



**Denver Gem & Mineral Guild
Founded March 1964**

1420 S. Reed Street
Lakewood, Colorado, 80232

AFMS Silver Medal Club 2016



October 2020

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Vice President - Sarah Reece
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Secretary - Pro-tem
Marj Becker

Treasurer - Debbie Baldwin
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Hospitality - OPEN

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Field Trips - Committee

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TIPS & CHIPS

[HTTP://WWW.DENVERGEM.ORG](http://www.denvergemineralguild.org) OR
[HTTP://DENVERGEM.ORG](http://denvergemineralguild.org)
AND NOW FACEBOOK!!!



OCTOBER MEETING
Saturday October 10, 1:00
Raindate Sunday October 11, 1:00

ANNUAL AUCTION!
AT THE CLUBHOUSE
1420 S. Reed St., Lakewood

We have lots of tables and will fill them with specimens donated by Marty Zinn and Paul Kendall, plus lots of specimens you may have seen before. And LOTS of antique rock and mineral magazines!

Cash or check, please. No credit cards.

At the east end of Arkansas, east of Wadsworth where Arkansas Tees on Reed St. Park in the lot north of the house.

Masks - at a distance

Your stuff! If you are going to put items in the auction, fill out a bid slip for each, both top and bottom. Bid slips on page 12. Print and fill. Bring specimens, lay them out, bid on other stuff. Cash out. Monies you make will be distributed later.

Because Beth's email got hacked, the new email address for the Tips & Chips will be
mineralguild@gmail.com.

Set it up on your email address list so the DGMG emails and T&C don't go to your spam folder.

In This October 2020 ISSUE

| | | | |
|----------------------------|--------|-------------------------------|---------|
| Auction & meeting |1 | New Life Members- Bob Johnson |6 |
| DGMG News |2 | New Life Members- Linda Burns |7 |
| Calendar of events |3 | New Life Members-Beth Simmons |8 |
| President's Message |3 | Ringing Rocks |9 |
| October Sponsor |4 | Carving pipestone calumets |10 |
| New Life Members-Jim Dnnis |5 | Idaho Opal Triplets |11 |
| | | Bid slips |12 |

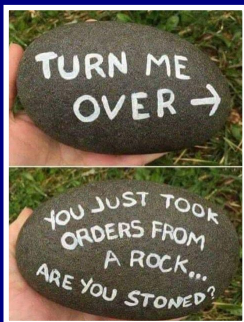
57 years of DGMG Kudos, Celebrations, & Events

2020 DGMG Officers & Chairmen

President:: George Daggett
Vice President: Sarah Reece
Secretary: **OPEN PRO-TEM:** Marj Becker
Treasurer: Deb Baldwin;
Treasurer Assists: Beth Simmons
Hospitality: **OPEN**
Ways & Means:
 Dave Sanchez, Gideon Breithaupt, Sandra Lucero
Membership: Sue Childs; **Ass't.:** Merlin Schreffler
Claims Manager: Fred Ceconi **Ass't.:** Susanne Peach
Editor: Beth Simmons; **Ass't.:** Marj Becker
Historian/Librarian: Kathy Honda
Webmaster: Bob Johnson
Show Chairman: Beth Simmons
Dealer Chairman: Linda Burns
Field Trips: Committee
Grab Bags: Joe Walkowich, Joe Payne, Kathy Honda
Merchandise: Sandra Lucero
Council Rep: Kathy Honda; **Alt.:** Linda Burns
Denver Show Rep: Kathy Honda
Sunshine: Sandra Lucero
Party planning: Deb Baldwin, Marj Becker
RMFMS Rep: Kathy Honda
Outreach: Susanne Peach; Bob Johnson
Inventory manager: Linda Burns

An "Assistant" is the officer's backup in case of illness or other reason they can't do their job. Every officer needs an "Assistant"! Join up! Say YES when asked!

Quote of the month:



October Birthdays:

Roger Bennett
 Johnny Gilbert
 Patti Harrison
 Howie Houk
 Steven Maliner-Colin
 Marjie Payne
 Linda Snelling



October Anniversaries:

The Cronobles

September Sunshine Spotlight

CONTACT **SANDRA LUCERO** 303-726-3829
[gardengal001\(@\)yahoo.com](mailto:gardengal001(@)yahoo.com)

TO
 INFORM HER OF SUNSHINE REQUESTS

HOPE EVERYONE IS WELL!



CONGRATULATIONS TO DR. PETE MODRESKI

On his retirement from the USGS after 41 years! We wish him well and hope he has a chance to catch his breath!

And THEN, he will serve as VP for the Guild! Glad to have him "a board!"

THE DENVER GEM AND MINERAL GUILD—57 Years old!



Founded in 1964, the Denver Gem and Mineral Guild pursues exploration, experimentation, and education in the earth sciences; the discovery, development and preservation of minerals and mineral deposits; and the advancement, encouragement and utilization of the principles of art and craftsmanship as applied to gems and minerals.

The Guild meets on the second Friday of the month at 7:30 pm at Berthoud Hall on CSM Campus, except for June, July, August, and December. Picnics, field trips, and parties replace regular meetings those months.

Deadline for article submission for the Tips & Chips is the 20th of each month. Email photos and articles to editor Beth Simmons at cloverknoll@comcast.net. Exchange with other newsletters is invited, and reprinting of material from this newsletter with proper attribution is encouraged.

2020 DGMG CALENDAR OF EVENTS

A persistent page—watch monthly for additions! PUT THIS ON YOUR FRIDGE!!!

2021 Calendar won't be!

**Because of no live meetings
or other places to sell the
calendars, the calendar
committee decreed that there
will be a hiatus in 2021.**

CONTINUING EXCITEMENT!

**OCT. 10: 1:00 PM
ANNUAL AUCTION
AT THE CLUBHOUSE**

NOVEMBER TO BE ANNOUNCED

2021 DGMG NO Show Report
by **Beth Simmons**, Show Chairman

From Erin Smith at the Fairgrounds on Sept. 28 came: "The commissioners directed staff to pursue a path that preserves youth, equine and agriculture activities only. Though final direction has not yet been given, that is where the conversation last landed. Sadly enough, it would probably be in your best interest to look into other venues for 2021 and beyond, as I would hate for you all to lose out on a venue for your event next year."

At its August meeting, the DGMG board decided that should the Fairgrounds shut us out, we would not strain to find another venue and still be in the throes of the virus threat for 2021.

We would NOT hold the show in 2021.

SO NO SHOW IN 2021! For the first time in 50 years!

PRESIDENTIAL MESSAGE



Well, we tried the *au current* means of virtual electronic meetings, and we don't like it that much. Thank you, Bob Johnson, for building the platform for us to gather in cyber space. The technology just isn't that great for video or audio. So, WE'RE GETTING TOGETHER IN PERSON!! Saturday, October 10 at 1:00 in the afternoon. (Or Sunday if it rains.)

That's right. The October Guild meeting is annually scheduled for our auction of mineral specimens. It's such a fun way to add to your collection. We contemplated doing the auction online, but it's just not the same. We lost our School of Mines venue, but let's get a little creative. How about Beth's backyard?

Perfect. The clubhouse workshop is right there, so if you haven't seen our clubhouse in awhile or at all, this is your chance for a little open house.

Seriously, this is not some kind of maskless political event. Everyone must WEAR A MASK. Furthermore, everyone must stay SIX FEET APART, as best you can. In addition, everyone should make ample use of HAND SANITIZER or wear NITRILE GLOVES, which we have plenty of in the clubhouse.

Gideon Breithaupt and our ways and means committee have plenty of specimens to put out. We've done this plenty of times. No need to RSVP; just come over at 1:00.

Be there or be square.

George



SPOTLIGHT ON OCTOBER'S SPONSOR:

Deb Baldwin—Denver Rockboxes owner

We rarely have focused on Deb Baldwin, our long –time treasurer.

A geologist by profession with the Colorado Oil and Gas Commission, Deb has been a member of the Guild since the 1980s. She and husband, our beloved Fred Olsen Santa, joined for the collecting experiences. Since, they both have served in many capacities, her latest being treasurer for the past ten years or so.

She has traveled to the other side of the world working for an oil company in Australia, and with Fred and Chauncey and Sandy Walden to the eastern part of the eastern hemisphere to Morocco and to Africa. All have given numerous programs about their fantastic travels.

Deb monitors the finances of the Guild and keeps us on the straight and narrow, as an oft outspoken member of the board. She now serves as the Denver Show treasurer, which means looking out for much larger expenditures and incomes than our club's.

Deb's the hostess with the mostest! She and Fred often "hosted" the club picnic at Bear Creek Lake Park.. Some of our fondest memories are of the two of them wading in the creek and urging the ducks to swim faster in the club's annual Rubber Ducky Derby. She often hosts the winter "popcorn" and grab bag packing party at her home.

Of course, we lost Fred in a fishing accident in the waters of the northwest. Deb had to take over the reins of the Denver Rockboxes company, which Fred and Dave Bunk had continued from its original owner. So now she's selling boxes—lots of them, different sizes, shapes....

And enjoying the traveling that goes with that territory.

Thank you, Deb, for all that you do for the Guild!



Deb and others popping up a pile at a popcorn party.

Deb and Fred in Morocco.

Deb and Fred, the duck wranglers.

Deb and Fred, at the Rubber Ducky Derby finish line.



New LIFE MEMBERS

At the August Board meeting the DGMG board voted to award life membership to four long-helpful, great contributors to the Guild—**Jim Dennis, Bob Johnson, Linda Burns, and Beth Simmons.**

Congratulations to all! In place of awarding certificates in public, but we can do that in October at the auction, we are showcasing the four individuals with special poetry by Marj Becker.

Jim Dennis

An Acrostic

By Marj Becker

Jim Dennis, DGMG Life Member

Instructor of lapidary and equipment manager for the Club

Minerals and gems, galore; but organized

Display of minerals that are fluorescent for DGMG shows

Employed by railroad as his lifelong career

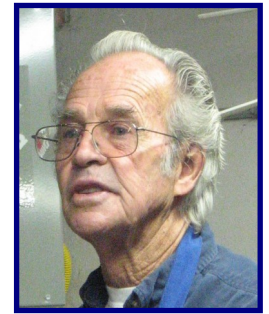
Numbers of lapidary workshops provided for learners

Now, he will always be a DGMG member

Immigrant from Rural Colorado to the metro area

Smiling is a constant habit

Jim Dennis, all 'round good guy!



Guess Who

by **Marj Becker**

Guess who is a member of our Guild
And has reached into
Our community to share his gifts.

Guess who has a
Home life that is stupendous.
With wife Debby
And their twenty-something son.

Guess whose fingers
Fly o'er the keyboard
To make websites
For our Guild
And for the Florissant Society.

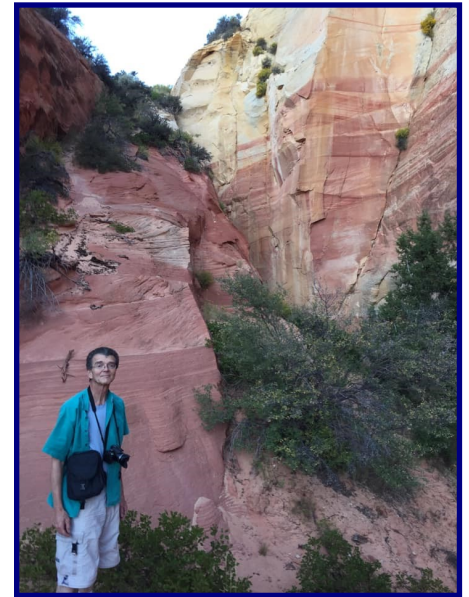
Guess who knows
Computers inside and out.
Who solves problems that crop up
With new and better ways of doing things.

Guess who has been to the top
Of our fourteeners.
Fourteeners? You may ask.
Those high and mighty Rocky Mountains
Planted north to south through Colorado.

Guess who takes visitors
Throughout our State
Up hill and down dale
To enjoy the wonders of nature.

Guess who NEVER "toots his own horn"
But has so much to offer.
And, guess who we are glad to have
As Guild member and friend.

Bob Johnson - That's who!



Renaissance Woman

By **Marj Becker**

Who digs topaz
At the Lost Gem Mine?
Linda, that's who.

Who collects geodes
At Dugway?
Who drove to Death Valley
To collect pink salt and hanksite?
Who led a trip to the gypsum beds
At Jet, Oklahoma
And to Toadstool Park?
In a Nebraska snow storm, no less!
Linda, that's who.

Who learned to carve soapstone
From Sandy Cline?
Who was a winner of
Lapidary of the Month
In *Rock and Gem* magazine?
Linda, that's who.

Who wields a chainsaw
With expertise
Creating our club's logo
In Cottonwood.
Who is a carpenter
Swift and sure?
Built the deck and front porch
On Reed Street
And remodeled Deb and Fred's attic?
Linda, that's who.

Who's been a Guild member
Since 2007?
Who's been Guild President
For many, many years?
Linda Burns, that's who.

Who is deserving of the "Queen's Helmet?"
Awarded by Beth, its last awardee.
Our Renaissance Woman,
Linda Burns,
That's who!



Marjie Payne's photo of Linda in the salt flats muck won the RMFMS Rockhound of the Year Photo Contest!



Club House Bivouac

By **Marj Becker**

Once upon a time,
A lady came
To Colorado.
All the way West,
Just to ply her trade.

She settled down on
Reed Street
With a house,
A barn, and garage.

Of course, she needed
A barn
So she could have
Her horses

Rocks - more rocks
Became her battle cry
And, they flocked
Right to her door
Rocks - that is

Other rock hounds
Became her friends.
They all belonged
To the same rock Guild

With tons of rocks
And, equipment galore.
"Come, use my garage,"
Said the intrepid geologist.

So, they did.
BUT, over the years
The garage repair and upkeep
Was lacking.

"Come, help,"
She said to her
Rock hound buddies.
And, they did.

The Club House
Is now "clean,"
Spiffed up,
and painted.
It took hours
Of work
And gallons
Of paint.

Bushels of nails
Screws, nuts, and bolts.
We're thankful
For **Beth** and the crew.
Hard work for them all.

And now, thanks to Paul across the street and
Linda Burns (of course), the garage is adorned
with a "NEW" Door! Which actually has a garage
door opener attached!



RINGING ROCKS VOLCANO

H. E. MURDOCK

The Rock Pile

Bozeman, Montana

A few miles east of the Continental Divide east of Butte, Montana, is a mountain that differs from others in several respects and is rather unique among mountains. It is a rounded hill top and is made up of hard flinty rocks varying in size from a foot or so across to larger than a room. When struck many of them will give out a metallic musical note mostly of high pitch. The tone is caused by the rapid vibration of the mass as in a bell. The larger the rock the lower the tone as the rate of vibration is slower for the larger masses. The shape of the rock also affects the tone as flat rocks give lower notes than others.

This is a rare type of volcanic intrusion where the lava flow consisted of massive individual rocks or where the lava was consolidated into larger individual masses rather than into a homogeneous mass of consolidated lava or obsidian. The process of volcanization evidently hardened and tempered the individual masses to give them the elastic, ringing quality that has given the mountain the name of "The Ringing Rocks Volcano."

To reach the mountain go northerly and northwesterly from Pipestone Springs, Montana, about 9 miles. After crossing the railroad going westerly the road forks, one branch going westerly to Delmo Lake, and toward the prominent peak of Spire Rock and the

other branch going to the right or north. Take the right road. A short ways up that road there is a Forestry sign at the boundary of the Deerlodge National Forest. When a little farther along that road the volcano can be seen 2 or 3 miles on the right to the east. About due west of the peak a dim trail branches off directly toward the volcano, but this is a poor trail to take to get to the peak.

The volcano can be readily distinguished from the other hills as it is barren and appears to be covered by boulders the size of one's hand from that distance. It is a rusty, reddish color as distinct from the greens, blues, trees, foliage, etc., of the other hills.

To drive to the peak go on north to a main trail that turns back southeast across the sagebrush mesa toward the peak. About a mile farther north along the main road is a house on the right side of the road, in case one goes too far. After leaving the road the trail to the volcano leads past cabins and prospect holes, through gulleys, and clear on to the south side of the volcano at the foot, near a cabin. Near the brow of the hill to the north of the cabin is a prospect shaft.

To reach the ringing rocks go northerly and westerly over the hill top from the cabin. The hard, flinty rocks are found scattered around over a considerable area, some among the trees but those back away from the main crater generally do not ring—just give only the common rock thud when struck.

The main part of the volcano is the southwestern slope which can be seen from the road to the west. And one is surprised to see how much larger the rocks are than they appeared from the road at the first view. This slope and the top seem to have been the main mouth of the volcano, and the open cracks between the rocks, even at present seem to extend on down toward the bowels of the earth. Apparently there was no molten lava flow or obsidian accompanying the blow out that threw up these rocks. They are covered by a coating that seems to have been burned on by intense flames. Edges show characteristic, rough serrations as though they had been burned off by hot gases. Also surface indications are that splotches of surface were burned away by playing flames. Such burning was accomplished by dry flames.

Why do the rocks ring? When broken they have a dark, speckled, granitic color with occasionally small blue specks that some one thought might be Labradorite. It appears that the rocks have been hardened and tempered by the intense gas flames, a process similar to the hardening and tempering of steel and other metals. The mountain formed a giant torch with the rocks forming the burner, and the burning gases working on the surfaces and

edges of the rocks until the fuel supply was exhausted. When they cooled, those that had been heated to the right temperature and cooled properly were hardened and tempered so they retain their elastic ringing property, and others that were not in the right place to get burned and cooled just right do not ring.

It is not difficult to imagine the spectacle of a huge torch blowing blue flames through the cracks between the rocks, heating them to white heat, burning them so they would slough off the sides and edges, and burning all inflammable material near the inferno. The burning and disintegration of the rocks was probably similar to the burning and sloughing off of steel after it reaches white heat and the forge blast continues to burn away. The metal is not melted away, but is vaporized directly from the solid metal. There apparently was no lava flow as ordinarily seen around volcanoes.

A Mr. Ogle was interested in development of this area into a park and gave the name "Ogleite" to the type of rocks found in the ringing masses.

The Ringing Rocks Pluton is located in the mountains of southwest Montana between Butte and Whitehall, and is notable for a large tor of ringing boulders.

The pluton is the deep-seated vent for a volcano which erupted 76 million years ago. The pluton is that it is an example of magma mixing in a conduit, specifically between olivine basalt and granitic magmas. Mixing of the magmas created a hybrid rock type which crystallized against the outer wall of conduit. After millions of years of uplift and erosion, the thin walls of hybrid rock were exposed to the surface. During the Pleistocene Epoch, periglacial freezing shattered the high standing walls to form a substantial tor.

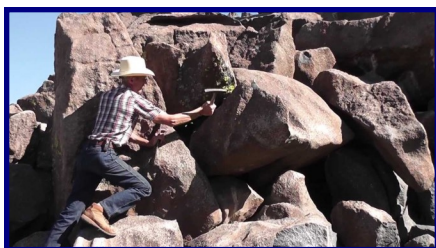
This You-tube video presents a concert:

<https://www.bing.com/videos/search?q=Ringing+Rocks+Montana&docid=607997434668386365&mid=AE84613C1583FBD448D6AE84613C1583FBD448D6&view=detail&FORM=VIRE>

Ringing rocks— A new topic for T&C!

Also known as **sonorous rocks** or **lithophonic rocks**, are rocks that resonate like a bell when struck, such as the Musical Stones of Skiddaw in the English Lake District; the stones in Ringing Rocks Park, in Upper Black Eddy, Bucks County, Pennsylvania; the Ringing Rocks of Kiandra, New South Wales; and the Bell Rock Range of Western Australia. Ringing rocks are used in idiophonic musical instruments called lithophones.

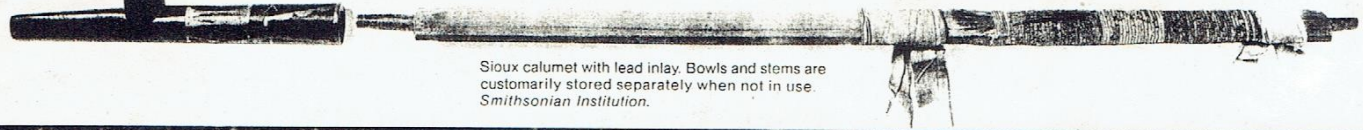
(Wikipedia)



Original
article from
Mineralogist,
November
1951



Pipestone, MT, is very near the Ringing Rock site. Here's how the Natives carved their calumets. You are welcome to try your hand at it. There is lots of pipestone on Beth's back porch!



Sioux calumet with lead inlay. Bowls and stems are customarily stored separately when not in use. Smithsonian Institution.

Carving pipes from stone

The work of native American pipecarvers takes many forms. Since the mid-19th century, the inverted T-shaped calumet has been perhaps the shape most recognizable as Plains Indian work. Metal tools ac-

quired from white traders in historic times facilitated more detailed carving, but even in many highly ornate effigy pipes the basic calumet shape is distinct.

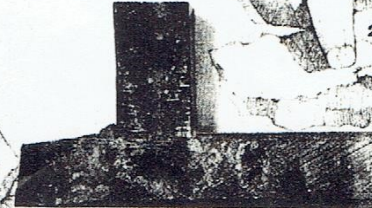
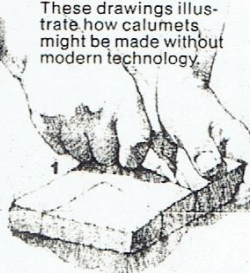
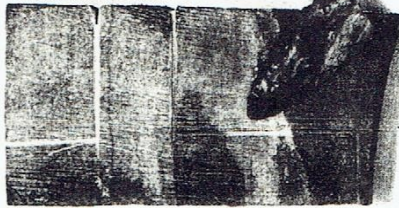
Today craftsmen use power saws and drills for speed and precision. Though tools are more sophisticated, the process is similar to that of the age when carving implements were made of stone and wood. These drawings illustrate how calumets might be made without modern technology.

Carving the bowl

Using a sharpened rock, the carver outlines the bowl on a rectangle of pipestone about 6 inches long. Excess stone is cut away (1). The relatively soft pipe-

stone yields to a flint "saw," as the carver forms the rough bowl.

At this stage the carver rounds the edges (2) by scraping the bowl against stone—perhaps a chunk of quartzite removed during quarrying.



The shape is further refined by filing (3). Carvers sometimes postpone filing until after drilling, since the boring process can split the stone. The

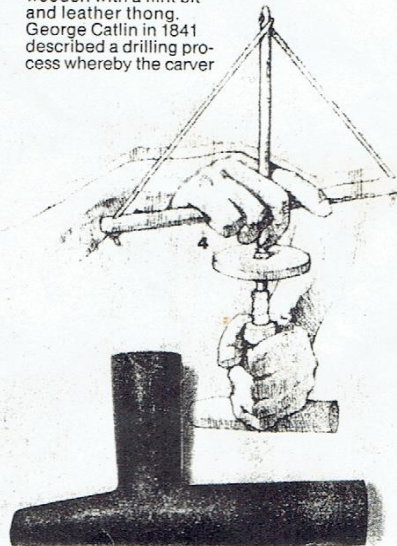
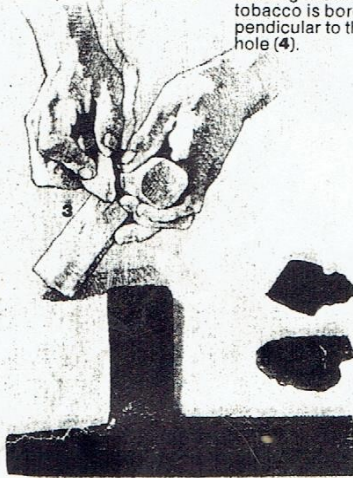
bowl is secured to prevent movement as the stem hole is drilled through the longer leg of the inverted T; a connecting shaft to hold tobacco is bored perpendicular to the stem hole (4).

The hand drill shown is wooden with a flint bit and leather thong. George Catlin in 1841 described a drilling process whereby the carver

rolled a sharpened stick between his hands; sand and water poured in the hole intensified the abrasive action of the wooden point.

bands of metal. Finally, the pipe is polished with a sand rubbing, then buffed to a gloss (5).

After drilling, the bowl might be left plain, or decorated by carving it into a human or animal effigy or by inlaying



Digging the pipestone

Late summer and fall are the most desirable times to dig; at other times of the year water collects in the pits. After the soil is shoveled away, the top layer of quartzite is broken up carefully with a sledge hammer and wedge to minimize damage to the relatively soft pipestone underneath.

Since the pipestone bed slopes downward to the east, quarriers must dig through an increasingly thick layer of quartzite as they quarry new pipestone. Under the quartzite are 1- to 3-inch sheets of catlinite. Quarriers lift the broken sheets from the pits, then cut them into smaller blocks from which the pipes are carved.

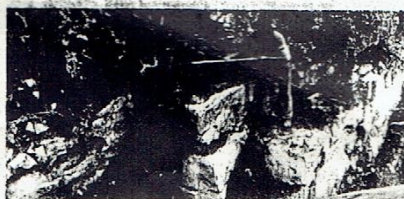
Quarrying here has always been accomplished with respect for the earth and for what it yields. The Sioux traditionally leave an offering of food and tobacco beside the group of boulders known as the Three Maidens in return for this land's gift of stone.

Making the stem

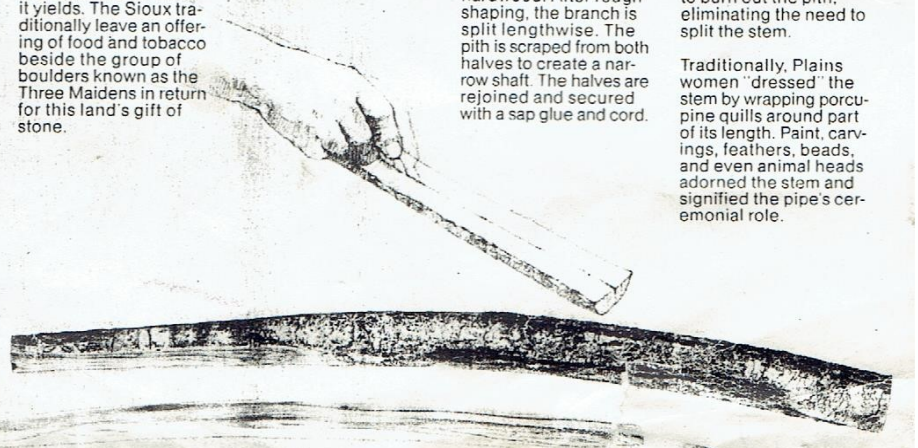
Stems are hewn from branches of ash or other hardwood. After rough shaping, the branch is split lengthwise. The pith is scraped from both halves to create a narrow shaft. The halves are rejoined and secured with a sap glue and cord.

Alternatively, a heated wire is run through the core of a sumac branch to burn out the pith, eliminating the need to split the stem.

Traditionally, Plains women "dressed" the stem by wrapping porcupine quills around part of its length. Paint, carvings, feathers, beads, and even animal heads adorned the stem and signified the pipe's ceremonial role.



© Richard Sparks



And while we are touring the northwest, let's go to Idaho for some opal (October's birthstone)! And then make triplets. This lesson came from Idaho Opal & Gem Corp. (now Parle Jewelry Designs) in Pocatello, ID, in the Wiggins collection.

Making a Triplet from Idaho Opal

Idaho Opal is unique and consequently must be handled in a manner substantially different than other opal you may have cut. The bands of fire in Idaho Opal are often very thin. If you can see it from the side of the nodule, you can cut it. Often, too, some bands are pale. Those bands will cut nice capped doublets, but will be a disappointment if made into triplets. The steps for making doubles are identical except the cap should be glued to the opal in step 7 after spaling.

1. Cobbing— Trim the excess rocks from the nodule carefully with a spall hammer and chisel, if necessary, to facilitate sawing.
2. Trimming— Using the proper size saw, cut the nodule parallel to the fine layer(s) and as close to the layer as possible.
3. Grinding— With a 100 grit carborundum wheel remove excess POTCH from layer, being careful not to gouge the layer of fire. (WHAT IS POTCH? See below)
4. Lapping— Lap off remaining POTCH until the layer is reached. Then lap well into the layer, usually about half way. This will assure that there is no potch between the backing and the fire, which results in poor quality, gray stones.
5. Sanding— Sand the rock with 400 grit sandpaper until the scratches from the coarse diamond lap are removed.
6. Gluing— Dry the rock and clean with alcohol if oil was used while sawing. Clean the backing with alcohol since it was cut with oil. Then epoxy the two together, being sure no air bubbles are trapped between the opal and the backing.
7. Trimming— Saw off all but 1/16 inch of the opal. It may be necessary to split a layer or cut between two layers, so examine the stone carefully before you cut the START (WHAT'S A START? See below) off.
8. Grinding— Repeat step 3 above.
9. Lapping— Lap START until you are once again well into the layer of fire.
10. Sanding— Repeat step 5 above. Be sure all scratches are removed.
11. Drying— Dry START in oven or under light at less than 200 degrees, after it has been cleaned with alcohol.
12. Sealing— While START is still hot from the oven, apply a thick layer of Opticon crack sealer and let cool. If cracks still remain, heat and allow to cool a second time. Old cracks will not seal.
13. Cleaning— Clean START by wiping off sealer with a clean rag. Remove all sealer but do not use alcohol or other solvent.
14. Capping— Place caps on start in order to determine where best to glue them.
15. Capping— Glue the quartz caps to the START, being very careful to eliminate all air bubbles.
16. Sawing— Saw the capped stones from the plate by cutting from the back of the plate only part way through the backing material. Then you may break the capped STARTS away from each other. This technique allows you to place caps on the STATE right next to each other without the need to allow room for a saw blade to pass between.
17. Finishing— Trim excess backing from around cap with a small saw. Dop the stone and sand the excess backing from around the cap. The angle the back should have is 30-45 degrees. Remove stone from dop stick and clean. 100 grit sandpaper may be used to finish trimming backing from the cap.

During all steps, plenty of water should be used to keep the opal cool. If oil is used during any step, caution should be taken to insure that none is left in the cracks or on the surfaces to be glued. If the steps above are followed, you can make triplets from Idaho Opal that are large, flawless and beautiful.

But, one error or omission will result in a poorer stone!

Definitions:

POTCH—the base rock of the opal

START—the base rock with opal layer glued on it



SILENT AUCTION
DENVER GEM & MINERAL CLUB

Seller to complete first 3 items below and fill in specimen description at top & bottom of slip.

- 1) Minimum bid: _____
- 2) Seller #: _____
(assigned at check-in)
- 3) Amount donated to DGMG (circle 1)

20% 50% 100%

Description: _____

Final bid: \$ _____
To DGMG: \$ _____ To Seller: \$ _____

[illegible]

Buyer's receipt
Description of auction item: _____

Final bid amount: \$