



A ROCK SHOP full of rocks is a joy forever to Mrs. Harry Wood, who shows some polished stones to Bob McClure, secretary of the Klamath Mineral Club. Mrs. Wood and her husband are avid rock collectors. It appears their collections slightly outstrip their jewelry production, but finding choice rocks is most of the fun.

# Stones Become Jewelry In Skilled Hands Of Klamath Mineral Club's Rock Hounds

By DEAN A. KRENZ

There may not be diamonds in "them thar hills," but they're full of raw materials for jewelry, nevertheless.

The hills are right here in the Klamath Basin, and the people who turn the stones to jewelry are members of the Klamath Mineral Club. The 21-year-old club was originally dedicated to the more scientific examination and classification of local minerals, but membership the past few years has blossomed with interest in making pretty things from the rocks they find.

Among the club's most enthusiastic boosters are Mr. and Mrs. Harry Wood of 1718 Wiard. The Woods have been "rock hounds" for a good many years, but more recently they began cutting and polishing the objects of their digging and searching.

The jewelry the Woods and other members of the mineral club make is semi-precious stone set on ready-made mountings. The stone includes such beautiful varieties as agate, opal, jasper, and even beach rocks.

Mr. and Mrs. Wood are typical rock hounds. They'd rather be out in their camper trailer hunting rocks than dining at the Ritz.

## ON THE COVER

Mrs. Harry Wood of 1718 Wiard shows some of the jewelry and settings she and her husband have finished in their backyard rock shop. The Woods are members of the Klamath Mineral Club, a growing organization that finds beauty in rocks that look like ordinary stones to the uninitiated.

— Photo by Don Kettler

"All of our camping trips are rock hunting expeditions," Mrs. Woods said. "We always have a wonderful time."

### COMPANIONSHIP, TOO

Rock hounds make their expeditions both family and club events. In addition to finding good rock specimens and finishing them, members find companionship and good times that are always part of a camping trip.

"We don't have time to gossip at our meetings," Mrs. Wood said, "because we're too busy talking about our hobby and that special rock we just found."

"Most rock hounds are sportsmen who developed an interest in rocks while hunting or fishing," she said. "If they're like us they soon give up everything but rock hunting."

Safaris for rocks can be as long or short as desired. The common opal is found right in the Klamath Falls area. Dendritic (patterned) agate is found in abundance in the Lincoln area and Agate Flats, about 64 miles from Klamath Falls, produces good quality agate. Petrified wood, jasper and agate can also be found in the Bly-Fish Hole area. A trip to the Madras area might produce a prized thunder egg, a round stone, with an agate, quartz or opal center.

"And you needn't look down on the child who picks up a beach pebble and says, 'Here's a pretty stone,'" Mrs. Wood has many jars full of such stones that make beautiful settings when properly polished.

### Only a Hobby

"You never get the fun out of working rocks you buy that you do with those you find yourself," Mrs. Wood said. The Woods, incidentally, give away to friends, relatives and callers their finished work.

"We're keeping it a hobby now, but we may sell our jewelry when we retire," she said. "Here in Klamath Falls we've had many offers to buy our jewelry, but we have always turned them down."

There is an almost unlimited number of willing recipients for the Woods' jewelry, and even after the Christmas depletion process, there was still an impressive display of stones, mounted and unmounted in their home. It's obvious they have a good

headstart on next Christmas and any other gift-giving occasions intervening.

The Woods' rock shop is in what Mrs. Wood calls a "combination dog and chicken house" in back of their home. A small stove makes the little shed a year-around working place. Most of the space is taken up by rock specimens; equipment needed to finish them is simple and small.

There's a diamond impregnated saw for cutting rocks into slabs, and tumblers and grinders for

shaping and polishing stones. The Woods said an interested neighbor with mechanical ability built the necessary equipment for less than \$200.

It takes about a day to turn out a shaped, polished stone ready for setting. Judging from their collection, the Woods spend a lot of time in their rock shop.

There's nothing complicated or difficult about finishing the stones, or cabochons as they are technically known. The rough-shaped stone is mounted with wax on a dop stick which is used as a handle in shaping and polishing the face of the stone. Stones for baroque jewelry are polished in the tumbling machine that gets its action from an abrasive and water.

Wood, a civilian engineer for the 13th Naval District, is scheduled for a move to Whidbey Island in Washington soon. Are they worried about moving their furniture? No, it's the rocks that are getting first priority.

Persons interested in the mineral club are invited to attend meetings held the last Thursday of each month at 7:30 p.m. at the Armory on Shasta Way. Membership is not required to go on field trips with the organization.

## POET'S CORNER

### CHRISTMAS AFTERMATH

I've pajamas to give away. Of course I will keep the best. Some needy one may have the rest.

The folks all aim to see That I have pajamas, 'neath the Christmas Tree.

Oscar W. Haynes  
2720 Summers Lane

## Pollution Will Get OSC Study Under \$29,000 Institute Grant

OREGON STATE COLLEGE — More efficient methods for treating sewage and industrial wastes — a growing problem with growing U.S. populations — will be studied by Oregon State College during the coming two years with a new \$29,000 grant from the National Institutes of Health.

Improved waste treatment methods are a "must" if water resources are to be preserved from pollution in years to come, it was pointed out. Complex new types of industrial wastes are posing new problems too.

The OSC research will provide fundamental understanding of the basic physical and biochemical factors that influence efficient treatment of various wastes. Development of new tests for measurement of pollution and treatment efficiency also will be emphasized.

The research is a joint project of the school of engineering and the department of bacteriology. Project leaders are Fred J. Burgess, civil engineering, and C.M. Gilmour, bacteriology. Working with them are Fred Merryfield

and Martin E. Northcraft of the engineering staff and J. K. Carswell, graduate research assistant in sanitary engineering.

Cooperating in the studies are the Oregon State Sanitary Authority, the city of Corvallis, and the new OSC Water Resources Institute.

The \$29,000 grant is a continuation and expansion of research started in March 1959 on trickling filters used in sewage disposal. Trickling filters are beds of stones or other packing over which the sewage "trickles" during the final disposal process. Microbial action helps oxidize the sewage to make it less innocuous.

That work is designed to determine merits of the filters for secondary or final oxidation of the liquid portion of the sewage before it is ready to be emptied into streams and carried away. It is believed the trickling filters may have special value for use in areas where camery and other food plant wastes upset the normal operations of sewage treatment systems, but basic work on loading rates needs to be done.