



Ore-Cutts

Volume XXXVIII, Issue XI

November, 2003

The South Korean Order

By Paul Patrick, OMS Member
and Owner, Gem Trees by Patrick

In mid-August of this year I received an e-mail inquiry from a commercial real estate firm headquartered in New Jersey asking me if a custom made gem tree could be completed by the end of September, 2003. I replied positively, with certain reservations, namely the type of tree, the types of gemstones requested along with other special requests.



Paul Patrick's workbench at the start

Kristen, the coordinator assigned by her company to find a unique corporate gift for one of their overseas clients, found my website and indicated to me that her boss (the company CEO) wanted to see a sample of my work before committing to an order. I mentioned to her that they could buy a finished Oak Gem Tree made of fine Canadian Jade, inspect it, and either keep it or mail it back to me. Kristin e-mailed me stating that they received the tree and decided that they would like to place an

order, but needed more time to decide the details like the type of tree, the selected gemstones.

I decided to phone her to personally discuss their requests. She mentioned that they wanted a gem tree done in traditional Korean style, meaning that a gem tree looking like a Japanese pine would not suffice, but would actually be insulting to their culture. She suggested a Korean White Pine. I said that I would get on the internet to locate a picture of a Korean White Pine and get back to her regarding feasibility and price.

Two days of internet searching did not produce a picture, but lots of scientific data on the tree. Finally Kristin e-mailed me a picture (gleaned from a Korean travel brochure) of what this tree should look like. To my surprise, the tree looked like the big "Digger Pine" growing just outside my door. I replied back that there should be no problem meeting her deadline of September 30th. She then dropped a bomb on me, saying that they decided on FIVE gem trees, all the same, with four of them finished within five weeks. The fifth one could be completed at a later date as it was going into the corporate headquarters. Also, they wanted the gem trees done in Canadian Jade and Alaskan Gold, with a unique, "one of a kind" base and elegant presentation boxes bringing the cost of each gem tree to over twice the initial cost.

I accepted the commission and proceeded to source out both the presentation boxes and the bases. Fortunately, my neighbor, Marvin Kroger, a master woodworking craftsman started work on the elegant presentation boxes

and Wes Lingerfelt accepted the job of fabricating the bases out of fine, rare petrified wood from the petrified wood forest in Arizona. That left me with acquiring the suitable Alaskan gold nuggets by the bidding process on eBay. These gold nuggets had to be the right size and weight because when applied to the gem tree the final effect had to look like the jade tree was “wind dusted” in gold.



Korean White Pine in progress

Early in my negotiations with Kristin I mentioned that I would need payment in full prior to constructing custom made gem trees. She promptly mailed me (by overnight express) a check for the total amount so I could proceed with the project. As a side comment, she mentioned that the Gem Trees were to be presented as gifts to four important clients residing in South Korea. They were: the President of South Korea, his deputy, the mayor of Seoul and his deputy. I was stunned! I have made other custom gem trees for corporate clients but never for such important foreign dignitaries.

Since both Marvin and Wes lived relatively close I could easily check on their progress. Winning and delivering gold nuggets from eBay sellers caused me much grief due to the timing. Finally to solve that problem I contacted each gold seller requesting they use Priority Mail for faster delivery.

Finally, after 35 continuous days and late nights without a break (my wife threatened di-

vorce), the project was finished and shipped to New Jersey, one full day before the deadline.



The finished product, the “Korean White Pine” in Canadian jade and Alaskan gold with Arizona petrified wood base

Kristin contacted me with profound thanks stating that the final results were far beyond their expectations, and that all the corporate staff marveled as to the resemblance of the trees to the one and only picture I had to work with. To this end, I extend my many thanks to Wes, Marvin, and all the eBay gold sellers for cooperating with me on this project with such a tight deadline.

On a CLEAR (Creek) Day...

By The Wanderer

(another fun joint field trip with Santa Lucia Rockhounds)

Dreaming of treasures to be found, our journey to Clear Creek Management Area began at 7 a.m., and would be a long, rewarding day of adventure for Ralph Bishop, Robbie Bullock, Sharon Duncan, Dee Dee Magri, Dick and Bess Shields. We pressed on to King City, headed east, and met up with the

Santa Lucia Rockhounds group in the Clear Creek/Oak Flat Campground by 10:30. The temperature was ideal since Santa Maria was in the 80's, and so was Clear Creek! Our first collecting stop was one mile east of the campground along the creek. Sharon and Ralph hoofed it upstream far ahead of the group. The rest of us collected close to the road, finding botroidal jade, orbicular pieces of jasper, chatoyant material, serpentine, cinnabar, and turtle jade.



Road R001 over the saddle between Idria Peak and San Benito Mountain leads to the Aurora Mine

The BLM map states, "Hobby gem and mineral collectors are drawn to the Clear Creek area by the presence of over 150 semi-precious minerals and gemstones." There are numerous exploratory digs toward the crest of the canyon to the north, and benitoite mine dig evidence on the far side of the hill. Other minerals found in the management area include asbestos, topazite, tremolite, chromium, mercury, chert, and neptunite.

Dee Dee, and Robbie stayed close to his new truck awaiting the return of Sharon and Ralph. Dick and I had adopted a new Santa Lucia member. Susan was delightful company, and enjoyed her first field trip immensely. We three decided to set off for the mines uphill, past staging area 6 on R001, uphill to T130, and R014. The BLM map is accurate and quite helpful. The management area is a popular dirt biking destination, and the many riders we encountered all wore asbestos protection masks since this is a natural hazardous asbestos area.

Although Dick and Robbie had coordinated their walkie talkie stations at the campground, they were unable to locate one another all afternoon. Steep terrain and long distance prevented any contact. After touring the largest mine, we rejoined R001, and continued downhill seeking the others.

We finally encountered them just another mile east of their all-day collecting spot.

We ended the adventure by collecting turtle jade just to the south of Oak Flat Campground along the streambed. I was designated as the go-pher (go fer that one in the middle of the stream, please, since you're already barefoot). Sharon has plenty of material for wire-wrapping, Dee Dee found jade for hubby (Aldo), and Robbie filled up the back end of his new truck with plenty of boulders the girls just had to take home. Dick even retrieved some fluorescent materials from the side of the road. BLM was right by designating this area as a gem and mineral collector's paradise!



Sharon concluded tarantulas don't like hand lotion when this one jumped (and so did we)!

On the way out of the Clear Creek area, we saw wild turkey, elk, and evidence of wild pigs. Sharon even tried to make friends with a fuzzy little tarantula. We ended our day of adventure by having dinner at the Wild Horse Café and Truck Stop. It was a LONG day, but I look forward to doing it again soon.

If you do go up to Clear Creek, make sure you take plenty of drinking water, a variety of snacks and sandwiches, lots of rock buckets, sandals for creek collecting, a rock hammer, and sunscreen. There are pit toilets at each of the 6 staging areas. It is not recommended that you drive up the hill if the weather has been wet! We made it easily in the Sequoia on a dry day, but would be in trouble if it were wet.

This was another successful jaunt. Care to join us next time?

Happy hunting, love, Bess

Orcutt Mineral Society

Board Meeting
Mussel Senior Center, Santa Maria CA
7 October, 2003

Call to Order at 7:03 p.m. by President Wayne Mills. Board members present were Sharon Duncan, Debbie and Bill Hood, Wes Lingerfelt, Wayne Mills, Sylvia Nasholm, Marshall Reeves, Geary Sheffer, and Bess Shields, and Dick Shields, Immediate Past President.

Trip reports: Dick Shields reported on the Old Ridge Route trip. Wayne Mills reported on the Willow Creek/Limekiln adventure, collecting at Salty Tapper's ranch, and a Lake Lopez trail trip.

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

Minutes of the previous General Meeting were approved as published.

Committee Reports:

Adopt-a-Highway: Marshall Reeves reminded us of the November 15th Highway Cleanup, and coffee at Omelets & More.

Bulletin (Ore-Cutts): Dick Shields reported that the November *Ore-Cutts* will include articles about Paul Patrick and Wes Lingerfelt's "Gem Tree" project, and updates about Wes' newly installed drag saw.

Education: Wes Lingerfelt had 8 boy scouts and 3 parents visit his shop for an informational session. Sylvia Nasholm reported entertaining a group of boy scout leaders at her workplace.

Field Trips, Safety: Dick Shields reminded us of the Refugio and Gaviota beach trip next Saturday. Also, there will be a trip to Cerro Gordo. Dick has additional information about these events.

Refreshments: Wayne reported that pie will be our refreshment for October.

Sunshine: Debbie Hood reported that Frank Sausa is not yet receiving visitors. Bill Hood reported that Lucky Virgin has the flu.

Correspondence:

Dinny's Doins newsletter.

Lapidarian newsletter from Santa Cruz Mineral & Gem Society.

Old / unfinished business:

1. Wayne Mills reminded us about the Jade Festival on October 10-11, Cayucos Show on October 18-19, and the Trona Show on October 11-12.

2. Wes Lingerfelt announced that our show will be on August 6-8, 2004 in Nipomo.

3. Wes also reminded officers that he is in the process of ordering pins for holding offices, and any additional pins or lost pins can be replaced at this time.

New business:

1. Lucky Virgin was unable to attend tonight, so Bill Hood reported the following people will be presented as nominees to the Board of Directors:

President: Debbie Hood

President-elect: (open)

Secretary: Bess Shields

Treasurer: Wes Lingerfelt

Board: Sharon Duncan, Lucky Virgin, Marshall Reeves, Sylvia Nasholm, and Geary Sheffer

Bill encouraged us to seek a candidate for President-elect by next week so a full slate of candidates can be presented at the General Meeting.

2. Wayne Mills proposed that we hold a special raffle for the Ethiopian Opal donated by Ralph Bishop which will be awarded next week. The proposal is \$1.00 per ticket.

3. Treasure Chest and Raffle donations are always welcome. Wayne asked that items being donated include a description of what the item is, where it came from, and who is making the donation.

4. An application for membership was received from Elaine Von Achen, and she was unanimously approved.

The October Program is being presented by Wayne Mills, and is entitled "Mining Minnesota." Members are asked to bring specimens they have collected on OMS Field Trips during the last year.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:16 p.m. by President Mills.

Respectfully submitted,

Bess Shields, Secretary, OMS

Orcutt Mineral Society

General Meeting
Mussel Senior Center, Santa Maria CA
14 October, 2003

Call to Order at 7:08 p.m. by President Wayne Mills.

Invocation was given by Bess Shields on "Patience". Flag Salute was led by Wayne Mills.

Sharon Duncan reported that 27 members, and 4 guests were present. Guests were Kathy Collison, Joanna Turnbull, Leah Gundy, and John Roulston.

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

Minutes of the previous Board Meeting were approved as amended.

Committee Reports:

Adopt-a-Highway: Marshall Reeves reminded us about the November 15th cleanup at 8:00 a.m.

Bulletin (Ore-Cutts): Wayne Mills announced that he wants a volunteer to interview long-time members, and submit short biographies to the *Ore-Cutt*.

CFMS: Wayne Mills announced the dates for Camp Paradise and Zzyzx in 2004.

Education: Wes Lingerfelt held a talk for 8 Scouts and 3 leaders recently at his shop.

Field Trips, Safety: Dick Shields announced that there will be a field trip to Ralph Bishop's collection in November, and to Santa Agueda Creek in December. There will also be a joint field trip with the Santa Lucia Rock Club to Clear Creek later this month, and a CFMS trip to Afton Canyon and Cady Mountain October 17-19. Contact Dick for further information, or consult the *Ore-Cutt*. Wes Lingerfelt reported on the Trona Lake adventure last month. Wes also invited us to see his pecan spheres on the back table.

Refreshments: Thank you to Lingerfelts, Christine Clason, the Nasholms, and Sharon Duncan for tonight's refreshments.

Sunshine: Debbie Hood reported that Lucky Virgin is well. Truman Burgess' knee is infected, and he is recovering. Frank Sausa is still recovering after heart bypass surgery, and is not receiving visitors yet.

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.)

- *Dinny's Doins newsletter.*
- *Sun Valley Indian School newsletter.*
- *Lapidarian newsletter from Santa Cruz Mineral & Gem Club.*
- *The Agatizer newsletter from South Bay (Torrance) Club.*
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- *Rocky Review newsletter from Conejo Gem & Mineral Club.*
- *Rockonteur newsletter from Santa Lucia Rockhounds Club.*
- *Pick & Shovel newsletter from San Geronio Mineral & Gem Club.*
- *Mineralogical Society of Southern California Gem Show announcement.*
- *American Opal Society Opal & Gem Show announcement.*

Old / unfinished business:

Wayne Mills announced that August 6-8 will be the dates for our Gem Show next year.

Lucky Virgin reported on nominations for the 2004 OMS Board:

President-elect, Lucky Virgin;

Treasurer, Wes Lingerfelt;

Secretary, Bess Shields;

Board members Bill Hood, Sylvia Nasholm, Marshall Reeves, Geary Sheffer, and Sharon Duncan.

Elections will be held at the General Meeting in November.

Marshall Reeves announced that tickets for tonight's raffle will cost \$1.00 each. The Ethiopian Opal donated by Ralph Bishop last month, and numerous other high value items will be part of the raffle.

New business:

Wayne Mills announced the approval of Elaine Von Achen as a new member.

Wayne Mills thanked everyone for bringing in their field trip display materials tonight.

Following the break for refreshments, Wayne Mills presented a slide show about his summer trip to Minnesota.

Rob Bullock won the Ethiopian opal, guest Leah Gundy won the crystal mass, and Fred Summerson won the wire-wrapped pendant. The November display topic is "Cabachons".

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

Respectfully submitted,
Bess Shields, Secretary, OMS

Wes Lingerfelt Debuts His Drag Saw

After years of trying to get my act together I finally made it. I now have a working drag (rock) saw capable of cutting big logs. The first one to get cut was acquired in 1991 over the 4th of July holiday and consisted of borrowing a trailer from Al Ryzner and driving 1810 miles round trip to Farmington, New Mexico in 3 days. I am pleased to note that the log was well

worth the trip and the long wait to get it cut.

Here are some pictures:



This slab of petrified pecan wood is 20" X 17"



When it's polished, the pecan takes on a rich dark brown color. This sphere is 7" but Wes has a 10" in the grinder as we go to press

BEACHIN' Trip

The Wanderer (OMS field trip for October)

Dick Shields surprised us all by starting the collecting trip at the Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History. It was Tom Dibblee's birthday, and a special celebration (at \$50 plate) was planned for him by the museum. Being of the rockhounding ilk, we chose to picnic under the trees in our dungarees instead of sipping champagne. Contributors to our feast were Dee Dee Magri, Sharon Duncan, Christine Clason, Robbie Bullock, Ralph Bishop, Dick and Bess Shields.

We spent two hours touring the featured exhibits, including an Earth Day Celebration for kids.

Several special cases of exhibits from the Santa Barbara Rockhounds were filled with great specimens, including marbles that Tom made over the years.

After our museum visit, we traveled north to the railroad trestle collecting spot for agates, jasper, chert, and fossilized materials. This vista point features a very steep descent, but is an excellent collecting location. The only drawback is going back uphill with 40+ pounds per person of wonderful material.



Texture, not color...texture, not color...

Our last stop was easier to traverse, at a little spot one mile south of the trestle. We wandered long, sandy beaches, and inspected piles of materials washed ashore last spring. We found plenty of large chunks: Catalina marble, calcite globs, jaspers, some fossilized material, and pretty agates.

We ended the day back at Shields' home for enchilada casserole, homemade cookies, and ice cream. We all considered this a very successful day of hunting! Care to come along next time?

Happy Hunting! Love, Bess

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.



OMS Logo

A rock saw cutting a piece of stone was selected when the first bulletin, *ORE-CUTTS* (name-sake, William Orcutt) was first published in 1966. Member Helen Azevedo was the first editor.

2003 OMS Elected Officers

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

2003 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) 733-2775

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

Web Sites of Note:

November 2003

Orcutt Mineral Society: http://www.omsinc.org/
Rick Kennedy's finished benitoite gems: http://www.benitoitemine.com/benitoite/testim.shtml
BLM Clear Creek Management Area: http://www.ca.blm.gov/hollister/clear_creek_management_area.html
Paleozoo Earth Sciences: http://www.paleozoo.geozoo.org/
New Arizona-centric information source: http://groups.yahoo.com/group/cu_n_az/
Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History: http://www.sbnature.org/
Desert Studies Center, CSU field station: http://biology.fullerton.edu/facilities/dsc/zzyzx.html
American Federation of Mineralogical Societies: http://www.amfed.org/
California Federation of Mineralogical Societies: http://www.cfmsinc.org/

November 2003 Calendar

Tuesday November 04, 2003 7:00 PM - 8:30 PM	OMS Board Meeting -- Mussell Senior Center. All members are welcome at this business meeting.
Tuesday November 11, 2003 7:00 PM - 9:00 PM	OMS General Meeting -- Mussell Senior Center <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Program: Wes Lingerfelt on "Good Medicine for Sick Rocks" • Display: Best cabochon (bring 1-4) • Refreshment: Cookies
Saturday November 15, 2003 8:00 AM - 10:00 AM	OMS Highway Cleanup -- Intersection of Hwy 101 and Hwy 166 After the cleanup and the visit to "Omelets and More" we are congregating at Ralph Bishop's (see below). Contact Marshall Reeves at 733-2775 for details.
Saturday November 15, 2003 11:00 AM - 2:00 PM	Field Trip to Ralph Bishop's Collection -- Meet at Mussell Senior Center Parking Lot after Highway Cleanup and "Omelets and More." Ralph has been known to accept cookies, brownies, or lemon bars. After all, he's talking, not digging. Call Dick Shields at 937-0357 for details.
Saturday November 22, 2003 8:30 AM - 9:30 AM	Monthly OMS Breakfast – Girl's Restaurant, Arroyo Grande. Breakfast location alternates between Baker's Square in Santa Maria and The Girl's in Arroyo Grande. Call Dick Shields at 937-0357 for details.

December 2003 Calendar

Tuesday December 02, 2003 7:00 PM - 8:30 PM	OMS Board Meeting -- Mussell Senior Center. All members are welcome at this business meeting.
Saturday December 6, 2003 11:30 AM – 2:30 PM	OMS Annual Meeting at Maria del Sol -- 1405 East Main Street, Santa Maria <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Buffet Luncheon <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Members \$6.50 o Guests \$13.00 • President's Annual Report • Awards • Installation of Officers • "Sweet Adelines" Christmas Performance Bring donations for the Abused Children Fund and canned goods for Goodwill Call Bill and Debbie Hood at 481-6860 for details.
	
Saturday December 20, 2003 09:00 AM – 5:00 PM	Field trip to Santa Agueda Creek -- Meet at Mussell Senior Center Parking Lot. Franciscan formation chert, brecciated jasper, and agates. Bring a lunch or eat later in Los Olivos, Solvang, or Santa Ynez.
Saturday December 27, 2003 8:30 AM - 9:30 AM	Monthly OMS Breakfast – Baker's Square, Santa Maria Restaurant, Breakfast location alternates between Baker's Square in Santa Maria and The Girl's in Arroyo Grande. Call Dick Shields at 937-0357 for details.

January 2004 Calendar

Tuesday January 06, 2004 7:00 PM - 8:30 PM	OMS Board Meeting -- Mussell Senior Center. All members are welcome at this business meeting.
Saturday January 10, 2004 9:00 AM - 4:00 PM	Field Trip to Jalama Beach -- Meet at Mussell Senior Center Parking Lot. We will depart at 0900. Entrance fee for each vehicle at Jalama. Walk over beach sand and rock to a travertine outcropping. There is oil on the beach so bring old shoes for the walk. Bring a lunch or eat in the Jalama Café on the beach.
Tuesday January 13, 2004 7:00 PM - 9:00 PM	OMS General Meeting -- Mussell Senior Center <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Program: TBD • Display: TBD Refreshment: Donuts

Saturday January 17, 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 733-2775 for details.
Saturday January 24, 2004 8:30 AM - 9:30 AM	Monthly OMS Breakfast – Girl's Restaurant, Arroyo Grande. Breakfast location alternates between Baker's Square in Santa Maria and The Girl's in Arroyo Grande. Call Dick Shields at 937-0357 for details.

November General Meeting

Annual Elections will be held at the next General Meeting. A list of candidates is included in the Meeting Minutes on page 4. Also, bring your best cabochon creations for the monthly display. We'll vote on the prize winner. Bring your collected aluminum can pull tabs and Campbell Soup labels to contribute to the Sun Valley Indian School and Ronald McDonald fundraisers.

(Note: Printed copies of the bulletin include an application for Zzyzx "Earth Science Studies" in April 2004. Electronic readers can link via the CFMS page.)

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

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

November 2003 OMS Field Trip to Ralph Bishop's Collection

We are anticipating a special treat on November 15th at 11 a.m. when we visit Ralph Bishop's home for a tour of his collection. Meet at the Mussell Senior Center parking lot for directions. For those who haven't been there yet, this field trip is a MUST. Ralph not only has an excellent collection, he relates the stories behind the specimens as only Ralph can.



Ralph conducting a tour for the Santa Lucia Rockhounds in August 2003