



Ore-Cutts

Volume XXXVII, Issue VIII

August, 2002

Welcome To Our 35th Annual Gem Show!

MEMBERS, DON YOUR VESTS!

Our mission is clear- our admiring and curious public awaits, and we owe them the best 3 days of fun and rockhounding we can muster.

The Orcutt Mineral Society's 35th Annual Gem Show is from Friday, August 9th through Sunday, August 11th at St. Joseph's Church (298 S. Thompson Avenue, Nipomo). Show hours are from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. daily.

Some of this year's highlights and attractions include talks about the Benitoite Gem Mine by Rick Kennedy, numerous demonstrations by local lapidary artists, "the best darned barbecue on the central coast" on Saturday night, and the Treasure Chest Raffle drawing on Sunday afternoon.

The community hall contains over 50 exhibits, collection cases, and large museum quality pieces for visitors to enjoy and photograph. There are over 60 outside vendors, and numerous vendors inside the air-conditioned community hall.

This year's Gem Show is even bigger than last year! Remember, the burden is light when there are many helping hands! Please call Bess or Dick at 937-0357, or contact the following chairmen to volunteer your help at the Show:

The Snack Bar: Sylvia Nasholm
The Office: Marshall Reeves
Fluorescing Room: Dick Shields
Country Store: Debbie Hood
Treasure Chest/Welcome: Bess Shields

Benitoite

Rick Kennedy will be speaking at our Gem Show about the Benitoite Gem Mine, the significance of this unique gemstone, and demonstrating how to "etch" mine run rock to free up crystals. Please join us Saturday afternoon at 1:00 pm, and Sunday at noon. Benitoite is the only mineral that crystallizes in the trigonal bipyramidal form. It is a lovely blue-purple color and is a beautiful and valuable gemstone. Benitoite fluoresces a deep blue color under short wave ultraviolet light.

The mine is located at the southern end of the Diablo Range, a belt of mountains along the west side of California's San Joaquin Valley. The range is built of rocks of the Jurassic Franciscan Formation (graywacke, shale, chert and basalt), and serpentine with Cretaceous and Tertiary sandstones.

One of the largest blocks of serpentine in the Diablo Range occurs in the New Idria District (about 100 miles north of Nipomo in San Benito County). During the time that the New Idria serpentine block has been in place there have been periods during which solutions percolated through the fracture systems. The Benitoite Gem Mine is located in one of these blocks. Benitoite, neptunite, joaquinite and other minerals formed in the cavities and filled pore spaces in felted amphibole

Rick will bring mine run material which we will view in the Fluorescent Room during the show. Some of the material will be available for sale at the show.

Member Profile

Wes Lingerfelt

The first in a series of articles about members of OMS

Wes Lingerfelt's lapidary products are distributed at least halfway around the world. The 10 bolo ties he made for the Russian delegation to the 1992 START (Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty) talks are proudly displayed in and around Moscow, Russia. His spheres are widely distributed across the American Southwest. His tumbled stones are objects of awe and inspiration for many children in northern



Wes and "Lucky"

Santa Barbara and southern San Luis Obispo County. Many who visit his lapidary shop with broken family heirloom or sentimental jewels depart with expertly repaired and shining pieces of fine jewelry. In addition, he has a fine collection of lapidary materials,

minerals and fossils that he proudly displays and discusses with any visitors to his shop who show the slightest interest.

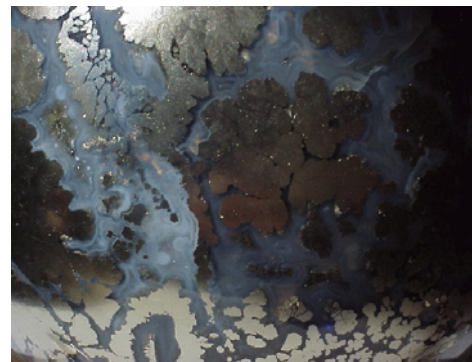
Wes joined the Orcutt Mineral Society in Santa Maria, California in 1983, and served as Society President in 1989, 1995 and 1996. Wes has served as CFMS (California Federation of Mineral Societies) Federation Director since 1989, and was CFMS Treasurer for 2 years. Wes was given the Golden Bear Award for his services to OMS in 1996, and in 1998, and recognized by CFMS as member of the year from our society.

Wes has led several successful field trips, including a recent one to Hallelujah Junction north of Reno, Nevada where he found a pit and managed to consistently pull quality quartz crystals from his hole while the younger rockhounds on either side found very little. When he pulled a 4-inch clear quartz on smoky quartz scepter from his hole, they really began to think of him as having a magic touch. This was confirmed 2 days later when the group was digging

for petrified wood near Winnemucca, Nevada. Wes jumped into a hole that had been dug several years prior, near one of the "younger" rockhounds. After about ½ hour, Wes heard a "clink", and said "That sounds good!" His find turned out to be the tip of a 3-foot round petrified tree trunk that was part of a log jam, and yielded several nice pieces of wood for all present.

His school presentations are always eagerly anticipated by children in local elementary schools, partly because his topic is so interesting, and partly because he brings tumbled stones for each of the children in the class.

Wes' favorite lapidary materials and locations include Stonewall Pass, and Tuscarora, Nevada for their petrified wood, Clear Creek in San Benito County for plasma agate, Stone Canyon near Parkfield (Kern County) for brecciated jasper, and Nipomo, San Luis Obispo County, California (where



Surface of Marcasite Sphere

he lives) for sagenite and marcasite agate. Montana agate is also a favorite. Wes has recently completed a 9-inch sphere of marcasite (that he found) that is

breathhtaking with its swirls of agate and golden flowers of the iron sulfide metal.

Wes has striven for excellence throughout his life, and has accomplished much in his chosen field (rocket science), in his private life, and in his hobby. Because of his expertise in trajectory analysis, he was chosen to represent the United States at the 1992 START talks with Russia. At that conference, Wes, already an accomplished lapidarian, presented the Russian Delegation with hand-made bolo ties that became highly prized by those gentlemen.

Wes has been married 44 years and has three children who have flourished under his and wife Jeannie's guidance. Wes's father was a jeweler, and perhaps this is where his love of stones began. Wes's outstanding contributions to the hobby include his broad knowledge of lapidary materials and methods,

and the selfless application of his knowledge and abilities wherever they are needed. When anyone in the club comes to him with a jewelry or lapidary problem, Wes spends as much time as necessary to cut, slice, cab, polish, solder, or do whatever else is necessary to help. Through his lapidary business, he has made friends around the world. He has had rockhound visitors from Australia, New Zealand and across the country, and has always striven to show them a great time when they stay with him.

One of the younger members of our society said that "Wes is so good at what he does, he inspires me to want to improve my (lapidary) art". One of his long-time rockhound friends observed, "Wes has always striven for excellence in everything he does.



Wes tending a sphere

This applies to his work and his hobby. That is the reason he was well respected in his profession, and why his cabs and spheres are so eagerly sought after." But perhaps Wes's greatest contribution to the hobby is his selfless dedication to "doing what has

to be done" to keep OMS going. Whenever anyone in the club has a large rock to cut or a stone to finish for a piece of jewelry, they can take it to Wes, and he will "help" them complete it. This often means watching while he puts an expert shape and polish on the rock, but the end product is something to be proud of. Wes is truly a rockhound's rockhound and a great person as well.

Respectfully submitted by
Wayne W. Mills
President-elect, OMS

Orcutt Mineral Society Board Meeting

Mussell Senior Center, Santa Maria CA
July 2, 2002

The Board Meeting was called to order by President Dick Shields at 7:05 p.m. Board Members present were Bill and Deborah Hood, Wes Lingerfelt, Wayne Mills, Don and Sylvia Nasholm, Marshall Reeves, Dick and Bess Shields. Ted and Marjorie Hoogenbosch attended as guests.

Minutes of the June 4th Board Meeting, and the June 9th Annual Picnic Board Meeting were approved as written.

Treasurer's Report:

Wes Lingerfelt presented the Treasurer's Report. It was accepted as read.

Committee Reports:

Annual Barbecue/Picnic: Dick Shields reported that the Picnic was very successful. There was discussion about having next year's picnic in Nipomo or Lompoc, but the consensus was to continue utilizing Pioneer Park. Wes will negotiate next year's contract with Parks Department.

Library Displays: Wes Lingerfelt reported that he had set up the Nipomo display. Marshall Reeves will set his up this week. Dick Shields will assemble the Santa Maria display. Wayne Mills has the Arroyo Grande display in place.

Gem Show: Wes Lingerfelt needs advertising to start now. He asked about progress on radio blurbs, tv public service announcements, highway signs along 101, flyers, posters, and handouts. Marjorie Hoogenbosch is responsible for radio and tv advertising. Don will be putting in highway signs again this year. Dick Shields will contact the *SM Times* about a coupon ad, and special article featuring the Gem Show. Dick will develop a web page kid coupon for grab bags and coloring books. The church commitment was obtained by Wes, and the 4 classrooms on the west side will also be utilized (they will become a fluorescent room, hospitality room, and two vendor/dealer rooms). Sylvia Nasholm reported that all spare cases owned by OMS have already been reserved. It was confirmed by Dick that Rick Kennedy will conduct a Benitoite Talk on Saturday at the Gem Show.

Consignment tools and equipment:

Discussion about the possibility of selling used equipment at the Gem Show lead to a lengthy discussion. Consignment of 20 to 30% was suggested by Bill Hood. The equipment will be located near the Club Office Booth. Marshall Reeves suggested that tools and equipment be tagged to give basic information so that club members manning our booth are not inundated with questions about the materials being offered for sale. Since both club and non-club equipment will be offered, it was decided to sell the goods "as-is, cash only". Marshall will present a report

on consignment, fee structure, location of goods, etc. at the next Board meeting.

CFMS: Wes Lingerfelt referred us to an article in the CFMS newsletter on land closures of 2 ½ million+ acres of wilderness. He suggests we highlight pertinent information for an article in the *Ore-Cutts*, and provide a web site reference for further information. Wes also reported the death of Dolly Johnson of Sun Valley Indian School. An obituary will appear in the *Ore-Cutts*.

Correspondence:

- Sun Valley Indian School newsletter.
- Rockhound Notes newsletter.
- Rocky Review newsletter from Conejo Gem & Mineral Club.
- Searles Lake Gem & Mineral Society, announcement of show.
- Richard & Karen Dry, donations, ticket purchase, and nice news update.
- Metal Stone & Glass magazine.

Old/Unfinished Business

Salty Tapper was approved for membership.

New Business:

Dick Shields will offer members the opportunity to subscribe to *Ore-Cutts* via internet. The advantage is seeing *Ore-Cutts* in color, and receiving the newsletter earlier than snail-mail delivery. A sign up sheet will be circulated at the General Meeting next week.

The Program for next Week's meeting will be "The History of Beading" by Debbie Hood.

The Board Meeting was adjourned at 8:07 p.m. by President Shields.

Respectfully submitted,
Bess Shields
Secretary, OMS

Orcutt Mineral Society

General Meeting

Mussell Senior Center, Santa Maria CA

July 9, 2002

Call to Order at 7:07 p.m. by President Dick Shields.

Invocation was given by Bess Shields on "The Right Weight".

Flag Salute was led by Robert Bullock.

Lynda Virgin reported that 24 members, and 10 guests were present.

Minutes of the July 2 Board Meeting were approved as amended. Minutes from Board and General Meetings for the month of June were approved as written.

Treasurer's Report was read by Wes Lingerfelt, and accepted as read.

Committee Reports:

- Sunshine: Debbie Hood reported that John Mock injured his foot. Robert Reith fell and injured his hip. Al

Wilcox had back surgery. Molly Kerlick is doing better. Ione Griggs' status is stable.

- Refreshments were provided by Jeannie Lingerfelt, the Virgins, and the Shields'.

· Field Trips: Wayne Mills reminded members of the Placerville CFMS Show. The trip to Afton Canyon is on August 20-22. A La Brea Tar Pit trip will be on October 26th. Contact Wayne for further information.

· CFMS: Wes Lingerfelt reminded us of the CFMS Show in Placerville on July 12-14 at the El Dorado County Fairgrounds. Wes will represent OMS at the Representatives Meeting.

· Show preparations: Dick Shields stated that sign up sheets are being circulated at tonight's meeting. We will also be calling people by phone and via e-mail to help in our many projects at the Show. Reminders: plants will be sold in "The Office"; Raffle Tickets and money are due now to Marshall Reeves; Treasure Chest donations are being accepted and catalogued by the Shields'; Debbie Hood is accepting non-clothing items only for Country Store; and, tumbled stone donations are being collected for poke sacks by Bess Shields.

· Highway Cleanup: Marshall Reeves reminded us of the Highway Cleanup at Hwy 166 and Hwy 101 on Saturday, July 20th at 8:00 a.m. followed by breakfast at Omelets-and-More in Nipomo

Correspondence:

(Show fliers and notices announced under correspondence are at the hostess table following the business portion of the meeting, and during refreshment time, for members to view.)

- Sun Valley Indian School newsletter of their activities.
- Searles Lake Gem & Mineral Society October 12-13 show announcement.
- Rockhound Notes newsletter.
- Rockonteur newsletter from the Santa Lucia Rockhounds.
- Rocky Review newsletter from Conejo Gem & Mineral Club.
- Richard and Karen Dry letter, ticket purchases, and donations to Treasure Chest.

Old/Unfinished Business:

· Dick Shields reported that the Lapidary Room proposal has not yet been approved. He will contact the Parks Department again for a decision.

· Wes Lingerfelt reported that our Picnic will be at Pioneer Park next year. The cost will be \$92.00 plus a refundable \$100.00 deposit which is returned after we clean up the site following our use.

New Business:

- Salty Tapper was welcomed as a new member to OMS.

Following the break for refreshments, Debbie

Hood presented an informative talk about "The History of Beads". She brought items from her collection to illustrate the finer points of beading techniques.

The raffle was held after the program. Meeting was adjourned at 8:56 p.m. by President Shields.

Respectfully submitted,
Bess Shields
Secretary, OMS

To contribute news, articles, opinions or information the rest of the club needs to know, send a letter to the OMS P.O. Box, send e-mail to oms@ix.netcom.com, or call Dick and Bess at 937-0357.

CFMS IN PLACERVILLE

By Wayne Mills, Member of OMS

The 63rd annual CFMS Show was held in Placerville the weekend of July 12-14. The El Dorado Fairgrounds is picturesque, and the buildings large enough to accommodate dealers in the main building, exhibits in another, and competition cases in a third.

The quality of the exhibits was first rate, and included the Sixteen-to-One Mine that showed off their "Whopper" nugget, containing 122 ounces of gold (10.16 pounds Troy) in a 13-pound quartz matrix. The Stillsons of the El Dorado Club exhibited at least 6 cases, each of which could win a trophy in AFMS Competition. They had cases of rhodochrosite, quartz and fluorite from various locales, one of Scrimshaw, one of Native American materials, and one of gold. Another stunning display was the Fluorescent Mineral Society who set up a 10-foot x 10-foot dark room with about 10 display cases of awesome fluorescent material.

In the competition area, there were about 16 cases with entries in several categories. This competition brings out a lot of creativity, and there was some beautiful "stuff" shown here. For me, one of the highlights was Gail Matthews' case of special features in petrified wood that earned her a trophy in the Petrified Wood Category. Cal Clauson's cabochons were another highlight, as were some of the spheres. I saw one of silver lace onyx with a great polish and a lot of depth to it that gave me a much greater appreciation for this material. Another sphere that really caught my eye was clear, tourmalinated quartz about 3-inches in diameter that was a real eye-catcher.

A personal highlight of the competition was that my carving of the Venus of Willendorf got a first place trophy from the Gem Carvers Guild in the Beginners category, and my case of Chumash Soapstone Artifact Reproductions got a first place in the Novice Education

Category.

Demonstrators were a hardy bunch as they were outside under awnings in triple digit temperatures. Demonstrations of wire wrapping, faceting, the Barranca wet polisher, geode cutting, carving, scrimshaw, gold panning, and kids activities were available. They even had a large board with cut outs for faces, and an old-west scene painted on it for photo opportunities.

The El Dorado Club put a lot of effort into their show, and I think they set a pretty high bar for the Del Air Rockhounds Club (with help from Ventura, Oxnard and Conejo Clubs) that will host the June 5-8, 2003 Seaside Gem-boree AFMS/CFMS at the Ventura Fairgrounds. You might want to put that date on your calendars! For more information, contact 818-883-7851. Please note that this will be "a really big shew", since it combines the talents of AFMS and CFMS.

I hope this inspires many *Ore-Cutts* readers to start working on their displays for next year. There should be a lot of interesting cases from across the country at that show.

The Official Stuff

OMS Purpose

Founded in 1958, and is named after William Orcutt, a geologist and civil engineer who worked in the Santa Maria Valley as a district manager for Union Oil Company in 1888. In 1889, Orcutt discovered the fossil wealth of the LaBrea Tar Pits, one of the most significant fossil finds in paleontological history. The Society is a non-profit club, dedicated to stimulating an interest in rocks and minerals. The club offers educational programs, field trips, youth activities, and other opportunities for families and individuals to pursue an interest in collecting and lapidary treatment of rocks, fossils, gems, minerals, and other facets of Earth Sciences. In addition, a goal of this Society is to promote good fellowship and proper ethics in pursuit of the society's endeavors. Operating rules have been set forth to guide the Officers and members of the Society in accomplishing these purposes. Affiliations: California Federation of Mineralogical Societies and American Federation of Mineralogical Societies.

2002 OMS Elected Officers

President	Dick Shields	(805) 937-0357
President Elect	Wayne Mills	(805) 481-3495
Secretary	Bess Shields	(805) 937-0357
Treasurer	Wes Lingerfelt	(805) 929-3788
Immediate Past President	Glenda Reeves	(805) 733-2775
CFMS Representative	Wes Lingerfelt	(805) 929-3788

2002 OMS Board Members

Bill Hood	(805) 481-6860
Debbie Hood	(805) 481-6860
Don Nasholm	(805) 481-0923
Sylvia Nasholm	(805) 481-0923
Marshall Reeves	(805) 733-2775

The Wanderer**Treasure Hunt at Lucy's**

It's only been a few months since the club made a collecting trip to Rosamond, but we are already dreaming about the next trip to the desert in search of agatized palm, jasper, quartz, and chalcedony, plus a stop at Lucy Tunnell's rockpile. Going to Kramer Junction is definitely a winter or springtime trip since the weather is usually hot.

We met more than 60 rockhounds from as far away as San Francisco and San Diego at the Café on Highway 395, and caravanned to the first collection site. Barbara Donati, one of our Australian members, joined us in this adventure. Before we began collecting, Lew Helfrich, of the Bakersfield club, rounded us up to show samples of the agatized palm, warned us about scorpions and snakes, then set us free for an hour of collecting. Most people came away with at least a 5 gallon bucket of material to share.

A rock exchange activity was held just before we loaded back into our cars for the next site. Everyone was asked to bring rock from their home area, and exchange it with someone from another area. Dick and I ended up with a large piece of honey onyx which we received in trade for our Figueroa Mountain brecciated jasper.

Our second stop was off Highway 58, halfway

between Kramer Junction and Mojave.. I still don't know how the Bakersfield folks found this location, and marvel at their navigation skills. Going north on Gephart Road, it was somewhere between Saddleback Mountain and Galileo Hill WAY OUT THERE. We found plenty of deep honey colored jasper, and quartz on the red sand slopes. The group spent an hour collecting and eating lunch at this location.

The third stop was just off Gephart Road, halfway back to Highway 58 from the previous collection site. I was running on gas fumes, so I missed this spot, but saw the chalcedony and quartz samples that others brought back, and believe it should be good fluorescing material.

As I stated before, I had to make a "quick trip to town for gas", and got a head start at Lucy's rockpile!!! Lucy had dreams of a large swimming pool in her



Lucy Tunnell and her "pool"

backyard, but somehow never did get around to finishing it. Instead, Lucy and her late husband decided to store rock in it. The pool is full of giant boulders of rhodonite, petrified wood, etc.. This is in addition to 100 or more stacked 50 gallon drums full of identified material. Ralph Bishop hopes to someday find the bottom of the swimming hole, and did his best to make a dent in the pile. Most of us limited ourselves to taking home 150 - 200 pounds of treasure. And, we were invited back for a nighttime fluorescing experience at a later date.

The next time you hear an announcement at the General Meeting, or read about a "Treasure Hunt at Lucy Tunnell's Home", please join us for another jaunt to the desert.

Happy Hunting!

Love, Bess

A Kid Activity: Oooey, gooey SLIME

Next time you want to entertain the kids or grandkids, whip up a bunch of slime in various colors. Mix one cup of white glue, one cup of water, and 10 drops of food coloring in a bowl. In another bowl, mix 1 1/3 cups warm water and 2 Tablespoons of borax. Combine contents of the two bowls, and enjoy! Keep the slime in a plastic bag.

Roadside Cleanup

Thank you to the twelve hearty souls who helped at the July Highway Cleanup. The ticks were out in force, but we trudged on anyway, and accomplished our cleanup goal. The group enjoyed muffins and coffee afterwards at Omelets-and-More.

WEB SITES OF NOTE

1. Black Chasm National Natural Landmark, Volcano CA:
<http://www.cavernstours.com/BlackRt.htm>
2. 5 worst extinctions in earth's history:
http://www.space.com/scienceastronomy/planetearth/extinction_sidebar_000907.html
3. Mt. Ida, Arkansas crystals:
<http://www.mtidachamber.com>
4. Chumash Indians:
<http://expage.com/page/chumashindians>
5. Mariposa CA State Mining & Mineral Museum:
<http://caohwy.com/c/csmimimu.htm>
6. Discovering Archaeology in CA:
<http://www.scanet.org/resource.html>
7. Benitoite, CA Geological Survey:
http://www.consrv.ca.gov/cgs/information/publications/cgs_notes/note_11/note_11.pdf

Do you have e-mail? You can save the club 63 cents by receiving your copy of *Ore-Cutts* by email. Notify Bess at oms@ix.netcom.com.

Thank You, Debbie

Many thanks to Debbie Hood for presenting "The History of Beading" at our July General Meeting. We will be publishing an article based on her talk at a later date.

Dolly Johnson, 1938-2002

Sun Valley Indian School, in Sun Valley AZ, recently announced the passing of Dolly Johnson, one of their favorite dorm parents, and former Nipomo neighbor of the Lingerfelts. Dolly was a dedicated teacher, devoted Christian, beloved wife of Dale, a loving mother, and good friend to many in need.

OMS has been contributing Campbell's soup labels to the school for years. The points earned this year have already bought the school a new 15-passenger van, new classroom equipment, and two-way radios for the dorms.

Library Displays

Thank you to the many individuals who set up exhibit cases in Arroyo Grande, Nipomo, Santa Maria, and Lompoc libraries, and to the numerous OMS members who loaned us their specimens for the exhibits. Special thanks to Wes Lingerfelt, Wayne Mills, Dick Shields, and Marshall Reeves for coordinating the individual library presentations.

August Program

Please join us at the OMS General Meeting on August 13th from 7:00-9:00 p.m. at Mussell Senior Center. There will be a short business meeting, refreshments, and the CFMS Slide presentations on "The Lizzardo Museum" and "Making Cabs without Power Tools." "The Best 10-item Display" competition will be hosted by Wayne Mills, and door prizes will be awarded.

This is cookies night with Al Wilcox, Truman Burgess, and Debbie Hood bringing their tasty baked morsels.



OMS Logo

A rock saw cutting a piece of stone was selected when the first bulletin, *ORE-CUTTS* (namesake, William Orcutt) was first published in 1966. Member Helen Azevedo was the first editor.

Orcutt Mineral Society
P.O. Box 106
Santa Maria, CA 93456

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

OMS MONTHLY BREAKFAST

You are invited to join us for breakfast at Baker's Square, 1841 S. Broadway, SM on Saturday, August 24th at 8:30 a.m. We plan to talk about the Gem Show success, and get to know one another a little better. Please come join us.

SAVE THE DATES

- Afton Canyon trip on August 20-22.
- Paso Robles Gem Show on Sep 20-22.
- Jade Festival on October 4-6 in Pacific Valley
- Page Museum trip on October 19.
- La Brea Tar Pit trip on October 26.

Please call Wayne Mills at 481-3495 for further information.