
Via DIGGIN'S FROM DAKOTA

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Historian