



## Birthdays

Renea Sutcliffe  
December 15th

## Anniversaries

Sir Paul Howard  
December 10th

## December

**December 4** at 7:00 pm -  
Board Meeting in Wes  
Lingerfelt's Garden

**December 9** - Annual Meeting  
from 12:00 pm to 3:00 pm at  
the Quarterdeck restaurant in  
Arroyo Grande. Address is:  
1500 W Branch St  
Arroyo Grande, CA 93420  
Bring a gift for the gift  
exchange of \$10 or more!  
Bring canned goods for the  
food drive!

**December 16** - Tentative Field  
Trip. The best time to look for  
rocks on Jalama Beach is in the  
winter. Joey will send out an  
email about the field trip time  
once she knows the low tide  
schedule.

## The Prez Box - December 2023



We have come to the end of 2023. I hope you faired well. We have two remaining events for the year, our Board meeting on December 4th and our Annual Awards Banquet on Saturday, December 9th at the Quarterdeck in Arroyo Grande from 12:00 - 3:00 PM. If you wanted to go but did not get counted at our November general meeting, you will need to contact Jeannie Watkins-Brown very soon. You can find her contact information at the back of this newsletter. If you wish to join the gift exchange, please be sure to bring a rock related gift valued \$10 or a little more.

We held elections at the November general meeting as well. We have many returning members as well as a couple new additions. All of whom will meet at the Lingerfelt's for our Board Meeting on December 4th. Any and all club members are invited to attend the board meetings. If you choose to join us, dress warm. We meet in a tented patio in their yard. Jeannie has a few throw blankets out there in case your knees get cold. The new board members will be sworn in at the banquet by Wes who is working overtime in his retirement years. He has returned as a board member for the last 2 years, he has also serves as the club's Parliamentarian and Webmaster. I'd say he's keeps pretty busy in his retirement!



# January

**January 8** at 7:00 pm - Board Meeting in Wes Lingerfelt's Garden

**January 9** at 7:00 pm - General Meeting at the Oasis Senior Center

**January 13** at 8:00 am - Highway Clean-up at the southeast corner of Highway 101 and 166 East.

**January 20** - Tentative Field Trip

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The 2024 Officers and Board of Directors:

Officers:

President: Jeanne Watkins-Brown

President Elect: Joe Goetz

Immediate Past President: Sally Griffith

Secretary and Bulletin Editor: Tara Machin

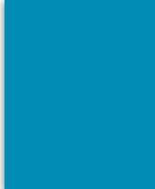
Treasurer: Cary Holst

Board of Directors:

Renea Sutcliffe, Wes Lingerfelt, Joey Nichols, Wayne Mills, and Jan Ferguson

Since this is my last Prez Box I will cut it short and leave all the future events to be reported by our new President. Good bye and it's been a pleasure to serve as your President for the last 2 years. Hope your holidays are filled with everything you are wishing for! I wish you all good luck and good fortune in the years ahead. Have a healthy, happy and safe New Years!

Sincerely, Sally G



## Orcutt Mineral Society Board Meeting - November 6, 2023

**Call to Order:** at 7:01 pm by Sally Griffith

**Members present:** Wes Lingerfelt, Sally Griffith, Wayne Mills, Tara Machin, Renea Sutcliffe, Jan Ferguson, Jeanne Watkins, Joey Nichols, and Joe Goetz Absent: Betty Campbell

**Previous Minutes:** Wayne has decided to continue his board membership. However, he wants to give up the membership chair position.

**Treasurer's Report:** We got the bill from the high school on October 18th and it was paid on October 26th. The Port-o-potty bill was also paid. The profits of the show were low so the board voted to increase the scholarship to \$750 since the scholarship would be around \$530. Our radio advertising for the 2023 show didn't perform well for it's cost, so instead, we've decided to invest in more physical signs. Tara and Renae are researching. Oasis rent has been paid.

**Correspondences:** Bill from Port a Potty company, request from Cuesta concerning donations to their "Cuesta Fund", and the AFMS and Santa Lucia Newsletters.

**Refreshments:** Cookies, Joey and Kathy Holst signed up. Jeanne will bring cut up fruit.

### Committee Reports:

1. **Bulletin-** No updates
2. **CFMS-** Renea is going to the CFMS meeting on November 11th, 2023. She will be bringing back packets for all our local rock and mineral groups.
3. **Membership-** Wayne will pass out membership name tags at the next general meeting. He also got the pins and bars and those will be handed out at the December banquet.
4. **Field Trips-** There is a field trip on November 18th from 11:00 am to 1:00 pm to Ralph Bishop's House. The address is in the Red Book. Joey may not be able to attend.
5. **Adopt-A-Highway-** Wayne needs to leave the clean up by 9:00 am so that he can receive a quilt for his military service at an awards service. Yeah Wayne! Wayne needs to follow up with our stipend from the state. We haven't received our club money from the clean-up fund in a few months.
6. **Annual Awards Banquet-** Jeanne will have a menu at the next general meeting. We will need a count of people and what they might want to eat. Each member will get a \$15 gift card to use towards their meal. December 9th is the date, noon to 3:00 pm at the Quarterdeck in Arroyo Grande
7. **Education-** No updates
8. **Library-** No updates
9. **Sunshine-** Please send Debbie Hood thoughts and prayers since her mother passed away a few weeks ago. Wayne went metal detecting and he found a 1934 Austin hot wheels car. Two days later Wayne took his driving test at the DMV and saw a picture on the wall of an Austin 1934 car. He thought it was an omen and he passed the test (just barely.)
10. **Scholarship-** See above
11. **Show:**
  - See above - We need more signs or banners around Nipomo next year. Our radio advertising was very expensive so we would like to do more

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Board Meeting Notes continued from page 3

physical signs. Renea to measure the areas and get back to us. Tara will ask about how much it will cost to change the dates on vinyl banners each year.

**Old Business:** The by-laws still need to be revised, but Sally doesn't have time to finish. The next President will need to continue this process.

**New Business:**

- Website updates - Tara has offered to back up Wes on the website. They will meet to discuss what is best for the club.
- This month is the final request for volunteers or nominations for the Board. Sally double checked who will be on the board. Everyone is returning except Betty Campbell. Joey will also

become a board member. She has also decided to use her IPP voting ability only when an odd count is needed for voting.

- Cary Holst has volunteered to be treasurer and Kathy Holst has volunteered to be the new greeter. Jeanne has volunteered to be the President, Joe Goetz has volunteered to be the President elect, and Tara will be secretary with Joey Nichols as the back up.

**Program:** All about geodes, a video presented by Wes Lingerfelt

**Display:** Bring geodes.

Adjourned: 8:05 pm

Respectfully Submitted by Tara Machin

## Orcutt Mineral Society General Meeting - November 14, 2023

**Call to Order:** at 7:00 pm by Wayne Mills

Invocation: None was giving since Debbie

Hood was not present

Pledge of Allegiance: Abby Nichols

**Members:** 20 Members and 8 Guests

**Previous Minutes:** Are printed in the newsletter - no corrections

**Treasurer's Report:** Please see the board meeting notes from November 6, 2023

**Correspondences:** Please see the board meeting notes from November 6, 2023

**Refreshments:** Cookies by Don Nasholm, Joey Nichols, Tara Machin, and Kathy Holst. Jeanne Watkins brought cut up fruit.

Minutes: Wayne read the minutes from the Board meeting on November 6, 2023

**Committee Reports:**

1. **Bulletin-** No updates

2. **CFMS-** Please see the board meeting notes from November 6, 2023
3. **Membership-** Wayne gave out name badges to the three new members
4. **Field Trips-** There is a field trip on November 18th from 11:00 am to 1:00 pm to Ralph Bishop's House. The address is in the Red Book.
5. **Adopt-A-Highway-** We had a clean-up on November 10th. 8 people showed up and the highway section was pretty dirty.
6. **Annual Awards Banquet-** There was a sign up list during the general meeting. Please see the board meeting notes from November 6, 2023 for more details. Bring a rock related gift of at least \$10. Bring canned goods for the food drive

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General Meeting Notes continued from page 4

as well as some extra cash for the abused children’s fund.

- 7. **Education-** No updates
- 8. **Library-** No updates
- 9. **Sunshine-** Please send Debbie and Bill Hood thoughts and prayers.
- 10. **Scholarship-** Please see the board meeting notes from November 6, 2023
- 11. **Show:**
  - Jeanne had updated profits and losses for the club now that all of the shows bills have come in and be paid.
  - Please see the board meeting notes from November 6, 2023

**Old Business:** Please see the board meeting notes from November 6, 2023

**New Business:**

- One member asked about the responsibilities of the elected officers and board members. Maybe he would want to volunteer in the future. The by-laws are listed on the OMS website. Here is the link <http://www.omsinc.org/archives/BYLAWS.pdf>
- Elections took place - Here are the tentative results. Swearing in will be at the annual meeting on December 9th.

- Immediate Past President - Sally Griffith
- President - Jeanne Watkins
- President Elect - Joe Goetz
- Secretary / Bulletin Editor- Tara Machin
- Treasurer - Cary Holst
- Board Members - Wes Lingerfelt, Jan Ferguson, Renea Sutcliffe, Wayne Mills, and Joey Nichols
- Other positions
  - Field Trips - Joey Nichols
  - Greeter - Kathy Holst
  - Refreshments - Lisa Azevedo
- Robyn Burgess has a display case that she is willing to give to someone. It is about 8 feet long. Please let her know if you want it. Her information is in the Red Book. You must pick it up from her.
- Please see the board meeting notes from November 6, 2023

**Program:** All about geodes, a video presented by Wes Lingerfelt

**Display:** Geodes

Adjourned: 8:05 pm

Respectfully Submitted by Tara Machin



## November Field Trip to the Ralph Bishop Museum



## Upcoming Rock and Mineral Shows

**December 2-3, 2023** - Barstow, CA  
Mojave Desert Gem and Mineral Society  
Contact: John Printz (760) 979-6138,  
[MDGMSsecretary@gmail.com](mailto:MDGMSsecretary@gmail.com)  
Website: <http://www.mdgms.net>

**January 20-21, 2024** - Exeter, CA  
Tule Gem and Mineral Society  
Contact: Gayle Bingaman, Show Chairperson,  
(559) 802-6029, [bandgbing@aol.com](mailto:bandgbing@aol.com)  
Website: <http://www.tulegem.com>

More information can be found on the CFMS website at [cfmsinc.org](http://cfmsinc.org)

## A Rockhounding Christmas

'Twas THE NIGHT BEFORE CHRISTMAS

By Beth Pinnell

'Twas the night before Christmas when all round the hill  
Not a rockhound was stirring. The wind was even still.  
The stockings was hung round the campfire with care.  
In hopes that St. Nicholas would find them out there.

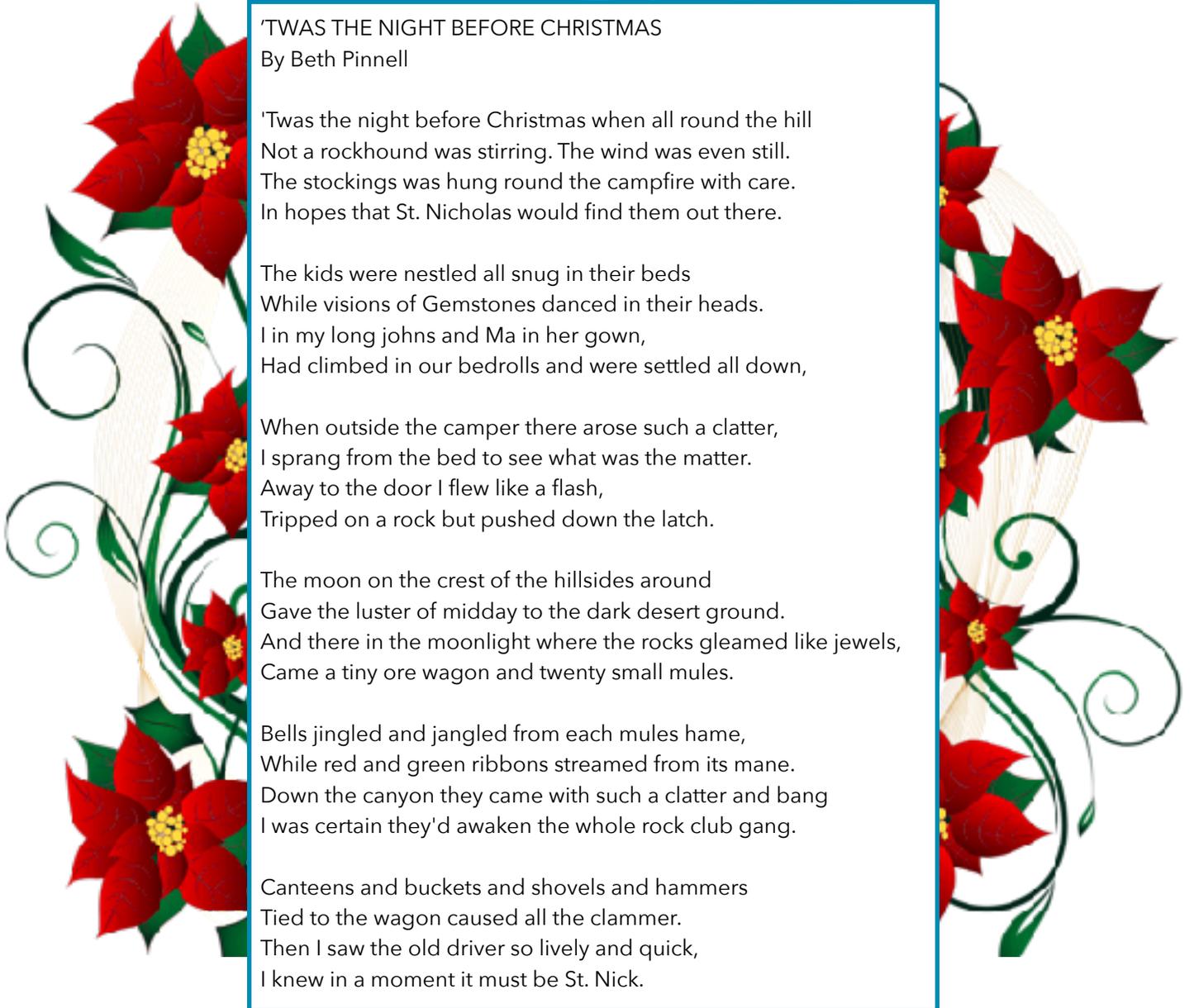
The kids were nestled all snug in their beds  
While visions of Gemstones danced in their heads.  
I in my long johns and Ma in her gown,  
Had climbed in our bedrolls and were settled all down,

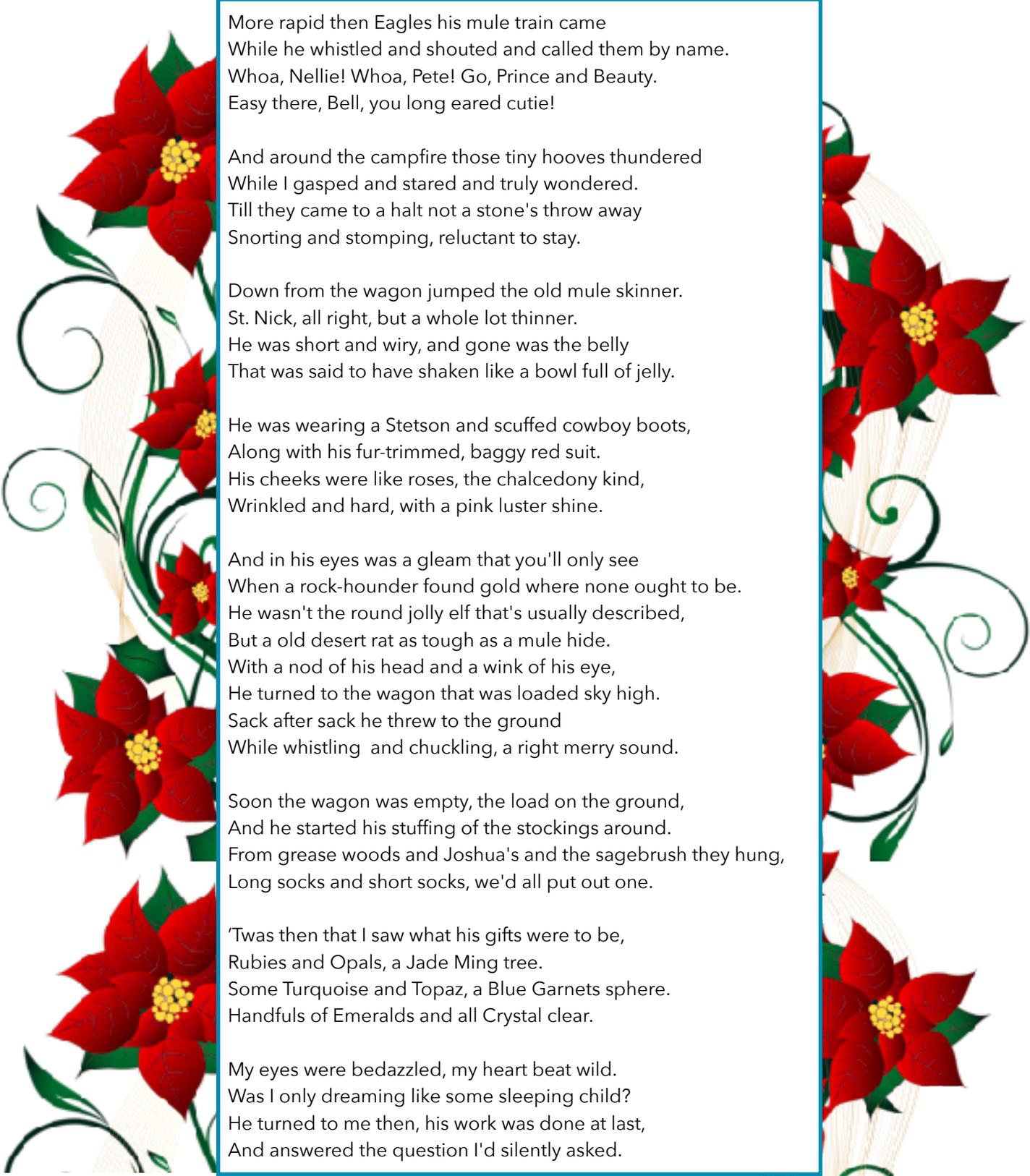
When outside the camper there arose such a clatter,  
I sprang from the bed to see what was the matter.  
Away to the door I flew like a flash,  
Tripped on a rock but pushed down the latch.

The moon on the crest of the hillsides around  
Gave the luster of midday to the dark desert ground.  
And there in the moonlight where the rocks gleamed like jewels,  
Came a tiny ore wagon and twenty small mules.

Bells jingled and jangled from each mules hame,  
While red and green ribbons streamed from its mane.  
Down the canyon they came with such a clatter and bang  
I was certain they'd awaken the whole rock club gang.

Canteens and buckets and shovels and hammers  
Tied to the wagon caused all the clammer.  
Then I saw the old driver so lively and quick,  
I knew in a moment it must be St. Nick.





More rapid than eagles his mule train came  
While he whistled and shouted and called them by name.  
Whoa, Nellie! Whoa, Pete! Go, Prince and Beauty.  
Easy there, Bell, you long eared cutie!

And around the campfire those tiny hooves thundered  
While I gasped and stared and truly wondered.  
Till they came to a halt not a stone's throw away  
Snorting and stomping, reluctant to stay.

Down from the wagon jumped the old mule skinner.  
St. Nick, all right, but a whole lot thinner.  
He was short and wiry, and gone was the belly  
That was said to have shaken like a bowl full of jelly.

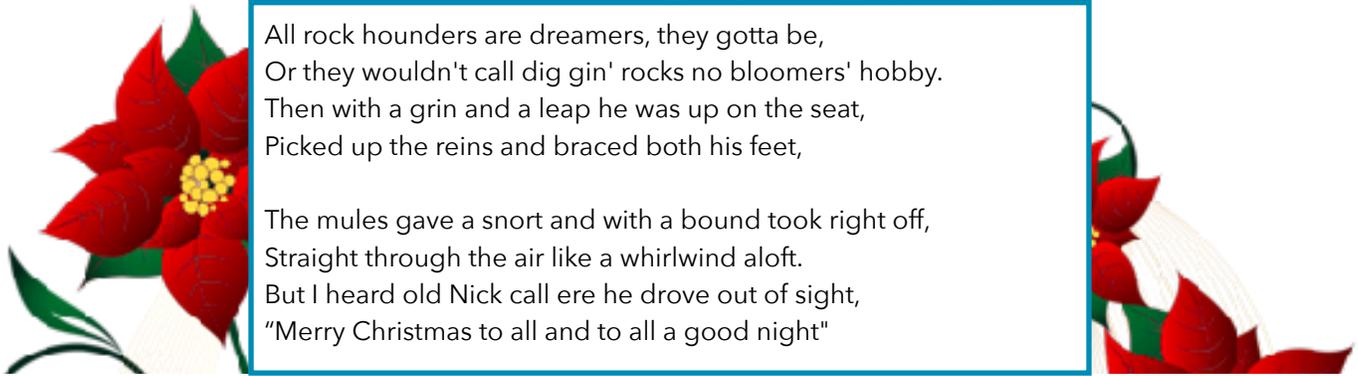
He was wearing a Stetson and scuffed cowboy boots,  
Along with his fur-trimmed, baggy red suit.  
His cheeks were like roses, the chalcedony kind,  
Wrinkled and hard, with a pink luster shine.

And in his eyes was a gleam that you'll only see  
When a rock-hounder found gold where none ought to be.  
He wasn't the round jolly elf that's usually described,  
But a old desert rat as tough as a mule hide.  
With a nod of his head and a wink of his eye,  
He turned to the wagon that was loaded sky high.  
Sack after sack he threw to the ground  
While whistling and chuckling, a right merry sound.

Soon the wagon was empty, the load on the ground,  
And he started his stuffing of the stockings around.  
From grease woods and Joshua's and the sagebrush they hung,  
Long socks and short socks, we'd all put out one.

'Twas then that I saw what his gifts were to be,  
Rubies and Opals, a Jade Ming tree.  
Some Turquoise and Topaz, a Blue Garnets sphere.  
Handfuls of Emeralds and all Crystal clear.

My eyes were bedazzled, my heart beat wild.  
Was I only dreaming like some sleeping child?  
He turned to me then, his work was done at last,  
And answered the question I'd silently asked.



All rock hounders are dreamers, they gotta be,  
Or they wouldn't call dig gin' rocks no bloomers' hobby.  
Then with a grin and a leap he was up on the seat,  
Picked up the reins and braced both his feet,

The mules gave a snort and with a bound took right off,  
Straight through the air like a whirlwind aloft.  
But I heard old Nick call ere he drove out of sight,  
"Merry Christmas to all and to all a good night"

## AFMS / CFMS News - December 2023

By Wayne Mills, SLR CFMS Rep.

The following summaries are intended to give the reader a hint of what is contained in the current newsletters. If any of these topics are of interest, PLEASE take the trouble to look up the newsletter on the AFMS or CFMS website.

**AFMS** [amfed.org](http://amfed.org)

**President** (Roger Buford) Roger is from the South Eastern Federation. Interesting article about the rocks, fossils and minerals of his native Louisiana. (Page 1, 5)

**Public Relations** (Jim Brace-Thompson) Hint for the Mermaid competition at the 2024 AFMS Show in Ventura. (See also page 9)

**Federation Webmasters and Contest Chairs** (Page 2)

**Integrated media and Public Relations** Using new tech to help your club advertise. (Page 3-4)

**Record Retention** (Jennifer Haley) What records should your club keep, and for how long?

**AFMS Scholarship Report** (Sandie Fender) Each Federation is requested to send names and contact information of Scholarship Contacts to Sandie. Pick your winners! Seeking one honoree from each Federation before May 2024 Show. Contact your Federation Scholarship Chair.

**Safety** (Ellery Borow) "Safety in Sole", wear the right shoes for the job! (Page 5)

**AFMS Uniform Rules** (Larry Halstrom) Rules for Displays were updated at the recent AFMS Show in Billings, Montana 8/2023. (Page 5)

**AFMS Rockhound of the Year** (Judy Allison) Clubs are urged to submit entries for outstanding members to their Federation Representative. In California, that is Chris Ward—chris\_ward678@yahoo.com. One honoree from each Federation will receive a plaque at the AFMS Show in Ventura. 6 nominees from CA, none from the Central Coast. (Page 6).

**Venturing to Ventura** (Cheryl Neary) Part three of our outgoing AFMS President's engrossing article containing more history of Ventura (this time The Channel Islands) for the upcoming AFMS/CFMS Show. Also includes A History of Mermaids, and a hint for the Mermaid contest at the Federation show in May. (Page 7-8)

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AFMS / CFMS News continued from page 9

**Quick Tips for Editors** (Linda Jaeger, AFMS Editor) Let's add some sparkle to our articles! (Page 9)

**Upcoming Shows and Conventions.** (Pages 10)

**Standard Features of the Bulletin Include:** AFMS Land use Policies, Code of Ethics, and purpose.

**Stardust Mineral** (Poem) Terrell William Proctor First Place Adult Poetry 2013 (Page 11)

**AFMS Committees** (2023-2024) (Page 12)

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**CFMS** [cfmsinc.org](http://cfmsinc.org)

**President's Box** (Kimberly Fiala) Her last message as president thanks her 2023 Board and wishes all a happy holiday season. (Page 1)

**Information On** Insurance contacts newsletter subscriptions, CFMS Website, and Donations.

**2023 All American Club Yearbook** (Diane Cook) Deadline for entry is January 20, 2024. Send applications to [johndianedaisy@yahoo.com](mailto:johndianedaisy@yahoo.com). (Page 3)

**Juniors** (Jim Brace-Thompson) Jim is seeking nominees for the 2024 AFMS Juniors Achievement Awards. Application requires the Juniors to fill out an application with their achievements. (Two age groups). Deadline for filing is March 1, 2024. Form is attached (Page 13). Jim encourages clubs to submit Junior's articles for the CFMS Bulletin Contest. (Page 4)

**CFMS Endowment Fund** (Sharon Rogow) How to donate. (Page 4)

**Follow the Mermaids** (Jim Brace Thompson) FOLLOW THE MERMAIDS to the CFMS Federation show in Ventura, CA on May 24-26. A person attending the Convention at the (2024) Federation Show in Ventura will win a "rocky reward" for identifying the specific location of mermaids pictured in the November 2023-May 2024 CFMS Bulletins. First hint is here. (Page 4)

**Rockhound Soapbox** (John Martin) The Draft Expansion of Chuckawalla Springs and Joshua Tree National Monuments is out, and may impact future recreation and rockhounding in these parts of the Mojave Desert. (Page 5)

**2023 CFMS Rules Committee** (Colleen MCGann) CFMS is looking for more Competitive / Non-Competitive exhibits for their 2024 (Ventura) Show. (Page 6)

**Bulletin Editor** (Pat La Rue) Tips for Bulletin Editors. (Page 6)

**AFMS Program Chair** (Delane Cox) How to get good club programs into a digital format. There have been a dearth of new programs lately. It is a shame for good programs to be given once and then lost to posterity! (Page 7)

**In Memoriam** for Dot Beachler (age 102!!) Former Co-Chair of the AFMS All-American Committee. (Page 7)

**AFMS Rockhound of the Year Award** (Judy Allison) there have been several entries from California, but none from the Central Coast. (Page 8)

**Safety Talks** (Bart Solomon) Our hobby has many ways one can get hurt, but we don't always keep these in mind when we are having fun. This article mentions ways to get this point across.

**How to Support the AFMS** (Jim Brace-Thompson) Jim lists several ways individuals and clubs can support their Federation. (Page 8)

**Upcoming Shows and Conventions** - 2023-2024 Committee Chairs, (Page -10-11)

**Junior Achievement Award Application** (Page 13)

<b>Orcutt Mineral Society Officers</b>		
President	Sally Griffith	(805) 928-6848
President Elect / Treasurer	Jeanne L. Watkins	(805) 481-1811
Immediate Past President	Wayne Mills	(805) 481-3495
Secretary	Tara Machin Joey Nichols	(805) 863-5992 (805) 714-7108
<b>Orcutt Mineral Society Board Members</b>		
	Jan Ferguson	(805) 474-9977
	Betty Campbell	(805) 929-5344
	Renea Sutcliffe	(805) 929-2783
	Joe Goetz	(408) 707-8005
	Wes Lingerfelt	(805) 929-3788
<b>CFMS Federation Director</b>		
	Renea Sutcliffe	(805) 929-2783
<b>OMS Membership</b>		
Membership	Wayne Mills	(805) 481-3495
Membership is \$24.00 for Individual, \$34.00 per couple, \$5.00 Each Additional Family Member, \$5 for Juniors under age of 18. One time initiation fee for new members is \$10.00.		
<b>OMS Online Contacts</b>		
OMS Webmaster	Wes Lingerfelt	(805) 929-3788
Website	<a href="http://omsinc.org">omsinc.org</a>	
Email	<a href="mailto:info@omsinc.org">info@omsinc.org</a>	
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**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.

