JUNE, 1950

The Lapidary Journal



LADY YANG
Carved from Wyoming Jade by Donal Hord

A National Magazine for
GEM CUTTERS + COLLECTORS + JEWELRY CRAFTSMEN
Hollywood, California

VOLUME 4 50c PER COPY NUMBER 2

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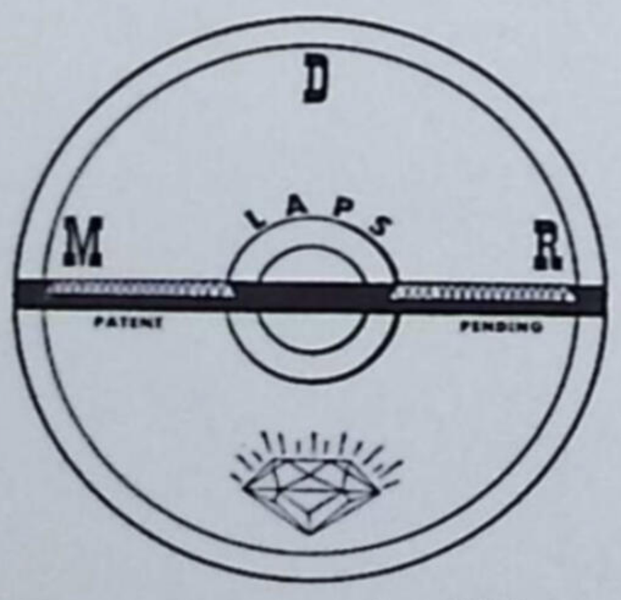
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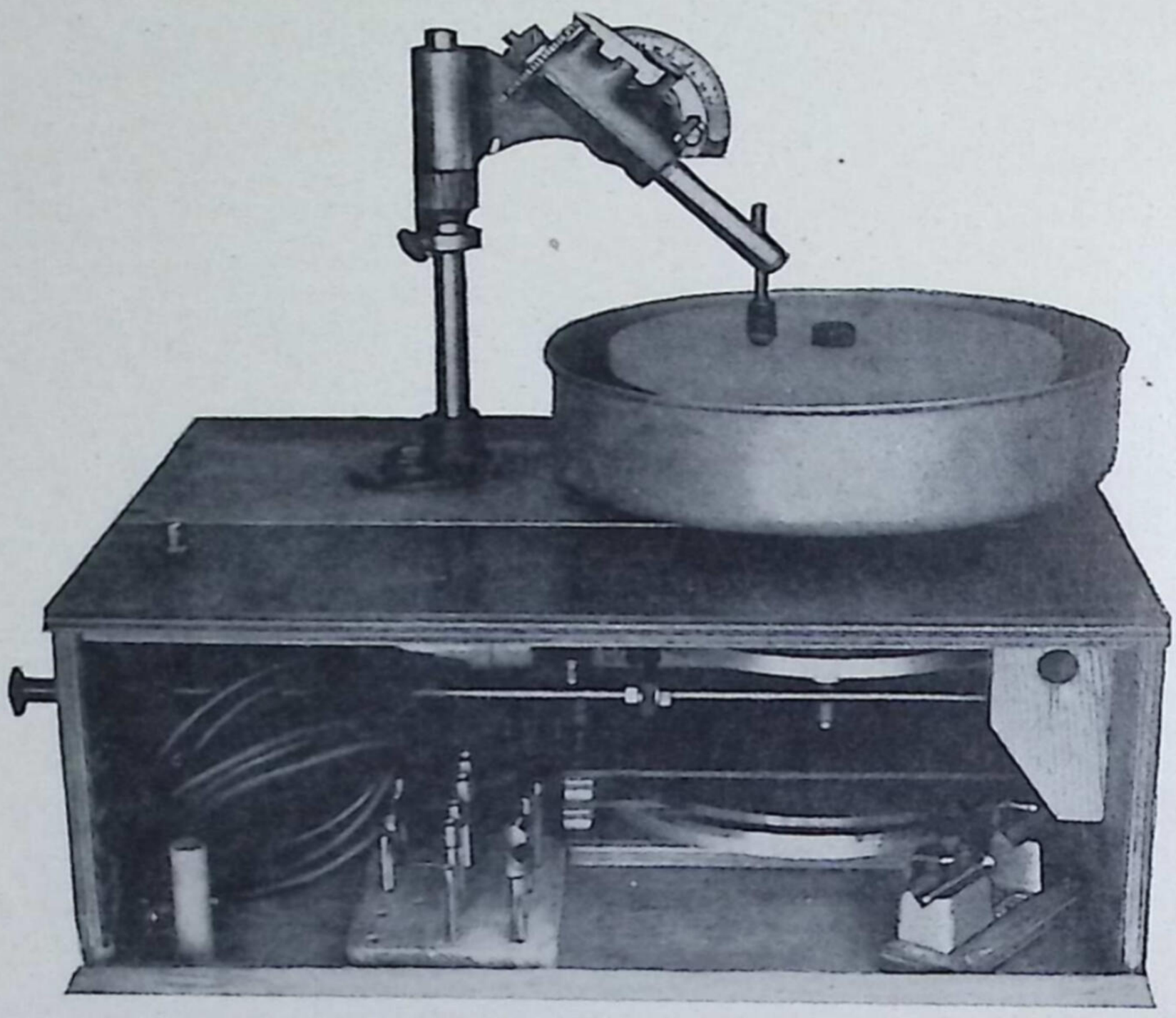
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The Lapidary Journal

A NATIONAL MAGAZINE
for
THE GEM CUTTER, COLLECTOR
AND JEWELRY CRAFTSMAN

EIGHTEENTH ISSUE

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◆ The World's Newest and Largest Jade Statue

By ETTA MAE WALLACE
San Diego, Calif.

Lady Yang Kuei-fei, favorite and famed concubine of Hsuan-Tsung, Eighth Century Chinese emperor under whom the glorious T'ang Dynasty began to fail and for which failure the woman was blamed, has just been posthumously honored — Donal Hord, San Diego's internationally recognized sculptor, has done her in jade—in gem quality jade—in *apple green shade*.

"Lady Yang" is honored not only because 1200 years after her death a great sculptor has given plastic form to her reputed beauty, as set forth in court records and in poems, but also because of the medium.

SIMILAR TO 'THUNDER'

Standing 21 inches tall, with base 8½ by 15 inches and weighing 161 pounds, this piece may be compared as jade sculpture only with Hord's *Thunder*, a spinach jade 20 inches high which was completed late in 1947 and illustrated on the cover of the *Lapidary Journal* for January 1948.

Throughout history, there have been only a handful of carved jade pieces comparable in size to these two, and no one beside Hord has been known to work the tough nephrite stone as *true sculpture*. This opinion is sustained by the Chinese connoisseur of jade treasures, Chang Wen Ti, exhibitor of the famous jade pagoda at the last San Francisco International Exposition.

BEGAN WORK IN 1949

With his co-worker, Homer Dana, who with Mrs. Hord makes up the household of three at the Pacific Beach studio-home, Hord made the first cut in the 300-pound block of the Wyoming jade Jan. 4, 1949. The two men have worked 7 hours a day, for 15 months, to bring it to form and to sensuous smoothness.

The flat facet areas which are characteristic of nephrite jade carvings—an example is the high "Jade Mountain," a gray piece of Ch'ien Lung in the Walker Museum, Minneapolis—are not preferred, but are left flat because the stone is too tough to be easily brought into a beautiful round.

Hord considers that the great lovers of jade, the Chinese, did right by the material as craftsmen, but as artists they missed with it. Vessels and vases of jade are clean and flowing in line, but when figure carving is attempted it becomes fussy, tortured or baroque.

When Hord decided to attempt a nephrite sculpture, there was nothing to guide him. The pneumatic hammer used in his great granite or diorite sculptures, "The Aztec," "The Water Women." "El Colorado" and "Spring Stirring," (Illustrated on Page 62 of the April 1949 *Lapidary Journal*) only left a steel plating when used on the jade. But after a time, experimenting brought the two workers to hand-shaping with power-driven stick carborundum—this will take out facets in less than a lifetime of endeavor!

ABRASIVES SPEED WORK

In this connection, Donal spoke of a letter recently received asking for advice on how to do a jade sculpture for a show that was just a few months away, while admitting "I would surely die of old age before finishing what I have in mind with the tools at my disposal."

Hord and Dana did not have a "few month recipe," but such as they had they wrote out for him. Hord estimates that with their "better abrasives" he and Dana were able to do in 15 months what it would have taken 10 years to do by Chinese methods.

STONE WELL LIKED

Both Donal and Dana as well as visitors privileged to see "Lady Yang" are excited about the quality of this gem stone as material for sculpture. The peculiar fibrous nature of nephrite may be



In the first photo above we see the original 300 pound (approximately) piece of apple green Wyoming nephrite. In the photo to the right the progress of the work can be seen after the block had been run on a track against a diamond saw blade for several weeks. In the photo below we see the progress of the work after about six months and the finished statue appears in the last picture.

pleasantly felt in the finished piece, and its translucence is a "fourth-dimensional" aspect tracing edges of the hair locks, drapery and the water-lined base.

Symbolic touches of the "Lady Yang" Kuei-fei sculpture are found in the Phoenix clasp, Bird of Empresses, which holds her hair in the water base, rising to spiraling waves in the back, indicating the waves of disaster that, instituted by the kinsmen of Lady Yang, were to engulf the dynasty of her emperor lord, who before her was acclaimed the "Magnificent Monarch."

Also symbolic are the blood red flecks of the jade bark, which Hord has left in the water lines of the base. For the story of this court favorite, Kuei-fei, is as sorrowful as any ever told. Her beauty was reported by poets in such lines as "If she but turned her head and smiled, there were cast a hundred spells, and the powder and paint of Six Palaces faded into nothing" or, "The Ever True—with a face of snow and flowers—The Doubly-Perfect."



Back view of Lady Yang. Note the fine detail of the hair and ear and note the Phoenix-bird hair clip.

But the emperor lost not only his heart but his head to "his mistress of the spring" so that though there were 3000 other ladies of rare beauty in his court, his favors were concentrated on one, and he "forsook his early hearings," in other words ceased attending to his business as a ruler.

So when the capital city was in danger his soldiers would not fight until they were permitted to do away with Lady Yang. The poet Po Chu-Yi reports: "The men of the army stopped, not one of them would stir till under their horses' hoofs they might trample those moth-eyebrows . . . flowers, hairpins fell to the ground, no one picked them up . ."

Though the palace was saved that particular time, when the Emperor returned he could not be comforted for though the pools, the gardens, the palace all were just as before, "a petal was her face, and a willow-leaf her eyebrow—"

Hord was elected to the Institute of Arts and Letters, in January and was one of the new members formally inducted into this body of "famous names and faces" at its annual dinner program in May at the Institute quarters on 155th St., New York City.

Hord himself was not there, but "Lady Yang Kuei-fei" was for it is the custom for new work of new members to be exhibited and especially noted on this occasion. The jade was shipped April 17 and will be on exhibition at the National Institute of Arts and Letters until about July 1st. *Lapidary Journal* readers in the New York area should hasten to see it.

Another honor just received by Hord is the acceptance of a medal design by the Society of Medallists which puts out two fine medals each year. The design, which Hord undertook at the request of the Medallists Society, is two-faced.

One is inscribed "To Reap" and depicts an Indian seated on a stylized rainbow against the sun circle, holding aloft ears of corn. The other side, reading "Man Must Sow," shows an Indian sowing a field under a dark-veiled moon.

(For further information see article on Page 124 and illustration on the cover.)

* * *

A REASON FOR JADE

By ROBERT TESMER

Once the chairman up near heaven
  Called the gods to "trouble hall,"
And proclaimed, "The world needs something
  Or the stars are sure to fall."

So they took the white from heaven
  And some blue from out the sky;
Quickly clipped a violet's petal;
  Took a patch of gray on high.

Then they plucked a leaf of clover
  And some ivy from the glade,
Added just a sprig of holly
  And quite simply called it *Jade.*

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Please Note: We guarantee satisfaction on this item. Just send us the amount you wish to spend per piece and we will pick the best we have in that price grade. This is the best all around lot of opal rough we have seen in some time. Don't wait long to send in your order. The first orders will naturally get the best pieces.

Black Star Sapphire—Australia—18 to 30 Carat Pieces .... 50c per carat

These pieces all show asterism in the rough but no stars can be guaranteed. Why not send for a piece and look it over? We'll refund if you don't want to cut it.

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A New Item: Jade Luster jade polish. This is the real thing. See article on Page 104.

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◆ The Greatest Collecting Area

By DON MacLACHLAN
Member, *N.O.T.S. Rockhounds*
China Lake, Calif.

Agate, jasper, petrified wood, petrified palm, bloodstone, banded travertine, clear and smoky quartz, rose quartz, obsidian, precious opal, geodes, nodules. Would you like to have some? Well, we have them right "in our own back yard." Not only that but we are willing to share them. Interested?

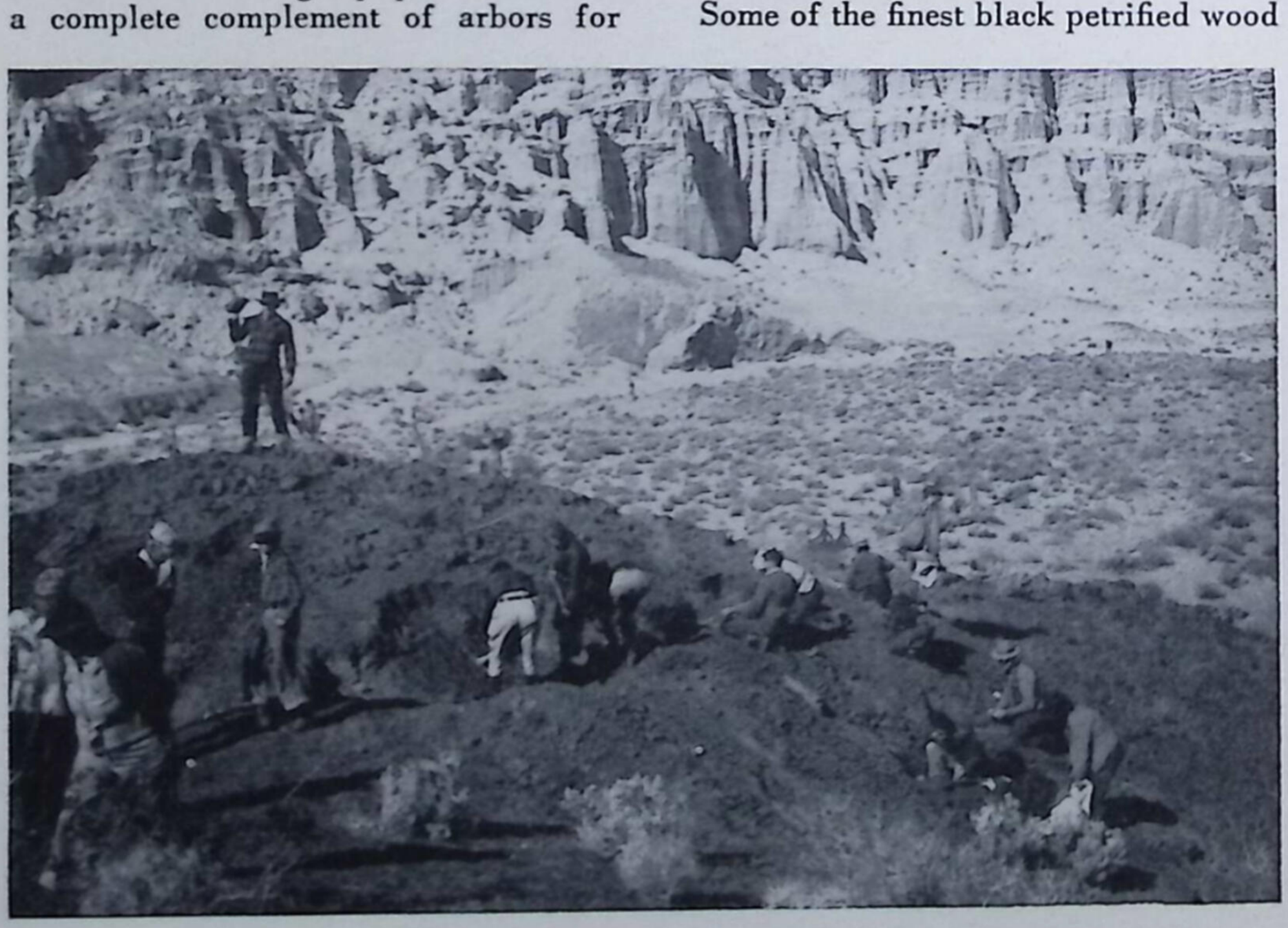
Our "back yard" is the northern fringe of the Mojave Desert. We live on the Navy's big U. S. Naval Ordnance Test Station near Inyokern, the N.O.T.S. ROCKHOUNDS sponsor and operate one of the few club-owned lapidaries. The *Rockhounds* and their Lapidary Hobby Shop operate under the *Joint Navy-Civilian Recreation Council* and the club and lapidary are not the least of the community activities in this community of over ten thousand people.

The shop contains a 12″ and three 16″ slabbing saws and a 6″ trim saw. To balance this cutting equipment there is a complete complement of arbors for coarse and fine grinding, sanding and polishing. There are two optical laps for flat work and a 24″ steel lap for those who must have book ends. In a month or so three small laps with faceting heads should be in operation.

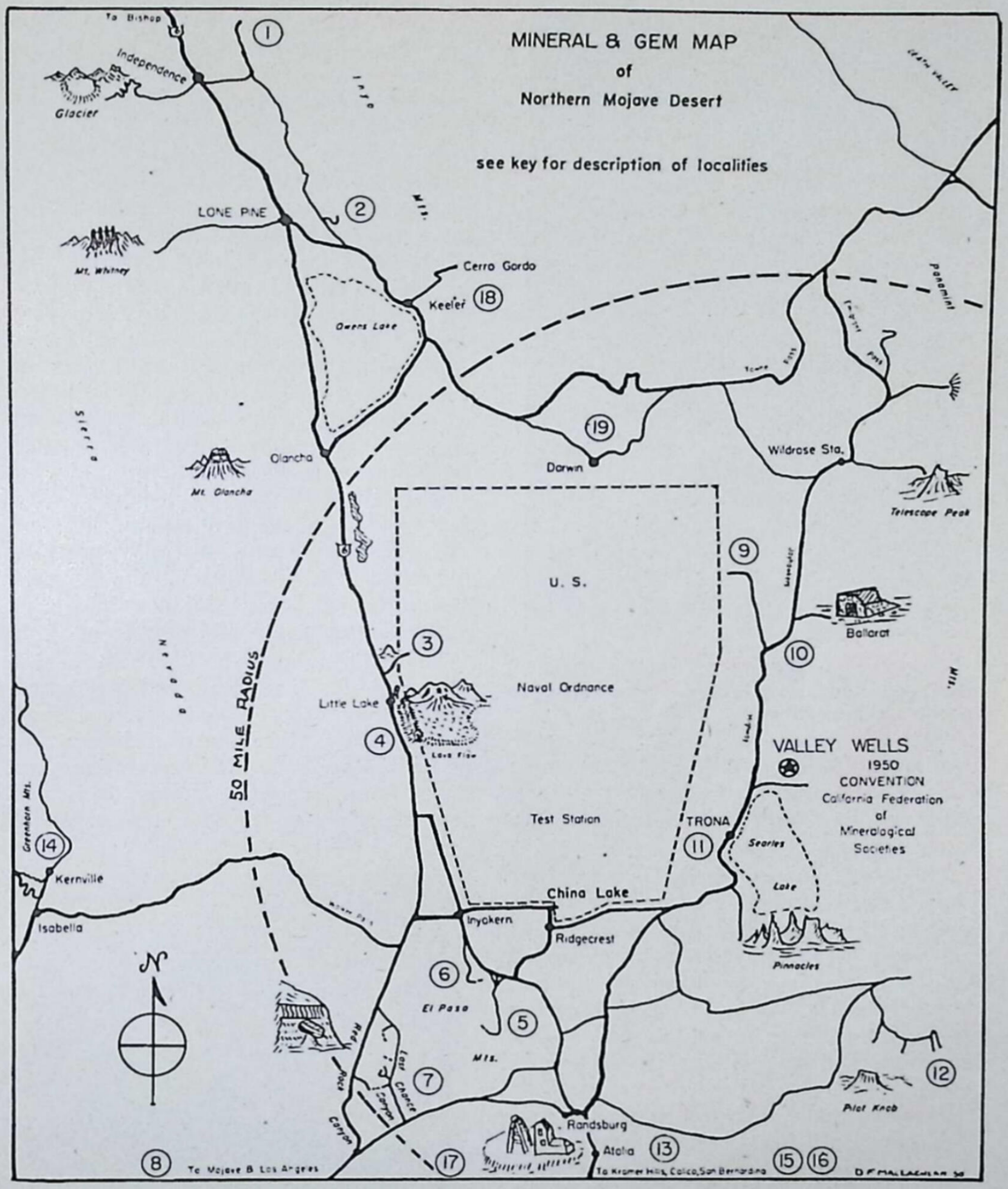
As many as fifteen people can use the shop at one time. There is never a lack of customers on any of the five nights a week that the shop is open. All this activity eats up quite a supply of rough cutting material but an almost endless supply is ours for the hunting.

Within fifteen miles (less distance than many city dwellers drive to get beyond their city limits) are the El Paso Mountains. Besides the beautiful scenery of Red Rock Canyon, the volcanic rocks of the area offer beautiful banded, moss and picture agate and jasper. The jasper is in pieces large enough for bookends if you're hardy enough to work its hardness of seven.

Some of the finest black petrified wood

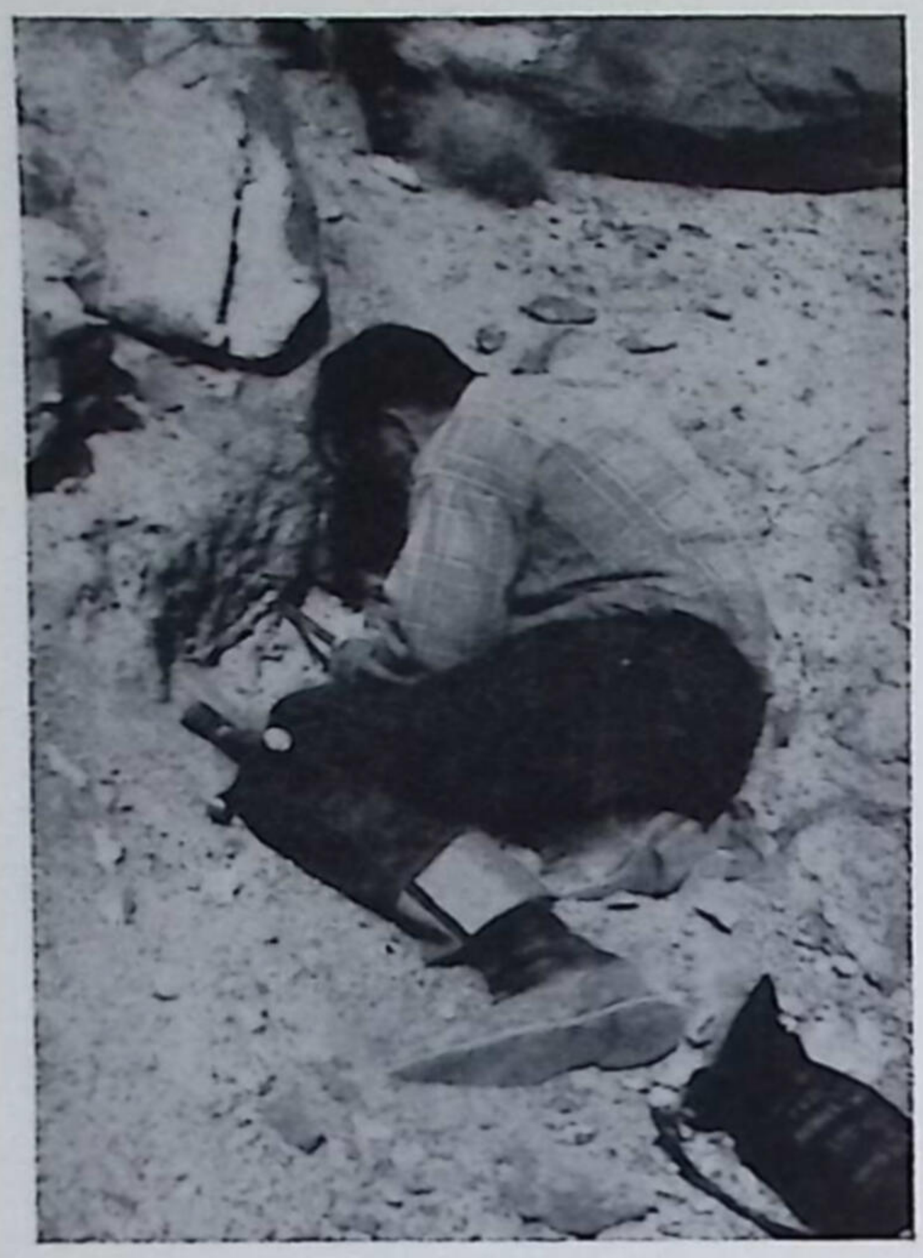


SEARLES LAKE GEM & MINERAL SOC. "on location" in Red Rock Canyon looking for Chalcedony.



KEY TO MINERAL AND GEM MAP OF NORTHERN MOJAVE DESERT

1. Smoky quartz crystals and plates. 2. Amazonite and beryl (aquamarine). 3. Obsidian, chrystobalite and fayalite. 4. Quartz (desert diamonds) and sanidine. 5. Jasper. 6. Jasper and agate. 7. Jasper, agate, chalcedony, petrified wood (palm and fig), precious opal, opal, calcite, and chalcedony casts of calcite. 8. Cinco: five miles off map on Highway 6. Carlsbad Twins of feldspar and aragonite. 9. Travertine (Death Valley Onyx). 10. Ophicalcite. 11. Halite, hanksite, burkeite, gay-lussite, pirssonite, tincalconite, sulphohalite. 12. Agate, chalcedony, jasper, precious opal, geodes and nodules. (Lead Pipe Springs—Blue Chalcedony Springs area). 13. Rand District: gold, silver and tungsten minerals and ores. Atolia: scheelite "spuds." 14. Smoky and rose quartz, odd and rare forms of quartz crystals, gem clear scheelite crystals, tourmaline in quartz, epidote and epidote pseudomorph after garnet. 15. Kramer Hills: 35 miles off map on Highway 395. Jasper, petrified wood and agate. 16. Calico Mountains: 50 miles off map on Highway 466. Ghost towns of Calico and Borate. Petrified wood and palm root, travertine, colemanite, howlite, gypsum, strontianite and celestite. 17. Boron: 30 miles off map on Highway 466. Colemanite and ulexite and other borax minerals. 18. Galena, argentite, chrysocolla, azurite, malachite and various other lead, silver, gold and copper minerals. 19. Galena, pyrite, sphalerite, linarite, calcite, caledonite, scheelite, plumbojarosite, sulphur, fluorite, cerrusite, anglesite, brochantite and possibly some of the rarer lead silver and zinc.



Ralph Dietz of N.O.T.S. ROCKHOUNDS working an aquamarine crystal from a quartz seam near Lone Pine.

available is still plentiful in Last Chance Canyon. Some of it is beautifully marked palm and fig wood. This material is also found in large pieces.

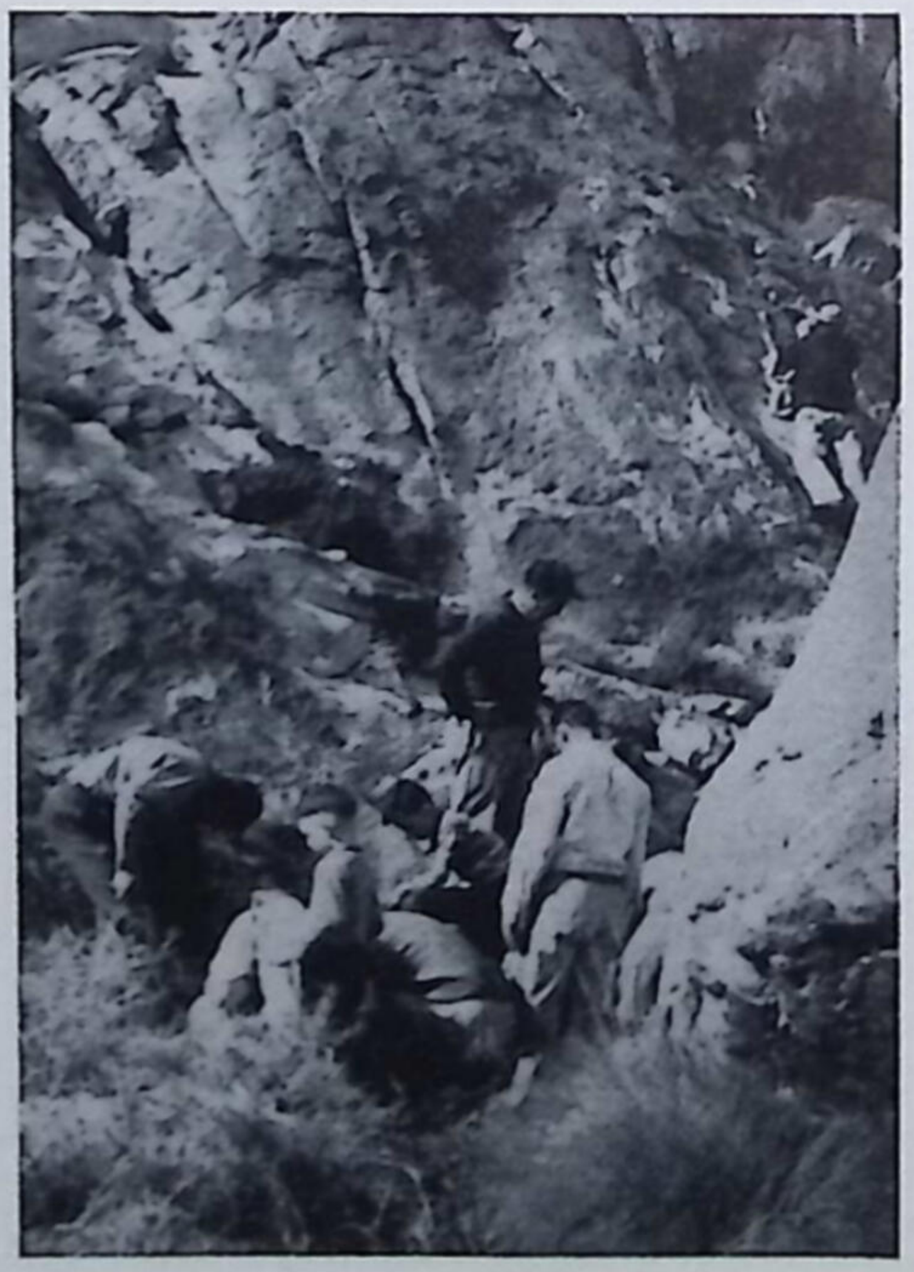
Then of course, there is the Last Chance Canyon deposit of precious opal. Most of the pieces found here are small but many a hunter has been rewarded with a fiery piece as large as the last thumb joint. It takes a lot of hammering on the basalt dike to get good opal but its wonderful fire and color are ample reward.

Precious opal is always a favorite and rockhounds willing to drive forty miles of desert road can work the large seam near Blue Chalcedony Spring. The opal here is lighter in color, mostly milky, translucent blue with flecks of red, green and blue fire. A fist sized piece is not uncommon and some have worked out larger pieces.

Within a mile of the opal is a field of really large geodes. Reddish rhyolite with hollow centers lined with blue and white chalcedony and milk opal. The *N.O.T.S Rockhounds'* famous three hundred pound "punch bowl" (about half a geode) came from here. There are more large geodes if you're man enough to get them down from the hill-top where they lie. A hillside of blue chalcedony, a good seam of brown moss agate and countless small blue chalcedony geodes and nodules are only three miles away from this site.

Many Sunday picnics are spent on the lava beds less than twenty miles to the north of the Station. Sharp eyes can nearly always find a good crop of "desert diamonds" of crystal clear quartz. These weather from vugs in the porous basalt. These stones facet beautifully; so well in fact that the *Rockhounds* have had to educate the local populace and warn them against unscrupulous jewelers who have tried to sell them for more valuable stones. A clear, yellowish sanidine (a crystalline form of feldspar) which facets well is also found among the "desert diamonds." Just a few miles north of this deposit is Glass Mountain, an endless source of fine obsidian available in boulder-sized pieces and easy to get.

An easy Sunday or holiday trip reaches a deposit of "Death Valley Onyx" which is not "onyx" and does not come from Death Valley. It is a beautiful brown to cream colored banded travertine and comes from Panamint Valley. It is particularly popular for statuette bases, ash



Field trip at the amazonite deposit near Lone Pine.



Uranium heck! All I can hear on this confounded Geiger Counter is the racket from that Trona convention.

trays, book ends and other decorative pieces.

The southern end of the Inyo Mountains, an easy 75 miles away over good roads, gives us good blue green amazonite that cuts into wonderful cabs. Crystals a full inch and a half across were found on our last trip. At the same locality a milky variety of aquamarine (beryl) is less common but some nice pieces have been found. This material is not clear enough to facet but it makes interesting cabs. About five miles north of this spot is a hill that gives up extra fine smoky quartz crystals. These are really gem quality and will facet into beautiful gems. Many crystals will cut stones of fifty carats or more.

Further away, in the class of overnight trips, is the famous Horse Canyon Agate deposit; the Greenhorn Mountains with rose- and smoky-quartz; the Kramer Hills, where wonderful jasper, palm and other wood is found; Calico for wood, agate and palm and a host of lesser localities where a pleasant Sunday or week-end will yield a winter's work with saw and wheels.

This year our club is co-host, with *SEARLES LAKE GEM AND MINERAL SOCIETY* and *MOJAVE MINERALOGICAL SOCIETY* to the 1950 Convention



SEARLES LAKE GEM & MINERAL SOC. looking over "Fossil Falls," the lava beds near Little Lake.

of the *California Federation of Mineralogical Societies*. The annual meeting is to be a big outdoor affair at Valley Wells, near Trona, California on June 17 and 18. As a feature of the meeting the clubs plan to have guides available to take visitors to all of the gem deposits in the area. Field trips will be run after the convention closes and every locality will be available.

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Title of your paper is to be **Why I Collect Rocks**

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Winners Will Be Notified by Mail and in the October Issue of the *Lapidary Journal*

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#94 —Obsidian: Double flow, (Oregon)
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#126—Wood: Yellow ochre in patterns. (Arizona)
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#129—Cycad wood: (Wyoming) Brown with eyes, slabs only.
#130—Petrified wood: Eden Valley (Wyoming) Black with some streaks of brown.
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Regalite takes a very high mirror-like polish with cerium or tin oxide on either leather or felt buffs.

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We have a large stock of polished specimens of all of the above numbers. Price based on the weight plus the sawing and polishing, or we will saw and polish any size piece you order (over 2 square inches), at 7½c per square inch for sawing and 7½c per square inch for polishing.

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Watch for Opening of New Store

◆ A Mirror Finish For Jade

By TED PURKHEISER

1422½ Waterloo St.

Los Angeles

Jade really *belongs* to the Chinese for whenever one thinks of jade he immediately thinks of China. They have cut, hand-carved and polished it for generations. It has followed the emperors' dynasties and has been the center of disputes, murders, marriages, romance and religion for dozens of centuries.

To a Chinese the finish on jade is relatively unimportant. A jade cab could be worth $5,000 or 50c, depending on its individual color and its historical background. In fact most of the fabulous Imperial jade jewelry that is valued so highly has the same luster as our own highly prized Indian turquoise jewelry —both finishes have been accomplished by hand.

Much of the supply of beautiful lemon-green jade in China came originally from Burma. It is now nearly exhausted and quite a bit of Wyoming jade is now being exported to China where it is hand-worked into rings and other exquisite mountings and then returned to us as "Chinese" jade. Very little of the Burma jade finds its way to America.

The Wyoming jade has a beauty and character of its own but it cannot compare to the fine color shades of the Burma jade. Therefore what it lacks in color, should be made up in a fine polish. I personally believe that the average American rock-hound has more pride in the beautiful *finish* of his jade than in its color. A cross section of the local lapidary hobbyists has revealed to me that there is quite a lot of good jade packed away in boxes in shops and garages waiting to be cut and polished "sometime".

Few people can resist at some time or other buying some of it, "just to have it around" as they say. So much has been written about it, and few deny that it does have a certain fascination for romantic people who love nature—her rocks and her minerals.

The big problem has always been how to sand and polish jade without that awful pitted, orange-peel-like finish. I have tried everyone's method that I've ever heard of and lots more besides; always with about the same results. Occasionally however, a cab would come out pretty good and I would say to myself, "this is it". But the very next cab would get stubborn and refuse to take a polish.

One day I decided to start over again, only this time I would try to find out *why* it wouldn't polish. The surface, when inspected through a glass, is made up of numerous fibers resembling a network of cables. Most of the "holes" are merely soft spots that pull out with sanding. The surface is oily and rubbery and highly resistant to heat. The first step was to find a heatless sanding. This was easily solved by using *wet sanding cloth*. The next step was to find a polishing agent that would *cut* and smooth the surface as it polished. Of all the polishes tried, Chrome Oxide seemed to be the best. It therefore would have to be something similar but better.

From the first time it was tried my *JADE-LUSTER POWDER* seemed to be the answer to the problem. Herewith I give you the exact process, step by step, of how my jade is polished to a very high luster. If you follow these directions to the letter I believe that you will be surprised at your own finish. Bear in mind however that jade which has inclusions of another type of rock or mineral in it, although it is green in color, may be too soft to take a good polish.

The jade cab is taken from the grinding wheel to a 150 grit *wet* sanding cloth or paper, with a *thin rubber backing*. All traces of wheel marks *must* be sanded out. Dry sanding cannot be used as the heat causes jade to take on a rough orange-peel-like resistant coating. Water

Annual

SUMMER BARGAINS

VACATION ANNOUNCEMENT: Our facilities will be closed to all mail and drop in trade for 14 days from July 22nd to August 5th, 1950. During that time we will enjoy our first real vacation.

SEPTEMBER 15, 1950 WILL BE A BIG DAY: On that day our NEW FALL CATALOG will be mailed to all of our customers free of charge. It will contain over 200 illustrations and approximately 500 different possible choices of items for you to choose from. Many new pieces of our own manufacture will be shown which will mean manufacturers' prices for you. If you want one of these super-catalogs, mail 10c as soon as possible so that you will be on the mailing list for THE BIG DAY SEPTEMBER 15. Do it now to be sure.

• • •

DON'T FORGET Mr. A. E. Davies who is our Western Representative. He is covering Southern, Central and Northern California and also the State of Oregon and Western Nevada. If you would like him to call please address him at P.O. Box 68, Alamo, Calif.

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may be applied to the paper with a paint brush although a tiny stream is better. Next grit will be 225 *wet*—then 400—then 600. If white spots appear on the stone you are not using enough water. After sanding with wet 600 turn off the water and *lightly touch* the jade against the now dry paper with a *rolling* motion following the contour of the stone. Take it away for a few seconds and then touch it again *momentarily* to avoid heating. Keep this up until the cab is covered with a gleaming. glistening gloss. You are now ready for the final polish. Make a thin mixture of *Jade-Luster Powder* and water to the consistency of milk. Paint it very sparingly on a smooth leather buff running about 800 RPM.

The *Jade-Luster* (when wet) cuts and smooths the surface of the cab. As it dries it starts polishing. Keep holding the cab against the leather buff until the compound is completely dry and a high gloss is obtained on the stone. *Heat is now very desirable.* Just be careful the dopping wax does not melt. If the final polish is not high enough repeat the polishing process until you are satisfied.

When the leather gets too loaded with material remove the surplus with an old dull kitchen knife while the wheel is still in motion. Never wash the buff and never dip the brush in water and then in the powder to apply the material. The *Jade-Luster* powder should be made into a milky solution and applied with a brush.

This same process and material may also be used with great effectiveness on agate and some of the hard-to-polish stones.

(Editor's note: This method has resulted in the best mirror finish on jade we have ever seen. We carry a cab polished by this method in our pocket and several persons have asked us where we got the *green agate.*)

"I have never met a man who has given me as much trouble as myself."
—Dwight Moody.

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◆ What is a Good Polish?

By HERBERT L. MONLUX
246 N. Union Ave., Los Angeles 26, Calif.
Member of *Los Angeles Lapidary Society*

The dictionary defines polish as a "smooth lustrous surface" but it does not say *how* smooth or lustrous. The best work that one could do will show scratches and gouges if examined under a strong microscope. I have found that a three power glass will show defects in work that the unaided eye has passed as perfect. So an occasional check on your work is advisable. Most of us have learned all we know from experience as few are in a position to get expert instruction. I enjoyed lapidary work from the start but it was eight years before I knew what a super-polish should look like and just how to get one. I will attempt, in this article, to pass this knowledge on to you.

A super-polish should have a brilliant reflecting surface, free from visible scratches, pits and waves. It should reflect a bright object with the same clarity on *any* point on the surface. There should be no cloudy spots on the surface that dulls the natural transparency of the stone. These dull places come from a surface flow due to overheating during the sanding and polishing. If you use a lap wheel all the pits left must be removed by the sanders. If you have already read Ted Purkheiser's article on how to polish jade on Page 104 you will notice that he uses *wet* sanding cloth. I now recommend using this system on agate as the stone remains cool and there is no surface temperature sufficient to soften the surface so that the friction of the polishing wheel will cause this flowing.

This wet method should give a transparent surface that leaves little for the polishing wheel to do. But again this cloudy scum will appear with certain polishing compounds. I have done considerable experimenting and have found that extremely fine carborundum will give a good polish; air float tripoli gets a better one; cerium oxide produces a brilliant polish and to date I have never found anything that will do a better job on most materials. All of these must be used on a canvas covered wheel and must be used with a *lot* of water to keep the stone very cool. The wheel should run *under* 800 revolutions per minute; the slower it goes the easier it will be to keep it wet as the centrifugal force throws the water. If one follows these simple directions with a desire to constantly improve his work there is no reason why your work will not be outstanding. No one will ever get a *perfect* polish as that would mean magnification to the size of outermost space without showing defects.

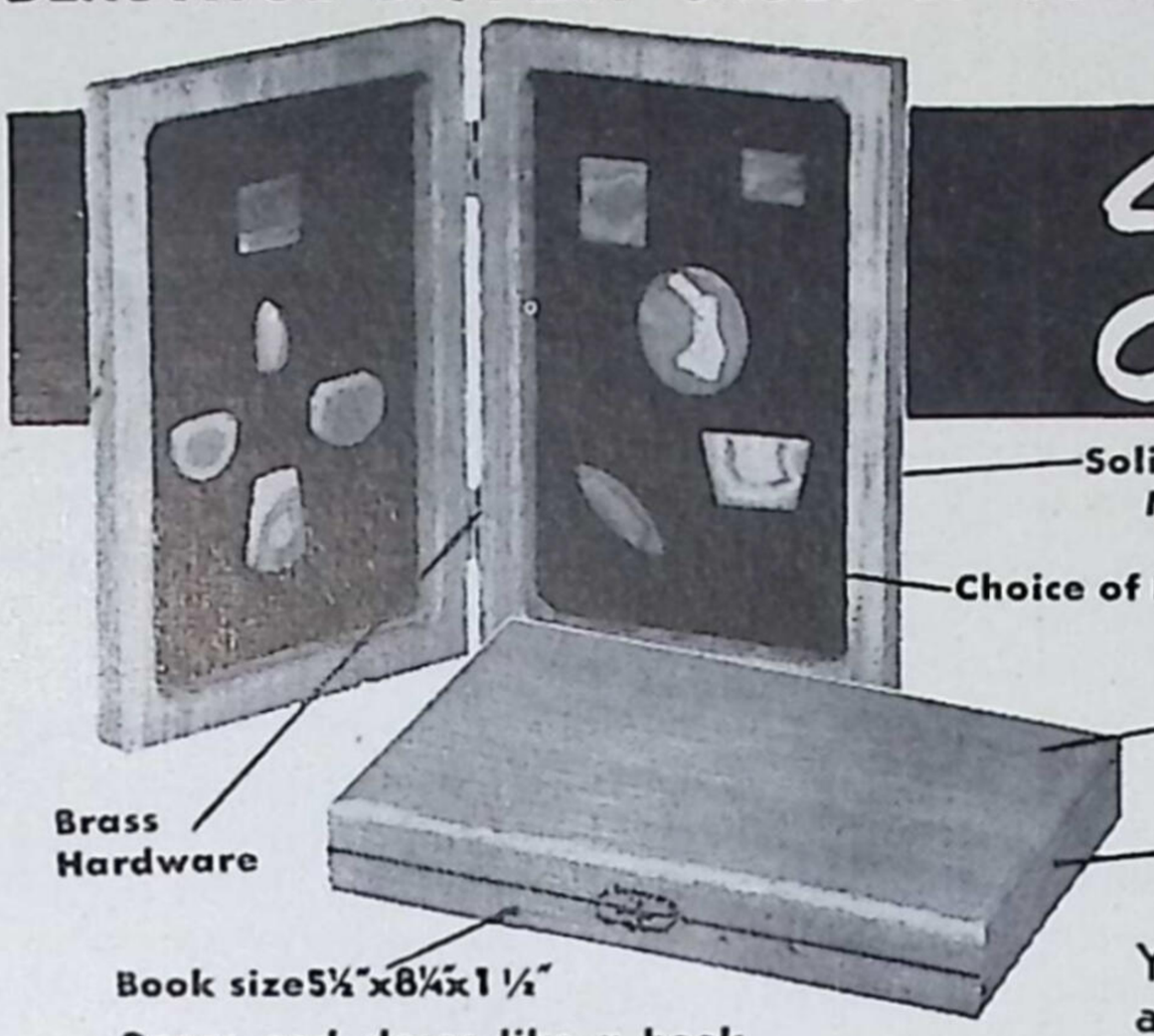
Before I was able to have a hobby I was in the jewelry business and then for thirty years in the piano business. The polish on jewelry and on musical instruments is the same as the one we give our rocks. The only difference is the way we go about getting it. There is the *flow;* it is called burnish on jewelry, french polish on varnished surfaces and the Beilby layer on rocks. (Pronounced bell-bee) The burnish is done with a burnishing tool which is rubbed over the metal with considerable pressure. The french polish is accomplished on the surface of a lacquered piece by softening with a solvent and leveling to a polish. In a rock the surface becomes hot enough to level to a polish during the period it is pressed against the wheel. Then we have the abraded or cut polish in which the high places are cut away leaving finer and finer scratches until they are only seen by a strong magnifying glass. In jewelry, the abraded surface is preferred as the most pleasing. In varnish, either polish is good as the varnish and lacquer is transparent and none of the wood's beauty is lost. But with stones I prefer the abraded surface.

While the finished polish is equally good in either flow or cut methods the cloudy surface and 'surface smear' of the flow clouds the beauty of the specimen. A surface movement will blurr the

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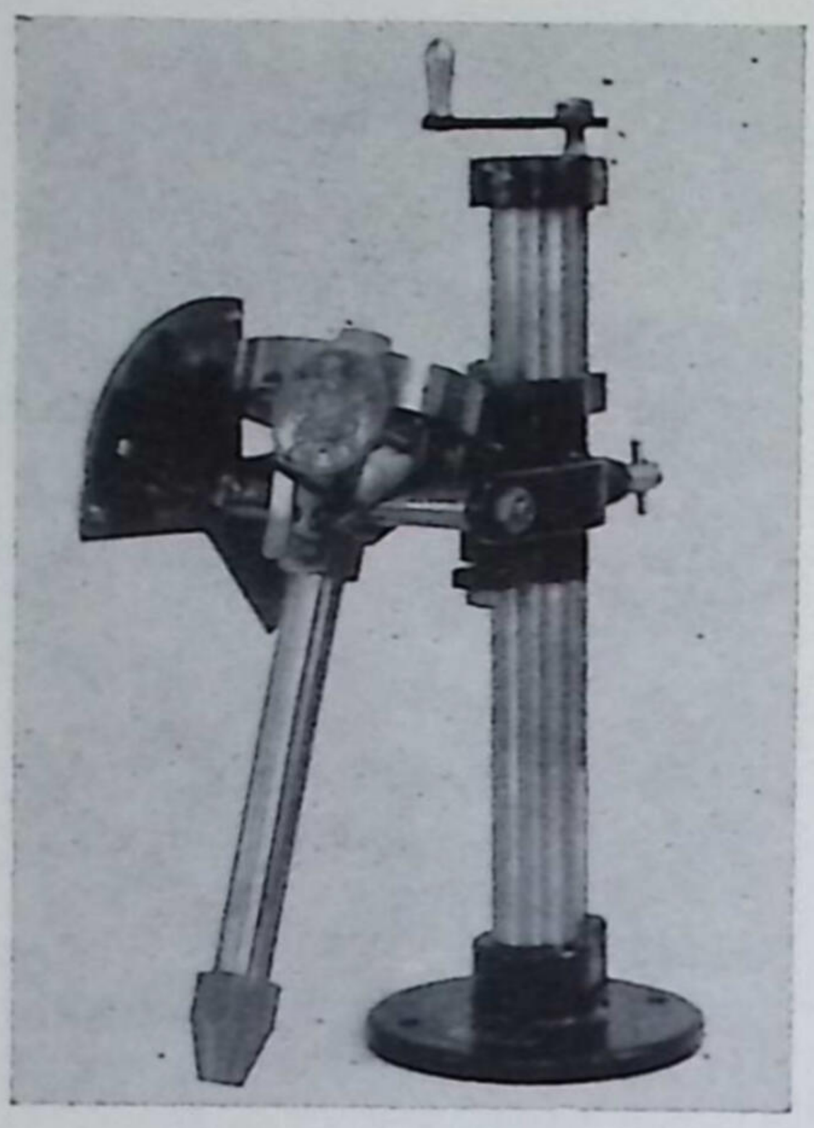
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Regular model, without vernier **$47.50**

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delicate tracery of the inclusions. In extreme flow the surface will take on a decided ripple. At the time of flow minute quantities of the polish powder is drawn into the surface along with tiny air bubbles. It is this air and polishing powder that gives the smoky appearance to the finished surface. The abraded surface is just as smooth and lustrous as the flow but does not have the smear or cloud. One is able to look into the *heart* of the rock and see it as God made it.

If you have doubts about this polish please do as I have done many times. If the stone gets hot in the final stages of the polish, it is a good bet that you have "flowed" the surface. Then polish one half of this stone with cerium oxide on a *slow running canvas covered wheel,* keeping it sopping wet all the time. Then compare the two halves under a strong light. Whenever I give a talk on this subject I have some of these pieces prepared to pass around.

The amateur lapidary gets thrills and satisfaction from what he does from the very first. None of us dream at the beginning that it can become a constant challenge for accuracy and artistic outlet. Someday there will be numerous places of instruction under professional cutters and you will graduate only by being able to cut and polish as well as the professionals who have put in their entire lives at this wonderful work. I am happy to state that the amateurs are bringing out ideas and methods that have won the respect of these professionals and all we now lack is the skill that we will get only after long practice.

Optical cutting and polishing of precision lenses is the final word in wonderful machines. It would take some time to explain their system. But I am safe in stating that their finish is the result of a cut surface. It should be apparent that any cloudiness on the surface of a lens would cause impaired transparency. I have found no difficulty in being shown through some large plants doing this work. If you are where you can get to one of these establishments it is well worth your time to request a trip through the place.

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EDITOR LAPIDARY JOURNAL:

We would like to announce that a brand new store was opened to the public and rock-hounds in particular at 800 Sebastopol Road, Santa Rosa, California, under the name of GEMJEWELS with a policy of fair play to the customers that will stand the test in the scales of justice.

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(Editor's note: We have profited personally from the author's polishing advice. He has always been a great investigator and his cabochon work is peerless. We urge readers to try these methods regardless of their present polishing success. That's part of the fun of our hobby.)

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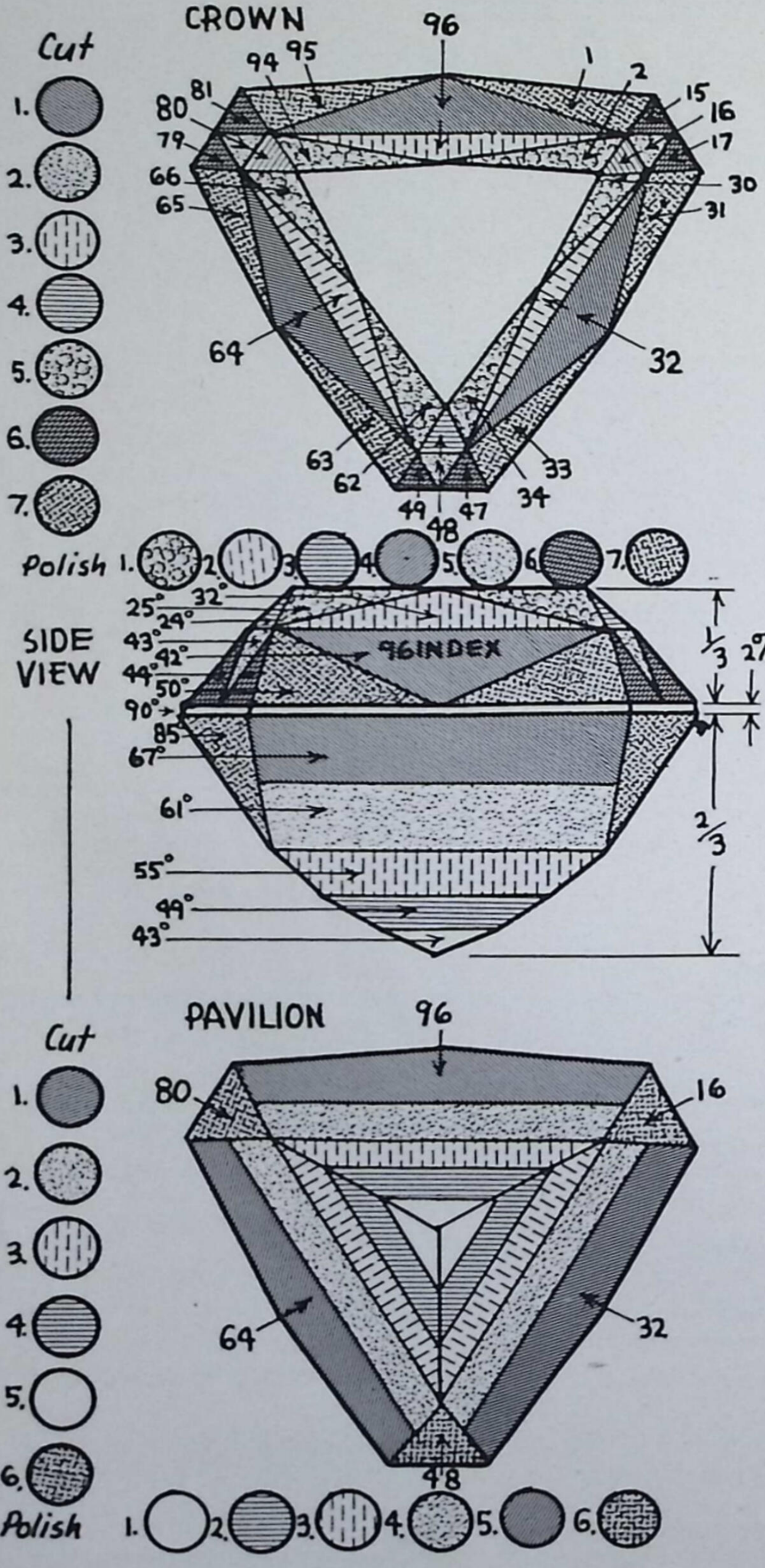
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GRIND 6th—Six facets at 44° indexing 15-17-47-49-79-81.

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See polishing order on left, using same angles and index as was used in cutting.

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GRIND 3rd—Three facets at 55° indexing 96-32-64.

GRIND 4th—Three facets at 49° indexing 96-32-64.

GRIND 5th—Three facets at 43° indexing 96-32-64.

GRIND 6th—Three facets at 85° indexing 16-48-80.

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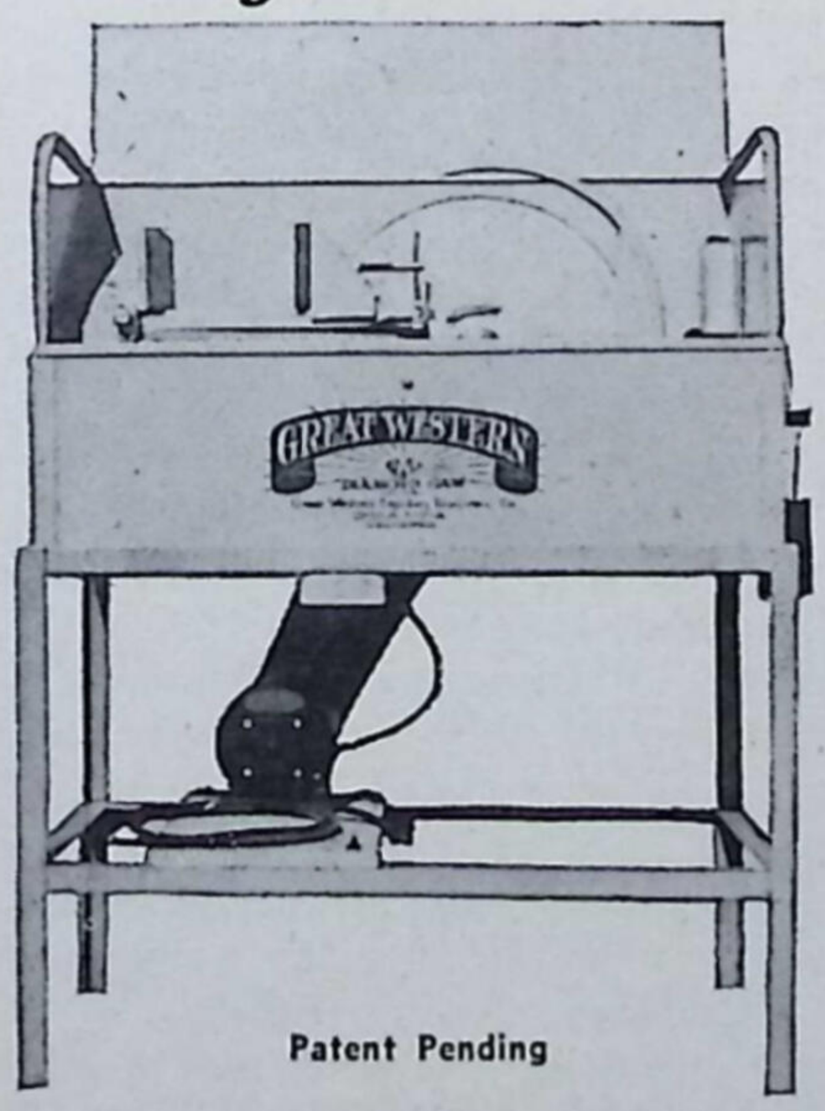
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◆ How To Make A Diamond Saw Blade

By ROBERT D. ROOTS
Denver 11, Colorado

The following remarks are not from one with a technical background but from one who has had a lot of pleasure in using and also cussing diamond saws. They have changed in the last few years from what might be called two standard types. The first is the small thin saw used at high speeds for diamond sawing and the regular lapidary type. This was about a 10 inch blade of thin metal supported by wide arbor flanges. This was nicked with a knife and set by hand. Most of the work was small and held in the hand. I do not know just who was responsible for our modern thick blade used with a moveable vise with side adjustment. One of the most active lapidaries at this time was Wilfred Eyles, whose handmade saws at that time gave better footage than the machine-made. This was less than ten years ago.

A diamond saw is not hard to make by hand but it is hard to get the same result that we get from the modern machine-made blade. I used to get from 2,000 to 3,500 inches and knew so little that I run the saw backwards. My blanks were cut out by a piece of tool steel in a split stick, using a nail for a center. This may not be fancy but it did cut true disks. They were cut out of galvanized or black iron of 20 gauge. Once I was lucky and got a piece of fender steel. The center was then drilled to size. The blade was placed between two 1 x 6″ boards rounded on top with a groove cut where the bottom of the blade would hit. This was to make the saw easier to turn and to avoid the loss of diamond dust by the edge of the saw coming in contact with the wood when setting the edge. A ¾″ bolt went through the boards and saw into a hole in the bench leg. A nut and washer on the end made this a vise. A peg was set in the lower end of the oustide board and went through the second board and into a hole in the bench leg. This was to keep the boards from turning.

Now I was all set to notch the blade. This was done with the back of a hack-saw blade, making the notches about 3/32″ apart, ⅛″ deep and slanting all the same way. In using the saw it is placed so that the notches slant to the back.

Now to set in the diamond dust. At that time I used 80 grit. My machine blades now use 54 grit. Mixing the dust with vaseline to make a paste, I set the blade on a clean plate and worked the mixture into the notches with my fingers until they would hold no more and the edge had a gray look and felt sandy to the touch. Then, placing a shallow bowl of solvent nearby, I washed my fingers in it and used a cloth wet with solvent to wipe the saw, being sure not to touch the edge. I placed the rag in the solvent. The saw was placed back between the boards and the notches closed by tapping with a light hammer. This tapping was continued until the notches were well closed and the saw had a good "set". It was thicker on the edge to give clearance. When this was done to my liking the saw was washed in the shallow bowl of solvent to recover any dust not wedged into the notches. If the notches are not closed tightly you will wash the diamond out of the saw and your labor will be lost. Be sure to wash the rag in the solvent. There is, with proper care, very little loss of diamond dust as it is saved by pouring off most of the solvent and letting the rest dry. Diamond is heavy and settles to the bottom and you will find it in the residue waiting to be used again. It took 1½ to 2 carats of dust for a 12″ saw. In the modern saw this is now done by machines.

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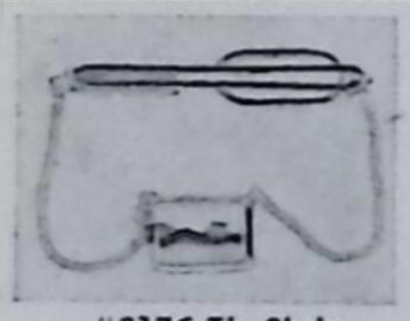
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The result is a diamond saw full of waves and high and low spots. Now comes the hardest part of making a diamond saw. The saw must be tensioned so it will run true and return straight when forced aside by the end of the saw cut. This has to be true of the machine blade you buy as well. I have taken a new machine blade with less than 200 inches to be straightened and tensioned. Hammering the edge to give it the set has a tendency to tighten the edge while you have a loose center. Merely making the blade thicker will not stop this. I have had this trouble with blades of .065 thickness. To tension a blade start at the center and hammer it in circles moving to the outside. This is done on a hard flat surface. I use an old steel face plate. This hammering stiffens the metal and should be continued until there is no bow in the blade and it is true and feels stiff to the touch. I remember one machine blade that gave me a lot of trouble; it just would not come true. At last I happened to hit it in the right spot and with a single blow it straightened out perfectly flat. This blade before it was finished cut 10,000 inches. Wilfred Eyles could true a blade to .01 of an inch. The back of a hacksaw blade makes a good straightedge to test the blade for trueness.

Now for a few of the troubles of a diamond saw. First see that the vise is true with the blade. I have yet to see a perfectly true blade; there is a small wobble in all of them. Setting the vise with a straightedge is bound to have a small error. With new machines this is all done until some wear has taken place that will have to be made up. Now this may sound odd but my saw is set by *ear*. Place a sharp edge of wood low down in the vise, remove enough of your lubricant so the saw will not touch. Start your saw, move your vise sideways until the wood just "tings" the saw; then move the vise to the back of the blade. Adjust the vise guides until you get the same sound from both ends of the blade. By this method you can set true even with a wobbly blade.

A blade should never be run when it is not cutting true. If it runs to one side it means that the metal has been stretched away from the edge. The edge

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being tight, puts a bow in the saw forcing it to cut to one side. To fix this take the saw out and stretch the edge by hammering in circles near the edge but do not hit your saw notches. If the saw has run crooked too long you may have to start nearer the center. In extreme cases. where the metal has been stretched to the center, it will be necessary to start as if it were a new blade. This is caused as a rule by the cut starting off-center on a large stone. I have seen saw cuts that were off a half inch in a four inch long cut. If you bend the blade and the bend is small it can be taken out with a steel block and a light hammer. If the bend is large the metal has been stretched and the saw must be taken out, straightened and retensioned. I have tried to get a little more cutting out of a blade by tapping the edge to give it a little set, going around the blade three or four times. But a true blade running with a true vise has very little life left in it by the time the set is gone.

By watching all the above and being careful how I start my saw, my machine blades are giving me from 8,000 to 10,000 cutting inches. I like a saw of .055 in thickness but this is hard to get. I am using .065. While this is all right for thundereggs, wood and most agates it is a little thick for finer materials. Here is a little hint on starting the cut: It is not necessary to have a true face to start but it is better if you do. By placing the fingers against the saw when starting the cut you can feel if the saw is pushed to one side. Start the saw again and apply a little pressure against the blade to steady it. Use care not to push it the other way. The cut must be started *straight;* the larger the rock the more care should be taken.

Most accidents of rocks slipping are due to improper placing in the vise or not tightening them enough. Most of us are a little lazy and will not put new boards in the vise when needed and the rock slips or maybe we have a bend in the blade.

If the saw grabs the rock it can mean one or two things; one is that the set is all gone and the saw has no clearance; the other is that the rock is not tight in the vise and is trying to turn, thereby binding the saw. Sometimes it is both faults at the same time. This happens generally when the saw is set at a distance

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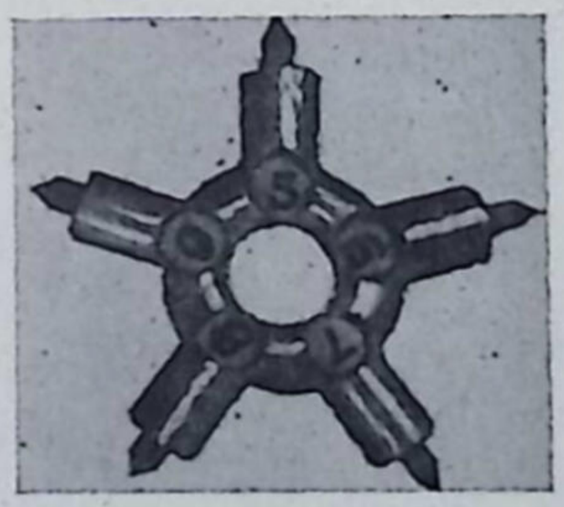
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Grieger's, 1633 E. Walnut St., Pasadena 4
Highland Park Lapidary Supply Co., 1009 Mission Street, South Pasadena
A. L. Jarvis, Route 2, Box 350, Watsonville
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M.D.R. Manufacturing Company, 4853 W. Jefferson Blvd., Los Angeles 16
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Porter's Lapidary, 365 Marsh Street, San Luis Obispo
Quality Rock & Gem Shop, 4140 Chester Avenue, Bakersfield
R & B Artcraft, 11021 South Vermont, Los Angeles 44

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Washington School of Gemology, 1018 Vermont Avenue, NW, Washington 5

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Stewart's Gem Shop, 2620 Idaho St., Boise

ILLINOIS
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Roth's Agate Shop, 1117 W. 6 St., Waterloo

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Technicraft Lapidaries Corp., 3560 Broadway, New York 31

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from the vise, as in trying to get five or six slabs at one setting. It seems to me that the saw cuts faster when the cut is close to the vise. Sometimes a rock will break so it is well to look for bad fractures before sawing.

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The gem is of a green color about halfway between that of an emerald and an aquamarine.

Secrecy is being maintained about the exact location of the "diggings." The gem was mined by two young men named Ladi and Paulson, and they subsequently sold it.

Canadian Minerals

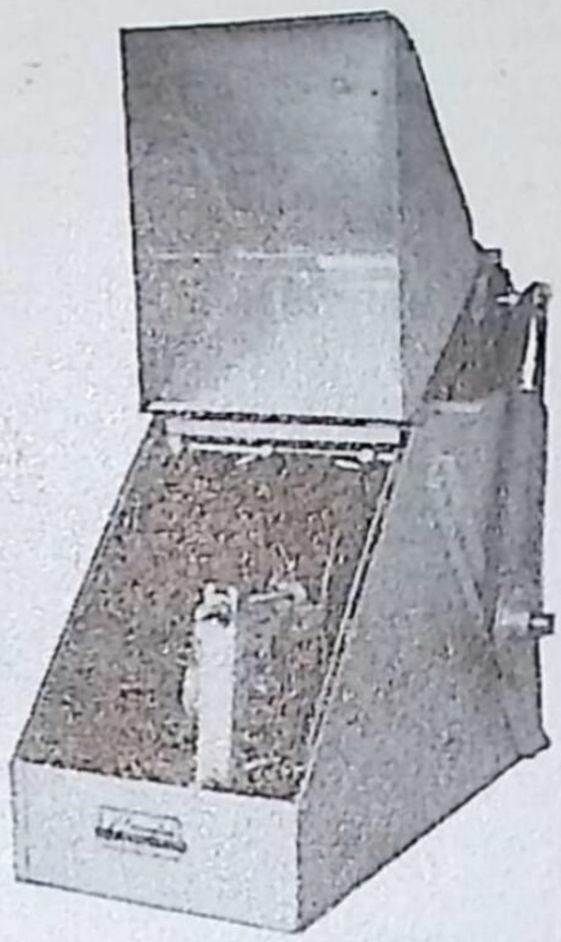
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About Our Cover

It was New Year's Day 1949 that Mrs. Quick and I called upon Donal Hord at his Pacific Beach, Calif., studio to see the new 300 opund (approximately) piece of apple green Wyoming jade he had just received from Bert Rhoads at Lander, Wyoming. A chip from the block indicated that *this was it.* Hord had been looking for a massive piece of good quality jade for sometime. He decries the fact that of all the large boulders of jade found in Wyoming in recent years none has survived for his medium. They have all been cut into cabochon blanks. "Never again," thinks Hord, "will we ever have *large* pieces of native jade fit for large art pieces."

A few days later (January 4th) Hord and his able assistant, Homer Dana, began the long, arduous task to which they devoted seven hours a day for fifteen months to achieve the piece you see on our cover. The story of the piece is told on Page 92 and illustrations appear on Page 93 indicating the progress of the work from the time we saw it as a rough boulder until we viewed the finished statue on April 14th, three days before it was shipped to New York.

Lady Yang is far more beautiful than *Thunder* (which a prominent Texas artist described to me as "a bunch of muscles"). However *Thunder* is a dramatic piece of high imagination portraying with feeling truth the muscular might of an American Indian who has never been acquainted with restraining clothing and shoes or softened by civilization. *Lady Yang* has all of the delicate beauty of a pampered darling and may appeal more to the artist who wants every woman to look as if she did not have the strength to lift a hair pin. As jade itself, *Lady Yang* will certainly appeal more to gem lovers because of its color.

The way Mr. Hord has handled the piece is remarkable and in our pictures on Page 93 you can just see *Lady Yang* growing right out of the rock. The traditional phoenix bird appears in a conventional carved hair ornament and the hair strands are inspirational in their flowing lines. We saw *Lady Yang* in the bright California sunshine, a thing which few will ever do. Then it was taken into the studio and we watched it while the setting sun caused shadows to flit across it so that the statue seemed to grow alive. To view the statue at all gives one a feeling of long acquaintance with the subject. This is the reaction we have had from all of Hord's work and a feeling that many of our subscribers report who see the illustrations of his work on our covers. This is our fourth Hord cover. May we be fortunate enough to publish forty and may Donal Hord live to create them!

★ ★ ★

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

June 10-11—Eighth Annual Mineral and Gem Exhibit of the LONG BEACH MINERAL AND GEM SOCIETY, INC.

At Sciot's Hall, 1005 E. 6th St., Long Beach, Calif. Free parking entrance on Alamitos Ave. *Admission Free.* Refreshments available 10 to 10 on Sat. 10 to 6 on Sunday.

June 17-18—Exhibit and Convention of the CALIFORNIA FEDERATION OF MINERALOGICAL SOCIETIES.

At Trona, Calif. (Valley Wells). Exhibitors address Convention Committee, Box N-81, China Lake, Calif. Roofed accommodations for 150. Outdoor camping facilities for a million. Continuous barbecue from noon each day. Otherwise bring food. Registration $1.00 (for persons over 14) includes use of facilities, camp sites and swimming pool. Plenty of field trips.

June 28-29-30—Third Annual Exhibition and Convention of the AMERICAN FEDERATION OF MINERALOGICAL SOCIETIES.

In the Milwaukee Auditorium, Milwaukee, Wis. For non-commercial space address H. T. Perry, 2501 Girard Ave., South, Minneapolis, Minn. For commercial space address W. J. Bingham, 2100 Arcade Street, St. Paul, Minn.

July—Annual lapidary exhibit of the PASADENA LAPIDARY SOCIETY.

In the library at Pasadena, Calif.

August 16-21—Gem Show at Orange County Fair (Calif.) by Orange COAST GEM AND LAPIDARY SOCIETY.

Details next issue.

September 2-3—Annual Convention and show of the NORTHWEST FEDERATION OF MINERALOGICAL SOCIETIES.

At Spokane, Wash. Commercial exhibitors. Address J. M. Seubert, 1820 W. 26th Ave., Spokane 9.

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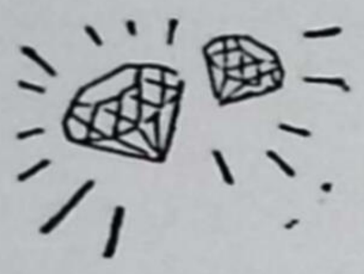
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Personal Facets

By LELANDE QUICK

For some time now we have been claiming that gem cutting is America's "third largest *doing* hobby" and we have been able to offer sound arguments that this is so. Developments in the last year are supplying almost daily proof that our reasoning is right. While we have not been puzzled at all about this (being one of the major factors in making the condition come about) we were suddenly struck with some facts in a speech we heard recently that came like a bolt from the blue.

We were listening to Dr. Theodore Klump, head of one of the largest pharmaceutical manufacturing firms in the country and, in our opinion, the greatest executive in that business today. He has been making a study of old people, or shall we be tactful and call them "our senior citizens."

The burden of his talk dealt in statistics but statistics are not always boring when they are easily understood and it happens that these are. "In 1980," said Dr. Klump, "the estimate by our best authorities indicates that this country will have a population of 214 millions. Of this population 66 millions will be age 65 and over and another 24 millions will be between 45 and 65. To retire those over 65 on $100 a month, plus administrative costs, will cost about $38 billions a year. There will be more women than men, although more male babies are born than females. But this is true of all species and has always been so. Every young man and woman will have an old person on their back, etc., etc."

Our concern is not with the economic problems but with the human values of these old people. It is also estimated that, in order to provide jobs for the young folks who will carry the old folks on their backs, that work will have to be divided so that no one will work more than 30 hours a week. In 1900 almost every one worked 70 hours a week—and they worked until they died.

So many people are now reaching the retirement age as "lost souls" that we know of one large corporation that is undertaking a program of educating its employees to retire. They begin at age 60 by making them take off one day a week and then two days a week when they're 61, etc. By the time they are 65 they have adjusted themselves to complete retirement, but they have also, through company education for it, adjusted themselves to a happy retirement time.

The answer to all this is—*interests.* Since most interests are pursuits of some kind and since pursuits of endeavor with no wage incentive are usually hobbies then hobbies are going to play an increasingly important part in the life of this nation for the rest of this century. Science has demonstrated that work is conducive to longevity. Youth contents itself most of the time with the opiate of dreams but when a man reaches 65 he has no pipe dreams and he wants something *real.* Activity is real and work is activity so that the secret of his further survival is doing work what he *wants* to do when he no longer has to indulge in work that he previously *had* to do. "But," said the speaker, (with great truth) "you can't put all people over 65 at making baskets the rest of their life!" He might as well have said "you can't put all old people at grinding and polishing rocks."

Well—a basket is a basket but a rock is a gem. The basket will decay and fall into the dust of its maker but the gem will survive somewhere as long as matter survives at all. We predict that more and more people will realize this through the coming years. They are becoming acquainted with the infinite facets of the gem cutting hobby: the complete answer to the question, "Wha can I do with my hands?" No recreational endeavor seems to satisfy a man so completely as taking a rough rock of the field and converting it into a sparkling thing of beauty he can hold in the palm of his hand. It is about the only hobby that can satisfy the deep dream of every individual, regardless of his station in life—the unfulfilled *dream of becoming an artist.*

Our lives are filled with frustration over this dream. We hear a great singer and regret that we cannot sing as well; we witness great acting and regret that we cannot be the mime; we see great paintings and realize our own limitations; we hear great music and know that we cannot feel those things originally. But no man can look upon the finest gem and admire it without the knowledge today that, given the same piece of material, he can duplicate it without spending a life time learning how. A hundred years ago he could not have done it because the information on how to do it was not available. But man now has rediscovered his first art form and he is returning to it with a vengeance. And when we speak of men we also mean women for we find that our subscription list is almost evenly divided between men and women. The latest available list of active members of the *Los Angeles Lapidary Society* indicates that 51 of 179 members are women or almost a third. And many men belong whose non-member wives are lapidaries.

Once in a while someone will say to us, "Don't you think this gem cutting thing will run its course in a couple more years?" NO—we don't think so and we've said so now for ten years. No one in America is in a better position to see that than ourself. This gem cutting hobby is just burning along the edge of the field. Wait until it hits the brush and the timber. We do believe the *mineral collecting hobby* is on the wane because the supply of cabinet minerals is almost depleted and collecting areas are practically non-existent. But hard rocks for polishing are so freely available in almost every state in the country that there is a limitless supply for the lapidaries of all time. With all the hue and cry about depletion any sensible person knows that there's more in the earth than has ever been taken out. Some things such as kunzite are practically gone and chrysocolla is going fast but agatized materials, which comprise probably as high as 98% of all amateur cut gems, are limitless.

If you are a "senior citizen," or about to become one, and you have been reading about gem cutting at times through the years but have never been "bitten by the bug" —investigate this thing called gem cutting. The lapidaries who follow it were looked upon as being a little nuts only ten short years ago. Today we are regarded with great respect everywhere in the face of what we have accomplished for our happiness.

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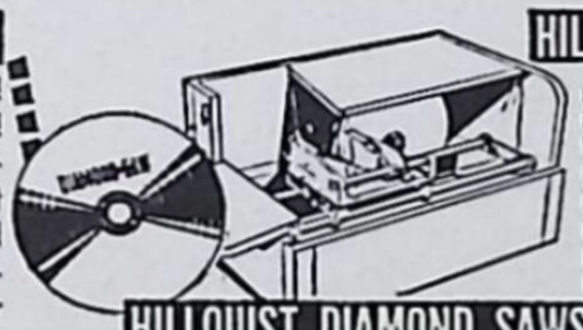


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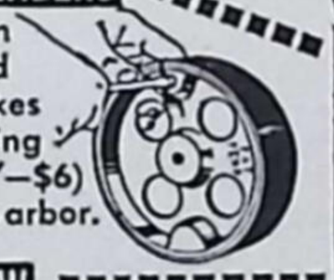


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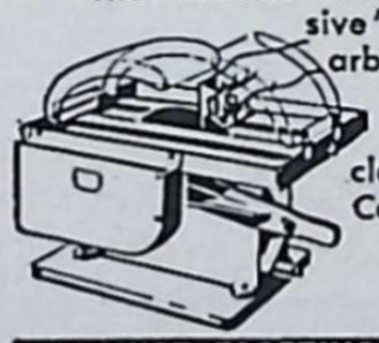
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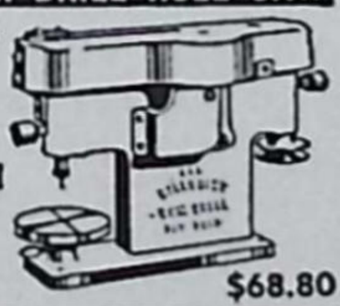
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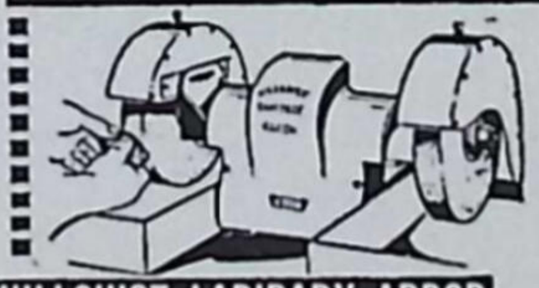
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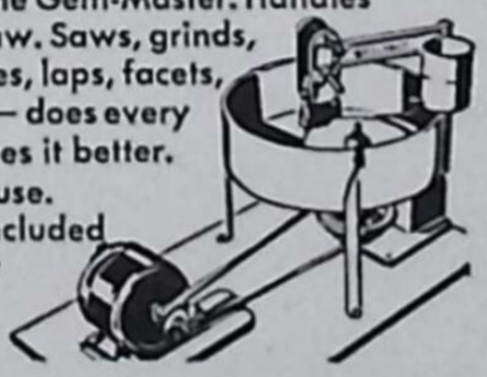


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The Lapidary Hobby in Chicago

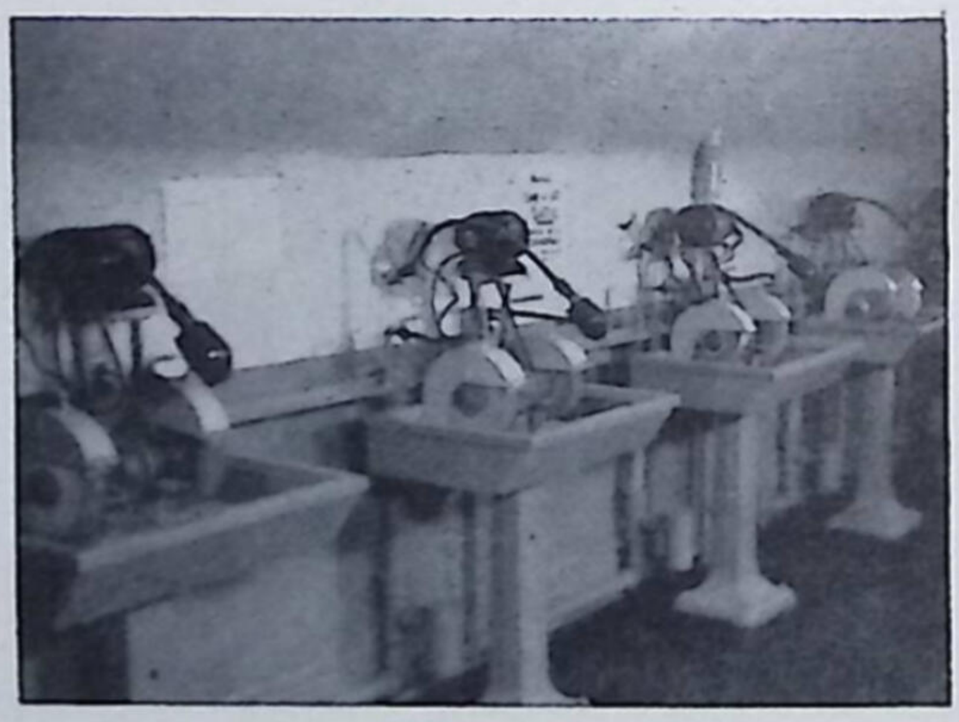
By HELEN L. AND EDWIN GOFF COOKE
Members of *Chicago Rocks and Minerals Society*

Information of pioneer amateur lapidaries in the early days of Chicago is not available. There are no exhibited specimens of such pioneer handiwork and it is supposed that the early settlers had neither the time nor the inclination for such an artcraft as lapidary. Between the days of early settlers and the more recent early "thirties," there may have been lapidary enthusiasts whose efforts have gone unrecorded and their work is either buried or lost forever in the discarded accumulations that are the attributes of a large and ever expanding city such as Chicago has been through the years.

The consensus among those of authority in such matters is that the first lapidary movement, like many other kindred movements, began in the depression years as a W.P.A. project. It is generally recognized that Adam Kahn was the first to initiate an organized program for amateur lapidaries. In the beginning his efforts were limited to lecturing and displaying his collection before various societies and social groups. The excellence of his exhibited polished stones and gems gave impetus to a growing interest. At first it was the admiring women, lured by the beauty of Kahn's attractive gem stones and imbued with their characteristic possessiveness, who formed classes for instruction so that they too could learn the art of the lapidary. It was not long until the men, being the inquisitive creatures that they are, took over and in due time became rabidly industrious in the art.

Originally there were only three classes, one on the west side of the city, one on the south side and one at the *Chicago Academy of Science*. Mr. Kahn was instructor to all three classes. Some very outstanding and noteworthy amateur craftsmen in lapidary developed under his instruction and the work of some of his early students falls little short of being professional.

It was not long until the *Department of Education* of the *Chicago Parks District* recognized the educational and recreational value of the lapidary efforts and accomplishments that were being made by the three initial small groups. As a result lapidary instruction was included as a part of the general educational program promoted by the *Chicago Parks District*. Such lap equipment as had been installed under the W.P.A. program was taken over by the Parks District. Many improvements and additions were made so that today Chicago's citizens are provided with the opportunity to study and practice in several of their parks the art that is as old as man—lapidary.



Lapidary shop at the Sauganash Field House in Chicago.

The original equipment that had been installed at the Chicago *Academy of Sciences* was moved to another building in Lincoln Park with Miss Marie Bassie, a very able and commendable lapidary, as instructress. Miss Bassie has succeeded Mr. Kahn in tutoring the classes at the Academy.

The second installation of modern lap equipment was at Humboldt Park where classes were organized under the direction of Mr. Howard Huffert. The classes and supervision were later taken over by Mr. Ray Mitchell, an ardent lapidary and

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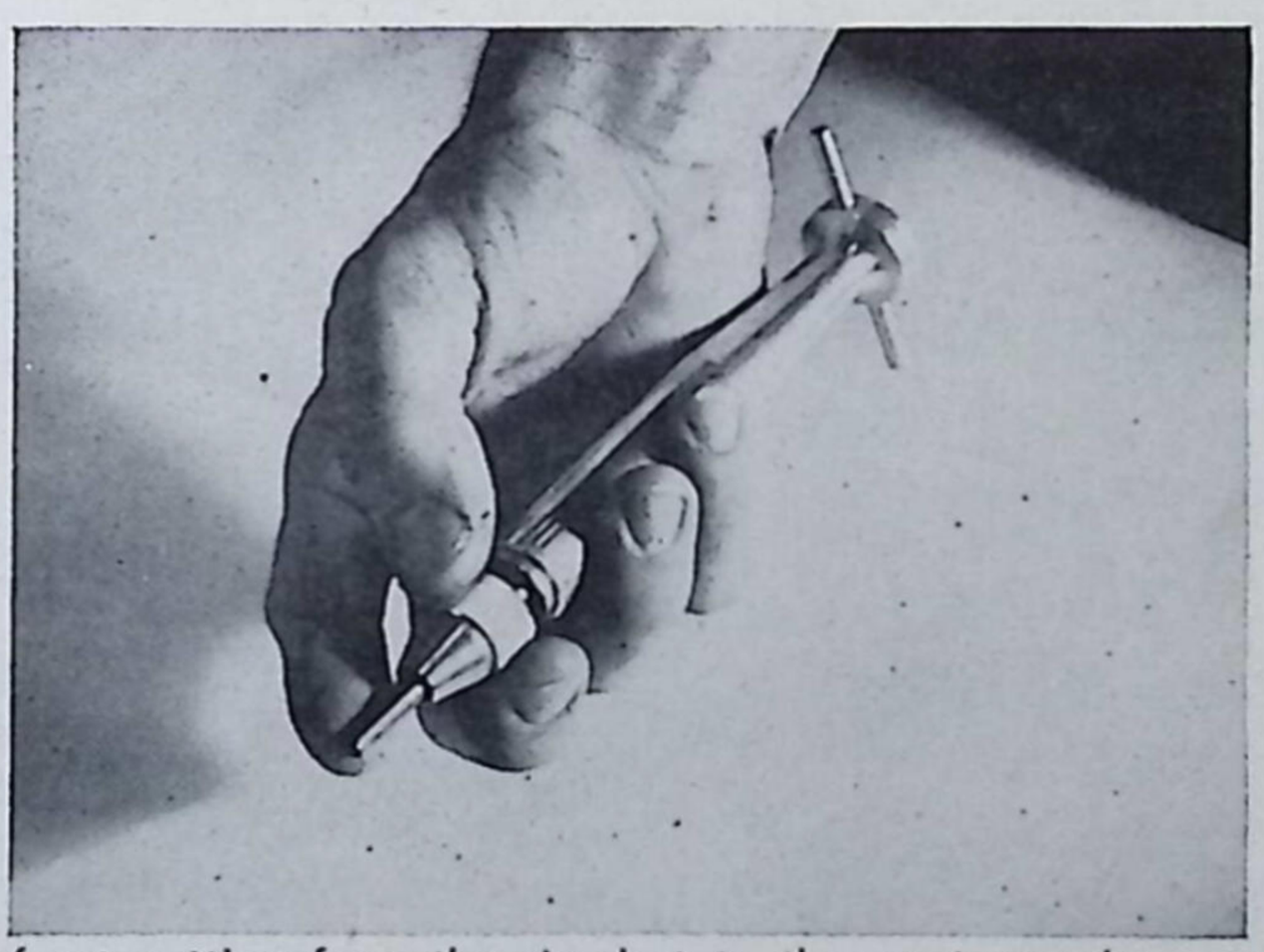
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serious perfectionist. He has developed several improvements in methods employed in grinding and polishing. His latest development is a new method to both cement and dop a doublet in one operation. Mr. Mitchell is at the present time President of the *Marquette Geologists Association*, an earth science club in Chicago.

In the early "forties" Mr. George C. Anderson, an enthusiastic rockhound and accomplished craftsman organized a class and was instrumental in having equipment installed at Jefferson Park. Under Mr. Anderson's supervision another northwest-side class was formed and installation made at Sauganash Park Field House. In 1948 Mr. Anderson took over the duties of instructor at Greenbriar Field House.

The latest installations to be made under the Parks District program have been at Austin Town Hall and Grand Crossing. The former is under the direction of William Gobel and the latter has John Steffen as instructor. In addition, Chicago has recently included the teaching of lapidary in its school system and instruction is provided at Main Township High School.

While the movement in Chicago has been somewhat slow and though it is in some respects not as far advanced as it is in some localities, particularly on the west coast, it is nevertheless well founded, firmly supported and growing substantially. Credit for the continued advancement and progress of the lapidary movement in Chicago should be given to the diligent members of two societies—the *Marquette Geologists Association* and the *Chicago Rocks and Minerals Society*. Through the years they have encouraged and promoted interest and active participation in both lapidary and jewelry handiwork.

The *Marquette Geologists Association*, an outgrowth from the original earth science group of which the well known and respected Professor Frank Fleener and Ben Hur Wilson were active members, was first organized with H. C. Walther as president and Arch Nisbet as secretary. Mr. Nisbet, who was Editor and Historian of *The Marquetters*, is recognized for his research and accumulated information concerning opals. He is well known as an excellent faceter of precious gems, of

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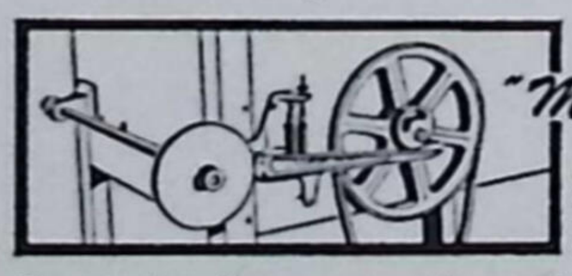
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which he has a considerable collection. He had a fine article in the *Lapidary Journal* in December 1949, entitled, *Birthstones, Jewelry and the Zodiac.*

One of the first board members of the Society, Mr. William Menzel, is now accredited with being instrumental in the development of the synthetic sapphire and synthetic ruby. During the years of 1920 to 1929 Mr. Menzel concentrated on the producing of synthetic sapphire and synthetic ruby. Titania (rutile) was the principal material used in his experimentation, but it was not satisfactory. His experience indicated that precipitable rutile has an affinity to iron and no stone of water-white diamond-like material could be produced by the method he employed. His results were mostly yellowish in color.

Another prominent Marquetter is Mr. Thomas J. Scanlon, a '49er, who is noted for his method of polishing jades that have a tendency to undercut and produce a shagreen or "lemon peel" finish. Such jades (nephrite) can be made to polish to the much desired oriental finish by his method. Also, Mr. Scanlon has perfected equipment for hollow grinding, tube drilling and wire carving of jades, much the same as was accomplished by the ancients. By the use of his developed techniques many supposedly undesirable jade cabochons can be made very attractive and valuable. (Editor's note: The reader's attention is here directed to a new jade polishing method on page 104.)

Two other members of the Marquette Society are Kenneth Russell and G. G. Putnam. The former, an ardent collector of Thompsonite, is known for his large collection of finely polished Thompsonites which he has uniquely set in plastic casts. The latter is recognized for the considerable work he has done with agates of all kinds and the admirable collection he possesses.

The *Chicago Rocks and Minerals Society* was organized by George C. Anderson in 1946. It was an outgrowth from his lapidary class at Sauganash Park. Mr. Anderson, a past president of the *Midwest Federation of Geological Societies,* is well known as a very able and competent instructor in lapidary and jewelry craftsmanship. His keen interest and continued activity has contributed much to the promotion and growth of the lapidary movement in Chicago. He is instructor at

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two of the finest and most completely equipped city supported lapidary shops. At the present time, Mr. Anderson is custodian and librarian of the *Chicago Rocks and Minerals Society*.

Though the Society is not very old it is stable and its steady growth has proved its worth and significance in the advancement of amateur lapidary. The membership embraces more than a few outstanding amateur craftsmen of note, chief among them being James L. Kraft, known world wide for his hobby and working in jade. As an honorary member of the *Chicago Rocks and Minerals Society*, Mr. Kraft is highly admired for his diligent search for new jades and the development of satisfactory techniques to grind and polish the most difficult varieties. Mr. Kraft's personally designed and planned lapidary is reputed to be one of the largest, most completely equipped and elaborate of amateur lapidaries. His book, *Adventure in Jade* and his various articles and lectures on the history, the handling and the polishing of jade are very absorbing and informative. Fine jade of various colors has been contributed by Mr. Kraft to the collection of the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York City and his search and the liberal sharing of his knowledge has brought much excitement and pleasure to lovers of jade the world over.

Another outstanding associate member of the Society is Dr. J. Daniel Willems who developed and perfected the *Willems Faceting Device*. Also to his credit are the following printings:—a book, *Gem Cutting*, and two articles, *How I Cut Kunzite* and *Cutting Facets by the Potato Method*, both of which were published in the *Lapidary Journal* in the issues of October and December, 1948 respectively. As a member of the *American Physicians' Art Association* his exhibited gem work has won prizes on three separate occasions. For faceting, Dr. Willems prefers the ancient wooden stick method which requires the practiced skill of the accomplished artisan rather than the automatic method employed by the use of machinery. It is said that Dr. Willems is one of the first modern amateur faceters. He is recognized for his exceptional work as a faceter by Curators of the American

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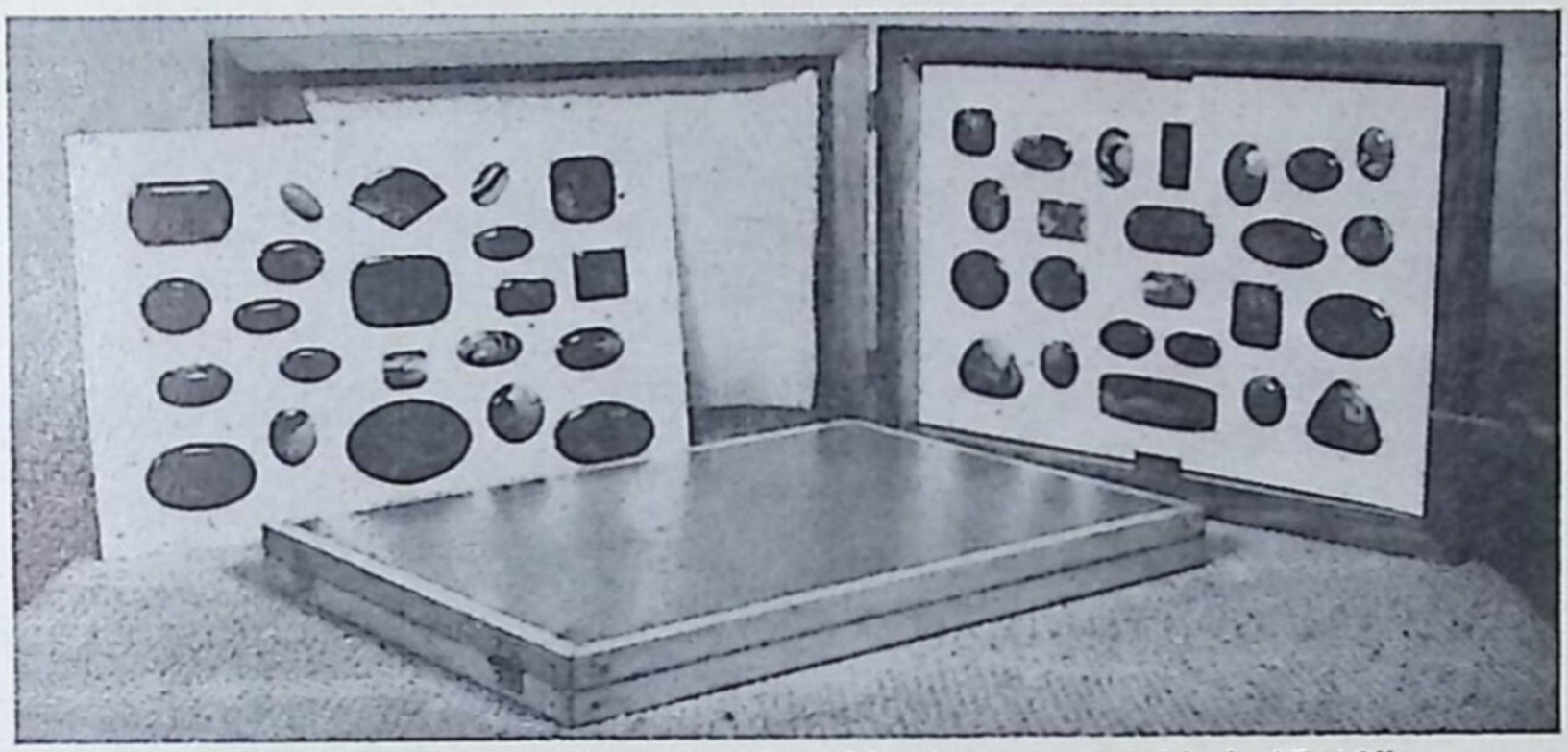
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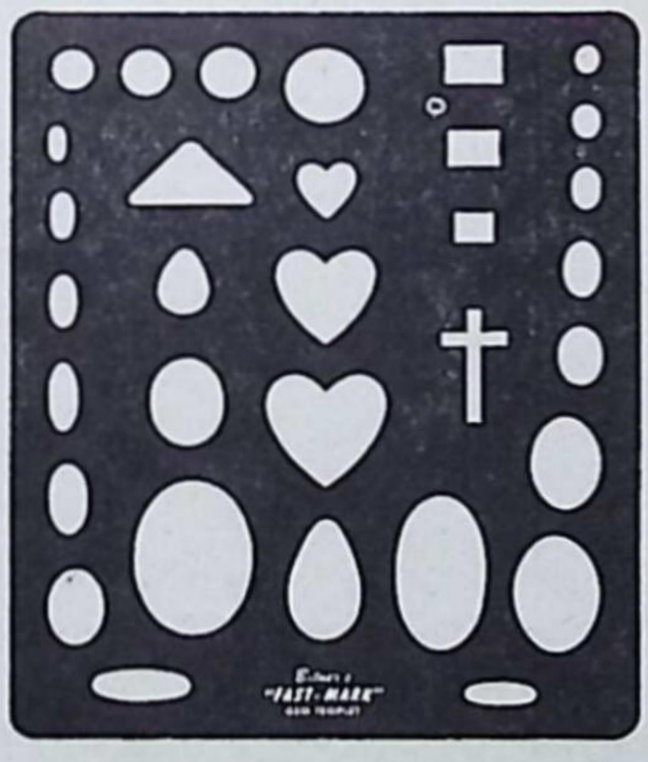
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Museum of Natural History of New York. Dr. Willems' collection of self-made gems and cabochons is one of the best. He recently faceted a golden beryl at the Chicago Natural History Museum during the filming of a motion picture he is having made. The weight of the finished beryl is estimated to be 34½ carats—a simply cut, rectangular shaped gem. The beryl was pronounced a perfect gem and very highly appraised by the Curators. Dr. Willems very generously donated this precious gem to the gem exhibit of the Museum.

Two prominent lapidaries of the *Chicago Rocks and Minerals Society* are Clell and Mary Brentlinger. They began their lapidary work some years ago in New York where they received the finest of instruction. As lapidaries and silversmiths they are top-rank. Their fine collection of cabochons, facets and silver fashioning is noted for the many novel and unique innovations that are not found in ordinary collections. The Brentlingers have contributed much to the progress of lapidary, particularly in respect to mountings for cabochons and facets. An article by them. soon to be published, explains one of their recent developments (*Silver Without Solder*) whereby many attractive mountings can be accomplished with a minimum of tools and equipment. Clell and Mary, as they are known, have continuously sought to modify and simplify rather than complicate, the problems faced by the amateur lapidary.

Another prominent member is Mrs. Jean Kolter, who is recognized for her interest and series of articles on the "Origin and History of Gem Stones". Her husband, Dr. Bernard C. Kolter, past president of the society and a lap enthusiast, has a well appointed lap shop that embraces many simplified features originated by him.

The history of the lapidary movement in Chicago would not be complete without mention of Herbert and Oriol Grand-Girard, editors of the "Pick and Dop Stick", the monthly publication issued by the *Chicago Rocks and Minerals Society*. Since taking over the duties of editorship the Grand-Girards have tirelessly and earnestly put forth every effort to disseminate informative and instructional articles of interest to all embryo rock hounds, pebble pups, lapi-

Betty Says!!!



Thanks a million for your grand response to our previous offers on our CAMEO Gold Filled and Sterling lines. The many complimentary letters and repeat orders proved to us we had given you what you wanted. Frankly we were kept busier than a bunch of cranberry merchants. I got that new hat by the way and fan mail that would have made Dorothy Lamour proud. But don't let that picture fool you; the photographer had something to do with it too. For your information we have decided to continue those deals indefinitely. If you don't know what I mean see December and February issues of this magazine.

Regarding our ELKHEAD LIFETIME settings shown in this ad, these settings were personally selected and designed by Mr. Conley after consulting with hundreds of amateur and professional cutters. They are beautiful and exquisite, hand wrought and hand polished to a mirror-finish and a tribute to fine jewelry craftsmanship. "Tomorrow's Heirlooms" is more than a slogan—it is a *fact* with CONLEY'S ELKHEAD Mountings. Your choicest gems are enhanced and given priceless intrinsic value far beyond their moderate cost, making them irresistible to your customers and allowing you to compete successfully with the best equipped professional shop.

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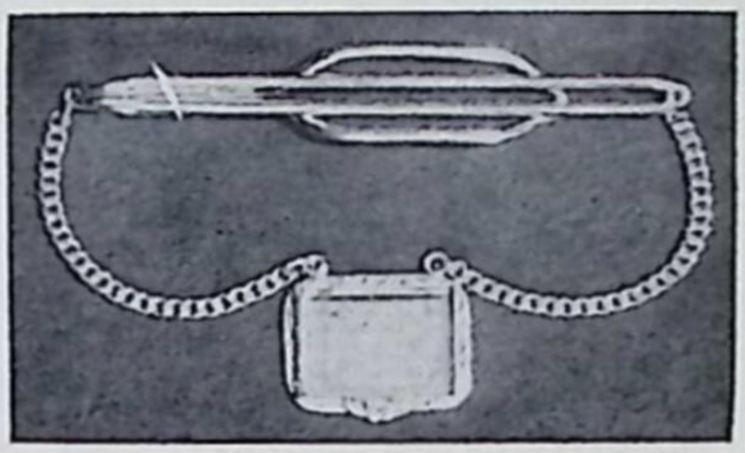


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27/17 mm.

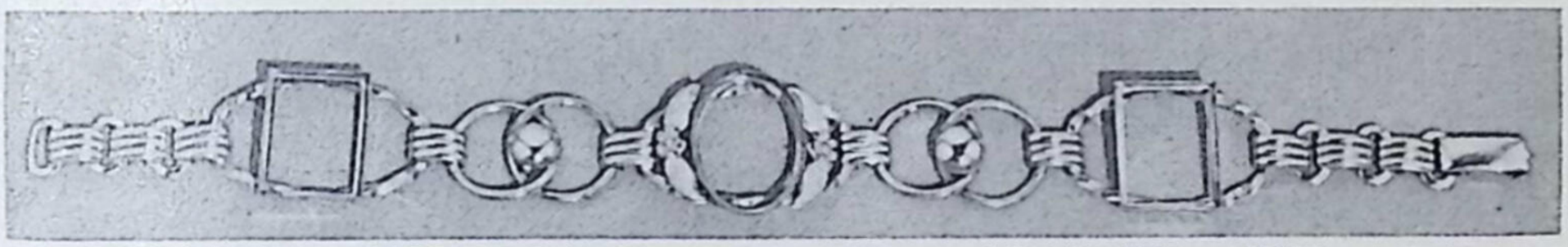
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#936X Pendant
13/12 mm.

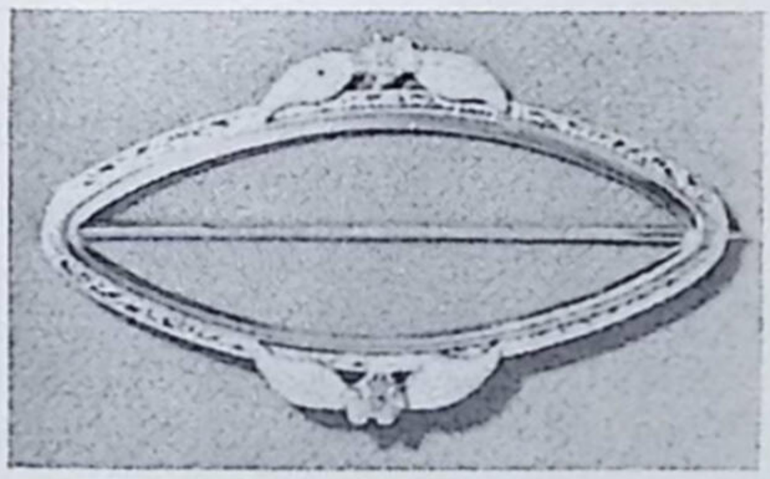


#919X Tie Chain
16/12 Stone Seat



#849X Pendant — 16/12 mm. Rectangles

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daries, silver fashioners and the general public. The growing demand for the "Pick and Dop Stick" is evidence of the success of their sincerity to further the lapidary movement in Chicago.

In January 1950, near Chicago, a new society was born—known as the *Earth Science Club of Northern Illinois*. Inspired by Steven T. Norvell, the members came from the populous suburban area between Chicago and Aurora.



George C. Anderson instructs a student in the shop shown on Page 130.

Another new group came into existence in Chicago at Grand Crossing last year under the name of the *Chicago Lapidary Society*. It is headed by a very capable president John Steffen. The interest of the members is principally lapidary.

The Chicago Societies are working jointly with other Mid-west groups under the name of the *Mid-West Federation of Geological Societies*, in which nearly all Mid-west groups are affiliated, toward the success of the joint Convention of the *National Federation of Mineralogical Societies* and the *Mid-West Federation of Geological Societies*, to be held in Milwaukee, June 28th to 30th, 1950. Cooperation to the fullest extent is underway and most of our Chicago societies are planning to exhibit their best minerals and gems for the advancement of the lapidary art in the Mid-West.

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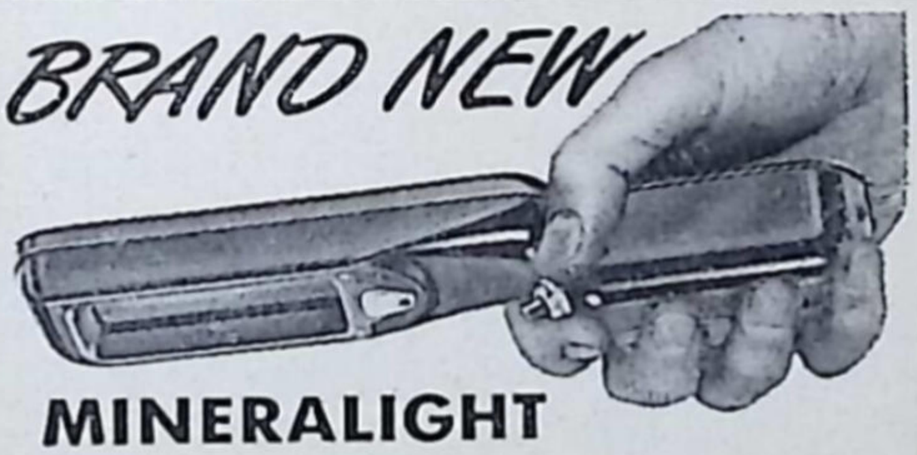
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◆ How Hard is Hard?—

By WILLIAM T. BAXTER
4615 Chase Ave., Bethesda 14, Md.
Author of *Jewelry, Gem Cutting and Metalcraft*

How hard is a diamond? How hard is quartz?

How much harder is diamond than quartz—or sapphire?

Most amateur gem cutters when asked these questions can only give their relative positions on Mohs' Scale of hardness. This runs from 1 to 10, talc being number 1, and diamond number 10. Quartz falls into the 7 position and sapphire in the 9 position.

Although very few amateur gem cutters knew of its existence there has been available for the past decade information that gives us *actual* hardness numbers of all the minerals on Mohs scale. The scale which gives us this information is known as the *National Bureau of Standards Scale.* It was devised by scientists working at the Bureau in Washington, D.C.

Working on what a reporter or newspaperman would call a "hunch" the writer, while seeking material for his current (new *third* edition) of *Jewelry, Gem Cutting and Metalcraft*, wrote an open letter to the U.S. National Bureau of Standards asking if Mohs scale of hardness had ever been calibrated. I knew that the letter would in due time fall into the hands of the man most competent to answer it.

The letter was answered by Dr. Chauncey G. Peters, of the Interferometry Section of Length division. He advised that by using a diamond microhardness indenter, cut in the shape of an elongated pyramid, all materials from pitch (2) to diamond (6500) can be placed in their relative positions on a single scale.

This scale defines the hardness number in terms of the ratio of the applied load to the area of the indentation. It is not dependent on calibration with material test blocks.

Since the hardness is determined by the indentation, and the indentation depends upon the load applied, different hardness numbers can be secured by varying the load. By keeping the load constant, however, one is able to obtain hardness numbers for various minerals.

The following table was furnished by Dr. Peters, who has since retired from the government service.

Mohs' Scale	National Bureau of Standards Scale
1—Talc	
2—Gypsum	32
3—Calcite	135
4—Fluorite	163
5—Apatite	360-430
6—Orthoclase	560
7—Crystalline quartz	710-790
8—Topaz	1250
8—Spinel	1240-1300
9—Sapphire, natural	1400-1450
9—Sapphire, synthetic*	1650-2000
Alundum	1620-1670
Carboloy	1050-1500
Black silicon carbide	2050-2150
Green silicon carbide	2130-2140
Molded boron carbide	2250
10—Diamond	6200-6500

*It is interesting to note that under this system synthetic sapphire is sometimes almost double the hardness of natural sapphire. This is because it is chemically pure.

For crystalline materials like apatite, quartz and sapphire there is a great deal of difference in the hardness number on the National Bureau of Standards scale, depending upon whether the long diagonal of the indentation is parallel or perpendicular to the optical axis. This is due to the fact that such materials fracture more readily in one direction than in another.

The numbers given are the average of several determinations made on one or more specimens, which in some cases differed appreciably. The minerals obtained from several sources were optically clear specimens.

The diamond pointed indenter, which is in the shape of an elongated pyramid, was devised by the late Dr. Frederick Knoop, for many years a scientist working at the Bureau, and it was named in his honor. It is patented by the U.S. Department of Commerce. Licenses are issued to manufacturers to make hardness testing machines using the Knoop indenter.

1950

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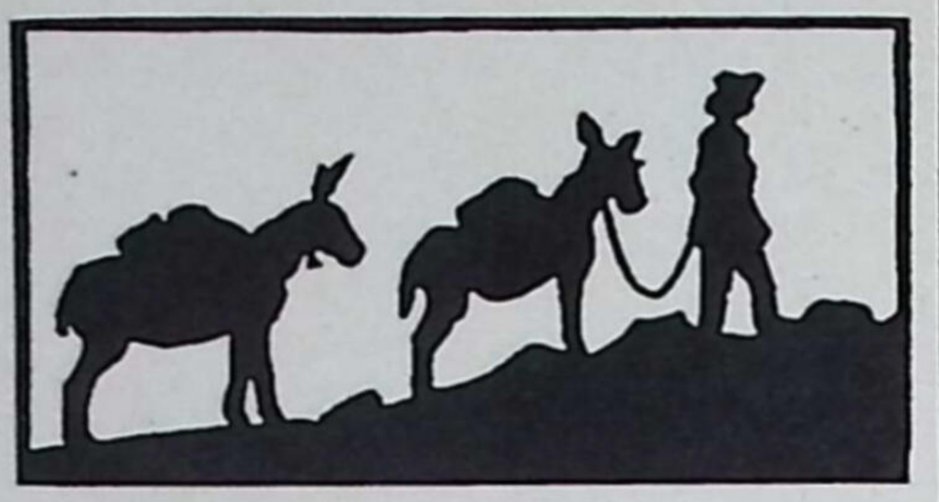
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The indenter is made from a diamond crystal of 0.25 to 1.5 carats, and is mounted in a metal holder for cutting and use. The indentation made by the indenter has a length that is approximately 7 times its width and 30 times its depth.

In making indentation tests, apparatus is required to apply a known load to the indenter for a definite contact period, and to measure the resulting indentations. By measuring the length of the indentation with a microscope and referring to a table which has been computed for the various lengths one is able to determine the hardness of a material, and to make comparisons when using the same load, or amount of pressure on the indenter.

The force exerted by the minute point of the diamond tool in making the indentation in hard materials is great. For hardened steel the pressure is over 1,000,000 lbs.; for the molded carbides over 3,000,000 lbs.; for the diamond about 12,000,000 lbs. per square inch.

In a recent interview with Dr. W. B. Emerson, of the Interferometry Section of the National Bureau of Standards it was pointed out that the Knoop indenter is the only means of determining the hardness of a diamond. Dr. Emerson, who worked with Dr. Knoop and Dr. Peters, stated that before a mineral can be tested for hardness it must first be oriented in order to place the hardness test where the long axis is parallel to the optical axis, and also to get a test where the long axis is perpendicular to the optical axis, as there is a difference in the two tests. In addition the surface at the point where the indentation is to be made must be ground optically flat and polished.

The reading of the length of the indentation made by the long axis of the indenter is of the greatest importance, advises Emerson. He pointed out that even with a microscope it is extremely difficult to say exactly where the indentation starts and stops. It is upon this reading that the hardness number is assigned and it is therefore of utmost importance to get the *exact* length. Dr. Emerson stated that he hopes to be able at some future time to make an exact reading, by using the electron microscope on the ends of the indentation.

The Knoop indenter has been very use-

ful in determining the hardnesses of nitrided steels, carbides, sintered carbides, and of the very brittle materials such as glasses, crystals and enamels.

It was while working with glass, determining the hardnesses of different glasses by scratching and measuring the width of the scratch, that Dr. Knoop conceived the idea of the indenter. Dr. Emerson stated that one day Dr. Knoop accidentally dropped a diamond tipped tool upon a piece of glass and noticed that it made an indentation.

Dr. Knoop then began experimenting, cutting diamonds at different angles to see if he could devise an indenter that would stand up under pressure in testing all materials, *including the diamond.* He succeeded and the indenter today is known as the *Knoop Indenter.*

The minerals listed in the foregoing scale are the only ones that have been tested at the Bureau.

★ ★ ★

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A Visit to Brazil

By RAY ORCUTT
731 A E. Orange Grove Ave., Burbank, Calif.

When I visited Brazil last fall on a buying trip, I found conditions somewhat as I had pictured them. Nevertheless, I did some changing in my plans.

Our plane came in high, circling Rio de Janeiro on a beautiful Saturday morning. We had full view of the famous city as we awaited our turn in landing. At the airport is the Terrace Cafe, sumptuous spot overlooking the harbor. After formalities were over, I took a taxi to the Copacabana district. Here I checked five different hotels before finding a vacancy. My hotel was a beautiful new building, fourteen stories high and only two blocks from the famous Copacabana Beach. There was a half-moon circling-stairway with an eight inch banister incrusted with "mother of pearl" in a very fine aggregate. The mosaic sidewalks seen in many cities and towns of South America are especially riotous in Rio — the serpentine walk at Copacabana Beach, for instance, is a perfect frame for white sand and turquoise water.



Scene of the author's purchase in Brazil.



2000 carat aquamarine crystal purchased by the author.

Cog railways and cable cars take you to vantage points for compresensive sightseeing. Some of the high spots we visited were the Sugar Loaf, Corcovado, Tijuca and Excelsior. Everywhere are little restaurants and cafes where the best-brewed Brazilian coffee is served, at a maximum of *one cent a cup*.

After a few days, I left by plane for Bello Horizonte, where I made a transfer to another airline to the last air base. From there I went over one hundred miles of mountainous roads through jungles to a little village. I spent many days getting angles on gem materials before moving on. Any Brazilian possessing gem material wishes to "dicker," but when one tries to get the price right in order to handle it becomes very serious business with him. In many cases he would rather keep his stones than to feel that you got the best of the bargain.

One would expect to easily find most all of the gem stones Brazil is famous for, but there are times when certain gems are not to be seen by anyone. Then, several months later, they are in many hands.

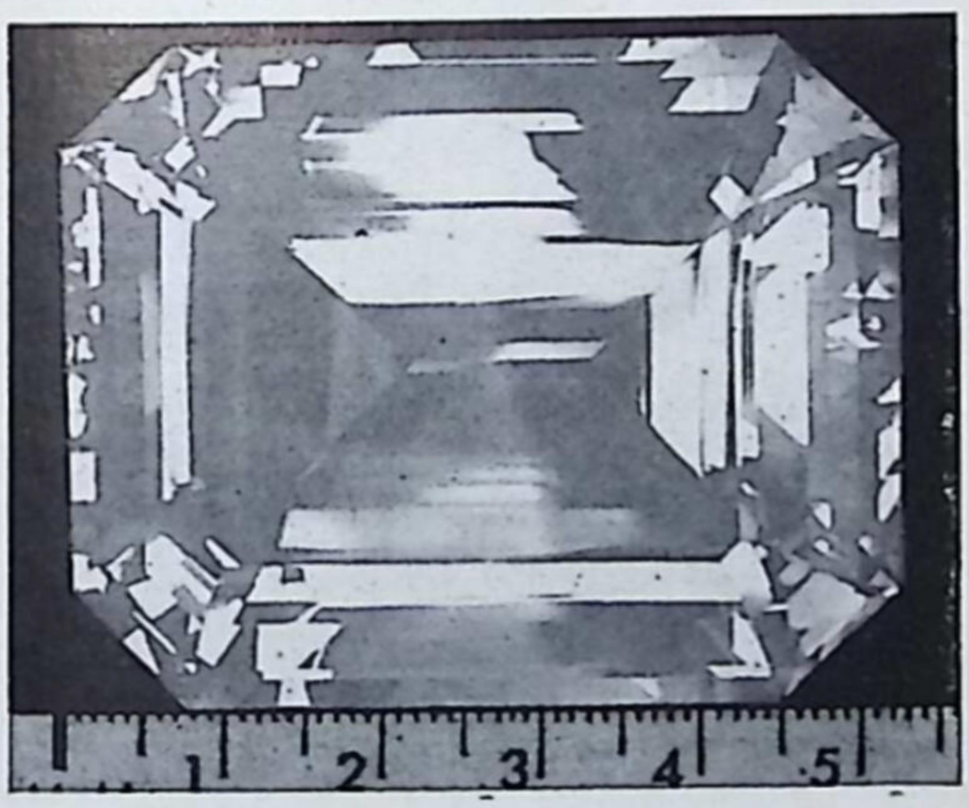
One of my purchases was a large terminated crystal of bluish green aquamarine, which weighed 400 grams. The largest gem cut from this stone was 420 carats. This was cut by myself and I believe it is the largest aquamarine ever cut in America.

Many have asked the question, "can you get gem material out of Brazil?" It

is possible, but costly and the procedure takes many weeks. The Brazilians are not anxious to see fine rough gem material leave their country to be cut elsewhere.



The author (above) is cutting the 420 carat aquamarine below. Photos by Orville Ruff. The author is proprietor of Orcutt Gem & Jewelry of Burbank, Calif.



Dr. Willems

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Here is a new method for polishing rutile contributed by Charles L. Lutheran, a Director of the *Cleveland Lapidary Society*.

"I'd like to pass on to you and all your subscribers my method for cutting and polishing rutile, which was discovered quite by accident. Doctor Turobinski, who was President of our lapidary society at that time, brought me two pieces of rutile to experiment with. He sat next to me while I pre-formed a piece, cut the facets and then tried to polish it for him. At that time we knew nothing about this new material so I tried every polishing agent I had on hand, including tin oxide, cerium oxide, rouge, tripoli and titanium oxide but . . . no polish. I pre-formed the piece on a 240 grit diamond wheel and also cut the facets on the same wheel and then went to a tin lap with the various polishing agents listed above. I was about to give up in desperation when I found some CYCLOROX (Dixon & Co.) powder and as a last resort I tried that. Almost at once, when tried on a tin lap, the facets took on a fine smooth finish and we could see the colors starting to emerge from the facets although the piece I was trying to polish was hardly gem quality. Later on when we learned about Linde A for polishing the procedure was the same. The facets were cut on a diamond wheel but not to the polishing stage. Rough in the main facets and then change to a tin lap using this CYCLOROX powder which not only cuts the facets to the proper degree but also imparts a silky gloss, eliminating the scratches encountered when using other methods. After the main facets are finished the star and skew facets are cut in with this CYCLOROX powder on a tin lap. Finally the tin lap is thoroughly washed and the stone is polished on it with Linde A. This method cuts the polishing time considerably and the proof is in trying it out.

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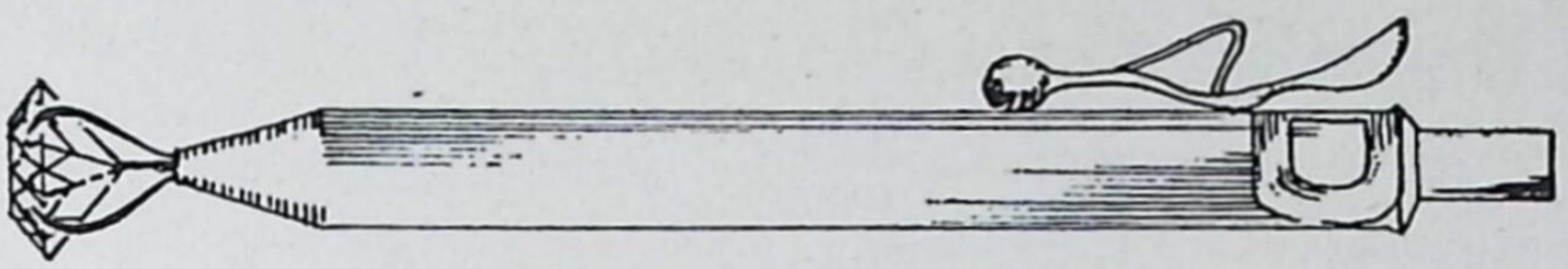
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SINCE 1620

◆ News of the Societies

SAN ANTONIO ROCK & LAPIDARY SOC. (Texas) recently witnessed Raymond Rock (a *gem* of a name) mark out designs on slabs for cabochon cutting. He then showed how to chip away the surplus material and gave a demonstration of finishing the gem.

* * *

MINERALOGIST SOC. OF JOLIET (ILL.) publishes 5 issues a year of an excellent publication called the *Meteorite*. This society founded in 1930, is most fortunate in having as leaders Ben Hur Wilson and Frank Fleener, co-authors with Dr. Henry C. Dake of *Quartz Family Minerals*. They seldom have to go outside the society's ranks therefore for good programs. The group emphasizes lapidary work and junior activities.

* * *

SAN DIEGO LAPIDARY SOC. donated lapidary equipment to the Horace Mann School in January 1949, since which time it has been used for more than 8000 man-hours during four classes each week. The society is now publishing a bulletin containing interesting shop notes. If you desire to exchange write to C. A. Dietrich, Pres. at 327 26th St., San Diego 2, Calif.

* * *

LONG BEACH MINERAL & GEM SOC. (Calif.) is all agog as we go to press with plans for their big annual show. See details on Page 124.

* * *

OKLAMOMA MINERAL & GEM SOC. heard Mr. G. W. Chase at its April meeting in a talk entitled "Gem Crystals".

* * *

SACRAMENTO MINERAL SOC. (Calif.) had so much business at its April meeting that the scheduled speaker never got to talk at all. They have prepared 40 colored slides of California minerals as the society's contribution to the California Federation of Mineralogical Societies' film library. The society is planning the building of its own quarters.

* * *

CLEVELAND LAPIDARY SOC. heard Ed. Inkley at its May meeting in a talk on "Sources of Information On The Lapidary Art For The Amateur." This is a program topic that could fill out an interesting evening in any society if properly presented. Fred Lee of *Lee Lapidaries* spoke on faceting at the April meeting.

* * *

DELVERS GEM & MINERAL SOC. (Downey, Calif.) saw the marvellous transparencies of Albert Hake at their April meeting. They were to be addressed in May by L. A. Norman, Jr. of the California Bureau of Mines. Members of the group recently found an amethystine wood deposit in Nevada.

* * *

OREGON AGATE & MINERAL SOC. (Portland) conducts lapidary classes for members only on Tuesday and Thursday evenings for a 50c fee for two hours. Classes are now suspended until Sept. Their bulletin reports that members are building a cabin near the Priday agate beds and hope to bulldoze new beds this summer.

* * *

COLORADO MINERAL SOC. (Denver) held their annual gem and mineral show on May 5th. The group has scheduled two field trips a month during the five spring and summer months.

* * *

LAPIDARY & GEM COLLECTORS' CLUB (Washington, D. C.) has started to publish an interesting bulletin, Societies desiring an exchange should address R. L. Mitchell, Pres. at Apt. A-121, Hunting Terrace, Alexandria, Va. Their bulletin cautions about broken legs on field trips and says "no rock is worth it." As Mr. Peavey would say—"Well now, I wouldn't say *that!*"

* * *

MINERAL & GEM SOC. of CASTRO VALLEY (Calif.) has a program idea that could well be adopted by *all societies*. They have a "fact and fancy" period during which any member can read a verse or news item pertaining to the hobby. This enables all members to feel they can have a share in the program at any time. Almost 2000 persons attended their show in March to see their 24 cases of gems and minerals.

* * *

SEQUOIA MINERAL SOC. (Fresno, Calif.) heard Frank Dodson give a history of speres and cubes at their April meeting held at Parlier. Dr. Chas. N. Beard of Fresno State College also gave a lecture on the geology of Central California.

* * *

MID-COAST MINERAL CLUB (Calif.) at a meeting held at the Pacific Museum at Shell Beach decided to install road signs pointing out scenic spots in San Luis Obispo County.

* * *

WHITTIER GEM & MINERAL SOC. (Calif.) held a four day field trip to Colorado collecting localities over Easter.

* * *

SAN DIEGO MINERAL & GEM SOC. heard the Editor speak on "America's Third Largest Hobby" at their April meeting. The *Journal* is highly grateful for the generous praise printed in the Society's fine bulletin. We offer it herewith:

"*Our* LAPIDARY JOURNAL is something for all of us to be proud of—for Mr. and Mrs. Quick are publishing a real work of art in the printer's trade, both in appearance, quality of materials and workmanship as well as the wealth of educational material found in every issue. Mr. Quick gave up a well paying position in his enthusiasm to help in placing the lapidary hobby on a dignified basis throughout the nation. Probably no other couple has done so much to attract desirable people to our hobby of the lapidary. Mr. Quick has always been very generous in allotting space for our San Diego

Society and he has done a great deal for us by way of favorable publicity—at a time when we needed it most. Mr. and Mrs. Quick are completely sincere and honest in everything they say and do—a very refreshing characteristic in these days—and there is probably no hobby where integrity means as much as that of the lapidary, both for the dealer and the amateur cutter who exhibits his work The Quicks have set a wonderful example for us all, and are deserving of all the support we may be able to give them"

* * *

DONA ANA COUNTY ROCKHOUNDS (N.M.) is now running useful and interesting lapidary articles in its bulletin. Exchangers should address the Secretary, Wm. J. Purvis at State College, N. M.

* * *

SAN FERNANDO VALLEY MINERAL & GEM SOC. (Calif.) heard Kenneth MacKenzie, C. G. in a talk on gem identification at its March meeting. Dr. Richard H. Jahns gave a talk on "Prospecting Locations" at the April meeting.

* * *

FEATHER RIVER GEM & MINERAL SOC. (Oroville, Calif.) has been very active in a program for excise tax repeal and they brought the attention of Federal legislators to the tax inequities in a forceful and telling manner.

* * *

NEWARK LAPIDARY SOC. (N. J.) heard Sam Gibey give a talk on synthetic stones at their April meeting at which they held a display of members' synthetic gems.

* * *

PASADENA LAPIDARY SOC. (Calif.) recently heard Kenneth MacKenzie in a lecture on gem identification.

* * *

MARICOPA LAPIDARY SOC. (Phoenix, Ariz.) held their first annual gem show in March with nearly 2000 visitors attending from 18 states, Canada and Mexico. They had fine lapidary demonstrations which created wide interest.

* * *

SAN JOSE LAPIDARY SOC. (Calif.) recently elected Raymond M. Addison as President. Mr. Addison's fine article on cameo carving high-lighted the very first issue of the *Lapidary Journal* and his work in that line ranks as the top in the nation. Almost 8000 persons registered at their show in April. 50 cases of gems were exhibited.

* * *

LOS ANGELES LAPIDARY SOC. had eight cases of gems in the California Hobby Show in April. Plans are being laid for the annual gem picnic in the Fall to which all the societies in the area will be invited. Norman Cupp was recently elected President. The society plans no show in 1950.

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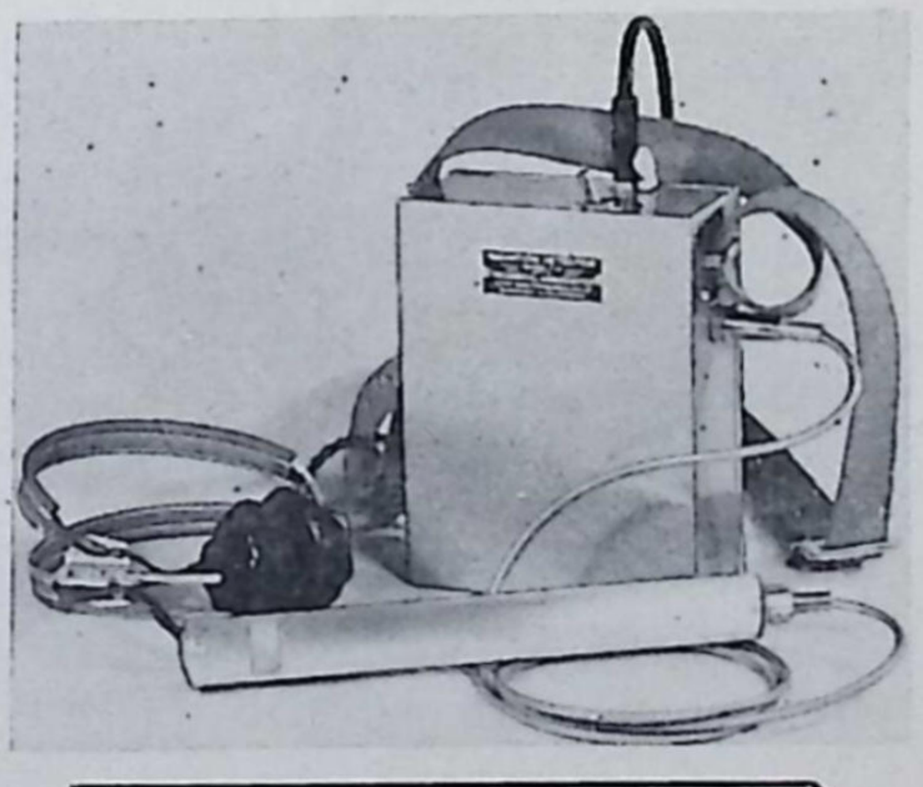
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BIG FORK MONTANA

◆ New Societies

MESILLA PARK (N. M.) PEBBLE PUBS is the name of a new Junior group organized March 31st with 40 youngsters joining under the sponsorship of Mildred Sanders.

* * *

AUSTIN GEM & MINERAL SOC. (Texas) is the name of a new society organized on March 9th with 72 members. Eugene Ennis, 5410 Shoalwood St., Austin. Texas, is President.

* * *

PARADISE GEM & MINERAL CLUB (Paradise, Calif.) was formed on Feb. 8th with Oliver Clough, Pres. Meetings will be held at Odd Fellows Hall on the second and fourth Tuesdays. A subscription to the *Lapidary Journal* is a door prize at one meeting each month.

* * *

GEMCUTTERS GUILD (Cleveland) is the name of a new group organized on March 10th at the Cleveland Museum of Natural History. 311 persons attended the first meeting and we believe this sets a record for the initial meeting of any society. The society is fortunate in having complete lapidary facilities available from the very beginning for the Museum has outfitted a shop in which there are 2—12″ laps, a 30″ lap, 10 automatic lens grinding machines for flat polishing, a drill, a carving bench and complete equipment for cabochon cutting.

The Guild dues are $3.00 a year, which entitles a member to 10 nights of work in the shop with a charge of 50c a night after that. Students are also offered a 10 hour course with all materials furnished for $7.50. Robert Tesmer, frequent contributor to these pages, is in charge and has been given the title of Research Associate in Lapidary Art. This is the biggest news to come out of the East since the Wisemen brought the news. Great day!

* * *

First Gem TV Program In Northwest

On March 21st, 1950, the *Seattle Gem Collectors Club* presented what is believed to be the first lapidary program on television in the Pacific Northwest.

Due to the cooperation of Mr. Paul Morris of the staff of KING-TV the club was enabled to give a short demonstration of sawing, sanding, polishing and setting of semi-precious gems.

Mr. Karl Hillquist of the *Lapidary Equipment Co.*, an early member of the Gem Club, performed the various operations on the lapidary equipment, while Thos. E. Evans, president and charter member of the club, was interviewed by Mr. Morris. The interview brought out information regarding the age, size and activities of the Gem Club. Various rough and finished materials were televised while Mr. Evans described and identified the materials, explaining how and where they were found.

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Gems From The Mail Bag

The *Lapidary Journal* is still the most used of all the magazines or books in the house. It is thoroughly read and re-read, then filed for reference. My husband says there isn't a single issue he would part with and I agree. Mrs. Paul E. Satchfield, Coldwater, Mich.

* * * * *

Your April issue arrived this morning and before I forget it I must write you a line complimenting you on the many fine articles. Your article on *Personal Facets* brought up points and facts that have long been wanting to be in print. Every paragraph is good rich meat and valuable. I want to thank you for the good work you are doing and the rich fields you are opening. V. D. Hill, Mineral and Gem Dealer of Salem, Oregon.

* * * * *

No, No, No! Don't cancel my subscription. I certainly look forward to arrival of your wonderful publication and at this time I wish to state that I have written to quite a few of your advertisers and have purchased stock from quite a few of them. Have been more than satisfied and have made a lot of real, true friends by coming in contact with them through the *Lapidary Journal*. Harry Hildebrandt, Berkeley, Calif.

* * * * *

Don't by any means say you will write no more about those crazy excise taxes on raw materials. I like your *Journal* twice as much since you've entered the lists to fight them. That is one good reason for the *Journal's* existence — to battle for the best interests of those who sell and those who buy raw gem materials. John C. Baur, Chesterton, Ind.

* * * * *

Your magazine is really tops in advertising appeal — and it really brings results. We certainly have no kick on your proposed increase in advertising rates. We would not and could not drop out at twice the price. Herbert William Lawson, Terrebonne, Ore.

* * * * *

I think this is the best $2.00 I invest during the year and so far I have never failed to find some article in the *Journal* that is worth more to me than the price of admission. Robert B. Fulton, Bridger, Mont.

EDITOR'S NOTE: The following typewritten anonymous letter was mailed from the Irving Park Station, Chicago, Ill. We reprint it with all the errors in spelling and grammar so that perhaps some reader can identify the writer. We'd like to turn the matter over to the Internal Revenue Dept. for investigation and scare hell out of this fine (?) American citizen. We don't like the excise tax on cheap jewelry but we don't like citizens who are dishonest with the best government in the world. Can any one help?

"The fact of the matter concerning excise taxes on jewelry is that any one in this country has a right to get into business any time he likes (yet). It doesn't make any difference whether it is from his bureau drawer, celler or attic. Therefore it is alright for any gem or jewelry hobbyist to get into business by saying to himself. "I'm in the business and I can sign the federal excise tax exemption slip and therefore gain relief from the tax with the promise to pay when I sell it. But suppose I can't sell it. Am I still liable to the government for the tax if I don't sell it within a certain length of time? The answer is "No." If you never sell it, as long as you had good intentions of being in business at the time you signed the exemtion ticket because it says "I agree to pay the tax when the item is sold. At retail. "There is no provision in the law which limits the length of time a seller may hold taxable articles. At present it is poor time for our government considerates to do such a thing expeciall in view of the fact that it would be unconstituional for a rulling say that a seller must sell his goods within a certain lengths of time. Of course it is also unconstituional all along for the government to make a taxp collector out of every tom dick and deveil without giving any compensation which make the tax illegally collected and it should be given back to those who paid it every last cent.

Sincerely
H. J. Johnson
712 W. 90th St.
Chicago, Illinois

The above is a fake name. Thrown this away and publish the rest. Let them try to find me. I'll sign an exemption certificate any time and let them tell me I can't be in business. Ha. Ha."

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Yellow Jadeite (cut), $5.00, $10.00, $18.00
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All Roads Lead To Vantage
By Gilbert Morgan

Yes, all roads will lead to Vantage, Washington, July first to fourth inclusive for the event of the year: the largest outdoor gathering of rockhounds from all over the United States Washington has ever seen.

Last July 2, 3 and 4 the first powwow gathering was held at Mineral Spring, Washington, with over 100 attending. Field trips were taken to Red Top Mountain for agate and crystal agate thunder eggs of which everybody found all that could be packed down. Evenings were spent around a campfire listening to prominent speakers on the agate, wood and mineral formations. Such a good time was had by all that plans were drawn for a Powwow each year with Vantage, Washington, being chosen for the Powwow.

The Washington Powowers invites everyone to attend this annual affair. All Washington Clubs will have representatives attending but you do not have to belong to *any* organization to come. In fact I am a free lancer myself but enjoy the group and I guide clubs to wood deposits around here. So anyone interested in earth science, rocks and minerals, Indian artifacts and a good time be sure and come to meet old friends and make new ones.

The Powwow club was arranged by "The Rockhound at Large," Charlie Robinson, Jr., member of the Puyallup Agate Club, with the assistance of his father, Charlie, Sr., world traveler and authority on minerals. Charlie Robinson, Jr., was named temporary President; Mr. Tom Stockdale, vice president; and Mrs. Robinson, secretary and treasurer until the next gathering.

Charlie Robinson, Jr. is a very able and energetic rockhound and has arranged, with the assistance of his father, a very complete program for the entire period.

Tom Stockdale, prominent river boatman of the Columbia and Snake rivers, will assist and be a guide to places of interest to rockhounds and Indian lore lovers. Harry Ankeny (of Ankeny's Museum, Vantage) will possibly be a guide and will be glad to display his Indian artifacts and answer questions for those interested. Stockdale and Ankeny made a trip down the Snake river from Lewiston, Idaho to Pasco, Washington last fall, finding over 60,000 beads and other Indian relics. *(Continued on Page 158)*

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Plans have been made for special field trips with local guides such as Professor Beck of Washington Normal School, Ellensburg; Peter Tjossem, Tom Stockdale, Robinson and myself. These trips will be made early in the mornings to avoid the summer heat. After the field trips, afternoon and evening powwow sessions will be next with prominent speakers and world travelers such as Professor Beck, Professor Morgan, Peter Zodac, editor of *Rock and Minerals*, Tom Stockdale, Paul Brannon and C. Fernquist of Spokane, Charles Robinson, Sr., and many others to be arranged before July.

The discussions will deal with topics on rock, petrified wood, minerals and Indian lore. Men from the Washington State Mineral Dept. will be on hand to discuss minerals and a party from Washington University in Seattle will dig Indian encampments and discuss their findings at evening sessions.

Forest Chadbourne, river boatman, will be on hand with a small boat to take those interested up river to ancient Indian writings on the basalt cliffs. This is one of the things that you should see because when the Priest Rapids Dam is put in it will be under water.

Places of interest that can be visited from Vantage are the Gingko State Park Museums, Reese's Agate Shop, Ellensburg; Ankeny's Museum at Vantage; Simpson's Twin Squirrel Museum at Quincy; Clinesmith's collection at Ellensburg and my display at Smyrna.

Field trips will be to East and West Saddle Mountain and the Columbia river. Space has been arranged to pitch tents or place trailer houses. Those who wish may find room at Ellensburg. This is not a commercial gathering, just a *rockhound's revival*, so come if possible.

Report on Miami Gem Cutting

The Miami Mineral and Gem Society ended its first year in March. The membership, which began with 13 in the organization, has grown to 60. Regular meetings have been held on the third Monday of each month, and a recently organized gem section meets on the first Monday of each month. For several months past open house has been held each Wednesday night at the plant of one of the officers where complete lapidary facilities have been made available to members and prospective members without charge. *(Continued on Page 160)*

SUMMER SPECIAL

I have purchased Martin's Mineral Mart on Highway 101, north of Gilroy (Calif.) city limits. Various kinds of select minerals, also opalized wood, agatized palmwood, Californite, 50c a pound or 10 pounds for $7.50. Rings and blank mountings. Pendants and brooches. Custom sawing. *Write for prices.*

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A highlight of the year's meetings was the talk by William B. Pitts of San Francisco, illustrated by projection of his collection of transparencies. Mr. Pitts presented a number of mineral and gem specimens to the Society and was elected to Honorary Life membership.

The original permanent officers were recently re-elected to a second term and include Professor Virgil G. Sleight, Chief, Geology Department, University of Miami, President; Kathryn F. Watson, Vice President; Henry B. Graves, Secretary; L. H. Collar, Treasurer.

A talk given during the year by Mr. Collar on titania, which he cuts to perfection, was given wide publicity particularly in view of the fact that the black sands of Florida are one of the major sources of titanium dioxide.

The members voted to again enter an extensive exhibit in the 1950 International Invention and Hobby Show to be held in October in Miami's Civic Auditorium. The 1949 hobby show attracted more than 100,000 visitors and the gem society's exhibit was the outstanding attraction of the show. Visitors to Florida are cordially invited to attend the Society's meetings and to contact the Society for information relative to Florida's mineral resources and localities.

* * *

So You Are Going To Milwaukee!

Well, then you are going to have a grand time. Right now you may be sure members of the various committees are working like a rock-hound on his first visit to Horse Canyon. Final arrangements are being made and loose ends are being brought together in order that you will have the most satisfying convention goings-on to date. From the most enjoyable programs to just sheer enjoyment in those things pertaining to your hobby have been planned for you. We hope those friends you have not seen since Sacramento will be at the convention to greet you.

Just to play safe, be sure that your calendar is checked for June 28th through the 30th for this third annual convention of the American Federation of Mineralogical Societies. We don't want you coming a day late.

The Geological Society of Minnesota, the most field-trip-ing-est society in the States, under the leadership of Charles H. Preston, the Midwest Federation president, is starting their jaunt to the con-

vention early in order to visit the copper region of upper Michigan, where they anticipate picking up specimens and cutting materials. If you have not already planned similar trips be sure to arrange for extra time to do so. At the convention you will be supplied with a comprehensive guide to collecting areas throughout the Midwest. These collecting spots are places where collecting is *still good*, rather than places where you could collect in the past. And while we are on the subject of picking up minerals, don't forget to bring that excess material you have to swap. Someone else will be glad to trade with you. Swapping will be a three day delirious binge.

Those societies which publish bulletins are urged to bring copies, as an exhibit of bulletins and a discussion of the problems encountered in their publication is planned.

Do not overlook the unusual attraction of the aerial field trip, described on Page 26 of the last *Lapidary Journal*. This trip, over some of the most spectacular glacial topography in the country, will introduce you to kettles, kames and eskers, and afford the opportunity of taking pictures for future reference. Each group taking the air tour will be briefed by an explanation of what is to be seen with the aid of color slides and maps.

For those who will not be satisfied unless they see some of the more interesting points of this famous city, interesting tours have been planned to parks, industries, and those places which claim to have "made Milwaukee famous."

The important names under the big top are: Dr. Richard M. Pearl, who heads the Mineralogy Division; Dr. Gilbert O. Raasch, Paleontology Division; J. Lewis Renton, Lapidary Division; Junius J. Hayes, Geology Division; and Dr. J. Daniel Willems, who will show his $8,000.00 movie on the "History of Gems." This film includes his cutting techniques, history of gems and world famous gem localities, both here and abroad.

Of course, the foregoing is but the briefest outline of the program.

More likely than not you will pass through Chicago on your way back home. If time permits do not fail to stop over a day or so to see the fabulous gem room, and the exciting "Hall of Man" sculptured by Malvina Hoffmann, both in the Chicago Natural History Museum.

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Clark County Gem Collectors Advise of New Location

A new area for palm, jasper and red moss agate has been dedicated by the *Clark County Gem Collectors* of Las Vegas, Nevada to the gem and mineral societies of America.

This virgin territory in the New York Mountains, about thirteen miles north of the town of Goffs, California, was virtually untouched except by the Indians, as evidenced by many ancient chips scattering the territory, until March 18th and 19th, 1950 when the *Clark County Gem Collectors* sponsored a joint meeting of the *Glendale Lapidary and Gem Society* of California and the *Cedar City Rock Club* of Utah at an overnight camp.

Thirty-nine cars and several trailers made the trip to the new location, and according to Henry Hodge, president of the Glendale group, over sixty members and guests from their group participated. Only five of the Cedar City fraternity were able to make the long trip, due to the four days time required for them. President W. M. Brown of the *Clark County Gem Collectors*, the host group, counted more than thirty of his members, so that the total encampment comprised about a hundred enthusiasts from the three states.

Finds were made of many colors of highly agatized palm containing few fractures and ranging through all of the lighter shades of blue and pink into the deeper colors of brownish-red and blue-black. At the time of this writing the ground is literally strewn for an area of a half square mile with Indian chippings of good quality jasper as well as the palms.

At the north end of the area, which was concentrated on by the group, there is a vein of red moss agate in place, from which some very fine specimens were obtained. At a number of places there are outcroppings of ledges which contain agates bearing the evidence of old Indian workings.

The area is very easily accessible, both from the north and the south, over a better class of county highway dirt road, being the road which connects U. S. Highways 91 and 66 which takes off the Nipton-Searchlight road a few miles from Highway 91 and runs south from Ivanpah and Lanfair to Goffs and thence to the U. S. Highway 66. Approaching

the area from the town of Goffs, which most Californians would probably do, the site is about thirteen miles north. A little over twelve miles out of Goffs the road takes a series of two dips through a wash, approximaely one-half mile north of which will be found a desert road turning west, which will take one in to the edge of the aforementioned wash about one-half mile. The territory for the palm root extends from that point south one-half mile and west an unexplored distance on the west side of the wash. The ledge of moss agate will be found due west of the parking area about three-fourths mile.

President of the *Clark County Gem Collectors*, W. M. Brown, was the original discoverer of this location and vouches for the fact that, until this joint field trip of the invited clubs, this area was virgin territory. Many nice finds were made on this initial trip and several of the group picked up complete arrow points of beautiful palm.

* * *

Jadeite Discovered in California

The April issue of the *Mineralogist* first announced the discovery of jadeite in California and the *Lapidary Journal* has had many inquiries about the new discovery. Originally discovered by Phil Bolander he visited the location again on February 12th in the company of Karl J. Frisch and Buck Bleifus. When their car became mired Mr. Bolander developed a heart attack in attempting to free it and died at the scene.

The California Division of Mines reports on the discovery as follows:

"Jadeite jade has been found recently as a single stream-rounded boulder in Clear Creek, San Benito County, California. The discovery was made by K. J. Frisch and the late L. Ph. Bolander of Oakland. The jadeite is opaque, grayish green, compact, and very tough, and, although *not of gem quality*, the find is of unusual geological and mineralogical interest. It is the largest specimen of jadeite yet found in North America.

"Jadeite is a pyroxene with fibrous, microcrystalline structure; in pure form it is sodium aluminum silicate, but it commonly contains variable amounts of two other pyroxene molecules, diopside (calcium magnesium silicate) or acmite (sodium iron silicate), with which jadeite forms an isomorphous series. The wide range of color, usually in shades of

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green, but also white and nearly black, is ascribed to this variability in composition.

"In the first examination of the Clear Creek jadeite, made in the Division of Mines laboratories, calcium and magnesium, in addition to sodium, aluminum, and silica, were found, indicating a small admixture of the diopside molecule. Subsequent studies were made by A. F. Rogers of Stanford University and by George Switzer of the U. S. National Museum, Washington, D. C., who have stated, 'optical, X-ray, and chemical data show the material to be nearly pure jadeite.'

"The Clear Creek boulder does not represent the only occurrence of jadeite in California. Two small beach pebbles and one stream pebble have been identified previously by Division of Mines mineralogists. The beach pebbles, reported found north of Eureka, are jadeite of the greenish black variety, called chloromelanite. The stream pebble was found near Dos Rios by E. A. Bacchi of San Francisco. It is translucent, both light and dark green, and of fair quality for polishing."

Despite the Bureau's report of the find of a single boulder it now develops that subsequent investigation has uncovered several large boulders. Dr. Henry Dake, Editor of the *Mineralogist*, has received a twenty pound chunk which he is cutting. He reports that it polishes well in his May issue which contains a full account of the matter.

Unusual! Different!



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The Lapidary Journal

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MONTANA AGATE—Selected stones of gem quality. Assorted colored agate & moss spots. Six pounds for $7.85, postpaid. 16x12 mm. ring preforms — $3.60 postpaid — choice agate. Tie chains with agate boot pendant — $6, tax paid. Matched pairs of agate boot ear pendants — $12 tax paid. B. M. WARD, 702 Woodbury, Miles City, Mont.

HELLO NEIGHBOR! — We want to swap some nice Essonite Garnet specimens. Will swap for anything that won't eat. What have you in Chrysocolla cutting material? Please quote price. BEN & EDNA MORTON, Tom's Place, via Bishop, Calif.

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(Continued on next page)

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Miscellaneous

FRIENDS: Come and enjoy yourself at Vantage, Washington — July 1st to 4th, *Annual Rockhounds powow*. Hunt wood, bog, arrowheads. Boating and hiking. Speaking afternoon and evenings. Visit all local museums and displays at Ellensburg, Vantage, Quincy and Smyrna. Non-commercial gathering. Be seeing you. GILBERT C. MORGAN, Pow Wow guide.

ROCK-HARD FELT POLISHING WHEELS. 5 x 1—$1.50; 5 x 1½—$1.95; 5 x 2—$2.45; 10 x 1¼—$5.95. Medium hard—6 x ½—$1.25; 6 x 1—$1.50; 10 x 2—$4.95. YALE ADLER, 2205 Euclid, Detroit 6, Mich.

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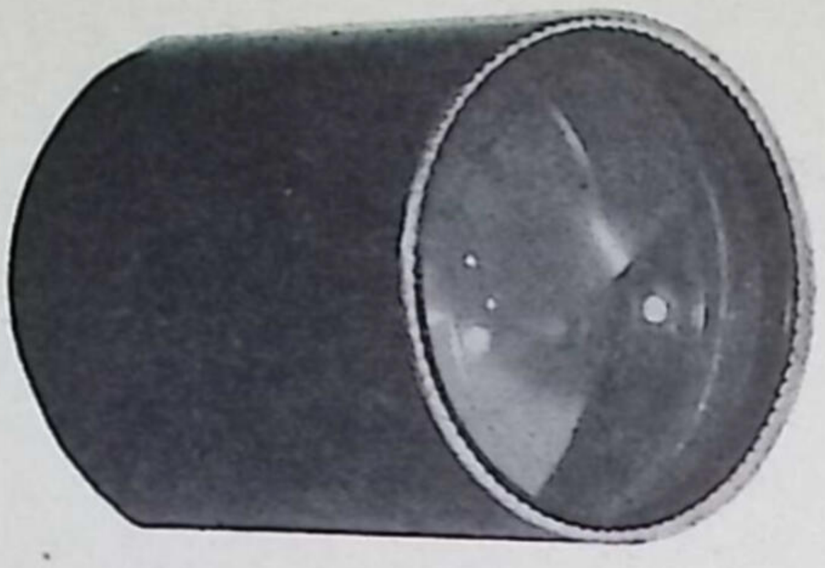
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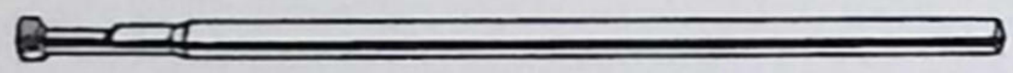
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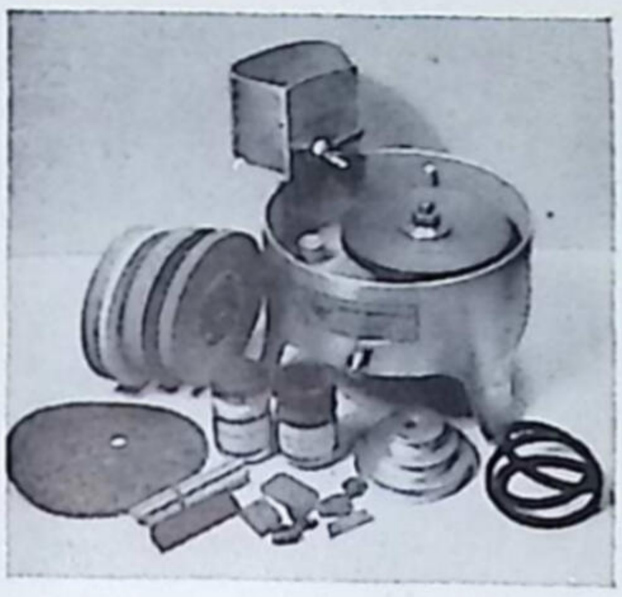
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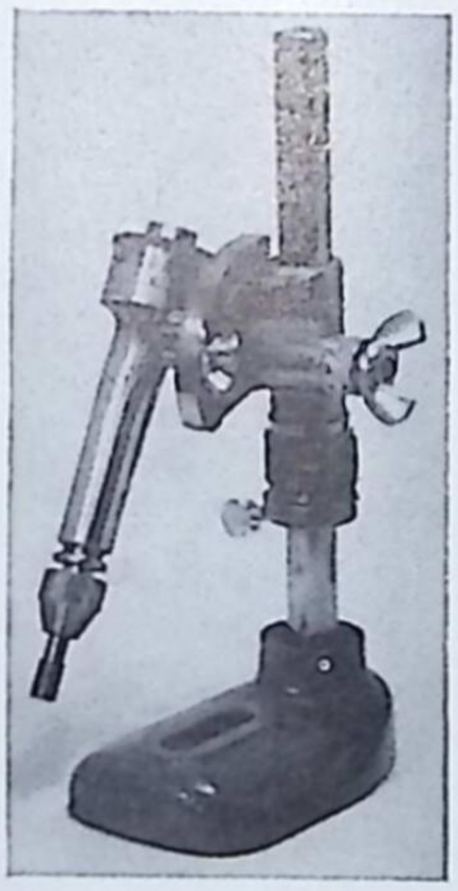
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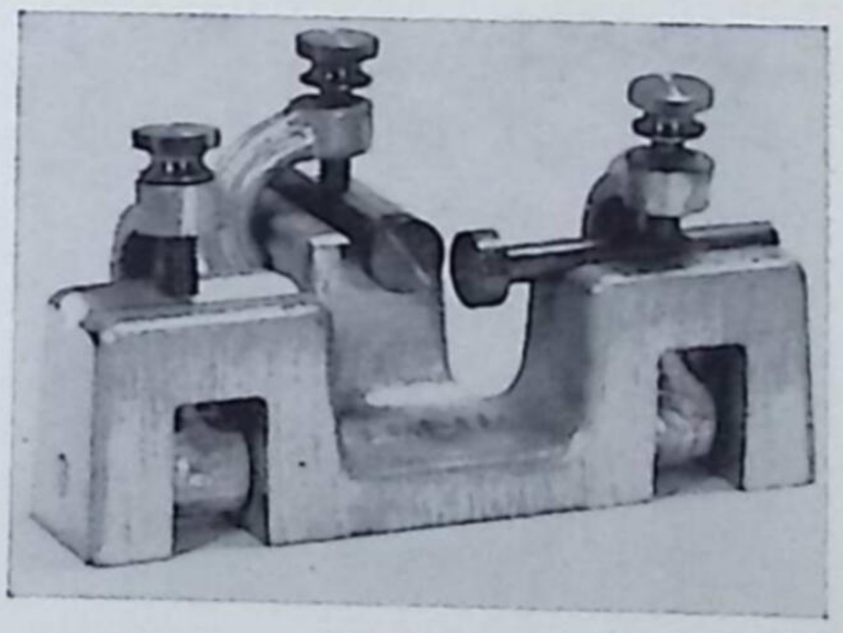


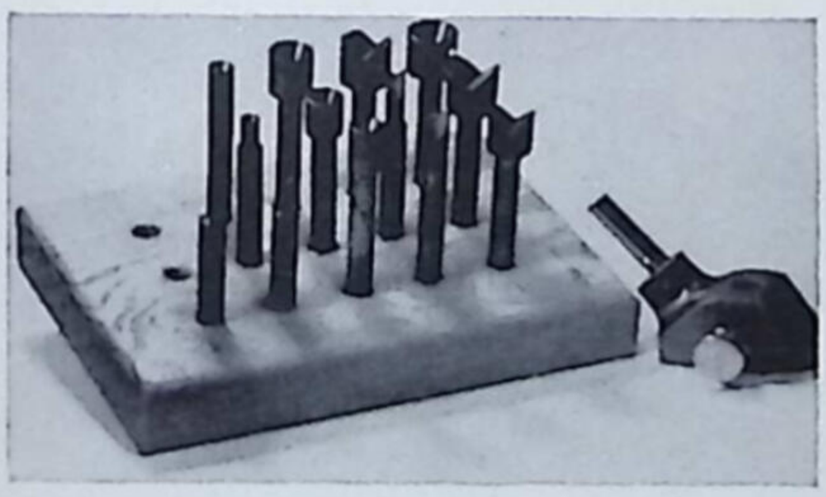
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