ROCK BLAST

Newsletter of the K-W Gem and Mineral Club
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Regular Meetings held on the first Wednesday of each month, except July and August

Next Meeting: Wed. March 1, 1967 - 8:00 P.M. in Room 370 Biology Bldg., University of Waterloo

This is our big "Silent Auction". Every member is asked to bring minerals, fossils or jewellery rock specimens to be sold for the benefit of our club.

On a 4 x 8 inch sheet of paper - name your specimen - where it was found and any other interesting information.

Please bring a specimen or two that you really hate to part with - not necessarily big, but nice. Then every one will be proud to be the new owner.

Our Feb. 1st meeting featured a most interesting talk by Geoff Downing. We felt like moving to Fort William, which appears to be a wonderful collecting area. It was quite a challenge to find the amethysts and the massive specimen of quartz rock crystals is now on display in our cabinet at the University. The other specimens on display in this cabinet are well worth your attention. Our thanks to Geoff.

BONE STRUCTURE OF ANY ORGANIZATION

1. WISHBONE Those who wish someone else would do all the work.
2. JAWBONE Those who ridicule every idea or suggestion.
3. FINGER BONE Those who always point to someone else to do the job.
4. LEG BONE Those who walk away from responsibility.
5. TAILBONE The sitters.
6. BACKBONE The strength and the heart of every organization.

WHICH ARE YOU: - via Miami Gemcrafter - Triangle Tumbler - St. Louis Rock Lore.

DIAMONDS

To produce a single carat of gem diamond for an engagement ring, the mines must blast, crush and sort on an average of more than two hundred and fifty tons of rock and gravel. Only about one quarter of all diamonds produced are of gem quality, the remainder being used for industrial purposes.

Diamonds are assessed by carats - 142 carats to an ounce.

Smaller stones are measured in points - 100 points to a carat.

Diamonds are not always white. They come in many lovely shades of pale yellow, coffee brown, red pink, green, blue, and even black. Traditionally, however, the standared for an engagement ring is clear, frosty sparkling white like the white arc of spray that shines through the cascade of a waterfall.

Diamonds reflect the color around them and, to judge its color, look at the diamond on a white background against a clear north light.

HARDNESS SCALE

The hardness of a mineral with a knife you sometimes test,
Or scratch it with another - then compare it with the rest,
Talc is one on the hardness scale; scratch it with your fingernail,
Gypsum's next - hardness two; your fingernail will scratch it too,
Calcite's three; use a copper penny; or cut it with a knife if you haven't any,
Fluorite's four - with others match it, if your knife with ease will scratch it,
Apatite is five at best - the last one that your knife will test,
Feldspar six, will just mark glass - a hard steel file will make a pass.
Quartz is seven, now with the rest, use harder minerals for the test,
Topaz eight, marks all below it, it's gem material and you know it,
Corundum nine, in crystal clear, sapphire and rubies priced so dear
Diamond last, number ten, have you got the hardest gem:

from Auckland Society's New Bulletin, via The Gemstone; via London Rock Chippings