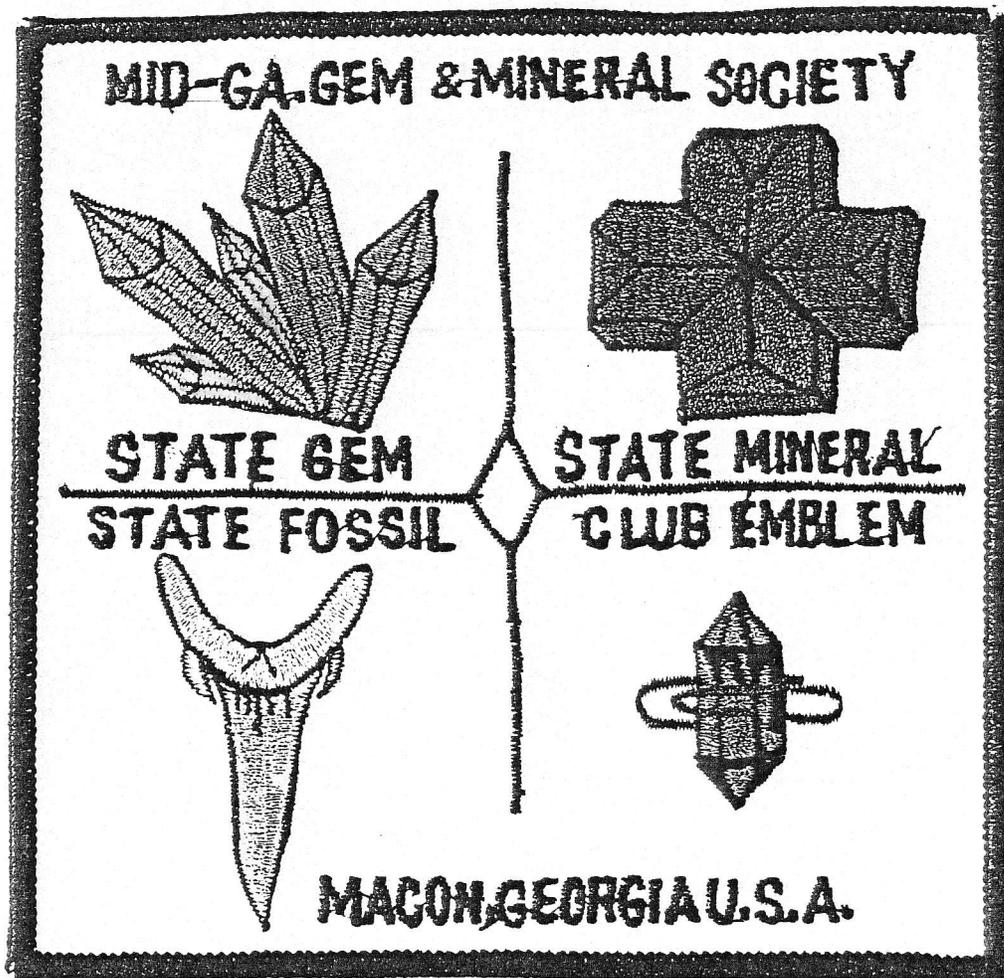


Mid-Georgia Gem and Mineral

Macon, Georgia

1960 - 1985



OLD RECORDS ARE NEVER AS COMPLETE AS YOU WOULD LIKE. WE HAVE TRIED TO RECONSTRUCT THE HISTORY OF THE MID-GEORGIA GEM & MINERAL SOCIETY AS ACCURATELY AS POSSIBLE. THE CLUB HAS MEANT MUCH TO MANY OF US. WE HOPE IT WILL HAVE ANOTHER 25 YEARS.

MARGARET S. BREWER, EDITOR
HARRIETTE ANTONIO
TONY ANTONIO
LEE ENNIS
CAROLYN JOHNSON
JOHN PELLEW

CLASSES & DEMONSTRATIONS

Learning to do different things with our rocks and minerals has played an important part in the Mid-Georgia Gem & Mineral Society. Some of the classes/demonstrations have led others to enjoy a new phase of the hobby.

SILVERSMITHING	Jerry Abney
GOLD WIRE WRAPPING	Mr. & Mrs. Randall Cornelius Simone Wood
GEM PICTURES	Harriette Antonio
LAPIDARY	Ellwood Lines, Ezra Kent, Jack Jones Shafer Goodrich
FACETING	Ellwood Lines, Shafer Goodrich, Bill Reid
SPHERE MAKING	Frank Comer
MINERAL IDENTIFICATION	John Whatley
SAND PAINTING	Cecil & Lynda Boatwright
GEM TREES	Lois Morris, Louise Hill, Tony Antonio
LOST WAX CASTING	Instructor unknown
FLAT LAP MACHINE (HOW TO BUILD YOUR OWN)	Ezra Kent

HATS OFF TO THOSE WHO HAVE LEAD US IN LEARNING NEW THINGS.

PLACES THE MID-GEORGIA GEM & MINERAL SOCIETY HAVE MET

1st meeting held at the home of Mr. & Mrs. V. L. Gregg, College St., Macon, Ga.

Meetings thereafter were, for some years, held in the basement at the Youth Museum located in the old Wesleyan College Building on College St.

Then the meeting place was moved to Mercer University and we met there for some years.

A third meeting place was the Museum Of Arts & Sciences and we are still meeting there during this our 25th year.

There have been occasional meetings such as Christmas Parties, etc held at different restaurants or members homes. One class sessions were held at a Church in Warner Robins. One faceting class was held in a members home.

HATS OFF TO PEOPLE & ORGANIZATIONS THAT HAVE ALLOWED US SPACE TO MEET.

CLUB BULLETINS

From the very beginning the Mid-Georgia Gem & Mineral Society realized that to have some form of newsletter or bulletin was in the best interest of the members. A simple one page notice of time, place, program, field trip, was started at once. The machine used for this purpose is still owned by the club. We have not been able to ascertain just who did do the printing but strongly suspect it was the secretary.

In November, 1973 we started a multi-page bulletin and have continued to put out such a bulletin until the present time. In December, 1973 we ran a contest to name our bulletin. Mrs. Louise Jackson came up with a winner and we use this club logo with pride. We call the bulletin THE GEMCLIP and use this symbol.



The multi-page bulletin was started by Margaret Brewer and she remained editor until 1977. Awards won during this period include:

2nd Place EF Individual Article by Preston Watts, Alabama Petrified Wood 1974
1st Place AF Individual Article by Preston Watts, Alabama Petrified Wood 1974
2nd Place EF Large Bulletin 1976

Our second editors were Carl & Leena Kimberly who served until 1980. Awards won during this period include:

1st Place AF Mini Bulletin 1978
2nd Place EF Mini Bulletin 1978

Our third and present editor is Howard Binkley who runs the bulletin off with the help of a computer. We have come a long way from the hand cranked machine of the early days. Awards during Howard's time include:

1st Place EF Individual Article by Margaret Brewer, Three Rockhounds & A Whale 1982
1st Place EF Small Bulletin 1982

The club would not be the same without the dedicated work of Howard each month. It is indeed a fortunate club that can boast of thirteen years of a multi-page bulletin.

HATS OFF TO PAST AND PRESENT EDITORS.

PERSON WHO STARTED IT ALL

Maj. Frank E. Winner, Warner Robins, Ga. was the man who started it all. On August 27, 1960 he sent out a letter asking anyone interested in forming a Gem & Mineral Society in the Middle Georgia Area to come to the first meeting on Friday, Sept. 9th, at the home of Mr. & Mrs. V. L. Gregg.

In a letter to Club President, Milton L. Reiner, dated March 1, 1961 from A. S. Furcron Chief Geologist, Dept. Of Miner, Mining & Geology we picked up the following:

"I am sure that Major Winner will be quite a loss to the group because he was a fireball but my observation the other day was that you have a well-organized group."

We are not sure from this whether Maj. Winner had passed away at this time or whether he perhaps moved. We found no further record of his name. Nevertheless, the club stands as a memorial to his efforts.

HATS OFF TO OUR FOUNDER.

EASTERN FEDERATION & AMERICAN FEDERATION

From the beginning, the Mid-Georgia Gem & Mineral Society members voted to join with the Regional & National Federations of Mineralogical & Lapidary Societies. Several of our members have served as officers in the Eastern Federation which covers clubs east of the Mississippi and from Maine to Florida.

Tex Morris served as Region VII VP which included Ga., Al., Fl., Tn., Ms.

Margaret Brewer served as Region VII VP and then moved up to serve as 2nd VP of the entire Federation.

Both of these people also served on committees, acted as judges, etc.

Midwest Federation had a Geology Tour in Mi. & Canada in 1974 and 1975 that Margaret Brewer attended. As a result of this she ask that they sponsored such a tour for EF people. She was told they would - if - EF would then in turn sponsor such a trip in EF territory for MF people. So it came to pass that some ten members of our club attended the first EF Geology Tour to Mi. & Canada in 1976. Then in 1978 with Margaret Brewer as Chairperson we had an EF Geology Tour in Ga. & Al. Bill Christy, Jack Jones & Ezra Kent helped to lead these tours. EF has acknowledged that without reservation these tours are one of finest things that has ever been offered their member clubs. The tours are still being conducted each year. Two of our members who took the first tour, Bernard & Carolyn Johnson, are signed up for the 1986 tour.

Dr. Duncan Johnson who has donated many hours to the Museum Of Arts & Sciences cleaning, identifying, and preparing school kits of fossils and rocks was nominated by our club for the EF Presidential Trophy in 1974. At the convention in Miami, Fl. he was announced the winner. Dr. Johnson's effort to educate the children of our area in one phase of our hobby truly represents what our club is all about.

Wm. (Bill) Christy has also won 1st Place Award in the Each One Teach One contest sponsored by EF. Bill is known as Mr. Fossil Man to area school children. He speaks to many classes each year in the Middle Georgia Area. Bill is also famous for the field trips he leads for many groups to the local kaolin mines.

Many of our members have traveled far and wide to attend the Regional EF and National AF Shows. We have had a number of good programs as a result of these trips.

Club entered a case in competition at the EF Show held in Augusta, Ga. in 1966. This was the first time our club had entered such a contest and it was very rewarding for our early members when they won 1st Place. We are fortunate enough to have slides taken of this early case and they will be shown at our 25th Anniversary Party. Midge Grubbs was chairperson who put this case together.

Donation of materials, to be used by the Regional Federation to raise funds for the AF Scholarship Fund, has been a service rendered by our club throughout the years.

EF had for some years sent each club a large multi-page bulletin. Some clubs did not have their own bulletins and some editors never passed on the information. Under EF Pres. Wilma Bonar it was decided that a single sheet, sent to each club, for every member would be a better way. Margaret Brewer was asked to be editor of such a newsletter and she did so for some six months. EF still uses this single sheet to be in contact with each individual Federation Member.

HATS OFF TO THE FEDERATIONS WHO HAVE HELPED US AND TO OUR MEMBERS WHO HAVE IN TURN HELPED OTHER CLUB MEMBERS THROUGH THE FEDERATIONS.

THINGS WE REMEMBER -----

First club field trip was to Hillsboro, Ga. for quartz and then on to the Feldspar mines at Monticello. This first of many field trips that have meant so much to so many of us. Trip was led by Garland Peyton, Dir. of Mines, Mining & Geology. Wonder how many times the club has been back to these locations?

Dues for the Mid-Georgia Gem & Mineral Society were set at \$5.00 per person when the club was first formed. 25 years later -- dues are still \$5.00 per person for adults. Early records show that junior membership was \$1.00 and it is now \$2.50. What other group has kept membership rate the same for 25 years?

A field trip to remember was to a wild cave in northwest Georgia. A wild cave means one in which there are no lights, no guides, and you are strictly on your own. Wow - that was indeed a wild field trip -- never to be forgotten. Leader was Lee Golden. Picture taking of formations only -- no collecting allowed.

We voted on and started making club vests to be worn by members in 1977. Many of us still have and do wear them. We then went ahead and ordered club patches. We look real sharp when we all wear them.

Mid-Georgia Gem & Mineral Society has been known to do many things for our community. One of the first things our early members did was to donate a fine case of minerals to go on display at Mercer University.

During the first year of our club we took part in the Georgia State Fair. By placing several cases on display the early members started a fine tradition for those who came later. Fair officials and television personnel who have observed exhibits throughout the years are high in their praise of our displays. John Pellew chaired this first fair exhibit.

Visitors have always been welcomed by our club. We have had one couple who were touring America from New Zealand to visit us. Ina & Sue Buchanan came a long way to be with us! We still hear from this couple and they now have two children.

In 1975 our club voted to put a display in the Museum Of Arts & Sciences. The exhibit was entitled The Earths Diary. Director of the Museum Doug Noble was a little apprehensive about the exhibit. On Saturday while we were putting it in he came by. On Sunday he was in again. He shook his head and said, "No wonder Museums can't get fine minerals -- you people must own them all." He later said "It was one of the best exhibits we have ever had."

Speakers for our meetings have come from far and wide. Many of our programs have been given by our own members. One speaker was a geologist from Brazil. He was in Macon visiting his daughter and came and gave us a program.

In 1983 the Museum in Dublin, Ga. ask our club to please help them with a mineral display. Bill Christ, John Pellew, Margaret Brewer, Tony & Harriette Antonio went down and set up the display. Several other members (whose names I do not have written down) "lent" materials and jewelry for this display. It proved so popular that they called and wanted to keep it longer. We agreed!

We made a bus trip to Atlanta to visit the Fulton Federal Savings & Loan mineral exhibit. We also visited several rock shops that day. It was a fun field trip.

CONTINUED
THINGS WE REMEMBER -----

Club Christmas issue bulletins have proved to be of interest throughout the years. One year the front cover was a Christmas tree decorated with our club logo and each was hand colored. Another year we had a Christmas tree made up of all club members names. Another year it was a Christmas wreath with all of our names. In 1985 we had a bell consisting of lines and spaces done on the computer. Nice!

Early records tell us that name tags were ordered for the members in 1961. Members were to be fined 10¢ if they failed to wear them. During this our 25th year we have again ordered name tags for some members who did not already have them.

A case of minerals, jewelry, etc was put in the Washington Memorial Library for people to enjoy in 1962. We were only 2 years old at that time and already we were sharing our hobby with others.

Harry Abney recently wrote us that he remembers when he and Jerry shopped for silver, solder and other supplies in Ft. Worth so the club could get started on making their own findings. Jerry was to lead this silversmithing class for us. Harry says that secretly, he remembers some of the men in the group being amazed when their wife picked up the techniques, and the soldering skills faster than they did. We all enjoyed this silversmithing class.

Did you know we are the best known club on the west coast? Many members have come to us from far away clubs -- been with us for a time -- then returned to former clubs. One such member is John Camillo. When he returned to the west coast he took Georgia minerals with him. He has displayed them under our club name for some years now. Every once in a while he sends us ribbons, certificates, etc that we have won. It is great to be so well known!

Club Shows! We could write an entire book about them. They are the highlight of our year. From what we can gather -- we started with a swap, show type thing at the campground on I-75 near the High Falls exit. Pictures taken at the bar-b-que line there will be shown at our 25th party. We have grown to a yearly show held in the Westgate Mall on the third weekend of May. Jack Jones has been our Show Chairman for some years now. He has to take a days vacation each year to get the show on the road. How grateful we are for his efforts. Stores some of the materials necessary to put on the show at his house. His lovely wife, Betty, helps and smiles through it all. I have heard more than one dealer talk about how nice Jack is to work with.

Many clubs throughout the country had worked hard to get State Geological Symbols named. Clubs in Georgia decided to band together and work for these symbols in our State. Margaret Brewer from our club along with Mrs. Doug (Annis) MacRae from Georgia Mineral as her Co-Chairman went to work to get this bill passed into law. A bulletin entitled "Georgia - Empire State Of The South" was printed and widely distributed. The illustrations on the cover were done by one of our junior members, Keith Bryan. An article "Shark Teeth In Georgia" by Wm. Christy, III was also included. On March 18, 1976 the Governor did sign the bill naming Quartz as the State Gem Stone, Staurolite as the State Mineral, and fossil Shark Teeth as the State Fossil. Many of us went up for the signing of the bill. We presented the Governor with a ring made of Georgia gold given by Wayne Lundry of our club. Ellwood Lines, Frank Steel cut stones for the rings for the Governor and the First Lady. Stones for gift for Lt. Governor was cut by Gene Harris of Georgia Mineral. It was a joint effort on the part of all Georgia clubs and we were proud to be a part of it.

Do you remember the club field trip taken on the train known as The Nancy Hanks? You don't remember that? Well on January 28, 1961 the club took such a trip to Atlanta to visit the Department of Mines, Mining & Geology. We could not find record of how many went but bet they had a good time.

Dr. Jim Harrison was an early member of our club. Then he left the country for some years. Since his return to America he has been a frequent speaker for us. I believe he has given us more programs than any other person. He and wife Joyce left just before our party and the last thing I said to him was "Take a lot of pictures so you can give us another program." "I will and always look forward to speaking to your group." Hats off to the Harrisons.

Mineral Week In Georgia! In 1983 Margaret Brewer got a call from the Capitol in Atlanta asking if the clubs in Georgia would be interested in putting in a display of Georgia Minerals for all to see. With Mrs. Doug (Annis) MacRae from Georgia Mineral as her co-chairman she got busy. A very fine display was put in the Capitol for two weeks. Clubs from all over Georgia cooperated and it was quite a show. Many of our members went up and helped out. The Governor signed a proclamation naming "Mineral Week In Georgia". It was great to be a part of this project. We always learn by doing!

HATS OFF TO THOSE WHO STARTED IT ALL

HATS OFF TO THOSE WHO ARE PART OF IT ALL NOW

HATS OFF TO THOSE WHO WILL BE PART OF IT ALL IN THE FUTURE

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

Gem and Mineral Society Shown Film On Rocks

J. D. Anderson yesterday showed a film on rocks and minerals to more than 75 members of the Middle Georgia Gem and Mineral Society at its April meeting at the Macon Youth Museum. Arrangements were made for a field trip to Thomaston on Sunday, April 16. The group will meet in front of the Big Apple Market in Thomaston at 10 a.m. The trip will be made to hunt for yanite and staurolite gem material which is found in quantity in the Thomaston vicinity. The next regular meeting of the society will be held on the first Monday in May.

4/4/61

F. E. Dill Named

Gem Society Takes Weekend Excursion

The Mid-Georgia Gem and Mineral Society held a field trip to Graves Mountain over the weekend. Members gathered at the courthouse in Thomson, Ga., with Dan Wilson in charge of the group. The society will hold its regular monthly meeting at 8 p.m. Monday, Nov. 13, at the Macon Youth Museum.

Mineral Society Gets Visit From Tax Collector

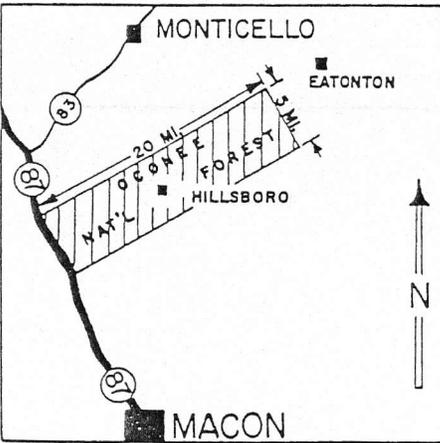
A tax collector showed up at Monday night's meeting of the Mid-Georgia Gem and Mineral Society. The unidentified state official collected 50 cents from the so-called "rock hounds" who had forgotten to get authorization from the government to sell rocks to each other. The 50 cents fee apparently contented the official and he even stayed on for the group's program. A film entitled "Diamond is Forever" was shown and a nominating committee appointed to select 1961-62 officers for the club. Milton Reiner, president of the society, said approximately 50 members of the club attended the meeting.

LARGE MULTIPLE BERYL CRYSTAL FOUND NEAR MACON, GEORGIA

By Paul J. Bois

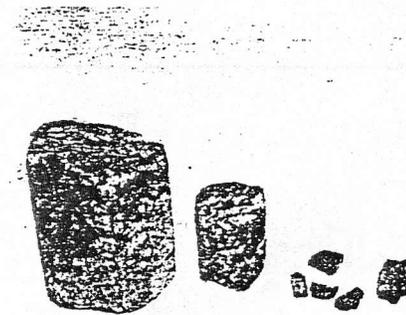
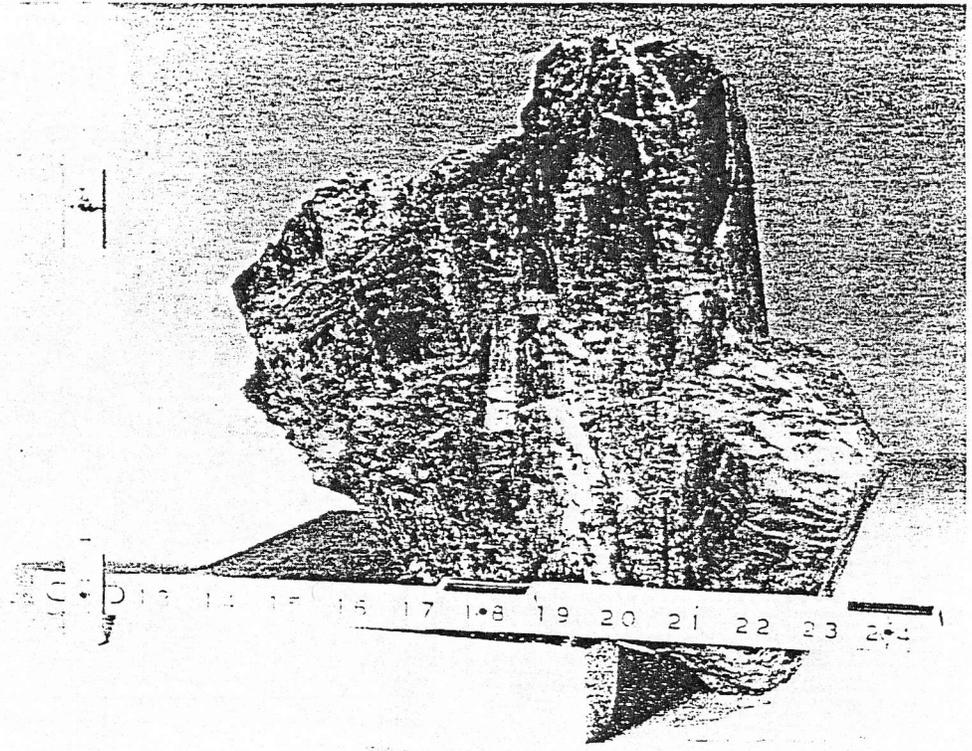
1941 Winston Drive,
Macon, Georgia

To the north of Macon, Georgia, is newly created Oconee National Forest, created from some land held by the Federal Government. This land was never the best for agriculture because of its extremely thin soil and rocky nature. The government acquired it, for the most part, after its abandonment for crop-raising many years ago after the boll weevil had done its work on the cotton crop. Approximately 85,000 acres are in this forest. The forest runs southwest from Eatonton to State Highway 87. Near Hillsboro, Georgia, this land has produced some unusual milky blue quartz which is almost of opalescent quality. Also found in this locality have been some fine smoky quartz crystals. Mica in book form has been mined for and found in this area for some years. Another mineral found in quantity and presently being mined is feldspar.



As one would expect, such associations with pegmatite minerals would naturally lead to the assumption that other and more valuable gem materials might be found. One day early in 1961, while hunting minerals in another part of the forest, I noticed some green-colored rock protruding from the ground. I found it was beryl and brought home some 50 pounds. I returned to this location several times thereafter, always finding a few beryl crystals.

One day when it was raining slightly, I was in this area and noticed how easily colored rocks could be spotted when the surrounding stones were wet and free from the glare of the sun. A large boulder caught my eye because it had a slight greenish appearance at one end. Since the boulder was largely quartzite and feldspar with a little mica, it was difficult to tell just what was inside. Not wishing to break it, I brought it home and carefully chipped away the outer shell. Imagine my surprise to discover that almost the entire piece was made up of large massive beryl crystals. The multiple beryl crystal cluster shown in the illustration accompanying this article



was the result and weighs nearly 35 pounds.

The other smaller crystals pictured are the general types of individual crystals found in the same area. Some smaller crystals found in association with a very dark smoky quartz have been of faceting quality beryl, but of only a slightly green color. The quality is high but unfortunately they were broken accidentally in removing them from the quartz. Only small pieces of golden beryl have been found and these are not of faceting grade. Of the crystals

pictured the larger crystal is green, the next is dark blue, and the four small ones are clear faceting grade. The last piece is a partial crystal of golden beryl.

I shall not give the exact location for the reason that many areas around the Southeast have been badly torn up because a few greedy people have only been interested in high-grading, without regard for the other fellow. The enclosed map gives a general idea of the location of these beryl-bearing pegmatites. Hunting and finding them is too much fun to spoil it!

RAY'S WORLD-WIDE GEM MATERIALS 4424 EMORY ROAD EL PASO, TEXAS

WE SPECIALIZE IN EXOTIC, UNUSUAL AND HARD TO GET CAB GRADE GEM STONES FROM ALL OVER THE WORLD IN BAROQUE AND ROUGH FORMS. MOST OTHER GOOD MEXICAN AND DOMESTIC MATERIALS ALSO AVAILABLE. RETAIL ONLY AND NO MINIMUM REQUIRED—AS FOLLOWS:—amber, amethyst, apatite, aquamarine, aventurine, bloodstone, chrysocolla, chrysoprase, cacoxenite in quartz, citrine, garnet goldstone, moonstone, orthoclase, peridot, jade, lapis lazuli, labradorite, malachite, opal, psilomelane, rhodonite, rhodochroite, sodalite, shattuckite, staurolites, sunstone, topaz, turquoise, tigereye, variscite, etc. ALL AT COMPETITIVE PRICES—SEND FOR PRICE LIST IF DESIRED—SATISFACTION GUARANTEED OR MONEY REFUNDED. ALSO WE HAVE LOTS AND LOTS OF SLABS.

It's One Whale of a Tale; No Bones About It

By Richard Goudeau
Staff Writer

It's a whale of a tale with nothing fishy about it.

In June 1973, William Christy and his son Bill were searching for fossils in one of the Huber Kaolin mines in Twiggs County.

The Christys were, by avocation, rockhounds. In their search that day, they discovered a portion of a prehistoric whale. Though unaware of the full significance of the find, they took immediate steps to ensure the preservation of the fossil until experts could be summoned to determine exactly what the fossil was.

Fortunately, Huber Kaolin agreed to stop mining the area until the fossil was removed. Also, W.H. Barksdale, who owned the property where the whale was found and who had sold mineral rights to Huber, cooperated willingly as work began to excavate the fossil.

A vertebrate paleontologist from the University of Georgia, Michael Voonnes, was called in. He identified the fossil as a 40 million-year-old whale of the genus Zygorhiza.

The identification was based on the fossil's mud cracks which intermingled with actual whale skeleton remains. The experts say the whale apparently beached on what was the ocean shoreline of 40 million years ago.

The area where the whale was discovered also contains numerous fossil mollusks — animals related to the clam family — which are known to have made their habitat in mud along shallow shores or beaches.

After the whale was excavated, it seemed logical to house it at the University of Georgia, and this was done in 1974. Shortly thereafter, Voonnes left the Athens school, and the univer-

sity was left without a paleontologist. The bones remained in boxes, and it was feared they would get lost in the shuffle.

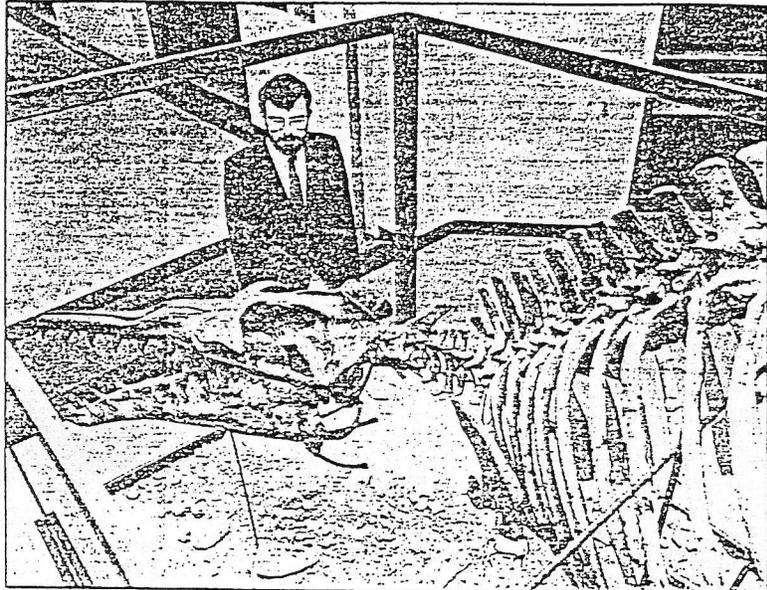
It was about this time that the Museum of Arts and Sciences was pushing forward its campaign to raise funds for expanding its facilities. Christy approached the museum about the whale, and it was decided (and agreed to by the University of Georgia) to house the whale in the museum's new building if funds could be found to finance the reconstruction of the whale.

A Macon museum patron, Dr. Samuel T. Mercer, provided a grant, and in 1979 the whale was sent to Robert Allen in Gainesville, Fla. Allen is a paleoreparator — one who reconstructs and restores fossils. He got his early training by working for Jones Taxidermy Studios in New York, a company that is world famous for reconstruction of dinosaurs and other prehistoric creatures.

Initially, it was thought the fossil remains constituted 50 percent of the whale. This was too optimistic an estimate. "Actually only about 25 percent of the whale remained, Allen says.

To assemble the total skeleton which will stand on display in the museum, the missing portions had to be made.

But where do you find pieces of a 40 million-year-old skeleton? "Other museums, such as (the) Smithsonian, have fossils of this whale," Allen explains. "What you have to do is take the parts they have and make a mold. From this you cast what you need."



Museum Director David Eldridge Views Zygorhiza Skeleton Which Will Be Unveiled Sunday



Now & Then

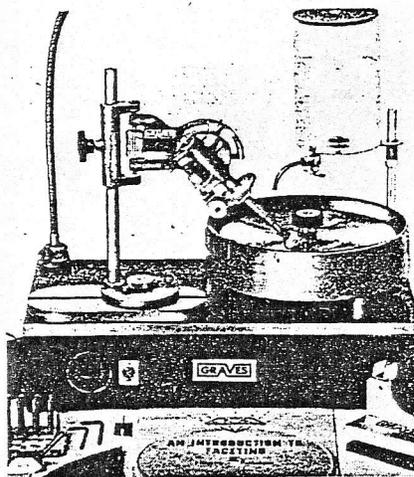
by LEE MARTIN

The Hobby is Facet-nating!

It has been many moons since a column about the problems of holding a stone in place during faceting appeared, and I admit that some of the writing was "tongue in cheek." On occasion I have been able to facet a stone without it going into orbit, but the many fine suggestions I received from beginners, middle-of-the-roaders, and experts made that column one of my favorites.

Space won't allow the use of some of the better advice but the following by William Reid of Macon, Georgia really seems to be the perfect solution to immobilizing the scintillating projectile.

"My method is to set the stone on a flat dop and use a thin layer of cyanoacrylic



adhesive on the dop head, but make sure both stone and dop have been cleaned first with the acetone. Use your transfer jig with two flat dops to hold everything until set. Wait about 15 minutes and then cut the pavilion. Now clean the attached stone and receiving dop with acetone. Mix a little cornstarch with any good two-part fast-set epoxy; just enough to turn the epoxy white. Put in transfer jig and press down, but leave a small space between the pavilion and receiving dop. This helps the solvent remove the stone after cutting the crown. Let the epoxy set.

Now place the transfer jig and all into a small toaster oven, set at 200 degrees for 30

minutes. Then let cool. Hold onto the stone and break off the first dop. Cut the crown and polish. Put stone in "Attack" solvent overnight. The stone should be off by then, so clean it and you are done! All of this takes time, but when you are faceting expensive gemstones, as I am, you can't afford to let the stone come off."

Mr. Reid promises to eat the next edition of *ROCK & GEM* if his system doesn't work, but I can assure him he not only won't have to do that, but he has eased the way for those who "eat their hearts out" when they lose a stone.

William Reid ended his note with the most important data...he uses "Loctite" Super-Bonder 415 (cyanoacrylic) and Epoxy 330.

Mid-Georgia Rockhounds Establish Mineral Society

By WALLACE REID

WARNER ROBINS — Middle Georgia can boast today that it has its own mineral society, dedicated to the study, finding and beautifying of gems and other minerals.

The society was formed Friday night at a meeting in the home of Mr. and Mrs. V. L. Gregg at 195 College St. in Macon and its founding was largely the work of a Warner Robins man.

Fast becoming one of the top hobbies in the United States, work and study in mineralogy, geology and gems has many amateur enthusiasts in the Middle Georgia area.

But until the Robins man, Frank E. Winner "took the bull by the horns" there was no official organization devoted to the hobby.

Winner, a retired Air Force major who now works in the Warner Robins Air Materiel Area, is one of the hobby's most enthusiastic supporters.

"It is one of the most satisfying and rewarding hobbies imaginable," he said. "Field trips, on which you search for interesting rocks and stones, provide a lot of needed exercise and of course the study of geology and mineralogy, is an extremely fascinating field."

Apparently, from talking to Winner and other enthusiasts, Lapidary [if you want to use the sophisticated name of the hobby] has nearly as many facets and sidelights as some of the beautiful gems it produces.

Some of the rockhounds, as they are called by each other, enjoy most getting out and seeing how many different types they can find, native to a particular area.

Others enjoy more the study of different types of gems and collecting and classifying them. While for others it is much more satisfying to take a rough gem stone and then cut and polish it until it becomes a beautiful gem, ready for setting in milady's ring or necklace.

Winner, who took up the hobby while recuperating in an Air Force hospital after being shot down in the skies over Korea, points out that the hobby is only for those who are really interested in studying and working at it.

"There are many, many books on the subject of collecting gems, classifying them, cutting them and polishing them and the devoted rockhound reads everything he can lay his hands on to improve himself," Winner said.

Of course, in the gem field, the enthusiast can't find all the gems he may want to work on in his locality and this problem has been solved for him.

There are dealers who will provide him with almost any type of rock or gem deposit he could possibly want. Whether it be emerald or sapphire, diamond or opal, he can order the rough materials and then cut and polish them to suit his own fancy.

And distances mean nothing to the enthusiast. He may have in his possession gem-bearing rocks from the mines of Africa, India, Australia or South America.

But each time an ordered shipment comes in, it is like a Christmas surprise package for the hobbyist. He is always looking for and hoping that he will find the rare stone or the unusual one, which he can cut and polish, turning it into a truly precious jewel.

In Winner's home hobby-shop at 123 Donald Drive, he has shelf upon shelf filled with samples from most parts of the United States and many areas of the world.

There are slabs of rock which glow with the richness of gold; others which though black as midnight shine and wink like a star; emerald pieces with red and green fire burning in them; and faceted crystals, flashing cold and beautiful brilliance.

The perfecting of a beautiful gem is not a 30-second, come-easy affair. Rather it is a time-consuming and slow process, but the end result is always well worth it.

To produce the beautiful oval or faceted gem from the slab of raw material, the fancier first takes a thin slice from the chunk of rock.

In this slab he can see the lights and reflections which will tell him exactly how and where he wants to cut the gem.

He then draws a pattern, round, oval or angular, onto the slab and with a diamond-toothed saw cuts out the rough shape of the gem.

After this begins the tedious process of grinding the stone into perfect shape, grinding off its roughness and then polishing it.

This process must be done carefully to prevent belmishes and with a constant watch on temperatures. Some of the more beautiful stones, such as emeralds, will crumble like ice if they are overheated.

"But the end result is well worth the work," Winner says. "To turn the rough stone into a glistening, almost-alive thing of beauty, is a real satisfaction."

And as an added dividend, many times when the amateur gem cutter has finished his job, he has a product many, many times as valuable as the rough rock he started with.



FINISHING TOUCHES are put on a beautiful gem by Maj. Frank E. Winner of Warner Robins. Winner and other amateur gem cutters got together in Macon Friday to form a mineral society. In addition to cutting and polishing gems, the group is interested in taking field trips and the general study and work in mineralogy and geology. Here Winner is polishing a gem on a water-cooled stone. (Telegraph-News Staff Photo.)

Among those forming the society, in addition to Winner and his family are, H. J. Burrus, Mr. and Mrs. Joe Dannenberg, Ted Demarest, W. L. Etheridge, the Greggs, Dr. T. M. Hall, Dr. O.

Two of the major purposes of the society formed here are to establish a show place for native Georgia minerals and gems and to provide a way for younger enthusiasts to pursue the hobby. Soon to be established will be a junior society, which will have its own functions and programs.

It is hoped by the organization that some civic building may be found which will have space for a permanent exhibit of Middle Georgia's minerals, so that they may be enjoyed and studied by the general public.

rules — Milt Reiner, chairman, S. Rankin, Dr. O. D. Knight of the society as a criteria it is easy to see that this particular hobby is one which knows no limits, as far as occupation is concerned.

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The group voted to join the Georgia Mineral Society in a field trip on Saturday, Sept. 17. The field trip will be into the area between Gray and Montezuma, where merchants, real estate men and jewelers are civil servants, jewelers, and jewelers. The field trip will be into the area between Gray and Montezuma, where merchants, real estate men and jewelers are civil servants, jewelers, and jewelers.