

CEDAR VALLEY GEMS

CEDAR VALLEY ROCK & MINERAL SOCIETY

CEDAR RAPIDS, IOWA

NOVEMBER PROGRAM

The November meeting will be held on Nov. 16 at 7:15 pm. at the AEGON/Life Investors Bldg. Sharon Sonnleitner reports the program will be a discussion of the material found at the Lafarge Quarry, Buffalo, and at nearby Wyoming Hill. Marv Houg will be the main presenter. This should be especially helpful to those members who are going on the field trip Nov. 19. Others with material from the area are invited to bring it.

HOSTESSES for the November meeting will be Janet Bostwick and Phyllis Barber.

FIELD TRIP TO LAFARGE QUARRY, BUFFALO, NOVEMBER 19

A field trip to the Lafarge Quarry (formerly Davenport Cement Co.) near Buffalo has been set up for Saturday, November 19. We can get into the quarry as a group at 10:00. Good specimens of several minerals have been coming out of there lately. Bring hard hats, mallets, hammers, chisels, etc., since some of the collecting requires breaking rock. Fossils can also be found there. Meet at 8:00 at Prairie High School parking lot, near the entrance to the lot, 76th Ave. SW, just off of 6th Street. Bring lunch.

Directions: I-80 East to 280 South to 22 West to the Quarry. Sharon Sonnleitner

NOMINATIONS FOR 1995-6 OFFICERS

To the right is the slate of nominees for officers to be elected at the November meeting for a term of 2 years (except directors). Nominations will also be taken from the floor.

Nominating Committee is: Sharon Sonnleitner, chair, Jeff Groff, Tom Whitlatch, Blane Phillips, and Richard Smouse.

Al Johnson has 1 year remaining as Director. Richard Smouse is Immediate Past Pres.

President: Marv Houg
1st Vice President: Jeff Groff
2nd Vice President: Julie Sova
Secretary: Tom Whitlatch
Treasurer: Dale Stout
Liaison: Blane Phillips
Editor: Alberta Cray
3-year Director: Bill Mitchell
2-year Director: Bob Sweet
(to fill Jeff Groff's position)

HERE AND THERE WITH OUR MEMBERS AND FRIENDS

Our condolences to Richard and Millie Smouse on the loss of Millie's sister this past week. She had earlier suffered a stroke and was in a care center. Our thoughts and prayers are with you, Millie and Richard.

We received word via Alice Brown on Sunday that Robert Blin had suffered a heart attack while visiting relatives in Missouri. On November 8 we learned that he had suffered the attack on October 30 while mowing and was flown by helicopter to a Des Moines hospital, where he remained for nine days. But we're happy to report that he and Leslie returned home on the 7th and he is doing well. Best wishes for a complete recovery, Robert.

CHRISTMAS PARTY, DECEMBER 18

The Christmas Party-Potluck will be held December 18, 1994, at the AEGON cafeteria. We will have the room anytime after 3 PM. Look for details in the December bulletin.

NOTE: You may find some pages in this bulletin with an incorrect date. Because of some last minute changes that had to be made in September, some pages that were already printed had to be held over.

CHRISTMAS BASKET

It is a custom of our club to give a lift, at Christmas time, to those who are less fortunate. We also try to give some "special request" gifts. We will have more about that in the December bulletin. Names of families in need will be supplied by HACAP. A member of the committee will ascertain special requests and any food restrictions.

Each member is asked to donate some nonperishable food items such as canned goods, sugar, cereals, dried fruits, puddings, cooking or baking oils, etc. We will also take up a cash collection from the members. The money will be used to buy fresh meats such as turkey, chicken, ham, etc. Also fresh produce, eggs, cheese, milk and whatever is needed to round out the donations.

Bob and Darlene Sweet will collect all the groceries at their home. Darlene will sort and divide the donations into 3 groups. (We will give to 3 families.) Close to Christmas Day, the committee will meet at Sweet's and go grocery shopping. Then back to Darlene's to fix the several boxes for Family #1, #2 and #3. We will load up 2 or 3 cars and be off to be Santa Claus.

If you will be unable to attend the December meeting (potluck), we encourage you to bring your donations to the November meeting. If you have some good meat, cheese, or cereal coupons which you do not plan to use, please bring them to the meeting. Help us stretch those dollars.

Alberta Cray

SHOW MEETING, OCTOBER 25, 1994, SECRETARY'S REPORT

We met at Sonnleitner's Tuesday, October 25th. Thirteen members were present. Sharon and Marv, Show co-chairpersons chaired the meeting.

Alberta listed the dealers who have confirmed their contracts. She noted Castle will bring an exhibit if we can provide a case and L and R will bring tumblers and faceting machines.

Marv reported there are 3 circuits at Teamster's Hall. He said we will probably need to use a generator from outside.

Marv passed the sign-up for chairpersons and helpers for the show committees.

AUCTION - Members should be at Ely at 8:15 to get the tables set up. Julie Sova said she will make signs. Millie Smouse brought several copies of the complete list of auction material. Larry DeSotel will auction numbers 1 - 100. Marv will auction 101 - 200, etc. George Vacik was asked to bid on items for club use and for school programs. We will not plan to take a lunch break at the auction.

Respectfully submitted, Leslie Blin, Secretary

OCTOBER 19, 1994 MEETING

We enjoyed a Midwest Federation film which Jeff Nekola had made several years ago, "Yes Virginia, There Is Rock Collecting in Iowa." Jeff had carefully documented each specimen as to owner, as well as if it was from a College or University. It is sad to realize the specimens from the Dabler collection, and at least some of the DeSotel collections have been sold and are no longer available.

It was a great program with beautiful minerals and fossils from some of the quarries which are now closed. A really good program for the new members.



HAPPY
THANKSGIVING



SECRETARY'S REPORT, OCTOBER 19, 1994

Cedar Valley Rocks and Mineral Society met Wednesday, October 19, 1994, at the Aegon Bldg, Cedar Rapids.

The Secretary's report was approved as printed.

Treasurer Dale Stout reported expenses - \$50. deposit on bldg for Auction, \$54.60 for flyers and \$72. for shed rent. Income of \$69. for books sold and \$6. for egg carton rock kits. Checking is \$816.53. Treasurer's report was approved.

Marv reported he has received an order form for the book, "Guide to the Fossil Fauna of Mazon Creek." If you wish to order, contact Marv.

AUCTION - Richard and Millie Smouse will sell their collection on Saturday, October 29, starting at 9 AM. Richard reports they are making a list of all of the material, with lot numbers, for the bidders. Alberta Cray will pick up the sandwich 'makings' for the workers on Friday. Sharon will pick up the pop. We will be open from 5 till 7 for our guests to view the material. Sharon announced the students from the Preucil School of Music will have hot food available on Saturday from 10 till 2 and snack foods all day. Members need to be at Ely by 7 AM Saturday. The building opens to the public for viewing at 7:30 AM

FIELD TRIPS - Bill Mitchell described the field trip planned to Conklin Quarry on Sunday, October 23, 1994 Be there at 9 AM

Marv announced the GSI field trip will be November 5 to Devonian Fossil George and State Quarry. Open to anyone who wants to go. Meet at the parking lot of Coralville Dam at 8:30 AM. For GSI membership send \$5.00 to Raymond R. Anderson, Geological Survey Bureau, 109 Trowbridge Hall, Iowa City, Ia 52242-1319

Sharon is trying to get a field trip to the Buffalo quarry for the middle of November.

SHOW THEME - After much discussion, we chose Janet Bostwick's suggestion of "MAGNIFICENT MIDWEST MINERALS". We will plan to use the Midwest Federation slide program, on Eastern Iowa Minerals and Fossils, which was prepared by Jeff Nekola.

Marv announced a Show meeting on Tuesday, October 25, 7 PM at Sonnleitner's home.

Advertising for the show was discussed. Marv appointed an Advertising Committee, Leslie Blin, chair. Tom Whitlatch volunteered to help.

Larry DeSotel announced he had sold his shop and has changed his phone number to 364-8648. He reported that he has given rock programs to 800 children since the start of school. He was at St. Joseph's in Marion all day and gave a program to 188 kids and got a letter from each one. He was at a school in Mechanicsville all day. Spoke to 118 kids.

Marv asked Sharon to head the nominating Committee. Pappé Phillips, Tom Whitlatch and Jeff Groff will assist. Election at November meeting. Nominees will be published in the bulletin.

We adjourned for refreshments and the slide program by Jeff Nekola, "There Is Rock Collecting in Iowa" Part 1, Eastern area.

Respectfully submitted, Leslie Blin, Secretary

**HAPPY
THANKSGIVING**

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*American Federation
of
Mineralogical Societies*

2857 Addison Place
Santa Clara, CA 95051-1705
October 1, 1994

Alberta Cray, Editor
Cedar Valley Gems
1125 J. Ave., N. W.
Cedar Rapids, Iowa 52405

Dear Alberta:

I want to thank you and the members of the Cedar Valley Rock & Mineral Society for including me on your mailing list for your newsletter. It has been very helpful in my work to know what the various societies of our Federations are doing and what the members' interests are.

The many letters which you published in your June issue show a good many educational activities that your society is participating in and you are all to be congratulated for the excellent work you are doing.

Thanks again, to you and your club for all of the help you are giving to our hobby and those who are studying.

Very truly yours,

Ruth Bailey
AFMS President

June 9, 1994

CVR&MS
c/o Dale Stout
2237 Meadowbrook Drive SE.
Cedar Rapids, IA 52403

Dear Mr. Stout and CVR&MS members,

I would like to extend my sincere thanks for being chosen as a 1993 summer field camp scholarship recipient. The \$500 dollar award was a great help in offsetting field expenses from last year's field camp and allowing me to continue to pursue my interests in structural geology.

I am now doing graduate work at the University of Iowa, under the direction of Dr. Jim Faulds, for a master's degree in structural geology. I have a field oriented thesis which has taken me to the deserts of Nevada for most of the last four months. Tomorrow, I leave once again for Park City, Utah where this year I will be a teaching assistant for the same field camp I attended as a student last year.

I look forward to talking with all of you, some time during the 1994-95 academic year, about my experiences at field camp both as a student and a T.A. I also hope to have some preliminary results from my work in Nevada which you may be interested in hearing. Thank you once again for your generosity.

Sincerely,

Eric L. Olson
office: B336A
Department of Geology
Trowbridge Hall, U of I
Iowa City, IA 52240

May 25, 1994

Cedar Valley Rock & Mineral Society
% Dale Stout
2237 Meadowbrook Drive SE
Cedar Rapids, IA 52403

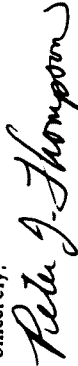
Dear Dale:

I'm writing on behalf of the geology department at Cornell, to thank you once again for your very generous support of our students at field camp. This year's recipient of the scholarship is Marcus Minefee, a junior from Chicago, who is at this moment attending a field camp run by Boston University in Nova Scotia and Maine. Marcus was inspired to pursue geology by visits to the Field Museum, and he has worked hard at his geology courses at Cornell. His field experience is limited, and he has never traveled outside the Midwest, so this summer will be very important to him.

I also wanted to thank you for the opportunity to relive our adventures in Iceland by sharing our photos with you last week. I will deposit the honorarium check in a fund for a scholarship we give each year to the most deserving Environmental Studies major in the sophomore class.

Thelma and I are off to Vermont in another week to continue our bedrock mapping project there. One task that awaits us is exploration of a previously unreported serpentine deposit which we found at the end of last summer, exposed in a ski trail. We'll bring back some samples to share with you.

Sincerely,



Peter J. Thompson

DEPARTMENT OF GEOLOGY
640 First Street West
Mount Vernon, Iowa 52314-1098
515-895-4000 4306

ELDERHOSTEL

by Bill Mitchell

Elderhostel is a non-profit educational organization which offers inexpensive, short-term academic programs hosted by educational institutions around the world. Individuals 60 years of age and older are eligible. I have read about Elderhostel in the past and thought that it was something that I would enjoy doing when I reached that age level. When I received my April 1994 AFMS Newsletter, I noticed a list of Elderhostel programs associated with our hobby. That got my attention, so I sent for Elderhostel materials. When I received the materials, I was especially interested in the Utah programs, because of the descriptions and the fact that I had always wanted to rock hunt in Utah. I chose a program called "A Rock Hound's Dream Site: Gems, Rare Stones, and Fossils". This program was given by Snow College of Ephraim, Utah. However, the Elderhostel was held in Delta, Utah, a city in central Utah. Most Elderhostel programs feature three separate courses, but I chose a program which had a single topic. I applied for, and was accepted into, the September 18-24 program in Delta.

I drove to Utah, so Madge and I left Iowa City on Wednesday, September 14. We arrived at our daughter and son-in-law's home in Denver mid-day Thursday. That happened to be the weekend of Denver's annual gem and mineral shows, so I was able to visit the various locations on Thursday and Friday. I had visited these shows in September 1993 and I certainly enjoyed them again this year. The four of us drove to Aspen on Saturday and I left Aspen for Delta on Sunday morning. My wife remained in Denver for the week. The mountain scenery was beautiful that weekend, with aspen and other trees changing color.

The Elderhostel program started on Sunday evening and ended with Saturday morning breakfast. There were 50 participants from all parts of the United States. I was the only Iowan, but there were people from Illinois and other midwestern states. We stayed in two motels and ate three meals a day at a downtown restaurant.

A highlight of the program for me was the field trips. We had two all-day field trips, riding a school bus into the desert and mountain areas. On Tuesday morning, we went to Antelope Springs, a well-known trilobite location. Antelope Springs is located in the House Range of mountains. I decided to remove shale from a vertical wall and split the shale. I was very pleased with the trilobites I found. In the afternoon, we went to a "wonderstone" location. Wonderstone is a colorful banded rhyolite. After a hike up a steep hill, we found that various colors of wonderstone were available, no digging or other work was necessary. Our school bus was much more heavily loaded for our return trip to Delta.

For our Thursday field trip, we went to Topaz Mountain in the morning. Topaz Mountain is also located in the Thomas Range of mountains and is a world-famous location. There are several other minerals found in the area, but I concentrated on topaz crystals. The topaz is sherry-colored, but becomes transparent when left in sunlight. This location reminded me of Ruby Mountain in Colorado, where I have

enjoyed finding garnets and some topaz crystals. The topaz crystals that I found on Topaz Mountain were much nicer. In the afternoon, we went to the Dugway Range and hunted Dugway geodes. The geodes were plentiful, but the largest ones had been removed. In this location, the heavy digging had been done, so we didn't have to dig a 5 to 6 foot hole. The small geodes were plentiful. We again returned with heavy packs, buckets, etc. On Wednesday afternoon, there was an optional field trip to hunt labradorite crystals. The crystals were plentiful, but pretty small.

The community of Delta is very rockhound-minded. This is their main tourist attraction. There are several mineral and fossil related shops and businesses. Some of the companies do a large mail-order business. Trilobites, Dugway geodes, and septarian nodules are the main products. Delta is also a volcanic area and has obsidian collecting areas. Agates and various fossils and minerals are found in the area.

During the day and some evenings, we had "classes" and programs on geology, mining, the Great Basin area, and visited the various rockhound related businesses. We had a program about the Topaz relocation camp, a Japanese internment camp in World War II. About 8,000 Japanese were moved from their homes on the west coast to the Delta area. At that time, there were only three cities in Utah with a greater population than the Topaz camp.

The weather was very pleasant. We did have some rain on the morning of the trilobite trip, but it didn't bother very much. The rest of the week was warm days, low humidity, and cool nights. It was a very enjoyable week for me. The other participants were very nice and interesting to meet. I tried to sit with different people at the various meals. Many of the participants had attended other Elderhostels (some overseas). Based upon my experience in Delta, I plan to attend more of them. I recommend them to those of you who meet the age requirement.

Bill Mitchell

HERE AND THERE WITH OUR MEMBERS

Larry DeSotel reports he has sold his rock business. Also because of some confusion with another business, they have had their phone number changed. Their new number is: 364-8648. Please correct your membership book accordingly

We welcome new member Charles Kelsey
818 - 32nd St. S.E.
Cedar Rapids, IA 52403
362-8455

Merrill & LaVonne Grove have a new address. No, they have not moved. The wisdom of the post office and the trailer park owner have changed their address to: 209 Midway Drive, Marion, IA 52302

CRYSTAL POWER

What's Stronger Than Steel And Springier Than Plastic?

The answer to the above question is quartz – the same silicon dioxide that rockhounds love to cut and polish in all its many forms. Quartz may seem brittle and unyielding, but springs made of pure quartz are far superior to metal springs for use in certain delicate instruments. Unlike metal, the quartz springs do not pull out of shape, no matter how long or how much they are stretched. In addition, quartz is stable over a wide temperature range and is not affected by adverse weather or chemical conditions. It is an almost perfectly elastic material until it breaks, and its elastic limit and breaking point seem fortunately to coincide.

The beautiful little, clear coil springs of quartz play vital roles in the success of oil hunters and the safety of airliners.

In the never ending quest for new oil fields the major application of the quartz spring is in gravity meters. The gravity meter is a spring balance capable of weighing the mass of below-surface formations as it is moved over the earth. Geologists and geophysicists use this important information to pin-point potential oil-bearing rock.

In the aircraft business, very delicate pressure gauges with quartz springs are used to calibrate altimeters – the life and death instrument pilots must have to tell their distance from the ground. Altimeter calibration is a precision job that formerly required many hours and now, with the introduction of quartz springs, can be accurately accomplished in a few minutes. This new calibration procedure has greatly improved accuracy by minimizing human errors inherent in the long drawn-out old method. Flying is safer because of the quartz spring.

So, good old quartz, SiO_2 , the primary ingredient of sand, window glass, flint, chert, agate, jasper, opal, etc. continues to demonstrate yet another facet of its wondrous range of versatility.

Condensed from an article in the Houston Chronicle, via The Rock Rattler Mountain Gem. ♦

FROM: M. M. S. Conglomerate 4/89

QUARTZ SERVES HUMANKIND

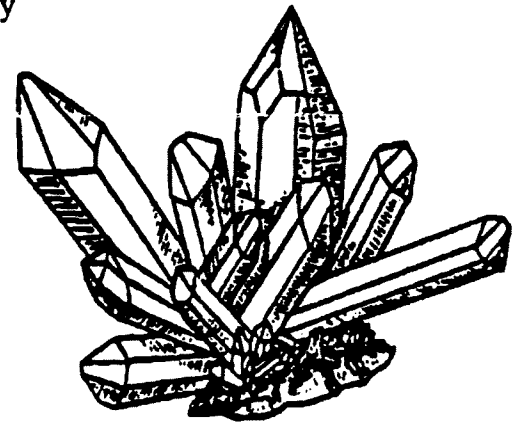
In all things of nature there is something of the marvelous.

–Aristotle

Quartz has always been the greatest stone of all to lapidaries, mineral collectors and rockhounds. Diamonds, rubies, and sapphires, and all the other precious stones have a certain mystical attraction, it is true, but none have held humankind's attention since the dawn of history as have the minerals made of silicon dioxide.

Quartz in its various guises served early humans as material for tools Paleolithic and Neolithic man used quartz to make celts, scrapers and arrow heads for his daily use. In fact, quartz in the form of flint was probably used as the raw material for humankind's first mineral industry in the manufacturing of these tools. Other uses, including the taking of a rock crystal as an early symbol for his religious thoughts and impulses have been employed by man.

Charmstones of crystal personal decorations as pendants and ornamentation for home and temple are a few others.



Laboratory scales

use quartz as a fulcrum, and modern electronics would be lost without quartz as the heart of its chips. Some uses of quartz include the making of glass ceramics, cement and silicon. It is used as an abrasive, poultry grits, filtering medium, a metallurgical flux, and numerous other products.

In fact, a couple of quartz type minerals have been invented in the laboratory. Coesite and stishovite, after being invented, have been found at Meteor Crater, Arizona, after first having been described as artificial compounds and being synthesized. ♦

– "From a Lapidary's Notes" – by Theo Steinhauer in Mineralog, Oct. 1990

FROM: The Rockpile 2/91

THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL CONSERVANCY has now acquired the Indian Chert Quarry of Grand Meadow, Minnesota.

GRAND MEADOW'S PIECE OF HISTORY

Scientists believe that from 7200 B.C. to 1800 A.D., ancient civilizations trudged great distances to retrieve stone from more than 1,000 man-made quarries on 100 acres in Grand Meadow, Minn. The stone was used for arrows, knives, spears and other tools. Tools from the Grand Meadow site have been found 500 miles away, which speaks to its importance as an early mining site, said Orrin Shane, an archaeologist for the Science Museum of Minnesota. It was an industrial center, visited by the Indians.

The quarries, 10 feet deep and as broad as 60 feet, allowed the American Indians to retrieve a flintlike stone, called chert, which developed from glacial deposits in holes and cracks in limestone. Most of the quarries are long since buried beneath a farmer's field. But 83 of them remain on seven acres of thickly wooded land next to the field. Area lawmakers want \$35,000 to preserve the site and convert it into an interpretive center. The effort, led by Senator Duane Benson, IB-Lanesboro, and Rep. Leo Reding, DFI-Austin, will apparently be successful. Two committees have given their approval. The dollars will reimburse the Ohio-based National Archaeological Conservancy, which has purchased the seven acres of pits and some surrounding acres.

The Mower County Historical Society then hopes to raise additional dollars for a fence, a parking lot, a pavillion, trails around the pits and kiosks describing the work that went on there. One of the pits, probably with the help of Shane, will be excavated to show how Indians mined the stone. The site could be open to the public as soon as summer 1995.

Shane calls the quarries the oldest known site of continuous human activity in Minnesota. The more famous ancient stone mines in Pipestone, Minn., date back only 2,000 years, he said.

Indians stopped using the mines about 200 years ago, when Europeans came to the area.

Dick Stivers, a Mower County Historical Society member, said many area residents did not realize they had something so important in their midst. "It really hasn't caused the excitement you would think," said Stivers, of Austin. "It's just some pits in the ground with some trees growing in there."

Maynard Green, of Grand Meadow, is credited with being among the first to notice that the site was something significant. He first noticed it while hunting more than 50 years ago and during the years has helped generate more interest in the area. It's conceivable to say that Maynard stumbled across history while walking through Maurice Thorson's farm fields. Of course, Thorson admits, he has walked those fields himself never noticing what his friend, Green, noticed on the ground.

That's the way it goes, One man's junk is another's treasure. One man's stone is another's pathway to 9,500 years deep in Minnesota history.

Maynard started writing 30 or 40 years ago to the University of Minnesota asking them to examine it. Nothing happened until about 10 years ago, when he was able to convince the Minnesota State Historical Society to look at it. They just went wild and now it has

been authenticated as an important a site, or find, of its kind in the entire United States. This is really big news, says Maynard. It took another 10 years before the find found its way to the top of nature conservancy groups' wish lists and any action began.

Reding, State Representative for District 27B, introduced House File 1896, two weeks ago in the 1994 session of the Minnesota Legislature. The bill, which is co-sponsored by State Rep. Greg Davids, seeks to protect the historical site by defining its boundaries and allocating \$35,000 to Mower County for acquisition and improvement of the area. Mainly, no development is planned - just preservation.

Chert is a dense quartz, resembling darker flint. Seventeen acres will be acquired, with 7 acres of pits and trees and a buffer zone.

via POST-BULLETIN, 3-94 and AUSTIN HERALD, 4-94
to us via ACHATES 4/94

SPOON-SHAW-----

"Spoon-shaw" is the first step in learning scrimshaw. Among the lapidary hobbies, the craft of scrimshaw is about the least expensive to enter. For less than \$5.00 you can purchase all of the equipment that you will ever need (less working materials). A bottle of black India ink, or black shoe-polish (polish is best for spoon-shaw, and is not as messy as the ink), pencil, and a scribe tool. Scribes can be purchased at most hobby shops. You may also use an X-acto knife, with a #11 or a #16 blade, dentists tools, or any sharp pointed instrument.

There are numerous materials that you can use for scrimshaw; ivory, bone, antlers, shells, plastic or ivory piano keys, ivory nuts, and last but not least, the good old plastic spoon. Most materials must be sanded and polished before you can begin scrimshaw, but with the plastic spoon you can start immediately.

You are now ready to start being a "SCRIMSHAWER". Be sure that your plastic spoon is clean, then with a pencil, draw a design or picture on the spoon. After you have drawn the basic lines, you will then engrave them with your scribing tool. When you have scribed all of the lines you have drawn, put some shoe polish on your finger, and rub the entire area you have scribed. Let stand for a few minutes, then wipe off with a clean cloth or paper towel. Your scribed lines will be filled in, and the excess will be cleaned off the surface, revealing the design.

This is the moment of truth! You are happy with the results, or must start over with your scrimshaw. Do you see why I like plastic spoons? If working on bone or ivory, you will have to sand out all of the scribe lines, repolish, then start all over with your scrimshaw. If you are happy with what you have done, finish your picture or design with more detail, by adding more lines, use more shoe polish, and wipe off as you progress.

With these simple instructions, you should be able to start to scrimshaw. Even if you don't produce a masterpiece, I guarantee that you will have a lot of fun. Remember, "spoon-shaw" is the first step to scrimshaw. When you feel that you want to start working on bone or ivory, I suggest that you read some books on scrimshaw, to get more information preparing your materials. One of the best books that I have found on the subject is "SCRIMSHAW" by Leslie Linsley.

Michigan Gem News Via OSAGE HILLS GEMS

and "THE GECDE"

PR AWARDS TO SPECIAL CLUBS

by Diane Dare, Chair
via The AFMS NEWSLETTER

"Clubs throughout the country give programs in schools and provide scholarships at local colleges. From Rhode Island to Iowa they judge science fairs. They upgrade museum displays from Illinois to Texas to California; and take part in Adopt-a-Highway cleanups from Pennsylvania to Wisconsin to Idaho.

All of these are important, and we would love to recognize every club for its PR work, but we can't. Budget constraints you know. We can call attention to some special public relations activities, however. Each of these fine organizations received certificates in Houston for their unique work."

(I am including as many of these SPECIAL CLUB activities as will fit on this page. If you would like to hear more, please let me hear from you. Alberta)

Florida Panhandle Gem & Min Soc, Pensacola, FL

Contributes to the Roy L Hyatt Environmental Center - a part of the county school system.

They began with a landscaping project (bird bath, fountain, etc), and then installed rock and mineral exhibits. Teachers bring classes on field trips and are given samples for each of their students. Each thumbnail size specimen is labeled and with 80 different samples available, each child gets something different. So far this club has donated over 26,000 labeled specimens! Available to teachers through the center are check-out cases coordinated with the 4th grade science book. All ten cases are the same, with 25 large specimens (all mentioned in the text), magnifying glasses, and supplementary information. The class keeps the case as long as necessary. The Center is also open to the public.

Grand Island Earth Sci Soc, Grand Island, NE

Holds an annual *Beat the Winter Blues Grinding Party* at Grand Island Mall on a February Saturday. The mall provides a vacant store, tables, chairs, marquee and newspaper ads. Club members bring equipment from saws to polishers, - anything they want to work on; one cleans fossils (too messy to do at home.) A sign invites people to come in and see what they are doing. Some members demonstrate easy, fast craft ideas and mall shoppers can join in and make something. Members hand out club business cards and talk about the hobby. When the mall closes, crockpots of soup provide a supper, followed by an auction before cleanup time. Although members say this is "just an excuse to get together with everyone on a cold winter day and just have a good time!" it's a great way to promote the hobby.

Mississippi Gem & Min Soc, Jackson, Ms
Sponsors a Work Scholarship, which provides the "salary" for a junior member to work at the Mississippi Museum of Natural Sciences during the summer months. The junior members must submit applications, which are given to the museum director who then makes the selection. Funds are raised through raffles, memorial donations and club sales at the annual show. The 1993 recipient worked with the paleontology collections at the museum, which is part of the Mississippi Department of Wildlife, Fisheries and Parks.

Santa Rosa Min & Gem Soc, Santa Rosa, CA

Works with and through the Santa Rosa Parks & Recreation Department to share skills and knowledge via 5 week sessions in beginning and advanced silversmithing, bead stringing and beginning lapidary for juniors. All classes are 2 1/2 hours long. While a fee is charged, mostly to cover materials, the teams of instructors and assistants are all volunteers and club members. These classes on Wednesday, Friday

Withlacoochee Rockhounds, Brooksville, FL

Gives scholarships and reaches out to younger students by sponsoring an essay contest in the city's elementary schools. This encourages youngsters to write about various earth science topics or interests. The essays are read and judged by a group of club members and prizes, including savings bonds, are awarded in several different grade levels

We appreciate every club that promotes our hobby image — THANK YOU 

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2nd VICE PRESIDENT	Jim Shetterly	377-5761
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Have a nice
 Thanksgiving!

