

Why Pleasant Oaks?

by Bob Parker, with assistance from Jerrye Parker

Pleasant Oaks Gem and Mineral Club of Dallas

Originally published in the February, 2002 edition of the Chips and Chatter

In February 1964 Jerrye and I met with seven other gem and mineral enthusiasts at the Pleasant Oaks Recreation Center at 8701 Greenmound, just north of Bruton Road in East Dallas. Four of them had met in January to talk about possibility of forming a Gem and Mineral Club and had invited others of us to their February Meeting. By March 3rd, with seventeen present, we voted to become a club.

Sometime in 1965 we became nery enough to put on a Club Show. I was Chairman, and it was very small as we were all learning, and Dub and Martha Holden won first place with their miniatures. The show was held at the Pleasant Oaks Recreation Center.

At first we were a specimen collecting bunch, but as the years went by, lapidary and jewelry making come to the front as well. The Pleasant Oaks Recreation Center was our meeting place for two or three years, but the City of Dallas' policy of seizing any Club's show money and equipment if they moved out prompted us to look for new quarters.

We moved to the Colonial Baptist Church on Scyene Road where we met for several years. We had a separate room and plenty of room for equipment. Buz and Julia Lovett of The Lapidary Workshop on Greenville Avenue helped us get a great deal of additional equipment. The Church eventually made a commitment with a Korean congregation and we had to move.

From there we moved to the Umphress Methodist Church in Pleasant Grove which gave us a meeting room and separate equipment room. After a year or so we received short notice to move, so we found a place in a Commercial Building on Ferguson Road, near I-30. After about a year we found a private school on Centennial near Spring Valley and Abrams Road. Here we had plenty of room and probably were there about 2 - 3 years.

Then we found the Women's Activities Building in Garland and found a shop location not too far away. Our shop schedules grew fast there, and after a few years we found our present shop location, combining with the Dallas Gem and Mineral Society which enabled us to come closer to breaking even on operation *{note: in 2007, due to infrequent use of the shop equipment by POGMC members, the club's interest in the shop was sold to the Dallas Gem and Mineral Society}*. The Women's Activities Building location has been, and we hope will continue to be, our best ever meeting spot.

All these years we had annual shows at: (1) the Pleasant Oaks Recreation Center, (2) the Armory in Pleasant Grove, (3) the Holiday Inn near Centerville and LBJ, (4) a motel in Irving on 183, (5) the Villa Inn across from Big Town (recently torn down), and (6) the Richardson Civic Center *{note: since this article was published, we have also held our show at the Ellison Miles Geotechnology Institute at Brookhaven College, but discontinued holding a show after the 2008 show}*.

Jerrye and I have enjoyed this club very much!!