

Ore-Cutts



The Pres Box—January 2018

Silva Nasholm, OMS President

Welcome to 2018! My hope is that you all had a joyous Christmas and New Year celebration.

For those of you unable to attend our December luncheon meeting, I'd like to let you know my focus for the coming year. Recognizing that our hobby has drastically changed we also accept that our passion for rocks and minerals has not. I want all of us to consider and share ways we can improve on all the activities we offer, to increase participation in them, and breathe new life and energy into our club.

Not long ago a couple shared with me that our annual show was on their absolute "must list". I want an equal share of that passion from our membership in the months ahead. What will it take to get you to our monthly breakfasts, highway cleanups, field trips, our Rainbow of Gems, even our meetings? Each of you has valuable talents that would be an asset to these activities. I encourage you to share them in order make our activities more rewarding to attend.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Wayne Mills for his hard work in keeping our club afloat in 2017. You may not have noticed, but Wayne chaired NINE of our committees last year as well as chairing FIVE of our Rainbow of Gems committees. An amazing feat to be sure. We all owe him our gratitude.

Please contact me or any of your Officers with all of your ideas and feel free to attend our Board meetings as well as our General meetings.

I am looking forward to hearing from you in the months ahead.

Silvia

Birthday's & Anniversaries

Greetings & Congratulations go out to our members who are having Birthdays and Anniversaries in January:

*If you don't see your name listed when you should, then the information is not in **The Red Book**. Please email or write your important dates down and give them to Wayne Mills so they will be included in the next edition that will be distributed in April 2018.*

BIRTHDAYS

Jeannie Beattie	1/2	☺
Paul Berthelot	1/10	☺
Pat Nurenborg	1/11	☺
Virginia Rogers	1/21	≡
Elisabeth Nybo	1/27	≡
Sir Paul Howard	1/28	≡
Elaine Von Achen	1/30	≡

ANNIVERSARIES

Don & Sylvia Nasholm	1/10
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Visiting the Ore-Cutt Archives History of the OMS Logo

By Elisabeth Nybo

Since I have been coming to OMS meetings and reading the monthly bulletin I have looked at the logo, thought it was a nice design, but did not know what it represented. In the Ore-Cutts February 2004 issue, Dick and Bess Shields, editors, wrote that the OMS Logo represents a rock saw cutting a piece of stone. The logo was selected when the first ORE-CUTTS bulletin was published in 1966 with Helen Azevedo as the first editor.

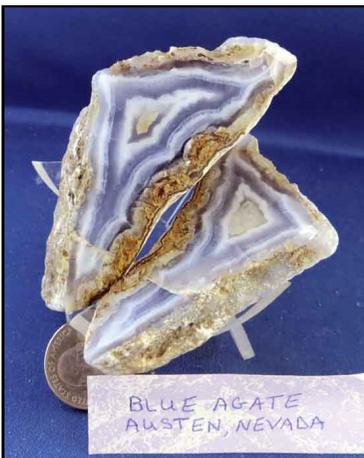
Agates! - January's Presentation

By Elisabeth Nybo, Ore-Cutts Editor

January's General Meeting Presentation is Agates!. Display's are also agates. This is a great chance to display your favorite agates and to see other members agates also at the January 9th meeting. If you have a few minutes write out the information and story about your display specimen (s). Enquiring minds want to know and learn. You sharing your treasures on the display table are a wonderful way to enrich others knowledge.

Agates have a special place in my heart. It's because of agates that I came back for a second OMS meeting. The Rainbow of Gem's show Treasure Chest is the reason I came to my first OMS meeting. Wayne Mills called with the exciting news that I had won something in the 2016 Rainbow of Gems show's Treasure Box drawing and he would bring it the next OMS meeting for me to pick it up there, but he did not even give the littlest hint as to what I had won; so I came to the September 2016 meeting to pick-up my prize that turned out to be a beautiful Tree of Life necklace.

The meeting's program was "Adventures in the Outback: Agates found in the Great Sandy Desert in West Australia could be the oldest agates in the world," presented by Sir Paul Howard, Knight of the Royal Order, an honorary life member of the Orcutt Mineral Society since 1990, and a 2017 Golden Bear Award recipient. Sir Paul shared adventures from his 2006 hunt for the world's oldest agates in Australia's Pilbara region on the edge of The Great Sandy Desert. The September 2016 edition of Ore-Cutts has a wonderful write-up of the program and beautiful agate pictures. http://www.omsinc.org/archives/Ore-cutts_Sep16.pdf



Blue Agate Nodule from Austin NV in Sandra Berhelot's collection for sale at sphereheaven.com

When I hear agates, I think first of Sir Paul and his wife in the barren hot Western Australian desert. For days he walked miles,

(Continued on page 9)

Fossicking Gone Wrong

<https://owkication.com/stem/Lapidary-Jokes-For-The-Discerning-Rockhound>

Two men go on a fossicking trip. They buy all the equipment: the Miners Right, the gold detectors, the Blundstone boots, the maps, the 4WD, and even a two-man tent. They spend a fortune.

The first day they go fossicking, but they don't find anything. The same thing happens on the second day, and on the third day. It goes on like this until finally, on the last day of their vacation, one of the men finds a geode.

As they're driving home they're really depressed. One guy turns to the other and says, "Do you realize that this one lousy geode we found cost us fifteen hundred dollars?"

The other guy says, "Wow! It's a good thing we didn't find any more!"

Camp ZZYZX

Applications are being accepted till March 1st for Camp ZZYZX. Camp dates for 2018 are March 25th—31st. More information and applications at:

http://www.cfmsinc.org/forms10/zyzx/2018_ZzyzxApplication.pdf



Fantasy Agates from Uruguray in Sandra Berhelot's collection for sale at sphereheaven.com

Sandy Berhelot Collection

<http://www.sphereheaven.com/SandyTreasure.htm>

Sandra Berhelot's collection of rocks, crystals and pendants are for sale on Wes Lingerfelt's website It's a true treasure trove that was collected over decades and is a great opportunity to add to your own collection or buy a gift and surprise someone with a new beautiful specimen for their collection. There are numerous pendants that are sure to be attention getters when worn and receive many compliments. There are many treasures at very reasonable prices and more are being added regularly.

California's Lost Treasure Mines

<http://www.thegeozone.com/treasure/california/index.jsp>

According to the GeoZone's website in California there are twenty well-documented lost treasure mines. The list includes gold, silver, emerald and turquoise mines. The website has the mines story of it's riches and the historical mining information for the area.



Video Vault



On January 14th and 16th The Treasure of the Sierra Madre is showing at the Downtown Centre7 theater in San Luis Obispo. The wide reclining seats with footrest makes this one of our favorite movie theaters and well worth the drive. This is not one of my all-time favorite movies, but it was filmed on location in Mexico and

it got me wondering how realistic was the mining in the movie. According to www.teachwithmovies.org the gold panning in the movie was the standard. There was a lot on the web on the movie's portrayal of the decay of morality and Bogart robbed of an Oscar nomination. I wanted to know more so I widened my googling to include modern mining in that area of Mexico and found an interesting almost 40-minute video of people entering old mines to see if there was more to be found. I won't ruin the video, but it is an interesting chance to see inside old abandoned Mexico gold mines and ancient ruins.

<https://goo.gl/yb8K32>

February 17, 2018 CFMS Field Trip South Collecting Trip Lavic Slide near Barstow, CA From the CFMS January newsletter

This trip is open to all Rockhounds who agree to abide by the AFMS and CFMS Code of Ethics, the directions of the field trip leader and practice safe rock hounding.

When: Saturday, February 17, 2018

Where: Lavic Siding near Barstow, CA

Material: Collecting Agates and Jaspers

Vehicles: No low clearance vehicles.

**For more information contact Field Trip Leaders:
CFMS Field Trip South Co-chairs:**

Adam Dean (909) 489-4899 theagarehunter@verizon.net
Roy Isaac (818) 633-3350 1bionidj@gmail.com

More information can be found at:

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

https://wikivisually.com/wiki/Lavic_Lake_volcanic_field



Photo of extinct volcanic field from North Orange County Gem & Mineral Society March 2017 Lavic Siding Field Trip
<http://www.nocgms.com/fieldtrip/y2017/field-trip-lavic-siding/lavic-siding.html>



Photos from DzrtGrls trip to Lavic Siding
http://dzrtgrls.com/lavic_jasper/LavicJasper/04.html

January's Birthstone—Garnets

January's birthstone is the Garnet; it is also a gift for the 2nd, 6th, 15th, or 19th wedding anniversary. The Latin work for "garnet" is "Garanatus," meaning "seedlike", a reference to pomegranate seeds that small bright red garnets can resemble. Garnet is the group name for the silicate minerals almandine, pyrope, spessartine, grossular, andradite, mozambique and uvarovite. All these minerals share similar cubic crystal structure and chemical composition. Garnet's are found throughout the world and in all colors, but blue.



Garnet var. Spessartine, Putian City, Putian Prefecture, Fujian Province, China Specimen from the Willems Miner Collection by [jjharrison89@facebook.com](https://www.facebook.com/jjharrison89)

For centuries garnet's have been used throughout the world. Necklaces with garnet beads have been found in graves dating back to 3000 B.C. According to legend, a garnet was used to illuminate the interior of Noah's ark. In medieval times, garnet's were thought to cure depression, protect against bad dreams, relieve liver diseases and hemorrhages. In the United States garnet's have been used as an industrial mineral for waterjet cutting, filtration, abrasive blasting and powder.

Most garnets found on the ground have formed within the Earth's crust, but some garnet's come up from the mantle during deep-source volcanic eruptions. These eruption's are the source of most diamonds found at or near the Earth's surface, but many more garnet's than diamonds come up during these eruptions. These garnet's are generally larger in size and different from the garnet's formed within the Earth's crust. These garnet's from the mantle serve as "indicator minerals" for geologist exploring for diamond deposits.



Orange spessartite garnet crystal from Brazilian pegmatites sold for \$35,000.

There are many webpages devoted to garnets but three I found with interesting information that I used are <http://geology.com/minerals/garnet.shtml> <https://www.icmj.com/magazine/article/all-about-garnets-2324/> <https://www.jewelsforme.com/garnet-meaning>



In 1885, the Subway Garnet was found in New York City during sewer excavation. The garnet weighs almost 10 pounds and is isometrical, meaning it's facets are natural.

<http://www.tmrives.com/writing/07.07.2012.html>



Specimen of well crystallized almandite garnet on schist from Alaska.

Kid's Corner

Moh's Scale of Hardness

Kidsloverocks.com

<https://kidsloverocks.com/friedrich-mohs>

Every mineral collector should know about the Mohs' Scale of Hardness and the mineralogist who developed it. Friedrich Mohs was born on January 29, 1773 in the German town of Gernrode. His parents were merchants. He was well-educated. His early studies were in physics, chemistry and mathematics. Later on he took advanced studies at the mining academy in Freiberg, Germany. One of



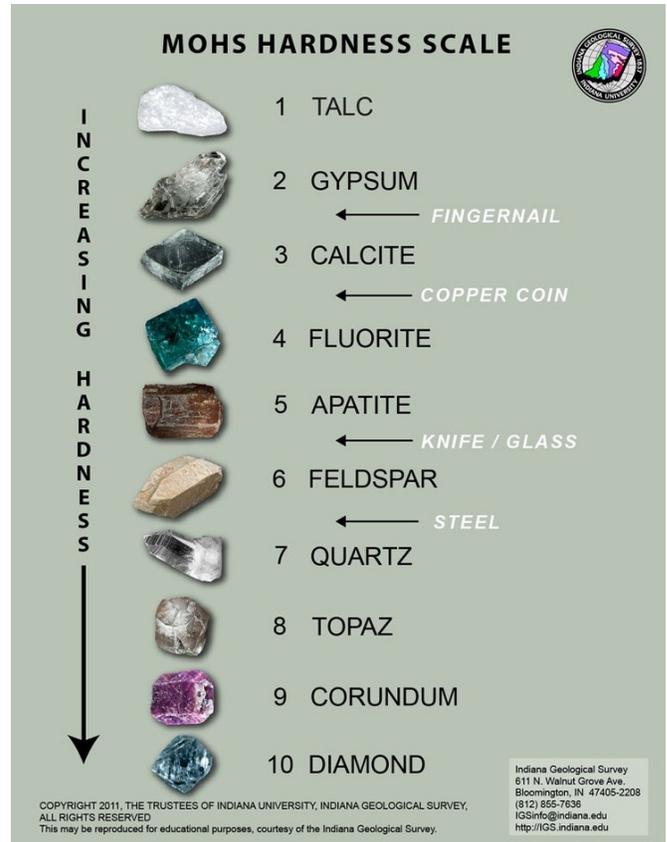
his professors at the academy was Abraham Werner who is another important figure in mineralogy. Dr. Werner inspired Friedrich Mohs' interest in minerals.

In 1801 Mr. Mohs moved to the country of Austria. One of his jobs there was as the curator of a private mineral collection that was owned by a banker named J.F. van der Null. (*a "curator" is a person who takes care of a collection of some kind.*) Mr. van der Null wanted his collection to be organized into categories. He also wanted Mohs to identify the many unknown minerals in his collection.

Believe it or not, in the early 1800's no one had created a system for identifying minerals. So, Mr. Mohs started to study the different physical properties of minerals as a way to identify them. He noticed that some minerals are very soft, others are extremely hard. He also observed that harder minerals could scratch softer ones. With this in mind, Friedrich Mohs decided to develop a scratch test where he could determine the hardness of a mineral. To make his scratch test more accurate and helpful, he carefully observed many minerals and created a list of 10 minerals that he arranged from softest to hardest.

The scale is a list of minerals arranged from softest (No. 1) to hardest (No. 10) which is used to determine the hardness of all other minerals.

The mineralogist who created this scale was named Friedrich Mohs. To this very day we know this list as "*Mohs' Scale of Hardness.*"



Elemental Earth By Laura Leiser

https://www.poetrysoup.com/poem/elemental_earth_764959

Earth's rich soil
humble dirt
complex dirt
elemental earth
layer upon layer
where it hides
mineral treasures
more than we could
ever measure.

Quartz and crystals
gold and gems
salt and silver
precious oil
stolen and lifted
by hands of men.

Rumbling from the
bowels of earth
hot magma rises
erupts and flows
spews and plummets
to lands below.

Mother earth
source of life
for plants and trees
roots run deep
thirstily searching
to seek and find
precious fountains
hidden waters
sublime.

There are hidden
secrets within
earth's crust
where we have come
from within it's dust
where God has formed
our earthly frame
where to dust
we'll return again.

2017 Wrap-Up from Wayne Mills Presented at the 2017 Annual Meeting

To begin with I would like to take a moment to remember our two members that we lost this year. Sandy Berthelot was one of the most avid Rockhounds I know of. You can see much of her collection on Wes Lingerfelt's website <http://www.sphereheaven.com>. Sandy and her husband Paul were fixtures at the Hospitality booth at our show, and frequent attendees at our annual and semi-annual meetings, and she was one of the few people who has sent me Christmas Cards.



Wayne Mills
OMS 2017 President



Sandra Berthelot
1951—2017



Harold "Lucky" Virgin
1932—2017

Harold "Lucky" Virgin was a quiet, very likable person who excelled at making spheres. He joined our club in 2000, and was helpful whenever he could be. He introduced his friend Renea Suttcliffe to us in 2012, and she has carried on his tradition of helpfulness. One of my treasures at home on my "wall of fame" is a Golden Bear Certificate presented to me by Sharon Duncan in 2005, and signed by Lucky Virgin. It is, as far as I know, the only one he ever signed. Please help me observe a moment of silence in Sandys' and Lucky's honor.

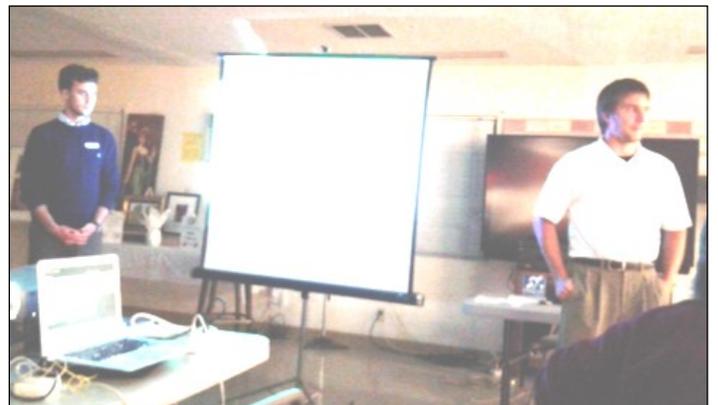
Regarding our past year, I have to say "we made it!". We had a great show—one of our most successful ever according to our Treasurer. We had some very informative programs, some great displays, wonderful refreshments, and even a couple of under-attended field-trips.



Highway Clean-Up Crew at breakfast showing off money found on side of road while cleaning-up

The highway clean-up crew got the first couple miles of 166 East of Highway 101 clean every other month, and Wes Lingerfelt donated some great prizes for that occasion, even though his family won 2 or three of those prizes. I would like all of the OMS Highway Heroes to stand and be recognized.

We gave some generous scholarships to Santa Barbara City College, and in turn got a nice scientific program on the origin of clasts in the Sespe Formation. It is too bad there weren't any agates in there.



Parke Clarke (left) & Carl Swindle (right) from SBCC.

ORCUTT MINERAL SOCIETY
50th Annual Rainbow of Gems Show & Sale
"OMS ROCKS THE CENTRAL COAST"

Friday-Sunday August 4-6, 2017 (10-5 Fri.-Sat., 10-4 Sun.)
Nipomo High School, 525 N. Thompson Ave, Nipomo, CA

60 Inside and Outside dealers, displays and lapidary arts demonstrations.
Barbecue Saturday (5:30 pm). Treasure Chest Drawing Sunday (3 pm).
Kid's activities, Treasure Chest, Gold Prospectors and great food!

ADMISSION AND PARKING ARE FREE
(District Policy forbids pets, alcohol and tobacco)

Information at: omsinc.org
"Come for the weather, stay for the rocks!"

We have received thanks for the last several years for our donations to Santa Barbara Social Services, and that will continue (at least the donations will).

I have given a couple of school talks this year, and perhaps the most fun talk was recently when I talked to two Oceano Elementary Second Grade classes. The kids were quite attentive and asked some very appropriate questions. And for second graders, gave some great answers. The most prolific answers came from a tall, handsome dark-haired boy named Fabian. When I said "when I was a kid, all the girls loved Fabian..." A lot of the girls tee-heed, and Fabian tried to shrink under his desk. Sorry, I just say stuff. If I have made anyone cringe this year, sorry, that's just me, a little impulsive. No harm intended.

In closing, I want to thank all of you who have helped make this another good year for OMS, whether by bringing in desserts, or displays, helping to pick-up trash, move tables, participate in the board activities, attend the field trips, make signs, work at our show or send in articles to our bulletin. (Not too many of those though).

I am pleased to announce that you will have a new bulletin Editor next year and I encourage you to give her all the support you can including a few articles. Thank you Elisabeth Nybo!

That's about it for my report. To paraphrase Mr. Spock of the Enterprise, "may the quartz be with you!"

Golden Bear Awards

I am pleased to present the Golden Bear Awards for 2018. According to our Bylaws, I made my choice as President, and joined the rest of the Current holders of the Golden Bear Award in selecting two other candidates. These two candidates have both served on the board for at least two years, and have served the society in several other capacities including our show hospitality booth as well. They have helped keep me on the straight and narrow this year, and have served OMS above and beyond the call of duty. It is my pleasure to welcome Sally Griffith and Sharon Duncan to the OMS Golden Bear Family. I have to note that one of the treasures that I have at home is my Golden Bear certificate signed by Lucky Virgin and presented to me by Sharon Duncan, who was President-Elect in 2005.



Wayne Mills presenting Sally Griffith with her 2017 Golden Bear Award certificate

Sally joined OMS in 2010. Since then she has served OMS as Hospitality Chair for both our show and our meetings, has served on the board for the last two years, and I know she has been a ton of help to Wes who is helping to disburse Sandy Berthelot's Estate. Please give it up for Sally.

Sharon has been a member of OMS since 2002. She has served as President-Elect twice, helping to organize some wonderful programs. She has done hospitality at our show for several years, and she has done a wonderful job as Dealer Chair at our show for the last two years, and has agreed to continue that task in 2018. Please help me congratulate Sharon.



Sharon Duncan
2017 Golden Bear Award
Recipient

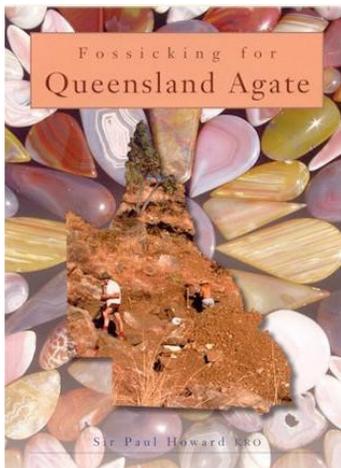
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Wayne Mills and Sir Paul Howard at August General Meeting

My Golden Bear choice as your President is Sir Paul Howard who has been an honorary member of our society since 1990. He has made several trips from Australia to America over the years, and has brought us some amazing programs on Inclusions in Agate, and in "Fossicking" for agates in Queensland's Agate Creek, as well as finding perhaps the world's oldest agates in the Pillbara in Western Australia. Sir Paul is the author (and principal authority on) Fossicking for Queensland Agates, and is the main teacher at the Gold Coast School of Wire craft (in Eastern Australia) and has taught that skill to several of our members. He has demonstrated and displayed at several of our shows, and has good-naturedly helped us with the menial tasks of moving tables and setting up our show even at his advanced age. Well, he's older than some people I could mention, and he wears the mantle of age so well.



Member of the Year

I instituted this award in 2008 to further recognize our members who have made outstanding contributions in a single year. Of course most of these folks have served the society well for many years (and have often been taken for granted while doing so), but I feel that the President has an opportunity to partially rectify this by calling them out by name. I am pleased to call this lady's name out even though she once threatened to "run me out of town on a rail" if I ever polished one of the rocks" that she donated to the Door Prize activity (when I was running it). Our MOY has been a member since 1983, has been president of the club (2010), has run the kitchen and pie booth at our show several times, has managed the displays at our show several years, has made our bulletin much more presentable by editing it this past year, and this year, she saved our club from dissolution by stepping forward to take the reins again. With her take charge and "get 'er done" attitude, we look forward to another great year. I am very happy to present OMS Member of the Year Award to Sylvia Nasholm.



Wayne Mills presenting Sylvia Nasholm with 2017 OMS Member of the Year

December Minutes

December 2017 Meetings for the Board of Directors meeting and the Annual Meeting were unavailable for the January Ore-Cutts, but will be in the February issue.

OMS Calendar

January 2018

Tuesday, January 2 7:00 to 8:00 p.m.	OMS Board Meeting, Nipomo Chamber of Commerce meeting room. 239 W Tefft St, Nipomo, CA All members are welcome at this meeting
Tuesday, January 9 7:00 pm to 9:00 pm	General Meeting at Luis Oasis Senior Center 420 Soares Av, Santa Maria, CA Program —Agates! Display —Agates Refreshments —Donuts, Club provides
Saturday, January 13 8:00 a.m.	Highway Clean-up Southeast Corner Hwy 101/166 East
Saturday, January 27 8:30 a.m.	OMS Monthly Breakfast at Denny's in Santa Maria 1019 E Main St, Santa Maria, CA

February 2018

Tuesday, February 6 7:00 to 8:00 p.m.	OMS Board Meeting, Nipomo Chamber of Commerce meeting room. 239 W Tefft St, Nipomo, CA All members are welcome at this meeting
Tuesday, February 13 7:00 pm to 9:00 pm	General Meeting: Luis Oasis Senior Center 420 Soares Av, Santa Maria, CA Program: Show & Tell Display: Anything Rock or Mineral Related Refreshments: Pies
Saturday, January 13 8:00 a.m.	Highway Clean-up: Southeast Corner Hwy 101/166 East
Saturday, January 27 8:30 a.m.	OMS Monthly Breakfast: Country Kitchen, Arroyo Grande 775 El Camino Real, Arroyo Grande, CA

2018 OMS Officers

President	Sylvia Nasholm	(805) 481-0923
President-Elect	Vacant	
Secretary	Dyanna Cridelich	(805) 937-4347
Treasurer	Jeanne Watkins Brown	(805) 481-1811
Imm. Past Pres.	Wayne Mills	(805) 481-3495

2018 OMS Board Members

Dick Bazzell	(805) 736-5033
Bill Brown	(805) 481-1811
Jan Ferguson	(805) 474-9977
Sally Griffith	(805) 928-6848
Debbie Hood	(805) 481-6860

CFMS Federation Director

Wayne W. Mills	(805) 481-3495
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OMS Membership: \$24 for Individual, \$34 per couple, \$5 Each Additional Family Member, \$5 for Juniors under age of 18. One-time \$10 initiation fee for new members.

OMS Membership Chairperson: Dyanna Cridelich (805) 937-4347

OMS Webmaster: Bill Brown (805) 481-1811

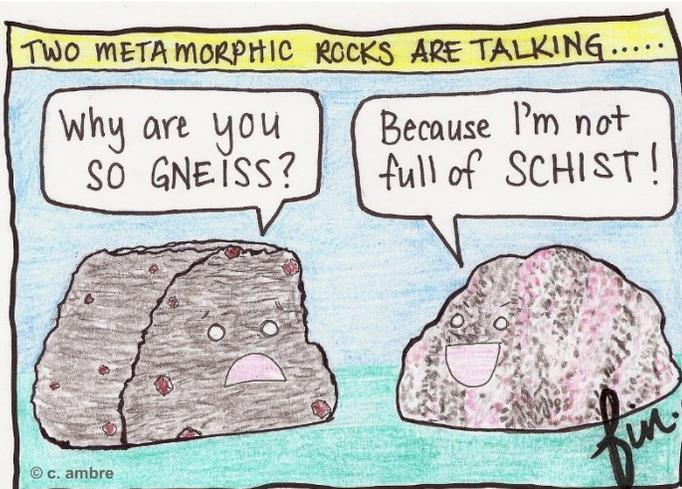
Check out our OMS web site at: <http://www.omsinc.org> or send e-mail to: info@omsinc.org

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write4rocks@gmail.com

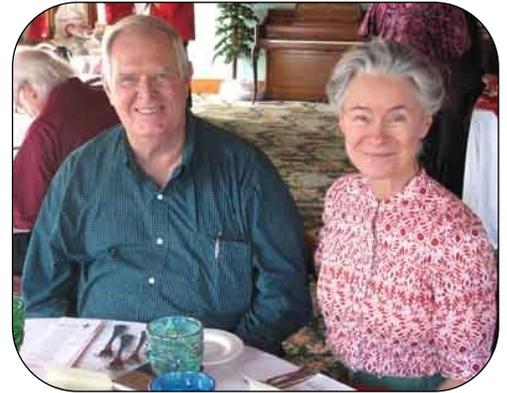
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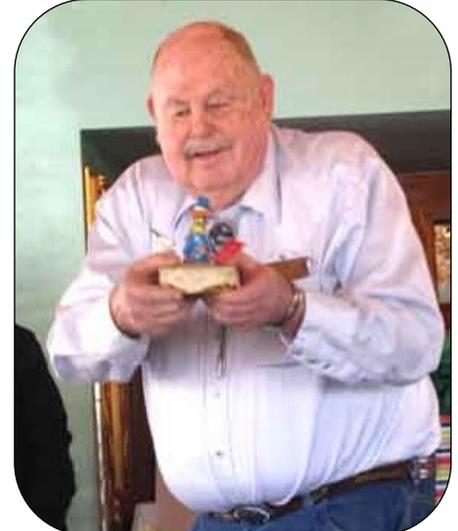
picked up rocks one by one inspecting them for the possibilities that there might be the world's old agates in them. Sir Paul's excitement about agates was contagious. I decided after the September OMS meeting to come back for the October meeting. Seventeen months later and I am looking forward to the program, Agates!, and the opportunity to see agates displayed by club members from their collections.



Pictures from the Annual Meeting



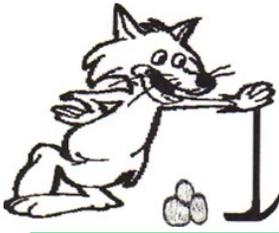
Wayne Mills, 2017 President, gratefully acknowledged the support and work of the outgoing Officers and Board of Directors



December 9, 2017 at the Madonna Inn



Wayne Mills, 2017 President, and the newly installed 2018 OMS Officers and Board of Directors.



Ore-Cutts

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.

Orcutt Mineral Society, Inc.

P.O. Box 106

Santa Maria, CA 93456-0106



ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED