



Ore-Cutts

Volume XXXVIII, Issue XII

December, 2003

OMS Spotlight:

Kay Vollmer, the “Jade Lady”

By Kay Vollmer, as told to Bess and Dick Shields

Dick and I were recently invited to visit and interview Kay Vollmer at her home in Nipomo. Kay is widely known among central coast rock-hounders for her wonderful collection of jade, and local materials. She shared stories about the rocks that she and Chuck, who passed away last year, had collected over the years.



Botryoidal jade specimen in Kay's Collection

Kay explained that “Botryoidal jade” is a rare form of grape-like, knobby jade. Kay has a keen eye, and is the proud guardian of some special pieces that she found on trips to Jade Cove and points north. She is especially pleased with the jewelry pieces that Chuck shaped to resemble native American fishhooks, diving birds, and delicate filigree designs. Kay and Chuck perfected a technique for removing

serpentine and soapstone clinging to their botryoidal jade by using sandblasting beads.

Kay and Chuck’s assignments allowed them the opportunity to collect at numerous locations which are now closed to rockhunting. She recalls collecting “jellies” (clear opals) from their Oregon assignment, petrified wood from numerous locations throughout the western US, iris agate, Sweetwater agate, Panamint Valley specimens, Saratoga minerals, and gems from Roaring Ridge. She had many summers in Yosemite NP, and spent many years in Olympia, Washington.



Iris agate specimen with rainbow colors

Throughout the afternoon, Dick photographed many of Kay’s pieces, and she remarked, “Chuck would have approved of digital photography advances”. Kay likes digital photography since “It shows me right away what your picture looks like, and they can be taken over, or even deleted”.

Kay and Dick spent two hours in front of the fluorescent box, like kids in a candy shop, hunting for the perfect specimen. Kay issued orders about where to fetch little bowls of min-

erals for her to view under the three wavelengths. She most enjoyed the rhombic calcite, petrified wood, Botswana agate, Sweetwater agate, Saratoga Wyoming materials, Roaring Ridge beauties, and Nipomo agates (that glowed BRIGHT!).

Kay is also a master beader, and utilizes materials she has collected along the central coast, China Lake, and Oregon in her delicate beadwork. She weaves beads around tiny sea urchins and fashions them into miniature baskets. Her dreamcatcher earrings are made with beads that are miniscule.



Some of Kay's sea urchin bead baskets

Dick's friendship with the Vollmers goes way back. Dick's parents (Allan and Bernice) and their three boys dined with Vollmers in Yosemite when Allan and Chuck were rangers (Dick was 12-13 years old at that time). Years later, Kay and Chuck toured the Eielson Visitor Center, Mt. McKinley NP, Alaska, but didn't go further out to Wonder Lake, where Dick was a ranger.

Kay has been a member of OMS for many years, and is looking forward to seeing old friends at our Annual Banquet next Saturday. She is excited about the upcoming field trip in March, the "Quake Zone Trip" to Carrizo Plains and points to the north toward King City, and plans to attend. We hope you can make it too, and connect with this marvelous "Jade Lady". You'll enjoy her stories of collecting, and adventures she's had as a rockhound.

A LOOK AT THE YEAR PAST

Wayne Mills, OMS President 2003

Our society has had another successful year. I say this because we are still solvent, we had many positive comments on our show, an increasing number of our members are participating in our monthly displays, and at least 3 of our members won recognition at area shows this year. Most of us are healthy, and while we lost one respected member, we have gained several new and eager ones. We have had the best field trip program of any year I can remember, and our bulletin is second to none in the CFMS. I think CFMS will agree with us when they judge the bulletins next year.

The most important part of our meeting is the program. Deborah Hood has done a great job with these this year, and I think we had some entertaining and informative ones. (I hope you think at least 3 of them were...). It appears that Lucky Virgin will continue this tradition since he already has all of next year's programs scheduled. As I said previously, we are fortunate to have the variety of expertise in many fields of lapidary that we have in our club.

Our raffle continues to be an event to look forward to at each meeting, thanks to Marshall's annual trips to Quartzite, and the generosity of our members. Hopefully this generosity will continue. We thank you for your participation that helps fund this fun activity. Along these same lines, our Treasure Chest is another club money maker. Dee Dee Magri went above and beyond as chairperson of this activity as she visited all our dealers during our show...twice! She also sold both barbecue and raffle tickets.

The Nasholms continue to be major contributors to our Gem Show through their Thursday dinners, manning the snack bar, and their assistance with the Saturday night barbecue. I want to thank them sincerely for their continued help with these.

Our club continues to be an asset to the community through our several public service activities.

- we keep our 2-mile stretch of Highway 166 East pretty free of litter (again thanks to Marshall Reeves).
- we help feed the homeless through our annual canned food drive.
- we help the abused children of Santa Barbara County through our Abused Children's Fund handled by Deborah Hood.
- we contribute Campbell's Soup labels to help buy transportation for the Children of Sun Valley Indian School in Arizona (Wes handles this for us).
- we provide speakers to aid local schools as well as doing educational displays in local libraries.
- we provide annual scholarships to Cuesta College and Allan Hancock College.

One of the truths of any organization is "you get out of something what you put into it." I hope that you support the many activities planned for 2004 with your participation and assistance. I hope you take time to remember to thank your officers and speakers for the time they have put into making the meetings and activities fun. The pay in this job is nil, so your spoken appreciation is what they get out of it. We also have displays planned for each meeting next year. I cannot imagine that there are any here who do not have some rocks, fossils, minerals, jewelry or other natural or man-made objects at home that would not be of interest to most of those who gather for each of our meetings. Please participate in our monthly displays. The saying "the more the merrier" is so true in this case. I know how good it makes me feel to have people "ooh" and "ahh" over something I have collected (what's the point of having it if you can't share it?).

Also, I would encourage you to think about displaying at the CFMS Show in Mariposa May 28-30, and at the OMS Gem Show on August 6-8 2004. Please put these events on your calendar. You will not be disappointed.

In conclusion, I want to wish you all a joyful holiday season, and a happy, healthy and prosperous New Year. I look forward to seeing you (and your rocks, fossils, minerals, etc.) at our January meeting, the beginning of what should be another excellent year for OMS.

Field Trip to Ralph's

By Dick Shields

Ralph Bishop has a wonderful collection! Let me state again, that Ralph Bishop has a WONDERFUL collection! OMS Club members were invited to Ralph's place last month for our field trip. Over one dozen members attended, and each one of us went away from the experience in awe.

Ralph knows the hidden nooks and crannies all over central California, where the treasures are buried, and where the best specimens can be located. His museum-like glass cases house some of the specimens Ralph has chosen for his collection (and our viewing pleasure). For example, the round xonotlite cab (below) is one Ralph created from a specimen he collected on trips to an obscure beach near Point Sal. He tells tales of hitching rides with "men in blue" when leaving the area.



Xonotlite cabochon in Ralph's collection

Ralph's collection runs a gamut from his fossil hunting and richly patterned agate from

all over the western US to locally collected bi-conoids and delicate aragonite crystal.

Ralph's Mom, Helen, was inside the house fashioning little "bugs" to give the school children whose classes visit the collection by invitation. The little petrified shale (tar baby) bugs have jiggly eyes, and stand on splayed bell cap feet. Helen tries to keep a stock of the little critters on hand for the young visitors.

The group agrees that Ralph's place is an interesting place to hang out. Between the museum class minerals, the stories/tall tales, and Ralph's pleasant demeanor, everyone felt right at home.

Orcutt Mineral Society

Board Meeting
Mussel Senior Center, Santa Maria CA
4 November, 2003

Call to Order at 7:02 p.m. by President Wayne Mills. Board members present were Sharon Duncan, Debbie and Bill Hood, Wes Lingerfelt, Wayne Mills, Marshall Reeves, Geary Sheffer, Bess Shields, and Dick Shields, Immediate Past President. Guest was Lucky Virgin

Trip reports:

Dick Shields reported on the trip to Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History and two beaches field trip as highly informative and productive. Dick also reported on the joint field trip with Santa Lucia Rockhounds to Clear Creek as being an enjoyable, and profitable trip.

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

Minutes of the previous Board Meeting were approved as published.

Committee Reports:

Adopt-a-Highway: Marshall Reeves reminded us of the November 15th Highway Cleanup, and coffee at Omelets & More.

Bulletin (Ore-Cutts): Wayne Mills wants the editor to submit articles for awards if that has not already been done.

CFMS: Wes Lingerfelt will be attending the CFMS Director's meeting next week. He will bring back additional information about club member and Gem Show insurance rates OMS can expect to pay in 2004.

Education: Wayne Mills asked Marshall Reeves to investigate rock-related book titles as donations from OMS to local libraries who allowed us to display in their facilities during the past year. These include Arroyo Grande, Lompoc, Nipomo, and Santa Maria. Marshall will do this prior to the December Board Meeting.

Field Trips, Safety: Dick Shields has arranged for OMS to exhibit in the main Santa Maria library for one month, and is seeking collected specimens as well as completed pieces that he can borrow for this endeavor. Also, Dick reminded us of the November field trip to Ralph Bishop's collection, and invited us

to the December field trip at Santa Agueda Creek. Dick has assembled a list of proposed field trips for 2004, and invites additional suggestions.

Refreshments: Wayne Mills reported that cookies will be our refreshment for November, and will be provided by Lisa Dabbs, the Hoods, Al Wilcox, and Truman Burgess.

Sunshine: Debbie Hood reported that Lucky Virgin has recovered, and Kay Vollmer is doing great!

Correspondence:

Crystal Ball from Santa Barbara Mineral & Gem Society.
Sun Valley Indian School update.

Lapidarian newsletter from Santa Cruz Mineral & Gem Society.

Tumble Rumble from Capistrano Valley Rock & Mineral Club.

The Agatizer newsletter from South Bay (Torrance) Club.

Santa Lucia Rockhounds thank you letter for OMS participation in their Gem Show.

Old / unfinished business:

1. Wayne Mills announced that Dick Shields will present a demonstration and talk on "Fluorescent Minerals" at the January 2004 OMS General Meeting.

2. Wayne Mills will put in our request for use of the facilities (Mussel Senior Center) tomorrow at the Parks & Recreation Office.

3. Wayne Mills announced that we have a full slate for the 2004 OMS Board. Wes Lingerfelt added that nominations will be taken from the floor at the General Meeting next week.

4. Bill Hood reported that everything is set for our Annual Meeting at Maria del Sol in December. He will circulate a sign-up sheet tonight and at the General Meeting so that an accurate head count can be given to the staff at Maria del Sol.

5. Geary Sheffer says that we need insurance information before buying lapidary machines for the club. There was discussion about proper use of equipment. Debbie Hood suggested that the February General Meeting talk could be "Proper Use of Diamond Wheels and Equipment".

New business:

1. OMS has received two applications for membership. Kathy Collison and Joanna Turnbull were unanimously elected for membership, and will be presented at the November General Meeting.

2. Wayne Mills reminded outgoing officers to turn over materials necessary to accomplish officer responsibilities after next week's elections.

3. Debbie Hood wants to start interest groups next year in Beading and Wirewrapping.

The November Program is being presented by Wes Lingerfelt, and is entitled "Treatment on Sick Stones". Members are asked to bring their best 1 to 4 cabachons for display.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:25 p.m. by President Mills.

Respectfully submitted,
Bess Shields, Secretary, OMS

Orcutt Mineral Society

General Meeting
Mussel Senior Center, Santa Maria CA
11 November, 2003

Call to Order at 7:10 p.m. by President Wayne Mills.

Invocation was given by Bess Shields on "Talents". Flag Salute was led by Elaine Von Achen.

Sharon Duncan reported that 29 members, and 3 guests were present. Guests were Erica Eskin, Keith McCay, and John Roulston.

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

Minutes of the previous Board Meeting were approved as read.

Committee Reports:

Abused Children: Debbie Hood will contact the agency to see what items are needed. Also, a monetary collection will be conducted at the December Annual Banquet. Wayne Mills reminded everyone to bring canned goods for donation to Salvation Army.

Adopt-a-Highway: Marshall Reeves reminded us about the November 15th cleanup at 8:00 a.m. followed by breakfast at Omelets & More.

Annual Awards Banquet: Debbie Hood announced that a sign-up sheet is being circulated.

Breakfast: Dick Shields invited everyone to The Girl's Restaurant for our monthly OMS Breakfast at 8:30 a.m. on 22 November.

Bulletin (Ore-Cutts): Numerous articles from the Ore-Cutt are being submitted for competition to CFMS.

CFMS: Wes Lingerfelt explained the complications of our insurance coverage. A copy of his reply accompanies the filed minutes.

Field Trips, Safety: Dick Shields reported on a great field trip to Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History, and two beaches. Dick announced that there will be a field trip to Ralph Bishop's collection on 15 November, and to Santa Agueda Creek in December. OMS will also exhibit during June and July in the Santa Maria main library. Contact Dick for further information, or consult the Ore-Cutt.

Refreshments: Thank you to Lisa Dabbs, Al Wilcox, Truman Burgess, and the Hoods for refreshments tonight. A sign up sheet is being circulated for next years' refreshment planning purposes.

Correspondence:

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

Dinny's Doins newsletter.

Sun Valley Indian School newsletter.

Lapidarian newsletter from Santa Cruz Mineral & Gem Club.

The Agatizer newsletter from South Bay (Torrance) Club.

Rocky Review newsletter from Conejo Gem & Mineral Club.

Rockonteur newsletter from Santa Lucia Rockhounds Club.

Pick & Shovel newsletter from San Gorgonio Mineral & Gem Club.

Tumble Rumble from Capistrano Valley Rock & Mineral Club.

Old / unfinished business:

By unanimous acclamation, the 2004 OMS Board was elected:

President-elect, Lucky Virgin;

Treasurer, Wes Lingerfelt;

Secretary, Bess Shields;

Board members Bill Hood, Sylvia Nasholm, Marshall Reeves, Geary Sheffer, and Sharon Duncan.

Wayne Mills announced that there will be a change in location for the Board Meetings on 2 March, and 2 November, and for the General Meetings on 10 February and 9 March. More information will be available in the *Ore-Cutts*.

The Annual Barbecue will take place at Pioneer Park on June 5th.

New business:

Wayne Mills asked members to please volunteer for committees, and contact Debbie Hood if you wish to serve.

Following the break for refreshments, Wes Lingerfelt presented a talk on "Treating Sick Rocks".

Meeting was adjourned at 9:10 p.m. by President Mills.

Respectfully submitted,

Bess Shields, Secretary, OMS

Highway Cleanup

Way to go, Lucky! He's our new President-elect, and a double-fisted cleanup technician, too.



Lucky earning his coffee and donut

Orcutt Mineral Society continues to participate in the bimonthly highway cleanup project for the State of California, "Adopt a Highway" program. On the third Saturday of January, March, May, July, September, and November we meet at the intersection of Highway 101 and Highway 166 from 8:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m.

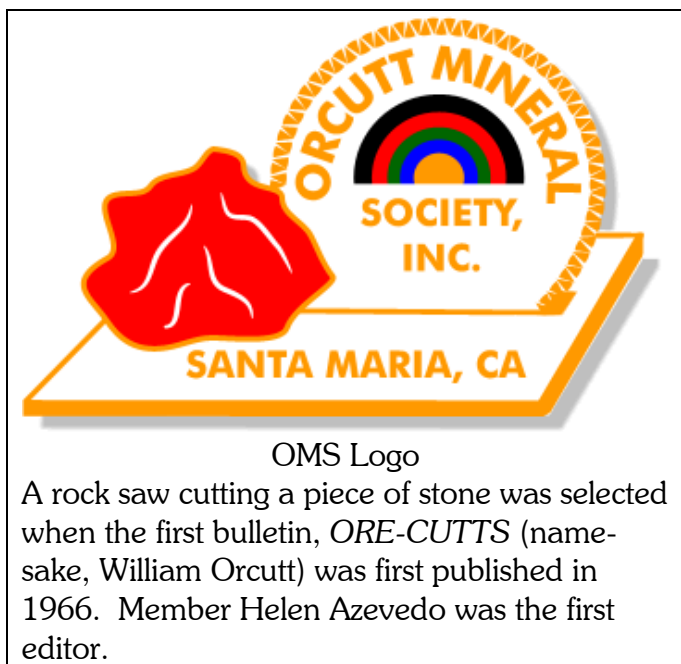
Those who participate then regroup at Omelets & More for a cup of something hot, and a pastry which the club pays for, and hold the "I found the most unusual item today" contest. We usually end up with several tall tales, and some souvenirs.

We invite you to join us on January 17th for the next Highway Cleanup. There should be about a dozen of us milling around, and anxious to get started.

Official Staff

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 La Brea 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.



OMS Logo

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

2003 OMS Elected Officers

President	Wayne Mills	(805) 481-3495
President Elect	Debbie Hood	(805) 481-6860
Secretary	Bess Shields	(805) 937-0357
Treasurer	Wes Lingerfelt	(805) 929-3788
Immediate Past President	Dick Shields	(805) 937-0357

CFMS Representative	Wes Lingerfelt	(805) 929-3788
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2003 OMS Board Members

Geary Sheffer	(805) 925-8009
Sylvia Nasholm	(805) 481-0923
Bill Hood	(805) 481-6860
Sharon Duncan	(805) 929-2209
Marshall Reeves	(805) 733-2775

2004 OMS Elected Officers

President	Debbie Hood	(805) 481-6860
President Elect	Lucky Virgin	(805) 929-9525
Secretary	Bess Shields	(805) 937-0357
Treasurer	Wes Lingerfelt	(805) 929-3788
Immediate Past President	Wayne Mills	(805) 481-3495
CFMS Representative	Wes Lingerfelt	(805) 929-3788

2004 OMS Board Members

Geary Sheffer	(805) 925-8009
Sylvia Nasholm	(805) 481-0923
Bill Hood	(805) 481-6860
Sharon Duncan	(805) 929-2209
Marshall Reeves	(805) 733-2775

Ore-Cutts Editors

Dick and Bess Shields	(805) 937-0357
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Webmasters

Dick Shields	(805) 937-0357
Wes Lingerfelt	(805) 929-3788

Web Sites of Note:

December 2003

Orcutt Mineral Society:

<http://www.omsinc.org/>

Mont St. Hilaire, Quebec, Canada:

http://www.centrenature.qc.ca/AFrame/A002_1.html

Baringer Hill, Texas pegmatites:

<http://home.satx.rr.com/robnjean/bh/landes1.html>

George's Shop in Los Osos:

<http://www.osomin.com/>

Stewart Mine, San Diego County, California:


<http://www.mmmgems.com/stewart/>

American Federation of Mineralogical Societies:

<http://www.amfed.org/>

California Federation of Mineralogical Societies:

<http://www.cfmsinc.org/>

December 2003 Calendar	
Tuesday December 2, 2003 7:00 PM - 8:30 PM	OMS Board Meeting -- Mussell Senior Center. All members are welcome at this business meeting.
Saturday December 6, 2003 11:30 AM - 2:30 PM	OMS Annual Meeting at Maria del Sol -- 1405 East Main Street, Santa Maria <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Buffet Luncheon <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Members \$6.50 o Guests \$13.00 • President's Annual Report • Awards • Installation of Officers • "Sweet Adelines" Christmas Performance Bring donations for the Abused Children Fund and canned goods for Goodwill Call Bill and Debbie Hood at 481-6860 for details.
	
Saturday December 20, 2003 09:00 AM - 5:00 PM	Field trip to Santa Agueda Creek -- Meet at Mussell Senior Center Parking Lot. Franciscan formation chert, brecciated jasper, and agates. Bring a lunch or eat later in Los Olivos, Solvang, or Santa Ynez.
Saturday December 27, 2003 8:30 AM - 9:30 AM	Monthly OMS Breakfast -- Baker's Square, Santa Maria Restaurant, Breakfast location alternates between Baker's Square in Santa Maria and The Girl's in Arroyo Grande. Call Dick Shields at 937-0357 for details.

January 2004 Calendar	
Tuesday January 6, 2004 7:00 PM - 8:30 PM	OMS Board Meeting -- Mussell Senior Center. All members are welcome at this business meeting.
Saturday January 10, 2004 9:00 AM - 4:00 PM	Field Trip to Jalama Beach -- Meet at Mussell Senior Center Parking Lot. We will depart at 0900. Entrance fee for each vehicle at Jalama. Walk over beach sand and rock to a travertine outcropping. There is oil on the beach so bring old shoes for the walk. Bring a lunch or eat in the Jalama Café on the beach.
Tuesday January 13, 2004 7:00 PM - 9:00 PM	OMS General Meeting -- Mussell Senior Center <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Program: Wes Lingerfelt on "How to use and properly maintain Equipment" • Display: Green Stones

	Refreshment: Donuts
Saturday January 17, 2004 8:00 AM - 10:00 AM	OMS Highway Cleanup -- Intersection of Hwy 101 and Hwy 166 After the cleanup we have coffee and pastry at "Omelets and More" in Nipomo. Contact Marshall Reeves at 733-2775 for details.
Saturday January 24, 2004 8:30 AM - 9:30 AM	Monthly OMS Breakfast -- Girl's Restaurant, Arroyo Grande. Breakfast location alternates between Baker's Square in Santa Maria and The Girl's in Arroyo Grande. Call Dick Shields at 937-0357 for details.

February 2004 Calendar	
Tuesday February 3, 2004 7:00 PM - 8:30 PM	OMS Board Meeting -- Mussell Senior Center. All members are welcome at this business meeting.
Tuesday February 10, 2004 7:00 PM - 9:00 PM	OMS General Meeting -- Atkinson Community Center, 1000 N. Railroad <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Program: Ralph Bishop on "Fossils" • Display: Heart-shaped Stones • Refreshment: Cake and Cup Cakes
Saturday February 21, 2004 8:00 AM - 5:00 PM	Field Trip Jade Cove -- Meet at Mussell Senior Center Parking Lot or points further north by arrangement Prey for surf (to stir the beach rock well). Call Dick Shields at 937-0357 for details.
Saturday February 28, 2004 8:30 AM - 9:30 AM	Monthly OMS Breakfast -- Baker's Square, Santa Maria Restaurant, Breakfast location alternates between Baker's Square in Santa Maria and The Girl's in Arroyo Grande. Call Dick Shields at 937-0357 for details.

HOOD PARTY

The Wanderer, December 2003

"Hey, Rick, wanna go ta lunch?" was the battle cry for our last trip to Stanford. Dick and I planned to visit our buddy, Rick Kennedy, get updates on his latest adventures, and buy some more benitoite in matrix.

We did stop by Quizno's for a bite to eat, but the real reason was to have our own tailgate, er-that is, hood party on the Sequoia. Rick brought out a riker mount with 50 little gemstones, and we spent the next hour listening to him describe each by common name, chemical composition, where and how it was collected, the exact weight of each stone, and the history behind the collecting sites. That guy is such an expert! Rick knows ROCKS!

He then brought out a couple of boxes labeled "benitoite", and the fun began. Dick and Rick identified benitoite crystals, joachinite, neptunite, and others that I didn't write down. We adopted some beauties, and have some to acid bath, too.



Rick's latest prizes: 5.07 ct and 2.22 ct of blue joy!

Bonding and reinforcing friendships is part of the fun being a rockhound. Spur of the moment field trips, and lunchtime swaps happen all the time.

<p>Orcutt Mineral Society P.O. Box 106 Santa Maria, CA 93456</p>
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ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

I feel so fortunate to have friends like Rick, and look forward to seeing him again at our Gem Show in August when he returns to tell us about his latest discoveries and experiences with benitoite.

Happy Hunting! Love, Bess

Dreaming of Quartzsite

Ammonites, selenite, soapstone, amethyst, amber, and acres of vendors just waiting to sell you their wares. If you haven't had the opportunity to visit Quartzsite, I highly encourage you to go! If one giant tailgating party for rockhounds appeals to you, then Quartzsite is the place to be. Additional information about this interesting location is available at:

<http://www.quartzsitechamber.com/show.schedule.shtml>.
The Chamber of Commerce will send information by contacting them at: P.O. Box 85, Quartzsite, AZ 85346. We'll see you there!