Hopefully, Spring is starting to show up in most areas. By the time this is printed I will have attended the Southeast Federation Rock Hound Round Up and the Eastern Federation Annual Meeting. I anticipate having a great time at each event, seeing old friends and making new ones.

This month I will be attending the Judges Training and the Northwest Federation Show held in Ogden, Utah. The show and class are over Easter weekend, April 10th to 12th. It has been more than 40 years since I’ve been to Utah and I am looking forward to the trip. Hopefully I will be driving from Florida to Utah and have good weather and time to stop along the way.

As I write this, everyone is worried about the Corona Virus. Hopefully soon everything will die down and it will not affect the show season. As of today, they are recommending regular hand washing with soap and water, wiping surfaces with disinfecting wipes and staying 6 feet away from anyone coughing.

Currently I have no AFMS trips planned in May. At the end of May I will be teaching at William Holland in Young Harris, Georgia. If you have an opportunity to take a class at your Federation or a local school I strongly recommend it. We can all learn new things about our hobby.

**From the Desk of the President**

David Wayment
AFMS President 2019-2020

**Safety Matters**

Ellery Borow
AFMS Safety Chair

Perhaps you have noted the often stated "Please read and follow manufacturer's instructions" These words appear on a myriad of tools, supplies and equipment. Anything from a rock pick to a 48" slab saw may state some version of the above quotation. The “instructions” often cover safety, as well as maintenance guidelines. So yes, safety is part of many manufacturers’ recommendations. Being safe is part of their concern and it can end up saving you money as well.

A good measure of our hobby involves use of tools - microscopes, rock picks, slab saws, geode crackers, faceting machines, soldering torches, faceting machines, and cars. Cars are a really big tool.

Sure, we service and maintain our cars. We realize it costs time and money to do so, but with that expenditure one has a car that lasts longer and is safer. The same can be said of a rock pick or a slab saw. The rock pick’s instructions are usually short, the slab saw’s rather lengthy. However, both are worth reading. Besides routine saw maintenance, which generally makes a saw safer to run, there are usually specific safety recommendations. Those recommendation might include reference to maintaining hood gaskets for mist containment, or ductwork to vent mist, or safe saw vice operation, or adjusting guarding, or proper grounding of electrical components, or avoiding pinch points (areas on the saw where fingers might be pinched between moving parts). All such recommendations are based on the manufacturer's thorough understanding of the design and operation of their equipment.

Manufacturers want you to be safe as you enjoy many year's use of their equipment. That's true for everything from that rock pick to the mammoth 48" saw.

Now to the cost of safety. Safe car tires, brakes, working windshield wipers are all clearly issues of safety. The expenditures help avoid car accidents. Perhaps the cost of a damaged hammer handle or mis-adjusted blade guard are not as apparent. The costs might be much more apparent if the flying hammer head hits a bystander, or the improper guard allowed flying debris to cause eye damage.
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There are seven regional federations proud of serving the AFMS.

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Safety Matters

Ellory Borow

Top of the List

Lists. Lists often have tops and bottoms. Generally speaking, the top of the list items are more likely to be accomplished, whereas the bottom of the list items, well, they may be lucky to be done at all. Our hobby is rife with lists, lists with tops and bottoms. The question here is where do items regarding safety appear on our lists? Do items of safety even appear on our lists? The last question was specifically asked because there are those who put safety first and foremost in all things. They don’t put safety items on their lists because, well, safety is automatic, and is so ingrained, so natural, that it is not put on the list—or so it may be.

The case to be made here is about the wisdom of keeping safety, your safety, show safety, public safety, equipment safety and so on at, or near, the top, higher priority section of one’s lists. The model for the wisdom of keeping safety at the top is taken from nearly all instruction manuals. A glance at almost any instruction manual will show that safety guidelines, procedures and wisdoms usually appear on top, right in the front of the manual. Safety mentioned in such places concerns personal and product safety. Would that humans did, but they, as delivered, don’t come with manuals. So, we make our own. Same is true with our hobby. There are no universal safety lists in our hobby; we generally make our own for each activity that warrants a list. We, for the most part, make our own lists. Therefore, we have a choice of where to include safety—near the top or near the bottom.

The guidelines recommended in instruction manuals mention safety first. Manuals have been thoughtfully constructed, so this seems a sensible and wise reason for keeping safety first in most of our hobby-related lists. Other reasons to put safety near the top of your list:

1) putting safety first is often easier than trying to fit it in later.
2) putting safety first can often be far less expensive in the long run.
3) putting safety first can build confidence that later things will go well.
4) putting safety first can reassure our insurers
5) putting safety first can make what we do better
6) putting safety first shows that one cares about oneself, family, neighbors, others
7) putting safety first makes safety become more automatic
8) putting safety first makes you and the whole hobby safer

Please, when you make your lists, do consider putting safety first. Your safety matters.

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Jargon Alert

Rick Kennedy, SCVGMS
via Frank Mullaney, Name Badges Chair

Many of us have been involved in the hobby or members of a club long enough that we develop our own language, sets of terms that don’t make a lot of sense to the outside world. It is a shared language, our own kind of “secret handshake.” When we use this language among ourselves, it feeds and strengthens our community.

However, when a system is not in place for a neophyte (who might be shy, and a bit afraid to be the only person not in on a joke) to ask questions, that same shared language can have a very unwelcoming effect on new people.

There is another organization that I belong to that has come up with a great way of dealing with this issue. At the beginning of our meetings, the leader announces that if there is any word or term that does not make sense, shout out “Jargon Alert”!! At that point, whoever is speaking must pause, and explain the unknown term.

There are those who put safety first and foremost in all things. There are those who use that knowledge gently and kindly. Calling our own collecting mistakes with that. We have knowledge they don’t know any better.

The AFMS Newsletter April 2020
Having Fun: Junior Activities
Jim Brace-Thompson, AFMS Juniors Program Chair
An Update on AFMS/FRA Badge Manual Revision

As I’ve noted in past columns, I’m in the midst of revising our AFMS Future Rockhounds of America Badge Manual, and I welcome comments, suggestions, and new activity ideas from any and all clubs that have been using this program. If you are a club or society President or a Federation Director for your society who receives the AFMS Newsletter, please, please, please: pass this word along to your Juniors or Pebble Pup Program leader and encourage them to contact me with ideas (jbraceth@roadrunner.com). In this month’s Juniors Column, I wanted to provide a little hint of what I’m focusing on thus far in this Fifth Edition of the Badge Manual. To make it more visually appealing—and to provide more concrete illustrations of some of the activities—I’ll be providing more photos and illustrations throughout the manual.

Along these lines, I’m also searching for YouTube videos and other free sources of multimedia for which I can provide links. This, unfortunately, is a double-edged sword. While there are many terrific videos and demos of activities out there (for instance YouTube videos on simple, easy-to-complete wire-wrap projects or on making crystals from commonly available ingredients), all-too-often, these videos seem to disappear almost as quickly as they are posted, making it difficult to provide permanent and stable links within the pages of our manual, which only gets revised every four years. Nevertheless, I think it worthwhile to provide such links even if some prove perishable.

One new idea should be attractive to all clubs currently using the Badge Program in that it provides a degree of flexibility. It comes courtesy of Dennis Gertenbach of the Flatirons Mineral Club in Colorado. Early this year, Dennis emailed to suggest that we include “an additional optional activity for each badge that lets the child and leader select a special project for that area.” Picking up from Dennis’s suggestion, for every badge unit, I’m now including a new “Wild Card: Do Your Own Thing!” optional activity. To earn a badge, kids must complete at least three of the activities provided for that project.

To all Rockhounds and Friends - ALAA via
Your Help is needed!

An Historic Petroglyph was stolen from the El Paso Mountains and your help is needed to find it! Be On the Look Out (BOLO) for any signs of the article and HELP to return it to its home!

The Sunburst Petroglyph was stolen from the El Paso Mountains near Ridgecrest, California. The Bureau of Land Management’s Ridgecrest Field Office is offering up to $1,000 reward for information leading to the arrest and conviction of those responsible for stealing the petroglyph.

If you have any information regarding the person(s) involved in this crime, you are encouraged to call WeTip immediately at 1-800-782-7463. For more information contact the Ridgecrest BLM Field Office at (760) 384-5400.

Photo by BLM.

Rockhound of the Year, 2020
Judi Allison
Northwest Federation 2020
Cascade Mineralogical Society nominates Mark Hohn as Rockhound of the Year. Mark joined our club in 2014, was new to rock collecting and lapidary work, but jumped in with both feet! He immediately became a very valuable asset to our club. As Membership Chairman, he created a database and mass club email ability. He rewrote our website, and traffic has since soared. We consistently get new members via the site. He set up the ability to join or renew membership online via credit card, and to buy booth space online. Mark was elected to our Board of Directors. As Show Chairman, he managed advertising, social media accounts, set up, and led our club to the production of extremely successful shows. This enabled us to establish 2 annual grants for Earth Science students at Green River College. He also does woodcarving, and beekeeping!

Every year the Clackamette Mineral and Gem Club board selects a person who goes above and beyond volunteering their time to make this club great. The person that was chosen to become Rockhound of the Year is someone who says, “Yes I can do that even though they may not know how or exactly what they will be doing. This person has an outgoing nature and willingness to learn new things. Marjorie Bush, a member since 2013, created an outstanding Juniors program. We all enjoy watching the juniors race to the room at the beginning of each meeting. When their meeting is over, they leave the room with great big smiles on their faces. Marjorie is aware that our juniors are our future. She invests her time and energy to teach them everything she can. Besides managing the Junior Program, Marjorie does a wide variety of important tasks for the club. One of those tasks is gathering rocks and minerals from members for display at the Rice Museum of Rocks and Minerals. After making a complete list of each item she proceeds to label, then design the club’s display case. The display case at the Rice museum of Rocks and Minerals is very important. It not only educates people about earth science, geology, and lapidary, it also reaches out to the community by letting people know Who We Are! What We Do! This gives the community an opportunity to join us. By Denise
Here is what it is about:
The purpose of this competition is to recognize and reward authors of presentations about the Earth Sciences and Lapidary Arts and to make winning programs available to affiliated clubs across the country.

***AWARDS***

A $200 cash prize for the highest scoring program scoring 95 and above, and a $100 for a score of 94-90 points in Classes 1-4. In addition, winners receive national recognition. A copy of each winning program is given to each AFMS Regional Program Library; thus winning programs are available to clubs across the country. Each program is judged on its own merits. Entrants will receive a composite score sheet with comments / score. Winners may be asked to make some changes based on judges’ comments before the final version is produced for duplication.

Here is what you need to know to enter:
All digital presentations or videos relating to the Earth Sciences and Lapidary Arts are eligible. Submit entries in one of the four amateur classes (See below).

WHO MAY ENTER: Any Club, Society, or members there of, with 2020 dues paid to the AFMS may enter (all regional members).

The Judging Form and “Tips for Good Programs” are available on the AFMS website (www.amfed.org), or from me.

CLASSES FOR ENTRIES:
Class I Educational - About geology, minerals, gems, fossils, etc.
Class II Field Collecting - Showing site(s), specimens, with some geology, collecting methods and other aspects of interest.
Class III "How To Do It" - Techniques/equipment for fossil preparation, jewelry, metal work, carving, faceting, other lapidary, etc.
Class IV Just for Juniors - Any of the above for/by youngsters.

“Excellence in Education” Class For “commercial” Presentations (entries are judged separately).

JUDGING:
Judges look for:
- accuracy of information / educational value
- quality of photographs / visuals completeness of story, but not “too much” information
- narration that moves well from one image to the next
- presentations that explore an area of interest or demonstrate ideas/techniques which viewers may try
- title, credits, and “The End” slides for CD, DVD or VIDEO entries

For CD, DVD or VIDEO amateur entries, do not send in a DVD format for judging. Submit a copy preferably in PowerPoint or similar format on a flash drive instead of CD, without author’s credits, for anonymity. Entries may be ‘live action’ or ‘static slides’. Integrated audio is preferred but not required for judging (audio will be added for final version). Please include a typed script if there is no audio.

35mm SLIDE PRESENTATIONS can be considered (Please contact me before submission).

SUBMISSION DEADLINE: NOVEMBER 15, 2020

AFMS Program Competition Entry Form

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REPRODUCTION / DUPLICATION

By entering, all winners grant permission for AFMS to duplicate/transfer their entry to DVD format for the Regional Libraries. Flash drives will be returned after duplication. 35mm slides will be scanned, and returned to producer. Non-winners will be returned after AFMS Convention. Reasonable precautions will be taken to protect program while it is in our hands.

SUBMISSION DEADLINE: NOVEMBER 15, 2020

SEND ENTRIES TO: AFMS Programs Chairman, Darrell Watkins PO Box 635 Tieton, WA 98947 509-673-0085 AFMSprograms@gmail.com

Darrell Watkins, Program Competition Chair
Ready to Rock, Rockhounds!

Jennifer Haley
AFMS Historian

Woo-hoo! Did anyone else see it? I was sitting on the couch half watching the Oscars on TV, and more interested in my bowl of pistachio ice cream, when a clever Facebook commercial came on the screen catching my attention. The theme of their ad was called, “Ready to Rock.” The creative commercial showcased twelve popular groups who have the word rock in their description and who use Facebook. It was a high energy advertisement using one second video clips for each group. Examples of the variety of group users were, Moab Rock Climbers, Table Rock Lake, Rock Buggies-Off Roading and Experimental Rocketry to name a few.

I just about fell off the couch when I saw one of the twelve groups printed in big letters was, “Rockhounds,” showing a photo of the famous selenite cave in Naica, Chihuahua, Mexico with people exploring the cave.

I had to look up the cost for these ads because not only was the commercial shown during the Oscars, it was shown during the Super Bowl this year, and the word rockhounds was featured in both. The cost of a commercial during the 2020 Super Bowl was $5.6 million for 30 seconds. The cost of an ad during the 2020 Oscars was from $2.6 million and higher for 30 seconds. The part of the Facebook commercial recognizing “Rockhounds” was a full 60 seconds! Do the math folks, we were just gifted with some amazing free advertising. How many people watched the Oscars this year? 23.6 million. How many people watched the Super Bowl this year? 101 million.

In case you missed seeing the commercial, you can watch it in full at: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=B0uYOOTz6kk

“Rockhounds” is mentioned at approximately 40 seconds into the ad. The message in big letters at the end of the commercial is, “Whatever you rock, there’s a Facebook Group for you.” I am still on cloud nine that this happened for Recreational Rockhounding and that Facebook thought enough to include us in their advertising.

I hope societies mention this exciting news at your next general meeting and include the information in your bulletins to inspire members. At a time when we sometimes worry about changing times and its impact on our recreational activity, this experience of receiving free national advertising is truly amazing and something to celebrate. Any time your society editor would like to include an AFMS Historian article in your bulletin, I am more than happy to forward you a digital copy to use. Ready to Rock, Rockhounds, that’s us!

AFMS Land Use Policy

1. Adherence to the AFMS Code of Ethics assures compliance with most statutes and regulations governing collecting on public lands and encourages respect for private property rights and the environment. Clubs are urged to read the AFMS Code of Ethics in at least one meeting every year, to publish the Code frequently in the club newsletter, and to compel compliance on club field trips.

2. Individuals and clubs are urged to write their elected representatives and land use management agency supervisors regarding issues of rule making, legislation and enforcement affecting field collecting of minerals and fossils.

3. Individuals and clubs are urged to join and support activities of the American Lands Access Association (ALAA), a sister organization with responsibility for advancing the interests of earth science amateurs with legislatures and land use management agencies.

4. The AFMS will receive a report from ALAA at its annual meeting.

5. The AFMS endorses the principle of multiple use of public lands as a guarantee of continuing recreational opportunities.

6. Wilderness and monument designations are inconsistent with the principle of multiple use. In view of the vast amount of public land already designated as wilderness and monuments, future such designations should be minimal, taking into account the increased demand for recreational opportunities, including rockhounding, created by a growing population.

7. In furtherance of the principle of multiple use, the AFMS believes that laws, regulations and rules established by relevant governmental authorities should be designed to allow freest possible access to all public lands, coupled with minimal restrictions on the recreational collection of minerals, fossils, gemstone materials and other naturally occurring materials.

8. A right to collect minerals and fossils on public lands should be protected by statute.

9. The AFMS urges its members to work with any or all government authorities to achieve a good working relationship in order to improve the public image of recreational collectors.

Photo: Facebook
In December my husband and I along with the corgis moved from California to Oregon. I am grateful for the many years of enduring friendships and the experience working with the California and Nevada rock and gem societies. Although I haven’t been in the state for a full month as I write this and am still busy going through mountains of moving boxes, I have been getting familiar with some aspects of the Oregon BLM. For societies within states which have BLM offices, there is a good website for finding all of BLM’s Resource Advisory Councils (RACs) near you: https://www.blm.gov/get-involved/resource-advisory-council. These councils really need your involvement as Recreational Rockhounds to show up for the meetings and to apply to be on the committees when there are vacancies. Without your input about the value of our unique historical American recreation when it’s needed to protect your collecting sites and educational field trips areas, the councils can’t forward your insight and information to the BLM who will in turn use that information in the various stages of developing their planning. Below is the Oregon BLM boundary map for all the state’s current RACs:
https://www.blm.gov/sites/blm.gov/files/getinv_rac_orwa_racboundarymap.pdf

Below is the website for the Federal Register, which is the daily journal of the United States government. It is easy to use their Search engine to find out the latest on RAC meeting dates, etc., for your and other boundary areas around the country: https://www.federalregister.gov/

Depending on the issues and who uses the public lands within your RAC boundary areas, members of the RAC usually/may include a variety of individuals involved with ranching, outdoor recreation, industry, state and local government, tribal lands, academia, conservation and environment. To give you an example of how diverse the members of RAC’s can be, the Desert Advisory Council (DAC) which is a RAC in California, has a member representing the film industry’s access to the desert. Another member of the DAC is a lifelong resident with a family history of living in the area for many generations, who saw the increasing lack of freedom in recreational use in the desert since his youth and wanted to get involved to help keep access open for the public. I hope these examples show you, that you don’t need to be a rocket scientist to be on these councils. Recreational Rockhounds have a place on the councils, and by attending the meetings or being on a RAC, you will be an immense help.

Council members serve three-year terms on a staggered basis. This means that one-third of the council is subject to appointment or reappointment each year. These Advisory Council meetings are open to the public and meetings are announced in the Federal Register and through news releases. The Dept of the Interior has been actively promoting recreational activities on public lands through news releases since last year, so this is an opportune time for your societies to jump in if you haven’t before and become involved and make some friends at BLM. Good ongoing relationship with the BLM is now a necessity, because what happens to one state’s recreational rockhounding area(s) affects all of Recreational Rockhounding, and what will become of our hobby as an American historical recreation in the future.

New~ ALAA Recommendation to All AFMS Federations & Your Societies

We are encouraging you to work closely with your societies to create a display case of the rocks, gems, minerals and fossils of the closed collecting sites in your territory due to public lands regulation, and to display the case(s) at your annual shows and conventions, and at the local society shows whenever possible. If every federation would show a representation of this, it will make a big impression on your members to become more collectively involved in protecting your current field trip areas now and for the future. Take photos of the material along with identifying it and note where the collecting site was. Include this information in your federation and society newsletter issues. ALAA would like to have this information for it’s database, website and newsletters, and for articles in the AFMS newsletters. Let’s get Rock’N on this project so we can keep on Rock’N our collecting sites.

THE BLM IS ON THE MOVE

The Bureau of Land Management is moving its Washington, DC office to Grand Junction, Colorado. The exact time frame of the move is not known at this time. Check on the BLM Website for more information. This will make contacting the main BLM Office easier for the Recreational Rockhound.

Another BLM move is the California Desert District office is moving from its Moreno Valley, CA location to a new office in Palm Springs, CA.

NB: The BLM manages one in every 10 acres of land in the United States, and approximately 30 percent of the Nation’s minerals. These lands and minerals are found in every state in the country and encompass forests, mountains, rangelands, arctic tundra, and deserts. To see specific goals, go to https://www.blm.gov/about/what-we-manage

Articles appear here thanks to the ALAA Newsletter, First quarter, 2020, pp 3. 16.
AFMS Committees: 2019 – 20

Here is the listing of Committee Chairs for 2019-20. Please feel free to contact these people if you need information, have questions or would like to share ideas with them.

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Parliamentarian
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Sandy Fuller, Vice President
Margaret Kolaczyk, Secretary
Barbara Ringhisre, Treasurer

AFMS Newsletter  April 2020  Page 7
**AFMS Code of Ethics**

I will respect both private and public property and will do no collecting on privately owned land without the owner’s permission.  
I will keep informed on all laws, regulations or rules governing collecting on public lands and will observe them.  
I will, to the best of my ability, ascertain the boundary lines of property on which I plan to collect.  
I will use no firearms or blasting material in collecting areas.  
I will cause no willful damage to property of any kind—fences, signs, buildings.  
I will leave all gates as found.  
I will build fires in designated or safe places only and will be certain they are completely extinguished before leaving the area.  
I will discard no burning material—matches, cigarettes, etc.  
I will fill all excavation holes, which may be dangerous to livestock.  
I will not contaminate wells, creeks or other water supply.  
I will cause no willful damage to collecting material and will take home only what I can reasonably use.  
I will practice conservation and undertake to utilize fully and well the materials I have collected and will recycle my surplus for the pleasure and benefit of others.  
I will support the rockhound project H.E.L.P. (Help Eliminate Litter Please) and will leave all collecting areas devoid of litter, regardless of how found.  
I will cooperate with field trip leaders and those in designated authority in all collecting areas.  
I will report to my club or Federation officers, Bureau of Land Management, or other authorities, any deposit of petrified wood or other materials on public lands which should be protected for the enjoyment of future generations for public educational and scientific purposes.  
I will appreciate and protect our heritage of natural resources.  
I will observe the “Golden Rule,” will use “Good Outdoor Manners” and will at all times conduct myself in a manner which will add to the stature and public image of rockhounds everywhere.

**Purpose of the AFMS:**  
To promote popular interest and education in the various Earth Sciences, and in particular the subjects of Geology, Mineralogy, Paleontology, Lapidary and related subjects, and to sponsor and provide ways to coordinate the work and efforts of all interested persons and groups; to sponsor and encourage the formation and international development of Societies and Regional Federations and thereby to strive toward greater international good will and fellowship.

The A.F.M.S. Newsletter is normally published monthly except January, July and August by the American Federation of Mineralogical Societies.

Each Regional Federation Club is entitled to receive three (3) copies of the AFMS Newsletter. These are usually sent to the President, Federation Director and Editor.

Subscription Information, Distribution Questions and address changes should be sent to the AFMS Central Office. Subscriptions are $5.00 per year. Checks should be made payable to "AFMS" and sent to Cheryl Neary, AFMS Central Office, 42 Jefferson Avenue, Patchogue, NY 11772-1008, 516-449-5341 <centraloffice.afms at gmail.com>.

Content – Letters, Editorial Comments – Submissions  
Any communication concerning the content or format of the newsletter, and questions should be sent to the Editor, Suzanne Webb, 9895 Kerrydale Ct., Reno, NV 89521-4401, 775-624-8446 <AFMSeditor at gmail.com>.  
Deadline: 5th of the month preceding publication.

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**Upcoming AFMS and Regional Federation Conventions**  
*from Emerson Tucker*

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<th>California Federation</th>
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<td>2020</td>
<td>June 25-28 Lodi, CA</td>
<td>March Hickory, NC</td>
<td>Sept. 18 - 20 Howell, MI</td>
<td><strong>April 10-12 Ogden, UT</strong></td>
<td>June 19-21 Big Piney, WY</td>
<td>October 12-13 Temple, TX</td>
<td><strong>AFMS Oct. 16-18 Knoxville, TN</strong></td>
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<td>2021</td>
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<td>Sept 10 - 12 Toledo, OH</td>
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<td>Sept. Harrisburg, PA</td>
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