



Ore-Cutts

Volume XXXIX, Issue V

May, 2004

Lord, it's HARD to be Humble!

By Ralph Bishop, Orcutt Mineral Society

I have a feeling everyone at some time in their life finds themselves in a situation where one of those "lessons of life" is learned. We can hope these lessons learned will serve to circumvent future pitfalls. I cannot document date and time of most of my "lessons", but this one I can.

It was 1974, July 3rd - one day before the Prineville, Oregon *PowWow*. Long before Quartzsite drew many rockhounds, Prineville was the Mecca for Rockhounds. I had been digging for the previous week with Tom Caldwell at one of the Northwest's Classic Locations, Graveyard Point! For many years tons of vein agate had been hauled to the surface. Now we were drilling and blasting (with black powder). We lost some agate to the blast, but that was the only way to get the agate which was locked in solid basalt. The agate contained feathery plumes in yellow, red, black, and white in veins from a couple of inches wide to 18-20 inches. The veins formed in parallel running fractures in the basalt. Since the agate was harder than the basalt and weathered slower, the veins stood in relief 2 to 3 feet above the surface.

Graveyard Point is a long, low finger of land on the western side of the Snake River Valley. It is a prominent sight at sunset. In the early days the rows of vein agate with pieces missing here and there, and all in rows, looked just like tombstones in a graveyard. So comes the name *Graveyard Point*.

My work being done with Tom, I collected my "wages" of 1,000 pounds of high grade, packed the overload in the truck, and bedded down. The next day would be a long, hot drive to Prineville through the eastern High Desert, about 300 miles. My sleep was fitful as it was hot and muggy. I rose with the sun, gobbled whatever food was left, kicked the tires, and was ready to leave. It is my habit before I leave a location to take one short walk or "turn-

around". Now, I knew better than to do this. The truck was really sagged out, and it was already hot. But, what the heck, a short turnaround... I headed up a gully next to the truck, more for stretching my legs than anything else.



High quality slab of Graveyard Point plume agate from an 18" wide vein

The sun just peaked over the Sawtooth Range in the east. The Point was beautiful in this low light with its long shadows. Just as I made my turn toward the truck, it happened (again). The low angle light penetrated under a lush sagebrush. There it was, agate sticking out of the dirt under the brush. I knew better -- this happens VERY rarely (as in almost every time) I find a good rock, usually BIG. I went back to the truck, dug out some tools -- after all, it was early -- no problem -- yeah, right!

The sagebrush disappeared along with a couple inches of dirt. The vein was about 1 foot wide and showed plumes, some with druzy marcasite on them. The first hundred and fifty pounds came out easy, being shallow and it seemed to be getting better in quality, and the vein widened.

I made some loads to the truck (the poor truck), and returned to the vein. The next few pieces were locked in the basalt, but there was another 100 pounds or so ready to haul in an hour. Any sane man would have left, but the piece of vein in the basalt sure looked good. Should not be much trouble -- yeah, right. I knew better. I grabbed a few larger tools and went back up the gully. The clock was ticking.

When I got back to the rock, I checked my watch. It was around 10 a.m., and I knew I should be near the Stinking Water turnoff, not at Graveyard digging. My habit of taking a short "turn-around" before leaving an area generally gets me in "trouble". I knew better and now I was paying.



8" sphere from the heart of the vein of Graveyard Point agate that Amos "helped"

As I worked along the basalt on either side of the agate vein, I made some progress, but it was painfully slow. It was widening as it went down, so even though it would wiggle, it was still "locked".

I hadn't been banging away too very long when an old skutter popped over the ridge, sat down, and introduced himself. "Amos Cody," he said, "from Silver City, Idaho." He was a slightly built man in his 70s, with a very striking small handlebar mustache. He wore a grey XXX beaver Stetson. We found we had some mutual friends in Boyd Care and Hoot Elkins who had also worked at Silver City. He had some news about Bruneau jasper and I had some about Chandler carnelian.

Meanwhile, I made progress, but the clock was ticking and the Prineville *PowWow* started the next morning. I stopped for a minute, the frustration I'm sure showing on my face. I noticed a change in the tone of his voice. He said very matter-of-factly, "Young man, you know if you made a place for that rock to go it would go there." His words hung in that hot muggy air like molasses. For some reason his statement irritated me. I was hot and frustrated, and I thought to myself that was the stupidest thing I'd ever heard.

My reply was a polite non-answer, a brush-off tactic I'd learned in college. I had been out of college a couple years now. I'd learned a great deal about problem solving, and the patience it takes in solving a problem with a myriad of variables. I'd done fairly well since I moved to Oregon. I bought (cashed out) a nice parcel of land on a wild river, and built a home. I also started a rock shop, and set out about 700 acres of mining claims. I'd accomplished a great deal in 2 years. Oh, Lord, it was hard to be humble!

It was moving on 11 a.m. now, and it seemed I had made some progress (if progress means the rock wiggles a little bit more than it did). Some water helped me to compose my thoughts, then back to work making progress I assured myself.

A little time had gone by and Amos spoke up again. "Young man, you know if you made a place for that rock to go it would go there. Lord help me, I'm getting tired out just a watchin' you."

I was steamed over the rock. As it was, I didn't need to hear something like that again. But I was brought up to respect my elders, so I did my best to ignore him. Nice as he was, I guess I figured he was "simple". So, back to work I went making (let's face it) not much headway. And the clock was ticking.

Not too much time had passed, and I hear that tone of voice again. "Oh, God," I thought...

"Young man, I know we're not close or nuthin', but," and he hesitated, "I'd consider it a personal favor if you'd let me help you out with that rock."

"OK," I said as politely as I could muster, but my thoughts were those of disrespect and anger. I abandoned the hole to Amos. We'd see what he could do.

My thoughts beyond that cannot be transcribed. My words were fine, but my thoughts, they were over the line and I would pay a heavy price that would be, in the long run, a gift from God. Amos'

work seemed effortless and instead of the walls, he worked on the floor in front of the vein. With the sledge he broke an area of basalt up, never missing a lick. It was a small area between cracks and he had it cleaned out with a hammer and chisel in short order. This space allowed him to use the pry-bar on an adjoining piece. It took only a short time and the next triangle of rock dropped into the relief, and was rolled out. It took even more effort to pry the third and largest piece of basalt out. Why, Amos almost broke a sweat. But when the bar popped it loose and out, the vein dropped 3-4". Amos got up slowly, smiling and said "You see, ya can't hardly roll a big rock over a brick wall. Ya gotta make a place for it to go. Now if'n you want to pop that agate out I think it will oblige you."



The piece of vein of the yellow plume Ralph gave Amos in thanks

Still not a believer, I popped into the hole, bar in hand. It took some doing getting a good "purchase" or angle for the bar. But when I leaned on it, that big rock scraped the basalt walls, but very lightly, and fell at my feet. I was stunned and my words gushed forth in thanks. I probably sounded like a blathering idiot. "Well," Amos said, "don't let my ability discourage you none. After all, you didn't have the advantage of education like I did."

So I packed up the tools, and the rock, and in a couple of trips was back at the truck with Amos, of course. We drove our rigs down to the canal and under some cottonwoods, and I broke out the last of the smoked salmon. He was grateful and hungry, and we had a nice talk.

It seems the education he mentioned started when he was 10 years old. That's when he had to leave school and work in the mines. He said it was,

as I had heard, a hard place that either broke a man or made him. "Yup," he said, "my education came from chasing a 1" vein of nearly pure silver through solid granite for the better part of my life."

I guessed he was right. I was lacking in education, and I also felt like an earthworm.

Before we went our separate ways, I dug into a barrel and pulled out a 50 pound piece of vein with bright yellow plume and black dendrites. Now he seemed skiddish and didn't think I should out and give him what I worked so hard for. I was at a loss for words, then it came to me. I said, "Amos, I would consider it a personal favor if you would take this rock. It's one of the best."

"Well, when you put it that way," he said, "how can I turn you down, and it is the purdiest one I've ever seen. Now, just you remember, if'n you see a young fella workin' too hard, just let him know about making a place for the rock to go. He may think you're daft, but show him anyway."

I had a long drive to Prineville, but it seemed to pass quickly. The lesson I'd learned in a matter of hours was to follow me the rest of my life.

It seemed just the other day I came around a bend in the creek at Salty's and found a young fella named Marshall working on a big piece of jasper in the bottom. It was jammed in by a few rocks. Now this young man was making headway, but painfully slow. "You know Marshall, if you'd make a place for that rock to go, it would go there." It was hard to say, though, as a lump grew in my throat, and tears welled up in my eyes. I get real emotional anymore when I think of Amos and that day so long ago. I was able to snap out of it long enough to show Marshall a few things. Then I went for a walk, steeped in past recollections.

Now it's not hard to be humble.

Mineral Exchange Opportunity

Triggered by the arrival of a recent *Ore-Cutts*, we have received correspondence from "Down Under" soliciting the Orcutt Mineral Society or individual members of our Society to "undertake an exchange of minerals from our respective regions. Following are potential offerings from the Western Australia locale: dravite, gaspeite, jeppeite/priderite, clinobisvanite, hydrohonessite and paratacamite." If you are interested in exchanging 10-12 micro,

thumbnail, miniature and small cabinet sized specimens, please contact your *Ore-Cutts* editors.

Big Sandy Field Trip

You missed a great trip to a fantastic collecting spot if you didn't attend last year's field trip to Salty and Kelly Tapper's Big Sandy ranch. The good news is that we have been invited back! Salty called a few minutes ago with current news: wear boots, a few snakes are enjoying the warm spring weather. (Bob Bullock suggests waving a 5' piece of PVC you can use to announce your presence to them.)



Salty on "Ole Rock Collector" in the creek

Carpooling at Mussell Senior Center will leave at 8:00 a.m. We will meet a few folks from Paso Robles in San Miguel, and continue east to Big Sandy.



Parking area at Big Sandy (note the BIG trees and little trucks full of rocks)

This trip is fun for young and old alike. The parking area is on a gentle slope that leads down to a wide riverbed. The flat parking area has plenty of shade trees, pleasant breezes, and a running stream to dip toes in.

Terrorism Defined

Wes Lingerfelt, Treasurer, Orcutt Mineral Society

The FBI defines terrorism as "**The unlawful use of force or violence against persons or property to intimidate or coerce a government, the civilian population, or any segment thereof, in furtherance of political or social objectives.**"

However, I believe there are many kinds of terrorism; such as Backyard terrorism or Administrative terrorism. When a person decides to file a complaint against a fellow club member with a government agency, what is the goal? A bomb is thrown in the form of official complaint. Like all terrorists, this is done behind the mask of anonymity. It is a cowardly act that is intended to do financial and/or operational harm to a person and their business (Legal Terrorism). Through some perceived sense of justification, the end result justifies the means to correcting a perceived wrong. It could be a misunderstood joke. It could be from some fervent belief in protecting the environment or perhaps religion. In any case the coward gets someone else to do his or her dirty work.

Rather than solve the problem through persuasion or discussion with the perceived wrong doer, the full force of the government is brought to bear against the person and their business activities. How does this activity reflect on the group as a whole? Once the word is out that there is a terrorist among us, then suspicions are aroused. Conversations must become guarded. You must continuously be on your guard, looking over your shoulder wondering who might be listening. You must not discuss any aspect of your business or club activity for fear of attracting attention and perhaps a visit from the IRS, OSHA, EPA, BLM or other government agency. Don't let anyone know you traded that piece of petrified wood for fear of a visit from the Petrified Wood police. You get my point by now I'm sure.

The alternative to being a terrorist is to be upright and forthright in your actions to achieve your goals. There is no problem too big to

solve through discussion and openness. The club would be far better off, and so would the target of your bomb throwing. That is unless you are just bent on being an evil person and enjoy the pain and suffering you cause.

Orcutt Mineral Society

Board Meeting
Mussell Senior Center, Santa Maria CA
6 April, 2004

Call to Order at 7:04 p.m. by President Deborah Hood. Board members present were Sharon Duncan, Bill Hood, Debbie Hood, Wes Lingerfelt, Marshall Reeves, Geary Sheffer, Bess Shields, Lucky Virgin, Wayne Mills, Immediate Past President, and Dick Shields, Past President.

Treasurer's Report was read by Wes Lingerfelt, and accepted as read. The Mid State savings account has been closed.

Minutes of the previous Board Meeting were approved as published.

Correspondence:

- *Tule Smoke Signals* newsletter from Tule Gem & Mineral Club.
- Sun Valley Indian School newsletter.
- *Tumble Rumble* from Capistrano Valley Rock & Mineral Club.
- *Pick & Shovel* from San Geronio Mineral & Gem Society.
- *Rocky Review* newsletter from Conejo Gem & Mineral Club.
- *Dinny's Doins* newsletter.
- *Rockhound Notes* newsletter.
- EcoSystem Observations for Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary.
- *Mineral Mites* newsletter from Kern County Mineral Club.
- BLM News Bytes memorandum.

Committee Reports:

Adopt-a-Highway: Dick Shields reported on the March Clean Up. Marty Lingerfelt won the door prize.

Breakfast: Debbie Hood will remind members at the OMS General Meeting about the permanent change of location for monthly breakfasts to Omelets & More in Nipomo.

Bulletin (Ore-Cutts): Bess Shields reported that the bulletin was mailed and emailed one week early (luckily, since the Shields' computer died for a week).

CFMS: Wes Lingerfelt will attend the annual CFMS Meeting in Mariposa next month.

Membership: Wes Lingerfelt stated that a few members have moved, died, or not renewed their membership. However, we have recently added quite a few new members.

Property: Geary Sheffer reminded us about the April 17th locker cleanup, and will make an announcement at the General Meeting.

Redbook: Wes Lingerfelt handed out the 2004 Redbook to Board members tonight, and will have members sign for their copies at next week's General Meeting.

Refreshments: Sharon Duncan announced cookie night for the April General Meeting.

Scholarship: Wes Lingerfelt mailed checks today to Cuesta College and to Hancock College. He also wrote personal notes

to the recipients inviting them to our Annual Meeting in December, and our Gem Show in August.

Show: Debbie Hood needs items for the Country Store: books, plants, household items, and things "that may be odd, but should sell". Wes Lingerfelt says that there are still a few vendor spots available outside. Bess Shields reported that Demonstrator and Display Applications were sent out last month, and many have been returned already. Wes Lingerfelt and Dick Shields have handed out flyers in Quartzsite, the Tucson Show, Bakersfield, San Jose, Castro Valley, and numerous shows already. This year OMS needs more advertising so the public knows where and when the Gem Show occurs. Flyers will be available at the General Meeting next week.

Sunshine: Debbie Hood reported that Don Roberts died of a stroke. Walter Kerlick died of cancer. Louise Ryzner died of cancer. Debbie Hood faces knee surgery 29 April.

Old / unfinished business:

1. Geary Sheffer will see everyone on April 17th for the locker cleanup, followed by breakfast at Omelets & More.
2. Wes Lingerfelt announced that the tent top arrived, minus bungee cords. Wes bought bungee material, and fabricated replacement bungees to complete the project.
3. Wes Lingerfelt printed the Gem Show Raffle Tickets, and will have Marshall Reeves cut them. Tickets should be available for distribution soon.
4. Treasure Chest donation "prize competitions" will occur in May and July. Each General Meeting attendee will vote for their favorite donation to Treasure Chest, and the person who made the object will win a prize (hopefully, a Wes sphere!).
5. Hourly Drawings: Marshall Reeves is still working on an idea of how to sell more Raffle Tickets and award hourly door prizes at the Gem Show.

New business:

1. Debbie Hood read applications for membership received: Lee Rayburn and Bruce Porter were unanimously accepted as new members.
2. Debbie Hood reminded members of the Glass Beadmaking class, and says there are students who may be interested in becoming OMS members.

Wayne Mills will present the April General Meeting program. It will be on "Field Identification". Bring your unidentified or mystery rocks. The refreshments will be cookies.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:00 p.m. by President Hood.

Respectfully submitted,
Bess Shields, Secretary, OMS

Orcutt Mineral Society

General Meeting
Mussell Senior Center, Santa Maria CA
13 April, 2004

Call to Order at 7:05 p.m. by President Deborah Hood. Invocation was given by Bess Shields on "Graceful Attention". Flag Salute was led by Dick Shields.

Sharon Duncan reported that 27 members, and 1 guest were present. Guest was John Belzel.

Treasurer's Report was read by Wes Lingerfelt, and accepted as read.

Minutes of the previous Board Meeting were approved as read.

Committee Reports:

Breakfast: Debbie Hood announced the permanent change of location to Omelets & More.

Bulletin (Ore-Cutts): Bess Shields placed Demonstration and Display Applications for our August Gem Show on the Sign-in Table. An application will also be printed in the May Ore-Cutt. Mike and Margaret Henson will be submitting a travelogue on their recent adventures through Arizona and New Mexico for the June Ore-Cutts. Other members are encouraged to submit stories, techniques, and articles to our newsletter.

CFMS: Wes Lingerfelt will be attending the annual CFMS Show in Mariposa from May 28-30. Debbie Hood announced that copies of the CFMS article on "collecting site closures" are on the Sign-in Table for members to review.

Field Trips, Safety: Jan Ferguson reported on the Figueroa Mountain trip. Dick Shields announced the Big Sandy field trip on May 8th. June 12 will be the field trip to Brea Creek. Also, the Ridge Route Geologic Trip will be on April 24. Call Dick for further information on the Ridge Route trip. Wayne Mills mentioned the CFMS Cady Mountain collecting trip, Snyder Ranch Pow-Wow, and the Costa Mesa Gem Show.

Library, Books, Videos: Bess Shields brought basic field identification guides and videos to accompany tonight's lecture. Also, Dick Shields asked members to start preparing for our Santa Maria Public Library display in June, and the Lompoc Public Library display in July.

Property: Geary Sheffer reminded members that we will hold annual locker cleanup this coming weekend.

Raffle: Marshall Reeves has a variety of minerals for tonight's raffle in addition to a quartz crystal mass.

Red Book: Wes Lingerfelt has completed the Red Book, and will distribute them during the refreshment break tonight.

Refreshments: DeeDee Magri thanked the Hoods, Paul Morris, Truman Burgess, Joanna Turnbull, Jeannie Lingerfelt, the Shields, and Al Wilcox for tonight's cookies.

Sheriff: Bill Hood found that everyone wore nametags this month.

Show: Wes Lingerfelt is on track lining up dealers, and has a few remaining vendor spots. He reminds everyone to spread advertising flyers.

Sunshine: Debbie Hood reported that Louise Ryzner recently passed away. Wes Lingerfelt moved that a donation in her name be made to the CFMS Memorial Fund. Lucky Virgin seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Correspondence:

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

- *Tule Smoke Signals* newsletter from Tule Gem & Mineral Club.
- *Dinny's Doins* newsletter.
- Sun Valley Indian School newsletter.
- *Lapidarian* newsletter from Santa Cruz Mineral & Gem Club.
- *Rocky Review* newsletter from Conejo Gem & Mineral Club.

- *Rockconteur* newsletter from Santa Lucia Rockhounds Club.
- *Pick & Shovel* newsletter from San Geronio Mineral & Gem Club.
- *Tumble Rumble* from Capistrano Valley Rock & Mineral Club.
- *Rockhound Notes* newsletter.
- *Mineral Mites* newsletter from Kern County Mineral Society.
- BLM newsletter.
- EcoSystem Observations for Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary pamphlet.
- San Luis Obispo YMCA brochure.

Old / unfinished business:

1. Debbie Hood announced a contest next month for the best Treasure Chest donation.
2. Wes Lingerfelt has replaced the tent top covering our OMS overflow materials, and Country Store donations.
3. Marshall Reeves gave DeeDee Magri 20 books of OMS Gem Show raffle tickets for distribution to members. The remaining books will be issued at next month's meeting, or by contacting DeeDee.

New business:

Debbie Hood thanked Lucky Virgin for donating numerous beads to the Beadmaking Class.

Lee Reyburn and Bruce Porter were welcomed as our newest OMS members.

Following the break for refreshments, Wayne Mills presented a lecture on "Mineral Identification".

Meeting was adjourned at 9:00 p.m. by President Hood.

Respectfully submitted,
Bess Shields, Secretary, OMS

OMS mourns the passing of Oleta Ross

Oleta Frances "Dee" Ross, 89, of Oceano, died Sunday, April 18, 2004, at her residence. Oleta was born Dec. 13, 1914, in Texas, and was a resident of the Five Cities for 65 years. From 1970 until 1979, Oleta owned Ross' Septic Service in Oceano. She also owned and operated Ross' Rock Shop in Oceano and Grover Beach. Oleta was an active member of the Orcutt Mineral Society in Santa Maria.

Oleta was preceded in death by her husband, Bert Alton Ross, who was also active in OMS.

Orcutt Mineral Society has made a donation in Oleta's name to the California Federation of Mineralogical Societies (CFMS) Endowment Fund. Our sympathy is extended to Oleta's family.



EXHIBIT AND DEMONSTRATION APPLICATION
 OMS 37th Annual Rainbow of Gems Rock Festival
 August 6th through 8th, 2004
 Show Hours 10 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

St. Joseph's Church
 298 S. Thompson Avenue
 Nipomo, CA 93444

Dear Friends:

The Orcutt Mineral Society will be honored to have you exhibit at our 37th Annual Rainbow of Gems Rock Festival. We eagerly look forward to your participation this year and welcome newcomers to our event. Please complete, detach, and return the coupon (below) by July 1st, 2004 to assure that we will have a space reserved for your case.

Set up time will be 1:00 to 8:00 p.m. on Thursday, August 5th, 2004, prior to 10:00 a.m., or after 5:00 p.m. on Friday, August 6th, 2004. For those of you who can not arrive until later on Friday, please advise me what time you will be arriving so that I may reserve your case display area. Cases must remain intact during show hours. In the event of an emergency, a member of the Orcutt Mineral Society must accompany you if your case is opened or removed.

Dry camping will be available, and we ask that you vacate the camping area prior to 8:00 a.m. on Monday, August 9th, 2004. Dinner will be served to exhibitors, demonstrators, and all dealers from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m., Thursday evening. We ask everyone participating to stop by the Hospitality table to pick up your welcoming packet.

The Orcutt Mineral Society does not carry insurance for the loss or damage to your exhibits. Your homeowners insurance should cover this. The OMS will not be responsible for any loss. Watchmen are provided Friday & Saturday nights.

Please indicate below if you can demonstrate your special talents to the public at our show. Your participation has made our show a very special event over the years, and we thank you for your continued support! Please complete the form below and return to BESS SHIELDS, 1235 Ken Avenue, Santa Maria, CA 93455. Telephone 805-937-0357. E-mail is bess.shields@earthlink.net or oms@ix.netcom.com. Also, visit our web page at <http://www.omsinc.org> for helpful information.

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EXHIBIT AND DEMONSTRATION APPLICATION
 OMS 37th Annual Rainbow of Gems Rock Festival

Name _____ e-mail or phone: _____

Address _____

I will **exhibit** _____ case(s) entitled _____

My outside dimensions are: Length _____ Depth _____ Height _____

My case is Upright? _____ Slant? _____ (Wattage not to exceed 150 WATTS)

I have my own exhibit case(s) _____ I will need to borrow an OMS case _____

I will **demonstrate** _____

The Orcutt Mineral Society is a Public Benefit, Non-Profit Corporation

The History of Electricity

Marshall Reeves, OMS Board Member, contributed the following tidbit:

The history of electricity is a fascinating topic, but this is one of several obscure stories you'll never see on the History Channel.

In the early 20th century, Thomas Edison was spreading the word about electricity. Once, while vacationing out west, he stayed on the Sioux Reservation. Edison was shocked to learn that there was no indoor plumbing, and that he would have to use an outhouse. In fact, he was told, the Sioux had to use the outhouse regardless of the weather. To help the Sioux, Edison installed lights in the outhouses. With this act of kindness, he became the first person to wire a head for a reservation.

The Wanderer Ridge Route Revisited

Once again we had the pleasure of joining Tim Elam on an Old Ridge Route Geologic Tour. Tim is a staff geologist at Chevron/Texaco, and provided our group of 26 participants with six hours of intense geologic lessons about this unique area. Paul and Ann Morris, Ralph Bishop, Dick and I spent an enjoyable day filling our heads with visions of stromatolites, turbidites, phenocrysts, and subduction.



Tim Elam pointing out a strike-slip fault with 5' offset in the Ridge Basin formation

The Ridge Basin is located between the Liebre Mountains to the east, and the San Gabriel Mountains on the west. A layer of sediment 40,000 feet thick was laid down in the Ridge Basin over a period of 9 million years! As the

sediment layers developed, they compressed and sank (isostatic compression as Ann explained), while the mountains in the area continued to grow, and still continue to rise today!

Along Interstate Highway 5 (IH-5), the buckled layers of sediment (strata) are clearly visible in all directions. The thrusting and shifting follow no set pattern as this area is where the San Andreas, Garlock, Big Pine, Liebre Mountain, San Gabriel, Clearwater, and numerous other faults converge, and rumble. This area is the "kink" in an otherwise straight San Andreas Fault, and is an extremely active earthquake zone.

We ended the day by driving back on Lockwood Valley Road with Ralph pointing out several prime collecting locations, and entertaining us with some far-fetched tales of his youthful, early treks through the badlands in search of treasure. A dinner stop in Cuyama at the Buckhorn Restaurant reminded us of life in simpler times, and much lower dinner prices than we're used to paying.

Another geologic tour may be offered in the fall, so watch the Ore-Cutt for further information. Care to join us on the next jaunt along the Old Ridge Route?

Happy Hunting!

Love, Bess


OMS Picnic is June 5th. Reserve the date! (Details in the calendar)

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 La Brea 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 addi-

tion, 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.



Orcutt Mineral Society, Inc.
SANTA MARIA, CA

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.

2004 OMS Elected Officers

President	Debbie Hood	(805) 481-6860
President Elect	Lucky Virgin	(805) 929-9525
Secretary	Bess Shields	(805) 937-0357
Treasurer	Wes Lingerfelt	(805) 929-3788
Immediate Past President	Wayne Mills	(805) 481-3495
CFMS Representative	Wes Lingerfelt	(805) 929-3788

2004 OMS Board Members

Geary Sheffer	(805) 925-8009
Sylvia Nasholm	(805) 481-0923
Bill Hood	(805) 481-6860
Sharon Duncan	(805) 929-2209
Marshall Reeves	(805) 588-8932

Ore-Cutts Editors

Dick and Bess Shields	(805) 937-0357
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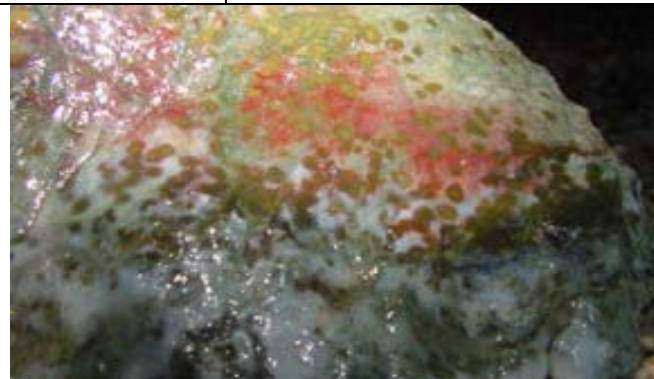
Webmasters

Dick Shields	(805) 937-0357
Wes Lingerfelt	(805) 929-3788

May 2004 Calendar

Tuesday May 4, 2004 7:00 PM - 8:30 PM	OMS Board Meeting -- Mussell Senior Center. All members are welcome at this business meeting.
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Saturday May 8, 2004 8:00 AM - 5:00 PM	Field Trip to Big Sandy -- Meet at Mussell Senior Center Parking Lot. Enjoy a warm spring day collecting in Salty and Kelly Tapper's back yard near the San Andreas Fault. Bring lunch and a good eye for jasper and fossils. Easy access to an excellent collecting area. Call Dick Shields at 937-0357 for details
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Sample Jasper from Salty and Kelly's creek

Tuesday May 11, 2004 7:00 PM - 9:00 PM	OMS General Meeting -- Mussell Senior Center <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Program: "Starting to Wire Wrap" by Debbie Hood • Display: Awesome Rocks • Refreshment: Cake and Cupcakes
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Saturday May 15, 2004 8:00 AM - 10:00 AM	OMS Highway Cleanup -- Intersection of Hwy 101 and Hwy 166. After the cleanup we have coffee and pastry at Omelets and More in Nipomo. Contact Marshall Reeves at 588-8932 for details.
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Saturday May 22, 2004 8:15 AM - 9:15 AM	OMS Monthly Breakfast -- Omelets and More, Nipomo. Note our new breakfast location. Call Ken Kreh at 343-7749 for details.
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June 2004 Calendar

Tuesday June 1, 2004 7:00 PM - 8:30 PM	OMS Board Meeting -- Mussell Senior Center. All members are welcome at this business meeting.
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Saturday June 5, 2004 10:00 AM - 3:00 PM	OMS Annual Picnic -- Pioneer Park, Santa Maria. Meat, bread, and sodas are provided. We start the fire about 1000 and will be ready to serve about 1230. Bring your own plates and silverware a side dish to share. We also suggest bringing a lawn chair for comfort. Bring rocks for the silent auction!
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Saturday June 12, 2004 8:00 AM - 5:00 PM	Field Trip to Brea Creek -- Meet at Mussell Senior Center Parking Lot. Explore the northern edge of the San Rafael Wilderness area. Plan to get your shoes wet in the creek, fill your gas tank (no services in the canyon), and bring plenty of bottled water and a lunch. Wil-
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	derness Pass required.
Saturday June 26, 2004 8:15 AM - 9:15 AM	OMS Monthly Breakfast – Omelets and More, Nipomo Call Ken Kreh at 343-7749 for details.

Saturday July 24, 2004 8:15 AM - 9:15 AM	OMS Monthly Breakfast – Omelets and More, Nipomo Call Ken Kreh at 343-7749 for details.
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Web Sites of Note:

May 2004

CFMS Mariposa Show Information:
http://www.cfmsinc.org/Shows/cfmsshow.htm
Understanding Evolution:
http://evolution.berkeley.edu
Minerals sorted by Chemical Groups
http://math.cochise.edu/weller/MineralChemicalGroups.html
Paleontological Portal:
http://www.paleoportal.org
California Federation of Mineralogical Societies:
http://www.cfmsinc.org/
American Federation of Mineralogical Societies:
http://www.amfed.org/

July 2004 Calendar	
Tuesday July 6, 2004 7:00 PM - 8:30 PM	OMS Board Meeting -- Mussell Senior Center. All members are welcome at this business meeting.
Saturday July 10, 2004 8:30 AM - 5:00 PM	Field Trip to Vandenberg Beaches -- Meet at Mussell Senior Center Parking Lot Bring a valid government issued picture ID (i.e., CA driver's license) and proof of auto insurance for each vehicle. Also bring plenty of water and a lunch. Call Dick Shields at 937-0357 for details
Tuesday July 13, 2004 7:00 PM - 9:00 PM	OMS General Meeting -- Mussell Senior Center. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Program: "Displaying" by Wayne Mills • Display: Best 1 X 1 (foot) Display • Refreshment: Pie
Saturday July 17, 2004 8:00 - 10:00 AM	OMS Highway Cleanup -- Intersection of Highway 101 and 166 After the cleanup we have coffee and pastry at "Omelets and More" in Nipomo. Contact Marshall Reeves at 733-2775 for details.

Check our OMS web site at <http://omsinc.org>
or send email to oms@ix.netcom.com.

Orcutt Mineral Society
P.O. Box 106
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ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED