



Ore-Cutts

Volume XXXVII, Issue XI

November, 2002

HOW TO START A JEWELRY SHOP FOR UNDER \$50.00 (OR SO)

From a talk by John Sharp,
Member, Torrance Gem and Mineral Society
Transcribed by Wayne Mills, Member, Orcutt Mineral Society

Mr. Sharp lived in North Carolina for 17 years before he moved to California and caught the rockhounding bug. His occupation as a distributor of machine parts helped him greatly with his understanding of tools and the techniques of machining. After his retirement he and his wife Linda moved to California in about 1984, and he bought a camper and went on his first field trip with the Torrance Gem and Mineral Society to Jalama Beach. There he found some travertine, and became interested in the finding and polishing of "neat rocks", and thus began the hobby that he still enjoys. In about 1987, he went to an adult education class in Lapidary where he met a group of silversmiths, and his interest in crafting jewelry was spawned.

John's first piece of jewelry was a twisted wire bracelet with red stones set on the ends. Since then he has developed a wide range of silver making techniques allowing him to produce as one of his latest pieces a silver and turquoise squash-blossom necklace. From the pieces that he shared, one can tell that John has been strongly influenced by the techniques and styles of Native American Silversmiths illustrated in the 2 volume series Indian Jewelry Making. John recommends volume 1 of that series as a great introduction to the art of silversmithing. There is a lot of appeal in creating elegant jewelry using the simple (and inexpensive) materials used by Native American Craftsmen.

Mr. Sharp has had a lot of fun visiting yard sales in many of the places he has visited. At these sales one can occasionally find great deals (like a \$75.00 vase for 50¢.) One can also make good buys on many of the items in John's Jewelry Workshop Essential Tools List at yard



sales. Watch the Friday paper for the yard sale guide, and hit 'em early!

John reminded the group that Santa Barbara City College has a very well equipped jewelry shop and that they often give 1-day or longer classes on various aspects of jewelry making. The \$40 or so cost of these classes is not included in the under \$50.00 workshop. Also, many of the prices assumed here are based on bargain shopping at John's favorite tool place-Harbor Freight (HF), and some of his favorite weekend haunts-yard sales.

JOHN SHARP'S LIST OF JEWELRY WORKSHOP ESSENTIAL TOOLS

- Fire brick- ask for 1, rather than go through the process of making out an invoice; they may just give it to you! (Surface for soldering.) Building materials supply, \$0
- Small crock-pot, electric aromatherapy pot for Sparex + water (pickling agent). Use 4 oz. Powder to 1½ cups water. Clean for 2 min. Yd. sale, 25¢
- Torch kit and propane from hardware plus sparker. HF, \$7
- Bench motor-John found old sewing machine on last day of the month. Bought shaft extender – chuck. Storage unit dumpster, \$2.
- Crude vent hood-handmade, with exhaust port for shop vac hose (used for dust). \$5
- "Magic hands" stand with clamps for holding small pieces. HF, \$4
- Magnifying head loupe. HF, \$10
- 1' x 2" Closet Rail for jeweler's mandrill. Construction site, \$0
- Jeweler's Saw. Yd. sale, 50¢
- Assorted files, small to large, round and flat, coarse and fine. HF, \$7
- Plastic ring sizers. HF, \$3.50
- Emery Boards (various grits). Drug Store, \$3
- Scriber. HF, \$2
- Bezel pusher. HF, \$2
- Burnishing tool. HF, \$3
- Tweezers (do not use steel products in Pickle (Sparex). Use copper tweezers or wooden chopsticks (or plastic fork?) HF, \$0
- Chinese restaurant (chopsticks), \$1
- Plier assortment: cut-off, flat nose, round nose, half-round, snap-ring (\$1 each on sale). HF, \$5
- Silver solder snips. (Or try the paste solder in a tube- it contains its own flux, and is easier to apply.) HF, \$4
- Ball-peen hammer. HF, \$3
- "Indian Jewelry Making" Vol. 1. Library, Craft, Bead Store, \$5***
- Exacto ruler and square (metric). Craft Store, \$10
- Postage scale to weigh silver. Yd. sale, 25¢
- Anti-Solder material (White out) paint on piece where you do not want solder to go. Washes off. Stationary Store, \$1
- **Total: \$77.50**

Your prices may vary, subject to availability, etc. You will note that two of the most important

ingredients in the jewelry shop (silver) and solder are missing. Those can be ordered locally through some of our craft stores, or perhaps more economically through a lapidary supply catalog. Ask your club's silversmiths for assistance with this process.

Another item to be watching for at yard sales is an old iron. Properly supported, it makes a nice stand for heating up dop wax when you are making cabs. Just be careful where you put your hands while the iron is plugged in!

This list is a nice place to start with your home jewelry shop. As you get interested in different techniques, you may want to accumulate more tools. That's fine, but you might think about ways to make some of the tools you need to see if the additional expense is warranted. Many hand tools can be made from scrap wood and a nail or an old file or saw blade. Your mineral club is a great source of inspiration and know-how for many of the projects you may wish to tackle.

(***ed. note: The book currently costs \$17.95 new.) ✕

Club Breakfast

Please join us for the monthly OMS Breakfast at 8:30 am on Saturday, November 23rd. The Girls Restaurant is located at 1237 Grand Avenue, AG. This is a time where we share information on collection sites, polishing tips, beading, and answer newcomer's questions about our hobby.

2003 OMS Board Nominations

Nominations will be taken from the floor at the November 12th General Meeting. If you wish to volunteer, or if you have further questions about running for a Board position, please contact Bill Hood. ✕

Highway Cleanup

The next OMS Highway Cleanup will occur at 8:00 am on Saturday, November 16. Meet at the junction of Highways 101 and 166. We will enjoy muffins and coffee after the cleanup at Omelets and More in Nipomo.

September Field Trip

"Change of Plans" by Wayne Mills

Our September field trip turned out to be a one day affair to the Willow Creek area. When I found out that the temperatures in the Afton Canyon area were going to be 95-98 degrees, and communicated that to Dee Dee Magri, she decided that something a little cooler was in order, so we went up to Limekiln to see if we could find the rhodonite that she left on the slopes there.

First we drove to Nit Wit Ridge in Cambria where she marveled at Captain Tinkerpaw's house. Then we stopped at San Carpofaro Creek to try our luck there. Next we drove to Limekiln and wound up hiking all the way down to the beach where we looked unsuccessfully for rhodonite and jade. Next we went to Willow Creek where we met members of the El Dorado Gem and Mineral Society.

After lunch, I led them to the soapstone site up the creek, and then met a local fellow who took us to Soapstone Point at Jade Cove. The cliff was pretty steep there, but I got a couple of pieces. Then Dee Dee and I hiked down to Sape San Martin where I found a couple of pieces of Jade before we climbed back up the hill and threaded our way around the poison oak back to the car. We both managed to fill up our buckets pretty well with jasper, soapstone and a few other "purty rocks". We were both pretty tired after our vigorous day of hunting.

Two weeks later when Todd and I went back up for the Jade Festival, I knew why it is so hard to find jade on the beach - the locals had already picked up most of it! It is amazing how much nice looking jade they had at the festival. Well, we had to go back to Willow Creek to try to find some ourselves, and both Todd and I got a couple of little pieces. But I keep hoping for the big one... pieces. ☺

Orcutt Mineral Society Board Meeting

Mussell Senior Center, Santa Maria CA
October 1, 2002

The Board Meeting was called to order by President Dick Shields at 7:02 p.m. Board Members present were Bill and Deborah Hood, Wes Lingerfelt, Don Nasholm, Marshall Reeves, Dick and Bess Shields. Guests were Geary Sheffer, Lucky Virgin, and Lynda Virgin.

Minutes of the September 3rd Board Meeting, and the September 10th General Meeting were approved as published. **Treasurer's Report:** Wes Lingerfelt presented the Treasurer's Report. It was accepted as read.

Committee Reports:

Gem Show: Wes Lingerfelt reported that the vendors want to reserve a spot as soon as they can for 2003. Wes says that he will need assistance from club members in filling potholes, grading the area, and preparing the site prior to our next show. Wes has already received authorization from California State for the Gem Show Raffle, and suggests that we begin ticket sales early this coming year. Also, moving "The Office" to the front of the show will give us the opportunity to answer more questions, sell more tickets, grab bags, and club materials.

Highway Cleanup: Marshall Reeves reported that 12 members collected 20 bags of trash at the latest cleanup.

Abused Children Fund: Dick Shields asked about the status of funds distribution for the Abused Children Fund. Debbie Hood will contact the agency and report back to the Board prior to our Annual Meeting in December.

Refreshments: Dick Shields announced that a new volunteer will be needed next year for the Refreshments Committee. The Board agreed that we still need to provide basic supplies at the October and November meetings. The cart and surplus supplies will be in the OMS storage unit until a new volunteer is found.

By-Laws: Wes Lingerfelt says that the By-Laws need revision to reflect the consolidation of our two shows into one Gem Show. Board members will review the document, and it will be voted on by the general membership after two readings.

Locker Cleanup: We have a need to clean our locker, and find the club paraphernalia. Members are asked to contact Geary Sheffer to volunteer.

Correspondence:

Sun Valley Indian School note.

Mineral Messenger newsletter from San Luis Obispo Gem & Mineral Club.

Rocky Review newsletter from Conejo Gem & Mineral Club.

Dinny's Doins newsletter.

Metal Stone & Glass magazine.

Joshua Tree Gem & Mineral Jamboree announcement.

The Agatizer newsletter from South Bay (Torrance) Club.

Ballot for National Rockhound "Hall of Fame".

Searchers Gem & Mineral Society newsletter from Anaheim Club.

Rockonteur newsletter from Santa Lucia Rockhounds Club.

Cayucos Gem & Mineral Show announcement on Nov. 2-3.

Thank You note from Santa Lucia Rockhounds Club.

Old / unfinished business:

Dick Shields reported that Hancock College campus is strapped for space, but suggests that OMS and Hancock can jointly seek permission to utilize room at Mussell Senior Center. The Dean, the coordinator, and Dick will research this possibility. The faceting class members have need for storage space, too.

Dick Shields had contact with a club in Washington State that wants to link our page to their site. It was suggested that our members who are professionals in the gem and mineral world

should also have links on our page. Our OMS site will include links to other commercial sites.

Wes Lingerfelt reported on research into OMS having a hosted service. He will have more information at next month's Board meeting.

Marshall Reeves has purchased the four mineral books for donation to the four libraries who hosted our OMS rock displays in July 2002. A cover letter will accompany each OMS donation.

Dick Shields asked for an accounting of funds and inventory of materials in the General Meeting Raffle conducted by Marshall Reeves. Due to computer problems, Marshall was not able to supply the lists tonight, but will at the next meeting.

Wes Lingerfelt reported that OMS rented tables to the Santa Lucia Rockhounds for their recent show, and received a nice thank you for our assistance.

New business:

Dick Shields is exploring the possibility of assembling an exhibit of local materials for La Purisima Mission. Two of our newcomers are docents at the Mission, and will help us obtain the necessary permission.

Dick Shields reported that the Speaker's Bureau is active, and is seeking other members who will give "Rock Talks" to school children, scouts, and civic groups.

The Program for next week's meeting will be "How to Build a Lapidary Business for Under \$50.00". Refreshments will be pies.

The Board Meeting was adjourned at 8:01 p.m. by President Shields.

Respectfully submitted,
Bess Shields, Secretary, OMS

Orcutt Mineral Society General Meeting

Mussell Senior Center, Santa Maria CA
October 8, 2002

Call to Order at 7:05 p.m. by President Dick Shields.

Invocation was given by Bess Shields on 'Ancient Cedars'.

Flag Salute was led by Victor Jonas.

Lynda Virgin reported that 26 members, and 8 guests were present.

Minutes of the October 1 Board Meeting were approved as read.

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

Committee Reports:

Bulletin: Dick Shields announced that bulletins will be available to visitors at the front table during the break. Also, bulletin articles are always welcome and can be e-mailed or sent to Dick.

Sunshine: Debbie Hood announced that Hal Nuernberg passed away. Also, Robert and Velma Reith are moving into an assisted living center in Shell Beach.

Refreshments: Thank you to Berthelots, Vic Jonas, Lingerfelts, and Shields for donating pies this month.

Field Trips: Wayne Mills reiterated that money must be submitted to the Paso Robles club if you plan to attend the La Brea Tar Pit trip.

Library: Bess Shields reminded members that books and video tapes are available at the meeting. Take time to look through the club catalogue of resources. Wes Lingerfelt will be

delivering the thank you books from OMS to the 4 libraries who hosted our rock displays last July.

Telephone Tree: Debbie Hood and Dick Shields have copies of the telephone tree for members.

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.)

Sun Valley Indian School newsletter.

Mineral Messenger newsletter from San Luis Obispo Gem & Mineral Club.

Tule Smoke Signals newsletter from Tule Gem & Mineral Society (Visalia CA).

Rocky Review newsletter from Conejo Gem & Mineral Club.

Cayucos Gem & Mineral Show announcement.

Thank you for support of their show from Santa Lucia Rockhounds.

Rockhound Notes newsletter.

Dinny's Doin's newsletter.

Gem & Mineral Jamboree announcement from Sportsmans Club, Joshua Tree.

Rockonteur newsletter from Santa Lucia Rockhounds.

Thank you for our rock display by Friends of the Nipomo Library.

The Rock Slab News from Searchers Gem & Mineral Society (Anaheim CA).

The Agatizer newsletter from South Bay Lapidary & Mineral Society (Torrance CA).

Breccia newsletter from Santa Clara Valley Gem & Mineral Society.

Whittier Gem & Mineral Society Show announcement.

American Opal Society Gem Show announcement.

Old / unfinished business:

Dick Shields reported that talks with Hancock and Mussell Sr. Center about reestablishing a lapidary room are progressing.

Dick Shields announced that he has a list from the Santa Barbara Natural History Museum about their upcoming talks. Contact him for more information.

New business:

Fred Summerson reminded members of the November 2-3 Galaxy of Gems Show. Wes Lingerfelt reported that the Cayucos show is the same weekend.

Bill Hood reported that the following individuals have agreed to accept nomination for the 2003 Board.

| | | |
|-----------------|-----------------|--------------|
| President: | Wayne Mills | |
| President elect | Debbie Hood | |
| Treasurer | Wes Lingerfelt | |
| Secretary | Bess Shields | |
| Board: | Sylvia Nasholm | Lucky Virgin |
| | Marshall Reeves | Lynda Virgin |
| | Geary Sheffer | |

There were no additional nominations from the floor at the General Meeting.

Following the break for refreshments, John Sharp gave a talk and demonstration on "How to Start Your Jewelry Shop for Under \$50".

The raffle was held after the program. Meeting was adjourned at 9:02 p.m. by President Shields.

Respectfully submitted,
Bess Shields, Secretary, OMS ☺

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 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 |

Web sites of note:**November 2002**

Minerals by state or province index:

<http://www.nearctica.com/geology/mineral/bystate.htm>

Geographic occurrence of amber:

<http://www.emporia.edu/earthsci/amber/geograph.htm>

Worldwide Museum of Natural History:

<http://www.wmnh.com/wmhome.htm>

Quartzsite on-line guide:

<http://www.quartzsite.com>

Planet Earth and Beyond, great sites for kids:

<http://www.ala.org/parents/greatsites/earth.html>

Exploratorium, San Francisco, California

Museum of Science:

<http://www.exploratorium.edu>

Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County:

<http://www.lam.mus.ca.us>

Cabochoon Making 101, Tucson Jr. College:

http://www.rockhounds.com/rockshop/oplc_cab.html

Desert USA Magazine:

<http://www.desertusa.com>

Collecting Fossils in California:

<http://www.gtlsys.com>

Our November Meeting speaker is David Feinberg presenting "Volcanoes of the World," an appropriate topic to discuss in light of current events in Italy. Wayne asks that you bring a favorite item from a field trip to share. ☺



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.

Do you have email? You can save the club 63¢ per month by receiving your copy of *Ore-cutts* via email. Notify us by sending a message to oms@ix.netcom.com.

Rockhound's Lament

A poem by Wes Lingerfelt, 1987

There are rockhounds that used to be lobbyists,
They were done in by environmental lobbyists.
All they had to do was fight the Bills,
But few had foresight in the test of wills.

Now they sit in their chairs and rock,
Or perhaps take a walk around the block.
A twist of regret deep inside is burning,
There's no place to go to fulfill that yearning.

They can hear their favorite campsite calling,
As the RV in the driveway in decay is falling.
That it could actually happen is such a shame,
Too bad they didn't grasp the stakes of the game.

The Wanderer, November 2002:

Giving

Orcutt Mineral Society has always been known as a giving society. A few of the ways we support our community is through participation in service projects, awarding local college scholarships, conducting instructional sessions,



and by speaking to groups about our hobby.

One of my favorite ways of giving is to speak in classrooms and at scout meetings. I enjoy sharing some of the knowledge that other rockhounds freely shared with me when I was younger. I feel satisfaction as I watch those faces light up, when geology suddenly makes sense to the listener. If you enjoy public speaking and demonstrating various aspects of our special hobby (or in assisting other speakers), please join us.

I have watched Wes Lingerfelt patiently explain the mineral ingredients in toothpaste, where kitty litter comes from, and what's in a common electrical wire. Ralph Bishop has a way of making saber-tooth tigers and mammoths come alive through his descriptions of prehistoric life in central California. Marshall Reeves quietly explains how to make a cabochon or sphere, and why rocks have certain colors. Wayne Mills goes into such detail about hydrology and thermal uplifting that I thought he was a science teacher when I first joined OMS.

During our August Gem Show, I had a group of 15 young scouts participate in a hands-on Rock Talk. Each one brought an egg carton, and enthusiasm. They spent the next 20 minutes filling their egg crate with examples of igneous, metamorphic, and sedimentary rocks, a quartz crystal, a geode, some locally collected materials, and a "special rock" they chose out of an old iron pot. Club members donated all of the materials utilized in this 'adventure'.

When we were younger and had questions about our budding hobby, who did we ask? Was it Grampa, a favorite teacher, or another resource? If you want to share in this worthwhile project, or assist with the show-and-tell, please contact one of us. Come join us on a field trip into the classroom, or help a scout earn a merit badge. Become a resource, a speaker, and an encourager. It's such a pleasant way to share our knowledge, and nurture those little pebble-puppies.

Happy Hunting,
Love, Bess ☺

Proposed Changes to the Standing Rules and Operating Regulations

Our Parliamentarian has proposed necessary changes to the club Standing Rules and Operating Regulations to bring them in line with the combining of two annual events into one show in August. The changes will be voted on during the November General Membership Meeting, and copies will be handed out as you sign in at the meeting. The changes are:

- Revision of Gem Show Committee description.
- Treasurer duty to obtain the annual raffle permit.
- Annual business meeting revisions.
- Change in the amount of the donation to the Scholarship Fund from Gem Show proceeds.

If you wish to obtain a copy prior to the meeting, call or email Dick Shields at 937-0357 or Wes Lingerfelt at 929-3788.

Tip Top Winter Tip

For Frosted Glass:

A simple way to decorate for the holidays...Add Epson salts to a saucepan holding 2 cups of boiling water until no more salts will dissolve. You will have a saturated solution. Add a few drops of liquid glue to help the "frost" adhere to the glass. With a brush, apply the mixture to the window, vase, or outside of a glass in whatever design you prefer. The liquid will begin to evaporate at once, and the crystals of the salt will look like frost, and can be washed off.

From various newsletters including [Breccia](#), [Rock Rattler](#), [Cabber Grabber](#), and [Nodule Nocker News](#). (ed. - I think the newsletter names are as fun as the recipe!)

Make Rock Candy

Rock Candy is sugar crystals on a string. When you are done making the crystals, you can eat them!

Materials:

Sugar, quart jar, water, pencil, string, wax paper, and heat.

Directions:

1. Get a very clean jar.
2. Boil a quart of water and dissolve as much sugar as you can. Pour this into the clean jar.
3. Tie a string to a pencil and hang the string into the jar with the pencil resting on the far rim. To slow down the evaporation, you can

put a piece of waxed paper on the top of the jar.

4. As the solution cools, it becomes super-saturated. The excess sugar will crystallize on the string. Enjoy!

From [Rockhound's Rag](#).

Why Dogs Make Great Rockhounds

By Jim Reynolds for [Petrieved Log](#)

1. Dogs love to dig.
2. Dogs are low to the ground so they can sniff out interesting specimens.
3. Dogs hunt in packs.
4. Dogs love to ride on dirt roads with great anticipation for the end of the journey.
5. Every place a dog goes, it is like the first time he has been there, no matter how many times he has been there.
6. A cold nose on a hot day feels good.
7. Dogs only whine if they are not fed, never if they have traveled too far without a rest stop.
8. Dogs will always follow you back up the hill to the car at the end of the day.
9. Dogs love to wet everything to see if it shines.





You are cordially invited to the

Orcutt Mineral Society Annual Meeting

Saturday, December 7, 2002

Maria del Sol

Agenda: 1405 East Main Street, Santa Maria CA

Noon: Happy Hour.

12:10 pm: Invocation, Pledge of Allegiance, and introduction of Guests.

12:20 pm: Dinner Buffet

1:30 pm: Entertainment "Sweet Adelines" with Alexis Van Natta

2:15 pm: President's Annual Report by Dick Shields

Future Goals of the Club by Wayne Mills

Awards Ceremonies

2:45 pm: Installation of Officers by Wes Lingerfelt

Photographs by Bill Hood

3:15 pm: Drawing (centerpieces)

3:30 pm: Adjourn meeting.

Buffet includes: relish tray, baked ham, roasted turkey, green salad, three bean salad, carrot and raisin salad, fruit with marshmallows, scalloped potatoes, green beans almandine, hot rolls, dessert, coffee and tea

Chairmen: Debbie and Bill Hood (481-6860)

Please bring canned food

for the Salvation Army, and donation for the Abused Children's Fund



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

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED