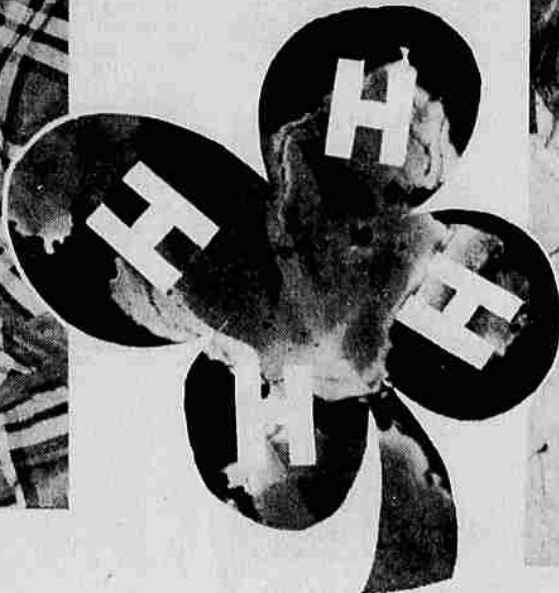




Four Rocky Rockhound 4-H'ers from Lane County examine the round red rock they have labeled "The Petrified Brain." Left to right: Gary Bigelow, Joe Estes, Charles DeMoss and Harold Mattoon.



Barbara Campbell, Sheila Richey, and Judy Denton admire vivid colors and unusual designs in slice of agate that their 4-H Club Leader Everett Wearin holds over bright trouble-light.



Joe Estes and Gary Bigelow use rockhound's favorite piece of equipment—a rock pick—to test hardness of large piece of petrified oak from Eastern Oregon.

Rocky Rockhounds

By VAL THOENIG
Of Lane Extension Service

Lapidarists come "by the dozen" in the Rocky Rockhounds Rock and Mineral 4-H Club. And their leader, Everett Wearin, Leaburg stock raiser, is wondering why he waited until he was 63 years old to share his favorite interest with the county's young rock collectors. Says Wearin:

"I've never had more fun."

The big-framed farmer with the jovial voice credits two women, both longtime 4-H Club leaders, for getting him "involved in the 4-H rock project." Last year Wearin was co-leader with Mrs. James C. Lane, a 20-year 4-H Club leader from Camp Creek and leader of the county's first 4-H rock club, "The Rockettes."

(Thoenig photos)

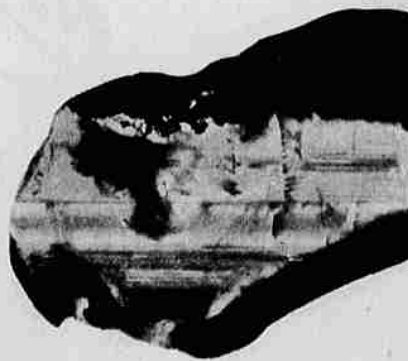
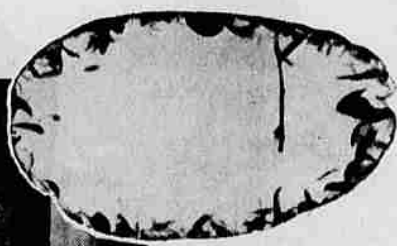
ROCKHOUNDS
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Joe Estes tightens vice on rock before adjusting plastic shatter-proof cover and starting motor on diamond saw.



Charles DeMoss shapes piece of obsidian rock on electric grinder while Karen Millican and Judy Denton await their turns. Each 4-H Rockhound will make bookends, pen holder or piece of jewelry.



4-H Rocky Rockhounds enjoy "seeing pictures" in slices of rock project on screen. Leader Everett Wearin slips piece of plumed agate into machine while Charles DeMoss and Donita Beyerlin hold their selections for projection.