APRIL, 1953

The Lapidary Journal

ANNUAL TRAVEL ISSUE



BASKET OF LILIES OF THE VALLEY
In pearls, rose diamonds, jade and gold
By PETER CARL FABERGE

An International Hobby Magazine for

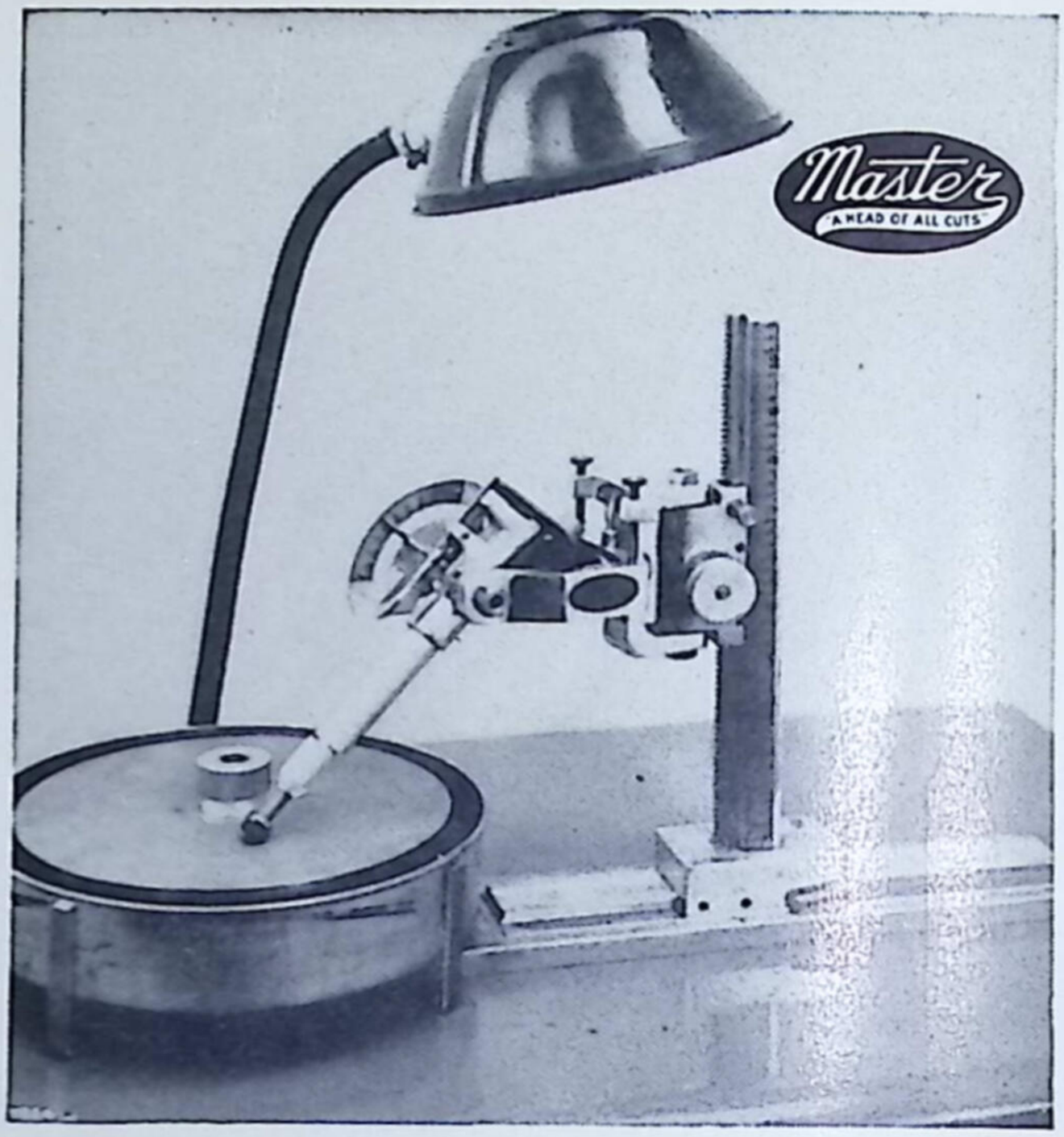
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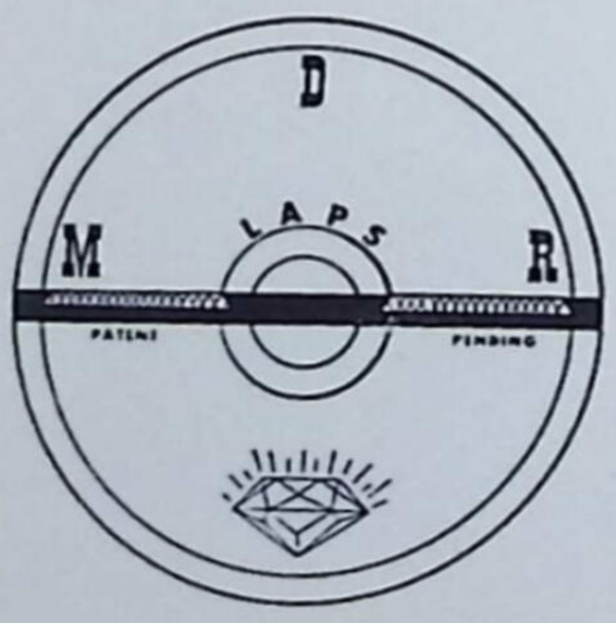
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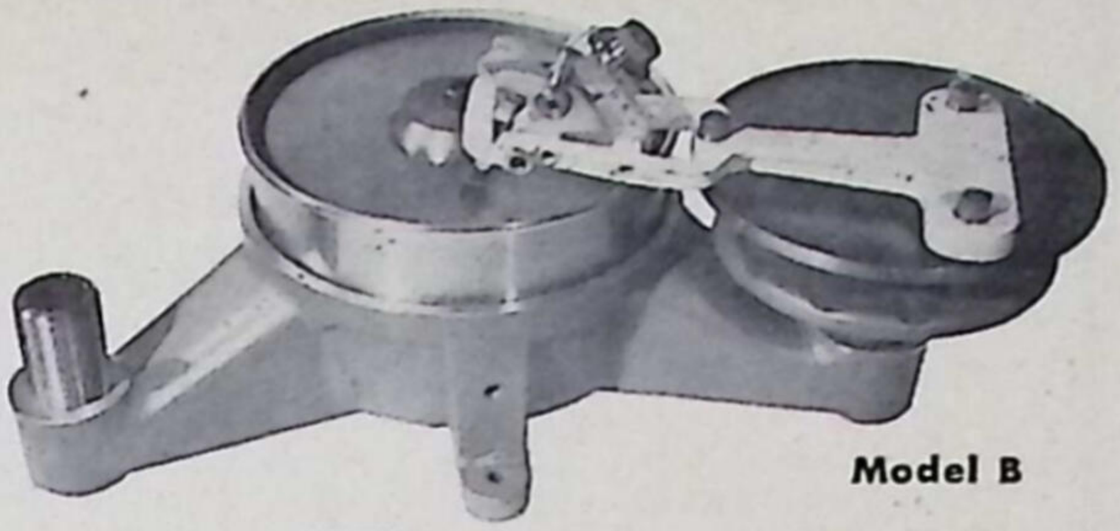
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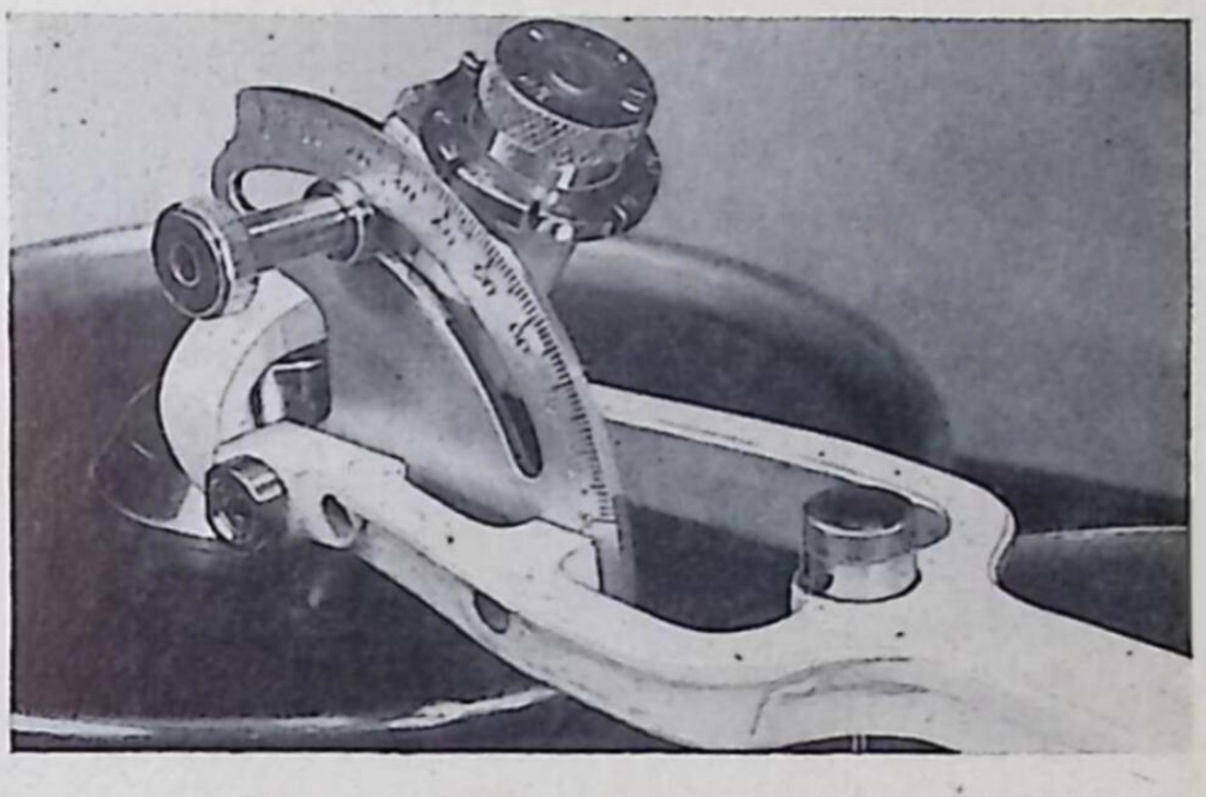
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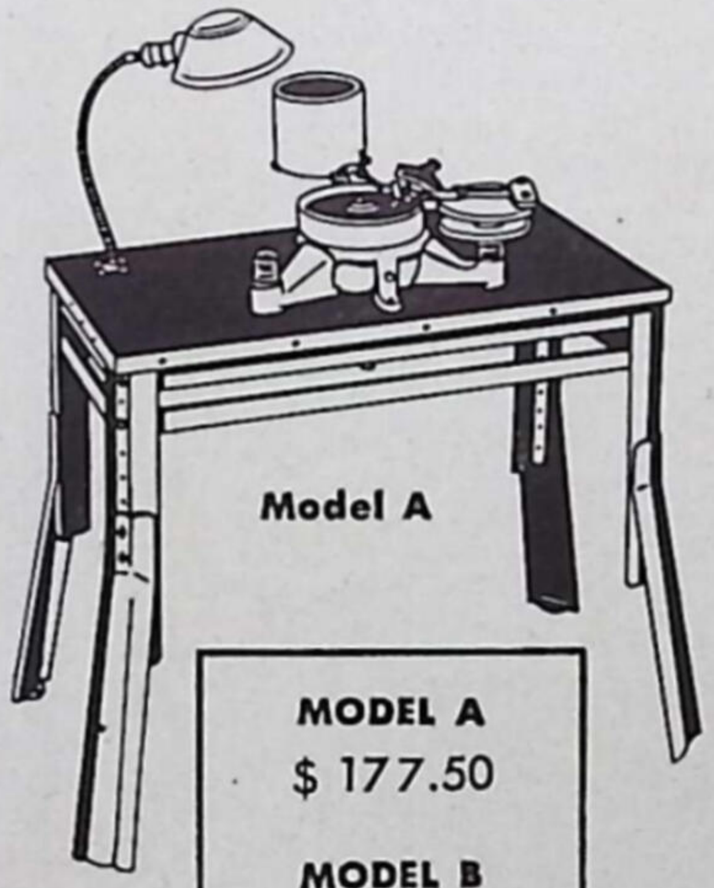
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for
GEM CUTTERS, GEM COLLECTORS
AND JEWELRY CRAFTSMEN

THIRTY-FIFTH ISSUE

PUBLISHED BI-MONTHLY ON THE FIRST OF FEB.-APR.-JUNE-AUG.-OCT.-DEC.

Volume Seven | April, 1953 | Number One

ANNUAL TRAVEL ISSUE

In which most of our usual "how to do it" features have been eliminated in favor of rock trips etc. for the rockhounding vacationist.

All good work looks perfectly modern. Oscar Wilde

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◆ Jewel Box of Imperial County, California

By MARY FRANCES BERKHOLZ
6108 N. Lorelei Ave., Bellflower, California
Member of *Delvers Gem and Mineral Society, Compton Gem and Mineral Club*

The April 1952 issue of the *Lapidary Journal* contained an article about the fire agate at Coon Hollow. This fine agate is but one of the many gem cutting materials found in this same locality and I propose herewith a discussion of this "Jewel Box" in the northeast corner of Imperial County, Calif.

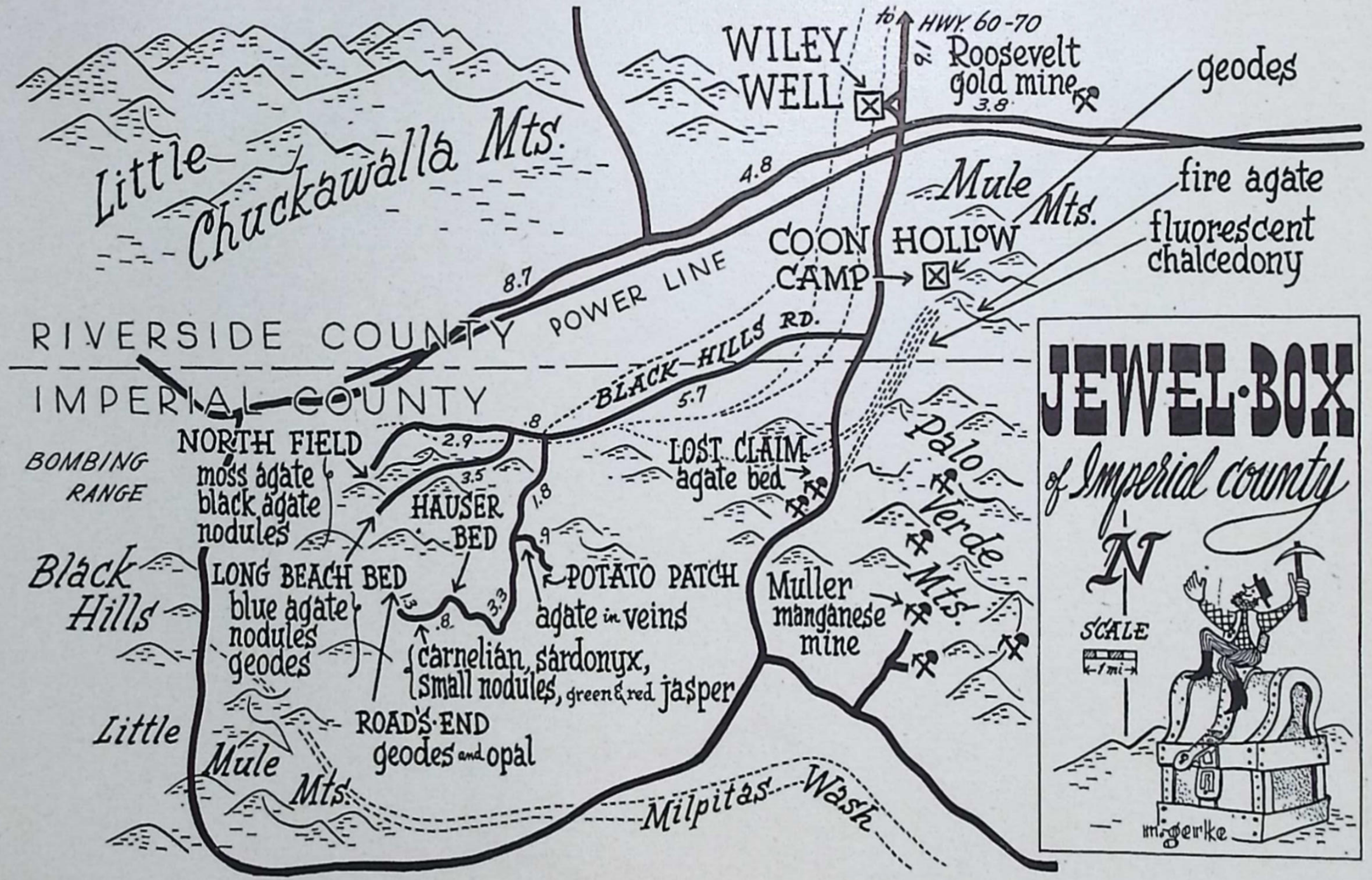
The Wiley Well area (the name by which it is commonly known) is a high, level alluvial plain of about 6400 acres. It is cut by broad, sandy, flat-bottomed, washes that are typical of the flash flood country and is bordered by extremely interesting mountains on all sides. On the North a small arm of the Little Chuckawalla Mountains reaches almost to Wiley's Well, from whence the area gets its name. A natural gateway is formed here with the Mule Mountains on the East, running South to the Palo Verde Mountains. The western boundary is made up by the Black Hills and the Little Mule Mountains. Along the southern base, cutting almost West to East is the fabulous Milpitas wash, several miles wide and as treacherous as the devil himself. Elevation of the plain is about 400 feet and the highest peaks about 1400 feet. The numerous washes are lined with the desert Ironwood, Smoke trees, and Palo Verdes and are a welcome relief to the rock collector who comes to try his luck in the warmer months and finds the temperature reaching 130 degrees. Dry, hot, desolate as this country is it holds a fascination for me and through many, many trips during every month of the year, my husband, daughter, and I have come to know its charm and beauty and the treasures it holds for the gem collector.

The geology of the area is very sketchy. A report in a Water Bureau paper by John S. Brown seems to give the most detail. The mountains as a whole are characterized by metamorphic schist and ancient granite covered by great masses of rhyolite, andesite, and basalt of a much later origin. Chimneys, scarps, and buttes, chiseled out of flat or tilted beds of this volcanic material, are dominant in many places in the mountains. They disappear unexpectedly in the plains veneered with recent gravel. The entire area is drained outside its borders. The valley fill varies greatly according to the distance to its source, being very coarse and bouldery at the base of the mountains and becoming fine and clay-like in the center of the valleys and on playas, where water sometimes stands and evaporates. From the Palo Verde Mountains, South and West, are numerous volcanic flows, chiefly basalt, intermingled with sedimentary deposits and believed to be of Tertiary origin. Each mountain and desert pavement contains collecting areas and the supply will not be exhausted for years to come.

February to May are the most beautiful months to collect in this section of the Colorado Desert. The verbenas carpet the floor with their purple hue and the Palo Verde trees touch off their vivid green branches with a brilliant yellow bloom. The familiar Ocotillo outdoes them all with its scarlet display. Although it is rocks you are after one should not overlook the many other wonders of nature.

The Wiley Well area is easily reached by leaving Indio and following highway 60-70 to Desert Center. Check your mileage at the cafe and continue for 30.9 miles. The turn-off is on the right just after crossing drainage bridge No. 56-18. The main bladed road has become a washboard and is sandy in spots but the rockhounds have worn another road at the left of it. This is a typical desert road of washes and ruts that gradually climbs the alluvial fan, passing Wiley Well on the right and meeting the Niland-Rannells road at a dis-

This, and maps on the following pages were drawn by Margaret Gerke from fine illustrations supplied by the author.

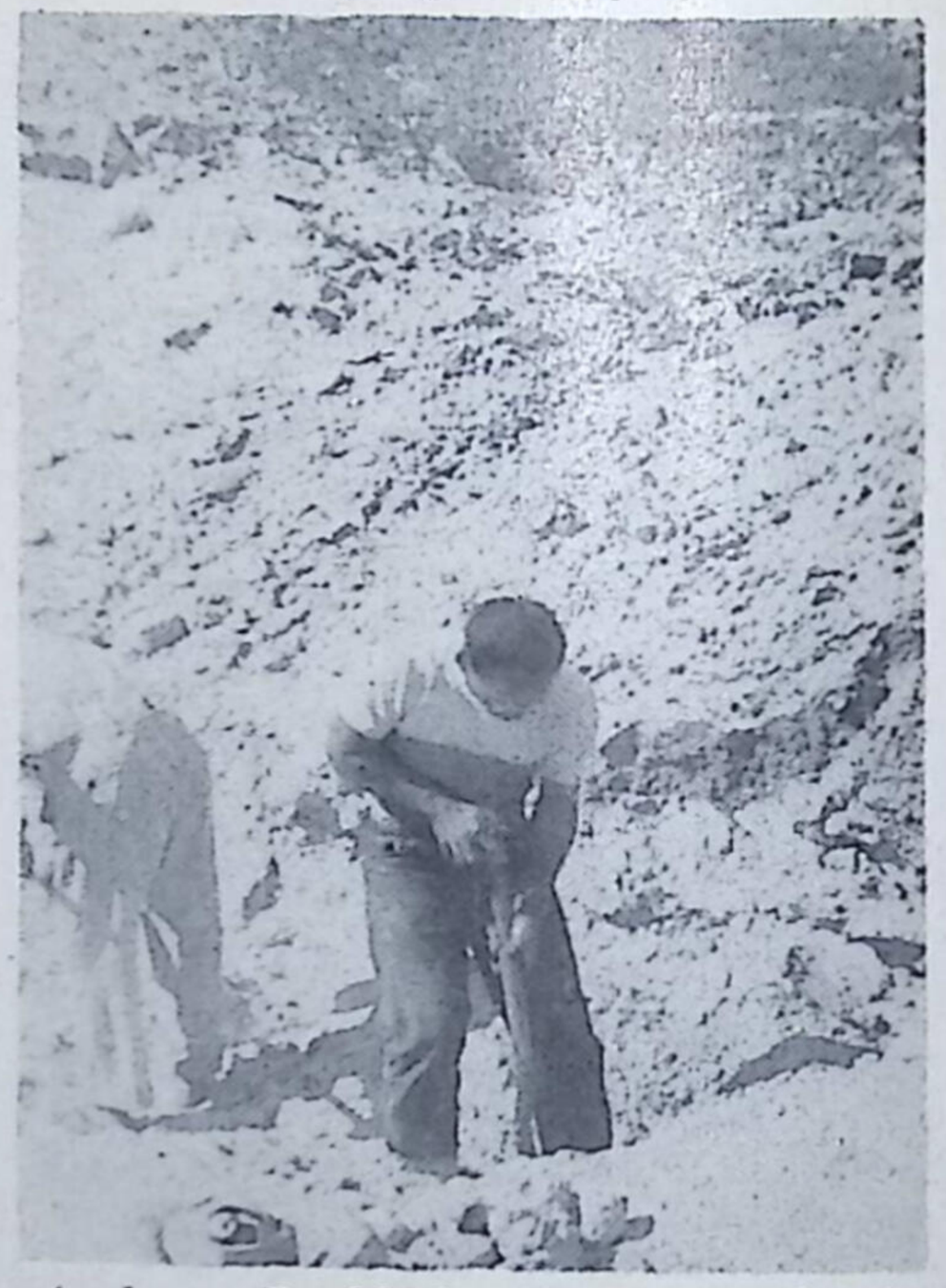


tance of about 9.1 miles. Crossing the Niland-Rannells road and passing under the power lines we continue for another 3 miles and find a road leading left into the Mule Mountains. Following this we find a deep, wide, wash called Coon Hollow Camp. This is the main camp for collectors visiting this area and here we set up our camp and prepare to collect in the fields all around us.

Several years ago this area was well known, primarily for the famous Hauser geode beds where tons and tons of geodes and nodules have been dug and hauled away to grace collectors' displays. The once rather poor road is well defined and while the ruts are bumpy it is entirely safe for the average stock car.

Our very first field trip was to the Hauser beds on a mighty hot day in September. We saw nary a soul the entire trip. We'd heard so much about Hauser that it began to interest me to learn the details of what led to the discovery of these beds. No one I talked with knew Hauser and the various stories told to me gave a picture of the "old-timer" who prospected the Black Hills. It was quite by accident I learned Joel Hauser was living in Redlands, Calif. and a phone call arranged for my visit. I was quite excited as we drove up to the Hauser residence as I could just picture the stories to be written after the interview. When a tall, slender, young man in his early thirties came down from the porch to greet me I'm sure my surprise wasn't very well hidden. Yes, the old prospector was a myth for Joel Hauser is a modern day rockhound. He did, however, begin collecting at an early age, being born in Blythe, Calif., of pioneer parents. His father drove the old Glamis road and picked up "pretty rocks" along the way. Hauser stumbled upon the geode beds now bearing his name while out collecting with two friends. They told the club they belonged to about it and referred to them as the Hauser beds. Word got around and the name stuck. Hauser prefers nodules and his collection is indeed one to see. He is mighty proud of his sagenite agates from the Black Hills. We couldn't persuade him to divulge his favorite spot other than saying it is in the northern end of the hills.

Many varieties of geodes and nodules can be found in the Hauser beds. The original diggings have become filled in and it requires a great deal of work to remove the dump material and reach "pay dirt." The best geodes lie under the second layer about 3 to 5 feet down. Geode fragments are scattered all over the canyon for those who prefer not to dig. About a half mile up the canyon are the newer diggings and when you see some of the beautiful geodes found by Gerald Backus of the *Compton Gem and Mineral Club* you'll want to start out on this trip right away.



Anthony Berkholz digging geodes in the Hauser beds.

A rather faint road branches to the left, just prior to reaching the Hauser beds. By following it for .8 of a mile you will find, by careful searching, some beautiful sardonyx and carnelian. Average pieces are about 1½x2". It is not plentiful but it is top gem quality. Small dark nodules are found here that contain all types of colors and patterns. This material is all in float and it pays to scrutinize each piece. Excellent red and brown jasper and a red and green jasper are also found in this same field.

Continuing along this same road, which now becomes fairly rough and rather faint and hard to follow, for another 1.3 miles is about all a stock car can go. A level desert pavement here

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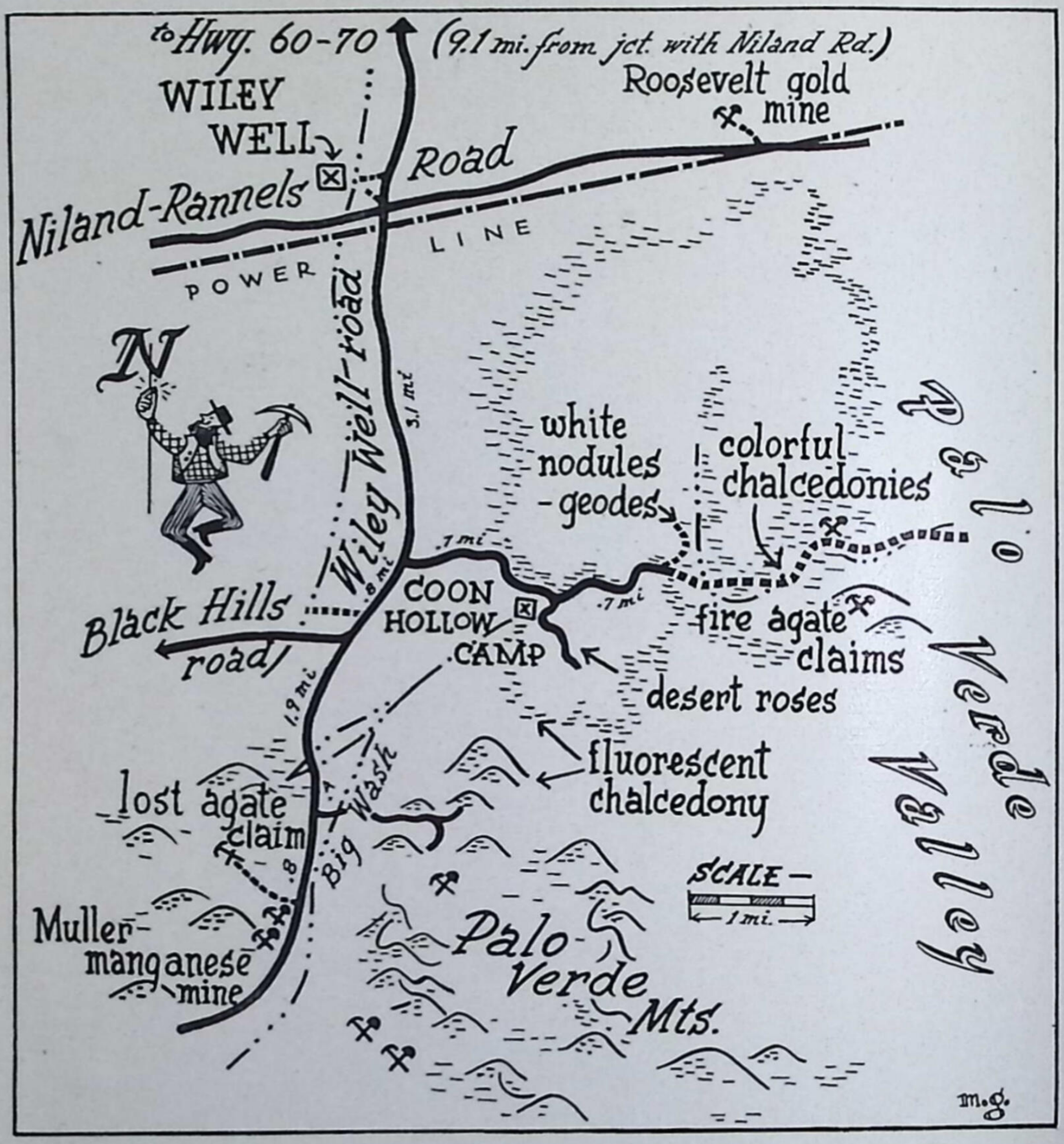
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makes a fine camp and you are in the heart of a collecting ground that offers opal, agate, geodes, nodules, etc. Take your time and hike, and look, and collect. Don't make the mistake of just hunting the large specimens as the best gemstones seem to come in the smaller sizes.

Another fine geode bed has been aptly named the "potato patch." Here it is very easy digging with crystal lined geodes dropping out of the sides of the hole like potatoes. The hills are spotted with mine dumps, the miners being rockhounds who dig in every likely spot. Just prior to the potato patch you pass between two hills in a narrow valley. On the right, and left, are agate veins exposed by erosion. Most of what we have collected has been in pastel shades of pink, blue, purple and white with a thin deposit of manganese running through it. These make very nice picture agates. Several fine agate nodules without matrix were picked up in float. When cut they were hard to tell from the deep colored Brazilian agates that are so popular. The map on page 5 gives details of reaching the areas described.

Back of our camp in Coon Hollow are several good collecting fields. Since

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Some black jade and green jade beads still on hand—$50.00 string

—HERE IS SOMETHING YOU HAVE BEEN WAITING FOR—

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Do not expect $100,00 a carat gems in this lot as it has been graded for the finest at the source. All we can guarantee is that this is really top grade star sapphire at a good price and many will get a really fine star sapphire at a fraction of its worth.

— OPAL — OPAL —

Just received some fine opal before writing this ad. Fire opal and green. 1 piece 45 carats—$8.00. 1 piece 104 carats (best piece you ever saw) $40.00. 1 piece 200 carats—$20.00. All kinds of fire, blue, green at all prices. $1.00, $1.50, $2.00, $2.50, $3.00, $5.00, $10.00, $15.00, $25.00 and up. Perhaps you would like to buy opal the same as we do from "down under" or same as you would get it direct. No selecting on our part. No selecting on your part. Opal at $5.00, $10.00, $15.00, $20.00, $25.00, $50.00 per ounce.

Dealers are invited to send for opal and star sapphire selections. Write us your needs and I am sure we can supply you.

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Pink and orchid jade $4.00 to $10.00 per slice. Beautiful material.
Pink and orchid and purple jade $5.00 to $15.00 per slice.
Purple jade with small amount of pink $8.00 to $20.00 per slice.

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Send $10.00 for our generous selection of jade. We send you $20.00 value for $10.00. Last Spring 34 took advantage of this offer. Send $5.00 for generous offer of agate—$10.00 worth. We also have some of our other material to clear from our price lists or from our former ads. Send a list of 12 or more materials you prefer and send $8.00 for a generous selection. (Value $12.00 to $15.00.)

A new piece of very good apple green jade we just cut is good—$3.00 sq. in. Also a little of extra choice at $5.00 inch.

Apple Green Jade, No. 2, $1.50; No. 1 $2.50
Black jade No. 1 choice top quality, in. $1.00
Black jade No. 2 & 3, sq. in.....$ .50 & $ .75
Mottled jade.....3 sq. in. $1.00
Gray-green jade.....3 sq. in. $1.00
Dark green jade.....3 sq. in. $1.00
Choice Monterey jade.....3 sq. in. $1.00
Choice Alaska green.....sq. in. $1.00
(This Alaska green is a new material we just picked up. Beautiful, compact, good color.)
Covelo jade.....sq. in $ .60
China white jade.....sq. in $1.00
China white & yellow.....sq. in. $1.50
China white & orange.....sq. in. $1.50

We picked up a little more pink Wyoming jade.

Pink jade, solid color, per slab $2.50 to $5.00
Pink mottled jade.....sq. in. $1.50
Vivid apple green jadeite, sq. in. $3.00 - $5.00
Solid green — no white
Clear Creek jadeite.....3 sq. in. $1.00
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Burma dark green jadeite.....sq. in. $6.00
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No. 11 at $4.00 sq. in.

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through white chalcedony with many patterns that look like landscape views. Fortification agates and crystal lined geodes of various types, filled with odd chalcedony deposits, are at this location. The nodules are weathering out of the lava where a deep wash has cut back into the flank of the mountain. To reach this outcrop, hike up the steep saddle on the north about 200 yards, then turn right (east) and follow around the side of the mountain into the canyon. You should be high above the wash below. I believe another .2 of a mile will put you at the outcrop. Look for the fragments and you can't miss the spot. Below this outcrop is a large ledge of chalcedony roses intermingled with calcite crystals. Agate fragments, quartz crystals and banded chalcedony can be collected on a desert pavement about halfway to the fire agate diggings. See the accompanying maps for details of preceding localities.



Above—Sylvia holds a nodule from the North Field.
Below—The author holds a big one from the potato patch.



About 4 miles South of Coon Hollow Camp the road goes through a pass in the Palo Verde Mountains. There are numerous manganese claims here but most of them are idle except for annual assessment work. In the past year C. C. Muller and his son have begun production at their mine, which is located along the Wiley Well road.

It was while visiting with the Mullers we learned the tale of the Lost Claim Agate Field. A small hillock composed entirely of agate lies in a valley between two high peaks. Its discoverer placed claim markers and in due time filed on his claim. General Patton's training army moved in and it was several years before he could return to work his claim. When the area was again open he searched in vain for his agate deposit. He described the agate to Muller as being clear to smoky, filled with stringers of red, blue, green, black and tan inter-twined to produce a beautiful pattern. Muller found this agate deposit while prospecting on his manganese claim and he was more than willing to show us the field. We drove through his property to a wide wash and then hiked west about a half mile. It is a virgin field and promises to produce some outstanding cutting material. I don't believe Mr. Muller would care to have hordes of rockhounds driving through his property but by parking the car about a mile north of his mine you can hike due West, cross the big wash, then climb into the little valley. You will reach the field after about a mile of hiking. We had intended to break a jeep road through to the field but didn't have time. It is possible we will have it through by the time this article is printed. The map on page 10 shows the preceding collecting areas in detail.

The northern end of the Black Hills has many virgin fields for the rockhound willing to do some hiking. About .8 of a mile beyond the road that branches from the Black Hills road and goes to the Potato patch and Hauser beds, is another road that turns left sharply and dips down across the wash. It follows up a long desert pavement for almost 2½ miles. From this point to the road's end (another mile) some good collecting can be found through the pavement. Colorful agate fragments, small dark nodules, cabochon size carnelians, and the ever present jasper and chalcedony

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roses. The road ends at the mouth of a canyon. To the right and left are hills showing the mark of the rockhound and many fine nodules of a deep blue color have been found here. On the right is a trail leading up the wash. When the wash branches follow the fork on the right for about a half mile. At this point you are in the midst of the collecting area and can see diggings all around. This field has been called by various names but on our first trip we saw a club marker "Long Beach" pointing at the turnoff. Hence to us it has always been the Long Beach Bed—a small tribute to a club who has worked hard to further the hobby.

Back on the Black Hills road we again head west towards the northern end, winding over desert pavements and crossing the ever-present washes. Scattered collecting can be done on any of these pavements but the fields ahead are far more lucrative. At 2.9 miles from the last turnoff (to the Long Beach beds) the road branches. On the right a road leads up to a nice camp ground. The road (barely tracks) leads up a wide wash for a distance of .6 of a mile. I don't believe a stock car should attempt this wash but stop at the camp and hike up. We used our 4-wheel drive and had no trouble following up the wash to a large red outcrop that prevents driving further. Hike up the wash another .2 of a mile and on the right side, on the cliff, is exposed a new geode bed. These are entirely different from any others we've collected in the Black Hills. They range from baseball size to that of a large watermelon, with interiors so varied it is impossible to list them all. The outer matrix is quite dark and they have colorful agate, opal, black agate, moss and carnelian in the center. Chalcedony interiors have odd formations and in some the chalcedony "frosts" the agate and is indeed striking. We did not find any of these nodules containing crystals. By slabbing them you can obtain an outstanding variety of cutting material. Geodes occur in several outcrops here and you should have no trouble in finding them. It was on the desert pavement above the geode outcrop that I found in float two of my most prized specimens. One is a beautiful blue and white iris agate nodule. The other is a chunk that appeared to be chalcedony. Upon cutting it proved to be a sagenite agate with fan-like sprays. You can bet I'll return to this spot to hunt again.

These are but a few of the collecting fields in my favorite desert area—the Wiley Well District. I hope you will enjoy the collecting as much as I have preparing the maps and details for you. The photographs are by my husband, who must often stay at his job while I search for field trips. The *accurate* mileage checks were made possible with the help of my fourteen year old daughter, Sylvia, who accompanies me on all my trips. We two had many an adventure while preparing this manuscript.

Perhaps we may meet over the campfire at Coon Hollow and enjoy together the "Jewel Box" nature provided here for us.

★ ★ ★

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◆ How to Go Rockhounding

By NATHALIE MAHONEY
1467 79th Ave., Oakland 21, California
Secretary of *California Federation of Mineralogical Societies*
(together with her husband Harold)

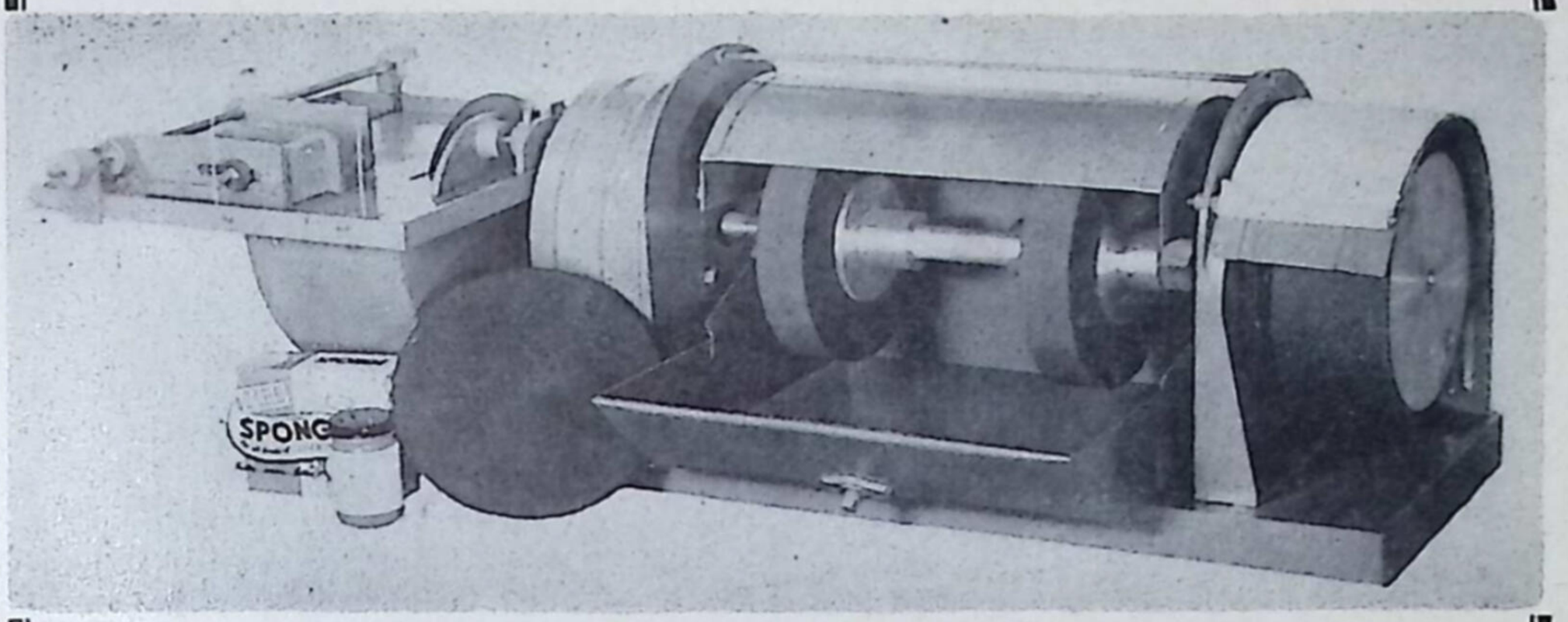
Here is the story of a perfect arrangement for rockhounding. Readers in the East particularly will find it of great use and the western rockhounds will get many new ideas from an account that covers the rock travel problem very completely. Here is the what-to-do and the what-not-to-do of the well mannered and sensible rockhound.

I get a lot of fun out of planning and preparing for a rock trip. My husband Harold likes to throw in the tools and a clean shirt and start out. Actually Harold is meticulous about the condition of the car and with the tools are some spare parts such as a fan belt. I can get ready in a hurry. On more than one occasion we suddenly decided to go somewhere, were packed and on the highway in less than an hour, and had not forgotten anything. We use a check list that includes everything we could possibly use and from that we make our selection for any particular trip, whether for one day or three weeks, for mountains or desert, in winter or summer. This dates from the time that we had to put the tent and sleeping bags in the car and it includes many things that are standard equipment for the go-buggy.

The go-buggy is my idea of rockhound heaven with just enough shortcomings to keep us close to earth. The rig is an Army ambulance with the roof raised so that we can stand upright. In it we can cook and eat and sleep, keep food in an icebox, hang our clothes, store our tools and food and water, thirty gallons of it. Before building it we made a cardboard scale model and planned every half inch. The key to the space problem is the two bunks; one resting on the rear wheel housing, the other hinged to the wall so that in the day time, with the bedding strapped to it, it hangs down and forms the back of the davenport, no less. We thought everything was just right but on the first trip we learned a lot. Harold, being a careful worker, had hinged the upper bunk so that when it was swung out and fastened with straps to the ceiling it was precisely at right angles to the wall. It happened that that wall is on the left or traffic side. Our first night we found a nice place to pull off the road, not quite level but sloping only a little, downward to the right, of course. The night was cold but air mattresses with plenty of warm covers made perfect beds and we slept in comfort—until six o'clock when there was an awful clatter. The air mattress, covers and Harold all slid off that slanting upper bunk. There was no injury but now the bunk is fastened to the ceiling with four straps spaced along the side and it slants upward toward the center of the go-buggy. We can park on quite a slope in safety. A rim of wood about 1½″ high around the edge of the lower bunk secures that bed. Air mattresses have been replaced with foam rubber. A narrow rim of metal around the stove keeps the coffee pot and frying pan in their places and if the bacon grease seems to run away from the pancakes, turning the pan will start it the other way.

No matter what the transportation, some matters are basic: safety, proper food, clothing, equipment. On the desert no one knows how much water is "enough" for the radiator and the folks. Therefore the go-buggy's thirty gallon tank is filled entirely when we are heading out into hot, dry country. Even on the paved road we have come upon people in real distress; a hot sun, no water in canteen or radiator, and miles uphill to the nearest tank. A full gas tank and perhaps five extra gallons are not amiss. We are not brave enough to start into unknown and arid country alone but always arrange that another car goes with us. This is not just timidity; people have died because a fan belt broke on an abandoned desert road. With caution and company we feel safe and happy.

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The diet should be simple and should contain a goodly amount of protein regardless of the weather. The frilly, fancy things are much better at home, not following several hours of digging and licking and packing rocks. Here the good cook is the one who can give the fellows a substantial meal without much fussing and without delay. Any of the fruit juices, particularly tomato and even tomatoes with puree, will be refreshing and will keep them quiet until the coffee is made and the rest of the food ready. One's personal taste governs the actual selection of food and almost everyone has pet devices and recipes. Empty egg cartons later make good carrying cases for delicate specimens. Butter should be in a can or jar or plastic box with a tight fitting lid. Bacon should be in greaseproof wrapping and there should be a tight-lidded container for the extra grease to be used with pancakes. Ready mixed pancake flour is messy after the package has been opened; a two-pound coffee can will serve better. Firm fruit such as apples and oranges ride safely and are prized greatly by people living in remote spots. Melons are bulky but may be kept cool and are a delicious form of fluid refreshment. To provide an ice box with its cooling factor without additional weight or bulk we freeze canned fruit juice, applesauce, milk in cartons, as well as meat and vegetables from the freezer. Concentrated milk (one quart makes three with added water) saves space and tastes like fresh milk. The icebox in the go-buggy takes a fifty pound chunk that may last as long as four days. As we empty milk cartons, we wash them out and refill them with water, place them alongside the ice and have cool water all the time.

Most people know that a wet cloth over a canteen placed in the hot sun will cool the contents but some do not realize that on the desert anything left exposed to the night air will cool. It must be covered carefully very early in the morning, either buried where it will be in the shade all day or covered deeply in bedding. If this is done every night, it is possible to keep food safely for a number of days.

If rock hunting is good it usually means that there is digging to be done, perhaps distances to walk and rocks to be carried, so that hands and feet may suffer. All clothing should be somewhat rugged and resistant to snags and tears, and should not soil easily. Put in an apron for the cook. *Heavy gloves* will protect the hands, and feet will be happy in *proper shoes*. To keep out dirt and sand, shoes should extend well above the ankle and should lace comfortably so that the ankle is flexible and supported. Rubber soles are very hot, may scald the feet. Leather gets slick so that walking over smooth rocks becomes difficult. Composition soles probably are best, they are not hot and they give good traction on rocks. There should be low heels. Wedgies and high heels are most inappropriate; riding boots are not for walking. Socks short in the foot are an invitation to trouble and excessively long socks wrinkle and produce blisters. It is ideal to wear two pairs of socks, preferably of thin wool, or one of wool and one of cotton. The shoes should be large enough to accommodate the two pairs of socks comfortably with room to wiggle the toes, and not large enough to permit the foot to slide forward and back. They should be well broken in at home before the trip. Remember that feet swell in hot weather and while carrying a heavy load, and that the best cure for a blister is prevention.

We have always managed to have enough water to wash our feet every night. If there is any fear that there might be blisters between the toes, Whitfield's ointment, half strength, will take care of them. After a blister has formed on the foot it is a real problem, best taken care of by complete rest, but while it is only a burning sensation a piece of adhesive applied over the area will prevent actual blistering. And why does a rockhound have adhesive with him? Possibly because he likes to label his specimens as he finds them and nothing is better than adhesive. Two-inch strips of adhesive laid smoothly on cloth, such as a handkerchief, ride comfortably in a pocket and can be torn off as needed. In fact a few such strips will serve to strap a sprained ankle, although sprained ankles are rare if shoes are right.

One signal for help in the desert country is a "smoke." A person who is lost or has been injured "builds a smoke"

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and waits beside it until help comes. I have never needed to build a smoke although I have found someone who did, and I hope that I shall always remember to carry my waterproof match case and use care in building a very small fire that is easily controlled and makes a large smoke as small bits of the greenest thing available are added. Of course, on some deserts there is nothing with which to build a smoke, and I hope to have company when I go there.

The tools a rockhound needs depend upon the type of hunting; always the prospector's pick to chip rocks and do minor digging. A check list might include flashlight, collecting bag, back pack, canteen, gunny sack, small crow bar or pinch bar, gads, heavy hammer, pocket knife, hand lens, sun glasses, possibly field glasses and camera, fluorescent light for mines or at night on mine dumps if fluorescent material is sought.

Ingenuity is a rockhound's middle name and serves him handily. For instance, we arrived at an abandoned mine and knew exactly where the outcropping was because we had a good map. Up a steep and long hill those big hunks of rock lay shimmering in the heat. At our feet, blown off the roof of the mine shack, was a piece of galvanized iron roofing—a sled, of course. Wire can always be found around such a place and what more could we want? The three of us scrambled up to the ledge, took care to select good pieces, tied them in the sled and then slipped and slithered down to the car with all the rock we wanted and without being exhausted in that heat, and left the sled for the next fellow.

At first the impulse is to take home large quantities of everything without much regard to quality. I think I brought home enough to build a chimney, but we had no need of a chimney so it went under some concrete in the back yard. The taking of too large quantities is resented by owners of property and by other rockhounds. A wise rockhound inspects the material, selects a reasonable amount that is good and leaves the rest for the next collector. Harold actually does this and I hope that in time I may acquire as much wisdom and restraint. I have come upon places where someone had sorted ma-

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terial and discarded some, and I was grateful that it had not been broken and hammered to pieces. I did wonder what had been taken because what he left was better than anything we could find in the vicinity.

Camping equipment must be adapted to the needs and to the space in the car. Our go-buggy has many comforts one of which is a tarpaulin used for an awning, slipped into awning molding on either side and held out by means of two sectional tent poles, cords and pegs. It makes a welcome shade for resting and for outdoor eating. With a little planning a canvas can be stretched from any car to form a refuge from desert heat. In windy or wet weather a tent is needed, preferably an umbrella tent with a floor—and a small broom to sweep the dirt out before the tent is folded and the dirt smeared against roof and walls. Don't forget the tent pole and pegs, the bedding rolls with plenty of warm bedding for cold nights. Where there is no wood and where the fire hazard is great, include a gasoline stove with a windshield to make cooking easier, a lantern, some extra white gas, a table and folding stools. In some areas a fire permit is required and it is a good idea to get one when near a ranger station although you may not need it immediately. Suit yourself about pots, pans, and dishes; whether of plastic, aluminum or enamel. Some cups have the lower end of the handle free so that the handles do not heat and the cups nest nicely. Don't forget the wash basin!

If you watch an experienced camper stowing his things you will notice a roll of toilet paper, about which he usually feels a little reticent, but he should not. We get the larger paper napkins that are soft, like facial tissue, and serve as disposable handkerchiefs and for packing fragile specimens as well as the less mentionable purpose, and are socially acceptable. Sometimes nights are cold and a sheltering or screening bush is not near the tent; then an empty two-pound coffee can serves well and it can be carried inconspicuously away from camp and emptied. When the trip is over it is buried along with all garbage and cans, that is, along with the garbage of all proper persons. Of course, some travelers advertise the messiness that is their essential nature by strewing the country and highways with their cans and bottles and papers. When we come upon such things they are like a billboard announcing that pigs have been there and the world is hardly the better for their passing. A pitiful epitaph, that!

Now that we know all about what to take, where are we going? How can we find good locations for collecting? That may be the $32 question but it is not hopeless. Almost every rockhound publication gives maps and locations in some issues. The *Rockhound Buyers Guide* has enough to keep anyone busy for quite a time. Of course, the best way is to have a friend who will take you to a location. It must be understood that a rockhound who takes you to his favorite location is offering you a jewel of friendship and it must be respected. We do not take others to a friend's location without his permission, nor do we hunt rocks on any private property without permission of the owner, no matter how much trouble is entailed in getting that permission. This is part of a rockhound's code and must not be broken. We explain what we hope to find and show some cabochons that we have made, ask them to select one or two for themselves. If it is possible we always say "thank you" as we leave and invariably we are invited to return. If we do return we are careful to take something made from the rocks in that locality. On one second visit, a pair of jasper earrings for the lady of the house won for us the invitation to come any time we wanted to and to bring our friends. Sometimes the owners ask us to send them something, a polished piece or a brooch or earrings which we can make ourselves. We make careful notes of our promises and the first order of business on returning home is making good our promises. Sometimes the people we meet tell us that if we will just come back and stay a couple of weeks they will take us to a certain place they know where good stuff can be dug, and they may show us a sample.

Last Christmas we received a card from persons we had never heard of until we drove into their place and asked what kind of rocks were in that vicinity, and it bore a message, "We are looking for you folks next spring, have found a location that you will like." Are we going? What do you think?

ABOUT OUR GO-BUGGY

Our trips are all made in a specially built automobile which we call our go-buggy. This go-buggy of ours is an Army ambulance, four wheel drive, three-quarter ton Dodge chassis, with the roof raised, two trailer windows and an overhead trailer vent added. There is a luggage rack over the cab and alongside it we can carry either one or two five gallon butane tanks. Harold got two extra hub caps for the front wheels, machined out the splines so that we could have free wheeling while on the highway and, by replacing the original hub caps, have four wheel drive in sand or rough country. He installed an electric fuel pump, and had awning molding placed along each side. It is wired for electric lights in case we stay in trailer courts. Our top highway speed is 52 to 55 m.p.h. but we save time in finding a parking place and setting up camp. We can drive well into the night and on one occasion drove throughout the night. One of us went to bed and slept while the other drove. A good place to park for the night is alongside a dump where the highway department keeps sand and gravel. If we should sleep past the time that their trucks come, we can move and cook our breakfast later. Passing trucks and highway noises no longer bother us.

The seats are leather covered barrel seats and are comfortable, they tip forward to allow entrance on either side. In the body part, behind the rider's seat, is a space for the fire extinguisher and just above it is a holder for a huge flashlight. Behind the fire extinguisher, secured firmly to the floor and to the wall, is a thirty gallon stainless steel water tank with two baffles built inside to prevent the water sloshing with too much force. There is an opening in the top through which the tank is filled by means of a hose, and it is emptied through a spigot under the floor. The sink is above the tank, surrounded by formica, and the water is brought up through a wabble hand pump. Between sink and tank is space for pots, pans and coffee pot. The door to this space is hinged so that it may hang down out of the way or may be hooked to two small chains and become a table. The map board in front of the rider's seat is a convenient table for one, and when



we have company we use a piece of plywood with screw eyes on each corner which can be hooked, two to the ice box and two by means of straps to the ceiling.

Immediately behind the tank is an icebox which carries fifty pounds of ice and a great deal of food. It rests on top of the wheel housing and is secured with iron strapping to the wall. Beneath it and in front of the wheel housing is a small space for canned goods. Next to the ice box is the wardrobe, a light steel structure, 18x24x60″, with double doors. We cut out the bottom and supplemented the side walls with plywood so that we could have a well to carry newspapers and boxes for packing specimens, and then a place for the more delicate material. Because the ceiling is curved, there is a small space above the wardrobe and there a nylon tarpaulin is tied. It is used as an awning when shade is essential. Between the wardrobe and the back door there is just enough space for two folding camp stools, the plywood table, and the broom. To provide a space for light cooking needs we took a steel household cabinet, 12x18x60″, cut off the four inch base, turned it sideways and placed it against the wall and ceiling over the sink and icebox. The side with the hinge is uppermost so that the door swings upward and it can be fastened to the ceiling while in use. The five shelves become upright partitions and Harold has put in aluminum shelves at right angles to them to suit our needs. Here we carry soap, cutlery, plastic dishes, flour, coffee, breakfast foods, towels, curtains for front and back, cookie can, electric extension cord and light to plug in ceiling, and many small light articles.

Behind the driver is the housing for the spare wheel and on top of this is the two-burner butane stove. A butane heater is inset into the housing near the floor. The trailer vent is over the stove and against the front wall is the butane lamp. Over it is an aluminum baffle leading the heat out of the trailer vent. This lamp is not too satisfactory; the mantle always falls in pieces when we travel and the collar that holds it did too until we turned the lamp upward instead of downward.

The bunks are of three-quarter inch plywood. By cutting out a rectangular portion to allow for the spare wheel housing, the bottom bunk extends to the rear door and is long enough for a tall person. The heads of the bunks are at the rear so that it is possible to park on a slope in case the engine is cold and hard to start, and the narrower portion of the lower bunk is at the foot. The rear wheel housing gives solid support. The space beneath the bunk is divided so that the heavy tools will not slide forward and crush less solid things. The space immediately inside the rear door is for the automobile tool box, the hydraulic jack, and wooden blocks, extra cans of cylinder oil, etc. The other spaces contain a towing cable, hose for trailer camp, clothes pins and line, fluorescent lamp, small typewriter, apples, oranges, etc. The forward space is for the bath tub (a rectangular dish pan) the coffee can and anything else that can be put there. Lengthwise, just under the edge of the bunk is a sort of trough where we lay the heavy digging tools, gads, bar, hammer, the sectional tent poles to be used with the awning, a miner's pick, removed from handle, and the prospectors' picks, their belts and holsters. The collecting bags, back packs, extra gunny sacks and such are tied on the luggage rack until we reach the "location" and then they live somewhere inside. The shovel always rides on the luggage rack.

The upper bunk is hinged to the wall far enough above the lower bunk so that it may hang down and become the back of the davenport while the lower bunk is the seat. The beds have foam rubber, sheets, plenty of warm covers, and a large, closely woven denim cover for each that keeps out dust. Pillows and extra blankets are placed behind the upper bunk after it swings down. Good place for hats too.

Above the upper bunk, against the ceiling and secured to the wall, are small cabinets for underwear and small light things. Sometimes the camera finds a place here and sometimes in the food cabinet. There appears to be no place provided for rocks; they are likely to be found everywhere.

(Ed. note. We saw this remarkable go-buggy at the Oakland convention in 1951 and we feel sure interested readers attending the big San Diego convention next July will get an opportunity to examine it.)

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◆ Petrified Woods of Washington State

By BARBARA BLOOD
1953 Taft Ave., Bremerton, Washington

"Children and pets make liars out of you," a friend of mine once said, and to that should be added, "and so can rocks!" Make a positive assertion about any of them and the exception will pop up to embarrass you.

If I should say that the petrified woods of Washington do not have the brilliant coloring you find elsewhere, someone will be sure to prove differently. In fact I had that done to me last summer, when my son, who had never hunted rocks before, casually presented me with a piece of petrified wood that ranged in color from pure white to bright flame, swirled in honey colored agate. The brilliant red is not a true characteristic of our Washington wood, however. But part of the joy in rock hunting is in that elusive feeling that you are just about to pick up some choice specimen.

And don't think you can't do just that, either! The Nov. 16, 1952 copy of the *Ellensburg Sunday Review* contains an article with this heading "Ellensburg Rockhound Finds Petrified Cedar of Lebanon."

No less than the famed Temple of Solomon was built of this kind of wood. This specimen, discovered in the Dry Creek area by Homer T. Miller, Ellensburg rockhound, is thought to be the first of its kind ever found in Washington State, according to Prof. George W. Beck of Central Washington College of Education, who identified it.

The cedar of Lebanon is the sacred tree of Asia Minor, much as the famed ginkgo is of China. It is not a true cedar but resembles a tamarack. It disappeared from the western world even before the ginkgo and, while some imported trees are growing in Oregon now, they do not thrive in Washington. The ginkgo can be cultivated here. Mr. Miller's specimen was estimated to be about 40,000,000 years old, of the lower miocene era.

Prof. Beck is known as the leading authority in this state on the identification of petrified wood. He is always generous in answering questions. It is necessary to examine cell structure under a microscope before positive identification, but Dr. Beck's experience makes him an able judge even in the field.

This identification has an outstanding place in the study of Washington woods, as petrifaction has occurred in such a way as to leave perfect cell structure in a great deal of it. Even the coloring is often so true to type that jewelry made of it could easily be mistaken for genuine wood instead of the rock that it has become, if it were not for the beautiful high gloss of the polish.

Wood from the Saddle Mountain area is particularly fine in this respect. The Ginkgo State Park, which was discovered by Prof. Beck in 1931 and established as a state park in 1935, comprises an area of about 7,000 acres which Highway 10 crosses just west of the Columbia River at Vantage. No other forest in the world is known to have been buried in liquid lava. No collecting is allowed there, but this is only the heart of a country which is liberally supplied with petrified wood.

The most accessible hunting spot and easiest to find by map is the locality in the Saddle Mountains, just across the river from Vantage to the east and south, through Beverly and up Crab Creek. At a place called Smyrna there lives a fine rockhound, Gilbert C. Morgan, known as the "Saddle Mountain Goat." I would advise anyone strange to the place to look up Gil and see his collection and get the latest information on hunting. He is always willing to help another rockhound find a location. There seems to be plenty of wood for everyone, and lots of variety.

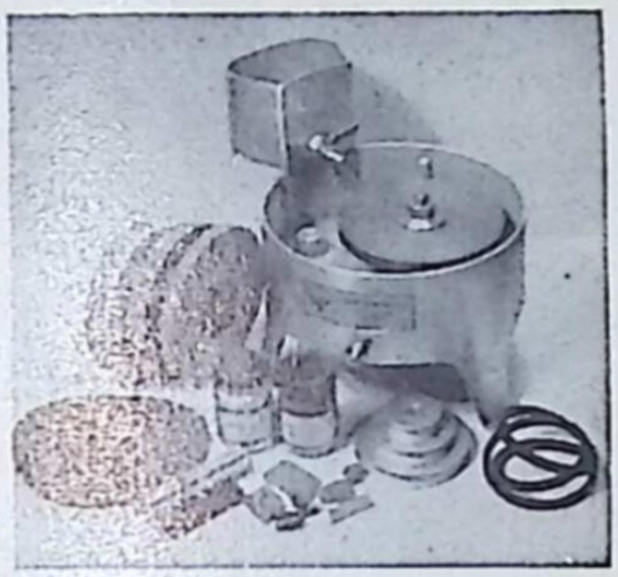
The wood is found at four different levels on Saddle Mountain, according to

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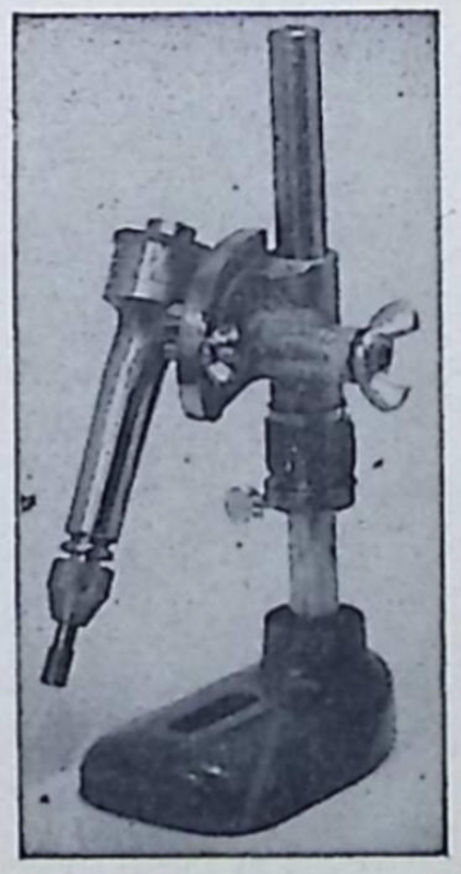
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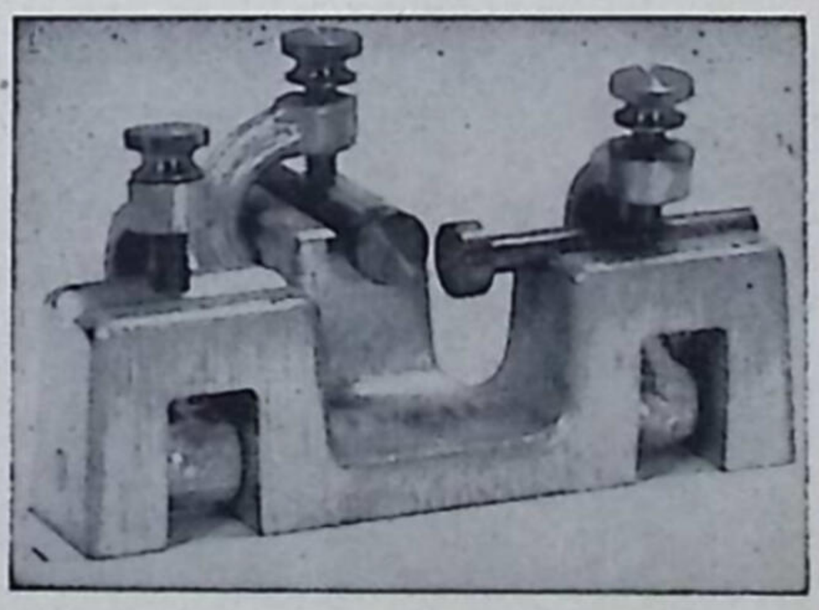


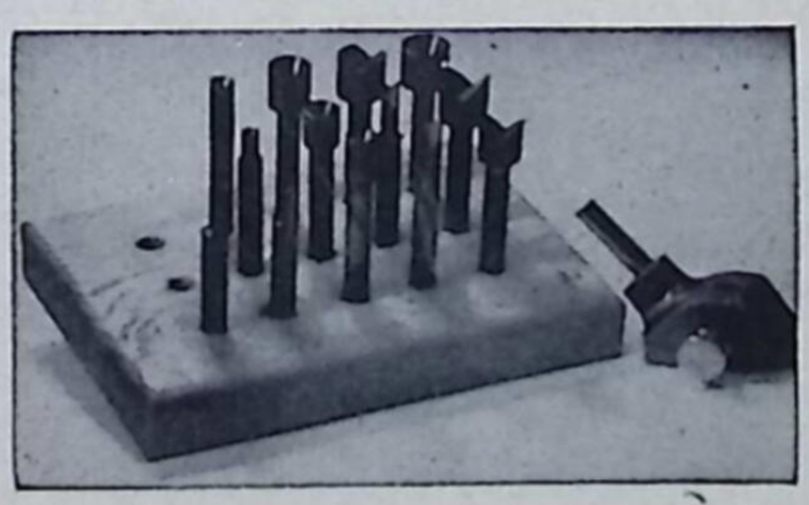
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Display of many kinds of Washington petrified wood from the extensive collection of Tom Rollinger of Tacoma, Wash.

Morgan, but the main find is from Crab Creek bridge to two miles east of the Ice Cave, about two-thirds of the way up the hillside. It is in hard basalt and in basalt mixed with clay that has been weathered out. Smaller pieces have usually tumbled down the hillsides and washed out onto the level, so there is a little hunting to be had without climbing.

It is well to wear boots and be on guard for rattlesnakes. A three-cornered hoe is a help as you can make a lot of noise as you go along, and also use it to turn over rocks before picking them up. The noise frightens the snakes and they hide. I have never seen one there but they probably hide when they see me coming!

The Ice Cave is a natural phenomenon as the name suggests. There is ice at all times although the thermometer outside goes so high it seems impossible —this is a veritable Nature's Icebox.

Mr. Boeh of Smyrna has fenced the Saddle Mountain locality recently but he will permit hunting as long as the rockhounds will park their cars on the highway, and if they do not start fires or in other ways act like unwelcome guests. A few who disregard the common rules of courtesy could spoil it for all the rest, or for their own return. One cattleman told a group of rockhounds that leaving paper, especially oiled paper from lunches, often caused the death of cattle. It is little wonder that rockhounds are ruled out in many places. Another owner almost closed his place completely after some dealers, who had gone in with a rockhound group, returned with trucks and dynamite and took out several loads of rock, leaving holes that were dangerous to his stock.

Another famous location, which is on the west side of the Columbia river, is known as the Badger Pocket area. It is said to be generally included in government target grounds and so it is closed for the present. From it has come literally tons of beautiful opalized log sections, as well as a great variety of identifiable woods. I should definitely advise anyone who wanted to hunt there to contact a local rockhound who knows the area and make the trip with him for the first time. There are several roads into Badger Pocket territory. Even those

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H. C. Brown and S. Elroy McCaw of Bremerton examine some of Brown's extensive wood collection. Bird bath is made of petrified wood.

who know the place moderately well often cannot find their way back to some particular spot for more choice material, discovered after cutting a piece of wood that turned out to be fine.

This was true in the case of the picturewood owned by Harold Klokker of Bremerton. None of this type had been found there previously so it was totally unexpected. When he tried to return to the same place, bulldozers had already cut new roads and he could not locate the spot. Like the other area, however, there is an abundance of wood, and no one needs to return empty handed from his search.

Another favorite wood hunting locality for the annual *All Rockhounds Pow Wow* has been a hill to the west of the old Hanford cut-off near a place known to rockhounds as The Woodpile. This is in stock country and it is absolutely necessary for collectors to contact those who own or lease the land, before they go in. If this is done it is well worth the effort, as the wood there is likely to be fracture free and of excellent quality, with swirls of cream in warm brown, translucent agate. While this is not always identifiable, it is most beautiful lapidary material. Limb sections here are sometimes found in moist yellow clay, but logs and broken pieces are plentiful on the surface.

Contrary to expectation buried wood is not best suited for immediate working. In Ginkgo Park excavations it was found that the wood was not as hard, not as well "cured" one might say, as the surface wood. After exposure to the air, the wood will harden. This led to the theory that the formation was something of a jell at one time. The surface wood is exposed to weathering and disintegration, so rock hunters are not actually spoiling anything when they pack it off and turn it into beautiful jewelry.

Central Washington wood is noted for its fine quality and it grows more intriguing the more one studies it. The rockhound should not expect to find showy looking material, as much of the beauty is brought out by cutting and polishing. Those who hunt it grow to love the rough bark and natural wood appearance and the never ending variety—and the specimen that is just ahead over the next hill. Excellent petrified wood is found in the southern part of

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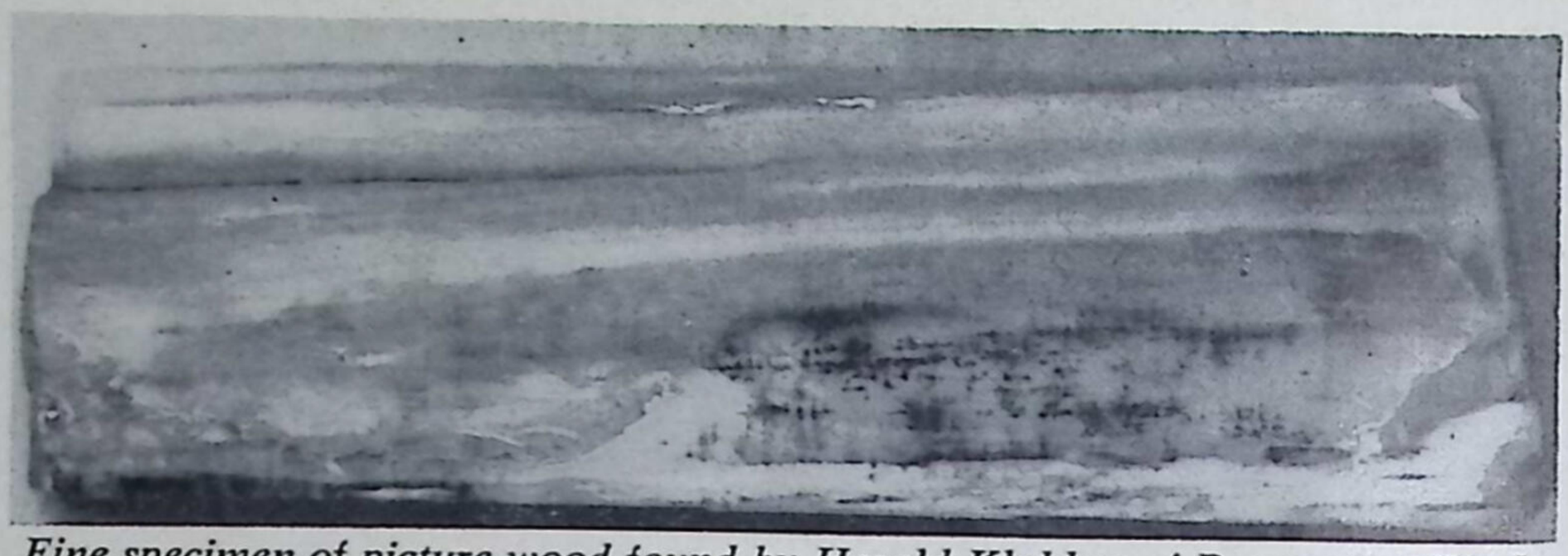
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Fine specimen of picture wood found by Harold Klokker of Bremerton, Wash. When he returned for more he could not locate the spot.

the state at Roosevelt where the *All Rockhounds Pow Wow* held its Fall field trip in 1952.

The Spring field trip in 1953 will be on the west side of the Cascades in the Silver Lake area. Some wood is found up the Newaukum River, but those who are hunting wood will be wiser to stick to the more plentiful Central Washington location. The Silver Lake area is best known for its carnelian, usually badly fractured, but excellently colored material.

Petrified wood is found on the west side of the Cascades, but it is usually of poor quality from the standpoint of the lapidary. A beautiful fossil palm leaf imprint several feet long can be seen on the Chuckanut Drive just after you pass Oyster Creek going north towards Bellingham. Logs are also found in Whatcom county but the material seems to be a slate-like formation, very brittle and easily falls apart.

Teredo wood is found on the north end of the Olympic Peninsula at a place called Twin. This is good fluorescent material and it takes a polish of a sort, but it is not of lapidary quality.

There are many fine collections of petrified wood to be viewed by visiting rockhounds. Mr. Carl N. Clinesmith of Ellensburg can show you petrified hickory nuts from some ancient cache. Mr. Peter Tjossem is famous for his fine gavels, the heads of which are made of petrified wood, the handles of matching natural wood. Mr. Tom Rollinger of Tacoma, Washington, has an outstanding collection of identified woods. One of these is an acacia, reportedly of the same variety of wood as was in the Holy Cross. The acacia tree is standing in solid basalt near the main highway from Yakima to Ellensburg. It was first identified by Dr. Beck and later by the Smithsonian Institution.

Mr. Basil Mulford, of the *Tenino Rock Cruisers,* has some truly wonderful slides, part of them projections through thin slices of actual rocks. Other rockhounds, including Mr. C. W. Cowan of Everett, have slides to show.

There are many varieties of wood in these collections, sweet gum, cypress, redwood, palm, cedar, maple, spruce, elm, bay, locust, oak, birch, ginkgo, ironwood, sycamore, walnut and so forth, to mention only a few of the 300 or more varieties that may be found. The uses range from jewelry to rockgarden material and bird baths as shown in the work of H. C. Brown, of Bremerton.

Oddities, such as the nuts and ant-egg clusters, worm holes and even a long-horn boring beetle, have been found. There are opalized chunks that are known as "bog," which contain many interesting things—twigs, limb sections, roots, and grass embedded like fruit in jello. These also take a fine polish and make excellent specimens or book ends.

About seventeen years ago Mr. and Mrs. Peabody of Seattle found the Blue Lake rhinoceros, the only one embedded in lava that is known in the world. Not knowing what they had, they took some bones to the Central Washington College of Education but, not finding Dr. Beck there they then took them to the University at Seattle. When Dr. Beck caught up with them the real value of the find became known.

A wonderful story of petrified wood was carried in the *Ellensburg Daily Record* of Sept. 1, 1951. It was written by Dr. Beck and tells the imaginary life story of an ancient oak tree, weaving the descriptions of climate, flora



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Above — Petrified wood sphere of Tom Rollinger.
Below — Unusual log section.



and fauna into the tale, and carrying it through the time of the flood and lava flows to the eventual unearthing in our time. The history of the Ginkgo State Park, from the finding of the first ginkgo leaf imprint to the discovery of the first log with its cache of nuts, is also told, as is the theory of petrifaction, to the best of present knowledge.

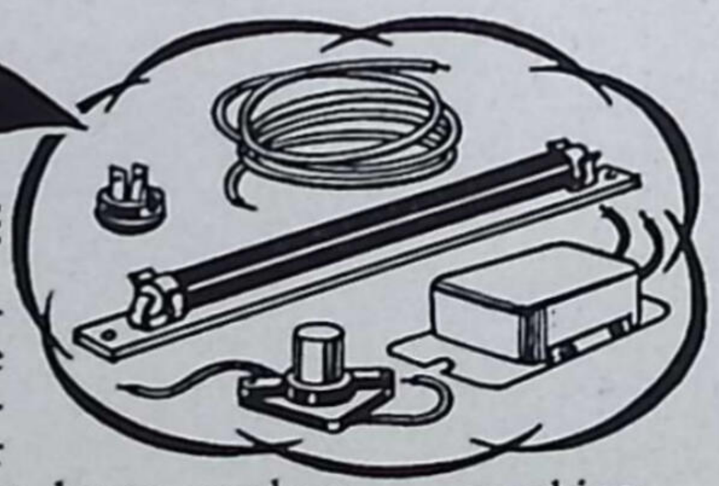
Rockhounds who wish to add Washington petrified wood to their collections would do well to attend the *All Rockhounds Pow Wow* which is held at Vantage over the Fourth of July each year. At this meeting local men take groups into the field on collecting trips and no time is wasted in hunting places for these men pick their spots ahead of time to assure the best hunting possible. Arrow heads and Indian artifacts of wood are often found in searching the sands of the Columbia River or at the base of the cliffs.

The Ginkgo Petrified Forest State Park Museum is located on the hill above Vantage and is easily available to rockhounds camped at the Pow Wow. Professor Beck sometimes conducts groups through the park and is expected to take out at least one party at the Pow Wow this year. It is a privilege to listen to anyone who knows the field so thoroughly — and tells about it so interestingly.

One could hardly do better than to start at the Ginkgo Park Museum to learn all about the wood and then join the *Pow Wow* for field trips and association with fellow rockhounds.

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◆ Rock Hunting in Utah

By ALBERT L. HUBERT
Springdale, Utah

So you are one of those guys that your neighbors look at and feel sorry for and think that you may get over it? They look at you and say that you did not used to act like you do now. Don't feel so bad about that, for if you watch them you will see that they too have TICKS. That is what they say about you.

So your feet itch on the bottom and you can't sit down any more for very long? You get your camp outfit out and air it out.

Very well, if you are that bad off what is holding us back so let's start at the southwest corner or Utah and I will try to show you so many places or tell you about them, that you will think all I ever did was just travel.

Turn northwest from Castle Cliff station, just four miles north of the Arizona line and take the gravel road to the upper Beaver Dam wash. Some fine water-washed boulders of "wonder stone" are found along the wash. They make fine book ends and spheres. There are some small pieces of wood there and some fine jasper. You can find some nice white gypsum crystals in the wash.

Drive back to the Cliff Station and on to St. George, Utah. If you wish to visit a nice large vein of clear selenite, go seven miles south to the Arizona line. Turn up a small wash there on a side road and there is a vein 100 feet wide.

Watch for cavities in the vein, for in them you find some of the finest coral-like white gypsum crystals you will ever see. They are all shapes and sizes and very fantastic. The selenite comes in blocks within the vein and they are hard to get out in blocks. You can get some fine pieces out and they carve well.

North of St. George, at Central, there is a very large deposit of basalt and you can find the best grade of blue banded agate there that you will get any place. It is as good as any Brazilian agate you can buy. It takes color well and there are nodules of all sizes up to 60 lbs., the biggest agate I have ever seen from there. I had one that weighed 50 lbs. and it cut slabs that measured 65 inches to the slab and very well banded. One nodule cut fine butterfly wings and I have the best pair of the wings that I got out of it. They measure over 40 inches each and have a fine lacy pattern.

This basalt is the hardest stuff I ever tried to work, and you just find agates in the cavities. I know of two men who found 500 lbs. of them in one cavity and then worked two days before they found any more. I found some nice onces in a wash that runs south from there and I have been told that there are some to the north around the big peaks.

In the lava rock on the hills you may find some pieces and some small nodules, but most of it is broken but it is good for cabochons. Most of it is banded and you will find some clear agate good for coloring.

North from St. George you go west of Cedar City to New Castle where there are some fine star agates of all sizes up to two feet in diameter and all geodes. They fluoresce bright green because of an opal coating inside. They are not cutting material.

Seven miles north of Cedar City, at the small town of Summit, Carl Walker has some fossil onyx that is pink, because of inclusions of pink oysters in masses. This is one of finest materials for book ends and spheres and even the meat of the oyster is well shown.

I used to get some extra fine agate in Blue Valley, just south of Beaver but it has all been picked up by the rockhounds. I have about 500 lbs. of it and it is black agate with blue bands. Some of it has cross bands, fine for cameo agates. This stuff has great contrast and you will like it. You may find some in the washes below the deposit.

Northwest of Cove Fort are the snowflake obsidian deposits, well known to most of you. There is also the "blizzard," and "milky way" obsidian, with the flakes massed or connected. There you find the mahogany and black ob-

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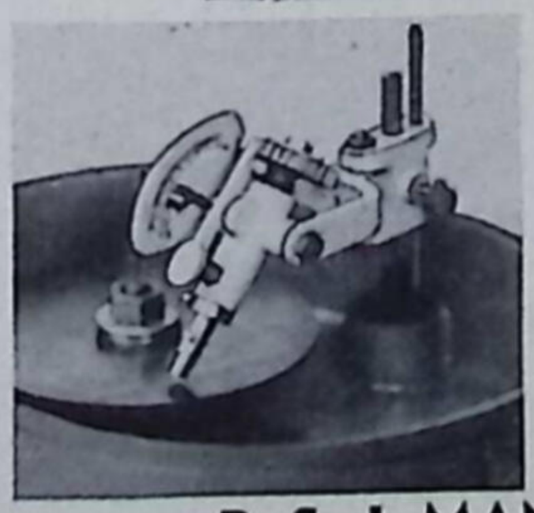




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sidian in many places with the snowflake variety. I have been told about some red flaked obsidian and am going out as soon as possible to find out about it and get some if it really exists. Turn east from Cove Fort, up Clear Creek canyon, and take an old road to the south. You will find some fine dendrite that has all manner of trees and ferns pictured on it. I have seen some of the Levan agate and it is much like the Blue Valley agate, but I have never been to the deposit.

Turn east from Salina and go up Salina Canyon, or to Redmond to the salt mine and get some crystal salt that is as clear as glass and will fracture in cubes. It makes fine book ends and paper weights. Don't try to cut it in oil as it will spoil it. Just break it at right angles with a small axe, large knife or hammer.

West from Salina there is a bed of fine cream-colored onyx that has veins or bands. Mr. Burns at the saddle shop or Mr. Brown on North Main St. can tell you about it and show you where it is.

In Salina Canyon two miles east there are some fine agates in a narrow side canyon. To the south is some greenish onyx but it is hard to get high up on the ledges.

Enter Emery County and to the east of the highway there is the big reef. There you find some nice dinny bone (dinosaur bone), wood and agates.

This is a big country for strangers to venture in alone. Stay out if it rains for it is like traveling on grease on those wet roads. That reef runs for fifty miles north and there are a few places where good stuff can be found.

At one old dinny quarry I found some nice specimen bone and got a fine well-preserved dinny tooth. On the way out I found a nice vein of blue agate in all sizes and some good jasper-agates.

On the cut-off road, between Castle Dale and Green River, there are a few places where you can get some dinny bone, wood and some agate. It is not plentiful but it is all good cutting material. The Vernal rockhounds all come down into Emery or Grand Counties to get the good bone they sell in their shops. Northeast of Vernal there is some fine river agatized wood for good cutting found in the gravel deposits. Some of it is opalized and it is all small pieces.

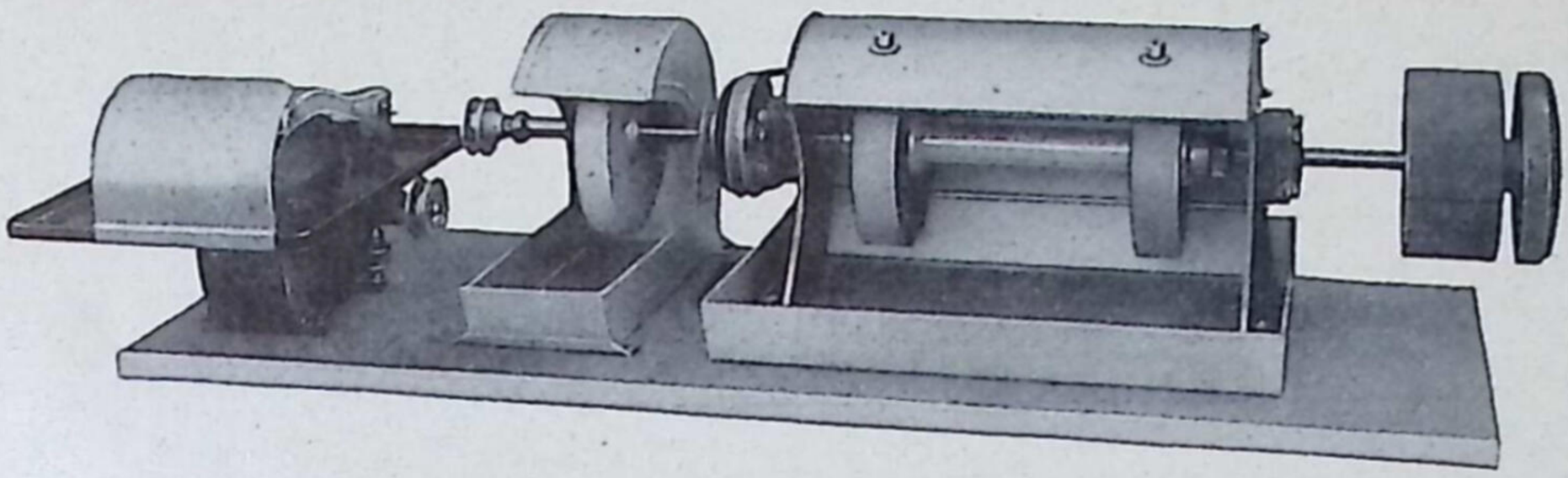
West of there, at Heber City, they find some very well colored opalized fluorescent wood, but most of it is badly fractured. One can get some cabs out of the better pieces and it is fine for your lamp set or fluorescent collection. There are some agates there and they have a bird's eye granite there that cuts up for bookends and spheres.

North of Moab there used to be some good bone, wood and agates, but they have nearly all been gathered by the Colorado and Vernal rockhounds.

There is some material around Greenriver. In fact the gravel beds where ever you go yield some wood, bone and agates of all kinds. They are all river washed and are solid. I found a nice piece of black bone in a gravel pit at Woodside that had been tossed on the boulder pile. Turn south at Greenriver, towards Hanksville, and stop there at the bridge across the San Rafael River and turn west on the old road for two miles and you can find a little grape and carnelian agate. Three years ago a friend and myself went in there and got some of both kinds but a few weeks later some men reportedly came in there with nine big dump trucks and hauled it out and now you cannot find much there. When we were there the ground was covered with material.

On the rolling hill on the road to Hanksville you can sometimes find some pigeon blood agates and the barite agates, usually very fine. Many miles of that road is paved or graveled with red agate in small pieces that have weathered out. You may find a few pieces of wood along the road. Northeast and east of Hanksville there is some good bone and wood and west of the Henry Mountains there is some very fine bone, wood, and agate. As far east as the Colorado River there are places where one can find good gem rocks.

West of Hanksville there is a bed of small clam shells that is hundreds of feet thick and it runs for miles. In the top part of the hills along the road there is a vein of water washed pebbles that look like dinosaur gizzard stones, the way they have been water polished. They are all agate and of all colors. They are the finest lot of cutting material I have ever seen. You will want

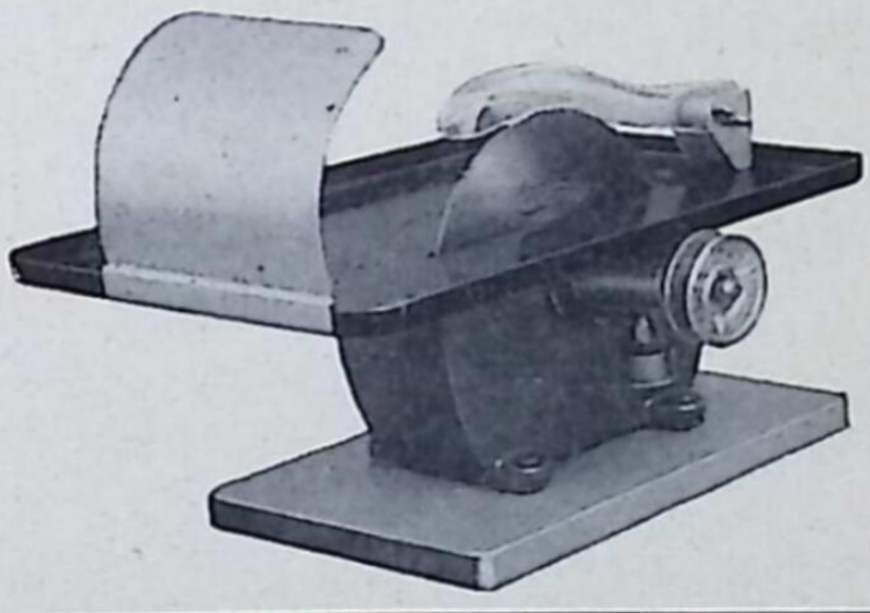


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to take all you can find, and I don't blame you. None of them are over three inches through and long. They are very fine and one can get a lot of them in many places although they may have to be packed a few hundred yards. The little clam shells are so interesting that you can't pull yourself away from them. They are lime and not agatized, as are some shells.

A few miles west of there we come to a low cut between two hills. On those hills we will find wood, agates and some fine gem conglomerate. Some pieces weigh hundreds of pounds. Some of the wood is well colored. It is a hard place to leave and you would like to linger.

The Circle Cliffs are south of Wayne Wonderland and people are getting some fine wood and agates there, since they have made some roads. They are mining uranium there now and one can get in there. Stay out in the flood season for you may not get out. The wood is not too outstanding but they are getting some good material in some places. You will need a jeep or four wheel drive at this spot.

Near Torrey we can get some red and black wood that is fine for bookends, and there are a lot of big pieces there. There is lots more of it in some places but the best is back from the road and has to be packed in.

We turn south of Torrey to go over the Boulder Mountains but there is little gem material there; at least I could never find any. It is now best to go to Bicknell and then go south to Escalante and work the hills along the road for some good bone, wood and agate.

Southeast of Escalante there is a white sandstone ledge that is full of black iron balls that are volcanic sandstone. They are molten sand on the outside and full of white sand inside. They are some times 8″ in diameter and some are broken open and make fine ash trays. Some are twins and triplets and even the four lobed kind, or quads.

Take the lower road to Henrieville for, along the road, we can find some more iron or sand balls and also some fine septrian nodules. In one or two places we will find some fine ammonites in the septrian nodules or near them. These ammonites are small but are very hard shelled and very nice. Some fine

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oyster shell and a few turritella shells, loose from the others and very hard like the others.

In a few places from there along the road to Cannonville and Tropic there are some fine fossils and nodules. If you have time, walk north four miles and take a look at some 15 to 20 foot sharks sticking out of the sandstone ledge. North of Cannonville there are some "pink turtles." You may laugh at that for you will no doubt think of pink elephants. They are nice and not too large but come in pink standstone.

You now come to Bryce Canyon National Park where you may wish to spend two days looking; you could spend two weeks and still enjoy it. We are now on the down-hill side and you may wish to stop long enough for pictures.

We go on to Hatch, for that is on the road home and we have some places to look at there. J. A. Fallis has some of the best green travertine or onyx and it is fine green banded and makes the best spheres and bookends and lamp bases you ever will see. He owns and works the only deposit and is not high priced.

West of there I found a vein of green, red, blue and yellow agate and if you take time to work back into the vein you will get some very fine gem material. It is a long vein.

A mile and a half south we will stop at Mammoth Creek. On both sides of the creek, west of the bridge, is a fine lot of onyx of many colors. It is scenic and comes in large blocks.

On the way south we come to Alton Junction where you can get some good septrians. North of town there is a ten foot vein of fossil fish. Well preserved shells have been dug that measure 12″ long, 8″ wide and 6″ deep for each half. There are many fish of all kinds.

The next town on Highway 89 is Glendale. East of there are some fine septrians. North of Mt. Carmel they have taken hundreds of truck loads of fine septrians and if you find any you will have to pack them a long way. You may dig for them in the ridges but they are not too easy to find. There are some nice large ammonites found with them and in them. At Mt. Carmel Junction, north of the oil tank you can get some fine sections of crinoid, many of them up to 3″ long and in many sizes. On the way to Zion National Park, at Big Mineral, we can go north to the farms and find some fine ammonites and septrians and other fossils. We are now at Zion Park and my home at nearby Springdale. You will want to take plenty of time to see the park for you can spend many delightful days there. We remind you that rock collecting is prohibited in all National Parks.

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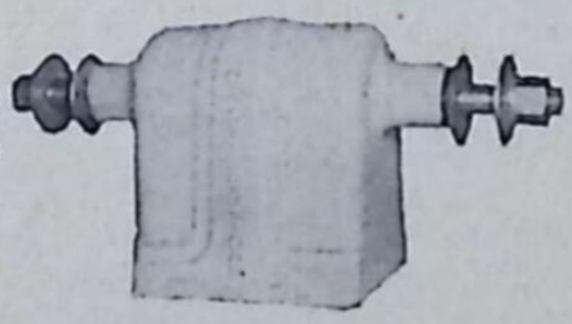


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Calendar of Events

April 4-5—Annual Rock Show sponsored by the Yermo Chamber of Commerce. To be held in the Yermo School. For commercial space apply to Myron Folsom, Box 22, Yermo, Cal.

April 5 and for an indefinite period. A jade exhibit sponsored by the San Joaquin Pioneer Museum & Haggin Art Gallery at Victory Park in Stockton, Calif.

April 11-12—Rock and Hobby Show. To be held in the National Guard Armory, 310 S. 4th St., El Centro, Calif. Sponsored by IMPERIAL VALLEY GEM & MINERAL SOC.

April 18-19—Gem and Mineral Show to be held at the cafeteria at the Fresno County Fair Grounds, (Chance St. entrance). 12 to 9 p.m. Sponsored by FRESNO GEM & MINERAL SOCIETY.

April 18-19—Fifth annual competitive gem and mineral show of the MINERAL & GEM SOCIETY OF CASTRO VALLEY to be held at Hayward High School, Hayward, Calif. Noon to 10 p.m. on the 18th; 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. on the 19th.

April 18-19—Eighth annual gem and jewelry show of the SAN JOSE LAPIDARY SOCIETY in the Women's Club, 75 S. 11th St., San Jose, Calif. Feature will be a rose window of transparencies.

April 25-26—Sixteenth annual show of the SOUTHWEST MINERALOGISTS to be held at the Ebell Women's Club, 7101 S. Menlo Ave. (Corner of Florence), Los Angeles, Calif.

May 1-2-3—Convention and show of the ROCKY MOUNTAIN FEDERATION OF MINERALOGICAL SOCIETIES at Houston, Texas. See full account on page 46 and ad on page 35.

May 1-2-3—Third annual Rock Show of the BRAWLEY GEM & MINERAL SOC. to be held outdoors in Plaza Park with a field trip into Old Mexico.

May 9-10—First annual show of SAN JOAQUIN VALLEY GEM & MINERAL SOC. at the San Joaquin County Fair Grounds at Stockton, Calif. Camping and parking on grounds. For commercial space address Mrs. Dorothy Norris, 1019 School St., Stockton, Calif.

May 9-10—Fourth annual show of the GEM & MINERAL SOCIETY OF SAN MATEO COUNTY to be held at the Fair and Fiesta Building, 2501 Pacific Blvd., San Mateo, Calif.

May 16-17—Annual show of the GLENDALE LAPIDARY & GEM SOCIETY to be held in the Glendale Civic Auditorium on Verdugo Rd. opposite Glendale College.

May 23-24—Annual show of the EAST BAY MINERAL SOCIETY to be held in the Masonic Bldg., 6670 Foothill Blvd., Oakland, Calif.

June 5-6—Wyoming State Convention of mineral and gem societies to be held at Junior High School in Cheyenne, Wyo. Sponsored by CHEYENNE MINERAL & GEM SOC. Dealers contact W. H. Sigler, 420 W. 1st Ave., Cheyenne.

June 13-14—Gem show of the ROGUE RIVER GEM & GEOLOGY CLUB at Grants Pass, Ore.

June 26-27-28—Convention and show of the MIDWEST FEDERATION OF MINERALOGICAL & GEOLOGICAL SOCIETIES to be held at St. Louis University High School, 4970 Oakland Ave., St. Louis, Mo., with *Saint Louis Mineral & Gem Society* as host. For commercial space address W. H. Vesper, Jr., 109 Gray Ave., Webster Groves, Mo. See ad on page 35.

June 29 through July 26—Sarasota Summer Festival of Arts. $750 in cash awards for crafts. Apply to Kenneth Hilliard, Director.

July 17-18-19—Joint annual show and convention of the AMERICAN FEDERATION OF MINERALOGICAL SOCIETIES and the CALIFORNIA FEDERATION OF MINERALOGICAL SOCIETIES with the *San Diego Mineral and Gem Society* as host. To be held at Balboa Park, San Diego, Calif. For information regarding commercial space write to Roddy Marshall, Box 65, El Cajon, Calif. See ad on page 13.

August 14-15-16—The first annual gem and jewelry show of the LAPIDARY ASSOCIATION, an association of societies emphasizing lapidary and jewelry work in their activities. The first show will be sponsored by the *Delvers Society* (Downey, Calif.), the *Long Beach Mineral and Gem Society*, the *San Pedro Lapidary Society* and the *Compton Gem and Mineral Club*. The show will be held in the Long Beach Municipal Auditorium and it will undoubtedly be the most important gem and jewelry show in 1953. For commercial space address Thomas Warren, 145 Pasadena Ave., South Pasadena, Calif. Commercial space will be handled by the *American Gem and Mineral Suppliers Ass'n.* Official convention address is Lapidary Association, Box 9053, Cabrillo Station, Long Beach 10, Calif.

August 23—Ninth Annual Rockhounds' Rendezvous to be held at Gem Village, Bayfield, Colo.

August 26-30—Sixth Annual Gem & Mineral Show of the HEMET-SAN JACINTO ROCKHOUNDS to be held at the Farmers Fair at the Hemet Fair Grounds on Florida Ave. in Hemet, Calif.

September 5-6-7 (Labor Day week end)—Annual convention and show of the NORTHWEST FEDERATION OF MINERALOGICAL SOCIETIES to be held in the Municipal Auditorium in Portland, Ore., with the *Oregon Agate and Mineral Society* as host. For detailed information write Mrs. Roy S. Morse, 4857 N.E. Prescott, Portland 13, Oregon. Commercial space will be handled by the *American Gem and Mineral Suppliers Ass'n.* The Editor will speak Saturday, September 5, on *America's Fastest Growing Hobby.*

October 24-25—Annual gem and mineral show of the ORANGE BELT MINERALOGICAL SOC. to be held at the Fair Grounds in San Bernardino, Calif.

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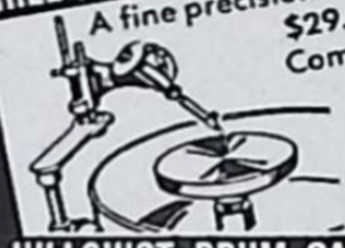
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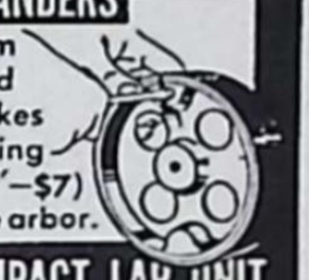
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BRADLEY PURCHASES LAPIDARY EQUIPMENT CO.

Mr. R. D. Bradley, who has been associated with the Lapidary Equipment Co., Inc., of Seattle, Washington, as a stockholder and officer since the business was founded, announces that he has purchased the stock of Karl J. Hillquist, former president of the company. Mr. Hillquist has retired from active business in the lapidary field and plans to spend some time in traveling.

Mr. Bradley becomes President of the Lapidary Equipment Company, Inc., Mr. M. R. Bailey, who is a stockholder and who also has been with the organization as an officer and Director since its beginning, becomes Vice President, and Mrs. Lavonne Forrest assumes the responsibilities of Secretary and Treasurer.

The Lapidary Equipment Company are well known manufacturers of lapidary equipment and have just recently announced the addition of two new items to their line: their *Trimster* trim saw which features a baked porcelain enamel top, and the new *Klimax* lapidary machine which saws, grinds, sands and polishes.

* * *

THE TEXAS STAR SHOW

The combined Annual Show of the Rocky Mountain Federation of Mineral Societies, with the State Mineral Society of Texas as Host, to be held in the Houston Coliseum, Houston, Texas, May 1-2-3, 1953, is now rapidly taking shape, according to Kenneth C. Fry, Show Chairman.

Exhibit space from fourteen states has already been contracted for, and show officials are arranging for outstanding exhibits of gems, minerals, museum collections and other exhibits of scientific interest. Lectures on the program will bring entirely new material to the attention of rockhounds, among them being one series by Dr. F. H. Pough on "Ye Compleat Mineral Cabinet," illustrated with 240 kodachrome slides. Dr. Pough is authoring a new Field Book of Minerals to be published by the Macmillan Co. in May, and this lecture is a pre-view of his book. It will require two 90-minute lectures, and will be a treat well worth hearing and seeing.

Another feature of this show will be the incorporation of industrial exhibits by many large processors of minerals into semi-finished or finished products, showing many of the steps from raw mineral through the various stages of chemical conversion to the final product.

Individual and club exhibits from the 45 rockhound societies of the area will be under the supervision of Domer L. Howard, 1229 N.W. 47th St., Oklahoma City, Okla., Vice-president of the Rocky Mountain Federation. Mr. Howard will also have supervision over competitive entries and judging.

Another feature will be door prizes of finished pieces of jewelry, one from each of the 45 clubs in the area, using a gem stone, either faceted or cabochon, from that particular area. Several very fine faceted gems have already been promised as major prizes to be awarded visitors to the show. Claude D. Pressler, 3309 Rochdale St., Houston, Texas, is Chairman of this committee.

The Houston Show will be staged in the huge Annex of the Coliseum, a building with clear space of over 500 feet in length by 174 feet wide, and a 30 foot ceiling. This is the first major show to be held in the Texas area, and predictions have been made that it will be very widely attended. Many visitors from Mexico and Central America are expected.

Officials have planned a very low admission price of 25c (in order to keep out undesirable elements) and plans call for the 24-hour a day guarding of exhibits by Pinkerton men. Dealer exhibits will be placed in U-shaped spaces, with dealers working from within a protected area, having approximately 30 lineal feet of table per booth. Over five hundred lineal feet of individual and club exhibit space has been provided free, with cases also provided free to clubs in case they are needed.

No field trips or dinners are planned in connection with the show, the distance to good areas being rather great, but officials are planning field-trip information for visitors who may want to hunt either going to or coming from the show.

Being their first big show, Texans are trying to really do it up in big style, characteristic of the state. Hospitality of the typical Texas brand will be evident in helping visiting rockhounds have a good time while visiting the show.

TOURMALINE—BRAZIL

The rich vibrant green that only tourmaline possesses. For cutting brilliant faceted gems; flawless, of fine color. In crystals from ½ to 5 grams $1.75 per gram. A fine polish can be obtained by using Linde "A" ruby powder on a tin lap.

MOONSTONE: (Ceylon.) A term applied only to adularia (precious moonstone) which is a variety of orthoclase and to other semi-transparent to translucent adularescent (milky blue) feldspars of the albite, labradorite, and oligoclase species. This material has a hardness from 6 to 6½ with a two directional cleavage. A high polish can be obtained by using chromium oxide on a felt lap. Pieces from ¼ gram to 1½ grams—50c per gram. This material will cut excellent moons if properly oriented. Since the material is light in weight you can get a fair size stone from the smallest pieces.

OBSIDIAN: (U.S.A.) Brilliant black obsidian with sienna colored seaweed pattern throughout. Pieces from ½ to 7 pounds. "A" quality material that will take a fine polish with cerium oxide on a felt lap. Excellent for cabochons and pendant pieces; also perfect for spheres—$1.25 per pound.

MOSS AGATE: (India.) Translucent, milky-white, with inclusions of green actinolite or other minerals. Often fantastic trees and fern-like. Very fine solid material, plenty of green moss—$4.50 per pound. For best results cut from 2 to 4 mm. thick and polish with cerium oxide on a felt lap.

LAPIS LAZULI: (Afghanistan.) Rich royal blue and white, liberally spangled with pyrites which resemble specks of silver. It has become increasingly scarce and is now sold by the carat, which is unusual for a cabochon stone. It is prized as a birthstone and is frequently referred to in the Bible. Good quality material in small pieces about the size of a large pea to the size of a peach pit—$6.50 per ounce. Takes a high polish with chromium oxide on a leather lap.

GARNET: (South Africa.) Pyrope variety, bright red transparent material for faceting gems of good quality and fine color. In 1 to 3½ gram pieces—60c per gram. This material will polish well with Linde "A" ruby powder on a tin lap.

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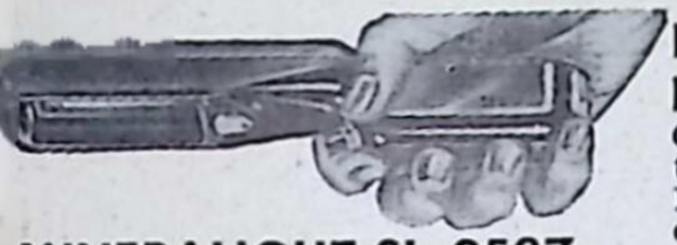
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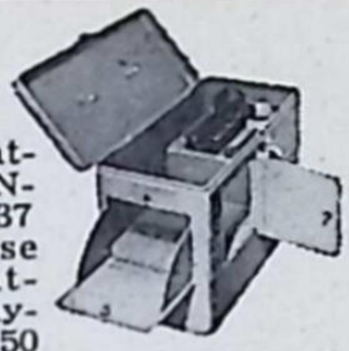
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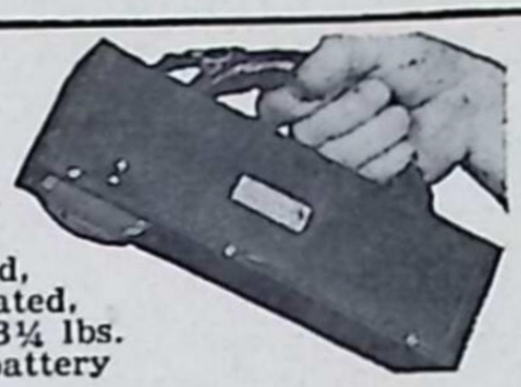
MINERALIGHT SL-2537

All purpose lamp, operates on 10V AC, weighs only 1 lb. $39.50

FIELD CASE No. 404



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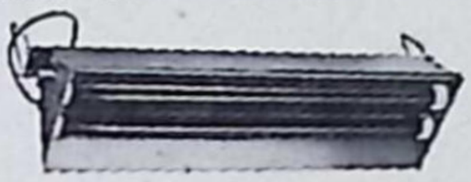


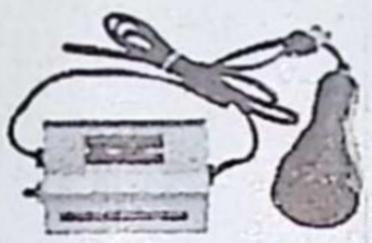
MODEL M-12

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DISPLAY & EXHIBIT UNIT MODEL XX-15 LONG WAVE

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MODEL TH

Has bulb rated at 1000-2000 hours of use with 90-day guarantee. Includes a transformer with switch for continuous high efficiency. Price $17.50. Model H is similar, same bulb, except has resistance cord instead of transformer. Approximately ½ the intensity of the TH. $12.50



MODEL SL-3660—LONG WAVE

110V AC unit. (Can be used as a portable unit for field work in conjunction with Carrying Case Nos. 303, 404, or 505.) Weight 1 lb. $29.50

Some materials fluoresce to short wave lengths and some to long wave lengths. Others will react to both wave lengths but with different color responses. Although practically all commercially important minerals (the ones that have real monetary value) are activated by short wave, many collectors specialize in the more unusual long wave minerals.

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Asterley Ozark Shop
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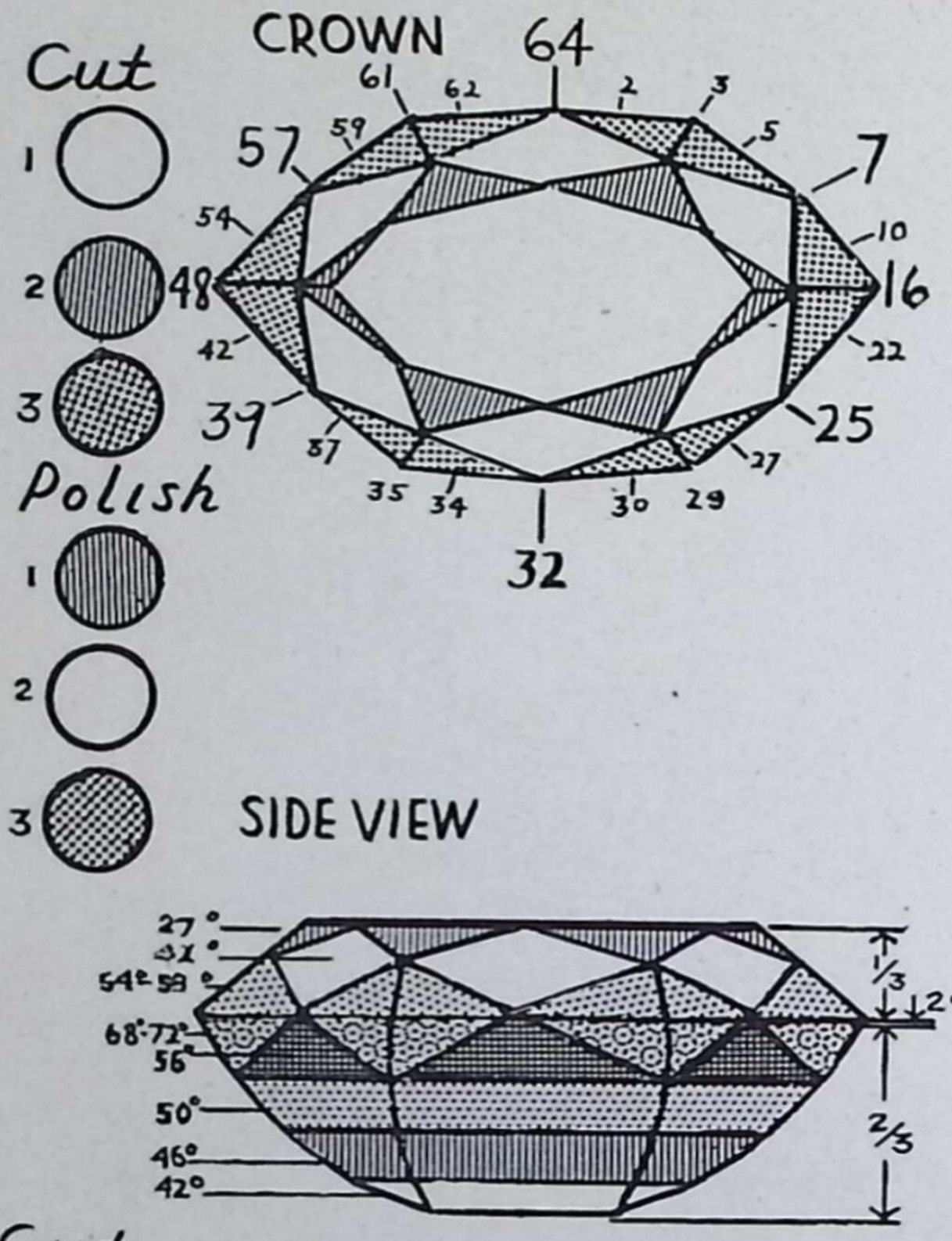
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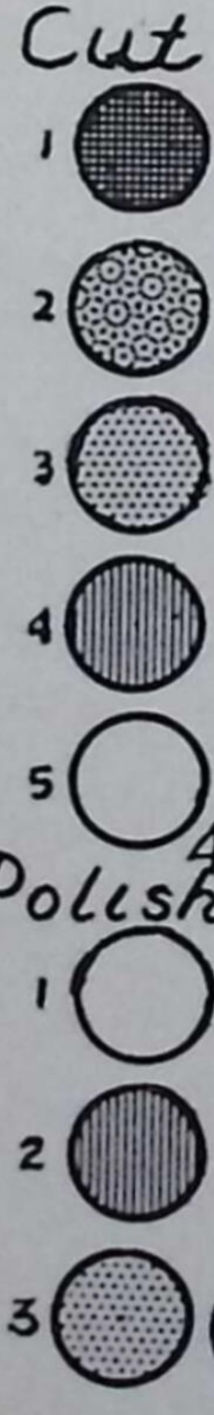
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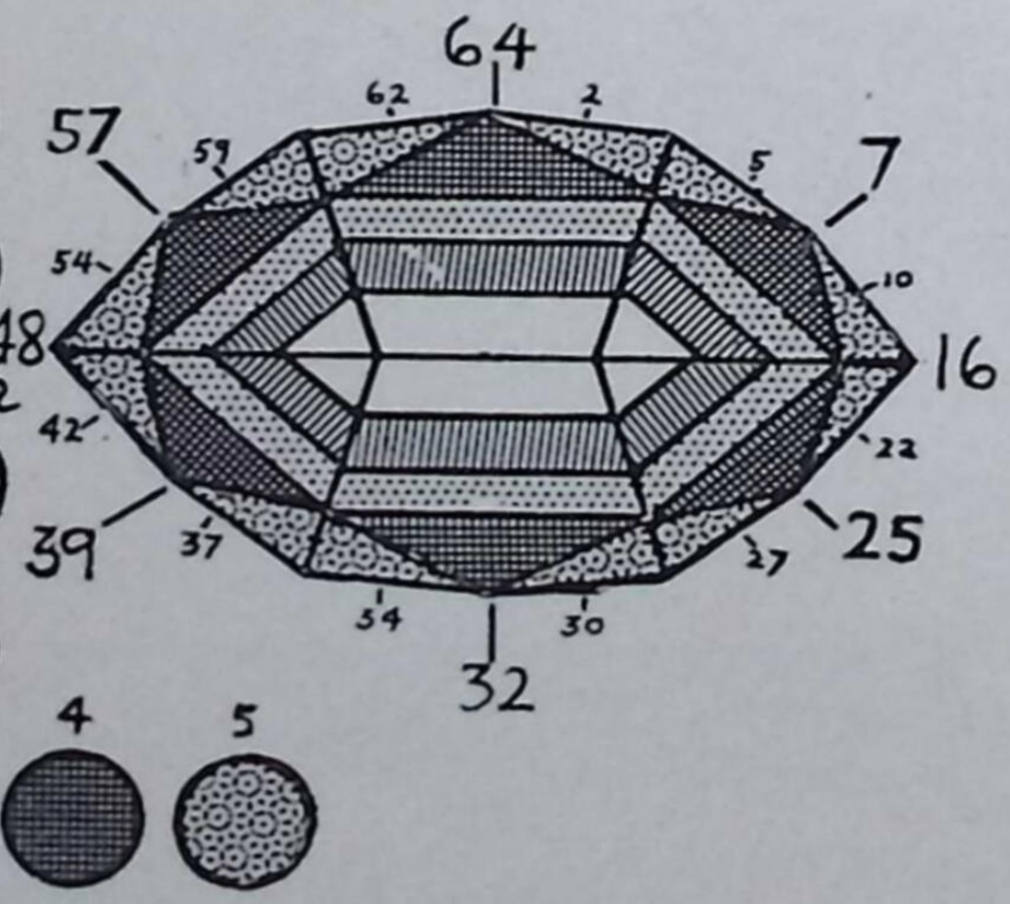
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64 Index

Order of Cutting—Crown
NOTE: After preforming, rough in girdle at 90°, indexing 64-7-25-32-39-57. Do not carry this step too far. Cut and polish table in 45° angle dop approximately 40% of the width of the stone at the girdle.

Grind 1st: Six facets at 42° indexing 64-7-25-32-39-57.

Grind 2nd: Eight facets at 27° indexing 61-3, 35-29, 10-22, 54-42.

Grind 3rd: Four facets at 58° indexing 62-2, 34-30; four facets at 57° indexing 59-5, 37-27; four facets at 54° indexing 10-22, 54-42.

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

Order of Cutting—Pavilion
Grind 1st: Six facets at 56° indexing 64-7-25-32-39-57.

Grind 2nd: Four facets at 72° indexing 62-2, 34-30; four facets at 71° indexing 59-5, 37-27; four facets at 68° indexing 10-22, 54-42.

Grind 3rd: Six facets at 50° indexing 64-7-25-32-39-57.

Grind 4th: Six facets at 46° indexing 64-7-25-32-39-57.

Gring 5th: Six facets at 42° indexing 64-7-25-32-39-57.

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

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By WILLY PETERSEN-FAGERSTAM

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No. 1 (the backing) is made of 20 gauge sterling silver. 4 prongs of 16 gauge sterling silver are soldered as shown in the drawing.

No. 2 (the bill) is sawed from 16 gauge sterling silver and soldered to No. 1.

No. 3 (the feet) are also sawed from 16 gauge sterling silver and filed to shape with a half round needle file. 2 mm. tubing is soldered to the left leg and the right leg has a 2 mm. hole for the tubing to go through.

No. 5 (the eye) is a 2 mm. tube with a bead soldered inside as indicated in 5A. Ream out with a burnisher before soldering the bead in place.

The body of the duck can be made of any gem material but banded agate is suggested. A joint and catch are then soldered to the back for the completed pin.

★ ★ ★

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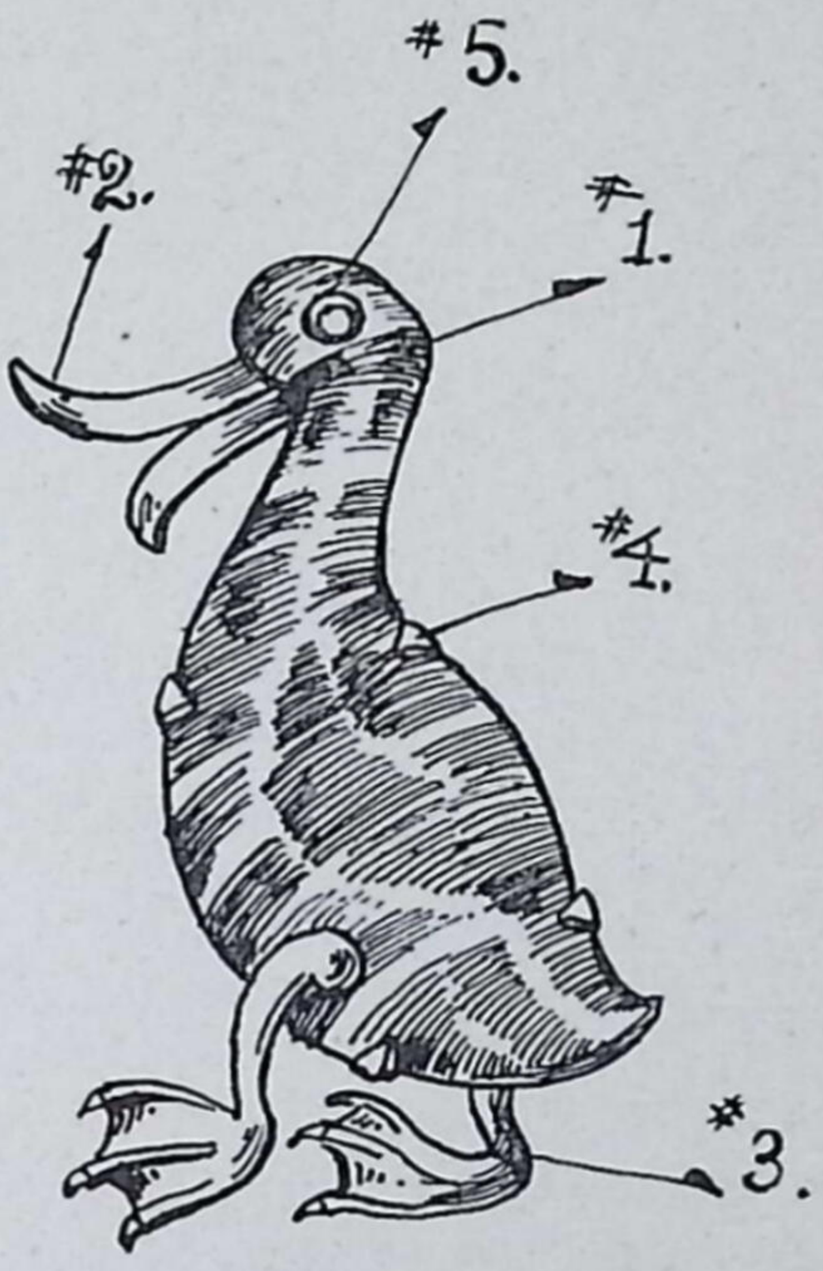
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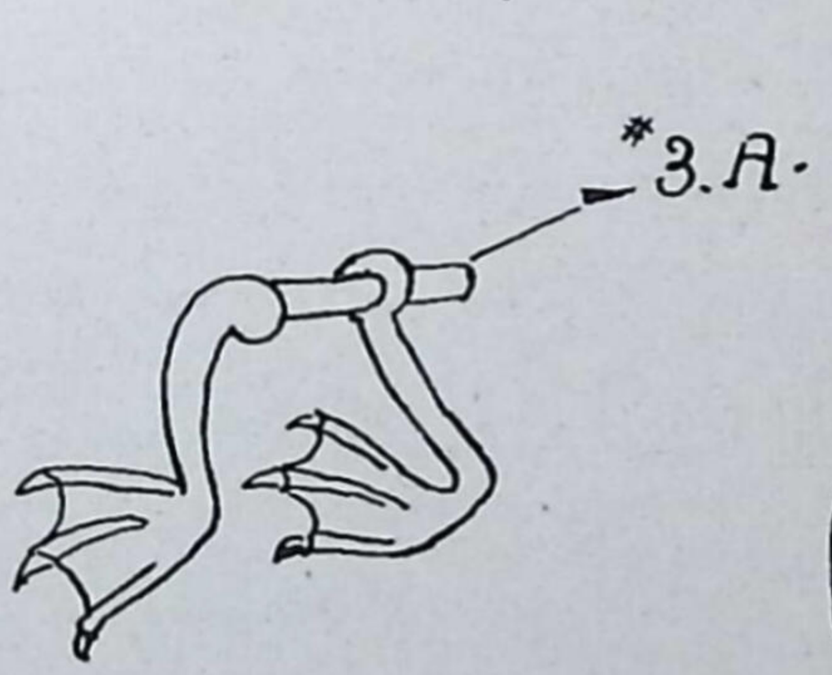
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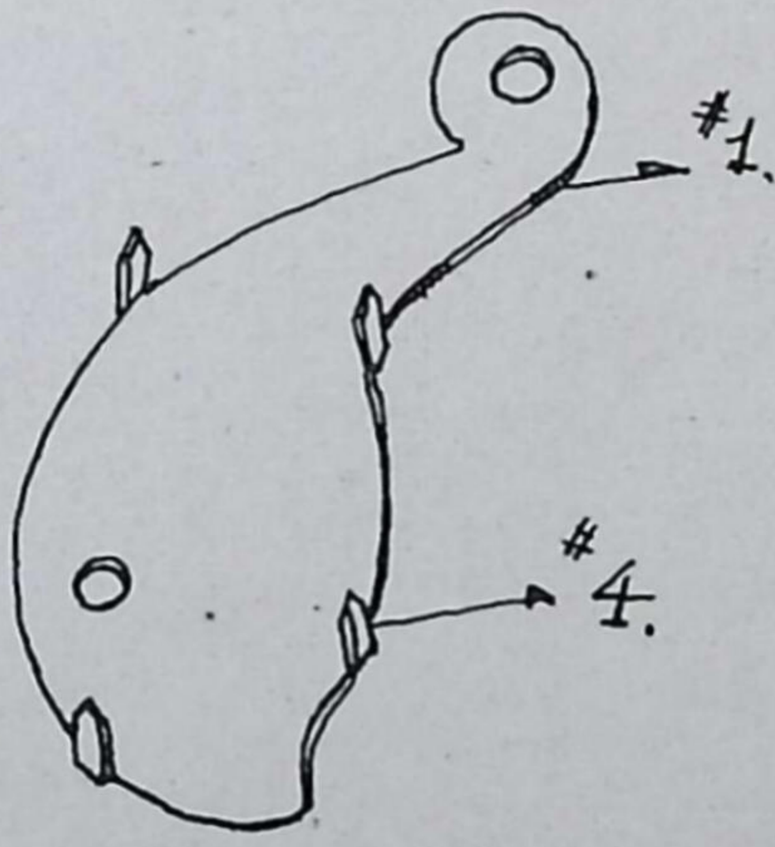
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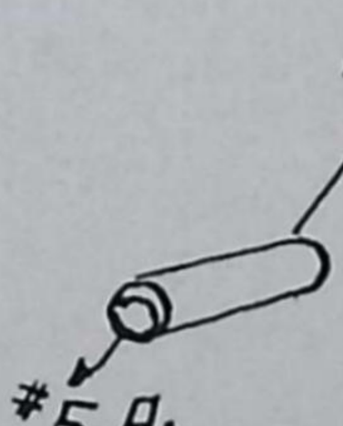
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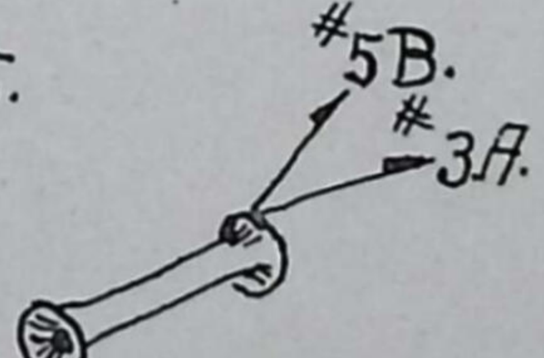












W.F.
2.24.53.

A Yank in the Opal Fields

By J. EDWARD WARWICK
Box 3519, Sydney, Australia

We present the second in a series of articles on the opal fields. This article offers an experience out of the opal mining life of a young American, formerly from Hollywood, and an opal advertiser with us during the last year. We hope to present other opal articles in successive issues for we find that the amateur gem cutter never tires of reading about his favorite gem.

It was late in July and in this land of "down under" it was wet and cold; at least Sydney was. The prospect of my going to desert country, sunny and dry, in mid-winter was a great incentive—if a person needed one besides the prospect of finding opal. Although I had handled opal for a number of years I had never had actual experience in winning it from the ground.

Two of my mad friends, another Yank and an Australian girl, saw me to the train and as it started from the platform they pulled the wrapper from the package they had given me. They howled with glee as I tried to juggle the tangle of horseradish, carrots, beets and spinach. My fellow travelers stared, a bit alarmed, but somehow accepted this bit of eccentricity. For years they would be telling their friends that all Americans ate raw vegetables when on a trip. Once I was offered jam to go with my steak by my host. Apparently during the war some GI put one over.

However we are miles from opal. On through to Melbourne the "San Francisco of Australia." The city is not well known to me but there is a saying in Australia about the three leading cities. In Melbourne they say the people ask you "how much culture do you have?" In Sydney they ask "how much money do you have?" But in Brisbane they say "come on in and have a drink." It's as true here as it is in the States that in the warmer climates people are much friendlier.

Three days on the train and then Adelaide. A delightful, clean and modern town, with quiet, double-decker electric buses and broad streets.

Leaving my suits and good clothes with a friend I put the rest of my things in a burlap bag. At the Department of Mines I obtained my miner's rights for the equivalent of about fifty cents. These gave me permission to peg out an unclaimed area of 150x150′ on the fields in South Australia.

From Adelaide to the Andamooka Opal fields it is about 500 miles, the trail leading through the Woomera Long Range Weapons Depot. From the Pimba Siding, near the rocket range, connections have to be made with the mail truck which makes one trip to the field a week, going over 80 miles of tortuous dirt, sand and gibber road. The main Western Australian train line passes through Pimba. It is like no other service that I have ever been on. The radio broadcasts regular reports on the progress of this modern convenience, as it moves from point to point, stopping only when the brakes seize. The seizers are caused by the climate, they say, and are quite frequent but from my own observations, I would say that the proximity of a pub would have more bearing on the situation—but then again the dry hot weather *could* be blamed for this as throats become parched in the heat.

After spending the night in a vacant coach on a siding in Pimba I humped the burlap bag on my back to where the mail truck was to carry me to Andamooka. It was while I waited for this truck that one of the locals pointed out to me one of the biggest buyers of opal in Australia. I was not over impressed, although on first observation I noted that he did not lack conversation. The mail truck arrived but we had to wait as it picked up various supplies, including eight spring beds. I didn't see how we would all fit on the back but we did.

The day was bright, clear and dry and reminded me of Palm Springs at the foot of San Jacinto, except of course there were no mountains or movie stars. There were movie stars in this vicinity

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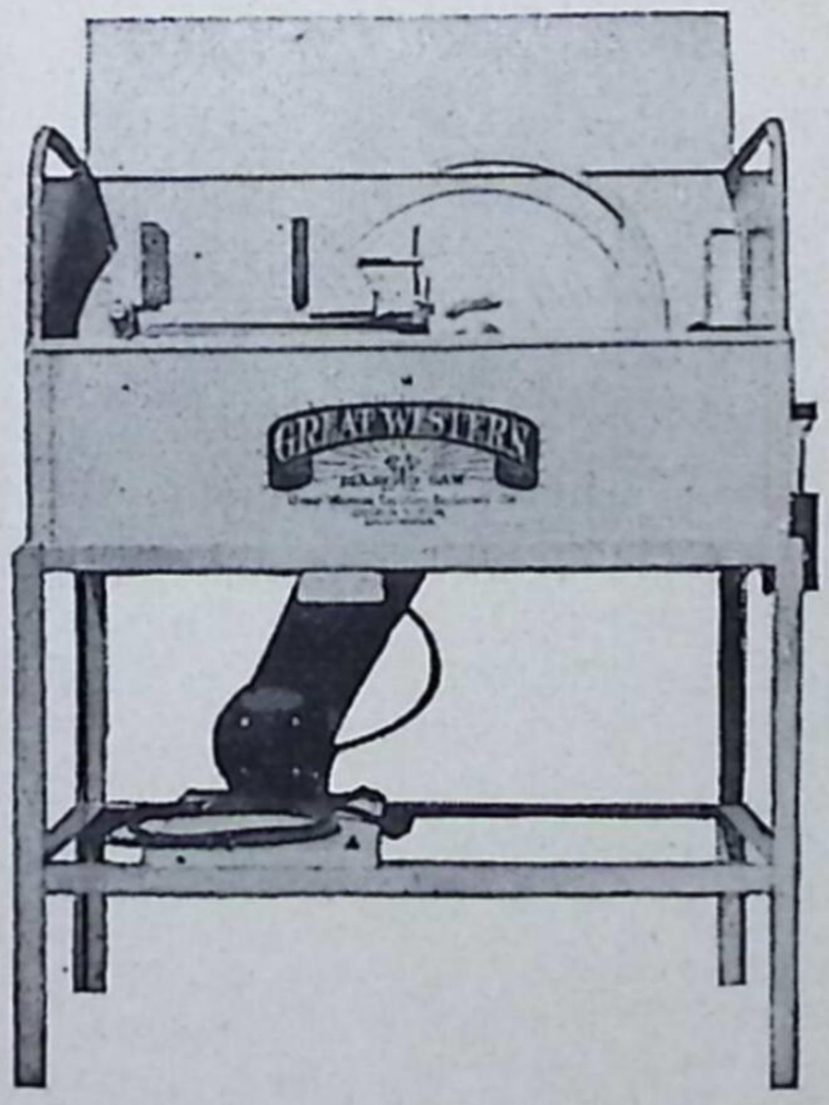
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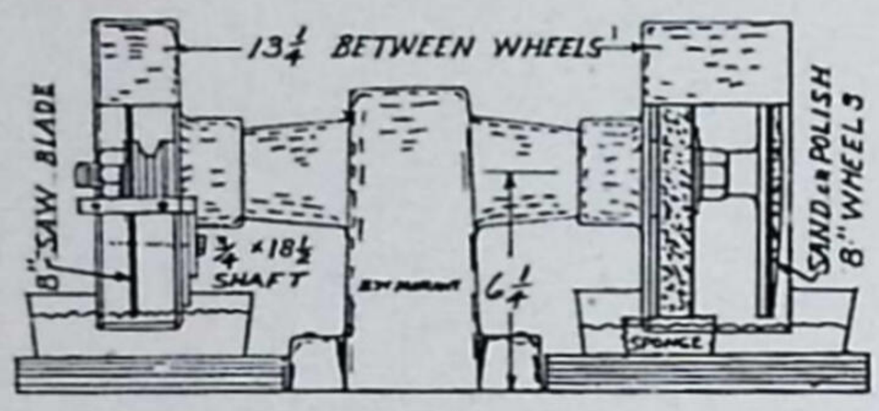
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later; and Hollywood ones at that. For it was in November 1950 that the picture "Kangaroo" with Maureen O'Hara and Peter Lawford was filmed near Port Augusta. Nothing was further from my thoughts than movie stars as we climbed aboard and I settled myself on a case of jellignite.

There were forms to be filled out to go through Woomera a few miles out from Pimba. The opal buyer was very indignant that he had to fill out another form as he had filled out at least ten forms on previous occasions. He seemed to be a nice enough fellow however; quite jovial. All cameras were to be left at the gate. No one present had any and we traveled on. The opal buyer started to open up and dominate the conversation. I kept to myself, leaving my ears wide open, but before long I felt drawn into the discussion for after all Father Divine was in America and the opal buyer was discussing him. Admittedly, the people who follow him may be "nuts," as he suggested, but then 50 million Americans he claimed followed him was implying something that I didn't like. "That represents quite a percentage of Americans, about a third" I intervened, "a better percentage than any other religion on that basis. Perhaps you are mistaken in your figures." He didn't answer this but switched subjects and for the next five hours through 17 gates, I was notified of his property holdings and his great prestige. Wads of ten-pound notes were waved in front of me and then carelessly stuffed into a pocket.

Despite this dissertation I noticed the country gradually changed from scrubby, sandy waste to a desert sandstone waste. Not many rabbits out here but we ran into a flock of emus, which flew along the ground on their great shock absorbing legs, feathers ruffling to the breeze that their own speed created. Later, just before arriving, we sighted two kangaroos a hundred yards off the dirt road.

From Woomera you pass through Arcoons Station then Andamooka Station. The opal fields are located 18 miles out from the homestead. Lake Torrens lies to the east about 15 miles.

"There are the diggings now," called a chap named Jim, who was riding with us. Ahead of the truck about 2

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miles I saw a hill covered with what appeared to be doodle bug diggings. All the tailings were conical and white. Looking around I saw several hills where hundreds of holes had been dug. They all seemed to be grouped together on each hill, as if some huge magnet had drawn them together. And it had been a magnet, a very strong one; the opal that has drawn thousands of men to the search.

I gazed in awe at the vast work that had been done by separate individuals in their search for fortunes, work done by personal initiative and work done by hand with only pick and shovel to move the earth laid down thousands of years ago by the silt of a huge inland sea. What would this place hold for me? I wondered.

The truck drew nearer to the settlement, bringing in focus the weirdest place I had ever seen. Even the Indian cave dwellers did not live in as fantastic surroundings as this. The dwellings here were in keeping with the time that the opal was formed. Most of them were semi-caves covered with sandstone and dirt over a timber frame roof. Bags were used to keep the dirt and rocks from falling in. Our truck stopped in front of the Post Office, a more or less square hut formed of desert gibbers, sandstone and mud. It disappeared into the hill where once a miner had dug a tunnel. A dirt road ran in front of it and up around the hill. Another road joined this main one at the post office and wound down into a shallow gully. It was on the left side of the gully where a row of cave houses was situated, housing the more elite of the community. At any moment I expected either a *tyrannosaurus rex* to appear or a motion picture director to bellow for Victor Mature to follow the script. But please don't get me wrong, because there are a few actual houses at Andamooka. And there is a store and a butcher shop. Fresh meat is to be had once a week. The water is supplied by the government bores and you can help yourself or be helped to 44 gallons for 3 bob.

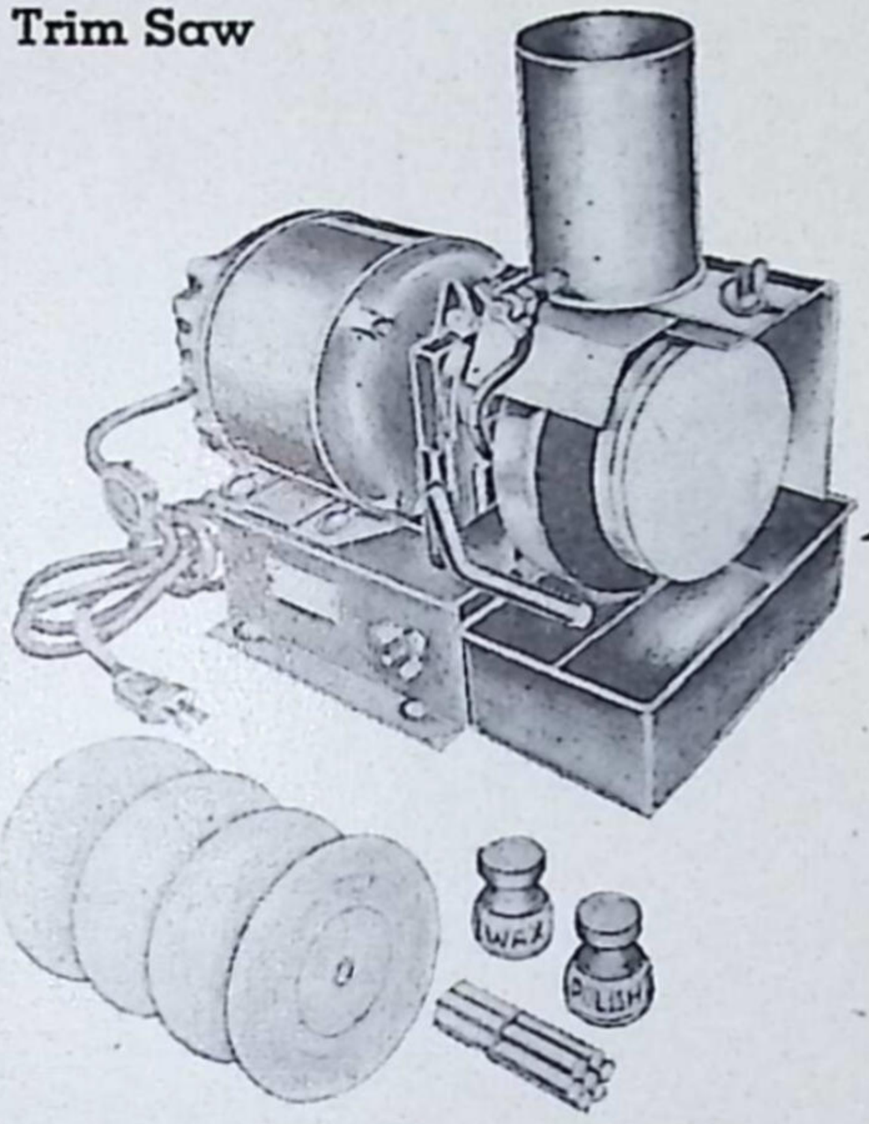
Locating on a nice clean sandy spot in the gully I spread out my bedroll and made preparation for the night, as it was too late to nose around, as eager as I was to have a look in one of the abandoned shafts. That night was as

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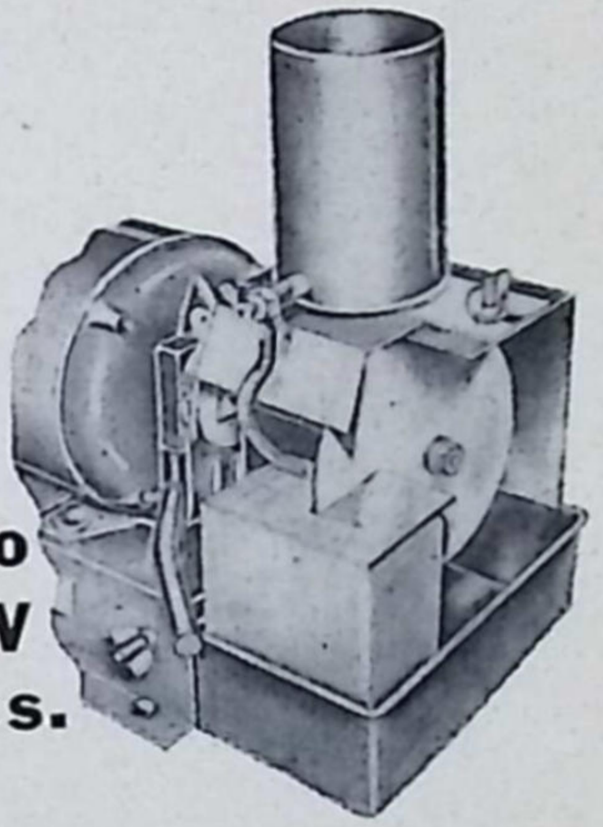
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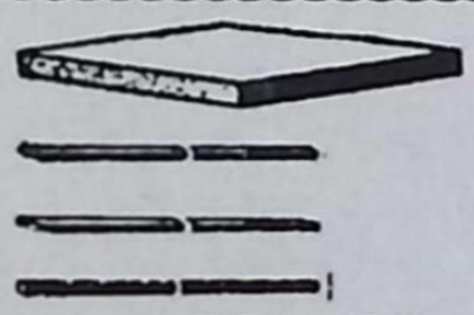
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cold as the Mojave desert can get on a winter night. I finally slept, but in my dreams I saw myriads of beautiful opal, their coruscations ever dancing as they floated by on black felt wings. The fire of all gems, the Sun, pierced through my closed lids and got me off to an early start. Jim, the other passenger who had come up on the mail truck with us, found me rolling up my bedding and asked me if I'd like to live at his friend's hut. His friend had hit a lucky find and was leaving that day with his wife for a long holiday. I thought that was real friendly. Jim and I took to one another right from the start. A man in his sixties, seamed and sinued, he had an open face and life in his eyes. He had spent years in the opal fields. This was good luck for me.

We used that morning settling into the dugout, which was only a skip and jump to a well. In the afternoon Jim showed me how to "do up" the picks and listed the tools I would need. It was arranged that the following morning I would go down into Jim's claim and work with him for a day or so to see the ropes. But later that afternoon the urge to have a look-see got the best of me and I went to some shallow diggings and climbed down 5 ft. into one of them.

Jim had explained to me the location of the opal. It occurs in a horizon and only at one level at Andamooka. It wasn't hard to find as in this hole, all around the bottom, the ground had been gouged out, leaving only a very narrow face showing. On close inspection I could see a thin layer of potch (colorless opal) and with fast beating heart I struck my first blow. In order to gouge on the level I had to lay on one side and squeeze under a very low shelf which finally wedged together with the color at the "opal level." Working steadily for 20 minutes I removed several large rocks from the coarse conglomerate, which is the upper part of the opal level. The opal is found underlying this layer, or adhering to the bottom of the rocks.

As I stated before, on this field the opal lies in a horizontal plane and always occurs the same distance above sea level, for all practical purposes. Unlike other fields there is only one level. To get technical, the surface is covered by a superficial mantle of ferruginous and siliceous "gibbers." The region is

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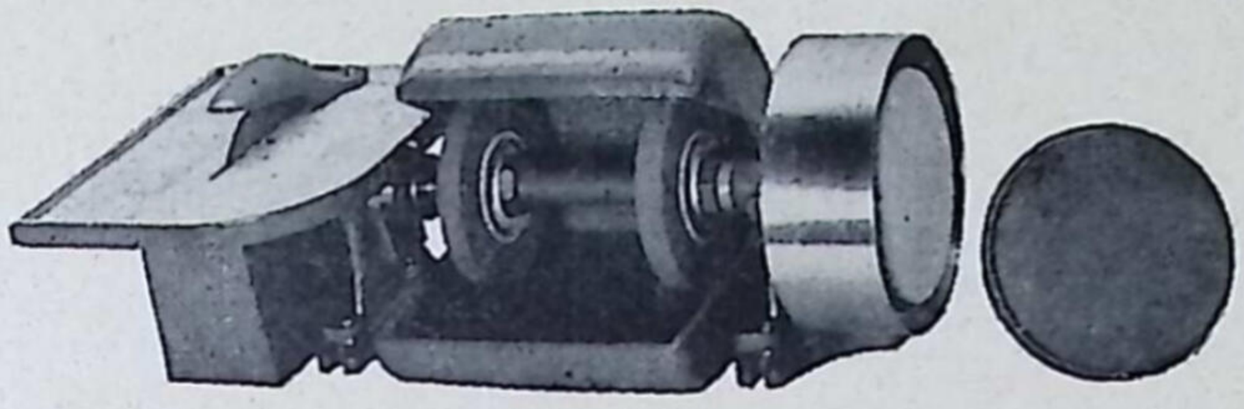
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essentially a desiccated tableland with gentle undulating hills and low topographic relief. Below the gibbers, 15 feet of dense quartzite and sandstone occurs. Most of this has been removed by erosion and only a small area is found where this still exists. Then in the following order comes: cream siliceous shale with limited veins; pale pink siliceous clay and porous sandstone with gypsum in disseminated flakes or in horizontal seams; hard band of brown sandstone; seam of massive gypsum, band of coarse conglomerate, with boulders up to 9″ diameter; white micaceous clay. The opal is on the surface of the boulders or adhering to the bottom of the conglomerate.

The last rock I removed had a thin covering of opal with green fire. What a thrill! It appeared to have great beauty at first but when I took it to the top the fire seemed to fade. In the months to come I found that this reaction occurred time after time. That is to say, when you have been gouging in dirt with no sight of color, dreary hour after hour and suddenly, after a last pick blow, there appears a gleam of color, it is enhanced by the sordid surroundings of mullock and appears to be much more worth while than it really is. None the less, this first piece of opal went in with my best specimens. Well, now that I had fulfilled that first impulsive urge to find a bit of opal, I returned to the hut.

After dinner Jim started out with his first of a series of yarns, virulent with the probity and improbity of the men of the fields; men filled with a lust more powerful than that of gold fever. Jim lighted his pipe. "Kevan Stevens," he began, "was the man who could outsmart them all. Stevens was a big buyer and a big gambler. You have to be a gambler to be on the opals. I've seen him carry 20,000 pounds in loose cash around on him. Then the next minute I'd hear he was broke but that was all in the game. Well, this time Stevens had got in a pickle; owed a lot of money and had borrowed on top to buy opal. Out on the fields in the boom days buyers were always up to some lurk to discredit each other. Stevens was buying opal from two Aboriginal brothers who were on a good claim. It looked as if he could get out of his



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trouble if he could keep on doing business with them. Then Kilroy, an old enemy of Stevens, cornered the brothers one day as they were on their way to Stevens' place. He got a look at their parcel and knowing that they would take it up to Stevens he told them he would give them 120 pounds for it. It was poor grade stuff and he knew it wasn't worth any more than 60 pounds, but then he would show the brothers that Stevens had been cheating them. It was a smart move. The Abbos went on up to see Stevens and told him the price. Well he was taken aback but he never showed it. The Abbos were in there another half hour. Kilroy was waiting down the road with his 120 pounds and a smile on his face. When they came out the brothers walked up to him and he said to them 'I told you he was robbing you. I guess you're ready to do business with an honest man.' The brothers glared at him and replied "You bloody robber! Him give us 180 pounds. We only do business with him now."

The next morning on our way to Lunatic Hill Jim gave me some advice. "Nobody knows where opal is for sure," he said, "until after it's dug out. So don't go by these drongos telling you to dig here and dig there. If they really thought so they would be digging there themselves. Pick out your own spot. But remember that a well-marked level is the best indication and always follow the traces of color. I've followed potch through many feet but it never made into color. But if you follow color it may make into big solid pieces."

After a while we stood on top of a hill, miles and miles of desert gibbers around; barren and bleak with blistering heat in the summer. Jim walked to his claim, pegged out in the prescribed 150′ square. He ducked under the barrel of his windlass, after lowering his pick, shovel, candles and other equipment. His feet found the steps cut into the dirt sides of the shaft and down he disappeared into fifty feet of darkness. His voice called up, "stand clear till I get into the tunnel. I don't want a knock on the head from a loose rock." "O.K.," I called back. "Righto," muffled out from the bowels of the earth as he went into the tunnel and I followed down. The stillness pressed on my ears and the cooler earthy air replaced the dry

heat of the open. On reaching the bottom I crawled on hands and knees in the four foot high tunnel, I made my way down past the many pockets pressed into the white micaeous clay ceiling by gelignite blasts. Jim lay on his side under a rock shelf, which was the conglomerate layer where the opal is found. The idea is to lay horizontal and gouge underneath the known level and work up to it, being careful not to lose any opal that may occur in the clay or mullock underneath. It is easy to lose a good piece of opal that has been stained red or black by the clay if it has fallen below the level. "Light another candle and follow the level all around the tunnel for traces of color," Jim instructed. And so started my career as an opal gouger.

In the months that followed the best opal I had gotten was on the very first day—that specimen of matrix with a thin layer of color. My labor was confined to the working of old shafts, for many good finds have been taken from the old workings. In the evenings Jim and I visited the other miners and I tried to buy a few parcels but found that somehow the miners were very evasive and I did no business. As the time went on I asked Jim why the other miners were a bit aloof. Later, when he found out, he said that it was the buyer's fault; the one who came up on the mail truck with us. He told them that I was a taxation inspector and they wanted no part of me.

We had a good laugh over this but still I couldn't buy any opal and I couldn't dig any. Jim wasn't faring very well either and had spent most of his savings. Then one afternoon I returned, prepared dinner, but Jim didn't come in. I waited until 7:30 and then I was worried and went out to his diggings. Looking down the shaft I saw a faint light and called out. There was no answer, so I went down. As I got to the bottom I heard the noise of a pick working vigorously and I called out again. "Who is it, who is it," Jim called back frantically and I answered that it was me. "Come here and look at this," he called. As I crawled to his side he handed me a solid piece of opal which,we found afterwards, weighed over a pound. It was a solid roundish shaped hunk with a flat top of excellent quality white opal of the clear variety

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with vivid red, green and orange harlequin flakes of color. We worked all night long, seemingly only minutes, and cleaned out the entire pocket—a fair size nest egg for Jim.

The following Thursday I was on the mail truck heading for Sydney with Jim's parcel in the burlap bag. It wasn't until much later that I was able to partly repay him for his friendship, generosity and hospitality. Without his help on that first trip I would not have been able to continue in the opal business. No matter what may happen, the opal is, to me, Nature's most beautiful and varied gem. Its beauty shows when it's first found; a thing alive with all the moods of humans; the soft warmth of the golden glow; the icy briskness of the crystal clear green; the sultry simmering of the blue and violet hues and then the bright exciting coruscations of reds and oranges; all in infinite patterns to suit all desires.

As the mail truck passed the last of the diggings I had a great feeling of satisfaction. Although I had not found my fortune I had found a friend and my main mission of buying opal had been accomplished.

★ ★ ★

NOTE — We received word as we were ready for the press that *The Art of the Lapidary* by Francis J. Sperisen, out of print for six months, will again be available on April 1. Send in your orders.

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HOW TO OXIDIZE SILVER

(A facetious report by Brooks Shepard of Saxtons River, Vt.)

Thanks to V. Armstrong of *Grieger's*, in Pasadena, I have hit upon a technique for oxidizing silver which I hasten to pass on to you.

One "antiques" silver, of course, by darkening it with a sulfide, then rubbing up the high spots to a bright finish. Any sulfide will do; a spoiled egg is excellent, if you are thrifty and hate to throw things away. But most sulfides make their presence felt in a closed room; ammonium sulfide, which ordinarily I use, is especially authoritative.

Now wives, to put it bluntly, are a bit austere about spilled chemicals—even simple inorganic stuff like sulfuric acid; so when I packed my silversmithing outfit into the Dodge to bring it to Arizona for the winter, I thought it rather clever to leave out this particular Genie in the Bottle. Suppose we had a head-on collision with a speeding eastbound truck loaded with steel rails? A little of the stuff might spill, and there could be words . . .

Arriving in Arizona I wrote *Grieger's* of Pasadena, telling of my plight. Their catalog doesn't list "liver of sulfur" (possibly because Johnnie Grieger, that honest good man, feels that the antiquing of new silver is a form of fraud) but perhaps *Grieger's* could dig up an ounce or two, somewhere, and mail it to me.

By return air mail came a little package labeled *"Recrystallized Pasadena Smog*—for oxidizing silver."—with a pleasant note from V. Armstrong.

I wrote at once:

". . . you've suggested a technique which I may pass on to Lelande Quick of the *Lapidary Journal*.

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PLANS FOR THE NATIONAL SHOW

Plans to accommodate over 20,000 visitors to the 1953 National Convention Mineral and Gem Show in San Diego, Calif., are being formulated by the convention committee of the *San Diego Mineral and Gem Society,* host Society for the joint convention of the American and California Federations of Mineralogical Societies. The convention, scheduled to be held July 17, 18 and 19, will be in the giant Electric Building, in San Diego's famed Balboa Park. The Electric Building is probably the largest yet to have the annual convention for it contains nearly 50,000 square feet of space.

Here, according to Edward A. Peterson, general chairman of the convention, will be displayed over 200 cases of the world's finest mineral and gem specimens. Featured among the displays will be the many unusual gems and minerals found in San Diego County, Calif. This group includes tourmaline, kunzite, morganite and stibiotantalite.

Special mineral and gem identification demonstrations will be presented by outstanding authorities, including Robert Rowland, curator of minerals, San Diego Museum of Natural History, and Charles Parsons, Certified Gemologist and Fellow of the British Gemmological Association.

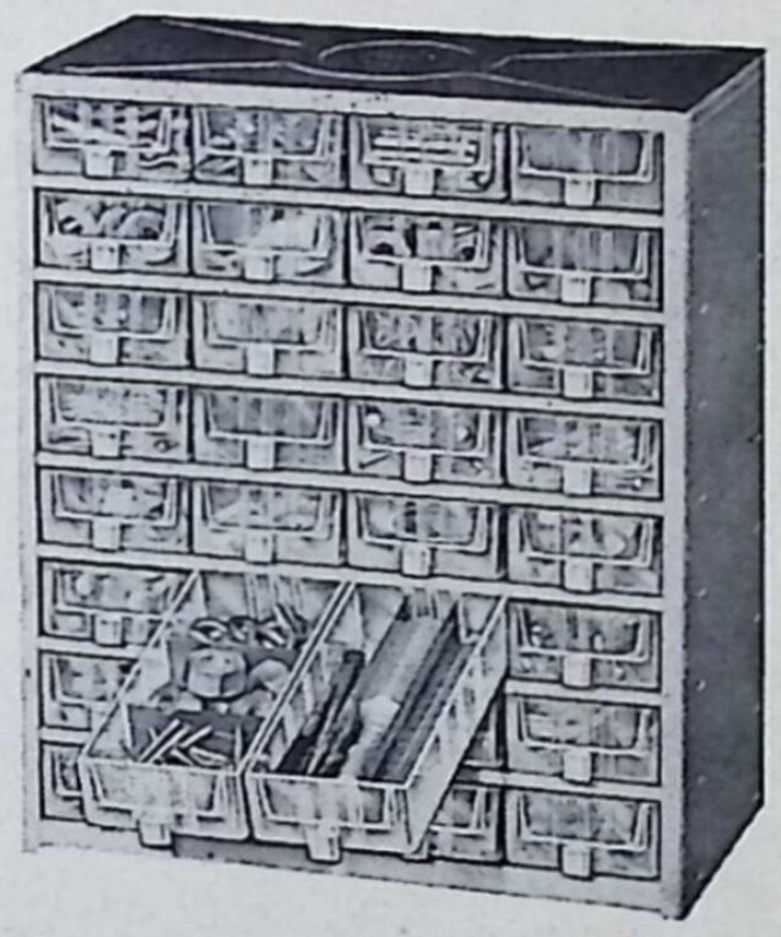
A featured exhibit of the show will be the lapidary demonstration presented by the *San Diego Mineral and Gem Society,* which will have in operation about 16 gem cutting outfits including four faceting machines, all of which are owned by the Society and are from the Society's own lapidary school.

Rockhound visitors to San Diego will also have an opportunity to take field trips to some of the region's most outstanding gem mines, including the Fargo mine at Pala and the famed Himalaya mine at Mesa Grande. Special work has been done on the Fargo mine to make it more easily accessible to visitors. A special tunnel has been driven to link two early tunnels in the noted mine. Electric lights will be strung through the diggings, according to owner Norman Dawson.

In addition to the displays presented by various gem and mineral societies, schools and museums, over 80 of the nation's top commercial dealers will have display booths at the convention.

Non-rockhound wives of conventioneers will find their stay in San Diego enjoyable, according to "Pete" Brown, President of the *San Diego Mineral and Gem Society,* who announced a series of special trips to Tijuana, in Old Mexico, where visitors will attend the thrilling jai alai games, horse races, etc.

Reservations for commercial booths should be directed to Roddy Marshall, P.O. Box 65, El Cajon, Calif. Other inquiries about the convention should go to Edward A. Peterson, 4045 Poppy Place, San Diego 5, Calif.



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The Gem Minerals of Maine

By F. E. SCHILLER
75 Lincoln Ave., Rumford, Maine

Maine is known throughout the nation as the VACATIONLAND STATE. It is a land of beautiful mountains, winding rivers, noisy brooks, rugged coastline and peaceful fishing towns. The northwestern section of the state contains vast woods and forests of pine, cedar, and other trees, and there are some remote areas like the Klondike near Mt. Katahdin that have never been fully explored to this day. The famous Appalachian Trail begins in Georgia and ends on the top of Mt. Katahdin and this footpath through the wilderness offers a rugged challenge to the mountaineer, the hiker and the mineralogist.

In addition to its exceptional scenic beauty, Maine has been blessed with over two hundred varieties of minerals. Most of the gem minerals are found in a belt of pegmatite that stretches in a band about 30 miles wide and reaches from Brunswick to Andover. Another smaller belt is in the area between Gilead and Stow. Many of the vacationers who come to Maine are rockhounds and mineralogists and they try, during their visit, to cover some of the quarries and mines in both of the pegmatite belts. They return to their homes happy and contented with their finds and among the specimens of fine minerals to add to their collection will usually be found at least one rare and beautiful gem.

The population of Maine does not exceed one million persons and it is possible that 800,000 of the natives do not know of the treasures that lie beneath their feet. There are a large number of quarries that are mined for feldspar, a few for granite, and one or two for beryl and pollucite. Many of the quarries are abandoned and it is in these dumps where the rockhound finds his specimens. When the quarries were worked for spar they wanted just spar and many of the other mineral bearing rocks were pushed to one side. Impurities, such as apatite, tourmaline, rose quartz, etc., were included in the waste and it is going to take quite a few years for the rockhound fraternity to exhaust the supply of good mineral specimens that lie hidden in these dumps.

Many of the best mineral collections in this country contain specimens of tourmaline from famous Mt. Mica near Paris, Me. Two boys, Elijah Hamlin and Exekiel Holmes, accidentally discovered tourmaline crystals on this hill in 1820. The story of this discovery reads like the true answer to every rockhound's dream. Every mineral hunter should go to his or her public library and secure a copy of "History of Mt. Mica" by Hamlin.

Tourmaline is one of the best known but is not the only gem mineral found in Maine. Let us examine the record of authenticated finds and see how many gem minerals are found or have been found in Maine.

APATITE—Royal purple apatite is a favorite of gemhunters the world over and although the crystals are not common in Maine, many nice specimens have been found. Some of the best specimens came from the Keith and Pulsifer Quarries near Auburn. Nice crystals of purple apatite are also found in the Greenwood area.

Apatite in shades of pink, gray, white, colorless, yellow and blue is found in the Greenwood, Auburn, and Buckfield vicinities.

AGATE—Rough, slab agate is found near Rumford, Rangeley, and South Arm. Agates, polished by the action of the waves from the Atlantic, can be found all along the Maine coast but the best specimens, which include moss, are found in the Calais area.

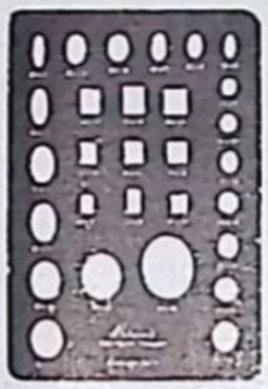
AMETHYST—Beautiful royal purple amethyst has been found on Mt. Pleasant near Denmark. Amethyst of lighter purple is found on Deer Hill near Stow.

GARNETS—Cinnamon garnets are found at Minot; yellow garnets at Phippsburg; red garnets at Paris.

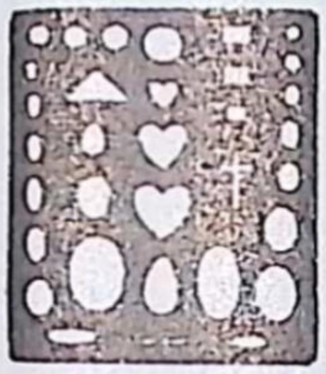
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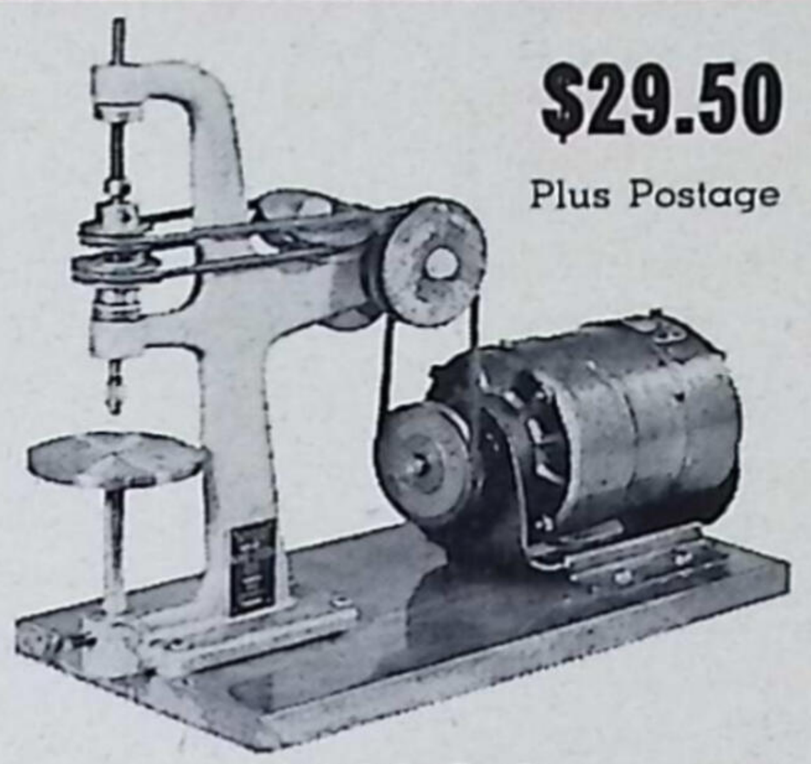
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Branch of the Swift River at Byron. Gold has also been found in West Paris in a place that bears the colorful name of Betsey's Guzzle.

BERYL—Golden beryl is found in the Durgin Mountain area in Stoneham, in the Robinson Mine near Sumner, in the Hibbs Quarry at Hebron, and in the feldspar quarries in the Brunswick area.

Green beryl is a common mineral in many of the feldspar quarries in the state and occasionally some emerald beryl is found. The Bumpus Quarry near Bethel is famous for beryl crystals of exceptional size but many nice small crystals are also taken from this location. The Bumpus Quarry also has blue beryl.

Some of the nicest gemstones the writer has seen were cut from caesium beryl and chrysoberyl by Charlie Marble of Buckfield. Caesium beryl is found at Newry and Greenwood. Chrysoberyl of a pale, greenish-yellow color is found at Hartford. Aquamarine is found in Stoneham, Brunswick and Albany.

Nearly every experienced mineralogist in Maine knows of some secluded ledge where he can go and dig out some beryl crystals in his spare time. Some of the oldtimers have guarded the secret of their favorite spots for many years and they can hardly be blamed for not directing hordes of rockhounds to their private lodes.

JASPER—Ribbon and breccia jasper occurs at Calais. Jaspers of various colors can be found along the coast. Brown jasper is plentiful in the Forest City area.

LEPIDOLITE — Many collectors would not class lepidolite as a gem but the writer has seen some urns and bookends made of lilac lepidolite that nearly deserved the name of gem. Lepidolite of both lilac and gray color is found on Black Mountain near Rumford, at Newry, and in Greenwood.

OPAL—White opal has been found in H. G. Starrett's Quarry at Warren.

QUARTZ — Beautiful gem smoky quartz crystals, some containing rutile, are found on Hurricane Mountain near Fryeburg. Smoky quartz is common in most of the quarries in Maine and cutting quality can be found in Auburn, Paris, Brunswick, Rumford. Black quartz is also common in many quarries. Rose quartz is plentiful in the Bumpus Quarry at Albany and limited amounts can be found on Mt. Mica; Black Mountain near Rumford, in the Greenwood area, at Auburn, Paris and Buckfield. Some beautiful rose quartz crystals were found on Newry Mountain near Newry. Citrine quartz occurs in Evans Notch at Gilead and is also found in the Auburn area. Asteriated quartz occurs in the Hebron and Paris sections. Large quartz crystals occur at Glines Mountain at Rumford and at Morse Brook at Newry. Phantom quartz crystals have been found in the Diamond Ledge and Tamminen Mine at Greenwood. Milky quartz and white quartz are common.

SILVER—occurs at Pembroke.

TOURMALINE — Various colored tourmalines can be found in most of the feldspar quarries in the state. Much of it is not considered cutting quality and good gem tourmaline is difficult to find in some localities. The best specimens were taken from Mt. Mica and they were in blue, pink, green and white colors. Some specimens are multicolored. Watermelon tourmaline occurs on Newry Mountain, Newry, and at Auburn. Necklace black tourmaline has been found in the General Electric Mine in Buckfield. Some fairly good crystals of pink tourmaline occur on Black Mountain near Rumford. Tourmaline suns have been found in the Ocean Avenue Quarry near Portland.

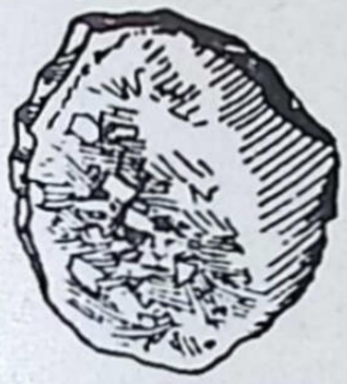
TOPAZ—Some beautiful blue topaz was taken from a pocket in the Fisher Ledge near Topsham some years ago. Colorless topaz is also found there. Massive, yellow, and white topaz is found in Harndon Hill near Portland.

ZIRCON — Zircon has been found near Litchfield.

It is very possible that there are other gem minerals and cutting materials that are not included in this list. It is also likely that some readers will know of locations in Maine that are better sources than those listed. The most complete listing of minerals in Maine, that the writer knows of, is contained in a chapter entitled "Gem and Mineral Hunting in Maine" by Stanley I. Perham of West Paris, which is published in Vol. II of the *Maine Arrow Guide*. This instructive book can be secured for $1.00 from the Fred L. Tower Companies, 165 Middle St., Portland, Maine. The article also in-

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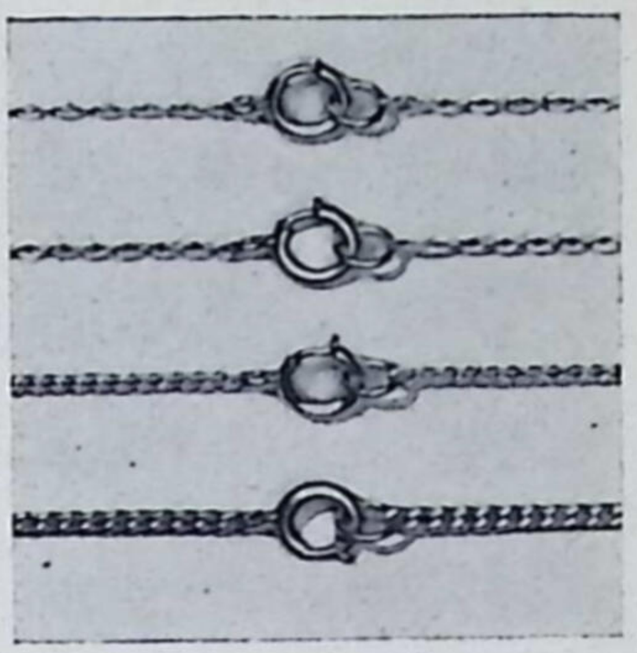
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EXACT SIZE



No.	Sterling	Filled
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35M	.63	.76 ea.
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Brilliant cut white zircons of high brilliancy.

Hyacinth nugget stones, ¾" and hand polished. $25.00 per 100 stones—makes colorful jewelry.

Rough tourmaline and topaz.

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EMERALD green moss agate, jungle scenes. No undercutting—slabs only—$.75 sq. in.

GLASS BUTTES—obsidian, red & black, silver sheen, gray sheen, golden sheen, striped, mottled and splotched—very colorful—in broken chunks—35c per lb.

Same material for spheres; 3 lbs. for a 2 in. sphere; 5 lbs. for a 3 in. sphere, all fracture free, also double flow, red and black, choice, well trimmed chunks—all types—75c lb.

OCHOCO NODULES—Popular new type, color range—scarlet to carnelian, yellow to green moss, some flowering—75c lb.

WASCOITE — Highly silicified & stratified. Ancient lake bed deposit of rare beauty— $.75 lb.

IRIS AGATE—Sawed wood casts, mostly in banded turtle-back clear agate. Oregon, $.75 sq. in.

HAMPTON WOOD — from ancient swamp — color generally green, some reds—$.50 lb.

Remember—include postage on all rough material

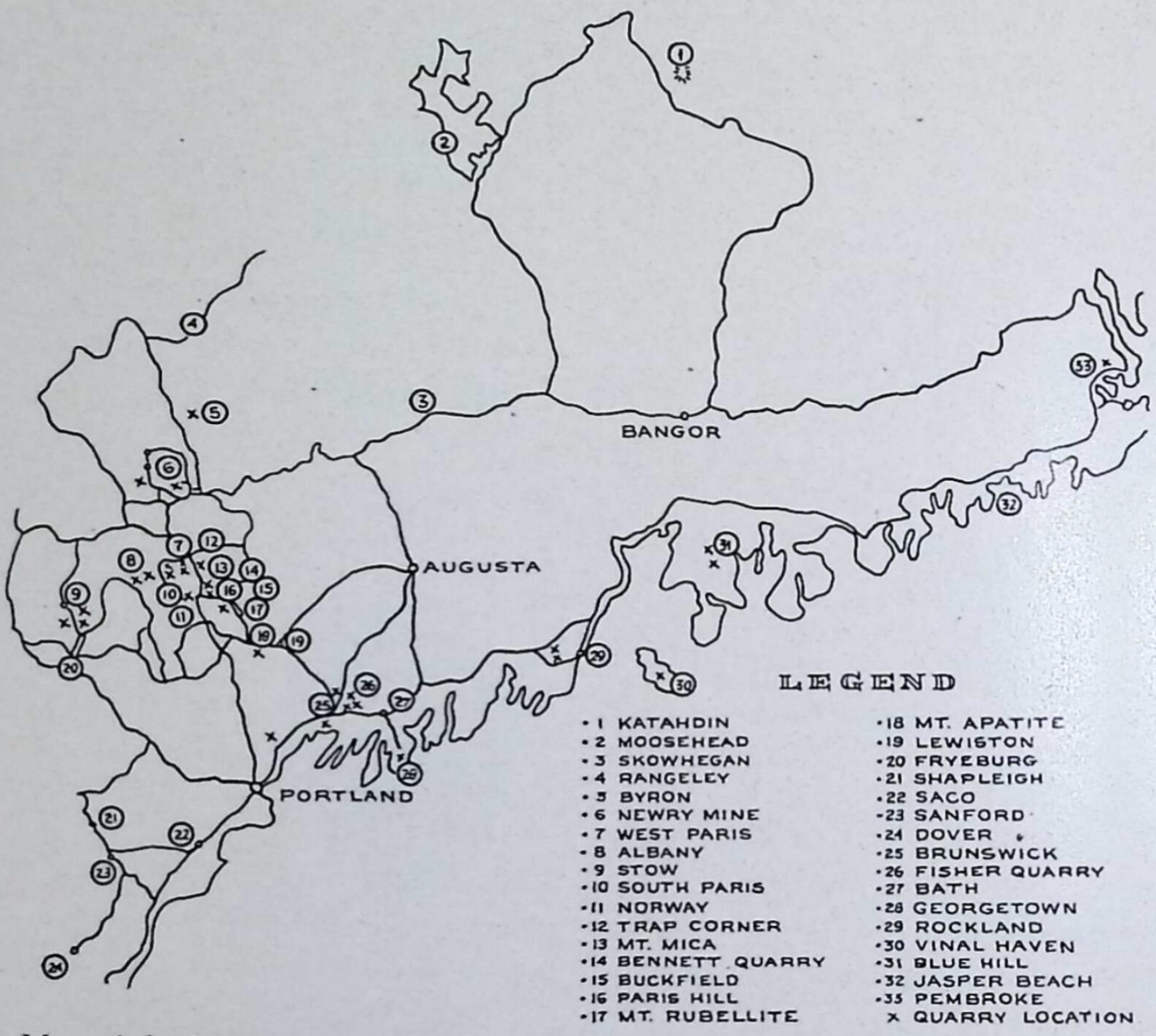
Slabs sent on approval

Rockhounds are swell folks—and HONEST

New price list now ready

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Map of the Maine gem mineral locations with notable quarries marked. Local inquiry for directions should be made.

cludes a map, similar to the one above showing the approximate location of the major quarries and lists the names of the cities closest to the mineral locations. Any visitor to the state who intends to look for mineral specimens will do well to get a copy of the *Maine Arrow Guide*.

Some of the mineral locations are hard to find and it would be wise to visit one of the mineral dealers to get explicit directions on how to find the quarries. At Trap Corner is one of the best mineral stores in New England and Mr. Perham, the proprietor, is one of Maine's leading authorities on minerals and mineral locations. He sells mineral specimens, jewelry made from Maine gems, books, lapidary equipment, rockhammers, and even pans for panning gold. He is always glad to help mineral collectors and has a quarry at Greenwood that he blasts occasionally so mineral hunters will have new material to look through. (Ed. note: We visited Mr. Perham last October and found him delightful.)

Visitors to the coast should stop in THE SMILING COW, a novelty store that has minerals for sale. This shop is in Boothbay Harbor.

In Norway Charlie Bickford is always ready to direct rockhounds to the best mineral locations in his area. Charlie does lapidary work and has mineral specimens for sale also. (Ed. note: Mr. Bickford has always been an advertiser with us and we visited him also last Oct.)

Charlie Marble has a lapidary shop in his home at Buckfield where he fashions gemstones from caesium beryl and chrysoberyl. Any resident of Buckfield will direct you to Charlie's home.

In Rumford, Schiller & Son operate a mail order business. They specialize in supplying representative mineral specimens to those collectors who cannot get to Maine to hunt for their own. A

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1 mm. (3/16" diamond depth)	$5.00
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Blue Turquoise — Black Onyx

The agate that resembles multicolored flowers under glass

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BLUE TURQUOISE

Natural turquoise—small pieces good color and quality (Min. order 3 ozs.).....$2.00

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"Peanut" Pitchstone (Almasite) Opalized Obsidian

WAY DOWN IN OLD MEXICO, the land of romance and undiscovered precious and semi-precious stones. I have found something entirely new and fascinating. Basically, it is opalized obsidian (pitchstone) but embedded in it are beautiful round, bright red inclusions, like rounded peanuts or jumping beans. It makes beautiful cabochons and outstanding cabinet specimens in the rough.

FLOR DE AMAPA, a pink epidote with radiating crystals resembling flowers. Looks like a mosaic when polished.

MASSIVE GARNET—Yellow & green mottled. SEND ME $5.00 for about 3 lbs. of any of the above or a mixture and get the thrill of your rockhound experience. Rockhound special of one pound of fragments for one dollar postpaid. All will contain the red "peanuts" in pitchstone matrix.

Highly fluorescent scheelite (tungsten) specimens. Cobalt ore specimens, No. 1 strategic material. Also mottled green-golden garnet, partly crystallized. Any of foregoing $1.00 pound postpaid.

Send check or money order

Guests received

ALBERTO E. MAAS

Sonora Alamos Mexico

card to the author will bring a written answer to any inquiry about mineral locations in the Rumford and Newry areas.

No matter where you are in Maine you are always near a rockhound who will be glad to assist you to find some good specimens of minerals. If you inquire of people who do not know anything about minerals or locations they will direct you to some local rockhound who does know. The tradition that labels State O' Mainer's as stern and reticent does not apply to the rockhunting fraternity in the state.

I wrote the following verse several years ago.

FIELD TRIP

Get your hammer and your knapsack,
Put a sandwich in your pocket—
We are off to look for minerals
In the quarries and the hills.
No, you do not need a textbook
Or a miner's vast experience,
Merely bring an eye for beauty
And a love for Nature's thrills.

All the garnets in the ledges—
All the pretty, white quartz crystals—
All the tourmalines and feldspars—
All the micas—and the rest—
Do not care for gilt diplomas,
All they want is recognition,
On a shelf in your collection
They will be content to rest.

Stones and rocks are things of beauty
And can be a joy forever.
They don't like to lie on hillsides
Undisclosed to eye of man—
They keep urging, "Come to Newry,
Come to Apatite and Buckfield,
Come to Rumford and to Greenwood;
Come and find us—if you can."

Willy Petersen-Fagerstam

Designer of many jewelry pieces for the motion pictures

I will mount **your** stones too in superb original creations of character — Silver or gold —- Your design or mine. Specialize in replacing lost stones from your mountings.

SEE MY DESIGNS IN THIS ISSUE

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FRIENDLY GEM VILLAGE

(As reported by May E. Marach, Bayfield, Colo.)

What makes Gem Village click? What brings all those autos with out-of-state licenses to the Village? Who are the Villagers? These and other questions I will try to answer.

I am not a rockhound, but I am a neighbor to America's first colony of rockhounds. Since I am their special correspondent, writing a local weekly column for the Durango Herald-News, I am in a unique position to give the inside facts.

First, the location of the Village is extraordinary. Located near the Four Corners area, the only spot in the United States where four states have a corner in common, the entire area of the four states is within a day's auto drive from the Village. Draw a circle and within 350 miles you will find 5 major National Parks, 50 National Monuments, and 150 National Forests. Truly it is the vacation spot of America for at no other place in the United States are there so many attractions. All the year you will find every kind of climate from glaciated mountain tops to scorching deserts. In July you can enjoy a frost in the mountains or bask in the heat of the desert. In January you may glide down the ski runs of Aspen, climb the mountain heights, or loll in the desert sun. Just north of the Village lies what is known as the Switzerland of America. The Four Corners area offers the rockhound a Paradise for collecting everything from metallic ores to precious gems.

The people are just as unique as the location. In striking contrast to all the hustle and bustle of the ordinary work-a-day world, you will find peace and serenity in the Village, and friendly, leisurely, understanding people who make you feel they are your friends although you have just met them. Any door in the Village will swing open to fellow rockhounds and to sightseeing visitors.

Wherever you go you are reminded of the nature of the Village. Perhaps you will want to stop and eat at the Coloradoan, a motel and cafe owned and operated by Ross and Ethel Glenn. Here you will find a rock collection and the Craft Hobby Shop. Across the highway is Shipley's Mineral House, replete

If you write or 'phone us about your needs for semi-precious stones, we will quote you - or if you wish, send goods on approval.

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6" x .032 thick	$ 7.85
8" x .032 thick	10.40
8" x .040 thick	11.40
10" x .040 thick	14.80
12" x .040 thick	18.25
14" x .050 thick	25.20
16" x .064 thick	32.10

These are in stock for immediate delivery. State arbor size.

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Selected Gemstones

	Carats
Morganite — oval (Madagascar)	8.30
Kunzite—emerald cut (Madagascar)	43.00
Tourmaline—emerald cut (pink)	15.00
Beryl—emerald cut (golden)	11.32
Precious topaz—emerald cut (sherry)	3.40
Precious topaz—emerald cut (golden)	17.92
Precious topaz—oval (golden)	14.58
Star sapphire — blue-gray	16.75
Star sapphire — blue	13.87
Star sapphire — blue	17.23
Tourmaline—Bi-colored, cab., blue-red	165.00
Tourmaline—Bi-colored cab, green-red	89.30
Tourmaline catseye — green	27.25
Opal drilled pendant—firey	123.50
Aquamarine—heart shape, dark blue	9.45
Peridot Drop	23.10
Peridot emerald cut—choice gem	29.00

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Approval Selections

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with anything you might desire from tons of uncut stones to rare polished gems from all parts of the world. Their shop, complete with famous Gem Stone Buttons, Alabaster lamps and fluorescent display, also houses the Village Log Book which is open to the public for mineral locations. Of special interest is the display designated for the Gem Village Museum—a project now in the planning stage.

The Gem Village Hobby Shop, with mineral displays and cut gems, is owned by Richard Weller and can be seen at the Weller Filling Station. Then there is S. N. Green who, with the assistance of his two daughters, manages The Gem Exchange. Mr. Green has been busy lately in compiling his 15th anniversary Gem Catalog. It is now in the hands of his 5,000 customers and orders are piling into the shop. Mr. Green is studying the psychology of gem stones with remarkable success.

There are many private collections of stones and ores in the Village. Foremost, and by far the most outstanding is that of Fred Knowlton. He has a collection that will rival any found in the United States. There are 375 linear feet of displays from every section of the nation. The arrangement is something to marvel at and must be seen to be appreciated. Make this a must when you visit here. Another collection is that of Jim Wiley, and Robert George has one specializing in metallic ores. The Treasure House, owned and operated by Jo Copeland, has mineral specimens and gifts well worth seeing.

There are four artists in the Village; Betty Green, Nora Townsend, Francis George, and Rose Purcell, each with her own particular style and medium. They also collect stones.

The Ninth Annual Rockhounds' Rendezvous will be held August 23 and will attract visitors from all over the country. Last year during the tourist season there were visitors from all forty-eight states and eleven foreign countries.

* * *

LARGE OPAL STOLEN

When we were in Atlanta a few months ago we met Mrs. Jasper N. Donaldson. Mrs. Donaldson was the proud possessor of an opal weighing 67 carats plus. The opal was fashioned into a lapel pin as a flower vase, hollowed out in back of the opal so that it would hold water and maintain real flowers as a corsage. The opal was transparent and flawless and cabochoned on both sides. The fire ran down the stone in red and green streaks.

Mrs. Donaldson now reports that this piece has been stolen and she hopes the thief will be so proud of the opal that he will show it somewhere to someone who might read this item. If that should happen please put through a collect telephone call to her from Monday through Friday at the Coca Cola Company, 310 North Avenue, N. W. Atlanta—Emerson 3411. On Saturday, Sunday or any evening call her at 1559 Peachtree St., N. W., Apartment C-4, Atlanta—Vernon 1397. We hope that some reader may be able to help in the recovery of this property.

DESERT SCENIC STONE

Small amount of the finest quality Desert Scenic Stone ever dug is available at $1.50 a pound. This is TOPS — and it is postpaid.

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5934 Pauline Rd., N. W., Albuquerque, N. M.

JAMES L. KRAFT, FORMER HEAD OF FOOD FIRM, DIES

James Lewis Kraft, 78, founder and chairman emeritus of the Kraft Foods company, Chicago, died Feb. 16 in Wesley Memorial hospital after a brief illness. He lived at 17 Canterbury Ct., Wilmette.

Mr. Kraft had been in the hospital for six days. He had been under treatment recently for an upper respiratory infection, and had made several visits to the hospital. Funeral services were held in the North Shore Baptist church on Feb. 19 where he recently dedicated his great jade window.

Mr. Kraft was born in Stevensville, Ont., and attended common schools in Canada. When he was 30 years old he came to Chicago, investing part of his meager savings in a horse and wagon with which he began delivering cheese to groceries in the Austin section, with a working capital of $65.

Cheese, available mainly in bulk and of varying, uncertain quality, was not a popular food, the per capita consumption then being less than a pound a year. Mr. Kraft's first year of struggle put him $3,000 in debt.

He kept his quality standard high, and soon his business caught on. In 1909 he married Miss Pauline Elizabeth Platt of Chicago, who survives him, as does his daughter, Mrs. Benjamin (Edith) Hardy, also of Wilmette. The same year he organized his company. Among its early officers were his brothers, John H. Kraft, now board chairman; Frederick, also a company official, and Charles H. Kraft.

In 1940 Mr. Kraft took up the hobby of grinding and polishing stones, and became one of the country's best known amateur lapidaries.

Rockhounds In The Making

By MARGUERITE BEYMER

The history of Rockhounds is an ancient one and they were known by other names, but down through the ages their greatest pleasure has lain in the quest for pretty stones. Out of the depths, in our country's darkest hour, surged this love and thirst for the beautiful, simple and mysterious treasures of earth, redeeming the ennui and flagging courage in countless hearts. You will thrill to the inspiration offered, the heights attained, the spiritual and aesthetic gratification realized, the locations revealed, in—Rockhounds In The Making. Now available to you for $2.50 a copy postpaid.

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THE OLD PROSPECTOR

W. E. BROWN

532 20th St., Oakland, Calif.

and

14 Willow St., Redwood City, Calif.

◆ High in the Ochocos

By QUINTEN JACKSON
Route 2, Box 19, North Bend, Oregon
Member of *Coos County Mineral and Gem Club*

It will soon be time to start our rocking trips so naturally our thoughts turn to the Ochocos where we have spent so many happy days and hope to spend many more. Due to the elevation we will have to wait until early summer. The snow does not leave here until the beginning of June.

The Ochoco forest location is east of Prineville, Oregon. Take U. S. Highway 26 to Wild Cat look-out road and turn left. Once in this locality there are many locations to hunt as well as camp, including "White Rock Springs," the Rockhounds' Sanctuary, set aside for future rockhounding by the Prineville Chamber of Commerce and the *Prineville Mineral Society*. There are tables and good cold water at this camp all summer. The road continues beyond the camp for about a half mile, but I would advise people without jeeps to walk to the nodule bed, unless more work has been done on the road. Nodules here run from agate filled to moss, crystal, common opal of white, blue and pink and some plume. The average eggs are not out-standing but you do find a few that are truly gems.

While you are on Wild Cat Mountain there is still another Government camp, "White Fir Springs." Across the road is a nodule bed of good cutting eggs. Both specimens and gem materials have come from here, also common opal in all shades of blue, also clear. The charge for taking it out is ten cents a pound.

After your car is loaded until it starts to drag, you still have more locations. Go east on highway 26 until you see the Stevens Mountain road sign. Turn left and follow the road approximately six miles. You will end up at Mr. Lawson's Ochoco nodule bed. The eggs are all shades of carnelian to dark red with blue and black with some plume and some moss. There is a charge of ten cents a pound but you will be well satisfied, as these eggs are good. Camping is permitted but bring along your own water as there is none there.

Continue on this road and you come to a new bed called "The Lucky Strike thunderegg bed," that bears looking into. This belongs to Dale Hammersley, who has a shop on U. S. Highway 26 in Prineville. There will be a charge of ten cents per pound if you dig. We have seen the eggs from here and they are very good, with milky agate as a background for lacy moss of green, gold and red. These eggs are good gem material. So far we haven't heard of any plume.

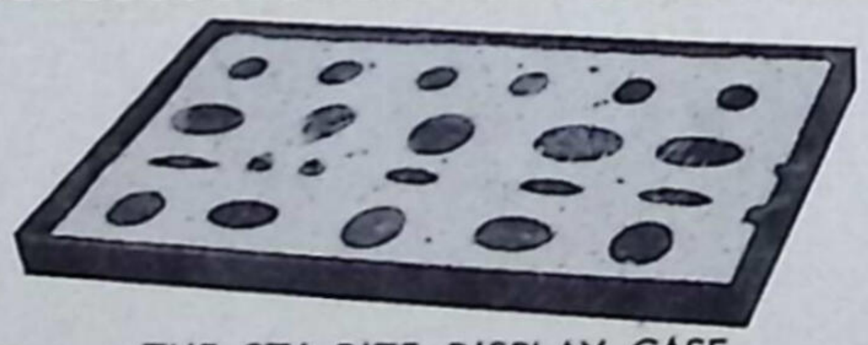
If you like to camp in clean camps with good water and no bugs and good rocking thrown in then you will like the Ochocos. (See illustration opposite.)

AGATE -- JADE MOUNTINGS

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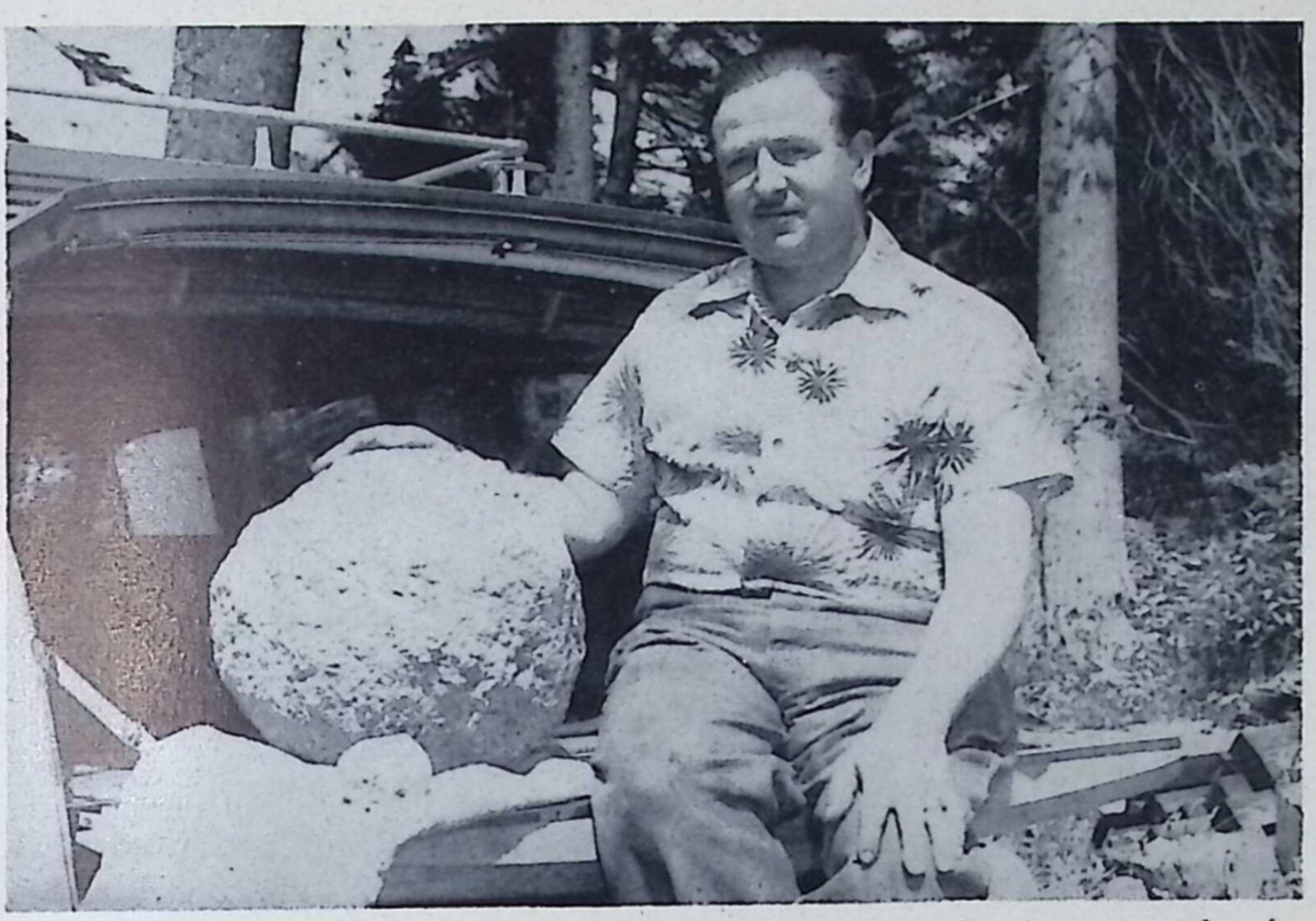
Approval selection of mountings sent on receipt of 3 references. Price list and description of Mountings sent on request.

JAMES J. KEHOE
BIG FORK MONTANA



THE STA-RITE DISPLAY CASE
Judged the finest for cut and polished precious stones, geological and entomological specimens.
New type cushion that yields and supports, eliminates "fuzz" exhibits. Clear, sharp and enhancing.
PRACTICAL—DURABLE—CONVENIENT
6x8"—$1.00 8x12"—$1.25
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Real values—Low in price. Ring and Jewelry display trays.
Write for illustrated circular

J. L. SUMNER CO.
209 W. Dobbin Rd. Phoenix, Arizona



The author of the short article on the opposite page is showing a sample of the eggs from the free bed at White Rock Springs in the Ochoco Mountains near Prineville.

TITANIA—Cut by experts from the best material available. Priced to insure good resale profit.

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By LELANDE QUICK

Our good friend Dr. Henry Dake, Editor of the *Mineralogist,* had some pertinent remarks in the March issue of his magazine about the word rockhound which interested us. "We do not know who coined or invented the term rockhound" wrote Dake, "but we do know that it appeared suddenly from a dozen or more sources some eight years past. We have been unable to determine what prompted the introduction of this name to apply to those interested in the earth sciences. Is it possible that this is a derivation from the long familiar name of boozehounds, often applied to those who drink to excess? . . . While the term rockhound has gained wide usage, there are still thousands and thousands who shudder when they see the term used." The Doctor fears that the men of the press will never understand the term.

We have never liked the term either and while we no longer shudder when we hear it we still cringe a little. It is so undignified as a term for one who plays with rocks but there is no doubt that it is well understood by the press and that it is widely accepted by our fraternity. As we have pointed out before, when such old ladies of the publishing world as the *National Geographic Magazine* and the *New York Times* publish really fine articles about rockhounds, and call them by that ame in their headlines and titles, then it seems fairly assured that the word will be ccepted in the newer editions of our dictionaries, for popular usage determines the cceptance of new words by those authorities.

The word still connotes the worst in the minds of some people. Let us offer an illustration. We looked up from our desk recently to see a gentleman at our office counter staring at us quite intently. We were quite busy at the moment and paid little attention, but when he continued to stare in silence we arose and approached him to ask if we could help him. He just asked us if we were Mr. Quick and when we replied affirmatively he introduced himself. He was another rockhound from the Middle West and we were greatly relieved to know that he wasn't a Government Income Tax Auditor who had caught up with us. He then said that we didn't look at all like the man he had pictured. Whereupon we offered to describe the man he had in mind and said "you probably thought that Mr. Quick, living in the desert and publishing a rockhound magazine, probably would have a week's growth of beard, smell like a goat and have no seat in his pants." The man roared with laughter and admitted that was exactly the picture he had of us. Unfortunately it is still true in many quarters that any person interested in the rock hobby who keeps himself socially acceptable is not regarded as a "true rockhound."

But we have come to accept the inevitable and we freely use the word rockhound in all our manuscripts and have even called our new book the *Rockhound Buyers Guide*. It is our editorial policy however never to capitalize the word and to spell it as one word. Perhaps the other publications can come into agreement with this.

As for the derivation of the term, we first remember it as being used on a personal calling card of John Greb, at that time a resident of Seattle and now our neighbor. It was about ten years ago that he gave us his card on which was pictured a hound dog licking a rock and each card had a little piece of rock glued at the right place. There are two versions of the hound story. One is that on field trips one separates the good rock from the "dog" rock, or rocks so unfit for any use that you wouldn't use them for anything else than to chase a dog from your premises. The other is that the rock hunter licks his rocks to see what they look like, just as a dog might sample some prospective food. The soundest reason for the use of the word is that hounds are hunters and rockhounds are rockhunters.

In time we hope that the word rockhound will lose its present stigma in some quarters and come to be accepted as the best term for people who find recreation and blessing in some form of the rock hobby, just as some of us in our older age are coming to accept comic books as "literature" for kids. We have always held the

current comic books in contempt until someone brought us a late edition of Walt Disney's Donald Duck comic book. We became greatly interested in it for it had a good story. Donald was greatly concerned because his cousin had found a diamond but his little nephews had the answer. They showed him he too could go to the desert and find all manner of gems. The story told how he did this and it all came out very well because the little nephews showed Uncle Donald how he could get all his information from what do you suppose? Nothing less than THE ROCKHOUND BUYERS GUIDE. We are now for comic books and the word rockhound —but that grinding of teeth you hear is our fury at the word "pebble pups."

The Rockhound Buyers Guide

AS INDISPENSABLE AS HIS HAMMER

This new annual for the rockhound fills a long felt want for ALL rockhounds—gem hunters, mineral collectors, swappers, silvercrafters, amateur geologists and scientists, fossil collectors and many border groups.

In 160 pages the size of this page it tells you—

- **the name and address of practically every dealer in North America who has anything to sell the rockhound—from a dime rock to a diamond ring, from amber to zircon, from a $3.00 lapidary outfit worked on your knee to a $350 faceting outfit. More than 600 listings.**
- **tells you just where to go to collect—in Washington, in Oregon, in Minnesota, in California, in Texas, etc. MAPS.**
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- **lists most of the museums with gem and mineral collections—what hours they are open and price of admission, if any.**
- **a hundred useful shop helps for the gem cutter and silver craftsman.**
- **lists every book ever published in English on the subject of gems and most of those printed on minerals. Also many on jewelcraft.**
- **gives author, publisher, address and price of every gem, mineral and jewelry book now for sale.**
- **tells how to organize a mineral and gem club and offers a model constitution and set of by laws.**
- **lists all dealers by state.**
- **tells instantly where to buy anything the rockhound might need. Adequate cross referencing.**
- **lists names, addresses and prices of all publications catering to rockhounds' interests.**
- **ads of more than 200 dealers and manufacturers that contain in themselves the greatest treasure of information ever published anywhere for the followers of America's fastest growing hobby.**
- **many more articles and features not mentioned for lack of space . . . tables . . . lists of trademarks . . . definitions of gem types not officially recognized etc.**
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THE LAPIDARY JOURNAL

PALM DESERT, CALIFORNIA

The Ace Lapidary Co. announces the opening of their new retail Lapidary & Gem store at 160-11 Hillside Ave., Jamaica, N. Y. (Parsons Blvd. & Hillside Ave.). Store will be open daily except Sunday from 9 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Monday evenings to 9 p.m. We will maintain a complete stock of all cut gems, preforms, rough material, lapidary equipment and supplies.

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NEWS OF THE DEALERS

FRED S. YOUNG, diamond saw manufacturer of Portland, Ore., communicates some interesting information about the diamond bort market. He writes "the diamond situation looks a little more encouraging for 1953 but our supplies could be cut off at any time. I shudder when I think what it would mean to the many sawing equipment manufacturers and the multitude of users. We actually used more commercial diamond in the United States last year than was produced and the new uses which are constantly being developed for this precious mineral do not indicate that prices will decline. The Government now requires that we account for every single carat that we use and even what we can reclaim from our sludge." . . . F. H. MILL, who operates a big lapidary supply store at Garden City, Mich. (a suburb of Detroit) stopped by for a visit recently. . . . Attended the wedding of Dr. RALPH E. MUELLER'S daughter in Phoenix, Ariz. in Jan. The GORDON'S of Long Beach were there too and we all had great fun for a couple of days. . . . Visited WILLIAM J. KANE'S new store in Phoenix while I was there. Bill has a new place now and is buying the property. . . . Stopped in to visit with Mr. Hockett at the DESERT GEM & MINERAL SHOP at Salome, Ariz., and at CY'S LAZY HY ROCK SHOP in Wickenburg, Ariz. . . . Had a nice visit with the Rogers of R&B ART CRAFT CO. in Los Angeles early in Feb. Haven't seen them for a couple of years. They showed me several tons of Brazilian agate boulders they recently received. Cutting out into some magnificent slices. . . . Also went to see Vi Crowther who is now carrying on alone at her Farmer's Market Stall as Chuck Jordan has shut down the Town & Country Market Stall because they are reportedly tearing down the place. . . . DAN O'BRIEN was getting ready to enter the hospital for a hernia repair. He is now recovering nicely. . . . The ADCOCKS came by from Loveland, Colo. They operate CY'S ROCK SHOP. . . . HEINZ ECKERT of Eckert Mineral Research Co., Florence, Colo., dropped in to show us the stuff he brought back from Idar-Oberstein after being in Europe three months.

. . . RUTH FULTON is opening the Priday Ranch agate beds again on March 28. Last year she advertised admission as $3 per person (same this year) with "autos, horses, camels and burros free." When a man came along named Burroughs and insisted on getting in free, in accordance with the advertising, she thought it wise to change the ad. No burros free this year. . . . GUY HAZEN was in to say he has had to close his fossil museum at Kingman, Arizona to devote full time to his uranium mine. . . . MARY FRANCES BERKHOLZ, author of the fine article on Page 4 in this issue, proprietor of the California House of Rocks, opened her new store on March 3 at 16208 S. Clark Ave., Bellflower, Calif. . . . Paid a visit recently to CHARLES J. HANSEN, now operating the Coachella Valley Mineral, Art & Gem Shop, formerly operated at the Valerie Jean corner in Thermal, Calif., by John Hilton. Hansen is now a retired wholesale jeweler from San Francisco, where he was well known for many years as having probably the finest mineral collection in the Bay area. Hansen is building a museum and he has a show place containing some of the finest mineral specimens outside of a museum that we have ever seen. . . . RAY MITCHELL of GUILD writes that he sold 8 tumbling machines in the first two weeks after the Feb. *Journal* ad appeared. . . . FRED BITNER writes that he recently spent about a thousand dollars making a new die for his templates which will be within .003 of perfect tolerance.

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News of the Societies

LOS ANGELES LAPIDARY SOC. held a Ladies' Night at the March meeting. We remember attending one of these ladies' meetings several years ago and never have we attended a better organized or useful meeting. The ladies took over and had four swift and good talks on various phases of gemcraft and jewelcraft. Ever turn over your meeting to women? They have a wide reputation for talking you know.

* * *

VICTOR VALLEY GEM & MINERAL CLUB (Victorville, Calif.) recently heard Chang Wen Ti in a lecture on jade carving. Mr. Ti is widely known for his jade figures.

* * *

SACRAMENTO MINERAL SOC. (Calif.) is inaugurating the policy of having one article each month on lapidary procedure in their monthly bulletin, THE MATRIX.

* * *

NORTHERN CALIFORNIA MINERAL SOC. (San Francisco) recently heard Wesley M. Hillendahl in a lecture on modern gem cutting.

* * *

LONG BEACH MINERAL & GEM SOC. (Calif.) recently heard Dorothy Alford in a fine lecture on Jewelry Making Design.

* * *

SAN ANTONIO ROCK & LAPIDARY SOC. (Texas) now maintains a gem display case of the work of Society members in the lobby of the Witte Museum, where they are now meeting.

* * *

MINNESOTA MINERAL CLUB (Minneapolis) recently conducted an evening tour of the lapidary shops of four members.

* * *

PASADENA LAPIDARY SOC. (Calif.) recently heard Walter Sommer in a talk on designing jewelry with insect designs. He also displayed his notable work.

* * *

SAN FERNANDO VALLEY MINERAL & GEM SOC. (Calif.) recently heard H. W. Boblet of *R&B Art-Craft Co.* give a talk on agates, accompanied by projection of his actual agate slides.

* * *

COMPTON GEM & MINERAL CLUB (Calif.) heard W. Scott Lewis at their Feb. meeting in an illustrated lecture on the quartz family minerals.

HOLLYWOOD LAPIDARY SOC. recently heard Dr. Richard H. Swift in a lecture on scarabs and gem cutting methods in ancient Egypt.

* * *

CHICAGO LAPIDARY CLUB recently lost their entire stock of materials for their famous bulletin THE TEMPLATE when a $20,000 fire destroyed the Grand Crossing Park Field House where they have been meeting. Wm. Richards recently gave a talk to them on the Magic of Fluorescence.

* * *

SAN DIEGO MINERAL & GEM SOC. recently heard Clyde Scott tell how he makes his prize winning spheres and bookends.

* * *

CHEYENNE MINERAL & GEM SOC. (Wyo.) recently heard R. J. Laughlin in a lecture and demonstration of the use of lapidary equipment. Personnel of nearby Warren Air Force Base were guests. (Has YOUR society had the boys in lately?)

* * *

FORT WORTH MINERAL CLUB (Texas) recently elected C. A. Rigney as President.

* * *

CHICAGO ROCKS & MINERALS SOC. celebrated their seventh anniversary in Feb. at which time they heard Gertrude M. Lewis in a lecture on Indian Jewelry of the Southwest.

* * *

SHADOW MOUNTAIN GEM & MINERAL SOC. (Palm Desert, Calif.) heard George Burnham tell about his year's experience collecting minerals in Africa at the Feb. meeting. Charles Hansen addressed the March meeting on the subject of Pearls. Their second annual Desert Rockhounds Fair drew 5735 turnstile clocked attendance in two days. 32,000 square feet of space in two buildings were completely filled with dealers (37) and exhibits and several societies held an official field trip to the exhibit.

* * *

WASATCH GEM SOC. (Salt Lake City) recently heard their new President Henry T. Fisher in a talk on Superstitions of Precious Stones.

* * *

MIAMI MINERAL & GEM SOC. (Fla.) recently heard our old friend Gladys Hannaford in her splendid lecture on Diamonds.

* * *

SOUTHWEST MINERALOGISTS (Los Angeles) recently heard Jack Streeter, Past Pres. of both the American and the California Federations in a lecture on how to build a mineral collection. He stressed that mineral specimens do not have to be big to be beautiful and good.

MARCUS WHITMAN GEM & MINERAL SOC. (Walla Walla, Wash.) recently heard a lecture on meteorites by Ralph Johnson.

* * *

MARICOPA LAPIDARY SOC. (Phoenix) has elected W. I. Moseley as President.

* * *

OREGON AGATE & MINERAL SOC. (Portland), hosts to the Northwest Federation of Mineralogical Societies convention during the coming Labor Day week end, has invited the Editor to address them on Saturday September 5 on the subject of America's Fastest Growing Hobby. We look forward to visiting with our friends in the Northwest although we shall immediately dig our from Portland following our talk so that we can get out the October issue without delay.

* * *

SAN JOSE LAPIDARY SOC. (Calif.) will feature a large "rose" window at their annual lapidary and jewelry show to be given in the Women's Club rooms on April 18, 19. The window will be a large frame 16′ wide and 8′ high, in the shape of a church window. The frame will be filled with rock transparencies with a sunburst in the center. The work is being done by Society members under the direction of Raymond Addison of cameo fame.

* * *

SANTA FE GEM & MINERAL CLUB (N.M.) has built a case to hold a permanent society gem and mineral display in the rooms of the local Chamber of Commerce.

* * *

OKLAHOMA MINERAL & GEM SOC. (Oklahoma City) renders high praise for our *Rockhound Buyers Guide* for which we are indeed grateful. Domer Howard, who wrote that fine article on the Diamonds of Arkansas in the October '51 *Journal*, is the new President.

* * *

LAPIDARY & GEM SOC. OF NEW YORK recently heard Jos. Rothstein in a talk on the minerals of Oxford County, Maine. In Feb. Langtrye Lynd gave a talk on rutile. The Society held a six weeks' exhibition of their work beginning Feb. 13 at 217 Broadway. This Society was organized by the Editor in 1949.

* * *

SANTA BARBARA MINERALOGICAL SOC. (Plainfield) recently held a lapidary evening. Louis Eaton Shaw spoke on faceting problems and J. Andrus on miniature carving.

* * *

LAPIDARY CLUB OF WASHINGTON, D. C. recently witnessed a film on the making and cutting of artificial gemstones, made by Linde Air Products Co.

* * *

FRESNO GEM & MINERAL SOC. (Cal.) recently heard Dr. Clement A. Tavares in a talk on faceting.

* * *

NEWARK LAPIDARY SOC. (N. J.) heard Dr. Herman Goldstein at their Feb. meeting in a lecture on the lapidary hobby.

DIRECT IMPORTS FROM BRAZIL

All color varieties of Tourmaline crystals including the highly desired "watermelon" type, mixed lots at $16.00 per lb. Amethyst quartz at $10.00 per lb. Citrine quartz at $16.00 per lb. Golden Beryl at 6c per gram. All the above cabochon material.
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ORANGE BELT MINERALOGICAL SOC. (San Bernardino, Calif.) has been greatly saddened by the tragic death of their President, Isaac V. Graham and his wife Alma. They were both killed in a head-on collision with a bus only 5 miles North of our office on Jan. 9. George Tyler has been elected to fill the term.

* * *

PUGET SOUND GEM & MINERAL CLUB (Seattle), organized only last Fall, now has 47 members. New address of the Sec., Florence Sproat, is Route 1, Box 682, Maple Valley, Wash. Karl Hillquist of the Lapidary Equipment Co. is to speak at the April meeting.

* * *

New Societies

Ishpeming Rocks & Minerals Club is the name of a new club recently organized at Ishpeming, Mich. For information address Bob Markert, Pres.

* * *

Miami Valley Mineral & Gem Club was recently organized in Dayton, Ohio. For information write Robert J. Wening, 221 Virginia Avenue, Dayton.

* * *

Evansville Lapidary Society was organized on January 31 at Evansville, Indiana with Ida Black as President. The second meeting was held on February 28 in the Crafts Shop of the YWCA, where the club will probably meet in the future. The first program was a sound movie on the Mineral Resources of Ohio and another on the Treasure Trove of Jade, a picture showing the excavation of the largest cache of jade artifacts at Vera Cruz, Mexico. The new club already has a very fine bulletin, tentatively called their News Letter. They are looking for a new name for it but we think News Letter is perfect; that's what all club bulletins are and should be.

* * *

Caprock Gem & Mineral Society was recently organized at Amarillo, Texas. The new club will meet on the third Friday at 7:30 p.m. in the conference room of the Globe Times Bldg. Fred Field, 2006 Pierce St., is the Secretary.

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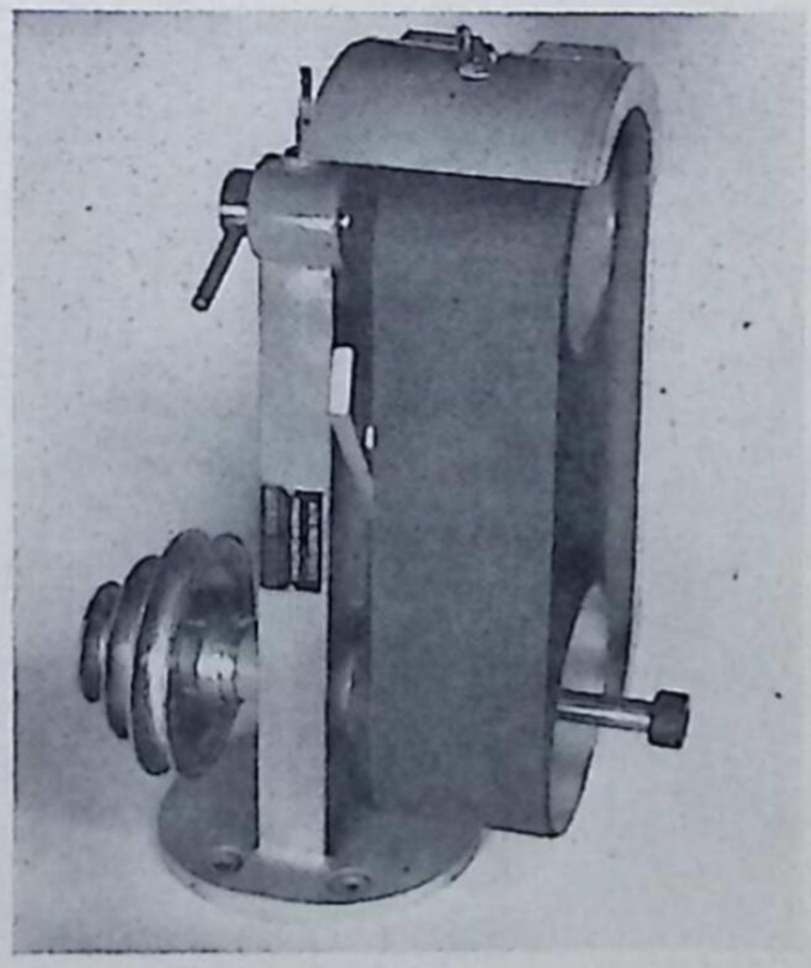
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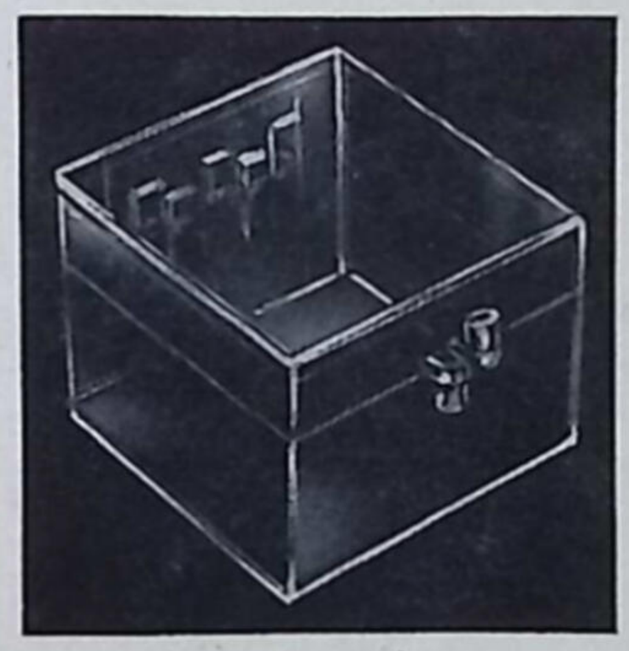
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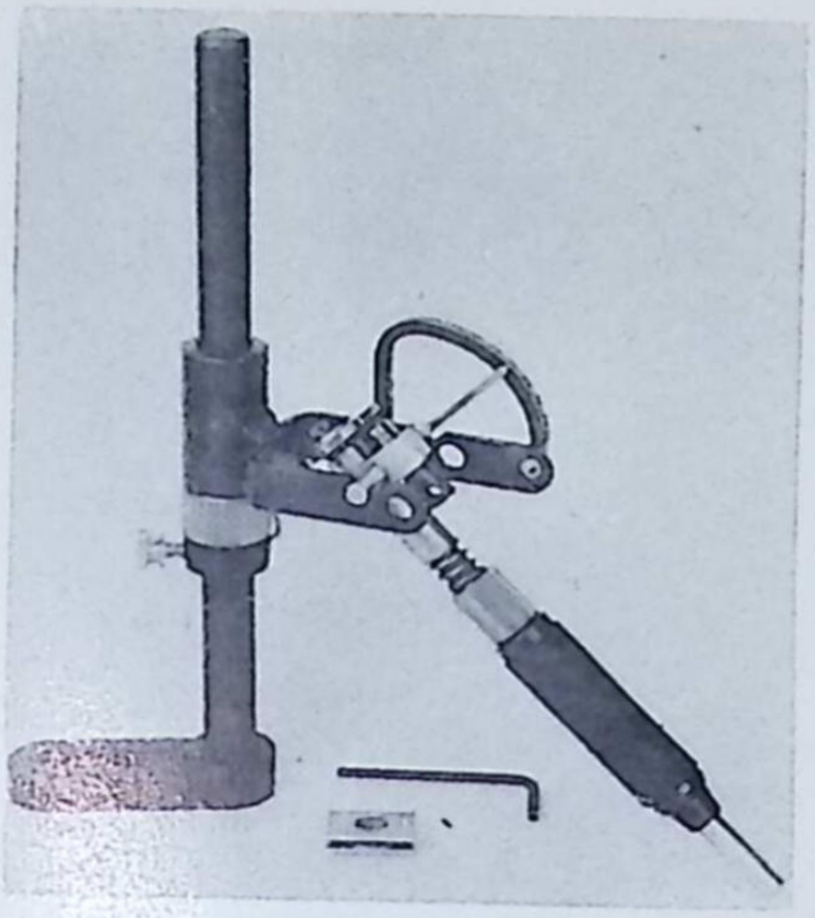
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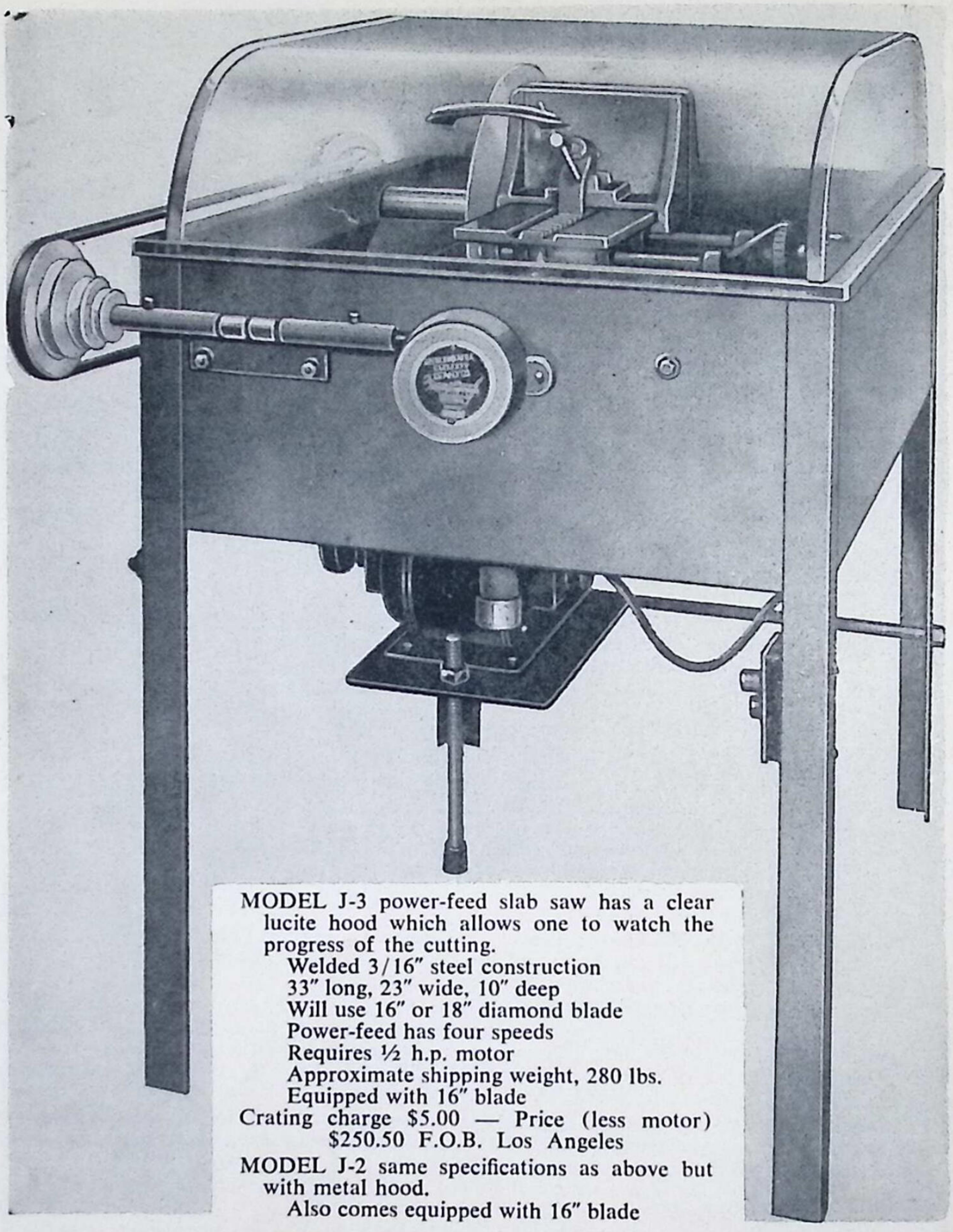
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