



Ore-Cutts

Volume XLIX Number 7

July 2015

The Pres Box—July 2015

Dyana Cridelich, OMS President 2015



There is nothing more American than Apple Pie, or so the saying goes. But on Independence Day, fireworks surpass dessert as the ultimate in Americana. John Adams, America's second President first lit the firework's spark when he said that the 4th of July

“ought to be celebrated by pomp and parades and illuminations from one end of this continent to the other”. Some 239 years later, Americans are still fulfilling Adam's vision for an illuminated Independence Day. So it's time for the Red, White and Blue, picnics, parades, marching bands and fireworks. On July 4, pour yourself a cold one, watch the fireworks and celebrate being American and all that means to you.

Pioneer Park on June 6th was the site of our semi-annual meeting and BBQ. The day was beautiful, clear and warm and we all had a wonderful time. For those who missed it, you missed some excellent food. The chefs did themselves proud again this year. Everyone raved about the meats and the sausage. All the potluck dishes were superb. I especially enjoyed all the different salads, the vegetarian beans, strawberries and pistachio nuts. What did you expect? I'm a vegetarian! ☺ The silent auction had a lot of really good items and the bidding was spirited. Among the offerings were a couple nice spheres, a pair of pretty Jade pieces, a bag of Chiastolite crystals, Brazilian agates, Rhodonite, Petrified Wood, Apache Tears, Flame Agate, Chrysacolla, several

nice plants and many more. It was neat seeing our new members and pebble pups participating so heartily in the bidding.

Speaking of pebble pups, we were happy to see Michael Kerlick at the BBQ. We hadn't seen him in years and he came wearing his original “Pebble Pup” nametag. He joked about his grandparents, Karl and Molly, and how they introduced him to rock hounding. His first lesson was about the nature of Leaverite: “Leave 'er right there”. Sound familiar to anyone?

Where is this year going? Our next big event is our upcoming Rainbow of Gems show on August 7 – 9 at Nipomo High School. Please don't miss our general meeting on July 14. We would like to see as many of our members attend as possible. July 14 will be the last chance we have as a group, to review what we are doing for the show and who will be doing what. We will be finalizing plans and anticipating problems. It is the perfect opportunity to get everything straightened out in advance. I would like to thank everyone who has agreed to chair one of the show activities. So far, I have Sharon Duncan and Dee Dee Magri with Hospitality, Wayne Mills with Treasure Chest and Alexis Van Natta with the Junior Activities. Elaine Von Achen is taking care of the showcases and demonstrators and the Thursday night dinner. Jeanne Lingerfelt and Sylvia Nasholm will be supplying the fabulous pies for our bake sale. Last, but definitely far from least, I want to thank Wes Lingerfelt for getting all the dealers to come, as well as the permits, the insurance, and everything else we need. All of these people will need help with their activities. They will all have sign-up sheets and I encourage you to sign up for as many spots as you can when they are sent around. Please be willing to come early and stay late and give Wes a

hand with set-up, cleanup and anything else that needs to be addressed. Remember this is not just a 3-day show. It starts on Wednesday with outside set-up, Thursday with interior setup and table skirting and continues on to Monday with cleanup. So, please look over all the jobs and activities and let us know your choices at the July general meeting.

You can also participate by putting in a display. If you don't have a case, Elaine Von Achen has a number of club cases for loan. Everyone has wonderful rocks to show, so reserve your case today.

Please bring your donations for the Treasure Chest to the July 14 meeting. This will give us a chance to start listing them. The more prizes we have, the more tickets we will sell. So please be generous and make someone's day. It is always exciting to win a raffle prize.

Wes Lingerfelt will be presenting the program for July. It will be informative and fun and I'm positive you'll like it. The topic is a surprise; so make sure you come to the meeting to find out.

This month's display is spheres or anything else. Bring your treasures to share or curiosities for us to ponder!

July is CAKE month! Thanks in advance to Sylvia Nasholm, Margaret Henson, Elaine Von Achen and Andrew Thomas Rickey for supplying the tasty treats. **Just a few more announcements:**

Our bi-monthly Highway Cleanup will take place on July 11th. I know we are all super busy at this time of year, but please take an hour or so and help us clean up that highway. Same time, 8am, same place, Corner of Hwy 101 and Hwy 166. Afterwards, please join us for fellowship and goodies at the Country Kitchen in Santa Maria.

This month's breakfast will also be at the Country Kitchen on July 25 at 8:30 am. This is a good place for down home cooking, friendly staff and comfortable surroundings. Come and have some tasty food and swap some good stories.

My last request before closing is to grab a bunch of flyers and put them out everywhere. Talk the show up to all your friends and neighbors. Get as many people to come to the show as possible. Having more people come to the show is a win-win situation for everyone involved.

Thanks everyone,

Have a wonderful 4th of July.

Dyana Cridelich, OMS President 2015



OMS SEMI-ANNUAL MEETING AT PIONEER PARK—GOOD FUN, GOOD FOOD, GOOD ROCKS!

The Semi-Annual meeting held in Pioneer Park on Saturday, June 6 was a great success, thanks to the participation of all, and the special efforts of Wes and Jeannie Lingerfelt, and Don and Sylvia Nasholm among others. The steak was flavorful and the side-dishes varied and delicious! The bidding at the silent auction was spirited and civil (the way we like it), and, thanks to the generous donations of many folks, raised \$196 for our Treasury. Two of the more desired items from the silent auction were Lucky Virgin's golden-colored travertine sphere, and the polished slab of Maury Mountain (Oregon) petrified wood.

There were lots of good rock-related conversation, and a LOT of plate scraping once the food was served. Once again, thanks again to all participants!



Yeah, the rock auction included plants because you need plants in a rock garden...for contrast.



If you have good or bad news that you would be willing to share with our members, please notify Jeannie Lingerfelt and Wayne Mills.

SHOW TREASURE CHEST

Wayne Mills, Treasure Chest Chairperson

Our annual show is drawing nigh. As Treasure Chest chairperson, I am asking for our **members to bring in donations for our Treasure Chest** that is typically one of the big earners money earners at the show. Any rock-related items are appreciated—something that you might want to receive as a gift perhaps.

I am also looking for folks who are willing to share the duties of selling tickets and taking in prizes while the show is going on. And to help setting up and giving away the prizes on Sunday afternoon. It is kind of fun, but I don't want to have all that fun by myself...

OMS TO DISPLAY AT NIPOMO LIBRARY

Elaine Von Achen is seeking specimens to put in the OMS Case at the Nipomo Library for the Month of July. This effort is to encourage folks to visit our show, so get your best specimens to Elaine sometime this month! Call her at 929-1488 to arrange getting your specimens to her.

BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES



Birthday greetings go out to those folks who are having Birthdays and Anniversaries in

JULY

Birthdays: Andrew Richey 7/8
Mike Henson 7/17

Anniversaries: Joe & Lisa Azevedo 7/8

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 Wes Lingerfelt so they will be included in the next edition (2016).*

SUNSHINE

Jeannie Lingerfelt

No one is under the weather to my knowledge! Isn't that great?

OUR 3-MONTH "GET AWAY" VACATION

Ralph and Helen Smith



(This story was originally published in the September 1989 Ore Cutts. The Smiths (Jan Ferguson's parents) have

since passed on, but, have inspired at least one current OMS member to dare a great adventure like theirs. Hopefully, this will inspire others as well. (Thanks to Jan Ferguson for the photograph. Ed.)

We left Arroyo Grande on Friday the 7th of April, and arrived that afternoon at our daughter's home in Covina for a stay with them until the following Tuesday when we left for a tour of the USA, not in our Chevrolet, but in our HMC towing our little ol' Jeep. Our first stop was at Deming, New Mexico to visit our friends Earl and Emily Hopwood of the Deming Rock Club. (Earl and Emily were at our show last November and pitched in and helped-out where help was needed.) Earl took us to some of the club's claims for a bit of Rock Hunting. I found and extracted from the earth with the help of Earl a really nice hunk of solid golden and brown moss weighing approximately 150 pounds. This was on one of the eight rock mining claims that the Deming club have acquired over the last 5 years.

After an enjoyable visit, we hit the road to continue our wanderings which took us down to Texas and beyond. We stopped at Mason, Texas to look for blue topaz, but the rains had muddied-up the area, so no topaz. Then on to a wild animal park near Dallas to drive amongst these animals in our Jeep. It was quite an experience to be surrounded by these animals that we had only seen on TV or in the movies. We witnessed an amusing situation with a vehicle that was following. It was a van with a sun roof, and a woman stood up through the roof opening to feed a giraffe. As soon as she sat down in her seat, the giraffe stuck his head down through the opening for more goodies.

On up the toad to Mount Ida to search for more gems. We had just gotten our RV leveled up in the RV Park in Mount Ida when the lightning and thunder started blasting us. Then it started to rain hard, and the water poured off the roof like we were under Niagara Falls. Everything bad has some good in it as we found out the next morning when we went out to the Robbins Mine. All those crystals were freshly washed and glistening in the sunlight and we ended up with about 40 pounds of singles plus some clusters.

From Mound Ida, we went down to Flora, Mississippi to visit some friends who own the

only Petrified Forest west of the Mississippi River. Also to look-up some of our travel mates from our trip to Brazil last September. We also dined on a "good" Southern Fried Catfish and Hush puppies meal...mmmm good! Also made a side-trip down to New Orleans. Weather was hot and muggy (as usual) and parking was a disaster, so we terminated that trip early.

Then traveling on through Alabama and Georgia to Perry, Florida where we did some dickering for some agatized coral. On down the west coast of Florida through Tampa and along the edge of the Everglades to the edge of Miami where we ended-up on a Toll Parkway. Beware of a Freeway that says Parkway, they charge you when you get on it, and again when you want to get off of it. Anyway, we finally got on Highway 1 headed down the Keys to Key West. We parked the mobile home at an RV Park at Big Pine about 30 miles above Key West, and drove on down in the Jeep. It had been 11 years since we were down there, and it sure isn't isolated any more, and most of those 30 miles is built on.

On our return tip heading north we drove up the middle part of the state and became familiar with the state "love" bug. After traveling for an hour, and being splattered with them, I had to stop and clean the windshield as I was practically driving blind. We delayed our trip into Orlando by stopping at Lake Wales to see more of our Brazilian trip friends to discuss the good times that we had together. We toured Disney World Epcot Center and Kennedy Space Center and found both of them to be very educational. We also went to a Wholesale Gem Show and met some more of our friends who live in the Orlando area.

Our next destination was Franklin North Carolina to screen for Sapphires, Rubies, Rhodolite Garnet or whatever might get caught in the screen, but what we got was nothing. From there, we went over to Hickory to meet a friend of our friend in Lake Wales to go on a field trip with their rock club for hiddenite. They treated us royally, insisting that we park at their home and showing us the town of Hickory.

Only 3 other people showed-up for the trip because most of the others became involved in following the grading bulldozers tearing down a hilltop at a commercial development within the city limits. Tourmaline, Smokey Quartz and Amethyst crystals had been found by the club members several days before we arrived. Incidentally, we were skunked-out at the Hiddenite Mine.

We next headed to Herkimer, New York to dig for Herkimer "Diamonds". In between rain showers, we were able to put in some time digging, and chiseling out some crystals. A few of the crystals were golf ball size.

By this time, our available time was getting shorter and shorter, so we decided to hit the return trail. We stopped at Corning, New York to go through the Glass Museum which was not only interesting, but enlightening too. Some of the glass on display had been formed into bottles 2,000 years before Christ. Also, some of the glass of that era was paper thin and still intact.

So down the road through western Pennsylvania to Columbus, Ohio to meet some more friends. Finally got in touch with them and found out that they were involved as a dealer at a Pow Wow near Springfield, about 60 miles west of Columbus. So off to a Pow Wow we went to see them and had a very enjoyable time. We are trying to convince them that they should come out here in the summer time to do our Pow Wow.

Next, we headed for Keokuk, Iowa to dig for geodes. We dug one day and had fair luck. So on up to Minnesota to visit some of Helen's relatives and then to North Dakota to the area that Helen grew up in. We stayed with the people who had bought the old homestead. After some debate, we decided to backtrack back to Keokuk and dig some more geodes. This was a good decision on our part, as the day after we went back to the diggings, they brought in a dozer to move some of the debris and clean up the pit. In doing this they uncovered many more pockets. So we were

back in the pit the next day and released many, many geodes from their muddy graves.

Our last stop was in southeastern Nebraska where I (Ralph) grew up to see some of my relatives and schoolmates. It is never as we remember it, because time changes all things.

We arrived back in Covina, California on the 25th of June with tired bottoms and 11,500 miles on the rubber, for a couple of days of relating our experiences and catching-up on the latest gossip. Then on back to Arroyo Grande to a yard of grass and WEEDS 2-feet high and gophers that snuck back in while we were gone.

GEOLOGY

This poem appeared in the December 1988 Ore Cutts. It was submitted by members Chuck and Kay Vollmer:

Here in strata of pale sandstone
folded, faulted, tilted nearly over
are the ripple marks left behind
on the floor of the shallow seas of my
adolescence,

A pirate stream,
the gap where the dry wind sings—and
there the dry wash of an ancient ambition.

This steep-walled canyon
(fossil the river, fossil the waterfall)
was cut through lava;
desert scarps up-thrust eroded away
into badlands of disillusionment.

Up, up, up there—col, arête
and horn are sculptured; here a tarn
waits in the evanescent light of clouds.

Talus fall weathers to soil,
soil to green evolves.
Where rich alluvium gathers,
Flowers push-up and wild plum bears.

Naomi Clark

STUMBLING INTO RICHES

Dyanna Cridelich

At the Von Achen's Tailgate in May, I took home a couple boxes of old rock-hounding magazines. In those magazines, we found a

treasure chest of fascinating articles and even more interesting places to go.

One such article was about major mineral finds that were purely accidental. We have all dreamed about stumbling onto some rich occurrence of gold, silver or some fantastic crystal of some sort. Throughout the years, there have been 100's of well-documented, accidental finds that have a major impact on the gem and mineral business.

In America, there have been plenty of these. One legend says that a prospector's mule kept staring off across a canyon until his owner finally realized the mule was looking at a shiny vein of silver. That's how the great silver deposits around Burke and Coeur D'Alene, Idaho were discovered. It is believed that mules have a nose for rich deposits.

The accidental discovery of the Vulture gold mine, near Wickenburg, Arizona, is credited to Henry Wickenburg's four-legged partner who wandered off and ended up pawing the ground rich in gold float.

The first discovery of gold in this country was a pure and simple accident. In fact, the finder and his family didn't even realize that the yellow rock he had found was gold. The story begins in western North Carolina in the 1820's, with a youngster playing with his bow and arrows. He shot one of his arrows into the woods and had to go looking for it. While searching for his lost arrow, he found a large yellow rock in a small stream-bed that tickled his fancy. Intrigued by its unusual color and weight, he took it home. His parents thought it would make a great door stop and there it remained until 1828 when a visitor realized that the 17 pound rock was nearly pure gold. Of course, word got out and America's first gold rush ensued. A mine was opened and a government mint was established to turn raw gold into coinage. Today, the original Reed gold mine can still be visited. There is a small museum that tells the story of this find.

These are just a few of the 100's of accidental finds throughout the years. Tourmalines, Emeralds, Opals, Diamonds, Garnets, Copper and numerous Silver sites

have been found. Maybe you will be walking along one day and will stumble on something precious and interesting. That dream has come true for many people, maybe it will for you.

BITS AND BYTES

To go along with our story about the 11,000 mile rock collecting journey, this link will connect you **to free and fee rock collecting sites** in the US. Plan wisely!

http://www.inlandlapidary.com/content/rock_collecting_sites.asp

DINO-CHICKEN?

<http://www.msn.com/en-us/news/other/the-paleontologist-who-worked-on-jurassic-world-is-trying-to-create-a-real-dinosaur-within-5-to-10-years/ar-BB1b970?ocid=mailsignout>

Jack Horner, the paleontologist behind the Jurassic Park/World Series has been trying to figure out how to recreate a dinosaur for many years. Though all attempts to find viable dinosaur DNA have thus-far failed, Jack now thinks that in 5-10 years we could have a dino-chicken by reverse engineering the DNA of the dinosaurs nearest living relatives, the birds. Why would we want to do that? "It would be pretty cool" states Horner. "It might help get kids interested in genetics at a young age."

After all, we have been modifying the genes of animals for thousands of years-we just called it "breeding". "People made Chihuahuas out of wolves, for God's sake," howled Horner.

Dr. Horner put some of his ideas in a book published in 2009 **How to Build a Dinosaur: Extinction Doesn't Have to Be Forever.**

KID'S CORNER

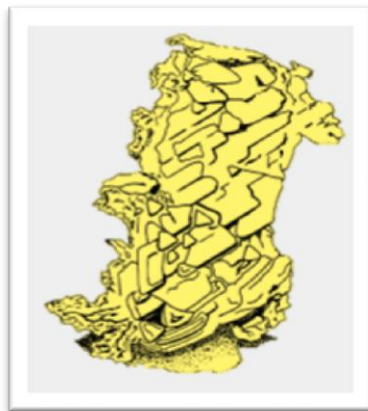
Text and illustrations From Diamond Dan's Mini Miner's Monthly Vol. 8 No. 2

GOLD IN AMERICA

The first major gold discovery by Europeans in the United States happened in northern Georgia. Certainly Native Americans collected gold in the Chattahoochee River for centuries. Hernando de Soto and the Spanish settled in Georgia and searched for gold from 1540 until as late as the early 1700's. In 1848, James

**ORCUTT MINERAL SOCIETY—
Board Meeting
Nipomo Chamber of Commerce Office,
Nipomo, CA
June 2, 2015**

Marshall discovered gold discovered on the American River at Sutter's Sawmill. Word spread of this discovery very quickly. By 1849, thousands of people from all over the world rushed to California hoping to discover their own gold and become extremely rich. Some of these "Miner 49ers" were very successful. Most were not. Gold was discovered in other states, too. Leadville, Cripple Creek and Rico, Colorado are just a few of the communities which owe their beginnings to the discovery of GOLD! The richest gold district in Colorado was Cripple Creek which produced 21 million ounces of gold. The total amount of gold mined in Colorado is estimated to be over 42 million ounces! Gold was first discovered in North Carolina in 1799 by a 12-year-old boy named Conrad Reed. He was out fishing in Meadow Creek and found a shiny yellow "rock" in the water. His pretty rock weighed about 17 pounds. His family used it as a doorstep for three years. They eventually sold it for \$3.50. A jeweler later discovered that their "doorstop" was a huge nugget of gold that was estimated to be worth about \$3,600!



Left--Gold on milky quartz from Jamestown, California.

shaped gold crystals from the Mockingbird Mine, Mariposa County, California.



Right-- Triangle-

President Dyanna Cridelich, called the meeting to order at 6:58 p.m.

Board members present were Wes Lingerfelt, Jeannie Lingerfelt, Sandy Berthelot, Jan Ferguson, Mike Henson, Alexis Van Natta and John Von Achen. Paul Berthelot, Margaret Henson and Sylvia Nasholm were guests.

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

Treasurer's report: Wes Lingerfelt gave the treasurer's report. Report was accepted as given.

Correspondence: None

Committee Reports:

Abused Children: It was mentioned that the fund has a good balance and that donations are steady.

Annual December Luncheon Meeting: None

Annual Gem Show: Wes reported that things are moving along. We have 42 outside spots reserved with some inside spots still available.

Breakfast: May's breakfast will be on the 27th at 8:30 a.m. and will be held at the Hometown Buffet, 1431 So. Bradley, Santa Maria.

Bulletin: June's bulletin is out.

CFMS: Wes and Jeannie will be going to the CFMS show in Lodi on June 12th and will be back on the 13th.

Education: None

Field Trip: None for June

Highway Clean-up: Our next clean-up will be held July 11th at 8:00 a.m. Members will meet on the South East corner of Highways 101 and 166.

Library: None

Membership: None

Refreshments: No meeting in June.

Scholarship: Wes said he had mailed a check in the amount of \$1,000 to Santa Barbara City College.

Sunshine: None

Old Business: Wes reported that Elaine Von Achen suggested we need to change the amount we charge for the delivery of tables as the amount currently being charged is not covering the cost of delivery and Wes has been eating the difference. No member should be out of pocket when doing business for the club and especially on an ongoing basis. John Von Achen suggested we charge by mileage coupled to the cost of gas. Wes will work it out.

Sylvia Nasholm reported on the fact that rules have changed for our sale of pies at the gem show. This will be the last year that we will be able to sale home baked pies. In order to continue that practice a person would have to apply for a license for a Cottage Industry with all the rules and regulations that would entail. It is far more trouble than it would be worth. Elaine had the idea that perhaps members could donate what they would have spent on a pie and then OMS would purchase pies from a shop. We would then sell them by the piece as we are currently doing and it would still be pure profit for the club. The revenue from the pies does make quite a difference to our bottom line for the show.

New Business:

None

The meeting was adjourned by President Dyanna Cridelich at 7:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

Sylvia Nasholm standing in for:

Elaine Von Achen, Secretary, OMS

**ORCUTT MINERAL SOCIETY—
Semi-Annual Meeting
Pioneer Park, Santa Maria, CA
June 6, 2015**

Lots of good food and fun! The only business conducted was the silent Auction.

OMS CALENDAR

JULY 2015

Tuesday, July 7 7:00 pm	Board Meeting 239 W. Tefft, Nipomo
Saturday, July 11 8:00 am	Highway cleanup- 101/166 East
Tuesday, July 14 7:00 pm	General Meeting — Luis Oasis Senior Center Program: Sphere Making by Wes Lingerfelt Display: Spheres or anything! Dessert: Cakes
Saturday, July 25 8:30 am	☉ Breakfast— Country Kitchen, Santa Maria

AUGUST 2015

Tuesday, August 4 7:00 pm	Board Meeting 239 W. Tefft, Nipomo
Fri-Sun, August 7-9	OMS 48th Annual Show— Nipomo High School
Tuesday, August 11 7:00 pm	General Meeting — Luis Oasis Senior Center Program: 48 th Annual Show Wrap-up (Wes Lingerfelt) Display: Any 1' x 1' display Dessert: Cookies
Saturday, July 25 8:30 am	☉ Breakfast— The Girls, Arroyo Grande

CFMS SHOWS

JULY 2015

No shows!!

AUGUST 2015

August 7 - 9: **NIPOMO, CA**
Orcutt Mineral Society, Santa Maria
Nipomo High School
525 North Thompson Avenue
Hours: Fri & Sat 10 - 5; Sun 10 - 4
Contact: Wes Lingerfelt, (805) 929-3788
Website: www.omsinc.org

August 22 - 23: **SAN FRANCISCO, CA**
San Francisco Gem & Mineral Society
San Francisco County Fair Building
9th Avenue & Lincoln Way
Hours: Sat. 10 - 6; Sun. 10 - 5
Contact: Ellen Nott

Email: ellen_nott@yahoo.com

Website: www.sfgms.org

August 29 -30: CONCORD, CA
Contra Costa Mineral & Gem Society
Centre Concord
5298 Clayton Road (near Ygnacio Valley Rd.)
Hours: 10 - 5 daily
Contact: Harry Nichandros, (925) 289-0454
Email: show-c@ccmgs.org
Website: www.ccmgs.org

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Imm. Past Pres.	Elaine Von Achen	(805) 929-1488
Federation Rep.	Wes Lingerfelt	(805) 929-3788

2015-OMS Board Members

Sandy Berthelot	(805) 349-3977
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John Von Achen	(805) 929-1488

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OMS Membership \$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. **OMS Membership Chairperson is Elaine Von Achen** (805) 929-1488

OMS Webmaster - Wes Lingerfelt – (805) 929-3788
Check out our OMS web site at: <http://www.omsinc.org> or send e-mail to info@omsinc.org.

48th Annual Gem Show

Earth's Treasures - Rocks - Minerals
Exhibits - Demo's - Equipment

NIPOMO HIGH SCHOOL

525 N. Thompson Ave. Nipomo, CA.

AUGUST 7th - 9th 2015

10AM - 5PM - Friday & Saturday

10AM - 4PM Sunday

ONE-OF-A-KIND Stones, Jewelry &
Merchandise from all over the World. Rock Bottom
Prices Gem Raffle, Prizes!
Food Service Catered by:



FREE PARKING - FREE ADMISSION

Sponsored by Orcutt Mineral
Society, Inc.

??? 805-929-3788 ???

<http://www.omsinc.org>

PO Box 106 Santa Maria, CA.
93456

A Public Benefit, Non-profit
Corporation



Rubies, the birthstone of July, are considered the king of gems and represent love, health and wisdom. It was believed wearing a fine red **Ruby** bestowed good fortune on its owner. A **Ruby** is the most valuable gemstone and its value increases based on its color and quality

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.