



Ore-Cutts

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Scholarship News

The evening of May 23, I traveled to Allan Hancock College for their annual scholarship dinner. While I can't attest to the quality of the dinner (I was a little late), I heard the announcement of over \$100,000 dollars in scholarships given out to about 200 deserving students. The brochure the college passed out said that \$1000 will pay for books and tuition for a student for a year.

I was privileged to meet and chat with the recipients of the Orcutt Mineral Society Earth Science Scholarships for a few minutes as we were waiting to go up to the stage. This year's scholarship winners



are Amanda Fuhrman (left) and Valerie Wheeler.

Amanda is transferring to UC Santa Cruz in the Fall, and will pursue her Master's Degree in Geology with hopes of teaching Geology at a community college or a high school.

Valerie will continue at Hancock for another

year before transferring to a 4-year college. Valerie hopes to earn her Ph.D. Degree, with a major in Geophysics, Geology/Earth Science, or Hydrology, and hopes to eventually work for NASA or USGS.

These young ladies were so evenly qualified for our scholarship that we decided to award 2 scholarships at Hancock this year. In fact, I learned that Amanda and Valerie are co-presidents of the Physical Science and Engineering Club at Hancock College. I was impressed by the camaraderie and enthusiasm they displayed both before and after I met them (I saw them standing in line while waiting for their names to be called. Fortunately, the Donors do not have to stand quite so long...). I gave Amanda and Valerie invitations to our annual show, and requested that they visit one of our meetings. I'm sure you will enjoy their enthusiasm for the Earth Sciences as much as I did.

Wayne W. Mills
Scholarship Chairperson

OMS ANNUAL PICNIC

Join us on Sunday, June 9th from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. at Pioneer Park for the OMS Annual Picnic and Silent Auction. Pioneer Park is located west of Broadway at 1000 West Foster Road.

Marshall Reeves has quite a wide selection of material available for us to bid on. Don Nasholm will expertly prepare tri-tip and toasted garlic bread, and reminds folks to bring their own silverware, plates, and perhaps a comfortable chair. We hope to see you there.

Lions and Tigers and Bears, Oh My!!

See all of these and more when you accompany members of Santa Lucia Rockhounds, San Luis Obispo Rockhounds and Orcutt Mineral Society to the George C. Page Museum on a joint field trip Saturday, October 26, 2002. The trip is open to the first 47 people to respond by sending a \$25.00 check to:

Santa Lucia Rockhounds,
P.O. Box 1672, Paso Robles, CA 93447
Attention: Page Field Trip.



"Smiley"

The deadline for getting your reservations in is September 15. The costs for the trip are \$25.00 for the all day round-trip bus tour aboard a luxurious Silverado Tours bus, and \$6.00 (\$3.50 for seniors) for entrance to the museum. We plan to spend 4 hours in the museum, and probably 4 hours each way in the bus. (You might want to bring a lunch).

The Santa Lucia folks are trying to arrange a special guided tour for those attending. The bus will make a stop in Santa Maria (probably at Elwin Mussell Senior Center) to pick-up and drop off OMS members and their guests. If you have any further questions or comments on this trip, please call Wayne Mills, Field Trip Chairperson at (805) 481-3495.

The Page Museum houses the rich collection

of fossils found in the La Brea Tar Pits that were donated to the City of Los Angeles in 1916 by Captain Allan Hancock (does that name ring a bell?) The story gets even better.

The tar pits were discovered by William Orcutt, a petroleum geologist who began his career in the south Santa Maria area. William eventually lent his name to the City of Orcutt and the Orcutt Mineral Society. Fossils found at the Page range in age from 4,000 to 40,000 years old, and include one unfortunate female who became mired in the tar about 9,000 years ago. About 565 species have been found here to date. Fossils found here include mammoths, mastodons, dire wolves and *Smilodon californicus*, the Saber tooth tiger, who is also our State Fossil. The Page Museum is a great place to get a feel for what southern California was like during the last Ice Age, but it will be a lot more comfortable.

Eagle Extravaganza

Orcutt Mineral Society was well represented at the Joe Nightingale Elementary School annual "**Eagle Extravaganza**" on Friday, May 24th. Wes Lingerfelt, Marshall Reeves, and Bess Shields participated in the mini-workshop Rock Talks, and answered questions about earth science and geology. Student were given rock samples, and seemed to thoroughly enjoy this hands-on experience.

If you want to become part of our active



Education Committee, and present Rock Talks to Scouts and groups of school children, call Wes, Marshall or Bess for further information.

Orcutt Mineral Society Board Meeting

Mussell Senior Center, Santa Maria CA
May 7, 2002

The meeting was called to order by President Dick Shields at 7:00 p.m.. Board Members present were Bill and Deborah Hood, Wes Lingerfelt, Wayne Mills, Don and Sylvia Nasholm, Dick and Bess Shields. Vic Jonas attended as a guest.

Minutes of the April 2nd Board Meeting, and the April 9th General Meeting were approved as written.

Treasurer's Report:

The Treasurer's Report was approved as read.

Committee Reports:

Wayne Mills stated that he needs help at the June 8th Dana Adobe Open House, on May 22 at Grover Heights Elementary for a Rock-Talk, and at the Gem Show in August.

Wes Lingerfelt stated that all inside vendor spaces are filled, and only 3 outside spots are left for the August Gem Show. Wes will pay St. Joseph's church for rental of the facilities, and will give an accounting at the Board Meeting. Wes is planning an electrical hookup for outside access, and will coordinate this with the church.

Dick Shields reported that John Mock is offering 24 pounds of albacore as a donation for sandwich making at the Gem Show.

The Annual Picnic will be on June 9th, and members will be reminded of this at the General Meeting next week. Sylvia Nasholm has 14 exhibitors so far, and expects many more as we get closer to the Gem Show date.

Wes Lingerfelt says that CFMS will hold two sessions at Camp Paradise late this summer: September 8-14, and September 15-21.

Wayne Mills reminded members about other rock club shows. These will appear in the Ore-Cutts monthly, and contact information for each show will be provided.

Wes Lingerfelt has Izzie Burns Endowment Fund tickets for sale (12 tickets for \$10). Bill Hood moved that OMS buy all 12 as a donation to this AFMS project, Don Nasholm seconded the motion, and it was passed.

Field Trips:

Wayne Mills reported that Marshall Reeves, Wes Lingerfelt and Wayne went to Shark Tooth Hill collecting on Sunday during the Bakersfield Show. The Jalama trip report stated good marcasite, travertine and jasper. Cerro Gordo field trip on June 28-29 with Lone Pine Club is the next planned outing. Buena Vista Museum of Bakersfield plans a Pt. Sal and Vandenberg AFB trip (more information on their web

page). An Afton Canyon trip to look for agates in Gem Canyon is planned for September.

Marshall Reeves reminds us that Highway Cleanup is on May 18th at 8:00 a.m.

Dick Shields reported three new members: Robert Bullock, Sharon Duncan, and Jere Clements.

Correspondence:

A copy of Mineral Messenger from the San Luis Obispo Gem Club

Sun Valley Indian School newsletter

A solicitation form Rock and Gem magazine to the club
AGTA Gemfair advertisement

West Coast Gem & Mineral Show advertisement

International Gem and Jewelry Show advertisement

Culver City Rock and Mineral Show advertisement

West Australia Gem Club information

Ecosystem Observations newsletter

Old / unfinished business:

Dick Shields reported that the city hasn't responded yet to our request for reestablishing a Lapidary Room at Mussell Senior Center. He will contact Brenda to see when we can expect a response.

New business:

A discussion about the development of the Ore-Cutt was quite helpful. Board members suggest that we feature a different person each month as an expert in different rock related areas. Also, a larger print size will be helpful. The logo should appear on the back page (mailing address page), and list of officers and club information will appear. Debbie Hood remembers that OMS owns a Xerox machine. It will be located, and used to print the newsletter. Earlier release of the newsletter, and up-to-date events calendar were commended.

Wes Lingerfelt discussed the overage of OMS material in his back yard. There are wooden tables and a few other items that will be offered for sale at the Gem Show.

Program for the General Meeting next week will be "Jasper: its origins and types" by Ralph Bishop. Refreshments are cakes and cupcakes.

The Board Meeting was adjourned at 8:05 p.m. by President Shields.

Respectfully submitted,
Bess Shields
Secretary, OMS

**Orcutt Mineral Society
General Meeting**

Mussell Senior Center, Santa Maria CA
May 14, 2002

- Call to Order at 7:07 p.m. by President Dick Shields.
- Invocation was given by Bess Shields on "Beauty and Splendor".
- Flag Salute was led by Jere Clements.
- Lynda Virgin reported that 27 members and 4 guests were present.
- Minutes of the May 7 Board Meeting were approved as read. Minutes from Board and General Meetings for the month of April were approved as written.
- Treasurer's Report was read by Wes Lingerfelt, and approved as read.

Committee Reports:

Bulletin: Dick Shields announced that Bess Shields will be the new editor of the *Ore-Cutts*. Any articles should be directed to her at oms@ix.netcom.com.

Sunshine: Debbie Hood reported that Ione Griggs is in Room 204 at Villa Maria, and would enjoy visitors and phone calls. We are happy to see Kay Vollmer at tonight's meeting after a long absence.

Refreshments: provided by Wayne Mills, the Virgins, the Nasholms, and the Shields.

Field Trips: Wayne Mills reminded members of the Cerro Gordo trip with Lone Pine Club on June 28-29. Contact Wayne or Wes Lingerfelt for more information. A Buena Vista Museum trip (Bakersfield) will be considered later this year. The Dana Adobe event will take place on Saturday, June 8. Contact Wayne to volunteer for this event.

CFMS: Wes Lingerfelt reminded us of the CFMS Show in Placerville on July 12-14 at the El Dorado County Fairgrounds. If you want to exhibit a case, contact Wes.

Show preparations: Dick Shields stated that sign up sheets will be circulated at the June 9th Picnic, as well as the July General Meeting. We will also be calling people by phone and via e-mail to help in our many projects at the Show. Wes reported that all inside spaces are sold, and most outside spaces are sold/confirmed.

Education: Bess Shields reported that free literature for teachers and educational groups are available at the Santa Barbara County Offices. One subject, "Water Resources", was displayed during break at the front table. Shell Oil will be contacted for a supply of their pamphlet called "Let's Collect Rocks and Shells", and will be handed out at our Gem Show.

Highway Cleanup: Marshall Reeves reminded us of the Highway Cleanup at Hwy 166 and Hwy 101 on Saturday, May 18 at 8:00 a.m. followed by breakfast at Omelets-and-More in Nipomo

Correspondence:

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

Mineral Messenger, the newsletter from San Luis Obispo club

Rock & Gem magazine solicitation

Sun Valley Indian School newsletter about their activities

AGTA Gemfair advertisement

West Coast Gem & Mineral Show advertisement

Culver City Rock and Mineral Show advertisement

West Australia Gem Club newsletter

Ecosystem Observations brochure

Rockhound Notes newsletter

Rockonteur newsletter from the Santa Lucia

Rockhounds

Coober Pedy Opal Dealers e-mail

Old / unfinished business:

Dick Shields reported that the Lapidary Room proposal is being considered by the Parks Department. He will report any new developments next month. Wes Lingerfelt reported that our Picnic will be at Pioneer Park, and the fee will remain the same as last year. The deposit is refunded after we clean up the site following our use.

New business:

Marjorie Hoogenbosch reported on her field trips this spring.

Debbie Hood needs items for the Gem Show Country Store. Anything in good shape can be donated. Call Debbie for more information.

Don reminded members about the June Picnic and Silent Auction. Join us from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. on Sunday, June 9 at Pioneer Park (1000 West Foster Road, SM). A reminder will be in the next *Ore-Cutt* with additional information. Meat and bread will be provided. Members are asked to bring their own silverware, a potluck dish to share, and a comfortable chair (if you desire one).

Following the break for refreshments, Ralph Bishop gave us a great talk about "Jasper: its types and origins". He brought numerous items from his collection to demonstrate the various jaspers found in our local area, and in some of his favorite collecting sites.

The raffle was held after the program. The Meeting was adjourned at 9:05 p.m. by President Shields.

Respectfully submitted,
Bess Shields
Secretary, OMS

The Official Stuff

OMS Purpose

Founded in 1958, and is named after William Orcutt, a geologist and civil engineer who worked in the Santa Maria Valley as a district manager for Union Oil Company in 1888. In 1889, Orcutt discovered the fossil wealth of the LaBrea Tar Pits, one of the most significant fossil finds in paleontological history. The Society is a non-profit club, dedicated to stimulating an interest in rocks and minerals. The club offers educational programs, field trips, youth activities, and other opportunities for families and individuals to pursue an interest in collecting and lapidary treatment of rocks, fossils, gems, minerals, and other facets of Earth Sciences. In addition, a goal of this Society is to promote good fellowship and proper ethics in pursuit of the society's endeavors. Operating rules have been set forth to guide the Officers and members of the Society in accomplishing these purposes. Affiliations: California Federation of Mineralogical Societies and American Federation of Mineralogical Societies.

2002 OMS Elected Officers

President	Dick Shields	(805) 937-0357
President Elect	Wayne Mills	(805) 481-3495
Secretary	Bess Shields	(805) 937-0357
Treasurer	Wes Lingerfelt	(805) 929-3788
Immediate Past President	Glenda Reeves	(805) 733-2775
CFMS Representative	Wes Lingerfelt	(805) 929-3788

2002 OMS Board Members

Bill Hood	(805) 481-6860
Debbie Hood	(805) 481-6860
Don Nasholm	(805) 481-0923
Sylvia Nasholm	(805) 481-0923
Marshall Reeves	(805) 733-2775

The Wanderer

Colson Canyon Jaunt:

It's another beautiful day on the central coast, so Ralph Bishop, Dick Shields and I decided to spend a day exploring the back-roads between Tepusquet Road, Colson Canyon, and Miranda Pines. We crossed numerous, running streams, and saw signs of springs along the road in this area. Some-how we missed the turn to the White Elephant Mine area, and ended up at Horseshoe Springs Campground.

Along the route we observed turtles basking in the

sun, tadpoles in every stream, and a multitude of minnows.



The abundance of flowers gave us an opportunity to photograph butterflies, bees, birds and snakes (yes, Ralph played with the snake). Ralph

pointed out ferns that turn purple when the fronds die.

The roads are MUCH better than they were 4 or 5 years ago. And, the campgrounds that we observed were well maintained, and clean. The backcountry is tinder dry, so please be careful if you venture out.

Ralph spent the entire day lecturing and pointing out the faults, synclines, anti-clines, striations, and fossil deposits. With so many interesting geologic features, Monterey Shale, slate, nodules, Monkey Turds, and crystalline layers to view from the car, this is a perfect day trip to consider. It will take all day, and the circuit is approximately 75 miles round trip, and the road reaches an elevation of 4,100 feet. You will need to take a picnic lunch, water, sunscreen, and an Adventure Pass.

Happy Hunting!

Love, Bess

OMS MONTHLY BREAKFAST

You are invited to join us for breakfast at Baker's Square in Santa Maria on Saturday, June 22 at 8:30 a.m. We swap hunting stories, share favorite collect-ing spot tips, and get to know one another a little better. Please come join us.

WEB SITES OF NOTE

- Precious opal in British Columbia:
sciborg.uwaterloo.ca/earth/waton/s984.html
- Herkimer diamonds:
www.crystalgrove.com
- Big Bend Through Time:
geoweb.tamu.edu/faculty/herbert/bigbend/time/index.html
- OsoSoft Mineral Connection:
www.osomin.com
- Swedish Amber Museum:
www.brost.se/eng/welcome/index.html
- Fluorescent Mineral Society:
www.uvminerals.org
- Buena Vista Museum of Natural History:
www.sharktoothhill.com
- Dad's Rock Shop in Arizona:
www.dadsrockshop.com

Hal Nuernberg, one of our long-time OMS members, was featured in a special presentation on NBC last month. The film, "Price of Peace", was shown on Memorial Day, and consisted of interviews with individuals who served our nation during those trying years.

OMS Logo



A rock saw cutting a piece of stone was selected when the first bulletin, *ORE-CUTTS* (namesake, William Orcutt) was first published in

1966. Member Helen Azevedo was the first editor.

OMS Annual Gem Show

The Orcutt Mineral Society Annual Gem Show is from August 9th through 11th at St. Joseph's Church (298 S. Thompson Avenue, Nipomo). Show hours will be 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. daily.

We are currently seeking good donated materials for the Country Store. Please contact Debbie Hood about your items. Donations for the Treasure Chest, and tumbled rock for kid grab bags should be given to Bess Shields.



The Great Swami Decides

Having trouble deciding? If you plan to exhibit at the show, please fill out the Exhibitor/Demonstrator application in this newsletter, and send it to Sylvia Nasholm soon.

Also, we are in need of volunteers in the Refreshment area (please call Sylvia Nasholm), in the Country Store (contact Debbie Hood), with the Barbecue Crew (Don Nasholm heads this up), and at the Treasure Chest Table/Children's Resources Table (Bess Shields). Show Chairman, Wes Lingerfelt can always use spare hands, so give him a call to volunteer.

Marshall Reeves has tickets for the raffle, and will distribute them at the June Picnic, and at the

July General Meeting. Call Marshall at 733-2775 for further information.

This year's Gem Show is shaping up to be a huge success. The burden is light when there are many helping hands!

Roadside Cleanup

Thank you to the 14 hearty souls who volunteered to clean our two-mile strip of Highway 166 on May 18th. Our next cleanup will be held on July 20th at



8:00 a.m. followed by coffee and pastries at Omelets and More.

Brecciated Jasper

by Ralph Bishop

(Based on his talk at the May General Meeting)

Brecciated jasper is the most common semi-precious gemstone in our area. Because of that, people have taken it for granted for many years, thinking it is overly common. Because it is so abundant, people don't hold it in very high esteem (and I, at a younger age, fell prey to the same attitude). It is very rare in other areas of the world, although it is common in our area

because of the faults on our continental plate boundaries.

In the last several years I found that no other jasper, since I have become more familiar with this material, has a wider variety of color and pattern. That, in itself, should attract a broad spectrum of people. Blue, green, red...

There are many local places to hunt brecciated jasper which include Figueroa Mountain, Parkfield, and Jalama.



San Simeon Creek Brecciated Jasper

Jasper and chert are both nothing more than silt or mud that has been silicified with silica agate (quartz). In the old days, it was said that if you liked it, "it was jasper", and if you didn't, "it was chert". But there is a difference between the two.

Chert is derived from marine sediments, and the silica that hardens it comes from the exoskeletons of radiolarians (microscopic plants). Whereas, jasper is derived from terrestrial silt transported with silica and other minerals from deep seated hydrothermal waters.

The source of the hydrothermal water is found in the deep faults, and is heated by magma that is close to the external mantle of the earth. This water is so hot that, as it courses through the rock formations, it picks up silica and other minerals such as iron, manganese, chrome, and other ferric minerals. As this hydrothermal water approaches the surface of the earth, it cools down so that, at

certain temperatures, silica and some of the other minerals precipitate out, changing from a liquid to a solid state, leaving the water to continue on to the surface. This activity over a period of time continues to fill the fault with silicified silt, and other minerals. The best comparison to this process would be iron water pipes that slowly fill up with sediment until they are full. So the faults become filled with this siliceous silt. When this happens, the water takes another course. This silicified mud is usually a solid, single colored mass of jasper, probably in a plastic state, and quite brittle.

Somewhere along the line in the life of the fault, an earthquake occurs. This shatters the jasper, and often widens the fault. When this happens the jasper breaks (or brecciates). This allows the water to again course through the fault, carrying another load of silt or silica. The silica in this particular hydrothermal flush generally fills in the broken areas between the jasper cementing them together again.

At the end of that process Brecciated Jasper has been formed. This process can happen on more than one occasion. Sometimes a person can see places where brecciated jasper has been cemented and recemented on several occasions.

So, take it from me, don't look down your nose at this humble stone!

SAVE THE DATES

- Cerro Gordo trip with Lone Pine Rock Club on June 28 and 29.
- Placerville CFMS Show on July 12.
- La Brea Tar Pit trip in September.

Please call Wayne Mills at 481-3495 for further information.

To contribute news, articles, opinions or information the rest of the club needs to know, send a letter to our P.O. Box, send e-mail to oms@ix.netcom.com, or call Bess at 937-0357.

Orcutt Mineral Society
P.O. Box 106
Santa Maria, CA 93456

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED