

CEDAR VALLEY GEMS

CEDAR VALLEY ROCK & MINERAL SOCIETY

CEDAR RAPIDS, IOWA

CEDAR VALLEY GEMS

OCTOBER 1994

VOL. 22, ISSUE 2, PAGE 1

OCTOBER 19, 1994 MEETING

Cedar Valley Rocks and Minerals Society will meet at the AEGON BLDG. October 19, 1994, at 7:15 P.M.

Vice-President Sharon Sonnleitner reports the program will be a slide program, "THERE IS ROCK COLLECTING IN IOWA - Part 1, Eastern Area," which was made by our own Jeff Nekola. You will see materials collected in and around Knoxville, Ollie and Keswick agate, Keokuk geodes, some fossils and other eastern Iowa locations.

It will enhance the program measurably if those of you who have specimens from the above areas will bring them to the meeting. We several new members who need to be able to see what is available in the area. Please plan to bring material for the "Show and Tell" table. Also, the field trip to Conklin Quarry will be coming right up. If you have some of the minerals and fossils found there, that will help the newer members to know what to look for on the field trip

Hostesses will be Alberta Cray and ??? I would appreciate having your help. The hostess book will be passed at the October meeting so we will have hostesses scheduled for the balance of the season.

FIELD TRIP - OCTOBER 23, 1994 CONKLIN QUARRY

Take exit 242 off Interstate 80 and turn north. Meet at 9 A.M. at the quarry entrance right across the road from Days Inn. The gate will be locked at all times so please plan to be on time. Bill Mitchell will be the field trip leader. He will plan to take those persons who cannot stay all day, to the gate somewhere around noon, otherwise you will stay until all are ready to leave.

Material that may be found will be hexagonaria corals, millerite, crinoids, and trilobites. A couple years ago Dick & Millie Smouse found a huge museum quality millerite specimen which will be sold at the auction October 29, 1994.

Bring heavy rock hammers, chisels, a sledge hammer and paper to wrap or pack your specimens. Don't forget your lunch.

CLUB AUCTION

The club Auction will be held October 29 at the American Legion Building, Ely, Iowa. The collection of Dick and Millie Smouse will make up the bulk of the auction. Dick says he is finding things which he forgot he had. He says there is a lot more of some of the material than he thought there was. Also there is a 10-drawer metal file cabinet - just right for fossils, slabs, or ???. There will be some display cases, a parts cabinet and more. If it looks like there will be time, there will be some material from another member.

Friday is set-up day. Those who are available will meet at the hall in Ely around 9 AM, or whenever you can make it to help unload the truck, arrange tables and get the materials set out for viewing. The club will provide sandwich 'makings', coffee, pop or milk for the workers on Friday. Probably there will be rolls or donuts for your morning coffee break.

Parents and students from the Preucil School of Music will have the food concession on Saturday - the day of the sale.

Several of the exchange bulletins have been carrying the information about the Auction, Saturday, October 29. Thank you. We do appreciate it.

DUES DUES DUES

Dues for Cedar Valley Rocks and Minerals Society run from January 1, through December 31. Our dues are currently \$7. per family, or single member. Dale Stout is the treasurer.

ELECTION - Election of officers will be held in November. New officers will take over in January. Officers, with the exception of one board member, are elected every other year. If you are asked, be prepared to help carry on the work of Cedar Valley Rocks and Minerals Society. There is much work to do.

BOOKS BOOKS BOOKS

I have received the holiday brochure from Iowa State University Press. They offer a 10% discount off the price of each book on orders placed before January 1.

Also, a brochure from University of Iowa Press - order before January 31, 1995 and save 40% on gift books.

Look for the brochures at the meeting. If someone wishes to order books, we possibly could have them picked up to save shipping charges, or at least the shipping would be somewhat less if ordered in quantity.

INDIAN CREEK NATURE CENTER

- Tuesday, October 18 ACTIVE ADULTS, LOESS HILL FIELD TRIP- travel
 Wednesday, October 19 by bus to visit the central area of the loess
 Depart: 7 am 10/18 hills. Call Nature Center for more info
 Return: 6 pm 10/19 (Sounds like a great trip - wish I could go)
- Tuesday, October 25 ACTIVE ADULTS Connection Program speaker,
 9:30 am Dr. Pyle will present a program on the
 Monarch Migration Project/Invertebrates
- Sunday, November 6 VIDEO FOCUS: SEASONS OF THE WHITE TAIL DEER
 2:00 pm Beauty unfolds as you view the life history
 of these graceful animals, running, feeding
 and faring against winter odds.
- Tuesday, November 8 ACTIVE ADULTS, VIDEO FOCUS: RUTTING WHITETAILED
 9:30 am Dr. Leonard Lee Rue III shows you a documented
 video of white-tailed bucks at their best.
- Tuesday, November 15 ACTIVE ADULTS Field trip to the National
 9:30 am Czech and Slovak Museum and Library. Guided
 tour of museum and walking tour of Czech
 Village, Meet at the museum, 10 16th Ave SW
- Tuesday, November 22 ACTIVE ADULTS. The Blue Planet. Enjoy a
 9:30 am dynamic video presentation from the
 Smithsonian Institution filmed by astronauts
 from 5 space shuttle missions. The Blue
 Planet reveals the forces affecting Earth's
 fragile ecological balance.

(There is a minimal charge whether a member or non-member)

LINN COUNTY ENVIRONMENTAL COUNCIL

OCTOBER 24 - NEXT CONNECTIONS PROGRAM - "OF MONARCHS AND MAGDALENAS:
 A LIFE OF BUTTERFLIES AND BOOKS" at 7 PM, at McAuley
 Auditorium at Mount Mercy College. Free public
 presentation by Dr. Robert Michael Pyle, founder of the
 Xerces Soc., Scientist and Author. (See the flyer at
 the meeting.)

SEED COLLECTION - VOLUNTEERS NEEDED. Hwy 151 between Walford and
 Fairfax is scheduled for work in 1995. This road work will impact a
 native prairie between Highway 151 and the railroad tracks. ...
 This is a good way for groups to help restore a quality prairie and
 help out a good program at the same time. Prairie seed collection
 should begin in early October and be completed by the end of the
 month. Call Dennis Goemaat at 398-3505 for more info. (Sounds fun and
 interesting but I suppose it is too late for a group to help.)

Sunday, October 16 - Learn how to collect prairie seed. Meet at
 arboretum parking area, Morgan Creek Park at 1:30. Bring garden gloves,
 hand shears and paper grocery bags.

SECRETARY'S REPORTS

Cedar Valley Rocks & Minerals Society met Wednesday, September 21, 1994 at the AEGON Bldg in Cedar Rapids. President Marv Houg presided. Seventeen members were present. Wayne Sdron and Charles Kelsey were guests.

The secretary's and treasurer's reports were approved.

Dale Stout read a note, from Professor Richard Baker of the University of Iowa's Geology department, thanking the club for the two \$500. scholarships. They were given to Amy Allabastro and Mike Barinek who participated in the summer field camp.

Show co-chair Marv Houg handed out floor plans he had prepared for the March 18 & 19, 1995 Show at Teamsters Hall. Show co-chair Sharon Sonnleitner will host a Show meeting at their home, Tuesday, October 4, at 7:30 PM.

Field Trips - Leslie Blin announced they will be going to Rockford Brick and Tile on Saturday if anyone would like to meet them there. Marv reported there will be a field trip to Iowa City as soon as he can set it up. He also announced that we can no longer do any collecting at Muscatine.

Auction - The Auction of Smouse's collection will be Saturday, October 29 at the Ely American Legion Building. Set-up will be on Friday Oct. 28. Richard said he will try and have a partial list available at the show meeting. Members were asked to post the flyers. Ads will be placed in the Collector's Journal, Penny Saver and Gazette. Students from the Preucil School of music will be in charge of the food on Saturday for a fund raiser. (This is where Teresa Sonnleitner takes violin lessons.)

Charles Kelsey, a science teacher at St. Josephs School in Marion told of his need for common minerals for his class on geology. He had talked to Larry DeSotel who brought some minerals to the meeting. Other members offered him minerals and fossils.

Sharon told us about a used computer which Alberta was considering buying. After a discussion, Richard Smouse made a motion that we buy the computer and printer for our Editor. The cost is \$90. The motion was seconded and approved.

A motion to adjourn was approved.

The program was "Show and Tell" or "Brag Night". We enjoyed refreshments while we viewed members' summer "finds".

Respectfully submitted
Leslie Blin, Secretary

SECRETARY'S REPORT - SHOW MEETING

The show meeting was held Tuesday, October 4 at 7:30 pm at the home of Bill & Sharon Sonnleitner. Show Co-chairs Marv Houg and Sharon presided. Thirteen members were present.

Marv handed out revised floor plans which were discussed. Show dealers were discussed and decisions made on which dealers to invite to our show. Dealer chairperson Alberta Cray will get the contracts in the mail right away. Pappé Phillips will check out the circuit breakers and P.A. system at the Teamsters Hall. Marv will revise the floor plan.

Richard Smouse presented a partial list of the Auction material (a full page). He passed out copies to members present. Ads will be placed in the Collector's Journal, Penny Saver, Gazette and Waterloo paper. Julie Sova will contact the Scouts about the Auction.

Alberta will pick up sandwich 'makings" and Sharon will pick up the pop for the workers on Friday.

We adjourned for refreshments at 9:00 P.M.

Respectfully submitted, Leslie Blin

HERE & THERE WITH OUR MEMBERS & FRIENDS

We welcome new member: Lance Wiese
 3210 Carriage Dr. S.W. Interested in
 Cedar Rapids, IA 52404 minerals & fossils
 H. 396-2195 W. 395-3329

Haven't heard from anyone. Hope everyone is well. Has anyone been on a trip? Visited another club's show or swap? Please let us hear from you. We would all like to hear what you have been doing.

HERE'S WHAT'S HAPPENING

- October 14 - 16, 1994 LAKE COUNTY GEM & MINERAL SOCIETY, MUNDELEIN
 Holiday Inn, Mundelein, Ill.
- October 15 - 16, 1994 PARK FOREST EARTH SCIENCE SOCIETY, Keeling
 Center, Park Forest, Illinois
- October 15 - 16, 1994 KEN-ROCK GEM & MINERAL SOCIETY, Lutheran High
 School, Rockford, Illinois
- October 15 - 16, 1994 DES MOINES LAPIDARY SOCIETY, United Rubber
 Workers Hall, Des Moines, Iowa
- October 22 - 23, 1994 SAUK VALLEY ROCK & MINERAL CLUB, Northland Mall,
 Sterling, Illinois
- October 22 - 23, 1994 MINNESOTA VALLEY GEM & MINERAL CLUB, Madison
 East Mall, Mankato, Minnesota
- October 22 - 23, 1994 EARTH SCIENCE CLUB OF OSHKOSH, Park Plaza Mall,
 Oshkosh, Wisconsin
- November 11, 12 & 13, 1994 ST. LOUIS MINERAL & GEM SOCIETY, Stratford
 Inn, 800 S. Highway Drive, St. Louis County,
 Fenton, Missouri. 11th 5-9; 12th 10- 8;
 13th 10 - 5.
- November 25, 26 & 27, 1994 CHRISTMAS JEWELRY - GEM - MINERAL SHOW &
 SALE, Exhibition Hall, DuPage County Fairgrounds
 2015 W. Manchester Road, Wheaton, Illinois
 25th 2 - 7; 26th 10 - 6; 27th 11 - 5

(Your editor has a little more information on some of the above shows. If you have flyers, please bring them to the meetings.)

S I L V E R

Although silver was discovered later than gold and copper, it has been known and used by humankind since prehistoric times. Herodotus, the Greek historian, knew of silver used to make coins and beads, exploited from the river sands of the Pactolus in Lydia. The Chinese wrote of silver metals in 2,500 B.C. In the earliest prehistoric strata, at the site of Troy, considerable deposits of silver and gold treasure have been excavated. Among the artifacts, silver bracelets and gold earrings, ornaments placed in a silver cup and more than 8,000 beads were buried in the ancient city 2,000 years before Christ.

The most ancient silver mines of importance were in Asia Minor and on islands in the Aegean Sea. The Romans obtained most of their silver from Spain until supplies became scarce during the Middle Ages. After the discovery of the Americas in 1492, Mexico became, and still is today, the largest silver producing country in the world. Canada and the United States, as well as many European countries, also produce significant amounts of silver.

Silver is a lustrous white metal, widely distributed in nature. In ores, it is commonly associated with gold, lead, and copper. Much of the world's silver is obtained as a by-product of smelting these other metals. Horn-silver (AgCl) is found in the oxidized portions of ore-bearing lodes near the surface. Small amounts of silver in the oxidation zone form as more complex compounds, erode and weather. At deeper levels, silver occurs as sulfides, arsenides, and antimonides (compounds of silver with sulfur, arsenic, and antimony, respectively) In these deposits, formation is the result of deposition from primary hydrothermal solutions. Argentite, (Ag_2S , silver sulfide), occurs in low-temperature hydrothermal veins in association with other silver minerals or sometimes in the cementation zone of lead and zinc deposits. When found in a metallic state, it is called "native silver." Native silver usually occurs in dendritic and wire-like forms which are aggregates of minute crystals. Silver may also occur in thin sheets or in large masses. In Kongsberg, Norway, magnificent crystalline wire specimens have been found, as well as huge masses of native silver, one of which weighed 697 pounds. Typically the larger specimens occur in association with sulfides, zeolites, calcite, barite, fluorite, and quartz.

The world's largest specimen of mass silver was mined in Aspen, Colorado, and weighs in at 844 pounds. On the Keweenaw Peninsula of Michigan, small amounts of primary native silver can be found in association with native copper. In Mexico, the Guanajuato mine has been in operation since the year 1,500. During that time, more than 500 billion kilos of silver have been mined.

About three-fourths of the world's silver production is used for monetary purposes, either as coins or as bullion that governments hold to redeem paper currency. The leading industrial use of silver is for the manufacture of tableware and jewelry. The second largest industrial consumer is the photographic industry. Compounded with bromine or chlorine, silver forms the salts which register light and shade on photographic film. Silver has the highest thermal and electric conductivity of any substance, making it ideal for use in electronic equipment. Silver is second only to gold in malleability. One ounce of silver can be drawn into a wire 30 miles long. A silver leaf can be beaten to a thickness of 1/100,000 of an inch.

- by Jennifer Adams - via Rock Digest and Bell Notes 1994

CEPHALOPODS

by Paul Godollei, club member.

The earliest Cephalopods belonged to the subclass Nautiloidea and ranged from the Cambrian to the Present. Some reached a length of 12 feet, and were fierce carnivores with long tentacles. They probably ate trilobites in the ages before fishes. Some were straight, some were partially coiled, and some tightly coiled. Some lived on the bottom of the sea, some crawled and some swam or drifted.

The shell is composed of argonite, and has a surface layer resembling china, a middle pearly layer and a clear inner layer. As it grew it formed thirty or more chambers separated by pearly partitions called septa. A siphon connected the chambers and the connecting tube is called a the siphuncle.

The living animal had an internal mantle, two large slit like eyes, ten or tentacles, a radula or rasp like tongue, beaks and a funnel or hyponome could inject or squirt out water in a forward or backward direction. An ink sac could be utilized to throw out a blinding ink cloud for defense. A hood could be closed to protect the mantle.

The chambered Nautilus of today is the only living relative of this ancient genera. The shapes of nautiloids varied greatly, and ornamentation varied from plain to shells with frills, grooves, spines and ridges.

Ammonoids apparently developed from straight shelled Ordovician nautiloids but did not become well established until late Devonian times. The Goniatites had compactly coiled smooth shells with angular zig-zags in their sutures. They lived for 120 million years and

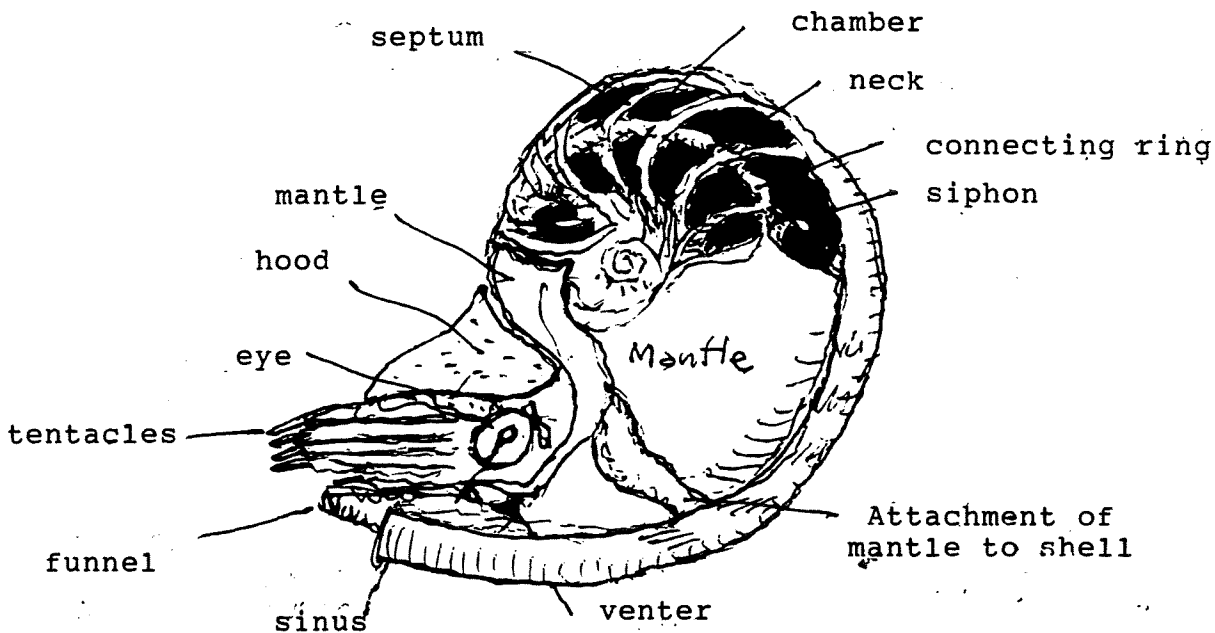
died out at the end of the Triassic.

The early Permian period saw the appearance of the Ammonites. The saddles and lobes of the sutures were divided and subdivided into complex shapes. The shells were often elaborate and grotesque. The siphuncle was located near the outside of the shell. At the end of the Triassic the highly specialized Ammonites died out leaving simpler forms. These again developed with more elaborate sutures. Some reverted to almost simple types. The highly ornamental types had frills, nodes, ribs, furrows and ridges.

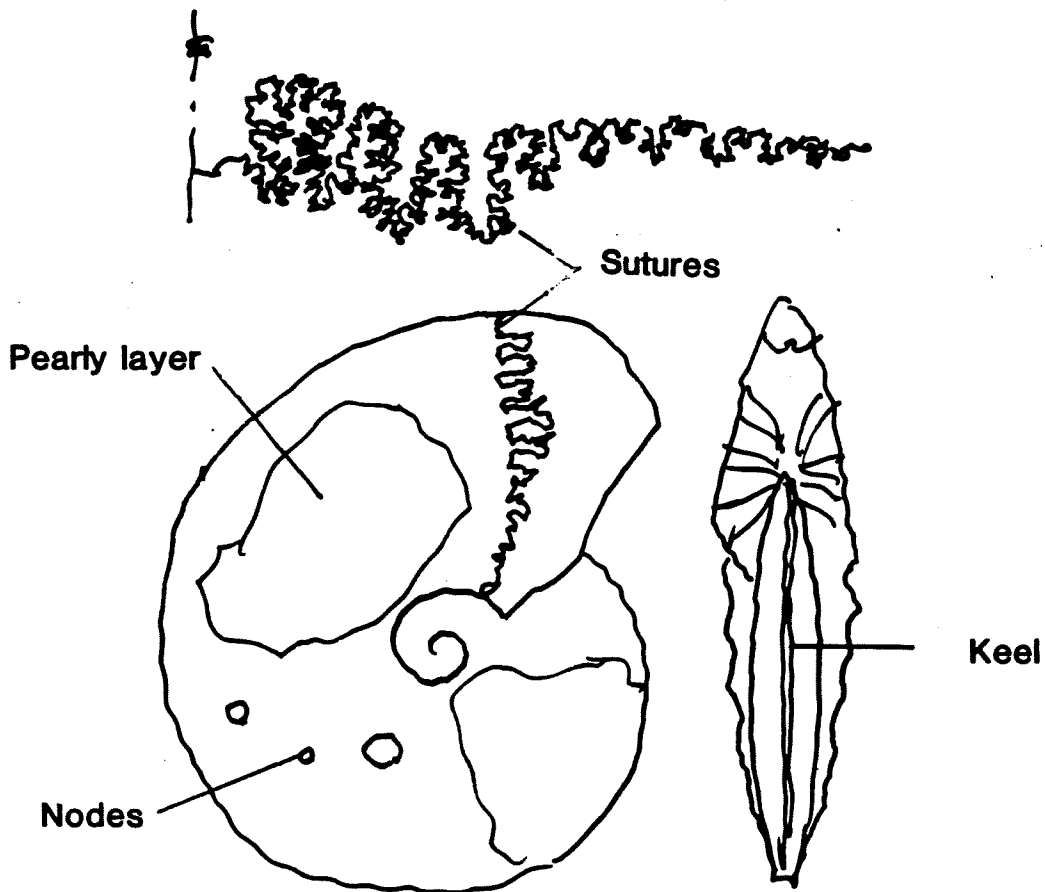
Ammonoids seemed to like waters 120 to 600 feet deep. They vanished suddenly at the end of the Cretaceous Period.

Bellemnites and squids have an internal chambered shell enclosed by soft muscular tissues. Many forms have a hard internal support structure made of calcium carbonate or protein, known as the pen or guard. The guards are sometimes the only part preserved. Bellemnites lived in the Mississippian, Jurassic and Cretaceous Periods. They had six arms with hooks instead of suckers. Some grew to 5 or 8 feet in length. Cuttlefish, squids and octopus are still living today. Some squids grew to thirty feet, or more, in size.

BIBLIOGRAPHY: Shimer & Shrock "Index Fossils of North America". "The Audubon Society Field Guide to North American Fossils" by Ida Thompson. "THE FOSSIL BOOK", by Carroll Lan Fenton & Mildred Adams Fenton. "Fossils" by Cyril Walker & David Ward.



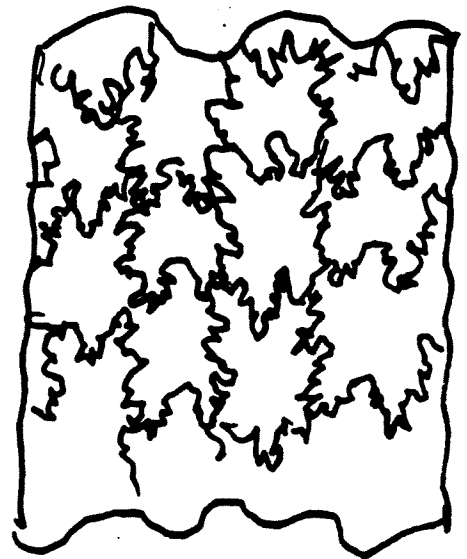
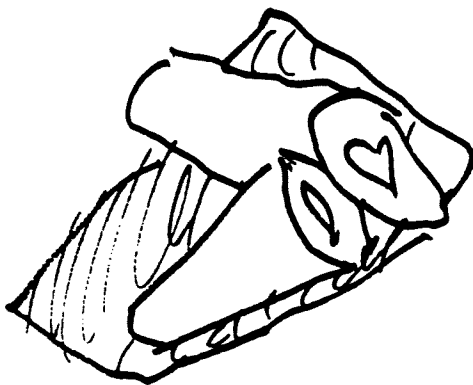
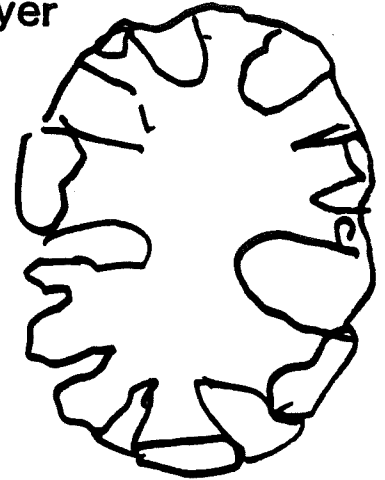
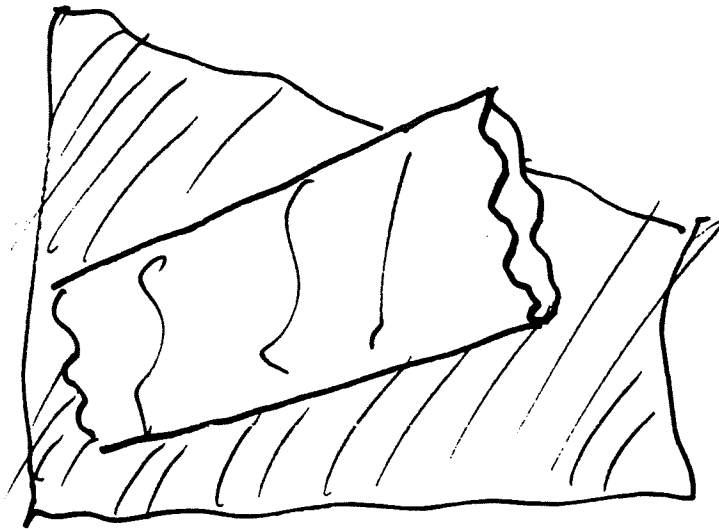
Nautilus



Large specimen showing sutures, pearly layer and nodes

Placenticerias intercalare Meek

Portion of large specimen showing pearly layer



Portions of two small specimens

THE AMERICAN FEDERATION - CODE OF ETHICS

- I will respect both private and public property and will do no collecting on privately owned land without the owner's permission.
- I will keep informed on all laws, regulations or rules governing collecting on public lands and will observe them.
- I will, to the best of my ability, ascertain the boundary lines of property on which I plan to collect.
- I will use no firearms or blasting material in collecting areas.
- I will cause no willful damage to property of any kind -- fences, signs, buildings, etc.
- I will leave all gates as found.
- I will build fires in designated or safe places only and will be certain they are completely extinguished before leaving the area.
- I will discard no burning material -- matches, cigarette, etc.
- I will fill all excavation holes which may be dangerous to livestock.
- I will not contaminate wells, creeks, or other water supply.
- I will cause no willful damage to collecting material and will take home only what I can reasonably use.
- I will support the rockhound project H.E.L.P. (Help Eliminate Litter Please) and will leave all collecting areas devoid of litter, regardless of how found.
- I will cooperate with field trip leaders and those in designated authority in all collecting areas.
- I will report to my club or federation officers, Bureau of Land Management, or other proper authorities, any deposit of petrified wood or other material on public lands which should be protected for the enjoyment of future generations for public educational and scientific purposes.
- I will appreciate and protect our heritage of natural resources.
- I will observe the "Golden Rule," will use "Good Outdoor Manners" and will at all times conduct myself in a manner which will add to the stature and "Public Image" of rockhounds everywhere.

Field Schools Unearth History at Greenbelt

Archaeology field schools unearthed some missing pieces of prehistory at the Wickiup Hill Natural Area this spring. More than 100 acres of the Cedar River Greenbelt were investigated through the help of 35 field school students and 13 teachers who attended a week-long educators workshop.

A barrage of 462 elementary students also experienced archaeology in action by digging simulated sites and screening soil from the actual excavations.

Two spearpoints discovered at the site revealed to archaeologists that the area's earliest inhabitants were probably Archaic American Indians, living 5,000 to 2,500 years ago. Pieces of pottery indicate that the Woodland Indians enjoyed the river's bounty 2,500 to 1,000 years ago.

State Archaeologist William Green said soil samples will help reconstruct a picture of the ancient landscape. The types of pollen found will determine when the area was mostly prairie, woodlands or wetlands.

The Office of State Archaeologist and the Conservation Department will again work with the University of Iowa to reapply for a REAP Conservation Education Program grant. This grant would allow archaeological investigations and educational programs to continue at the Greenbelt.

The Friends of the Linn County Conservation Board are currently raising additional funds to make this area more accessible to the public.

via OAK HISTORY NEWS
Linn County Conservation Dept

STUFFED DINOSAUR for DINNER By Judy Washburn

I've often read about them
In books and magazines,
I've seen their bones and teeth displayed
On wide-scale movie screens.

The dinosaurs I came to know
Were lizards huge and mean;
With pea-sized brains and loping gait,
They weren't very keen.

These notions seem no more to be
The latest things to know;
Bob Bakker told it like it is,
On the late night Leno show.

The Importance of Good Labeling

Throughout my teen years, when the bulk of my collection was acquired, I religiously numbered and cataloged every specimen. I had a good solid system, whereby every specimen had a number glued to an inconspicuous spot, and each specimen had an index card filled out with pertinent data (name, chemical formula, crystal system, hardness, specific gravity, size, streak, locality, acquisition, description and weight).

Seems like an awful lot? Well, many collectors quickly learn that properly labelled and cataloged specimens are much more valuable than those that aren't. For example, which specimen would you rather buy: *Azurite - Arizona* or *Azurite - Cole Shaft, Copper Queen Mine, Bisbee, Cochise Co., AZ*?

Many old Copper Country specimens are simply labelled as coming from Michigan or Houghton County - a specimen with more precise locality information is historically and monetarily more valuable. Collectors may be much more eager to purchase a specimen with complete locality information, say, *The Quincy Mine*, for example.

When purchasing specimens be sure to ask for more information if it is lacking. Many dealers don't have the time or energy to completely label everything, even if they know the locality. I can't tell you how many calcites I've seen that are labelled as coming from *Indiana*. Where in Indiana? The same can be said for the thousands of calcite, galena and sphalerite specimens from the Tri-State district. Are they from Kansas, Missouri or Oklahoma?

Additionally, proper cataloging should be maintained as insurance against unexpected or sudden demise. Many, many collections are passed down to families that know little or nothing about the specimens they contain. Minerals are much more than natural objects d'art. They also carry information, and in some cases, history. So please catalog your collection. It's fun, informative, and necessary.

- by Dana Slaughter, Member of Indian Mounds
Rock & Min. Club in their Arrowhead News, 2/94

via The Rockpile 10/94

I popped out of my bed to hear,
It's very rare at best,
To see a noted scientist
As a TV talk show guest.

Old pictures melted in my mind
With every word he'd utter;
I didn't know just what to think,
My brain was all a-flutter.

"Think of the dinosaurs" he said,
"More like the birds" - do tell
"Like two ton lively roadrunners,
Directly out of hell.

This on the night I'd polished off
Thanksgiving treats galore;
Never knowing the turkey on my plate
Was cousin to the dinosaur!

via The Rockpile 9/93

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