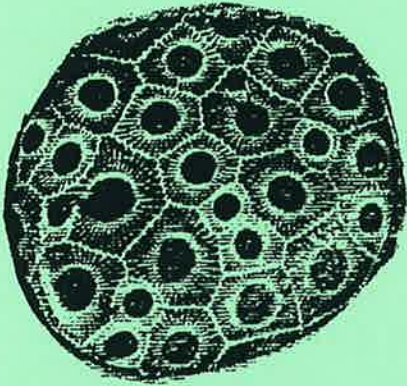


THE ROCKFINDER

Michiana Gem & Mineral Society
Tom Noe, Editor
305 Napoleon Blvd.
South Bend, IN 46617



THE ROCKFINDER

SEPTEMBER, 1998

MICHIANA GEM & MINERAL SOCIETY

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The purpose of the Michiana Gem & Mineral Society is to promote interest in and study of the earth sciences and the lapidary arts, and the sharing of knowledge and techniques.

General meetings are held the fourth Sunday of each month, 2:00 PM, EST, at Our Redeemer Lutheran Church, 805 S. 29th St., South Bend, IN. Regular exceptions include May (third Sunday), June (field trip), July (no meeting), August (club picnic) and December (Christmas party).

Board meetings are held before the general meetings.

The annual club show is Labor Day weekend.

The Michiana Gem & Mineral Society, a not-for-profit organization, is affiliated with the Midwest Federation of Mineralogical Societies and with the American Federation of Mineralogical Societies.

The Rockfinder is published monthly except July and August. Staff: Editor, Tom Noe, 305 Napoleon Blvd., South Bend, IN 46617. Co-editor, Herb Luckert, 221 Marquette Ave., South Bend, IN 46617. Reporters, Bob Heinek, Herb Luckert, club members.

All contributions for publication should be in the hands of the editor by the 10th of each month. Call 289-2028 or 282-1354. Permission is hereby granted to reprint any original *Rockfinder* articles, as long as due recognition is given along with the reprint.



Yearly Membership Dues (Payable by January 1)

_____ Individual \$10.00 per year
 _____ Family \$15.00 per year
 _____ Junior \$1.00 per year
 _____ Subscriber \$7.50 per year

(One-half these amounts after July 1)

Please indicate areas of special interest.

General Geology___ Beads___
 Gems & Minerals___ Silversmithing___
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Name _____

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Please send your dues and this form to
 Michiana Gem & Mineral Society
 c/o Margaret Heinek

7091 E. East Park Lane, New Carlisle, IN 46552

Will attend meetings?

Name _____
 Birthday _____ yes ___ no ___

Name _____
 Birthday _____ yes ___ no ___

Name _____
 Birthday _____ yes ___ no ___

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 Birthday _____ yes ___ no ___

Date of Wedding Anniversary _____

Phone _____

THE ROCKFINDER

Newsletter of the Michiana Gem & Mineral Society

Volume 38, Number 7

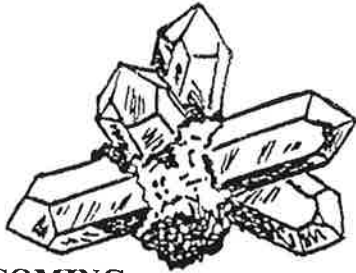
September, 1998

Meeting: Sunday, September 27, 1998
Doors open at 1:30 p.m.
Meeting at 2:00 p.m.
Guests are always welcome.

Place: Our Redeemer Lutheran Church
805 S. 29th (29th and Wall)
South Bend, IN

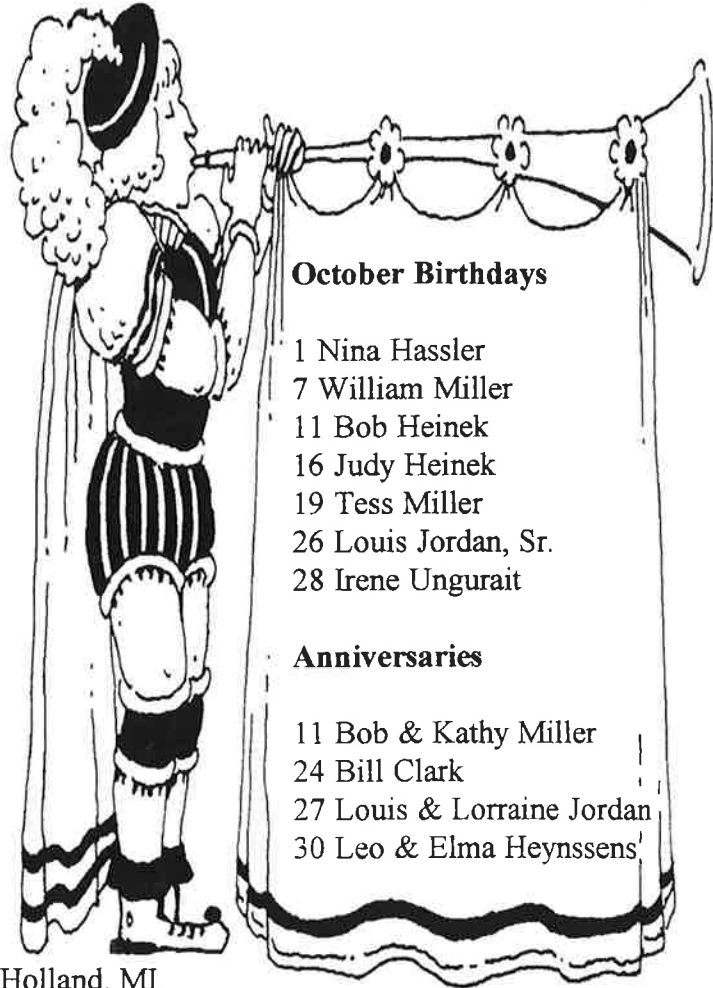
September Hosts: Sister Jeanne and Sister Georgia

September Program: Jan Horrall will talk to us about her summer experiences digging dinosaurs with Robert Bakker at Como Bluff, Wyoming.



UP AND COMING

- Sep. 18--19: Tulip City Gem & Mineral Show, Civic Center, Holland, MI.
Sep. 19--20: Falls Fossil Festival, Falls of the Ohio State Park, Jeffersonville, IN.
Sep. 26--27: Elgin Rock and Mineral Show, Hemmen's Cultural Center, Elgin, IL.
Sep. 26--27: Eastern Indiana Gem & Geological Show, Fayette County 4-H Fairgrounds, Connersville, IN.
Oct. 3--4: Eddy Center Geology Arts Fair, 10730 Bush Road., Chelsea, MI.
Oct. 9--11: Greater Detroit show, 4400 E. Eight Mile Road, Detroit, MI.
Oct. 16--18: Three Rivers Gem and Mineral Society Show, Allen County Fairgrounds, Ft. Wayne, IN.
Oct. 16--17: Chicago Heights Club show, Prairie State College, Crestwood, IL.
Oct. 23--25: Central Michigan show, Marshall Street Armory, Lansing, MI.
Nov. 6--8: Licking County Rock and Mineral Society Show, Indian Mound Mall, Heath (Newark), OH.
Nov. 6--8: Blackhawk Gem & Mineral Show, Colonial Village Mall, Rockford, IL.
Nov. 6--8: Annual Micromount Symposium, Cleveland Museum of Natural History. Contact William Cook, 684 Quilliams Rd., Cleveland Hgts., OH 44121.
Nov. 7--8: Mid-Michigan show, Midland, MI.
Nov. 9: Michiana club field trip to Field Museum. Members call Kathy Miller to sign up.



October Birthdays

1 Nina Hassler
7 William Miller
11 Bob Heinek
16 Judy Heinek
19 Tess Miller
26 Louis Jordan, Sr.
28 Irene Ungurait

Anniversaries

11 Bob & Kathy Miller
24 Bill Clark
27 Louis & Lorraine Jordan
30 Leo & Elma Heynssens

MARGARET'S COLUMN



The show is over for this year, so there are many people who need to be thanked. I hope I don't miss anyone. Here goes! Kathy Miller and her workers for the door, Bess Wise, Addie Niebauer, Sister Georgia, Sister Jeanne, Diane Gram, Lynn Miller, Pam and Alec Rubenstein, Gladys Pacholke, Rebecca Parker, Sally Peltz, Jessie Zeiger, Margaret Schultz, Tracy & Mike Slattery, Ed & Marsha Miller and Anthony Spanley.

David and Sally Peltz helped Bob Heinek on Thursday evening in measuring for the dealers' booths, while a few tables were set up for displays and covered by Alice Garwood, the Peltzes, Tom McLaughlin, Ed and Marsha Miller and I.

Herb Luckert, Bob and I loaded the cases, kiddies' games and rocks into Herb's van at the storage shed on Wednesday. Herb and his son unloaded them at Century Center on Thursday evening. When the show was over, many hands made the "tear down" go very fast. Herb was unable to load the van on Sunday, but many members worked hard on it. Rob Heinek drove the truck to New Carlisle, where Bill Nelson, Sr., Bob Heinek and I unloaded it into the storage shed. Thanks to everyone who helped!

We have three large display cases that we think should either be made into smaller cases or sold. They are large, difficult to handle, and are just being stored. What we should do, sell them?

The Kiddies' Korner was manned by the Slatterys-- Mike, Tracy, and the hard-working Lauren & Sean--Lorraine Jordan, Bonnie Brueseke and others who filled egg cartons with specimens for the juniors. Betty Stout had donated the Petoskey stones that were polished by the juniors. Bob Heinek and Mike prepolished many of them.

The silent auction was in the capable hands of Tom Noe and his workers Emily Johnson, Bill Nelson Jr., Bill Sr., Diane Gram and Phyllis Luckert. I hear it did real well, in getting rid of many specimens.

Bob Miller was demonstration chairman. Our demonstrators, along with Bob Miller, were members David Peltz (flint-knapper) and Stan Jacobs

(faceting). Nonmembers Clarence Orell from Michigan City, Joan Gardner from St. Joseph, MI, Greg Street from Sodus, MI, and Joe Scott from Winamac, IN, also demonstrated.

Bob Heinek and Jim Sharp ran the club booth, where we had 30 years of *Lapidary Journal* that Bob and I had picked up from Betty Stout. We bundled them by the year, to sell at the booth. Betty donated them, so what we sell them for is the club's. Thanks, Betty.

Tom McLaughlin was in charge of the displays. As usual he did a fine job. We had 4-H displays from the Podell brothers. Both displays had gone to the State Fair and won blue ribbons. The Sharps from Ohio brought four cases (all had won awards at the Midwest Federation Convention this year in Houghton, MI). Bob Miller, Kathy Miller, Pat McLaughlin, Mike Slattery, Jim Russell, Bill Nelson Jr., Ed & Marsha Miller, Tom Noe, Academy Enterprises, Herb & Phyllis Luckert, David & Sally Peltz and Bob and Margaret Heinek finished out the displays.

We were pleased to have our friend Al Mitterling from Warsaw with his moon rock and meteorites. The article in the South Bend *Tribune* brought in many to see his booth.

I sincerely hope I have not forgotten anyone who worked. Phyllis Luckert was busy before the show sending out our flyers to clubs, and getting items into the newspaper. THANKS TO ALL!

We have several new members...some singles and some families. Chris Rems, LeRoy Castle, Don and Yvonne Church, Candace Corson and George Knowles and family, Ruth Amos, Greg Kent, Fred and Patricia Baker, Paul Inwood, Tim, Darlyn, Aaron and Adam Maust. We are so glad to have you. WELCOME.

If you are interested in sending a "thinking about you" card to former member Gordon Dobecki, his address is PO Box 506. Selma, Oregon 97538. We heard he isn't feeling too well.

MINUTES FOR AUGUST 23, 1998

A short meeting to handle announcements. Clay Township Park on Laurel Road.

It was the annual picnic day. Food was on the tables: fried chicken, salads, desserts and soft drinks. Margaret Heinek asked the members present--18 adults and 3 juniors--to pause for a short meeting. "Are we ready for our show in September?" she asked. "Are displays recorded with Tom McLaughlin? Does anyone need a display case? Are the Petoskey stones ready? Help will be needed with setup at Century Center Thursday evening from 6:30 to 7:00. Kathy Miller needs a few more people at the door. She will contact members this week. Tom Noe needs help at the silent auction. Diane will bring change. Also, help is needed Friday morning to cover tables."

Kathy Miller was still accepting reservations for the field trip in November to the Field Museum in Chicago.

Bob and Margaret Heinek attended the Editor's Breakfast at the MWF/AFMS convention in Houghton, MI. She reported that Catherine McFadden won first place in the MWF for her *Rockfinder* poem, "I Am a Rockhound," along with fourth place in the AFMS competition.

Margaret also announced that *The Rockfinder* won fourth place in the newsletter competition in the MWF, and Tom Noe's *Rockfinder* article, "Cutting Strategies for Agate Nodules," won third place in the MWF advanced article category, along with first place trophy for the same article in the AFMS competition. Congratulations!

Sr. Georgia offered grace before our meal.

Bill Nelson, a junior member, showed materials which he had bought at an auction in Michigan. This display included a fluorite sample, a pyrite ball, a copper nodule, agates and a fossil tree stem. Tom Noe displayed fossil ammonites, crystals and minerals he collected from the Black Hills area in July.

Gladys Pacholke, Secretary

**SIGN UP FOR NOVEMBER FIELD TRIP**

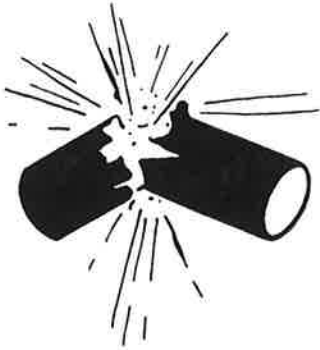
Club members, call Kathy Miller soon (291-0332) to sign up for the fall field trip to the Field Museum in Chicago. The one-day trip is free to club members, but you will have to pay admission fees yourself. The Field Museum has a wide range of exhibits in natural history, biological science, archeology and paleontology. The gem room is a knockout, along with the jade collection. There are exhibits related to the prep work being done on Sue, the largest and most complete *T. rex* skeleton ever found (and also the subject of a court battle). You may also want to visit the Shedd Aquarium and the Adler Planetarium, just across the street (via tunnel).

Once you have signed up with Kathy, meet at the K-Mart parking lot (near the corner of Ireland Road and 31 South) on Sunday, November 8. The bus will leave at 8 AM, so be sure to arrive a little early for checking in. You may bring your own bag lunch or purchase food at the museum. Wear comfortable walking shoes. We will return by approximately 6 PM.

See you there!

**INDOOR FIELD TRIP**

All MGMS members are invited to Betty Stout's house October 3 and October 10 for a rock sale. Betty has *hundreds* of boxes of minerals, fossils, specimens, etc. You can also just come and look--that's free! Driving to Niles sure beats driving to WY, KY, MT, SD, UT, NM, OH, etc. Call Tom Noe for details at 289-2028.



FIVE AWARDS GO TO ROCKFINDER

Our club newsletter received five awards at the recent Midwest Federation/American Federation convention in Houghton, MI. Public presentations were made on August 16 by Walt Vogtmann, chair of the MWF Bulletin Editor Aids Committee, and by Kitty Starbuck, chair of the AFMS Club Publications Committee.

In the category of Small Bulletin, *The Rockfinder* placed fourth in the MWF. A certificate to Tom Noe, editor, was accepted by Margaret Heinek, who was representing the MGMS at the awards ceremony. Margaret also accepted certificates and plaques for Catherine McFadden, whose poem "I Am a Rockhound" won first place in the MWF poetry competition, and for Tom Noe, who placed third in the MWF competition for Advanced Adult Article, with his submission of "Cutting Strategies for Agate Nodules."

High-scoring entries from the regional federations are subsequently entered in the competition at the national level. Here again, *Rockfinder* entries did well. Catherine McFadden's poem won fourth place in the AFMS Poetry category. Tom Noe's article captured first place in the AFMS competition for Advanced Adult Article, bringing him a handsome trophy mounted on a slab of copper ore.

Margaret announced the winners at the club picnic on August 23, after successfully keeping Tom's first-place award secret from him since the convention. He was certainly surprised. It took several minutes for him to realize what had happened, even after Margaret had announced it.

Congratulations to our winners. Tom especially wants to thank Herb Luckert and the other club members who contribute to making our *Rockfinder* an outstanding and award-winning newsletter.

FOR SALE

Timex display base with two turntables (plastic cover missing). The base is about 30 inches long and 15 inches deep. Light poles and fittings included. On/off switch. Best offer. Contact Joan Gardner in Benton Harbor, 616-429-6499.

A 10-inch slab saw on stand and a 4-wheel grinding unit. Contact Mildred Bella in Niles, 616-684-2304 (she is eager to sell).

ACTIVISTS AND MINERS BATTLE OVER SAND

Sand dunes, formed over thousands of years as glaciers receded and winds blew sand from the basin that would form Lake Michigan, rise intermittently from the Indiana border to the eastern Upper Michigan peninsula. Environmentalists see the dunes as geological wonders, home to richly diverse populations of birds and plants, that shouldn't be mined.

There's plenty of sand elsewhere, but foundries prefer dune sand because of its uniform grain sizes. Also, it has fewer impurities than inland sand and high silica content, enabling it to withstand the intense heat of molten metals.

Most of the sand goes into molds that shape foundry products such as vehicle engine blocks. The rest is used in a variety of goods, from glass to toothpaste. Dune mining was unregulated in Michigan until 1976, when a law was passed to minimize environmental damage without destroying the industry. It requires companies to obtain permits to remove the sand.

TechniSand's parent company, Fairmont Minerals of Chardon, Ohio, acknowledges that mining alters dune topography but contends it's less harmful than the changes resulting from houses and commercial buildings springing up in the area. Pitted against the company is a group called Preserve the Dunes, whose 375 members say the company is not operating according to its permits and is creating a nuisance.

Associated Press (June 16, 1998)

EVEN CLOSER TO DIAMOND

Moissanite: A new lab-created material has come on the market called Moissanite. This material rivals diamond for hardness, brilliance and fire. This material is closer to diamond than any other known gemstone material.

Some of the statistics for this material are as follows:

For you faceters out there, we have not yet cut any of this material, however we thought you might want to know of its existence on the market. It sounds from these statistics as if it will be very interesting material.

Pebble Trails (March, 1998)

Gemstone	Mohs Hardness	Toughness	Refractive Index	Dispersion	Specific Gravity
Diamond	10	good	2.42	0.044	3.52
Moissanite	9.25	excellent	2.65	0.104	3.21
Cubic Zirconia	8.5	good	2.15	0.060	5.80

DEFT-NITIONS

Almosthadite --a specimen the major portion of which remains on public display in a remote quarry.

Cantrememberite--one of the more common specimens, typically from locations unknown at present.

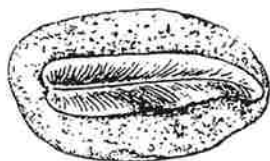
Droppedite--a collection of cleavage fragments representing a high quality cabinet specimen formerly on display.

Cantquitesellite--resembles a specimen in the University collection with an even longer and more complex name.

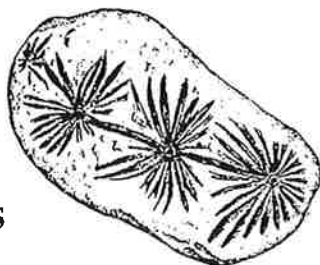
Oncehadite--used in reference to extremely unusual specimens traded at a rock show before true identity was realized.

Nolabelite--one of a class of minerals or fossils of relatively little value appearing in private collections.

via Backbenders Gazette, The Trilobite, Osage Hills Gems 9/95



MAZON CREEK FOSSILS



MGMS members, if you would like to use the club's permit to hunt for leaf and other fossils in the Mazon Creek area of Illinois, be sure to contact Kathy Miller before you leave. She has the permit and all the necessary information.

BEST OF THE AGATES

By Art Reed

My favorite agate's the Lake Superior. Others are great, but in one way inferior-- Botswana, Tepee Canyon, and Dryhead, too, Fairburn, Condor, Montana--lovely to view: But the clincher: "Lakers" can be found nearerer!

Crystal Cluster (May, 1998)

THE ROMANCE OF CRYSTAL O'QUARTZ AND CAB O'SHAWN

Once upon a time, on a day like no other, our hero, CAB O'SHAWN was out showing off his new POLISH.

CAB, being a new arrival at the home of A. LAPIDARIST of CHALCEDONY COURT, was unfamiliar with his new DIGGINS. Walking the two blocks to AGATE Ave., on to SAPPHIRE St., he soon found himself at the TOURMALINE Theater, where the O'QUARTZ FAMILY was appearing in the FACET Follies.

The O'QUARTZ FAMILY was well known for The BRILLIANT CUT of their men and beautifully SHAPED ladies. CAB, seeing a PICTURE of our heroine, CRYSTAL and her sisters, SMOKY and ROSE, desired to meet them. Their father, DRUSY O'QUARTZ, answered his knock on the stage door, and let him in.

Being a highly POLISHED gentleman, CAB, introduced himself and asked to meet the girls. Poppa DRUSY wondered what his wife WOOD say, so he called Mama CITRINE who gave her approval when she saw CAB's fine SHAPE and flawless COLORS.

Our hero fell in love at VERICITE with CRYSTAL. Her SYMMETRY was overwhelming, with beautiful TERMINATIONS. CAB's PLASMA HAMMERED through his VEINS, and he SAW CRYSTAL felt the same about him.

Mama CITRINE and Poppa DRUSY were PERLITE, but CRYSTAL's boy friend WILLE MITE was FRACTURED and SPODUMENE word "GARNET, that CHAPANITE is a CYCAD."

In due time, CAB gave CRYSTAL a large HERKIMER DIAMOND and they decided their wedding DATA (LITE) WOOD be on St. Patrick's Day. Mama took over, and with the Frenchman PIERRE SHALES, they planned the menu for the reception. They WOOD serve CRYSO COLLA, BERYLED 14 KARATs, PUDDING STONE, and SODA(LITE) on Mama's antique TEM PLATES.

Meanwhile CAB WIRED MOTHER LODE and POPPY JASPER, who lived at GOLD PAN GULLY, to come and bring the AGATE family, MOSS, TUBE, DRY HEAD, HONEY, IRISH and young JASPER.

POPPY JASPER PRE-FORMED the ceremony. Attendants were SMITH SON, ITE as BESTOS man, CRYSTAL's sister, ROSE as maid of honor, and her first cousin, OPTICAL O'QUARTZ, as flower girl.

CRYSTAL was beautifully dressed in SNOW FLAKE and her RED FLAME hair was covered with WHITE PLUME. She carried BOUQUET CORAL and TEMPSKYA FERN. ROSE was dressed in CRAZY LACE over BANDED CHERT with her head dress of SILVER SHEEN. CAB was handsome in his DOUBLET of all COLORS of the SPECTRUM, while his best man wore GOLDSTONE.

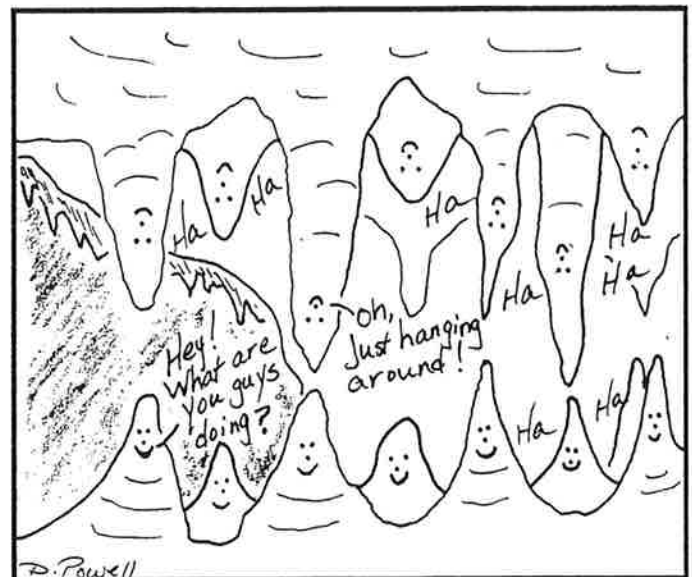
Both during and after the ceremony, many A PACHE TEAR could be seen. The happy couple RHODO NITE and a day to SILVER MOUNTINGS where they attended the opening of the ORIENTAL play "CHERRY OPAL" STARING MOONSTONE and RUBY. Returning to their FLOWER GARDEN (agate) a TEAR DROP was never seen.

The end.

(ONYX, O PAL, I ZINC I SHALE SULFUR for aSURE, for this. We hope you ZIRCONly appreciate the EPIDOTE).

Bob & Margaret Heinek

Crystal Faces by Darryl Powell



Just another day in the cave.

NEW FAIRBURN NEWSLETTER

Roger W. Clark, author of the 1998 book *South Dakota's Fairburn Agate*, has started a newsletter for those who collect this colorful agate. The newsletter will include comments, questions and information from fellow collectors, hints on collecting localities, proposals for understanding the formation of agates in general and many interesting sidelights. Actually, Roger is acting more like a clearing house for information; he'll print what various collectors send to him and pass it around to folks on his list.

To sign up, send your name, address, phone, fax and e-mail numbers to him at

Silverwind Agates
800 N. Lynndale Dr.
Appleton, WI 54914
ph. 920-725-8648; fax 920-725-8839
e-mail Mclark8476@aol.com



You can also purchase the book from the same address. *South Dakota's Fairburn Agate* is 88 pages, with over 60 color photos of agates, 8½ x 11 format, softcover, the result of over 22 years of searching for this elusive agate. Price is \$19.95 + 2.50 shipping.

have cut off a slab it should be immersed in a small pan of sand and placed in a range oven. Turn the oven to warm (200 degrees) for about one hour to expel any moisture trapped in the slab, then raise the temperature 25 degrees every half hour until the temperature is up to 350 degrees. Leave it at this setting for two hours, then turn off the oven and allow the rock to come to room temperature without opening the door.

Now you can check the results. If you are satisfied, you can slab the rest of the rough and treat the lot. If not, return the slab to the oven and repeat the process. You can skip the time at 200 degrees, since all the moisture has been baked out by this time. Continue raising the final temperature by 50 degrees until the results you want are reached. Most ovens will go up to 500 degrees. If you need to go higher, some special oven will be required.

If your spouse balks at you using the oven, borrow a neighbor's roaster oven and use that. It works even better.

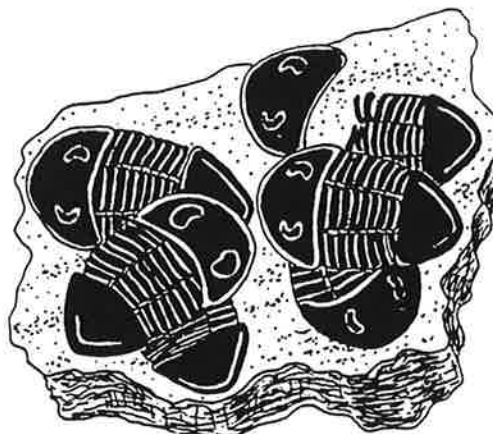
From *Chert Chatter* via *M.G.A.G.S.* (winter, 1998)
No author indicated.

HEAT-TREATING ROCKS

You have just removed a slab from a piece of agate rough, and you are disappointed with the color. The overall color is washed-out white. At this point most rockhounds would toss both the slab and the rough into the spouse's rock garden and write off the investment in the piece.

Well, there may be life yet in that nondescript piece of rough. Before consigning it to the rock garden, try heat-treating the slab. You might be surprised at the results. I have treated agate, jasper, petrified wood and many other types of rocks. Almost any sedimentary rock can benefit from the process. A recent example was a piece of dull brown agate. After heat-treating it, it became a deep red.

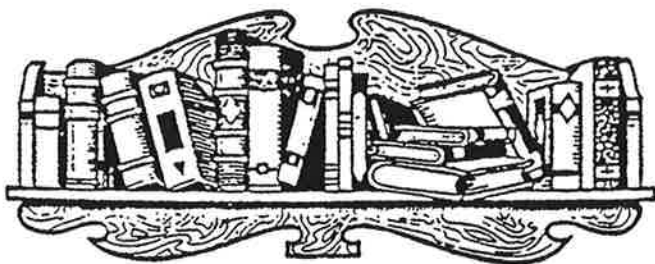
How, you may ask, does one go about heat-treating a piece of rock? The process is relatively simple, but it is a trial and error process. After you

**MASS TRILOBITE BURIAL SITES??
OR JUST THE MOLTED SHELLS??**

**HOMOTELUS BROMIDENSIS
ORDOVICIAN**

ILLUSTRATION by D. J. BETHEA

TAMPA BAY FOSSIL ENQUIRER, 9/88



FOR FURTHER READING

When it came to being warm-blooded or cold-blooded, maybe not all dinosaurs were the same. The bones of hypsilophodontids from a variety of locations worldwide show intriguing dissimilarities from other dinosaurs. Fossils have preserved evidence of sustained, rapid growth, unlike the bones of most dinosaurs, which show spurts of growth. In a cold climate, sustained growth would indicate a warm-blooded creature. Hypsilophodontids are described as having physiologies closer to modern mammals and birds than other dinosaurs, which were somewhere between modern reptiles and modern mammals.

Journal of Vertebrate Paleontology (June, 1998)

The largest piece of fossil dung ever found has been unearthed in Saskatchewan, by Karen Chin of USGS. *T. rex* is the most likely origin of the nearly three-liter mass, and bone fragments make up nearly half of it, suggesting that *T. rex* may have ground up its prey before swallowing.

Discover (July, 1998)

A peculiar indentation between the molars of a 6,000-year-old cave bear jaw prompted a novel explanation to Louis Chaix, an archeozoologist in Geneva. He suggests that the bear was kept as a pet or as part of sacrificial rituals. The jawbone came from a rock shelter near Grenoble.

Discover (July, 1998)

DINOSAUR TRACKS NOW OPEN TO PUBLIC

from Pick & Pack via Pegmatite 9/96

A 16,000 acre portion of Pino Canyon that boasts the longest set of known dinosaur tracks in the world is now open to the public. The area is known as Picket Wire Canyonlands and is part of the Comanche National grasslands in the southeastern corner of Colorado. About 1,400 dinosaur footprints belonging to several types of dinosaurs are easily identified. Paleontologists believe the tracks are on the shore of what once was a huge lake, at a place that may have been a major crossing for the giants that roamed the plains.

METEOR CAUSES UPROAR

By Floyd Dopler

Eleven-year-old Alvaro Lyles of Monahans, Texas, was playing basketball in his front yard on March 22nd when a meteorite landed. The white, glowing rock, the size of a soccer ball, crashed in the Lyleses' front yard in the west Texas town of 8,000. Alvaro and some of his friends were in the driveway at the time and heard the shrill whizzing sound and the boom as it hit.

Firefighters took the rock, saying it would be returned as long as NASA determined it was not radioactive. The next day, the Lyleses received offers from university science departments wanting to buy the meteorite. One offered as much as \$31,000. However, when family members asked the city to return it, the mayor sent a letter politely informing them the meteorite was "city property."

Initially, the city wanted to acknowledge the boys and the event by putting the rock in a display case in city hall, along with pictures of the boys who found it. Then people started talking about the monetary value of meteors. The city council voted to let Alvaro keep the rock, but council members blasted a meteorite broker based in Tulsa, OK, for threatening that the boys would sue if they were not given the rock. The broker would receive a percentage of any money gained by selling the object and said he was just helping the boys secure what was rightfully theirs.

References: Internet News wires from Texas and London, England.

Smoke Signals (July, 1998)

"It is neither wealth nor splendor, but tranquility and occupation which give happiness." Thomas Jefferson