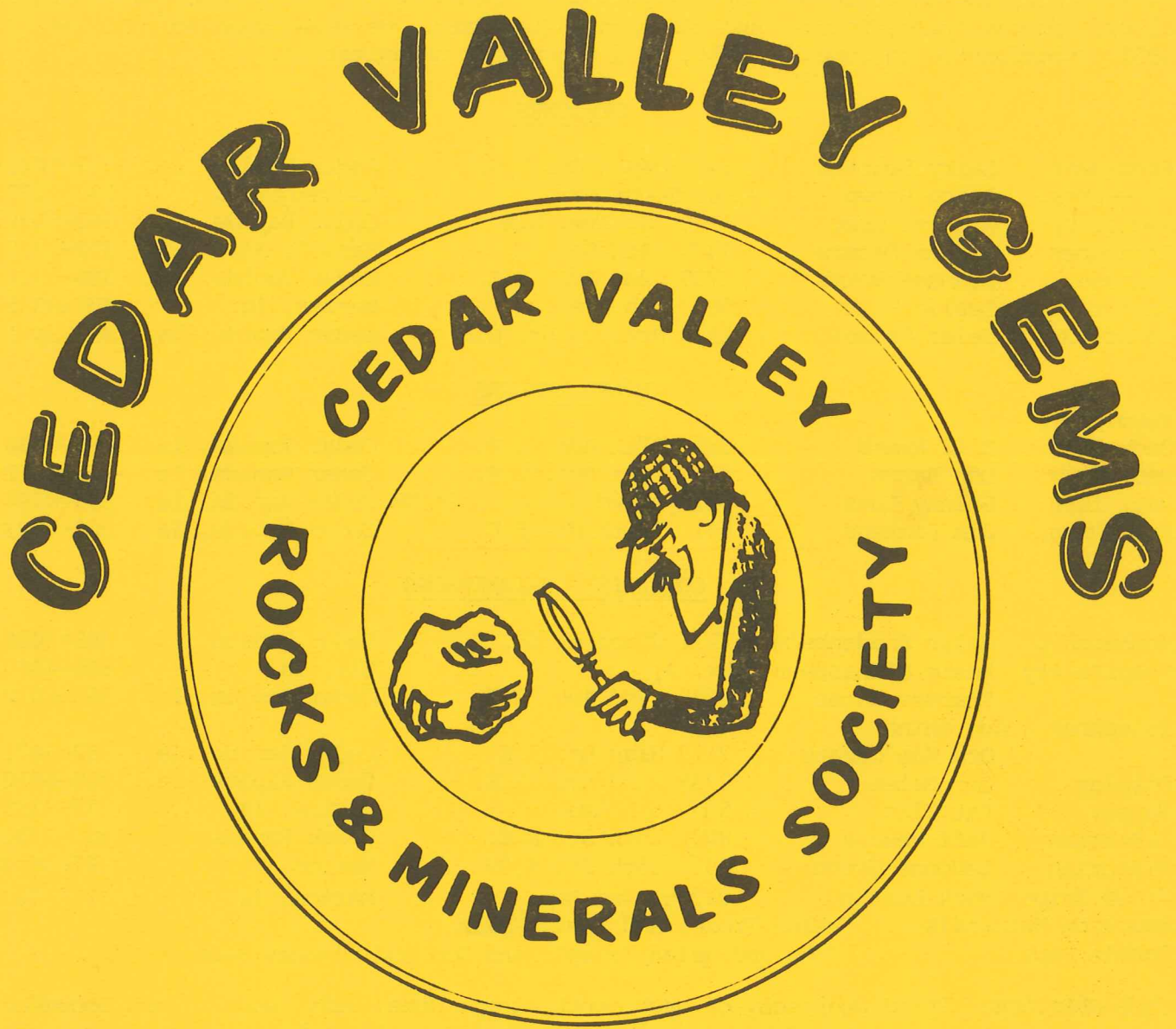


*Jeff*



MAR 1978

CEDAR RAPIDS, IOWA



CEDAR VALLEY ROCKS AND MINERALS SOCIETY, INC.

CEDAR RAPIDS, IOWA

This corporation is organized for the purpose of studying the earth sciences of mineralogy, geology, paleontology, and the arts of lapidary. We were organized on June 12, 1951, incorporated on June 21, 1956, as a non-profit organization.

OFFICERS

President	Larry DeSotel	247 Sussex Drive N.E.	Cedar Rapids, Ia.	377-1641
Vice-Pres.	Alice Brown	360 Tonga Dr.	Hiawatha, Ia.	393-7193
Secretary	Alberta Cray	1125 J. Ave. N.W.	Cedar Rapids, Ia.	362-5530
Treasurer	Marian Peters	1475 24th St.	Marion, Ia.	377-2839
Liaison	Frances Bates	2739 2nd Ave. S.E.	Cedar Rapids, Ia.	366-6012
Editor	Leslie Blin	505 5th Ave.	Marion, Ia.	377-3339
Co-Editor	Helen Troxel	1138 Prairie Dr. N.E.	Cedar Rapids, Ia.	365-3451

BOARD MEMBERS

Term ends:				
Dec. 1978	Bill Myers	335 27th Ave. S.W.	Cedar Rapids, Ia.	362-7080
Dec. 1979	Don Bates	2739 2nd Ave. S.E.	Cedar Rapids, Ia.	366-6012
Dec. 1980	Skinny Lutz	Wiley Blvd & Rogers Rd. NW	Cedar Rapids, Ia.	396-6194
Past Pres.	Jim Dickens	531 30 th St. S.E.	Cedar Rapids, Ia.	363-7693

COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS

Membership	Helen Shedenhelm	2111 Chandler St. S.W.	Cedar Rapids, Ia.	365-3089
Hospitality	Rosie Richardson	Rt. 1,	Ely, Ia.	848-4040
	Frances Bates	2739 2nd Ave. S.E.	Cedar Rapids, Ia.	366-6012
Telephone & Sun shine	Ora Mae Cozart	2117 High Dr. S.E.	Cedar Rapids, Ia.	362-3471
Display	Don Bates	2739 2nd Ave. S.E.	Cedar Rapids, Ia.	366-6012
Supply	Pat Blin	505 5th Ave.	Marion, Ia.	377-3339
Librarian	Jeff Nekola	800 25th St. N.E.	Cedar Rapids, Ia.	363-9792
Historian	LaVonne Grove	700 35th St. #309	Marion, Ia.	377-3614
Field Trips	Rick Austin	2233½ 3rd Ave.	Marion, Ia.	377-4741
Resource Materials	Helen Troxel and Leslie Blin			
Pebble Pups	John and Helen Troxel, and Don and Frances Bates			

CLUB MEETINGS: Third Wednesday of each month except June, July, August, and December 7:30 P.M., R.E.C. Building in Marion -- 999 35th St.

BOARD MEETINGS: Fourth Wednesday of each month except June, July, and August -- 7:30P.M.

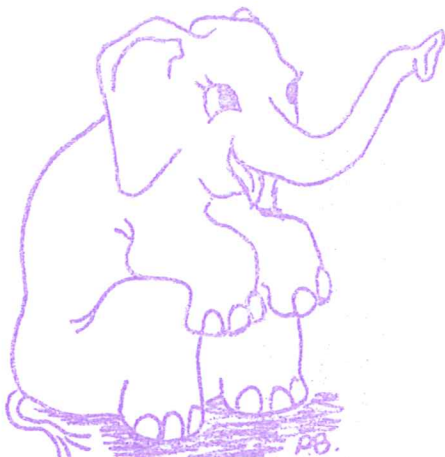
CLUB DUES: Due and payable January 1st of each year. Deadline is March 1st.  
Regular membership -- \$6.00 per adult couple; \$4.00 per single adult; \$6.00 per family membership.  
Junior or Pebble Pup Membership -- \$3.00 (A member under 18 years of age.  
Associate Membership -- \$4.00 per family (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.

Members are requested to contribute articles to be published in the bulletin. Articles should be given to the 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.

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

MARCH 1978  
VOL. 5, ISSUE 7  
PAGE 1



Don't Forget

ter last year. The MWF Directory tells all about the Scholarship Foundation if you want to know more.

MARCH MEETING

WED. March 15, 7:30 PM

REC Bldg. in Marion

Program- A White Elephant Auction

This is beginning to be an annual event it seems, always is a fun program. The money goes to the AFMS Scholarship Fund, who give each Federation a scholarship each year. The Midwest Federation scholarship will be announced in your Midwest Federation newsletter so watch for it. It was in the April newsletter last year. The MWF Directory tells all about the Scholarship Foundation if you want to know more.

Bring anything, sometimes the thing, white elephant, you no longer have any use for is just what someone else wants.. I've heard members say that they're bringing everything from cookies & guppies to ROCKS & plants. Evann heard a rumor a certain person is bringing scratch pads!! Sounds interesting! DON'T MISS THE FUN!! Bring your white elephant and your money!!!

BOARD MEETING- Wednesday, March 22, 7:30 PM

At the home of Bud & Alberta Cray. Board members please contact Pres. DeSotel if you cannot attend. ALL CLUB MEMBERS ARE WELCOME.

CLUB CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- March 10 (Friday)----Pebble Pups meeting..Blins(505-5th Ave., Marion)
- March 24 (Friday)----Pebble Pups Field Trip to Vinton(see page5)
- April 1 (Sat.)--Fossil Club meeting at Auguatana College, Rock Island, Ill
- April 2 (Sunday)--CLUB FIELD TRIP--Our new Field Trip Ch., Rick Austin, has set the date for our first outdoor field trip this year. We will be leaving at 7:00AM on the 2nd, meet at the REC Bldg. in Marion, and driving along the Mississippi River to examine the Cambrian outcroppings. Mostly in road cuts. Come to the March meeting for more about this field trip.(he will see about removing the snow by then!!!!)

APRIL 5 (Wednesday) SHOW MEETING ---At the Marion Community Center, in the gym. The meeting will start PROMPTLY at 7:00 PM as this is a weeknite and some people have to get up early so we must get started at 7. It is important that ALL COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN attend. FOUR months left!!!

PEBBLE PIT CH. NEEDS ROCKS

The Pebble pit will be needing TWICE as many rocks this year for a 4 day show so I need to know what members are donating. Please call me if you have some to donate(377-3339) or if you don't want to store them til Aug. we have a garage to store them in. If you need help in hauling them give me a call. Remember no BIG rocks, a size kids can carry best. R. Blin



SECRETARY'S REPORT -- FEBRUARY GENERAL MEETING

Cedar Valley Rocks and Minerals Society met Wednesday, February 15, 1978, 7:30 PM.

President Larry DeSotel called the meeting to order. Guests were introduced by Fran Bates. Larry extended a welcome to them and to the members.

The minutes were approved as printed in the bulletin.

Marian Peters, treasurer, gave the financial report. Rosie Richardson moved the treasurer's report be accepted as read. Carried.

Larry read a letter from a Mr. Dabasinskas, of Wisconsin, offering to trade or sell fossils.

It was noted that we have a copy of our insurance policy in our hands now.

Larry read a letter from Gladys Holland, program chairman, for the Old Capitol Geological Club, inquiring if one of our members could put on a program for them or, perhaps we might make an exchange.

Larry called our attention to a number of flyers on the table.

Alice Brown read a letter from Hollands regarding two show cases which they are going to sell.

Alberta Cray reported she had had a letter from Bob Jensen, of Iowa City, offering to do a slide program on Colorado for one of our meetings.

Jeff Nekola, club librarian, listed a number of specific copies of Gems and Minerals and Lapidary Journal which he would like to acquire in order to complete the Library's set of same. He thanked Truman Ramsell, Bill Myers, and Don and Neva Shaw for their contributions to the library. Don and Neva also donated some slides.

Leslie Blin, editor, reported that she has the new covers for the bulletins.

Truman noted the National Show will be in Lincoln in 1980, for those of us making long range vacation plans.

A mineral display for the Indian Creek Nature Center was requested.

The next Midwest Federation Show meeting will be in late March, or early April

Helen Troxel inquired if anyone had a filter trap for a sink for washing rocks.

Norman Brown reported on the fossil study group being organized. He announced the next meeting will be held March 4, 2:00 P.M., at Augustana College (Geology Building), Rock Island, Illinois. Fossils collectors only!

Alice Brown said she had both competitive and non-competitive show forms with her if anyone wished them. Each person must fill out one. Also, you must fill out a camping blank.

The meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted  
Alberta Cray, Secretary

Continued from previous page

The group enjoyed the Midwest Federation slide presentation, Plant Life Through the Ages, which was prepared by ESCONI, a club near Chicago.

A social hour followed.

SECRETARY'S REPORT - BOARD MEETING

The Cedar Valley Rocks and Minerals Society Board meeting met at the home of Don and Fran Bates, Feb. 22, 1978, at 7:30 P.M.

President Larry DeSotel called the meeting to order. The minutes were approved as printed in the bulletin. There was no treasurer's report given as Marian was absent.

Correspondence was read as follows:

Larry read a letter from Muscular Dystrophy encouraging us to sponsor an event of some type for benefit of Muscular Dystrophy.

He shared a letter from the Iowa Geological Survey which listed a number of publications, and prices, which they distribute.

Leslie Blin read several flyers for various shows.

A letter from Gladys Holland, of Old Capitol Geological Club, was noted. It had been read previously at the general meeting.

The National Merit Award was discussed. The report must be in March 15, 1978.

Larry DeSotel said he had spoken with a Mr. Beach concerning the Science Fair. Said he would speak to Truman about representing the club at the Science Fair.

There was a question as to what people were planning to bring for our annual March auction, for the scholarship fund. Would you believe guppies, pussywillows, plants, scratch pads, file boxes, etc???

Alice spoke about a display at the Nature Center. Various club displays were discussed.

Larry mentioned that we might invite the people from the County Home to attend the Midwest Federation show, as our guests.

It was announced the next show meeting would be April 5, 1978. The secretary stated she would be unable to attend.

Don Bates made a motion that we adjourn. Seconded and carried.

Respectfully submitted  
Alberta Cray, Secretary

DISPLAY CHAIRMANS REPORT

Thanks to Merrill & LaVonne Grove for the loan of the specimens for the Iowa City case. Those who had wood in that case can pick it up at my house. I changed the case at Iowa City, placed minerals specimens in it this time.

Don Bates

PEBBLE PUP POST

HAVE SOME FUN, FIND SOME PRECIOUS GEMS --- BY BOB BLIN

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

TOPAZ  
 GARNET  
 EMERALD  
 SAPPHIRE  
 RUBY  
 ZIRCON  
 TOURMALINE  
 SPINEL  
 JADE  
 PERIDOT

ALEXANDRITE  
 OPAL  
 TURQUOISE  
 GEM  
 AMETHYST  
 DIAMOND  
 PEARL  
 AGATE  
 ONYX

STONES FOR EVERYONE

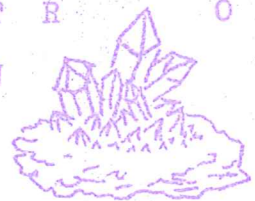


O O V A U  
 E D N B  
 D I Y J  
 C R M E A  
 B E U I U D  
 S P I N E L E



For laundresses, The Soapstone  
 For Architects, the Cornerstone  
 For Cooks, the Puddingstone  
 For Politicians, the Blareystone  
 For Borrowers, the Touchstone  
 For Policemen, the Pavingstone  
 For Shoemakers, the Cobblestone  
 For Burglars, the Keystone  
 For Tourists, the Yellowstone  
 For Beauties, the Peachstone  
 For Motorists, the Milestone  
 For Editors, the Grindstone

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



From the FULTON COUNTY ROCK HOUNDERS and many others.

TOPAZ  
 Topaz is an aluminum silicate containing fluorine. The most valuable kinds of Topaz being the wine-yellow and dark pink varieties. The idea that Topaz is always yellow seems to be prevalent although Topaz is found in several colors including light blue.

From-SHOW ME NEWLETTER

Remember the steam kettle - though up to its neck in hot water it continues to sing.

From-NUGGETS

EXPERT - A man who makes his mistakes quietly.

From - ROCK TALK and many others  
VACATION TIP.....Check out the clubs Resource Book and State Files on the states you are planning to visit, even if its just Iowa, there is a lot of info there. Troxels have an index on some of the journals and Blins have the State Files. Help us up-date the files by adding new info if you can

PEBBLE PUPS POST



WELCOME! to new Pups: Bradley Andersen, age 10, and his brother, Peter, age 13, 3100 Leonard Terrace N.E., C.R.; Curtis Thorton, 214 Sussex Dr. N.E., C.R.; Alan Weber, 4435 "F" Ave. N.E., C.R.; Shawn Dvorak, 435 -20th ST. N.E., C.R.

\*\*\*\*\*

A real-good-time was had by the Pups who went on the Febuary in-door field trip to see the DeSotel collect@on. Yummy refreshments, and terrific pieces of petrified and opalized wood from Lemon, South Dakota, were given to those present. Thanks, Larry and Betty!

\*\*\*\*\*

Don Bates continues to invite any paid Pup who wants to spend an evening obtaining separate individualized cabbng instructions to call him for appointments. He's eager to help, but thinka that teaching one at a time will give you best chances to learn. Don't miss on this one, Pups. He's the TOP!

\*\*\*\*\*

MARCH MEETINGS: March 10, 4:00 P.M. at the home of the Robert Blin family They will show us what they've collected at Vinton and Pint's, as well as other things. An important prepartion for the first outdoor FIELD TRIP ('Bah!) of the year!!! on---

March 24 to Vinton quarry, gravel pit, and fishing river. All pups MUST do the following things, or they will not be allowed to accompany the group.

- 1.) Present permit slip signed by parent or guardian.
- 2.) Pass check for safety equipment: hard hat, safety glasses, and hard-toed shoes if you have them. In addition, rock bags, newspapers, cardboard boxes, tools, etc. may be wanted. (Discussion of these things to occur on March 10th.) If you have any questions or difficulty with any of these items, please call your sponsors well in advance of the trip. We want no one to be disappointed and be made to stay home. (Note: Hard hats may be purchased from several sources, but one is Tru-Value in Marion where some light ones (Not the best, but OK for Pups) may be purchased for \$3.95. Or if you want to borrow some of the equipment, contact your sponsors

Arrangements for the trip: Meet at Troxels, 525 Valley Brook Drive, S.E. at 10:00A.M. Bring your lunch and snacks in brown sacks. Also your adult or sponsor(as arranged with the sponsors) in brown, blue, green or any other colored car. (That's a funny, you hound dogs!) And the above equipment. Plan to spend most of the day in the quarry and/or fishing. The fishing bit is extra; pups can make their own arrangements along that line with their parents. CALL SPONSORS IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS; we want this first trip to be fun and SAFE!!!

IF the weather is bad or cold(below freezing) or if there's still a lot of snow on the ground, call the Troxels on Thursday, March 23, for change in plans.

By Helen Troxel

TONGUE TWISTERS : Six long slim slick slender saplings.

Pure food for four poor mules.  
From The Loess

The Sixth Sheik'd sixth sheep's sick.

PEBBLE PUPS POST.....THE GEODE - By Roxanne Meeks (Pebble Pup)

According to "The Rock Book" a geode is an irregular ball of rock with a hole partly filled with crystals, minerals, or both. Mostly the minerals that are in the hole are quartz first and calcite second. You can sometimes find selenite and sphalerite existing in the hole, too.

A different opinion to the definition of a geode I got from "The Rockhound's Manual." It is that a geode is a roughly spherical stonelike formation with a cavity that commonly contains crystals. The most common geodes are found in sedimentary rock. The first part of a geode that forms is the cavity.

"The Rock Book" is older than "The Rockhound's Manual and does'nt have as complicated of a definition as "The Rockhound's Manual." So I'll give the one from the first book. Many geodes were formed when leaking water desposited material from solution on the walls of cavities in bedrock. Some began with deposition inside shells or other fossils. Many have been filled, becoming solid lumps of minerals. Geodes are usually more common in early limestone of the Mississippi and Ohio valleys but are found in other formations. The other definition of how a geode was formed was in a newer book and too technical.

Small calcite geodes in Iowa have been found around Waverly. Some Cold-water agate geodes can be found in Keokuk County. They have become rather famous as gemstone material. The geodes that my family and I have found that I will show you were found at a limestone quarry in Hamilton, Illinois across the river from Keokuk, Iowa.

Geodes can be very interesting subject to study, very fun to find, and a lot of fun to look at and admire once you've found them.

The End.

\*\*\*\*\*

RECIPE FOR PETRIFIED WOOD



It is best to use an oak tree. First you let the wood soak and become water-logged until it sinks to the bottom of the pot. Five centuries should do the trick.

Next mix in shovelfuls of silica, manganese and add iron for coloring. Build a 2,000 or 3,000 foot layer of clay, sand or dediment. Let this settle for 3 or 4 million years. (Don't hurry this) Now drain off the water and allow to dry. After the wind has blown away the 3,000 ft. layer, you will be absolutely amazed to discover minerals have seeped into the tree and replaced the cells of wood with stone, colored like a rainbow.

From the Geode, Flint Flashes, Pik-nRok and others

\*\*\*\*\*

HELP WANTED --If you have hard hats, safety glasses, tools,etc. that beginning Pebble Pups may borrow once a month for their field trips until they obtain their own, we would appreciate if you would notify the Troxels or Bates. Thanks much.

Helen Troxel



OF SAND AND SANDSTONES.....Part II (part I was in Feb. newsletter)

Sandstones have a framework of grains which are not in continuous contact with each other, but which are open, three-dimensional. Additionally, the grains must be, by arbitrary definition, between the sizes of 0.0625 to 2.0 mm.

There are four broad types of sand deposits which can become sandstone:

- 1.) current structure formed by currents of water, air and ice
- 2.) deformation structures made by external stresses shortly after the sand has been deposited but before it becomes consolidated as slumping (downward slipping as on a hill or mountain), foundering (sinking, generally beneath the sea) occur or as fluids and gases escape.
- 3.) biogenic structures of organic origin, and
- 4.) chemical structures formed by chemical processes during the time, and after, the sand turns to rock.

The chemical structures may take hundreds or thousands of years to form whereas all of the others may develop in a few hours, or even within minutes.

Examples of these structures which are often observed by rockhounds are:

CURRENT

Depositional--graded bedding, ripple marks, cross bedding  
Erosional---channels, scour marks  
Tool marks--slide and groove marks, striations and grooves as if a hard tool were dragged through the sand by water or across the stones by glaciers.

DEFORMATIONAL

Mud cracks, rain pits, slump folds, faults, breccia, ball and pillow structures.

BIOGENIC

Crawling trails, resting structures, feeding trails, impressions, rootlets.

CHEMICAL

Cementation, crystallizations, replacement, (i.e. nodules), diffusion (i.e. color banding).

Here's a mind-boggling concept for fun. The question has been raised as to whether the breakdown of rocks by weathering and erosion into sand grains and mud is equal to that of creating from sand grains into granite gneisses, etc. by metamorphosis. One researcher, Kuenen, had estimated that the two processes are not equal, but that the number of sand grains being created exceeds the combing process. He states that during each second of the incredibly long past of the earth's history, the number of quartz grains on earth has increased by 1.000 million grains! (Makes one think of the Bible---God to Abraham, "I will multiply your descendants as the stars of heaven and as the sand which is on the seashore..." Gen. 22: 17. How's that for a population explosion??)

Or try it a different way: Another scientist, Poldervaart, has estimated,

OF SAND AND SANDSTONES.....continued

the total number of sand grains in the earth's crust to be  $85.7 \times 10^{24}$ !!  
(That is 85,700,000,000,000,000,000,000,000.00 grains!)

Interpreted by Helen Troxel, From Sand and Sandstone,  
by Pettijohn, Potter and Siever

\*\*\*\*\*

"IN THE BEGINNING"

Midwest Federation Show news:

We are overwhelmed by the offers our sister clubs are giving us for assistance. Among those volunteering help are as follows:

- Mineral Study Club.....Muscatine
- Old Capitol Geological Club.....Iowa City
- Northeast Iowa Rock Club.....Summer
- Charles City Rock & Gem Club.....Charles City
- Edwards River Earth Science Club.....Aledo, Illinois

Many lone individuals from other clubs have also volunteered. Exhibit forms are coming in thick and fast. We have over 300 ft. of display space volunteered. This is in addition to the competitive exhibits which I understand is also making good progress. Many of the judges have been contacted and confirmed. Many programs and/or demonstrations have finalized their plans and Helen Troxel is busy with a schedule for the time of their appearance. To mention a few:

- June Zeitner
- Mr. & Mrs. Dan Finch
- Don Good
- Joe Brown
- Floyd Zook
- Howard Barnett
- Tolson Radloff
- Harry Raplus
- Dick Johannesen
- Maynard Green

Lots of letters are still out on exhibits, programs, open house tours, etc. Tune in next month for the next episode of WHO is doing WHAT and WHEN at the Midwest Federation Show on AUGUST 10-11-12-13 in Cedar Rapids, Iowa at Hawkeye Downs.

Show Chairman, Norman Brown

\*\*\*\*\*  
GREAT SALT PLAINS MAY YET BE SAVED-From Feb. AFMS newsletter

Elsie Matthews, Chairman of Save the Selenite Crystal Beds, reports that David Steele, US Army Corps of Engineers, Tulsa Division, has said that there are seven suggested plans for the Chloride dams, which threatened destruction of the crystal beds. According to Steele, three of the plans would not disturb the crystal area at all, and one of them, number 7, would make them stronger. Because of the 6,000 signatures collected by her committee, Dr Naff was appointed to make a survey of the area. If nothing contrary to the Engineers plans is found in the Naff survey, the Engineers will present one of the three positive plans to their Washington, D.C. headquarters. Mrs Matthews says it is not too late to send more signature to help save the selenite beds. For more information, write her at:  
926 Sandstone, Bartlesville, Oklahoma.

C.V.R.&M.S. HISTORY.....1976 in review. By Lavonne Grove  
Continued From Feb. Newsletter

Fifteen members of the Old Capitol Geological Society attended. President Larry DeSotel introduced the guests and each told of some of their memories of the past events in the Club. Assistant State Director Dean Anderson presented a certificate from the MWF commemorating the anniversary. Form Historian Gladys Zobac gave a brief history of the early years of the club. Committee persons for the Event were: LaVonne, Helen Shedenhelm and Mary Dickens. Leo and Mary Anway of Cedar Falls provided music for listening and dancing after the banquet.

On January 17th, Dorothy Shoemaker conducted a session on Competitive Exhibits. Members of the Old Capital Geological Club were invited and several attended. After the session, T.J. Ramsell auctioned material from the collection of former members Richard and Lois Marks. (The Marks are now living in New Mexico).

On February 22, members were invited to the homes of Norman and Alice and Herb and Rosie Richardson, to view their collections. A potluck supper was held in the Richardson's basement following the tours.

On March 21, Mel and Neva Abernathy, Donald and Louise Artman and Donovan and Neva Shaw held Open House for members to see their collections. A potluck supper followed at the Marion Community Center. (Don & Neva missed the supper because their neighbors came to see their collection after Club members left).

Display Chairman Don Bates arranged exhibits in the Kenwood Library, St. Lukes Hospital, Mercy Hospital, all in Cedar Rapids. The library in Marion, SUI Geology Dept. Bldg. (continuing exhibit) and in the Information Center at the I-80 rest stop near Wilton Junction. Several members loaned specimens for the exhibits, except the I-80 exhibit, which is made up of specimens donated by a few members. That exhibit will be used each summer to show tourists what rocks can be found in Iowa.

An auction was held on March 20th to dispose of former member (now deceased) Milo Mahrin's collection. The auction was held in the Marion Community Center with T. J. Ramsell officiating.

Field Trip Chairman Robert Blin arranged for the following field trips: March 28, 13 members visited the State Experimental Coal mine at Oskaloosa. April 24-25, 14 members went again to the mine. June 26-27, Camp out at Geode State Park and rock hunting in nearby areas, 5 members attended. August 28-29, Field trip and camp-out at Coffins Grove and in surrounding area. September 18, 6 members attended a field trip sponsored by the Des Moines Lapidary Club. They went to Easterday's in Missouri to hunt for geodes.

Busy members again spent time giving talks and displaying their collections to youth groups, schools, and others interested in the hobby.

Mel & Neva Abernathy and Leslie Blin worked with the Bicentennial Committee for Linn County, to locate a rock to represent Linn County. Each county was asked to contribute a rock, to be fitted together in an area designated in the State Fair grounds in Des Moines. Each rock will be cut

C.V.R. & M. S. HISTORY.....1976 in review. By LaVonne Grove (continued)

in the shape of the county (one inch per square mile). Mel chose a large dolomitic limestone and made arrangements to have it taken to Des Moines. Mel and Neva attended the Fair and dedicated the Linn Co. rock to the Cedar Valley Rock and Mineral Society in honor of our 25th anniversary.

Cliff Steiner gave a talk and displayed rocks at the Bowman Woods Elementary School. Larry DeSotel gave talks to Boy Scouts on rock collecting and safety and identified rocks for the boys on two separate occasions.

Charles Willson taught Lapidary classes in Vinton. The Willsons displayed some of their collection at the Vinton Community Schools Bicentennial celebration. They spent the day with their exhibit, answering questions and later held Open House for Fourth grade students.

Rev. Charles Moore gave talks and showed specimens to elementary school children on four separate occasions.

Merrill and LaVonne Grove showed rocks and gave a talk to their grand daughter's class at Emerson School in Marion.

Alberta Cray donated fossils to the Juwipa Mt. Cultural Center in Riverside, Ca., for a childrens study class.

Roger Dabler and Elwin Wolf gave talks and set up displays twice at ST. Judes School, for seventh and eight grade students.

Rosie Richardson invited neighborhood children in to see her collection and discuss rocks.

The DeSotels and Rev. Ferguson attended the National Show in Austin, Tex.

The Dickens, DeSotels, Ramsells, Browns, Bates, Shoemakers and Vyskocils attended the MWF Show in St. Louis. Troxels also attended.

Our Club was again well represented at the Rock Swaps around the State and also a few neighboring states.

Truman Ramsell and Larry DeSotel helped with an Auction at the Minn. Rock Round-up.

Truman Ramsell was appointed Iowa's State Director. Truman appointed Larry DeSotel Assistant State Director.

Continued in April issue.....

---

New times demand new measures and new men;  
The world advances, and in time outgrows  
The laws that in our father's day were best;  
And, doubtless, after us, some purer scheme  
Will be shaped out by wiser men than we,  
Made wiser by the steady growth of truth.

By James Russell Lowell PICK&SHOVEL

ROCKS, MINERALS & FOSSILS OF IOWA

CONTINUED FROM THE FEBRUARY NEWSLETTER

TAKEN FROM AN ARTICLE IN IOWA CONSERVATIONIST, April 1977, By LEE OLSON

In extreme northwest Iowa, one will find the only outcropping of pre-cambrium rock in Iowa, Sioux Quartzite. Sioux Quartzite has no intrinsic value other than its extreme age of nearly two billion years which makes it a conversation piece. The greatest concentration of Sioux Quartzite is located in a State Preserve called Gitchie Manitou. It is against the law to collect any rock, mineral, or artifact within Iowa's State Park and Preserve System. However, numerous specimens may be found outside the boundaries of the State Preserve.

At West Bend in northern Iowa, the late Father Paul Dobberstein constructed a grotto of gems, which is unmatched anywhere in the world. Each passage and grotto contains a treasure house of exquisite gems and crystals from all over the world. Father Dobberstein spent better than half his life creating this amazing garden of flowers from the mineral kingdom. Every collector regardless of faith, should see this magnificent display.

Central Iowa, especially the coal mine dump areas in the Knoxville, Oskaloosa, and Lovilia areas, offers many unusual crystals of calcite, slerite, dolomite and barite. One must get permission to dig in these slag piles. Patience has rewarded many collectors with many fine crystals.


Iowa's most famous fossil quarry is the one at Le Grand. It was at the Le Grand Quarry that Dr. B.H. Beane discovered some of the most splendid crinoid fossils ever to be found. Dr. Beane worked off and on for 26 years in this quarry. On one slab of limestone he found many perfectly preserved starfish in bold relief, as well as many perfectly preserved crinoid fossils. The quarry in which these discoveries were made is now closed and filled. Many of Dr. Beane's fossils from Le Grand may be seen in Des Moines at the Iowa State Historical Museum.

Southern and eastern Iowa offer many fine rock collecting areas. Most of Iowa's gems are found in eastern Iowa along the entire length of the Mississippi River. Lake Superior agates are to be found throughout the entire length. Any gravel bar, Commercial gravel operation or tributary stream in the whole region has agate.

Dubuque, Bellevue, Burlington, and Muscatine lead the list of places to try, with Muscatine probably being the best. Several companies dredge gravel along the river at Muscatine. The Acme Company, Hahn Brothers Gravel Company, and Northern Gravel company are located here. Permission must be obtained.


It is possible for a sharp-eyed, well-informed collector to find a diamond in these Iowa gravels. A gem quality green diamond was found in the gravels at Dubuque, and the lucky finder sold it for \$1,500.  
(continued next month.....)

SHOP HINT:

 Garbage can liners make good aprons when polishing and cutting rocks. Also cold cream on the hands before you start to cut your rocks, will help you get the oil off of your hands.


From - THE GEODE

CLEANING FOSSILS

 Boil the fossils in plain water for three minutes. Remove from heat, add one tablespoon soda for each cup of water. Allow to cool, then scrape and wash in plain water and soap. If not satisfactory after the above, set the fossils in a solution of vinegar and water (half and half) for two hours. Rinse in plain water.

From - PICK&SHOVEL  
and many others


OPENING GEODES

 In sawing geodes or agate filled nodules, first look for the largest dome on the specimen. This dome was in the upright position when the specimen was forming. Saw through this largest dome and it is likely you will expose the "picture" or surface. Should the specimen be elongated or egg-shaped, saw it lengthwise to obtain the best exposure.

Often spherical or egg-shaped specimens have a tendency to slip in the vise used with the saw. To prevent this, Pieces of masonite or other soft board attached to each side of the specimen, will often provide a better grip. The saw can then be allowed to cut through the board without damaging the diamond set of the saw.

From - CHIPS OFF THE  
OLD ROCK via AFMS  
NEWSLETTER

HOW TO PUT THE EYE IN TIGEREYE

 First, the slab must be cut parallel to the fibers. A difference of two or three degrees will make the difference between a proper and a an improper cut.

Look across the slice at an angle of about 60 degrees. You should see the half of the slice toward you either dark or light, and the other half the opposite in color. Mark lightly with pencil the dividing line between dark and light. Rotate the slice end for end, and hold in the same plane. If the light side was near you before, it should still be near you even though you rotate the slice. Mark the dividing line again, and hope your lines are in the same place. Now, turn the slice over so the top becomes the bottom, and you should have a reverse of the lighting effect. If the light side was near you before, the dark side should be near you now. When you see the dark side near you, you are looking at what should be the top of your finished stone. Cut the stone with a high dome, and you will have a floating eye.

By Frank Spaulding, The Rockfinder, Rocks and Minerals. From Smoke Signals

Do you know the difference between brass and bronze?

Brass is alloy of Copper and Zinc.

Bronze is alloy of Copper, Tin and Zinc.

From Pick and Shovel

An expert is someone who knows no more than you do but has it better organized-- and uses slides.

From Pick and Shovel

# Midwest Federations NEWSLETTER



Published monthly except July and August as a service to members clubs.  
All news, articles, subscription orders and requests for information concerning publication should be sent to the Editor, Haydon Peterson, Parrot Printing, 2125 Forest Ave., Des Moines, Iowa 50311

March 1978 - Issue No. 183

## *Geology committee plans tour*

*By Don H. Clarke*

The Midwest Federation Geology Committee is conducting a Geology and Mineral Collecting field trip in upper Michigan. The tour begins Monday, July 31, 1978 at Michigamme Shores Campground at Michigamme, Mich. We will be collecting both cutting material and mineral specimens from the Marquette Iron Range mines. A total of ten tours have been arranged for the week.

We will attend the Upper Peninsula Swap on Saturday and Sunday, August 5-6. Field trips are available from the Ishpeming Rock and Mineral Club during these days.

The second week of the field trip will be in Michigan's south copper range. We will camp at Twin Lakes State Park and visit mines from Houghton to White Pine. This is the first time we have offered a tour in this area. The tour ends Friday afternoon, August 11.

Hard hats, safety shoes and safety glasses will be required on the tour. Release forms must also be signed by all persons on the tour.

The cost of the tour is \$15 per adult for the two weeks tour. No charge is made for children under 18. The tour is limited to 50 adults and is expected to fill rapidly.

We have arranged for expert guides for the various locations. Tour is a first time offering for both locations.

For reservations and additional information write to Don H. Clarke, 1107 Maple Street, Essexville, Mich. 48732

### **WORKING FOR YOUR CLUB**

WHAT has Your Federation done for you This Month? Selected Scholarship honor winners. Worked on the Directors. Admitted new members. Furnished judges for shows. Sent programs for shows and meetings. Met with BLM and other organizations to continue efforts at saving collecting areas. Received All American entries. Planned special attractions for conventions. Furnished information on many subjects. Worked on ideas about how to help clubs, how to improve communications, and how better to serve members. Represented the hobby at civic and government meetings. Answered dozens of letters from "How can we get a state stone?" to "How can we host a National (or Regional) Show?" Taken care of the business of the hobby, so you could have more time for the fun.

### **MARK 23rd ANNIVERSARY**

January marked the 23rd anniversary of the organization and first meeting of the Lincoln Gem and Mineral Club, Lincoln, Neb. Howard Taylor, a past President of the Midwest has been named President of the club again for 1978 and has appointed a Steering Committee to begin preliminary work for the Midwest annual show and convention in Lincoln in 1980.

## *Are you going to have a show?*

*By O. D. (Obie) Goss  
AFMS Show Consultant*

Are you, a society, planning to put on a local show -- or a federation show? Shows have been my main interest for many years and when I was appointed Show Advisor by AFMS President Zahn and again by President Langston, I was hopeful I could be of help to any of you planning a show.

Location and physical facilities are important for a successful show, not only for the present show but interest as the years go on. It need not be in a huge building or a fancy one but must provide easy accessibility, good parking and camping within a reasonable distance. The interior should provide good ventilation, a sufficiency of tables, seating space, roomy aisles and, if a federation show, about a minimum of 80,000 square feet.

How many workers do you have in your society? How many potential workers? Have you considered having a list of the occupations of your members in a file? When you need specialized help this could be of great value. How do you plan for a show, bid for a federation show?

How do you choose your show chairman? Are you picking one who will be strong enough to face discontented members, varieties of opinions and also keep the group enthusiastic about the show?

How do you secure, control and protect you special displays? Do you pick your committees or wait for volunteers? What do you do about commitments on banquets, etc.? How about competitive exhibits? Judges? Rules?

Don't consider a question you have too unimportant to ask. I will be pleased to give you an answer which you may use or not. If I can help, please let me know. Address me O. D. (Obie) Goss, 20525 Deerfield Drive, Sonoma, Ca. 95370 Phone 209-532-7294

**1978 MIDWEST SHOW AND CONVENTION**  
**CEDAR RAPIDS, IOWA - AUG. 11-13**

# Field trips planned for National Show

by June Zeitner

The Mineral and Gem Society of Castro Valley, host to Rockhound Rendezvous, the National show to be held in Pleasonton, California, July 27 to 30, has announced that field trips will be available for visitors from other Federations who come to California for the show.

The splendid field trip opportunities of California were well publicized last year when Vernon Korstad took a special MGSCV Rockhound Rendezvous showcase to major shows from coast to coast. Showing rough and cut first quality material, the case was accompanied by a map, showing where the materials all came from.

Post show field trips will be conducted to some of the great locations. In addition, manuals of self-guided field trips will be available at the show at a slight charge. Samples of materials to be found at the various locations will be on display.

California has been a leader in trying to keep localities open. Choice materials from 18 sites were in the travelling showcase. Some of these favorites are for agates (Valley Springs), marble (Sonora), jadeite (Clear Creek), opalized wood (Duck Lake), mariposite (Coulterville), verde antique (Lucerne Valley), and jasper (Lavic Siding).

There will be a field trip booth at the show for visitors, to get all the information they need and sign up for trips. A special trip has been arranged for a guided tour through the geothermal generating plants of the Pacific Gas and Electric Company near Geyserville. The all day trip will include a visit to a California winery. The trip will leave from Pleasonton and return in the late afternoon of the same day. Anyone interested must NOTIFY THE CHAIRMAN BEFORE MAY 1st 1978, AS NO MORE REQUEST CAN BE CONSIDERED AFTER THAT DATE. Write to Jack Burris, 1225 Hearn Ave., Santa Rosa, California, 95401.

*And don't forget those reservations for camping, hotel and motel accommodations. Reserve early so you will not be disappointed.*

## RATTLESNAKE SAFETY HINT

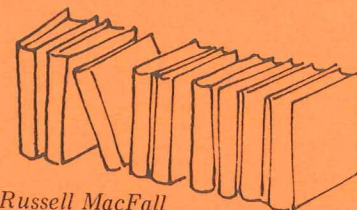
Forest Rangers advise that after killing a rattlesnake you make certain that at least its head is buried. Wasps and yellow-jackets are meat eaters and when easting on the head of rattler may get the venom in their system. Then when they sting someone enough venom is in the sting to make people very ill, and it can become fatal.

## LAST SEPTEMBER-OCTOBER PRODUCTIVE MONTHS AT CRATER OF DIAMONDS

September and October were unusually productive months, according to the Superintendent of the Crater of Diamonds State Park, near Murfreesboro, Arkansas. A total of 104 diamonds were found during these two months, with 340 diamonds found during these two months, with 340 diamonds found during the year 1977 through November.

The largest found during these two months was one weighing two carates, 75 points, and was yellow in color. In October a three carat, 13 point mocca brown was found. Over 60,000 diamonds have been discovered there since 1906.

## BOOKS



By Russell MacFall

Joel E. Arem is a young man who has a remarkable ability to make the intricacies of mineralogy and gemology as clear as the crystals he loves to write about. The latest manifestation of this ability appears in *COLOR ENCYCLOPEDIA OF GEMSTONES* (Van Nostrand-Reinhold, 1977, 147 pages), a large, profusely illustrated and detailed account of the scores of natural materials that have been used or can be used as gems. Of the 220 species discussed, 185 appear in color from photographs made by the author. Most of them would be unknown to a jeweler and some even unfamiliar to most mineralogists. So Arem may have some surprises and some delights for both.

The author has previously provided two highly useful paperback books that should be in the libraries of all persons interested in gems and minerals. *ROCKS AND MINERALS*, with photographs by Lee Boltin, appeared in 1973, published by Bantam Books. It is the kind of pocket-sized book that is detailed enough to be a useful for a quick reference and one that could well be used as a text for classes in mineralogy in rock clubs. *GEMS AND JEWELRY*, also Bantam, was published two years later and like its predecessor includes most of the essential material for basic understanding of such highly technical subjects as crystal structure, the effects of light, the synthetic gems, and gem testing, all discussed in 150 pages.

Arem, a Ph.D. from Harvard in mineralogy, was formerly on the Smithsonian Institution staff. He has been honored with the medal of the British Gemmological Association. As a photographer his work has appeared in the *National Geographic* and *Smithsonian* magazines. (*The AFMS Newsletter welcomes books for review. Send them to Russell MacFall, P.O. Box 309, Coronado, California, 92118*)

## SUGGEST CHANNEL 7 BASE STATION FOR NATIONAL SHOW

Shirley Leeson, Editor of the *Pegmatite*, publication of the San Diego Mineral and Gem Society, suggests that the Castro Valley Show Committee of the Mineral and Gem Society of Castro Valley, host to the California Federation and AFMS National Show, July 27-30, in Pleasonton, Calif. establish a base station on CB channel 7 to help direct rockhounds to the show, camping, motel and hotel accommodations.

## SHOW DATES SET BY CHICAGOLAND GEMS AND MINERALS

The Chicagoland Gems and Minerals Association have named Mrs. Russell Kemp, South Holland, Ill. as President of their association and General Show Chairman of their 1978 show. The annual combined show will be Memorial Day Weekend, May 27-29, DuPage County Fairgrounds, Wheaton, Ill.

---

A VERY UNPOPULAR PERSON.....  
A LITTER BUG!!!!



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

March 31-April 2..New Orleans, La.(South Central Fed. Show)  
March 31-April 2..St.Louis, Mo.(Show)  
March 31-April 2..Lincoln, Nebr.(Show)  
April 1-2..Canton, Ill.(Show)  
" 1-2..St. Joseph, Mo.(Show)  
" 1-2..Mankato, Minn.(Show)  
" 8-9..Mason City, Iowa (Show)  
" 15-16..LaCrosse, Wisc.(Show)  
" 22-23..Waterloo, Iowa(Show)  
" 27-29..Columbus, Ohio(Show)  
May 27-29...Wheaton, Ill.(Chicagoland Show)  
June 9-11..Colorado Springs, Colo.(Rocky Mt. Fed. Show)  
" 10-11...Iowa City, Iowa(Mini-Show & Swap)  
" 10-11...Oregon, Ill. (Show)  
July 7-9..Newcastle, Pa.(Eastern Fed. Show)  
" 27-30...Pleasanton, Calif.(National Show)  
" 14-16..Monroe, Wa.(Northwest Fed. Show)  
AUGUST 10-11-12-13...Cedar Rapids, Iowa(Midwest Fed. Show)  
" 26-27..Grandview, Ia. (All Iowa Roundup)  
Sept. 16-17..Charles City, Iowa(Show)

MID-AMERICA PALEONTOLOGY SOCIETY (M.A.P.S.)

Alberta Cray was elected Secretary for the newly formed fossil study group. Wasn't time to get all the minutes in this newsletter but she gave me a report.

At the second meeting of the fossil study group on March 4th at Augustana College, Rock Island, Ill. thirty-eight people attended. From as far away as Peoria, Ill, LaCrosse, Wisc., North Lake, Ill., Monroe, Ia & Cedar Rapids. Bud & Alberta Cray and Norman & Alice Brown attended from our club.

They chose a name, The Mid-America Paleontology Society or M.A.P.S. Had an election of officers; President; Richard Johannesen, Vice-Pres: Gil Norris, Secretary: Alberta Cray, Treasurer: JOAnne Good. These officers will serve until October which will be the Annual meeting. Board members elected were Don Good, Ray Fairbanks, and Doug DeRoser.

The next meeting will be April 1st at Augustana College, for a program on labeling and cataloging specimens, and to vote on the constitution and by-laws.

GET WELL!!!....Louie Cozart just came home from the hospital after having his pace-maker moved for the 5th time. Was in the hospital for 10 days this time. Get well soon, a field trip is coming up!!!

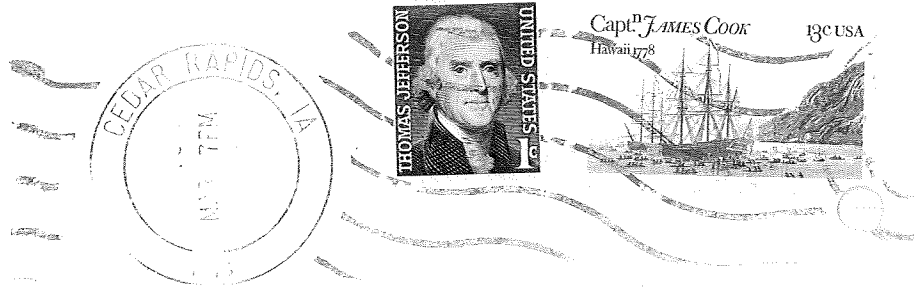
BIG FLASH IN SKY....How many saw the big green flash in the sky on Sat. evening, Jan. 28?? Mike and Pat saw it and I see from the Show-Me newsletter that they saw it and from the TV they saw it in Waverly, Ia. Anyone for a field trip to find it????????? Oh, yes, the Show-Me in from Kansas City, Mo.!!

NEW TYPIST!!!THANKS TO BOBBY for helping me with the typing, he typed 5 pages this month, enjoys it and does better than I do most of the time. He also runs it off and helps put it together and addresses them, too.

Helen Lutz.... got her cast off her foot the other day and going back to working on finishing up their house, won't be long now she says.

DON'T FORGET YOUR WHITE ELEPHANT!!! Leslie, Helen, Bob, Pat

CEDAR VALLEY GEMS  
Mrs. Robert Blin - Editor  
505 - 5th AVENUE  
MARION, IOWA 52302



DR. JOHN & HELEN TROXEL  
525 VALLEY BROOK DRIVE SE  
CEDAR RAPIDS, IOWA 52403