

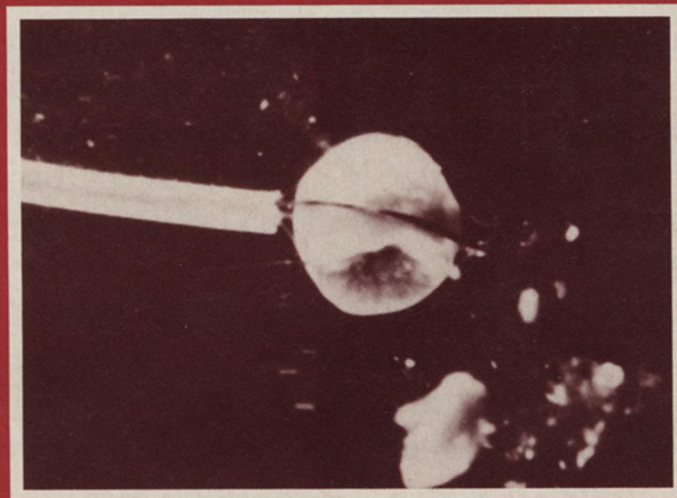
The Weekly Newsmagazine of Science

SCIENCE NEWS

September 6, 1986
Vol. 130, No. 10
Pages 145-160



Zap Goes the Kidney Stone



The Tenth Muse

By Ronald B. Parker

In this second witty and informative collection of essays on geology, author Ronald B. Parker continues the theme he originated in *Inscrutable Earth*: that earth science is a lively, ongoing and relevant field of interest.

These essays draw on the many subspecialties of earth science to illuminate such popular phenomena as volcanic eruptions, cave formations and salt domes, and to address the questions both great and small that capture the imagination of earth scientists. Why do glaciers have the "urge" to surge? What do coral clocks and the lowly "scat songs" of dead animals tell us about the earth's history? Why is most of the earth's supply of a rare element concentrated in a California town with the science fiction name of Boron 93516? With gentle humor and a detective's eye for detail, Parker weaves together the pieces of the puzzle of earth's history, from millennia long past to what the future will hold for us and our planet. In the tradition of Stephen Jay Gould, he also refocuses attention on pre-twentieth-century geologists whose important contributions to earth science have been all but forgotten.

— *from the book*

"Another congenial romp-around-the-earth with geologist Parker. . . . [L]ots of fresh material here for those who like their geology without blisters."

— Kirkus Reviews

*Scribner's, 1986,
221 pages, 8½" x
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