

The Pres Box—December 2016

Alexis Van Natta



This is the last time you will see my mug-shot on the Ore-Cutts, as I have fulfilled my term as your president. You will not have to suffer through reading about our on-going saga of the chickens after this but, now just one more.

It has been hard work building an enclosure for the three new members of our family. We call it **The Taj Mahal** of chicken coops as the price of building it and the blood, sweat and tears that we put forth was more than we expected. I leave them out to roam in the yard in the daytime when I am home and they know to go into their coop when it gets dark. They started to lay eggs last week and so far, I have collected eleven eggs. I have found that letting them out to roam in the daytime is not a good idea. I discovered quite by accident that Buffy has been laying her eggs in a bush outside the coop. Whenever I go out in the yard, Ruby

comes running and follows me around. She lets me pick her up and pet her. So it seems our chickens have settled in and finally feel at home. *Speckles, Ruby and Buffy*



Some reminders: The yearly event of our Annual Christmas meeting at the Madonna Inn on December 10, 12:00 noon. Wes Lingerfelt has graciously consented to do our new officers installation. Bring canned goods to donate to the Salvation Army. Bring

a rock related gift worth \$10.00 if you wish to participate in the annual gift exchange. This is so much fun. Jan Ferguson will be collecting your donations for the Abused Children's Fund. Remember Christmas is for Children.

There will be a joint board meeting on December 6, 7:00 pm of the outgoing and incoming officers at the Nipomo Chamber of Commerce, 239 W. Tefft Street.

There will be no Breakfast in December. **Wishing you all a very Merry Christmas!**

Alexis

Our NOVEMBER MEETING has Cookies for refreshments.
IT WILL BE HELD ON November 29 DUE TO THE ELECTIONS.
 The display for November is **Best 1 x1** — members will vote on the best display on a 1' by 1' surface. There may be a prize for the winner!

BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

Greetings go out to those folks who are having Birthdays and Anniversaries in **December**.

BIRTHDAYS

Jeanne Brown	12	1
Truman Burgess	12	6
Sandy Berthelot	12	16
Peggy W Johnson	12	22
Samantha Schmidt	12	28
Renae Sutcliffe	12	15
Terii Richard	12	16

ANNIVERSARIES

Bob Bullock,	12	9
Sir Paul Howard	12	10
Pat Nurenborg	12	28

***Congratulations!** If you don't see your name here when you should, then the information is not in **The Red Book**. Please write your important dates down and give them to **Wayne** so they will be included in the next edition (April 2017)*

SUNSHINE

Margaret Henson

Jeannie Lingerfelt underwent surgery on November 21, according to Wes, the surgery went well! Our thoughts and prayers are with you Jeannie for a swift recovery! It sucks not being able to eat!!

ROCKIN' AT THE VETS

Wayne Mills

For the second year in a row, the Vet's Hall in Cambria hosted the **First Annual SLO Gem and Mineral Show**.

It was a drizzly Sunday that I drove up for the show, but I enjoyed talking to several of the dealers and even got inspiration for a couple of



articles for this humble newsletter. Doug True, one of the most amazing collectors I have met, brought a replica of a T-Rex skull that he helped excavate on what turned out to be Federal Land back in 1993-1994. If you remember any of the intrigue surrounding the discovery of the T-Rex Sue" (also in Montana's Hell Creek Formation), you can imagine the excitement of this discovery and removal. Doug said that while they were working in the excavation, there were armed FBI Agents stationed around the top of it! The writing on Doug's shirt, by the way, says "**Lithocerus americanus** (American rockhound)". I also had the opportunity to talk to Andy DeLong, one of



our dealers, about the days when Tyrannosaurs and Pterodactyls plied the edges of the vast ocean that covered the interior of what is now the US back about 80,000,000 years ago. Andy said he had never heard of the Niobraran Seaway, so Andy, "**When Middle America was under Water**" is for you!

The award for best new dealers goes to sisters **Paige and Hanna** from Atascadero. I think these cuties could sell ice boxes to Eskimos.



Other familiar dealers included Mike the Meteor man, Keith and Marcela Olivas, Mike Lyons, Dave Richter, and Richard Sittenger. It was a very enjoyable day. The LO Club is to be congratulated for another well-run show.

NOVEMBER HIGHWAY STORY— SKELETON CREW CLEANS-UP

Wayne Mills AAH Coordinator

Even though we put out a plea in e-mail form because the date for the November clean-up changed, only 5 hearty souls showed-up for the event. Many thanks are due to: Wes Lingerfelt, Geary Sheffer, Sally Griffith and Tara Machin (yeah, I was there too). We are fortunate that most sections of the highway were not that dirty, because we prefer to do the job with 6-8 folks (2 for each ~ 1 mile section). Our (~ 2 mile long) stretch of 166 east is broken up into 4 sections, each about 1/2 mile long. When you consider that we clean both sides of the highway, that makes about a 1 mile walk for each section. It is fun, You should try it some time. You never know what you might find. At our "after party" at Francisco's, our waitress, Shelly pulled Wes's name out of the hat, so he won his own prize, a 2" diameter alabaster sphere.

MANY THANKS to all those who have helped us clean the highway this year! Just remember—you have 6 more chances to participate in 2017!

"THOSE WERE THE DAYS — THANKS FOR THE MEMORIES"

by Ralph Bishop



I woke up one morning with a stretch and a yawn to the golden blush of a sunrise. I had left an oldies radio station on the night before and the first tune of the morning

was the jaunty bittersweet lament "Those were the days my friend, we thought they would never end". Little did I know that tune would set the tone for the rest of the day. I got up and made my way to my morning constitutional. On my way past the bookshelf a beam of sunlight snuck past the curtain and illuminated my high school picture. I sang along "Those were the days" - the 60's: Hot cars, like the Beach Boys "I got around", the summer of love, and in my case rocks - I rocked out with wild abandon. As I walked into the bathroom I switched on the light and there was my image in the mirror. Gawd! A white haired bewhiskered old scutter who looked like Gabby Hayes from an old John Wayne movie.

As I sat down in the thinker's position my mind wandered. In those days rock hunting was considered a very wholesome family oriented hobby. There was a rock hound on every block and a rock shop in every town. Yes, those were the days. The Forest Service and BLM would grade access roads every year for our convenience. The Fed's were friendly members of the greatest generation and understood the land under their control was by and for the people; after all they had fought for that right. Agate, Jasper, Jade, Rhodonite, Bone, Wood and fossils were all easily accessible in an easy days drive. Santa Maria, CA, a town of about 50 thousand had 2 rock clubs and two gem shows annually. The year my mother was show chairman we filled the Convention Center with 150 display cases from far and wide and many dealers. Yes, those were the days I thought. The American dream: And I was one of those who lived during the best of times.

My contemplation finished I made my way along the coon-trail between my hoard of rocks on the way back to the couch. Another song came on: Bob Hope, another bittersweet lament "Thanks for the Memories". I almost stubbed my toe on a rock so I picked up a memory. Although my memory has become somewhat foggy I remember every rock and the day I found

it. I suppose you could say love is forever at least in my case.

I sat down on the couch cradling a memory: an uncut specimen of an agatized, articulated set of 5 whale vertebrae. I chuckled. The pet rock is quite the memory, clear as a bell the bitter with the sweet. It was the first time my mother let me camp alone overnight. I was probably 12 years old. Montana Del Oro was a beautiful beach where especially good Whale bone that eroded from the sea cliffs of the Monterey Formation. It was a crisp day but tides were good. They ranged from 6 feet to minus 1.6 feet. The Pacific tides can be a rock



hounds best friend or worst enemy so you'd better know them like the back of your hand.

[Spoooner's Cove MDO, Picture via Pinterest](#)

Mom dropped me off and I set up camp in the high beach willows and collected dry drift wood for a fire. For most of the day the high tide washed the high gravel bars. It was a nice day but a ho-hum day of collecting. But by the sound of the gravel being sucked out by the rip tide the low bars should be good for collecting. Well, they weren't so I moved to the south end of the cove. Here the once horizontal layers of Monterey Shale are tipped up to an almost vertical position due to the fault activity (the surfers call them "razor blades") and creates long alley like slot coves between them. The gravel in this zone is all flat due to the juxta-position of the shale formation to the wave action. At the head of the slot a gully that runs through an old Chumash Indian village and dumps onto the beach. On occasion, flat chert percussion flakes and arrowheads are found in the slot. The wave driven turnover in these slots is remarkably intense and the gravel scoots instead of rolling. The sun was dipping when I saw a glint of yellow scooting seaward in the backwash of brown gravel. I had to chase and dove to get it but I was after all young and stringy. In my hand was a beautiful Willow Leaf point, only slightly water worn.

By now I was wet and the sun was dipping so I went back to camp and changed pants. I decided to watch the sunset from the playa bench above the cove. The

trail from the cove to the bench seemed timeless. How many Chumash for how many thousands of years walked the same path to their village overlooking the eternal “mother of all waters” as the Chumash called the sea? I sat down next to a badger mound. The soil was dark, a sure sign of a village that depended on a marine diet. As I brushed the dirt, 3 chert percussion flakes appeared: two were the normal black but one was yellow. I rolled the flakes and the point in my hand. It was the same chert that is found in Monterey Formation ½ mile from the cove. As the waves crashed 50 feet below and the sun dipped toward the sea I wondered who was the rockhound who collected this special chert how many thousands of years ago and possibly sat where I sat flaking the Willow Leaf, listening to the same



waves, watching the same sunset. The sun grew red and sank lower toward a low fog bank; It will be cold tonight I thought. As often happens the sun flattened when it hit the fog bank then took a mushroom shape and was gone in about ten minutes. I made it back to camp and fired-up the drift wood which, because of the salt, burned green, blue and yellow.

The day was sweet, the fire beautiful but the fog and its bitter cold moved in. The night was nearly sleepless, wet and the fire only smoked the next morning. I stayed in the sleeping bag until the fog burned off at noon. The romance of camping had been dampened. I could hear the gravel as the tide waned. I was still damp and uncomfortable but I got up on the Playa and walked south from the main cove. Here I climbed over one razor blade after another, one slot to the next. There was a lot of abalone shell but no bone. I was a sopping mess covered with slime of kelp and sea lettuce when I came to a wide slot that I'd never gotten into before.

This day the waves were mild and I could drop onto the gravel beach but I knew I didn't have much time. At the head of the slot was an opening to a sea cave so I ducked into what was much larger than I thought it would be. It was about 30 feet in diameter with a vault ceiling at about 10 feet. Plant roots hung down dripping wa-

ter and Wow, there were large abalone on the walls. Then looking up I saw a series of fossil whale vertebrae with one side of ribs running across the shale wall. It was like nothing I'd ever seen before but too high to access. The tide was starting to move so I thought it



was time to leave. But I decided to look at the gravel one more time. There below the whale wall was a set of 5 articulated vertebrae that must have eroded out of the wall. A wave came into the opening so I grabbed up the bone that now sits on my living room floor – as I found it. The waves came up to my knees and I climbed up the seaweed covered razor blade.

I was a wreck by the time Mom showed up at the main cove. I must have smelled really bad and I had to get a blanket out of the trunk to cover the seat. I showed Mom what I'd found but I could tell she wasn't pleased with my first camp out. She made mention of my causing her to sprout white hair.

When I got home I showed it to one of the club's senior rockhounds and asked how I should cut it. He said, “that is one humdinger of a bone; the vertebrae all in a row. I would think twice before cutting it. You know it's beautiful the way it is but if you cut it you can't put it back”. Well, I took the wisdom and remembered it decade after decade. Yes, “Those were the days my friend we thought they'd never end” and sitting there stroking my pet whale – “Thanks for the memories”.

And what of Montana Del Oro today? Well, no more rock hunting according to the young Rangers. You are only allowed on two coves and there are signs telling what you can't do. You must stay on designated trails. The sea cave is collapsed. I was so fortunate to live during the golden age of rock hunting. **Those were the days.**

WHEN MIDDLE AMERICA WAS UNDER THE OCEAN

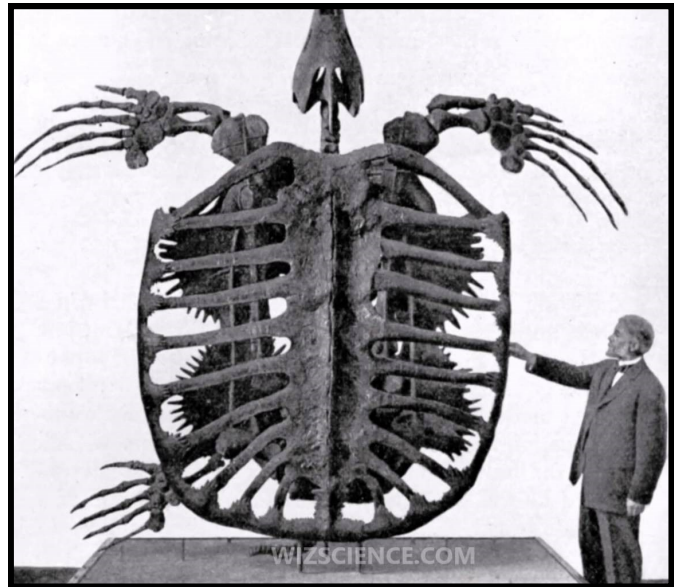
Story by Wayne Mills (Map from NiobraraNews.net)

It is truly amazing how the Earth got along with out man for 4.5 billion years, but it did. In man's absence, fantastic creatures have come, dominated for awhile, and disappeared. Some of the most fantastic of the Earth's creatures were the dinosaurs that dominated the Mesozoic era that ran from about 225 million years ago (mya) to 65 mya. The dinosaurs went out in a blaze of glory, when a meteor about 6 miles in diameter crashed into the Earth off the Yucatan Peninsula, and about 80% of the species on Earth at that time ceased to exist.

Between 87 and 82 mya, a vast ocean covered much of the central part of America. This waterway was called the Niobrara Sea, and while Tyrannosaurus and Allosaurus prowled its edges, Pterodactyls and Pteranodons flew over it and presumably fished in it. In its depths, swam the mighty Mosasaurus and Plesiosaurs (the supposed relative of the Loch Ness Monster). This seaway occurred during an interglacial period when much of the Earth's ice had melted, raising global sea levels.



This sea is the reason for the occurrence of Mesozoic age marine fossils in the Mid-West. The **Niobrara Chalk** of Kansas, the **Bear Paw Shale of Montana** and the **Pierre Shale** of the Dakotas are all products of this seaway. One of my favorite animals from this ancient ocean is the *Archelon*, the largest turtle that ever lived. There is a wonderful replica of the *Archelon* in the LA Natural History Museum. (Picture Wizscience.com)



The picture below from Deviantart.com, shows some of the creatures that have been reconstructed from fossils found in the Niobrara Chalk Formation of Kansas. (It is recommended that you check-out our bulletin on our web page and view these pictures at 200% magnification.) This seaway must have been an exciting place to live back in the Late Cretaceous!



KID'S CORNER

Mini Miner's Monthly Vol. 8. No. 11 (Nov. 2014)

HOW DOES "COLOR" WORK?

Let's start with the light itself. Suppose you are outside and your mineral collection is laid out on the picnic table in the backyard. The light shining on your minerals is coming from the sun. The sun gives off (scientists would say "emits") white light. "White light" is light that has all of the different wavelengths of light that are visible to the human eye. Each wavelength is a different color of light!

The minerals on your table are able to soak up some of the wavelengths (colors). Scientists don't say "soak up," they say "absorb." At the same time, some of the wavelengths (colors) bounce off of the minerals. Scientists don't say "bounce off," they say "reflect."

When a mineral doesn't absorb any wavelength (color) of light, you will see it as **white**. This means that **it reflects all of the wavelengths** and your eye sees them all at once. Your brain takes this light information and mixes all the colors together and you see a white mineral specimen.



But say you have a **dark blue** azurite specimen on the table. (picture by Wayne Mills) The specimen **absorbs (soaks up) all of the wavelengths (colors) of the sunlight EXCEPT dark blue**. The blue bounces off of the specimen and goes to your eye. Your brain takes that wavelength (color) information and tells you, "What a pretty BLUE azurite specimen!"



Now you have a large SCHORL crystal on the table. For those who may have forgotten, SCHORL is the name for **black** tourmaline. Why is it black? Your eye sees it as black **because it absorbs ALL of the light** and reflects no wavelengths (colors) back to your eye. In other words, black is the absence of light! But you already knew that. So, here to the right you have a SCHORL crystal with a green fluorite cube. Let's do a quick test: why is the fluorite green? Wait for it.....wait



for it... wait for it...Because it absorbed all wavelengths (colors) except green. The green bounced off of the crystal (reflected) and went to your eye and your eye sees it as green! Ta Da! Now you know why your minerals have different colors. (picture crystalclassics.uk.org)

CAN LIGHT GO THROUGH MINERALS? (Pictures by Wayne Mills)

There are many different ways to describe the look and the physical properties of a mineral. Some of these have to be done using special equipment (like "specific gravity" which you can read about in this issue. To measure specific gravity you need a "Jolly Balance").

To measure hardness you need a set of minerals in the Mohs' Hardness Scale. However, color is determined simply by looking at the mineral and describing the color. Another description that you can do with the mineral specimens in your collection is:

TRANSPARENT. Transparency is a description of how much light goes through a particular mineral. This is very easy, and includes only three simple categories. Here they are:

Transparent A mineral is described as transparent **if light travels through it.**

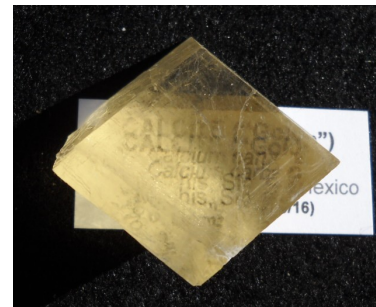
Quartz crystals, beryl (like emerald and aquamarine), some specimens of gypsum, and some specimens of calcite can be

described as transparent. When you hold them up to a light, you can see right through them as if they were pieces of clear, perfect glass.

TRANSLUCENT A mineral is described as translucent if **light can pass through it, but you can't see through it** because there are inclusions or other things inside the specimen. You can see shapes and shadows through the specimen, but not clear objects. Minerals that are sometimes transparent can, very often, be translucent. Other examples of translucent minerals are tourmaline, some quartz, calcite and fluorite specimens, etc.

OPAQUE A mineral is described as opaque if it **doesn't let any light pass through it** at all, even when it is sliced into thin pieces. Examples of opaque minerals include galena, pyrite, sphalerite, marcasite, etc.

Translucent-transparent quartz and opaque schorl, Brazil. Collection of Wayne Mills



Go to the specimens in your collection and try to look through them. Are they transparent, translucent or opaque? This can be a challenging project. There are some specimens that are translucent. However, on a very, very thin edge of a

crystal, you may be able to see right through that edge. You may end up describing the specimen as “translucent (with some transparent edges).”

Also, keep in mind that there are surprises in the mineral world. Minerals like sphalerite are nearly always opaque. But once in a rare while, a unique and wonderful specimen is found that, on a thin edge, is translucent! On the other hand, **some mineral species, like galena and pyrite, are opaque and will never, ever be translucent.**

Have fun. If you keep a catalog of your specimens and their properties, analyze them and write down the “Transparency” of each specimen.

DECEMBER BIRTHSTONES—

<http://calendar22.com/december-birthstone-meaning/>

Depending on which chart you consult, the birthstones for December are blue: Blue Topaz, Blue Zircon, Tanzanite and Turquoise. The color choice perhaps represents the frigid conditions that often prevail (at least across the US) in December.



Blue Zircon ([picture Africgems.com](http://picture.Africgems.com)) has, since the Middle Ages, been said aid spiritual growth and promote wisdom. Wearers of this stone will find beauty and peace.

Blue Tanzanite ([picture from StoneContract.eu](http://picture.from.StoneContract.eu))—Being a relatively new stone, it does not have attributed mystical powers, but what it lacks in history it makes up with its deep purple and blue (dichroic) tones.



Turquoise ([picture from tskies.com](http://picture.from.tskies.com)) is said to attract money, success and love. Its powers include: protection, healing, courage, friendship and luck. The stone relaxes the mind and eases mental tension.

Blue Topaz ([picture from Jewel.OfTheNile.org](http://picture.from.Jewel.OfTheNile.org)) is said to be a symbol for love and affection. It is believed to bring friendship and fidelity to those who wear it. Topaz is used for strength, wisdom and courage.



[Chronic crafter.com](http://Chroniccrafter.com)

**ORCUTT MINERAL SOCIETY
Board Meeting
Nipomo Chamber of Commerce Office
Nipomo, CA
November 1, 2016**

President, Alexis Van Natta, called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm. Board members present were Wayne Mills, Alexis Van Natta, Sylvia Nasholm, Don Nasholm, Jan Ferguson, Sally Griffith, Sharon Duncan and Dyanna Cridelich. Jeanne Watkins Brown was absent. No guests were present.

Minutes: Minutes were approved as printed in the November bulletin.

Treasurer's report: Jeanne Watkins is in Australia. Jan Ferguson presented the Treasurer's report in her stead. The report was accepted as given.

Correspondence: Received letter from Department of Treasury: Internal Revenue Service regarding form 990. Gave to Jan Ferguson to give to Jeanne Watkins Brown. Kagin's sent a catalog announcement for the Official Auctioneer of the 2017 ANA National Money Show. Santa Barbara City College sent a flier for the Leonardo Dorantes Memorial Lecture on Nov 9, 2016. We received both a CFMS and an AFMS Newsletter and the Salvation Army would like us to help out for the holidays.

Committee Reports:

Abused Children: We will have \$700 - \$750 in the Abused Children's Fund by the end of December

Annual December Meeting: Things are moving right along for the December 10th, annual membership meeting at the Madonna Inn. We have 23 people signed up so far and will be sure to make the 25 minimum with no problem. Please give me your choice of menu item by November 28th and your money by December 5th. There will be a complete write-up in the December Bulletin.

Bulletin: The Bulletin is out. It was done in Publisher this month and the format looks nice. The deadline for getting anything in the December Bulletin is November 20th.

Field Trips: No more field trips for the rest of the year.

Highway Cleanup: Our next Highway cleanup will be held November 5, 2016 at 8:00am. Members will meet on the Southeast corner of Highways 101 and 166 East.

We have 8 people joining us.

Membership: Dyanna Cridelich reported that one more person, Elisabeth Nybo, turned in their membership application at the last general meeting. Dyanna brought it to the Board to be approved. Wayne Mills made a motion that Elisabeth Nybo be accepted into the OMS. Sally Griffith seconded the motion. Motion carried'

Refreshments: Sally Griffith said that cookies are in order for the November meeting. Cookie makers include Truman Burgess, Debbie Hood, Geary Sheffer and Sharon Duncan.

Sally Griffith requested assistance in getting the refreshment sign up sheet together for next year. Alexis Van Natta offered her help.

Sunshine: Ralph Bishop is still under the weather. Jeanne Lingerfelt is having health issues as well. Please keep both of them in your thoughts and prayers.

Scholarship: The amount of the scholarship, as of October 31, 2016, is \$1161.15. We need to wait for clarification from Jeanne Watkins Brown.

Old Business:

Nominating Committee: Wayne Mills, Dyanna Cridelich and Jan Ferguson

Report: President Elect: Sharon Duncan, Secretary: Dyanna Cridelich, Treasurer: Jeanne Watkins. For the Board, 5 members: Jan Ferguson, Sally Griffith, Sylvia Nasholm, Debbie Hood and Renae Sutcliffe are the current nominees.

We have to call for nominations for each position three times at the November general meeting before we can vote.

New Business:

Jan Ferguson said we received a second bill from the school. It is a statement that has an invoice number. We need an invoice that has a breakdown. Jan Ferguson will call Debbie Carter for clarification.

Wayne Mills designed a nice post card for advertising our gem show in 2017. It is in color on both sides and we can get 2500 of them for \$200.00. Dyanna Cridelich made a motion

to purchase the cards for \$200.00 and Sally Griffith seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Alexis Van Natta is going to both the Santa Maria and Nipomo libraries after the first of the year to set up times for our OMS displays. Alexis hopes to get the cases for 2 months like she did this past year. Sharon Duncan and Jan Ferguson have specimens they can put in the Nipomo library display.

Alexis Van Natta went to the Oasis Center and reserved the Center for next year. We have a \$500.00 use fee from 7-1-16 to 6-30-17. We need to add the dates to the contract that we plan to use the center. They had the time wrong on the contract. We start at 6:00 pm, not 7:00 pm, and continue until 9:00 pm every second Tuesday of the month.

The Budget Committee consisting of Sylvia Nasholm, Jan Ferguson, Jeanne Watkins and Sharon Duncan met and we now have a budget for next year. The Budget will be presented before the OMS for approval at the Annual meeting at the Madonna Inn on December 10th.

Wayne Mills is trying to find the member of the year plaque. It was started in 2009, but has not been given out for a couple of years. Does anyone know where it is?

We had a discussion about programs for next year. January traditionally is set aside for agates. Wayne Mills has a set of DVDs that have 30 different geological adventures. We will check to see if the large screen TV works. Sir Paul Howard left one of his Agate DVDs with Sharon Duncan, which might be nice to show. Wes has a program on Judging Shows that he would like to present. Jan Ferguson will look through her DVD collections as well. She has a nice one on the Carlsbad Caverns. Alexis Van Natta has one on Diamonds.

Dyanna Cridelich will look into buying new display cases. She will do research on what is available in a lightweight, portable case. The standard case size is 2'X2'X4'. It can be foldable; and can be Plexiglas or glass, wood or aluminum.

President Alexis Van Natta adjourned the meeting at 8:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

Dyanna Cridelich, Secretary, OMS



Fossil from Terry, Montana AFMS Field Trip, August 2014

OMS CALENDAR	
DECEMBER 2016	
Tuesday, Dec. 6 7:00 to 8:30 p.m.	OMS Board Meeting, Nipomo Chamber of Commerce meeting room, All members are welcome at this meeting
Saturday, Dec. 10 12:00 p.m.-3:00 p.m.	Annual Meeting Madonna Inn
Saturday, Dec. 17	No Breakfast in December
Sunday, Dec. 25	MERRY CHRISTMAS TO ALL!
JANUARY 2017	
Tuesday, Jan. 3 7:00 to 8:30 p.m.	OMS Board Meeting, Nipomo Chamber of Commerce meeting room, All members are welcome at this meeting
Tuesday, Jan. 10 7:00 p.m.	General Meeting— Luis Oasis Senior Center. Program— AGATES Display— Agates Refreshments-Cookies
Saturday, Jan. 14 8 am	Highway clean-up SE corner Rtes. 101/166 East
Saturday, Jan. 21 8:30 a.m.	OMS Monthly Breakfast- Coun- try Kitchen, Santa Maria

CFMS SHOWS

DECEMBER

December 3 - 4: BARSTOW, CA

Mojave Desert Gem & Mineral Society
Cora Harper Community Center
841 S. Barstow Road
Hours: 10 - 5 daily
Contact: Danny Watts, (760) 373-1309
Email: dvwatts@msn.com
Website: www.mdgms.net

December 9 - 10: RIALTO, CA

Orange Belt Mineralogical Society
City Hall Lot
105 South Palm Avenue
Hours: 9 - Dusk daily
Contact: Jessica Pierson, (909) 381-0089
OBMSTailgateInfo@gmail.com
<http://OBMSrocks.yolasite.com>

JANUARY

January 21 - 22: EXETER, CA

Tule Gem & Mineral Society, Visalia
Exeter Veterans' Memorial Building
324 N. Kaweah Avenue
Hours: Sat 10 - 5; Sun 10 - 4
Contact: Laura Manser (559) 303-0632
Email: ldriggs5@gmail.com
Website: www.tulegem.com

ANNUAL MEETING— December 10, MADONNA INN CHRISTMAS GIFT EXCHANGE

It is time for our Annual Christmas gift exchange during our Luncheon at the Madonna Inn. As a reminder, participation is voluntary. If you wish to participate, bring a wrapped **ROCK-related**, \$10.00 gift. You pick a number when you enter. First up chooses a gift and opens it for all to see. Second person called can choose a gift and open it OR steal the first gift chosen, which sends that person back to the pile. And so it goes down through the list. The strategy comes in play when you understand a gift may only be stolen twice before it is out of play. Whether you choose to participate or not, watching it all play out is a lot fun. See you at the Madonna Inn (Round Room) on December 10th!

**Orcutt Mineral Society, Inc.
P.O. Box 106
Santa Maria, CA 93456-0106**

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED



The ORE-CUTTS (named after, William Orcutt) was first published in 1966. Member Helen Azevedo was the first editor. The Orcutt Mineral Society was founded in 1958, and was also named after Orcutt who was a geologist and civil engineer who worked in the Santa Maria Valley as a District Manager for Union Oil Company in 1888. In 1889, William Orcutt discovered the mineral and fossil wealth of the La Brea Tar Pits on the property of Captain Alan Hancock in Los Angeles. The La Brea Tar Pits are one of the most significant fossil finds in paleontological history.

OMS is a non-profit organization dedicated to stimulating an interest in the earth sciences. The club offers educational programs, field trips, scholarships, and other opportunities for families and individuals to pursue an interest in the collecting and treatment of lapidary materials, fossils, gems, minerals, and other facets of the Earth Sciences. In addition, another 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 aims. Affiliations of the OMS include American Federation of Mineral Societies, and California Federation of Mineral Societies.