



Ore-Cutts

Join us on March 13, 2007 at the Mussel Center for another wonderful program by Sir Paul Howard, our Australian member, on the *Munich Agate Show* his fantastic slides are not to be missed!

The Display for this month is: Agates from everywhere!



Refreshments for this month will be pies furnished by Jan Ferguson, Sharon Duncan, Linda Kolasinski, and Sandy Berthelot.

Sunshine/AC Fund



Jan Ferguson was ill and missed the meeting due to a bug she picked up in Quartzite and very generously decided NOT to share with us. Thanks, Jan! Since Jan now operates the Abused Children's Fund raffle, Bob Bullock very generously donated a Wulfenite crystal specimen and DeeDee Magri and Sharon Duncan sold tickets and awarded the prize. That's what I love about you folks; you pull together to get the job done! Bravo!

In Memoriam

Paul Patrick, the Gem Tree man and long time OMS member, passed away in early February. We have lost a unique talent. His gem trees have gone all over the world, and were so life-like and beautiful that it is hard to believe they are not alive. He will be missed.

Sparklies & Magpies

By Paul Berthelot

I have a pet name for my wife: "The Crow". Why? Well, for one thing, she likes "sparklies". For 'nother, she definitely likes to acquire them. Hence, "The Crow"; after all, crows like "sparklies" and they'll pursue any avenue to pinch one -- even if the maneuver could be labeled "underhanded." {What's

that? You don't know what I mean by "sparklie"? "Sparklies" are "gems."} Now, my wife, well, she has a different philosophy, and its one she finds particularly "apple polishing". "The Magpie". Why? Well, they like "sparklies" too, and are keen to pinch one given the opportunity -- underhanded or not. {Magpies are especially common in the English countryside where we lived for several years and rank among her favorite English birds. Not, as the English say, "Dead Common"; just "common". What's "Dead Common"? Well..."Dead Common" is English slang for...well, "Dead Common"!}

But, I've digressed. Why are magpies different than crows? Well, actually they aren't --- magpies are just prettier birds; that's all, with a more pleasant song. The wife, well she'll take umbrage with my use of the word "common", but she'll not deny "sparklie". Pardon me? What's the origin of "sparklies" and "magpies"? No, it's not an old wives' or ancient folktale from some long-forgotten historical age; well, it is partly derived from the "Antiquarian's Olde Philosophy". Got some time? I'll tell you.....

It began innocently enough. {Don't they all, hum?}. I like "bones" -- especially ancient bones. {No, I'm not an "Old Fossil"! -- well, maybe a "Fossil"}. Anyway, years ago, while we were living in D.C., my wife and I frequently visited the Natural History Museum at the Smithsonian. Why? So we could look at those ancient bones, of course. Would you go to the Louve to see the Mona Lisa? Well -- of course not!!!! People visit the Louvre so they can advertise it to their friends (rather aristocratically): "I saw Mona at the Louvre" or "I viewed the works of the Masters in the Fine Arts galleries while touring the Louvre in Paris --- Paris is in France, y'know."

But ~~ please allow me to continue my woeful tale. As I said, why would anyone ever go to that museum? The wife, well, she had different ideas. {Funny how wives always have “different” ideas of why something is done.} We were there to visit “Her Rocks” {like they were people or something}. So, naturally, I found myself “visiting” with the Hope Diamond, St. George & the Dragon, Marie Antoinette’s necklace, carved dragons, and minerals galore instead of gazing at Tyrannosaurus Rex and cousins. Needless to say, I spent countless hours recording philosophical and scientific observations during these visitations. Gradually, my meticulous notes began to reveal a relationship, philosophically and scientifically, between “sparklies” and “birds”. I became fascinated at my wife’s animated conversation (always one-sided, of course) where “Her Rocks” were concerned. However, I put my notes away and headed for Jolly England, certain that “sparklies” wouldn’t see the light of day again.

We simply loved our time in England and Europe. What a treasure! So relaxed, so colorful, so hauntingly peaceful ~~~ why, I could spend the rest of my life there! And then ~~~ a magpie appeared. Magpies are magical birds. Just ask any villager. They’ll regale you with stories, legends and folklore about magpies. Why, they’re such “regal birds”. “Bringers of luck”, are they! “Thieves,” too; why, they’ll pinch a shiny bauble, crystal, or jewel just for the sheer pleasure that comes from the pinching!

Well, the upstart of all this is: My wife became enthralled with “sparklies”. Positively obsessed. A non-believer’s nightmare, to say the least, and I became convinced this manifestation was the result of some mystical incantation she’d learned during our sojourn in England. Searching through my old notes, it became apparent that the “Antiquarian’s” relationship between spell, bird, and “sparklie” was extremely potent. I searched in vain for a spell to remove the curse. Suddenly, the one-sided “conversations” began anew. And, no matter how I tried, mysticism simply would not be swept aside: rational thought became impossible. Worse yet, the philosophical was replaced by the metaphysical!

Clearly “sparklies” were the root cause of my wife’s demonic enchantment and one, which showed no signs of wearing off anytime soon. Whenever “sparklies” were mentioned I caustically responded with the philosophical viewpoint of a seasoned believer. “Sparklies” were “humbugs”, “petrified

soil”, “non-magical”. Aristotle and Socrates surely would agree. Bones were, on the other hand, “semi-mythical”.

Then, one day, during a rather philosophical discussion about nature, “sparklies”, ancient lore and mystic religions, my wife confronted me with the horrible truth. “Don’t you realize”, she said, so seriously that I was struck by the weight of her words, “I’m bewitched. “Sparklies” are Mother Gaia’s enchantments; and they calm my spirit with the goddess’ peace and harmony.”

“Oh”, I replied, rather sarcastically. “You’re enchanted, are you? Mother Gaia ~~ the Earth goddess is she? Rather!” But, then my naturally philosophical perspective coalesced with something I’d been contemplating during our “European Period”. “You know what? You’re a “Crow”! Crows like “sparklies” and they’ll pinch as many as they can anytime they can. Zounds, what a philosophical conundrum!!! My wife is an enchanted crow!”

After a moment of thought my wife smiled serenely. “You’re wrong. Enchanted by ‘sparklies’ I may be; soothed by the Earth goddess my spirit may be... But, a ‘Crow’ I’m not. Ask any wizard or mystic you wish; consult any learned book on mystical religions and ancient lore you like; the ‘Crow’ is not a magical bird. ‘Magpies’ are ~~ and they’re my delight. They are the goddess’ messengers and those whose spirit is mystical and enchanted share a special kinship with the goddess. I’m a ‘Magpie.’”

And that, Dear Reader, is how “Sparklies” and “Magpies” came to be.

Rock Breakfast

By Debbie Hood

There was a **great** turnout for the Ferbruary breakfast...19 souls, just like ole times! Gloria & Don Dana arranged a change of venue and time that seems to have been perfect. Wes Lingerfelt threw a new light on one of Jeannie’s spheres (if you are into florescence you might want to check it out,) Bill Hood and Bob Bullock discovered that they share a passion (no, not for each other, nor for me,) Jeannie Lingerfelt got to show off her sister, Loretta, visiting from New Mexico (or was it more like taking her to the zoo?) And Gloria was radiant with triumph! There was a drawing for 2 prizes, a bolo tie and a necklace, both Gloria Dana originals. Bob Bullock won the bolo and Bill Hood won the necklace, and it’s quite fetching on him I must say.

The March 24th breakfast will be at 9:00a.m. at Shirley's Diner, 151 N. 7th Street in Grover Beach. Take Grand Ave. to 7th Street and turn right. It will be on the left side of the street in the second building. There will be another raffle drawing, so ya'll come and bring your appetites!

Hard Wood

By Wayne Mills, Ore-cutts fossil reporter

Back at the Paso Robles show in September 2006, I got into a discussion with one of the dealers about the process of petrification. I had been to one of Walt Wright's petrified wood seminars, and remembered him saying that the silica seeped into the wood and surrounded the cells, rather than replacing them. That sounded right to me, but several people I have talked to espouse the "lit par lit" or molecule-by-molecule replacement of the wood molecules by silica. Well, amazingly, one of the unsold Lapidary Journals (August 1995) that they were GIVING away at the Paso show on Sunday had an article about that very topic. I was amazed at my luck!

The article, in a lot more detail, and with a lot more polish (pun intended) than you will get here, explained the latest research into the topic. But a synopsis may prove interesting to those who have ever pondered the topic. Where does all the bloody silica in those red and yellow and black trees come from, and how does it get inside the tree?

Two beautiful books in the OMS library talk about petrified woods of the world. They are both by Frank Daniels, and have awesome photographs. One of the take home lessons from these books is that petrified wood is found around the world. There are



petrified forests on every continent preserving the wood of trees, ferns and cycads both modern and extinct. Some forms of preservation are only agate casts of the original wood.

The lovely

pink limb casts from Texas Springs, Nevada are a noteworthy example.

Sometimes, rot pockets in the wood are preserved as tiny quartz crystal clusters. The

Orcutt Mineral Society



coniferous wood I collected with Walt Wright near Blanding, Utah is an example of this.



Frequently, however, minute patterns of the original wood are preserved by the invading silica. Fossil oak wood from Stinking- water Creek in Oregon is readily identifiable by its prominent rays and vesicles. Some petrified palm retains tiny structural detail as well. Wish I had a bigger piece of the red palm!

The article in Lapidary Journal describes new research by a German scientist, Michael Landmesser who has spent 10-years on the problem of petrification. Silica is not readily soluble in water or many other chemicals. (Well, it dissolves in hydrofluoric acid, but DON'T go messing around with that! Take our word for it). It turns out that a little silica will dissolve in a large volume of water (like a fist-sized chunk of chalcedony in a couple of city reservoirs). In the Petrified Forest of Arizona, silica is not the problem. The area is covered by highly silicic volcanic ash from Mesozoic eruptions (tiny particles of ash—the better for dissolution—your great-great-great grandchildren are going to be watching that fist-sized chunk of chalcedony for a long time before IT dissolves noticeably). And the water? Well, Arizona wasn't always dry. The logs of Araucaria-like wood were rafted into place from some long forgotten (about 200 million-years long) forest. Those are big trees, and must have taken a LOT of water to move. The theory is that the minute particles of silicic volcanic ash combined with the groundwater to form silica hydroxide, essentially an opal gel that gradually hardens and loses water to become agate or chalcedony. When this process happens inside a tree, it becomes petrified.

The stressed grain patterns found in wood from Tuscarora, Nevada (and other places) suggests (at least to me) that the silica had started to gel as or after the tree was undergoing compressive stress, but before it started to rot.

The distinctive, and highly agatized wood from the Blue Forest of Wyoming is often coated with algae that has become calcified. This is an interesting relationship, but what does it mean? Does it *really*

matter? Does the method of agatization make the wood any less beautiful? I have to go with Shakespeare on this one—a tree petrified by any other process would still look pretty darn cool.

Jasper or Agate, What is it?

From *Gem Cutter News*, September 10, 1992, Via *The Polished Slab* Newsletter for Southern Nevada Gem and Mineral Society (SNGMS), October 2006.

Jasper and agate are two rocks that we see a lot of in our hobby. Often, there is confusion between the two. Both are made of tightly interlocked, cryptocrystalline (*microscopic*) quartz crystals. Both

are members of the fine-grained quartz family known as chalcedony. Chalcedony occurs throughout the world in beds, bands, nodules, geodes, botryoidal masses, as a replacement mineral in fossils and wood tissue, and also as a cementing material.



Botryoidal chalcedony on Sagenite agate from Nipomo

It is deposited from silica rich waters often carrying other material impurities. It is the presence of these impurities which stain the micro-quartz grains to produce the wide variety of color patterns, banding effects, and inclusions that differentiate the basic gem forms of cryptocrystalline quartz; both jasper and agate, from ordinary, drab, chalcedony. The difference between the two is usually slight.

In general, Agate is a transparent to translucent form



of chalcedony in which the coloration takes the form of regular bands, rings, clouds, and wispy inclusions or distinct groups.

An agate that contains distinct bands is referred to as fortification agate.

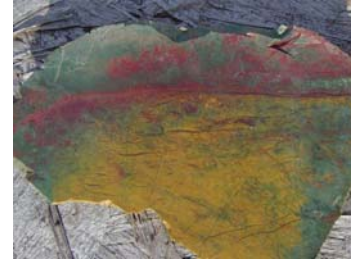
Moss agate contains delicate, wispy, or lacy inclusions of colored minerals – sometimes the green mineral chlorite, other times the black mineral manganese, that penetrated cracks in the silica gel matrix prior to



hardening. Now the inclusions remain as fine, picture-like images.

Agate is often named after the geographic area where it is found, and with a descriptive adjective attached (i.e., Mexican Lace Agate).

Jasper, on the other hand, can be somewhat translucent, but is most often opaque. The coloration of jasper is usually much darker than that of agate, and is



totally at random with respect to distribution and pattern. Finely divided hematite gives the reddish color to jaspers, and another mineral, goethite, is responsible for the yellows and browns. Chlorite and nickel minerals contribute to the green colorations.

As does agate, jasper comes in many colors and displays an infinite variety of material for cabochons, scenic “pictures” to be framed, and other functional and decorative purposes. They (agate and jasper) are truly the bread and butter of our hobby.

A ROCK QUIZ???

What is the only state in the union to produce the “Big Four Gems” (Diamond, Ruby, Emerald and Sapphire)? Who will be the first to Call Deb Hood or Wayne Mills with the correct answer?

MEMBER PROFILES

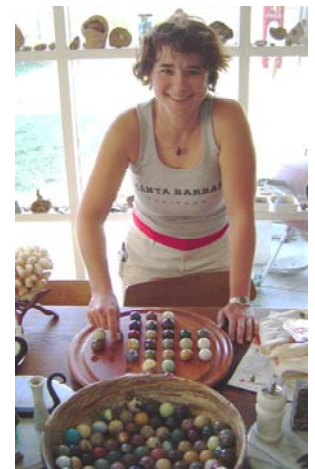
Laura Kasteal—Ready to Rock

Wayne Mills, Ore Cutts Staffer

One of our newest members is Laura Kasteal. As Wes pointed-out when the board was considering her application for membership: “she bought a lot of equipment from me, I guess she is serious about rocks!!”

Laura was born and raised near Chester, Montana, a tiny prairie town near the Canadian border. *Laura is a marble collector. These are all different 1-inch natural stone spheres.*

When she was 18, she came to California as a nanny, then married and moved to Santa Maria. When her first marriage ended, she became an Emergency Medical Technician for a company called 911. After 911 was acquired by another



company, Laura became unemployed, and shortly thereafter joined the Air Force and was already well qualified to become a medical technician. She was stationed in San Antonio and Wichita Falls, Texas for her basic and school training then was sent back to Travis Air Force Base near Sacramento. There, she had an accident and received a medical discharge after undergoing brain surgery for a tumor resulting from the injury. When she healed, she began nurses training. While in Sacramento, she met her current husband Gary Slate, who is a general contractor, and who enjoys rocks ALMOST as much as Laura. Laura and Gary were married on Memorial Day, 1999. In 2003, the tumor resurfaced, and Laura had another surgery to remove the tumor in 2004. That ended her nursing career.

In 2006, Laura and Gary moved into Laura's house in Santa Maria, but Gary continues to commute between their Sacramento house and their Santa Maria house, as he has several contracts to fulfill in Sacramento, and has not yet found steady project work in this area.

Laura has been collecting pretty rocks since she was a little girl, and is now learning to cut and polish them. She has named a rock she found on her Dad's loading dock in Montana (Jerryite), after her Dad Jerry, and Wes is currently making a 9-inch sphere from it. Her favorite field trip is the only one she has been on with our club—to Big Sandy. She has even polished some of the rocks she got up there, and that's better than many of us can say.

Laura is able to keep healthy with trips to the gym and the local pool, and enjoys Thursday night jewelry classes. She hopes to learn how to set and polish her own opals. Wes has started her out on polishing opalized wood, a smart tactic. Better to blow up a one-buck piece of wood than a \$10 (or \$50) piece of opal (and trust me she has a lot of opal-her birthstone)! Laura has a pleasantly determined attitude toward learning about rocks, and makes a fine addition to our club. We look forward to many interesting field trips with this bright-eyed rockhound.

Let it Be(ad)

Wayne Mills, Ore-Cutts "stringer"

Bead is both a noun and a verb. The <http://wordnet.princeton.edu/perl/> dictionary says a bead is "a small ball with a hole through the middle". *Close, but no cigar.* Beads come in many shapes, including round, cubic, cylindrical, oval, teardrop and irregular. Witness the effigy beads from the local trading post, Orcutt Mineral Society

or their ancestors from the eastern mound builders. As mentioned before, bead materials are numerous. You can even buy moose dropping necklaces (visit http://www.iexplore.com/com/ts_rmulvenna_alaska.jhtml), if you are so inclined.

Point is, people have been making them for 70 centuries or so, and there is a huge variety out there. We might even challenge you later in the year to see what you can come up with.

Beginning about 1224 A.D., and for a period of about 600 years, Venice dominated the bead trade. Their glass beads were used by the Hudson's Bay (and other) Companies in trade for beaver and other commodities produced by Native (American) peoples. One record shows that a prepared beaver hide might go for 6 Hudson's Bay Beads, or two large (drogon size), light blue, Padre Beads.

One of the loveliest of the Venetian glass Beads is the **Cornaline d'Aleppo** (Carnelian) or White Heart Bead. Today, a strand of these could go for up to \$290.



Pictures from:

<http://www.africadirect.com/productsdesc.php>

PRESSING OUR LUCK

OreCutts Staffer

It has come to the attention of the Ore Cutts that some dissatisfaction has been expressed about the frequent contributions of certain Ore Cutts staff (note I didn't say "distaff.")

Anyhow, it has always been my opinion that half the fun of taking a trip is sharing the experience (especially if you took the trip alone). I figure that one can always learn something from someone else's experiences (if you listen close enough). So folks can decide, "do I want to take that trip, or do I want to take a pass on it?"

For the complainant, no travelogue this month. (No trips planned, but look out—I am planning to go to the Bakersfield Rockhound Rendezvous in March.) To all, I will repeat what our editor, Debbie Hood has repeated the last couple of meetings. We would **LOVE** to receive rock-related articles, letters, field trips, pictures, poetry or even recipes (Stone Soup

anyone?) from our readers. Even in a publication as small as ours (10-pages), it is hard to fill the space with something reasonably intelligible and fresh month after month. I am coming to appreciate more and more what Dick and Bess went through putting out the Best Small Club Bulletin of 2005. We are striving to continue that tradition.

So please, think about writing-up your observations on a favorite field trip, rock fossil or mineral, geological formation, natural disaster, or other earth science related topic. OR call Debbie or Wayne (our phone numbers are in every bulletin) with your suggestions for articles, field trips, display topics, society news, personal triumphs or losses, poetry or even encouragement. Some days we can really use it.

March Birthdays & Anniversaries

Birthday wishes go out to Jeannie Lingerfelt & Bill Hood this month. Anniversary congratulations are in order in March for Lee Reyburn and his wife & Carl & Kelly Tapper.

Wooden I?

Ore Cutts Petrified Wood Worker

For the last couple of years, lovely, glass, multi-colored, faceted crystals of various sizes have been making the rounds. I tried to get a few at Quartzite for our raffle last year, but no dice. This year, I got a tray of varicolored 30 mm "birthstone" crystals, but was not happy with the plastic stands they had available. So I thought "*this size might look good in a ring shape.*" So I set out to make one.

Starting out with a nice piece of 1 1/8 inch thick maple, I took a 1 5/8- inch hole saw and cut out a plug. Then, using the previous



hole, I used a 1-inch hole saw to cut out the middle, creating a wooden ring.

Clamping the ring in my bench vice, I used a 1/2 inch wood bit to drill a hole

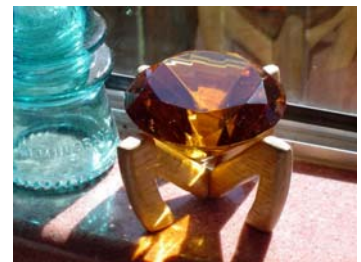
in the center of the top of the ring, perpendicular to the grain. Using this hole as a guide, I polished a flat on the opposite side of the ring as a base. This was done by



clamping my belt sander in my bench vice and holding the ring on it.

The Fordom tool was handy to grind a chamfer around the top of the 1/2 inch hole to make a seat for the crystal. All that was left was to sand inside and out, and to finish off the stand.

For my larger (70mm) crystal, a different plan came to mind. Working off my initials, I cut 2 "M's" (slightly stylized) from 3/8-inch oak. Note that the shape and length of the "V" is the same as that of the crystal from the point to the pavilion. Then I cut a 3/8 x 3/8-inch notch from the top of one of the "V's", and another from the bottom of the other "V" (see illustration).



Note the V's fit together and after sanding and finishing, make a nice stand. The finished product kind of looked like real faceted gems look when mounted on a ring. I was pleased with my result, and hope you are too.

Orcutt Mineral Society Board Meeting, Mussell Sr. Center, Santa Maria CA, February 6, 2007

President Debbie Hood called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Members present were: Gary Sheffer, Sylvia Nasholm, Sandy Berthelot, Elaine Von Achen, Debbie Hood, Wayne Mills, Wes Lingerfelt and Bob Bullock. Guests were Bill Hood and Paul Berthelot.

Minutes of the previous board meeting were approved as published in the February 2007 newsletter.

Treasurer's report was given by Wes Lingerfelt and accepted as read.

Correspondence: Elaine Von Achen reported newsletters received from *Conejo Gem & Mineral Club*, *San Gorgonio Mineral & Gem Society* and the *Capistrano Rock & Mineral Club*. A letter was received from Carolyn Weinberger, AFMS editor regarding collecting rights with a request to contact our Representatives & Senators regarding this matter. We also received a letter from the Salvation Army thanking us for our Christmas donation of \$50.00 and 152 items of canned food.

Committees:

Debbie Hood requested that each committee head please outline the duties of their particular committee

so that we will have a written guideline and can make up a manual.

Newsletter: Debbie Hood reported that the newsletter was out on the web and that snail mail would be sent out ASAP.

Education: Wayne Mills reported he will be giving a talk on February 22 to students at Dana School. He requested polished stones to pass out to each student.

Federation: None

Highway Clean up: Wayne Mills said next clean up would take place March 17 at 08:30; meeting at the 101 and 166 intersections.

Library: Gary Sheffer reported revising the inventory.

Refreshments: Elaine Von Achen said refreshments for February's general meeting will be cake.

Scholarship: Wayne Mills asked if the \$500.00 check for Hancock College was ready. Wes Lingerfelt said he will mail it upon his return from Tucson.

Gem Show: Wes Lingerfelt reported getting good response.

Sunshine: Debbie Hood reported John Belzel has been ill and that Dick Dry had congestive heart failure and had to have a pacemaker put in.

Raffle: Wayne requested that he be reimbursed for gas expense going to Quartzsite to purchase raffle items for the coming year. Wes Lingerfelt made a motion that we pay Wayne's gas expense. Motion was seconded by Elaine Von Achen. Motion passed.

Membership: Debbie Hood read an application for membership from Laura Kasteal. Wayne Mills made a motion that we accept Laura for membership. Sandy Berthelot seconded the motion. Motion Passed. Elaine Von Achen read an application for membership by Roger Lehman. Debbie Hood made a motion that we accept Roger for membership. Sandy Berthelot seconded the motion. Motion passed.

Audit: A letter from Don Nasholm, chairman of the Audit Committee, read, "It is the opinion of the audit committee that the procedure and processes used by the Financial Officer of OMS is satisfactory in form & content.

Old Business: None

New Business: The program for February's General Meeting will be presented by Wayne Mills and titled "Those Fabulous Thunder Eggs".

Displays for February will be pink or heart shaped rocks.

Meeting was adjourned at 7:35 p.m.

Orcutt Mineral Society

Respectfully Submitted: Elaine Von Achen,
Secretary, OMS.

Orcutt Mineral Society General Meeting. Mussell Sr. Center, Santa Maria, CA, February 13, 2007

President Debbie Hood called the meeting to order at 7:15 p.m.

Mike Henson gave the invocation.

Joseph Martinez led the flag salute.

We had 26 members and 2 guests. Guests were Roger and Donna Lehman.

Minutes: Elaine Von Achen read the minutes of February 06, 2007 board meeting. Minutes were approved as read.

Treasurer's Report was given by Debbie Hood and accepted as read.

Sheriff, Bill Hood reported everyone as having a nametag.

Correspondence: Elaine Von Achen reported newsletters received from *Conejo Gem & Mineral Club*, *San Gorgonio Mineral & Gem Society*, *Santa Cruz Mineral & Gem Society* and the *Capistrano Rock & Mineral Club*. A letter was received from Carolyn Weinberger, AFMS editor regarding collecting rights with a request to contact our Representatives & Senators regarding this matter. We also received a letter from the Salvation Army thanking us for our Christmas donation of \$50.00 and 152 items of canned food as well as a letter from the *Reno Gem & Mineral Society* asking us to please include their "Jackpot of Gems" show on May 12th and 13th in our Newsletter.

Committees:

Debbie Hood requested that each committee head please outline the duties of their particular committee so that we will have a written guideline and can make up a manual.

Newsletter: Debbie said that bulletin is out on the web as well as having been mailed.

Education: Wayne Mills reported he will be giving a talk on February 22 to students at Dana School. If any one would like to help he asked that they contact him.

Federation: Our dues have been paid.

Highway Clean up: Wayne Mills said our next clean up would be March 17th and we would be meeting at the Highway 101 and 166 intersections.

Library: Gary Sheffer reported that the inventory had been completed and that he hoped we could get it on our web site.

Refreshments: Dee Dee Magri noted that the evening's refreshment would be cake donated by Margaret Henson, Erica Erskin, Bob Bullock, Dee Dee Magri and Elaine Von Achen.

Scholarship: None

Gem Show: Dealers have been responding.
Sunshine: Dick Belzel has been ill and Dick Dry had a pacemaker put in. Jan Ferguson is not in attendance tonight as she has not been feeling well.
Abused Children: Bob Bullock graciously donated a piece of wulfenite for this evening's drawing, as Jan Ferguson wasn't here. Joseph Martinez won the wulfenite specimen.
Raffle: Wayne Mills reported some exciting items for the night's raffle. He said we had some purple goldstone beads, stone bird from Peru, amethyst crystal, fossils, an Australian rain forest sphere and much more.
Monthly Breakfast: Gloria Dana said that the next breakfast would be held at IHOP in Santa Maria on February 24 at 9:30 a.m.
Political Action Committee: No chairman has volunteered at this time.
Old Business: None
New Business: None
 The program for tonight will be given by Wayne Mills and is titled "Those Fabulous Thunder Eggs". Meeting was adjourned at 9:00 p.m.
 Respectfully Submitted: Elaine Von Achen, Secretary, OMS



A 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.

Orcutt Mineral Society was founded in 1958, and was 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 1989, William Orcutt discovered the mineral and fossil wealth of the La Brea Tar Pits on the property of Captain Alan Hancock. The La Brea Tar Pits are one of the most significant fossil finds in paleontological history. The OMS is a non-profit club 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 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

March 2007 Calendar

Tuesday March 6, 2007 7:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.	OMS Board Meeting-at Elaine Von Achen's house All members are welcome at this business meeting. Call Elaine at 929-1488 for directions.
Tuesday March 13, 2007 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.	OMS General Meeting-Elwin Mussell Senior Center. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Program- Sir Paul Howard will give his show "Agate Inclusions." • Display-Agates From Everywhere • Refreshments-Pie
Saturday March 17, 2007 8:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m.	Roadside Clean up After the cleanup, coffee and pastry at "Francisco's Country Kitchen" in Santa Maria.
Saturday March 24, 2007 9:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m.	OMS Monthly Breakfast- Shirley's Diner, 151 N. 7 th Street in Grover Beach. Take Grand Ave. to 7 th Street and turn right. It will be on the left side of the street in the second building. There will be another raffle drawing, so ya'll come and bring your appetites!
Saturday March 31 8:00 a.m. to 5 p.m..	Field Trip to Carrizo Springs- Meet at Mussell Senior Center Parking Lot. Trace the San Andreas Fault from Highway 166 north through the Carrizo Plains to Soda Lake. If we are lucky, we'll hit the highlights of wildflower bloom. Bring lunch and water. Short hikes possible. Contact Bob Bullock at 928-6372 for details.

April 2007 Calendar

Tuesday April 3, 2007 7:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.	OMS Board Meeting Mussell Senior Center. All members are welcome at this business meeting.
Tuesday April 10, 2007 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.	OMS General Meeting Elwin Mussell Senior Center. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Program- Wes Lingerfelt on "Silversmithing" • Display-Forms of Calcite-crystals, travertine, cave onyx, aragonite • Refreshments-Cookies
April 14 8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.	Field Trip to Figueroa Mountain- Meet at Mussell Senior Center parking lot. Explore old jasper trails, serpentine outcroppings, and wildflowers in full bloom. Fill your gas tank (no services on the mountain,) and bring a lunch and water. Adventure pass required. Contact Bob Bullock at 928-6372 for

	details.
April 28, 2007 Saturday.	OMS Monthly Breakfast- to be announced



2007-OMS Officers

Pres.	Debbie Hood	(805) 481-6860
Pres. Elect	Wayne Mills	(805) 481-3495
Secretary	Elaine Von Achen	(805) 929-1488
Treasurer	Wes Lingerfelt	(805) 929-3788
Immed. Past Pres.	Bob Bullock	(805)928-6372
Federation. Rep.	Wes Lingerfelt	(805) 929-3788

2007-OMS Board Members

Geary Scheffer	(805) 925-8009
Sylvia Nasholm	(805) 481-0923
Sandy Berthelot	(805) 349-3977
Dee-Dee Magri	(805) 595-2755
Mike Henson	(805) 934-1308

Ore-Cutts Editors

Deborah Hood	(805) 481-6860
Wayne Mills	(805) 481-3495

OMS Webmaster - Wes Lingerfelt -929-3788

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

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OMS Membership (dues) are \$18 per year. Junior memberships (under 18) are \$9 per year. Membership dues are due January 1, and are prorated for each month thereafter. Membership Chairperson is Elaine Von Achen (805) 929-1488

2007 Shows

March 2-4 2007, Hayward, CA

Mineral & Gem Society of Castro Valley
Centennial Hall 22292 Foothill Blvd.
Hours: Fri. & Sat. 10 - 6; Sun. 10 - 5
Larry Ham (510) 887-9007
Email: info@mgscv.org

March 2-11 2007, Imperial, CA

Imperial Valley Gem & Mineral Society
"60th Annual Gem & Mineral Show"

California Mid-Winter Fairgrounds
Hours: Fri, Sat, Sun. Noon - 10 p.m.
Mon. Thru Fri. 4 - 10 p.m.
Paul Steward (760) 355-1888

March 3-4 2007, Arcadia, CA

Monrovia Rockhounds
Los Angeles County Arboretum & Botanical Garden
301 N. Baldwin Ave.
Hours: 9 - 4:30 both days
Jo Anna Ritchey
Email: j.ritchey@verizon.net
Website: www.moroks.com

March 3-4 2007, Ventura, CA

Ventura Gem & Mineral Society
The Ventura Gem Show: Gems; Minerals, Lapidary Arts, & Fossils
Seaside Park- Ventura County Fairgrounds, 10 W. Harbor Blvd.
Hours: Sat. 10 - 5; Sun. 10 - 4
Ed Clark (805) 983-0028
Email: clarkoe@adelphia.net

March 10-11 2007, Spreckles, CA

Salinas Valley R & Gem
Veteran's Memorial Hall
5th and Llano Streets
Jim Bassett (831) 758-5830
Email: jbmsc@sbcglobal.net

March 10-11 2007, Turlock, CA

Mother Lode Mineral Society
Stanislaus County Fairgrounds
Hours: 10 - 5
Bud & Terry McMillin (209) 524-3494
Email: terry.mcmillin@yahoo.com
Website: www.motherlodemineralsociety.com

March 10-11 2007, Vallejo, CA

Vallejo Gem & Mineral Society
Solano County Fairgrounds
(junction Interstate 80 & Hwy 37) in the County Bldg.
Hours: 10 - 5 both days
Phyllis Malicki (707) 745-3255

March 16, 17, 18 2007, San Bernardino, CA

Orange Belt Mineralogical Society
Western Regional League Ballpark
6707 Little League Drive
Hours: Fri, Sat. 9 a.m. to dusk; Sun. 9 - 4
Al Carrell (951) 961-5988; Emma Rose (951) 288-6182;
Lyle (Pappy) (909) 887-3394

March 23, 24, & 25 2007, Bakersfield, CA

San Joaquin Valley Lapidary Society
5th Annual Rock & Mineral Rendezvous
Indoor Show/Outdoor Tail Gate
Kern County Fairgrounds
Hours: Fri. 9 - 8; Sat. & Sun. 9 - 5
Lewis Helfrich (661) 872-8230 or 323-2663

March 24-25 2007, Angles Camp, CA

Calaveras Gem & Mineral Society
Jump for the Gold Gem & Jewelry Show
Hwy 49
Hours: Sat. 10 - 5, Sun. 10 - 4
Tom Reeves (209) 754-4863
Email: star@volcano.net

March 24 - 25 2007, Roseville, CA

Roseville Rock Rollers
Placer County Fairgrounds
800 All America City Blvd.
Hours: Sat. 10 - 5; Sun. 10 - 4
Jim Hutchings (530) 367-5108
Email: rockrollers@hotmail.com

Website: www.rockrollers.com

March 31 - April 1 2007, Torrance, CA
South Bay Lapidary Mineral Society
Ken Miller Recreation Center
3341 Torrance Blvd.
Hours: Sat. 10 - 5; Sun. 10 - 4
(310) 318-2170
Email: lesneff@aol.com

April 14 - 15 2007, Mariposa, CA
Mariposa Gem & Mineral Club
Mariposa County Fairgrounds
Hours: 10 - 5 both days
Peggy Ronning (209) 742-7625
Email: mineralmuseum@sti.net

April 14 - 15 2007, San Jose, CA
Santa Clara Valley Gem & Mineral Society
Santa Clara County Fairgrounds
334 Tully Road
Hours: 10 - 5 both days
Marc Mullaney (408) 691-1584
Email: geologistm@aol.com
Website: www.scvgms.org

April 28 - 29 2007, Santa Cruz, CA
Santa Cruz Mineral & Gem Society
Civic Auditorium at Corner of Center & Church Streets
Hours: 10 - 5 both days
Eleanor & Hubert Drake (831-8086)
Email: hmdrake@pacbell.net



Orcutt Mineral Society, Inc.
PO Box 106
Santa Maria, CA. 93456-0106

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

Dues Are Due

*Are you a "lackadaisical Lou"?
Will you wait too long to pay dues?
You'll be struck off the roster
Don't you realize that it'll cost yer?:
The Ore-Cutts news, don't let it happen to you!*

All dues are due by the March meeting if you are to be included in the 2007 Redbook. *Don't put it off!*

Reno Gem & Mineral Society

Jackpot of Gems show

May 12th and 13th, 2007

Saturday: 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Sunday: 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Reno Livestock Events Center
Exhibits Hall
1350 N. Wells Ave.
Reno, Nevada

For more information call (775) 356-8820 or visit
their website: renorockclub.com