#### **Upcoming Events**

September 23	Geode Jamboree 2000, Sheffler Rock Shop & Geode Mine, Alexandria, MO			
September 29- October 1 Crater of Diamonds State Park & Diamond Gateway				
0 1 7 0	Tourism Bureau Association, Murfreesboro, AR			
October 7-8	Jacksonville Gem & Mineral Society			
	Morocco Temple, Jacksonville, FL			
October 13-15	AFMS/RMFMS Show & Convention			
	Moab, UT			
October 13-15	Huntsville Gem & Mineral Society			
	Von Braun Center, Huntsville, AL			
October 13-15	Bisbee Mineral Club			
	The Junction (Elks Park), Bisbee, AZ			
October 14-15	Nevada County Gem & Mineral Society			
	Nevada County Fairgrounds, Grass Valley, CA			
October 14-15	Searles Lake Gem & Mineral Society			
	Trona Lapidary and Show Building, Trona, CA			
October 20-22	The Gem & Mineral Society of Franklin, NC			
	Macon County Community Facilities Building, Franklin, NC			
October 20-22	SFMS Annual Meeting			
	Hosted by the Knoxville Gem & Mineral Society			
	Show: Kerbela Temple, Knoxville, TN			
	Meeting: Garden Plaza Hotel, Oak Ridge, TN			
October 28-29	Tulsa Rock & Mineral Society			
	Exchange Center Building, Tulsa, OK			
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November 3-5	Imperial Polk County Gem & Mineral Society			
November 3-5				
November 3-5 November 3-5	Imperial Polk County Gem & Mineral Society			
	Imperial Polk County Gem & Mineral Society Joker Marchant Museum, Lakeland, FL			
November 3-5	Imperial Polk County Gem & Mineral Society Joker Marchant Museum, Lakeland, FL Mississippi Gulf Coast Gem & Mineral Society			
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November 3-5 November 11-12 November 18-2 December 1-3 December 9-1 2001	<ul> <li>Imperial Polk County Gem &amp; Mineral Society</li> <li>Joker Marchant Museum, Lakeland, FL</li> <li>Mississippi Gulf Coast Gem &amp; Mineral Society</li> <li>Jackson County Fairgrounds, Pascagoula, MS</li> <li>2 St. Lucie County Rock &amp; Gem Club</li> <li>St. Lucie Civic Center, Ft. Pierce, FL</li> <li>0 Cobb County Gem &amp; Mineral Society</li> <li>Cobb County Civic Center, Marietta, GA</li> <li>The Montgomery Gem &amp; Mineral Society</li> <li>Garret Coliseum, Montgomery, AL</li> <li>0 Middle Tennessee Gem &amp; Mineral Society</li> <li>Tennessee State Fairgrounds, Nashville, TN</li> </ul>			
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#### MIDDLE TENNESSEE GEM AND MINERAL SOCIETY, INC.

Volume 22 Number 9

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# MTG&MS NEXT MEETING: SEPTEMBER 21, 2000 PLACE: FARM BUREAU BUILDING 818 SOUTH CHURCH ST MURFREESBORO, TN TIME: 7:30 P.M. PROGRAM: The Kings Adventures, A Royal Treat - Bob & Tina King BOARD MEETING: 6:30 P.M.

MID-TENN GEM'ERS

September 2000

### Marty's Message

Do we have a meeting this month! This month's meeting is one meeting that you will not want to miss! I have been fortunate enough to already have heard some preliminary discussions of the adventures of Bob and Tina King. I'm not sure which topics they will be covering, but from what I heard, they would not have too much trouble having enough information for all of next year's meetings. I guarantee you, you will not be disappointed. If you miss the meeting, I guarantee you, you'll wish you'd been there. You might want to get there a little early, so you can get a good seat.

With the cooler weather just around the corner, we are planning on doing some work on our trailer. It has had some water leaking problems. The moisture has also caused mildew problems with our show cases, and corroding of the locks. We want to get these problems corrected before the damage becomes too great. We'll be making the plans for this work day(s).

Election time for officers is just around the corner. If you are willing to hold an office, let Max Grimes know. If you are willing to hold a non-elected position, let next year's President know.

# Marty

The SFMS annual meeting will be hosted by the Knoxville Gem & Mineral Society, October 20-22 in Oak Ridge, Tennessee at the Garden Plaza Hotel. Hotel reservations should be made before September 29. Call the hotel at (865) 481-2468. Mention the SFMS meeting for a discounted rate. Tickets for the banquet on Saturday, October 21 and the Editor's Breakfast on October 22 can be purchased by sending \$17 per person for the banquet and \$9.35 per person for the Editor's Breakfast to Robert V. Walker, 1520 Holman Road, Knoxville, TN 37909. These tickets should be ordered before October 16. The KGMS show will be at the Kerbela Temple at 315 Mimosa Avenue in Knoxville.

MID-TENN GEM'ERS



#### **Swap and Shop**

**For Sale:** 10" Highland Park Rock Saw, \$275. Sphere Machines, \$200. George Jones, (615) 333-3781.

**For Sale: 2** - Gem-Tec Supreme 6" Cab Machines, \$1,099 each. 2 - Gem-Tec Coronet 4" Cab Machines, \$799 each. 1 - 4" or 5" Gem-Tec Trim Saw, \$179. All machines are new in the box and covered by the Gem-Tec warranty. William L. Jones, Sr., 3082 Maple Ave., Milan, Tennessee 38358, phone (901) 686 1197, e-mail **bjones@iswt.com** 

**Wanted:** Used faceting machines and Genies, any condition. Contact Ken Reed of the Deland, Florida Gem & Mineral Club, 1113 Cass St, Deland, FL 32720. (904) 851-0992 (days), (904) 738-4879 (evenings), e-mail **kr113@aol.com** 

**Swap and Shop** is for Club members and friends of the Club to advertise goods and services for sale or swap. Want ads are also accepted.

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#### **GEODE JAMBOREE 2000**

The Geode Jamboree 2000, sponsored by volunteer members of rock clubs in Illinois, Missouri, Wisconsin, and Iowa, will be held September 23, 2000 at the Sheffler Geode Mine in Alexandria, Missouri. Join us for a great day of fun and rockhound fellowship!

The event includes digging geodes at the mine, a free tailgate swap, picnic buffet dinner, geode opening, geode contests, door prizes, mineral inclusion identification display. Experienced geode hunters will be on hand to help newcomers. See http://www.commean.com/rocks/jam2000/.

Registration begins at 8 a.m., at the Sheffler Rock Shop, Alexandria, Missouri. Registration fee is \$3 per person, dig fee is \$10 per person. Dig fee is for 50 pounds (overrun is 50 cents per pound). Bring your own buckets and tools. Digging reservations at the mine are

On my own I made several pendants, belt buckles, and bola ties that are on consignment at "Body, Mind, and Spirit" here in Clarksville. A few of these have sold.

As a way of helping Madison Street United Methodist Church after the tornado I found seven pieces of broken stained glass and made them into pendants and gave them to the Rebekah Circle to sell at the 1999 Bazaar. The seven were all sold within the first ten minutes of opening time of the bazaar. They sold for \$35.00 each for a total of \$245.00. One of the church members knew where there was some more glass that had been saved. The Circle agreed to buy the gold-filled and sterling wire that would be needed to make eighty pendants. By the time I could make that many they were 90% sold. So I went ahead and made 80 more for a total of 160 pendants. All of those have sold except for about 20-25. They are expected to sell by the end of the 2000 Bazaar. That equals about \$5600.00 plus the \$245.00. I used a little over \$600.00 worth of wire. The Circle will clear about \$5200.00.

I have been asked to provide consignment materials for sale at the Clarksville/Montgomery County Museum. I have 25 pieces of fairly good paint rock ready to go and have cut some of the local blue slag that I will set in silver very soon, if I am able.

I hope this is not too much complaining or bragging but the frail can still do some things.

\* \* \* \* \* \* \* \* \* \* \* \* \* \* \*

# Shop Tip

One thing rockhounds can never get enough of is storage. Plastic buckets are good storage containers as well as good field trip containers. Since everyone does laundry, a convenient way to get buckets is to buy laundry detergent in buckets. Sam's Wholesale Club is one place to get laundry detergent in five gallon buckets. The buckets are ready to use after the detergent is emptied. They have a tight fitting lid to keep things in place.

Steve Henegar, CM

September 2000 MID-TENN GEM'ERS Page





#### **August Board Meeting Minutes**

The August Board Meeting was called to order by President Marty Hart. Board members present were Steve Henegar, Lewis Elrod, Anna Elrod and Al Johnson.

The Board discussed free admission to our show for scouts in uniform, when accompanied by a leader. This applies to both boys and girls. Al Johnson volunteered to handle communicating with proper scout officials the clubs show policy of free admission for scouts. Further discussion involved ways the club could help scouts with their geology merit badges.

A possible booth at the show was one idea discussed. Ideas from club members are welcomed.

Another topic discussed was the clubs web site and its popularity. Our club has a new site this year and the AFMS web site has doubled in size. Web Master Marty Hart reported the most popular topic is the Moh's Scale of Hardness. For the first time the AFMS site exceeded 100,000 visitors within one month.

No official actions were taken.

Acting Secretary Anna Elrod, filling in for vacationing Paula Vance

#### **August Meeting Minutes**

The Club Meeting was called to order by President Marty Hart.

We were fortunate to have Lt. Clyde Adkison from the Murfreesboro Police Department as our speaker. A variety of safety measure tips were discussed including pepper spray for personal safety, home security systems and steps to make your home less attractive as a target

September 2000

to potential thieves.

Care should be taken in admitting strangers into your home. A much safer approach would be to make a call for the person or, better yet, call the police and let the police provide any needed assistance. Key lock deadbolts are much safer than traditional locks. The Murfreesboro Police sponsor a series of twelve classes to foster a better relationship between the police and the public. Lewis and I have taken the classes and thoroughly enjoyed them as well as learning a great deal about keeping our property and ourselves safer. A person should always be alert and if something doesn't feel right then take precautionary measures. If you have questions about the academy ask Lewis or Anna. A second session of the Murfreesboro Citizens Police Academy is now being formed.

Our "Person on the Rock Pile" was Mary Clyde Sparks. She displayed how she uses a canvas fishing tackle box as a safe, compact and wellorganized means of packing and transporting her collection of miniature size mineral specimens. The collection included a wide variety of beautiful specimens.

> Acting Secretary Anna Elrod, filling in for vacationing Paula Vance

> > \* \* \* \* \* \* \* \* \* \* \* \*



Stamp Fund

Prize	Winner	
Fluorite	Marty Hart	ŀ
Paint Rock	Tina King	J
Amethyst	Alf Futrell	J
Selenite	Steven White	S
Geode	Lewis Elrod	S
Petrified Wood	Al Johnson	Ν
Blue Geode	Kara Schneider	(
Brown Agate	Mary Clyde Sparks	(

#### Donor

Ken Swann June Miller June Miller Steve Henegar Steven White Mary Clyde Sparks George Jones George Jones

#### A Tale of a Frail Rockhound by Bill Buckner, CM

Since April 1999 I have been a frail rockhound. Much of my time has been spent with surgery. I had bladder cancer removed in May 1999. In June 1999 I discovered that not all of the cancer was gone. My urologist suggested chemo and radiation. I chose two doctors who worked together at Gateway Health Care System to do my treatments. They made arrangements to get a port-a-cath put in (same day surgery). They also got all the records from my urologist. After studying those records, both of them recommended I get a second opinion from a Vanderbilt specialist in bladder cancer chemo. This doctor told me that at present there is no chemo available that would completely kill bladder cancer. That in probably three to five years I would be dead if I took that route. He suggested removal of the bladder and prostate gland. On August 19 this was done. To replace the bladder they took out nearly a liter of my intestine and made me a neo-bladder. In October they declared me cancer free and had the port-a-cath removed. In November I had a bladder infection and ran a high fever for three or four days. With strong antibiotics I was soon back on my feet. Things looked up until the last day of our fall show when my feet and legs swelled. With treatment I was soon back to walking a mile or two a day. By January 20 I was walking 10 miles a week to get my strength back. In March I began to work on weight machines at the YMCA. In May I started water aerobics and was doing well.

On August 14 after teaching an AARP driving class I had a chill and on August 15 I could not stand up. The bladder infection was back again. As I write this I am having fever of 100 or more every day.

I think you might have some idea of why I am considering myself frail. Now I want to tell you what this frail rockhound did do.

During the time I mentioned above I was a full time preacher from April to June of 1999. I was Show Chairman for the American Federation Show in July and our December Show. Because I had such good help we had two excellent shows. I expect our shows to get better because new people bring new ideas that can be incorporated into the mix.

# Colorado Rockhounding

#### Mixing Religion and Rockhounding by Mary Clyde Sparks, CM

It seems I was the subject of conversation during my trip to Denver. I attended the triennial meeting of the Episcopal Church of the United States of America. This is the big national convention, and was held for almost 2 weeks in July. Well while we were there, 4 of our clergy and 4 of our laypersons rented a van on the one day off we had, and drove up into the Rockies. Every so often they mentioned to each other that they bet I was having an absolute fit - being in Denver and the Rockies, and being so busy that I couldn't go rock hunting. Apparently I have a reputation! And of course, they were right. The only rock hunting I did was that day - when the car that my friend and I were loaned overheated on the interstate as we drove up into the mountains. I hung out the car door while we waited for the engine to cool and looked at rocks. Picked up a few - granite varieties mainly, just to say I'd been there.

I did stop at one rock shop. I hated to subject my friend to more, since she is not a rock hound, and we were trying to sight-see. Unfortunately, the pretty little rock shops in the quaint towns off the interstate are very commercial. 99% of what they carry is imported, from Africa, Brazil, etc. Nice to look at, but I have most of these type items. My boss, who has traveled extensively in the west, said you need to drive the area around Denver, and other similar cities. All the hole-in-the-wall, dumpy places have great stuff.

The one thing I did find that I bought was some small, but nice aquamarine crystals from Mt. Antero, Colorado. Having seen articles concerning the superb and huge crystals that come from the area, I was delighted to get a couple of small ones. Of course now I want to go west, and spend several weeks really poking around. Or as they say, "next year in Tucson"!

\* \* \* \* \* \* \* \* \* \* \* \* \* \*

The American Federation Convention and Show will be held in Moab, Utah on October 9-15, 2000.

September 2000

MID-TENN GEM'ERS



#### **Editor's Ramblings**

September marks the close of the first annual newsletter article contest. All articles submitted before October 1, 2000 are eligible for this year's contest. There will be three prizes awarded. Prizes are valued at \$50, \$30, and \$20. These prizes will be awarded in show dollars to be spent at the December Gem Show. As editor I appreciate your response to this contest. Articles have been submitted each month by members since the contest started earlier this year. Having your articles has made the job of editing the newsletter much easier. A new contest year will run from October 2000 to September 2001.

This month's newsletter is almost all written by members of this Club. The good news is I had plenty of articles, the bad news is there were too many articles submitted. If you gave me an article that is not included in this months edition, it will be included with the October issue. I assure you this is very comforting to a newsletter editor to have too many articles from members. I'm guessing there are many newsletter editors that would love to have this situation. Thanks to all of you for getting these articles to me.

I recently returned from another trip out west with my parents. We traveled through several states including Missouri, Iowa, South Dakota, Wyoming, Colorado, New Mexico, Oklahoma, and Arkansas. The first stop was the Sheffler Rock Shop in Alexandria, Missouri. I met the famous Mrs. Betty Sheffler. She owns a geode mine. Rockhounds come from all over the earth to dig the renowned Keokuk geodes. The walls of her shop and home are covered with huge gemstones, minerals, and geodes of several varieties. It's a dream home for a rockhound. There will be a geode Jamboree on September 23. Details are on page 15.

Another highlight of the trip was digging in a friends rockpile. I brought home about two hundred pounds of rock from this pile. The rockhounding highlight of the trip was digging selenite crystals at the Great Salt Plains National Wildlife Refuge near Cherokee, Oklahoma.

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#### The Kings Letter

Tina King 1312 Gaywinds Drive Mt. Juliet, TN 37122

August 4, 2000

Middle Tennessee Gem & Mineral Society P.O. Box 1256 Murfreesboro, TN 37133-1256

#### Dear Society Members:

I wanted to take this time to tell you thank you for making me a better teacher. I gain so much every time I attend our monthly meetings. I have finally returned home long enough to write this long overdue letter. I would like to thank the club members who helped put together a set of 110 specimen boxes and geode halves for my trip to Washington D.C. The other Presidential Award winners for Math and Science seemed to really appreciate getting them. I know I felt so proud to give them something that was a part of Tennessee. I would like to give a special thanks to Ken Swann for the beautiful Paint Rock agate; Lewis and Anna Elrod for the special petrified wood; Steven White for the wonderful geodes; and Marty Hart for his time to make the labels and put the boxes together. I can't imagine a nicer gift from Tennessee to give to someone in another state. Thank you so much for doing this.

My summer has been hectic, but eventful. Bob and I left for Washington D.C. on June 20th. This all expense paid trip included many activities and field experiences. My favorite thing was meeting with teachers from all 50 states, plus the U.S. territories of Puerto Rico, Guam, Saipan, and the Virgin Islands. I did have the opportunity to go to the White House to attend President Clinton's press conference. He briefly talked with our group and had his picture taken with us before being whisked away in his helicopter. I was most interested in the protocol, the secret service, walking past the Oval Office while going through the Rose Garden, and talking to the director of science at the Diagonal cutting pliers have a fixed pivot and curved handles that are offset from the jaws about 15 degrees so as to provide the operator enough knuckle clearance while making flush cuts. These pliers are designed for cutting small light pieces of wire, cotter keys, etc. and should not be used to hold or grip items. When cutting, restrain the piece to be cut off so it will not become a missile hazard. End cutting pliers or nippers are used to cut off wire flush to the working surface, thus keeping fingers away from the wire ends. Hand shears are made with straight or curved cutting blades and are used for cutting sheet metal. Shears are made for right-handed operators so that the cutting line is always in full view for accuracy. Straight blade shears are used for cutting straight lines and curves, while curved bladed shears are used for cutting short straight

lines and curves and small intricate designs.

When using diagonal pliers, end cutting pliers, or shears, keep fingers away from the jaws and cutting edges and always wear eye protection. Do not attempt to cut heavier material than the tool is designed for. Do not use pliers or shears as hammers or pry bars. Keep shears sharp with an oil stone or file. Grinding is not recommend and shortens shear life. Keep pliers and shears clean and lubricate the pivot point with a light oil. Store in a dry location on hooks or a shelf, protecting the cutting surfaces from contact with other tools. A thin coat of oil can be applied to protect from rust. Do not remove insulation from handles or oil insulated handles. Replace pliers that have broken handles, cutting edges or jaws.

Straight-lip flat jaw tongs have a fixed pivot point, two straight jaws and long straight handles and are used for placing hot items into and picking them out of pickling solution. (*to be continued next month*)

EFMLS Newsletter, Carolyn Weinburger, Ed. 9/00

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To keep cool, line your hat with aluminum foil on hot, sunny days.

From Rocky Trails via Rocky Echoes 8/2000

'ERS September 2000

or be an expert rockhound to help sustain our club. If you take the lead and ask to do some of the work, you will also discover that you have gained sweat-equity in MTGMS, which over time will make you a stronger member with many pleasant rewards. So remember our need for articles, help with meetings, and our annual show which is coming up requiring a lot of people power. Be a little pushy, and volunteer to play a role in our club and/or show. Remember the more people doing the work, the more we accomplish, and the easier it is on everyone.

#### 

## by Bill Klose, EFMLS Safety Chairman

With the coming to the end of the collecting season it is now appropriate to look at shop hand tool safety. A few of the field hand tools, such as hammers, chisels, and knives, are also commonly used by rock hounds in the shop, but will not be reconsidered here.

A commonly used group of tools are the pliers and tongs. Slip joint pliers, which include the well known water pump pliers, have serrated jaws with a rod-gripping section and are used to hold objects. The slip joint accommodates objects of different sizes. These pliers may also have a cutting edge for cutting soft wire and nails, however cutting large or hard items will spring the jaws. Arc joint pliers are similar, but may have straight or curved jaws and will accommodate a larger variety of object sizes. The tightening of bolts or nuts with slip joint or arc joint pliers is not recommended and will usually result in damage to the nut or bolt and may lead to damaged knuckles when the pliers slip. Use wrenches for tightening nuts and bolts. Vice grip pliers are designed to provide a tighter grip but are still not to be used to tighten nuts and bolts. Parallel jaw pliers are designed to hold flat surfaced objects such as sheets of metal.

Flat nosed pliers and round nosed pliers have a fixed pivot jaw and curved handles and may or may not have insulated grips. The flat nosed pliers may have smooth or serrated jaws and are designed to bend light sheet metal or wire. Round nose pliers are used to make loops in soft wire.

White House. Bob and I loved our field experience with a staff member at the Smithsonian's Gem and Mineral Museum. He also gave us a personal tour of the museum. Our award ceremony took place at the National Academy of Science. It was very nice. I received a plaque signed by the President. The first night in Washington, we had a beautiful cruise down the Potomac River. Seeing the Washington Monument and the Lincoln Memorial lit up at night was an impressive sight. The National Science Foundation and the Mavatech Corporation made our stay in Washington a memorable experience. We enjoyed a reception and a private showing of Galapagos at the Smithsonian. We also had a very nice dinner at the State Department. Mike Novacek, who has found many fossils in the Gobi Desert and is now Senior Vice President of the American Museum of Natural History in New York, was our guest speaker. This trip, from the moment we arrived, until the time we departed was filled with many learning opportunities and experiences. Bob and I had a great time! We arrived back home at 11:30 a.m. on June 24th. Our son switched our bags with us at the airport before we flew to Biloxi, Mississippi, at 2:45 p.m. Bob and I went on an ocean study with the University of Tennessee at Martin and the Center of Excellence for Science and Mathematics Education.

This ocean study was also a wonderful learning experience. I am in the process of developing an oceanography unit for Wilson County's fourth grade science curriculum. I especially loved going out on a shrimp trawler to collect specimens to study in the lab. I picked up marine animals such as squid, blue crabs, puffer fish, and comb jellies. This was a new experience for me. I also like the seining. We took a schooner to a deserted island to collect data, take measurements, and gather sand samples. It was always interesting to use microscopes to gain a better understanding of some thing as minute as a grain of sand, or micro organisms swimming in the water. We arrived back home on June 30th only to do laundry, pack a camper, and leave for the Nebraska and Montana Badlands. Our family headed out west for two weeks to hunt for fossils and participate in a dinosaur dig on private ranches. We will tell you more about this adventure at our September meeting. I will tell you that we loved stopping to see the fossils and minerals at the South Dakota School of Mining and Technology in Rapid City. I'm so glad that Al Johnson told us not to miss seeing the exhibits there. Our son, Ryan, who is majoring in Geology at

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Tennessee Tech, was invited back out to Montana next year to help excavate another dinosaur. I think our guide was pleasantly surprised that our two sons, Ryan and Matt, ages 20 and 17, had a talent and the patience to unearth dinosaur bones....I must say, much better than their mom. We found some triceratops' bones, ribs, jawbones, and skull parts. We arrived back home the night of July 15th. Bob and I flew to Annapolis, Maryland, at 6:25 a.m. on July 17th to attend a GLOBE conference. My students are participating in this wonderful program, which involves my students in gathering atmospheric data using scientific equipment before sending it to scientists, via the Internet. At this conference, we met the scientists that wrote the programs. GLOBE has four protocols: atmosphere, soil, hydrology, and land cover/ biology. We also met with people from NASA, as well as coordinators from 30 other countries and many states in the United States. The GLOBE program is one of the best things that I've ever done for my students because it allows the students to practice real science.

When we returned from our trips, I found out that I had been accepted to the "Teachers Experiencing Antarctica" program. I will be going to an orientation meeting at the Cold Region Research and Engineering Laboratory in Hanover, New Hampshire from August 6 –12th. Next summer, I will meet with my research leader and other team members. I will be going to Antarctica with this research team some time during the October through January 2001-2002 field season. I will know a more definite time after I have been assigned to my research team in the fall. This will also determine how long I will be in the field. Usually it is 3 weeks to 8 weeks, but we were told to expect about 6 weeks. I am quite excited about this because I will be hooked up to my classroom while I am in Antarctica. I feel so blessed to be having this experience. I am one of eight teachers selected to go to Antarctica. There were also eight teachers selected to go to the Arctic region. I feel that this will be an amazing experience. I will keep you posted as I learn more. Again, thank you for adding so much to my own learning. See you soon.

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#### SFMS Annual Meeting

The SFMS annual meeting will be held in Oak Ridge, Tennessee on October 20-22, 2000 at the Garden Plaza Hotel.

MID-TENN GEM'ERS

Let someone else do it! By Will Smith, CM

Like in business, church, home, and clubs, it is so easy to sit back and complain how others are doing their work with the thought that you could do it much better. It's just human that we take much for granted.

Since becoming more active in our club again, I have experienced a number of reality checks. The first reality check came a few months ago when I took over the duties of Club Treasurer. I knew LaVelle (Mom) would spend a lot of time trying to remember where the cash came from and trying to determine if it was dues or the stamp fund, making deposits, etc.. I'm having the same problem, but that is not the point of this article.

My second reality check is much more important. A few months ago while trying to simplify our jobs by using the computer and other resources, I was working with Steve to see if we could reduce the amount of time he has to give to the production of this great Newsletter. I expected it to took some time out of his life, to write and edit the Newsletter, but I did not realize the amount of time (3 days) it took to copy, fold, staple, print labels, paste labels, stamp, and mail. Working together we have developed a method to email Steve's file along with my address database to Kinko's who produces 150 newsletters complete with addresses. I pick them up the same day, add stamps, corner tape and mail. Now Steve can be a great editor and have three days each month to rockhound.

My point is that each of us, me included, think the other persons job is so simple and therefore they could do a better job. We feel this way because we have not walked in their shoes or even taken the time to ask what they do. Steve is only one example in our club of those who care so much they cheerfully give many hours of their time, but it is their time and sacrifice that makes our club so great. As members we need to better understand what it takes to maintain an active club, agree to share more of the work load, and appreciate the volunteer service of all those who make it work. The best way to accomplish this is to say "Let Me Do That", or "Do You Need Any Help".

Everything in our club is simple so you do not have to have experience