

CHIP & LICK



Official Publication of the Miami Valley Mineral and Gem Club

VOLUME 48, NUMBER 9

50th Year Anniversary

NOVEMBER, 2002



MEETINGS: Second Sunday of the month except June, July and August.

PLACE: Small Business Development Center, 300 E. Auburn Ave.,
Springfield, OH 45505. Phone: 322-7821

TIME: 2:00 P.M.
Guests are always welcome!

EDITOR: Becky Dobbs
2792 Greystoke Dr.
Xenia, OH 45385

WEB SITE: www.mvmgc.org

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Purpose and Memberships

The objectives of the Miami Valley Mineral and Gem Club are:

To promote interest and increased knowledge in the fields of mineralogy, geology, and the lapidary arts.

To further the art of mounting and setting stones.

To encourage the collecting, identifying and displaying of specimens in these fields.

The annual dues are \$7.50 for an individual membership, \$10 for a couple, or \$12 for a family membership.

This club is a member of the Midwest Federation of Mineralogical and Geological Societies (MWF), which is a member of The American Federation of Mineralogical Societies (AFMS).



The Editor of the MVMGC is a member of S.C.R.I.B.E.

MIAMI VALLEY MINERAL AND GEM CLUB, INC.

2002 OFFICERS

President	Hugh Fulton	322-1021
Vice President	Matt Kromphardt	878-3348
Corresponding Secretary	Katrin Ruben	390-2081
Recording Secretary	Dick Faux	289-7032
Treasurer	Joyce Perry	372-8228
Editor	Becky Dobbs	dobbsr2001@yahoo.com
Librarian	Dave Perry	372-8228
Curator-Historian	Becky Dobbs	372-9022
Trustee (2002)	John Mercer	322-1768
Trustee (2003)	Ginny Bignell	866-8789
Trustee (2004)	Udean Babyak	322-0443

2002 COMMITTEES

Anti-Litter	All Members	
Canceled Stamps	Kay Faux	289-7032
Chaplain	Udean Babyak	322-0443
Christmas Banquet	Udean Babyak	322-0443
Field Trips/ Safety	Matt Kromphardt	878-3348
MWF Liaison	Hugh Fulton	322-1021
Photographer	Hugh Fulton	322-1021
Program	Andreas Ruben	390-2081
Refreshment	Becky Dobbs	372-9022
Scholarship	Joyce Perry	372-8118
Show Chairman	Hugh Fulton	322-1021
Spring Banquet	Udean Babyak	322-0443
Sunshine	Joyce Perry	372-8118
Swap	Hugh Fulton	322-1021
Webmaster	Katrin Ruben	390-2081



NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS

Jane Freese	Nov. 4
Janice Rogers	Nov. 12
Emory Stewart	Nov. 25

NOVEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

Beth & Emory Stewart Nov. 25



Spring Banquet... April 13, 2002 Swap Date...June 8-9 2002 Show Date...October 5-6, 2002

President's Message

It is nearing the end of October and everything is still so green. Summer flowers are still in bloom. I like it. Just hope the leaves and snow don't come down together.

November brings elections nationally, locally and for our club. Ever wonder why people spend more money than they will make to run for public office? Most clubs cannot interest members to hold office. We will have a couple changes this year and we need someone to step up to be librarian and also volunteers for refreshment and field trip chairpersons.

Another great program (The quartz family of rocks) by Andreas Ruben at our October meeting. Remember me saying the Rubens were bringing a surprise back from Germany? I hope you met Michael at the show. He worked in the demonstration area. Our newest member, he is attending North High School in Springfield, as a junior.

Edwin & Deborah Huff attended the show and the October meeting. They would like to become members; hopefully they can do this at the November meeting. Also expressing interest in joining are my son John, his wife Cindy and children Alex and Caleb. John helped set up at the show, he had a display and helped tear down after.

50 years ago at the November meeting a motion carried that the club give the YMCA \$5.00 per monthly meeting. There was a discussion on joining with a national organization. It was assigned to the secretary to contact both the Midwest and Eastern Federations.

Articles 1 and 2 were read and accepted. Article 1 gave us our name, article 2 our objectives, now found as purpose on the cover sheet of the Chip & Lick. Our 50th year is under way.

Hugh Fulton

MIAMI VALLEY MINERAL & GEM CLUB MINUTES - 12 OCTOBER 2002

Hugh Fulton, the president, opened the meeting and in the absence of Udean Babyak read a devotional entitled "Gems of the Bible".

The minutes were approved as corrected. A treasurer's report for September was approved as well as the financial report for our Annual Show.

COMMITTEE REPORTS: Dave Perry, the LIBRARIAN reported that we had received a new issue of the Lapidary Journal and a catalogue of lapidary supplies. Joyce Perry reported that the SUNSHINE COMMITTEE had sent a card to Beth Stewart. Emory Stewart expressed her appreciation for the card. It was also reported that Anne Yokell was experiencing atrial fibrillation. Becky Dobbs reported that she had talked to Virginia Bignell and that Russ was improving.

Hugh Fulton welcomed two guests, Edwin and Deborah Huff. They expressed an interest in membership.

Andreas Ruben reported on upcoming PROGRAMS. Minerals on Line will be the program for November and the Christmas Banquet will be the program for December.

CORRESPONDENCE: We now receive correspondence through our web site. One such communication was an inquiry about flint. Katrin Ruben reported that show pictures are now on the web. We have received information about the Mid West Federation election, an application for insurance in 2003, and field trips for combined rock clubs in southwest Ohio. This was laid out on the table.

SHOW REPORT: Hugh Fulton reported that the good quality and number of displays was especially noticeable this year. Our financial results were good although attendance was

somewhat lower. We have already signed up to have a show next year. All 5 dealers will return. Al Cowan came down from Canada and helped with the silent auction.

An important part of our show was the 50-Year Book. Members expressed their appreciation to Becky Dobbs for a job well done.


At this point Hugh Fulton reported that The Chip and Lick had received Honorable Mention from the Mid West Federation in the Small Bulletin category. Honorable Mention was also awarded to Hugh Fulton, Matt Kromphardt, and Kay Faux for articles that appeared in our paper and Philipp Ruben was awarded 4th place - Junior Articles (for people under the age of 12).

OLD BUSINESS: The Nomination Committee offered the following names for officers for the club in 2003: President, Hugh Fulton; Vice President, Andreas Ruben; Recording Secretary, Dick Faux; Corresponding Secretary, Katrin Ruben; Treasurer, Joyce Perry; Curator-Historian, Becky Dobbs; Librarian, David Perry; Trustee, John Mercer. The election will be held at the November meeting and the officers will take office in January

NEW BUSINESS: One communication we received offered to sell us Rock Hound Stickers. Becky Dobbs moved that we purchase 100 of these stickers. Kay Faux seconded the motion and it was approved unanimously.

The meeting adjourned and the club shared the steinkerns referred to in the October Chip and Lick, enjoyed refreshments and a program on, "The Quartz Family of Rocks".

Richard Faux, Recording Secretary


Some people make things happen, some watch while things happen, and some wonder 'What happened?' Anonymous

Via The Pick & Shovel 10/02

November Program: Minerals on-line

December Program: Christmas Party



December Article: No volunteers



UPCOMING SHOWS & EVENTS:

- NOVEMBER 16-17, NEWARK, OH
"EARTH'S TREASURES"; THE LICKING COUNTY ROCK & MINERAL SOCIETY, INC. TEHERAN GROTTO BLDG., ON WATER WORKS RD.
SAT 9-6, SUN 10-5



FEDERATION NEWS



In her first message as MWF President, Kitty Starbuck says that we (rock clubs) are NOT ENTERTAINERS. Our purpose is to promote and educate the general public about this great hobby. Clubs need to let new members know that they are expected to participate and be involved. A club needs to set goals, things they want to accomplish, and be enthusiastic about their goals. They you **ASK** members to help with the projects you have decided to do - **GET THEM INVOLVED.**

The application form for 2003 Midwest Federation Dues and Insurance is included in this issue of the MWF Newsletter, as well as the form for 2003 Directory Information and a form for the calendar of events listing for the 2003 directory.

MWF contributions to the AFMS Scholarship Foundation from October 5, 2001 through October 5, 2002 were \$1,378.75.



Seaside Gemboree 2003 will be a show of the American and California Federations of Mineralogical Societies. Plan to visit Ventura California June 5 – 8, 2003.

In his first message as AFMS president Ron Carman states that he is looking forward to the year with enthusiasm. The two new committees for uniformity in judges' training and for obtaining collecting sites seem to be getting an enthusiastic start. Some clubs have had the good sense to make their own claims on their favorite collecting sites, and there is no reason why we as a federation couldn't follow their examples. Here is another advantage to federating: by being members of federated clubs we can preserve some of our favorite collecting areas and share them with other federated clubs. We need to do all in our power to preserve this most important aspect of our hobby.

Marve Starbuck, AFMS President-Elect states that one of the goals that seem to stand out is communications. Communication will be high on his priority list, but the greatest concern will be with the Scholarship Fund. With the investments not paying super dividends right now, it is more important than ever for clubs and individuals to make contributions so that we can continue to grow the principal and award scholarships as we've done in the past.

2002-03 AFMS Committee Chairpersons names and addresses are listed in the November issue.

Two teachers have contacted AFMS looking for donations so they can teach children about rocks and minerals. If you can help send thumbnail size minerals specimens to:

Jean Longstreth
% Glenelg High School
14025 Burnt Woods Rd.
Glenelg, MD 21737-9799

Send rocks and minerals – any size (but please no 'leaverites') to:

Mike Ferski
5236 N. Verde Ln.
Prescott Valley, AZ 86314

Via AFMS Newsletter 11/02



A PALEOLITHIC ROCKHOUND

Rockhounding is nothing new! In a cave in central France, a Neanderthal's collection was found. It consisted of a piece of fool's gold (pyrite), fossil shells and coral. All objects were collected miles from the cave. They showed no signs of being worn; instead they apparently were placed in the corner for the owner to admire 50,000 years ago.

Via The Chiseler 10/02, from the Tumbler and Rocky Reader



Oil often found in ancient reefs

By Dale Gnidovec

Some of the most biologically rich areas on our planet are reefs; they've been called the rain forests of the seas. That also was true at certain times in the geologic past. In the Late Ordovician, for example, 470 million years ago, reefs were home to a fantastically diverse assemblage of living things, as shown by the world-famous fossil deposits near Cincinnati.

When we think of reefs, we usually think of coral ones. Corals are cnidarians, relatives of jellyfish. You can think of the coral animal as a jellyfish turned upside down and living in a cone-shaped or tube-shaped shell. Most corals are colonial, with the shells of many individuals locked together, forming the hard framework of reefs.

Some ancient reefs were different. Rather than corals, many Cretaceous reefs were formed by organisms called rudists. Rudists were

bivalves, like clams and oysters. In clams, the two parts of the shell (the valves) are equal in size and shape. In oysters, one valve is more or less clam-shaped, while the other resembles a lid or trap door. Some rudists carried that difference to extremes.

The classic rudist had a large, thick cone-shaped valve on the bottom and a lid-like one of top. In other species, both valves were cone-shaped and straight or curved like the horns of a cow. In some species, the valves were of equal size; while in others one was long and thick and the other small and so thin that light could pass through. Some rudists were large; certain short, barrel-shaped species had shells almost 6 feet across. In the paleontology classroom when I was in grad school in Texas, we used a large rudist for a doorstop. Other species had shells that were long and thin, approaching 6 feet in length.

Whereas modern and many ancient reefs hold great diversity, rudist reefs often were dominated by one or two species. Other organisms were present, including snails, sponges, sea urchins, bryozoans, worms and oysters, but they were in the minority.

Rudists had a short but dramatic evolutionary history. Appearing in the Late Jurassic about 180 million years ago, they were extinct by the end of the Cretaceous 65 million years ago. The reason for their extinction is still a mystery.

Limestone containing rudist fossils are very porous. Such rocks can hold a lot of petroleum. Some of the oil coming from Texas, Mexico and the Middle East was obtained from rudist-rich limestone.

*Dale M. Gnidovec is curator of Ohio State University's Orton Geological Museum.
Gnidovec@geology.ohio-state.edu*



The trouble with people these days is they want to reach the Promised Land without going through the wilderness.

Via MWF Newsletter 11/02

UTAH'S SEPTARIAN NODULES

Utah's Septarian Nodules started in Southern Utah 100 million years ago in the Gulf of Mexico at the time. Decomposing sea life attracted sediment forming mud balls. These were rolled around by tidal action. This increased their size. When the sea receded, the balls dried and cracked. At the same time, the bentonitic clay in them shrank. Then the ocean returned and dissolved calcite, from sea life, was carried into the cracks where crystals formed. A thin wall of calcite transformed into aragonite, dividing the clay exteriors from the calcite centers. This dividing wall – septum in Latin – gave the name septarians. They occur in tropic shale in Long Valley, near Mt. Carmel and Oderville, Utah.

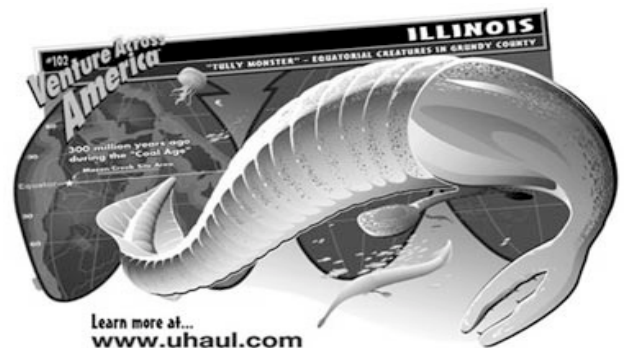
Via ACHATES 10/02; via Tulip City Conglomerate, via Rock Buster News 11/95



FUN WEBSITE

<http://www.uhaul.com/supergraphics>

The U-Haul Company has put together a terrific website. It features supergraphics that adorn their vehicles. Several fossil and mineral topics are highlighted and links to other interesting sites are provided. Below is the Illinois Tully Monster.



Via Strata Data 05/02



TIPS & HINTS

Water stained bottles and glass can be cleaned by soaking in a Sani-Flush solution.

A paste of baking soda and water will remove bug splatters on your car without injuring the finish.

Clean and polish gold mountings with denture cream (not toothpaste). It works fine.

Via ACHATES 10/02

Copper bracelets – Is it true that copper bracelets relieve arthritis? This folk remedy has been in disrepute for several years, but now researchers have discovered there may be something to it. Copper, they have found, reacts with the skin chemicals to produce an anesthetic called “ethylene” which can be absorbed into the body.

Via ACHATES 10/02, via The Post Rock 05/02; as printed in Ozark Earth Science news via The Drift 08/02

Never use Ammonia, Soap or Detergents on genuine turquoise. In fact, a good test for the genuine is to apply a spot of ammonia to the back of a suspected piece. If it is genuine, it will turn white.

Via Nickel Basin Rockhound 06/02, from Rock Rollers 09/01



Canada's Gem materials similarly occur in all types of rock and in gravels.

Among the most attractive and sought-after gems are jade (nephrite) from British Columbia and the Yukon, labradorite from Labrador, sodalite from Ontario and British Columbia, rhodonite from British Columbia, and hessonite garnet from Quebec. Baffin Island's lapis lazuli and Ontario's rare blue and black star sapphire and aquamarine are prized by the gem seeker. Only microscopic diamonds have been found in Canada.

Probably the most commonly collected and fashioned by the amateur lapidary are the gem

varieties of the quartz and feldspar families. Along with lapradorite, the feldspars include perthite, peristerite, amazonite and sunstone from Ontario, amazonite and peristerite from Quebec, and oligoclase from Baffin Island. The multi-patterned and variously colored quartz gemstones include rose quartz (Ontario, Manitoba, Baffin Island), amethyst (Ontario, Nova Scotia, Newfoundland), rock crystal (Ontario), carnelian (Ellesmere and Meighen Islands, Alberta), agates and jasper (nearly every province), and petrified wood (western provinces.)

Lesser known gem materials are collected and fashioned by the seeker of the unusual; cancrinite from Ontario, zoisite (thulite) from the Yukon, vesuvianite from British Columbia, scapolite and tourmaline from Quebec, xonotite from Newfoundland, epidote and apatite from Ontario, and 'ammolite' (the crimson nacreous layer on shell fossils) from Alberta. There is some amber and opal in British Columbia, and amber in Alberta.

Awaiting the sculptor are jade in the Cordillera, soapstone in Quebec, Ontario, Saskatchewan and British Columbia, pyrophyllite in Newfoundland, serpentine in Quebec and Ontario, and alabaster in Nova Scotia, New Brunswick and Manitoba.

Rocks too are used for ornamental purposes because of their color, texture, or pattern. They occur in many parts of Canada and include the breccias, porphyries, and marbles as well as jasper conglomerate (Ontario), green chrome-mica rock (Ontario and Newfoundland), and Campelona rock (cemented fossil shells) from Alberta. Red granite streaked and mottled with yellow-green epidote is another striking ornamental rock

Gravels – along lakeshores and ocean-bays, in river-beds and gravel pits – are some of the more popular and accessible collecting sites. They contain agate, jasper, jade, rhodonite, gold nuggets, ivory (mammoth tusk), cassiterite and 'black diamond'.

Jade and amethyst are mined commercially, but the exploitation of Canada's gem materials is mainly by the collector and lapidary enthusiast, generally a member of one of Canada's 100-odd mineral or lapidary clubs. Their skilled craftsmanship in stone and in hand-wrought metal is displayed at annual gem shows staged in numerous centers. Catering to them are some 200 mineral/lapidary dealers and several journals, two of them published in Canada.

*Via Nickel Basin Rockhound (date unknown)
submitted by Al Cowan – MVMGC*



THE TREACHEROUS MINERAL

Mineral names are often given to commemorate a famous scientist or locality. Sphalerite (ZnS) however, has a name based on the Greek word for "treacherous." Blende, a German synonym for sphalerite, means "blind" or "deceiving." What is it about this common mineral (which forms very attractive collector specimens) that led its namers to be so negative about it?

The names come from the tendency of people to misidentify it. It was often mistaken for galena, which was mined for its lead and, sometimes, silver content. Sphalerite yielded neither at the smelter, and, until the nineteenth century, there were few if any uses for the zinc that was present. So, to the old-time miners, the mistaken identity was a costly error. Things changed for sphalerite in the 1850s with the advent of galvanizing. In Wisconsin, many deposits worked for lead suddenly became zinc mines as well, with hundreds of thousands of tons of metal produced. This was also true for deposits elsewhere, notably in the Tri-state district and other Midwestern deposits, now prized for the beautiful sphalerite crystals found during mining.

So this is a bum rap for poor sphalerite. It is actually a relatively easy mineral to identify, and has a number of very distinctive properties that can be tested with little equipment. Yet, true to

form, I find many of my mineralogy students misidentifying it with depressing regularity.

First, when well crystallized, its form is distinctive. Sphalerite forms complex crystals that have a generally tetrahedral habit, although many modifying forms commonly occur. A tetrahedron has 4 faces, each one an equilateral triangle. Even with the complex modifications frequently present on sphalerite crystals, the generally triangular outline is usually visible. Few minerals have this crystal habit. The color of sphalerite is extremely variable, and this is probably part of the identification problem. Though usually some shade of brown to nearly black, red, yellow, green, blue and clear sphalerite is known. The colors represent the effects of chemical impurities, generally iron. The percentage of iron controls how dark the brownish hue is. Chemically pure sphalerite is clear (a variety called cleiophane). Translucent red sphalerite is sometimes called ruby jack.

The streak plate helps even out the color problems. Sphalerite will generally give a pale yellow streak.

The hardness of 3-4 on the mohs' scale, distinguishes sphalerite from quartz or feldspar. You can scratch sphalerite with a steel nail, but not with a copper penny.

Sphalerite breaks readily along a number of regular cleavage planes. Ideally, there are 6 preferred directions of break (the so-called dodecahedral cleavage.) While it is not usually possible to count all 6 directions on any particular specimen, an observer will clearly see this is a mineral with at least 4 cleavages. Few minerals have more than three.

A chemical test is also helpful. When powdered and moistened with weak HCL (muriatic or brick-cleaning acid), sphalerite emits a potent rotten egg odor of sulfur compounds. Kids generally love to do this test.

So sphalerite gives many clues to its identity, yet is still viewed as 'treacherous'. Many minerals for sphalerite is mistaken, such as calcite, fluorite, siderite or goethite, will never emit sulfurous fumes. Among the sulfur-bearing

minerals, few have the color, luster, streak and cleavage of sphalerite. Galena, for which it is most frequently mistaken, is always metallic; always some shade of gray, breaks along 3 sets of cleavages as cubes, and never crystallizes as tetrahedrons. Who could honestly mistake it for sphalerite? Poor sphalerite. Sometimes life "ain't" fair.

Last fall, I took my mineralogy students to visit the core labs of the proposed Crandon copper-zinc mine in Wisconsin. While viewing a length of core, I pointed out to my students what I thought was an interesting zone of coarse siderite in one of the cores. The mine-site geologist looked at me and said, "Oh no, that's one of our main ore minerals up here – it's sphalerite." Boy was my face red. The treacherous mineral had struck again!

- Bill Cordua, U. of Wisconsin – River Falls

Dr. William S. Cordua
 Professor of Geology/Mineralogy
 University of Wisconsin – River Falls
 410 South Third Street
 River Falls, WI 54022
 715-425-3139
 William.s.cordua@uwrf.edu
 "Speak to the earth and it shall teach thee" – Job
 12:8

*Via The Quarry 10/02, via the Trilobite 09/02
 Reprinted with permission of Dr. William S. Cordua*



THE SHOW

Our 45th annual show is now in the books. Each show has things to remember it by. This years Show had the smallest turn out ever. What to blame for that? Publicity? Flyers are sent to clubs in Ohio and Indiana. Carts are sent to all who signed to be notified from the previous year; flyers are placed in places with large public traffic like Young's Dairy. 35 letters are sent to newspapers, TV stations and Radio as well as colleges in the area. This and the magazines such

as Rock and Gem, Lapidary Journal and Ohio Events; our web site and other venues on the Internet. The word gets out; we had visitors from 4 states and zip codes from all over Ohio.

The dealers said they would come back, that the people who did come bought. Several visitors remarked they liked our small show. Each year some seem so enthused and hopefully you think they will become members, sometimes they do. The Library display gets a lot of attention but doesn't seem to entice many to the show.

We sold all grab bags available so we have none for the Swap.

Phillip Andreas refinished the Wheel of Fortune, it looks great and with him behind the wheel on Sunday, business picked up.

Saturday Anne Yokell came and asked what we were doing to celebrate our 50th. When told nothing in particular, she left returning with a decorated sheet cake with our name 1952-2002, and stated we were going to celebrate whether we wanted to or not. She even brought plates, forks and napkins. Checking later she found the cake still not cut, so she cut it. Sorry I did not get a picture of it. Thanks so much Anne, we miss you. Anne now has atrial fibrillation all the time.

Allen Cowan celebrated his birthday (Oct. 50 with us again this year. It is a delight to have Allen at the show, he is such a good worker and so knowledgeable. When attendance lags he keeps us laughing. He comes from Canada for the weekend. Thanks Allen and Fay for letting him come. Allen asks for a letter to help get him and his rocks through border inspection.

Door prices - we gave out diamonds and emeralds, nothing cheap about this club. We gave out 15 door prizes over the weekend. My family only won three of them. But there were 20 family members there over the weekend.

Former members Paul and Georgia Schumaker attended Sunday, they always have some great stories to share. They are full-timing it now living in their RV.

A lady tracked me down, she had a bag of eggs, thunder eggs they were a half dozen. Someone had told her I would cut them for her.

Should I charge her when I got to see first what they might conceal?

I was so pleased this year with member displays, no empty tables like last year. Next year lets make it 100%. Did I say next year? Well things were started before 02 show for 03. Greene County wanted info on 03 show, contract sighed with Lions and Becky showed me a prototype flyer for the 46th Show. Hopefully things will be looking better all over.

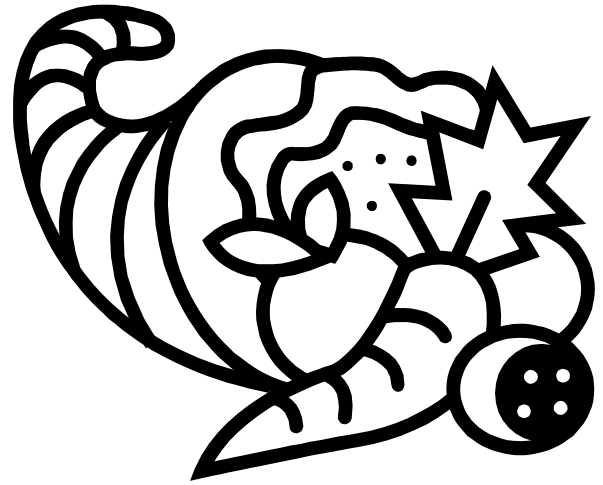
Hugh Fulton - MVMGC



Moon Rocks were brought back to earth by astronauts and samples sent to various universities for analysis. A very important university was overlooked. To cover his oversight, the administrator went to a pasture and picked up a rock at random and sent it. Two weeks later he received a thank-you letter with the following note: "After preliminary research, it looks as though the cow really did jump over the moon!"

Via Tulip City Conglomerate, from the Breccia and others

BECKY DOBBS - EDITOR
2792 GREYSTOKE DR.
XENIA, OH 45385



HAPPY THANKSGIVING!

SAVE COMMEMORATIVE STAMPS