



Ore-Cutts

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October, 2004

North to Alaska!

By Sharon Duncan, Board Member, OMS

Wow, what can I say, but it was quite a trip! My sister and her husband, Sandra and Lee Brazil, joined me at K-Mart in Arroyo Grande early on September 4, 2004, to begin our journey to Alaska.

When we arrived at L.A.X. we found we were unable to enter the airport, as there had been a security breach, which caused a delay of about two hours. We thought for a time we might have to cancel our tour. However, luck was with us, and we were headed for the "Gold Country, Glaciers and Totem Poles".

We finally arrived at the Island Princess (our ship) at 5:15 PM, and the ship was scheduled to start the cruise at 5:30 PM. Plenty of time! Right?



Island Princess sailing north through the inland passage

Our first port of call was Ketchikan, where we toured through the town on a bus. Such sights included Saxman Totem Park where there are two dozen standing totem poles. We then took a boat trip up the George Inlet past the old

vacant cannery, and enjoyed the thrill of pulling up crab pots full of fresh Dungeness Crab.

Back at the Lodge we dined on fresh Dungeness crab, which was topped off with blueberry cheesecake. And, let me tell you, it was scrumptious!!!



Sharon selecting dinner

Moving on, the next day we were in Juneau, (which is the capital, however we did not see it), but instead went to the Mendenhall Glacier which was named after Thomas Corwin Mendenhall. He was superintendent of US Coast and Geodetic Survey, and noted scientist. We saw how the glacier is retreating and found out many interesting facts, how glaciers are formed, and why they are retreating.

We also visited a salmon cannery and saw salmon trying to swim up the fish ladder and return to their point of origin, as it was spawning season. We attended a wonderfully delicious salmon bake. (You might note that we seemed

to choose tours that had food related events). It wasn't that we didn't get enough food on the ship. We just like food!

You are probably wondering what does my trip have to do with rockhounding? Well, we did manage to gather a few specimens here and there, and of course purchase some fine jewelry made of quartz gold. There is also jade, gold, and quartz to be purchased, but not necessarily collectible. Needless to say, our trip to Juneau turned out to be expensive, but educational.



Sharon in her element, a rocky beach

Our last port-of-call was Skagway, which was known to thousands of hopeful gold rushers as the gateway to the gold fields. Although it was boasted as the shortest route to the Klondike, it was far from being the easiest. The gold rush was a boon to Skagway - by 1898 it was Alaska's largest town with a population of about 20,000. The town's hotels, saloons, dance halls and gambling houses prospered, drawing Skagway residents as well as the 10,000 people living in the tent city of nearby Dyea. But when the gold yield dwindled in 1900, so did the population of Skagway as the miners quickly shifted to new finds in Nome.

Today, Skagway has less than 1,000 residents, but it retains the flavor of the gold rush era, especially on Broadway, with its false front buildings, and the Trail of '98 Museum, with its outstanding collection of memorabilia.

We cruised the next two days into Glacier Bay and College Fjord, where we saw some

awesome glaciers, and what were left of others. It was clear, cold, and beautiful. We heard the sound of thunder, but did not see the calving. "Calving" is the thunderous phenomenon that occurs when salt water melts the glacier's snout, and huge pieces of ice crack off the face.



A calving glacier in Glacier Bay (from a safe distance)

The Margerie and John Hopkins Glaciers are so "active", cruise ships generally approach no closer than ¼ mile. At this distance however, it is still possible to see icebergs being born. Icebergs, composed of fresh water, float 7/8 submerged, come in all shapes and sizes, ships and boats must beware.

This completes the "ship trip." Land trip to follow next month.

All's Well That Ends Well

By Debbie Hood, OMS President

Meeting at the Mussell Senior Center at 9:00 a.m. were Elaine and John VonAchen, their grandson, Joseph, DeeDee and Aldo Magri, Debbie Hood, and Ralph Bishop. We met our host, Patrick, and his dog, Lucy, at Highway 101 and 166. We drove approximately 18 miles east on 166, turned in to a private ranch road, and continued through to the national forest land. The day was beautiful, and we saw some wildlife just before we got to the fossil beds: a coyote being chased by 2 deer! Must have been a role reversal day!

At the fossil site we found oysters, scallops, and some kind of gastropod. These fossils were fairly abundant, as were Ralph's tall tales about "mountain oysters". DeeDee ended up with the biggest specimen - a very impressive oyster con-

glomerate. Some of the oyster specimens still showed beautiful mother-of-pearl. Our host was entertaining himself training Lucy to fetch. So, everybody found something they liked.



Collecting on Elaine's family property

Around 11:45 we loaded up and started out to find a green chert deposit. The road got rougher, becoming little more than firebreaks. It was a really lovely clear day, warm but with nice breezes and truly magnificent views from the ridge top we were traveling on, when suddenly the Magri's vehicle lost 4-wheel drive in the middle of a very steep hill. Debbie got out and promptly slipped and fell (the knee's still a bit stiff), but no damage done. After much consultation, the car was attached to Patrick's truck and towed up the hill to a level area where much more consultation occurred over what to do. A cell phone was used to call Wes Lingerfelt (have you noticed how often we turn to Wes when we need assistance? Thanks, Wes!) He brought extra transmission fluid, and met Patrick at the Highway 166 gate.

This is where things could have gone wrong: John and Ralph wandered off to hunt rocks, Elaine wandered off to make a pit-stop, and didn't come back. DeeDee went looking for Elaine (unsuccessfully), and we worried about what might have happened, hoping she'd met up with John and Ralph. Debbie's water and lunch were in Patrick's truck, so thankfully DeeDee had lots of extra. A couple of hours later, Patrick returned, and the transmission, restored with fluids, functioned just fine as long as it was in 2-wheel drive.

We continued to the chert area and met up with John and Ralph. Some promising material was collected of multi-colored chert.

This was a fun-filled trip that had the potential of being a disaster. Occasionally we need to

review basic safety rules because we cannot prevent some things from going wrong, but we can do things to keep them from spoiling our fun.

It is really important for us to have a designated "Wagon Master" on our trips whose responsibility it is to see that nobody gets left behind, and that we take reasonable precautions like making sure everyone brings the things they need (water, tools, first aid supplies for people and vehicles). We should have at least one cell phone (it was a real life saver this time).

It is important to tell someone where you are going if you leave the group – we really are supposed to come back with as many as we started with.

We need to think through the process if we have to leave anyone stranded temporarily; do they have everything needed such as food, water, phone, etc. to last until help arrives? These trips are a lot of fun, but only if we keep safety first.

If we keep these things in mind, we can go out and enjoy Mother Nature and deal successfully when Murphy's Law intrudes on our fun!

A Whole Lotta Shakin' Goin' On!!!

"Did you feel it?" soon became "Did you feel THEM?". Yessiree, we had a whole lot of shakin' goin' on along the Central Coast this week. Over 600 aftershocks kept us in a heightened state of alertness. And, just about the time you think the last sphere has fallen from the mantle, and the last of the fish tank water has been cleaned up, BOOM, another one of the 5.0 hits.

For those of you who aren't familiar with MY recent, favorite website, just give <http://quake.wr.usgs.gov/recenteqs/latestfault.htm> a gander. You will get up-to-the-minute readings on California quakes, aftershocks, and numerous links to other valuable informational sites.

We live in a unique part of the world, and earthquakes are to be expected in a geologic "knot". The tension builds up, and has to be released somehow.

The Wanderer

In a Family Way with Fritillaries

Leave it to Ralph Bishop to present us with another family to raise, Fritillaries that is. Every August or September, Ralph goes off stomping in the boonies, brings back rock treasures, assorted artifacts, and sometimes critters. This year we were given a brood of squirmy caterpillars that have now become adult "Gulf Fritillaries".



Bess holding a fresh Gulf Fritillary butterfly

The little critters start out as spiny, black caterpillars with brownish-red stripes along each side. The passionflowers growing in Wes and Jeannie Lingerfelt's next-door neighbor's yard was the food of choice for these little eating machines. Ralph explained that "the neighbor's yard had thousands of the little bottomless pits", so Ralph brought us a dozen to raise.



Fresh adult Gulf Fritillary underside

Now that seven have hatched, and more will mature soon, we are taking loads of pictures. Playing with the beautiful, bright orange-red adults allows us to get a better view of their delicate patterns. Each one has black spots on the topside of the wing, but each one develops a slightly different placement and spot size. The underside of the wings is all silver with shinier silver spots, and reminds me of tin foil.

The adults are now enjoying the nectar from our orange tree, and butterfly bush. Four have already departed to find adventure, but the other three are fed, protected, and appreciated by us. Thank you, Ralph, for remembering how much we have enjoyed raising babies!

Happy Hunting, Love, Bess

Orcutt Mineral Society

Board Meeting

Mussell Senior Center, Santa Maria CA

7 September 2004

Call to order at 7:05 p.m. by President Debbie Hood. Members present were Bill and Debbie Hood, Wes Lingerfelt, Wayne Mills, Don and Sylvia Nasholm, Geary Sheffer, Bess Shields, and Lucky Virgin.

Treasurer's report was read by Wes Lingerfelt and accepted as read. The final Show Report was accepted as read.

Minutes of the previous Board Meeting were approved as published. Minutes of the previous General Meeting were approved as published.

Committee Reports:

Adopt-a-Highway: Our section of Highway 166 will be cleaned again on 18 September beginning at 8:00 a.m.

Bulletin: Bess Shields reported that Dick will be working a lot in Los Angeles, but will still be continuing as co-editor. Bess thanked Wes Lingerfelt for the estate sale lapidary books he recently donated to our OMS Library, and will bring some of them to the General Meeting.

Education: Bess has lined up three speaking engagements in local schools.

Sunshine: Debbie Hood reported that Kay Vollmer fractured 3 vertebrae in her back, and is recovering. Helen Smith recently fell, but is recuperating.

Correspondence:

- *Rockonteur* newsletter from Santa Lucia Rockhounds Club.
- *Dinny's Doins* newsletter.
- *Lapidarian* newsletter from Santa Cruz Mineral & Gem Club.
- *Rocky Review* newsletter from Conejo Gem & Mineral Club.
- *The Agatizer* newsletter from South Bay (Torrance) Club.

- Gem-o-Rama event announcement.
- Trona Show announcement.
- BLM informational update.
- Cancer Society thank you for our recent donation.
- Department of Justice, raffle permit.
- Billings Gem & Mineral Club bulletin.
- ALAA renewal correspondence.

Old/unfinished business:

1. Debbie Hood announced that Sharon Duncan is in Alaska, but will update us on the Historian Project at our November General Meeting.
2. Debbie announced that Ken Kreh will head our new PAC Committee. She reiterated that everything he proposes must go before the Board, and a copy of the material will be given to the Secretary to be filed with the OMS Minutes.
3. Wes Lingerfelt stated that John Belzel wants to purchase the OMS 14" saw for \$450.00. Wayne Mills moved that the saw be sold AS IS, that the sale is final, and the cost will be \$450.00. Lucky Virgin seconded the motion. Motion passed.

New business:

1. Several new potential members were presented for consideration to the Board by Debbie Hood. Victoria Dezal, Connie Casio, Brandon Hernandez, Jill Nelson, and James Palomarez each need to attend one more meeting to qualify for membership. Bob Schrum was accepted as our newest member.
2. Debbie Hood submitted our request to meet at the Mussell Center next year, and is waiting for their response. Wes Lingerfelt will reserve the BBQ site for next summer's picnic meeting.
3. Debbie Hood will announce at the General Meeting next week that the November Board Meeting will be held at Sierra Vista Community Center, 809 N. Fremont (take Donovan east to Fremont, turn right, 3/4 mile, on the right by Santa Maria River).
4. American Lands Access Association renewal was received. Wes Lingerfelt moved that we renew our membership of \$25.00. Wayne Mills seconded the motion. Motion passed.
5. Nominating Committee: Bill Hood will chair the committee. Nominations will be taken at the September General Meeting, the slate will be announced at the October General Meeting, and voting will take place at the November General Meeting.

There will be Zzyzx information in the November Ore-Cutts. Our September program will be Aaron LeBarre on "Proper Disposal of Oil". Desserts are cake and cupcakes. Meeting was adjourned at 8:10 pm. By President Hood.

Respectfully submitted,
Bess Shields,
Secretary, OMS

Orcutt Mineral Society

General Meeting
Mussell Senior Center, Santa Maria CA
14 September, 2004

Call to Order at 7:05 p.m. by President Deborah Hood. Invocation was given by Bess Shields on "Heal and Restore".

Flag Salute was led by Truman Burgess.

Sharon Duncan reported that 32 members, and 3 guests were present. Bill and Shirley Henry, and Josh Simonson were our guests.

Sheriff Bill Hood collected 25 cents from Lucky Virgin for not wearing his nametag.

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

Minutes of the previous General Meeting and Board Meeting were approved as published.

Committee Reports:

Adopt-a-Highway: There will be a September 18th cleanup starting at 8 a.m. on highways 166 and 101, followed by breakfast and raffle at Francisco's Country Kitchen, 1700 N. Broadway, Santa Maria.

Breakfasts: Ken Kreh was attending Camp Paradise, so Debbie Hood announced the September 25th breakfast at Francisco's Country Kitchen.

Bulletin: Bess Shields announced that Dick will remain co-editor even though he has changed job location. Bess solicited for articles, and thanked Debbie Hood for her article on safety that will run in October.

CFMS: Wes Lingerfelt will attend the CFMS business meeting in Fresno on November 13th.

Education: Bess Shields asked for volunteers and encourages participation in this community project. She has lined up numerous talks, and looks forward to training other volunteers.

Field Trips: Dick Shields was absent, so Bess announced the Clear Creek trip on October 16th.

Library: Bess Shields thanked Wes Lingerfelt for his recent finds at auction and estate sales that he donated to our OMS Library.

Raffle: Marshall Reeves has a selection of crystals, slabs, a Swiss Army knife, and a large crystal cluster for tonight's raffle.

Refreshments: DeeDee Magri thanked Al Wilcox, and the Shields' for bringing refreshments to tonight's meeting.

Show:

Wes Lingerfelt announced the distribution of show profits that will go into our Scholarship Fund. Wes was pleased with the advertising this year. The Show Report and comparison to our 2003 Gem Show were discussed.

Correspondence was received this week from the following:

- Cloud's Jamboree show announcement.

- *Tumble Rumble* from the Capistrano Valley Rock & Mineral Club.
- *Pick & Shovel* from the San Geronio Mineral & Gem Society.
- BLM proposal on access.

Old/unfinished business:

1. Sharon Duncan is vacationing, so her historian report will be presented next month.
2. Ken Kreh was absent, and his PAC report will occur next month.
3. Debbie Hood is forming a new telephone tree for contacting OMS members in emergencies. Volunteers are Margaret Henson, Helen Smith, Jan Ferguson, Alexis VanNatta, and Dyana Credelich.
4. Marshall Reeves presented DeeDee Magri with a sphere for selling the most raffle tickets at our Gem Show. The sphere was made of Avila Beach marcasite.

New business:

1. Debbie Hood announced that the nominating committee will consist of Bill Hood, Marshall Reeves, Lucky Virgin and Wayne Mills. The slate will be assembled for our 2005 OMS Board, and presented at the October meeting. Elections will occur in November, with installation of officers at the December Annual Banquet.
2. Debbie Hood has submitted our request for using Mussell Senior Center in 2005, and for the June 11 annual picnic in Pioneer Park.
3. Debbie Hood announced that the October Board Meeting will be at Mussell Senior Center on October 5th at 7 p.m.
4. Bob Schrum was elected as a member at the September Board Meeting. He was not present tonight to receive his nametag.
5. Kathy Collison invited OMS members to enjoy the Los Alamos Days, and put up an information table on September 25 and 26. Contact her for more information.

Following the break for refreshments, Wes Lingerfelt presented a talk on "Disposing of Hazardous Materials". The scheduled speaker was unable to attend. The raffle was held after the program. Meeting was adjourned at 8:45 p.m. by President Hood.

Respectfully submitted,
Bess Shields,
Secretary, OMS

Check our OMS web site at <http://omsinc.org>
or send email to info@omsinc.org.

Highway Cleanup

Participants in the September highway cleanup were Ralph Bishop, Bob Bullock, Brenna & Stan Ferguson, Wes & Marty Linger-

felt, Wayne Mills, Geary Sheffer, John Von Achen, and Marshall Reeves. As usual, Marshall asked everyone to coffee and sweet rolls afterward, and he gave a 40mm X 30mm Amazonite Cabochon as a prize. Also, (as usual?) the winner was Brenna Ferguson! Next month's prize is a 5.80 ct. 12 x 10 oval African Topaz.

Web Sites of Note:

October 2004

GeologyShop:

<http://www.geologyshop.co.uk/newindex.htm>

Canadian Mineral Species Index:

<http://www.minerals.sk.ca>

California Alphabetical Locality Listing:

http://www.mineralsocal.org/scfm/california/alphabetical_locality_listing.htm

Guide to Beadwork:

<http://www.guidetobeadwork.com/book/index.html>

George Campbell in Minnesota:

<http://osomin.com>

Principal Mineral Producing Localities map:

<http://www.conservation.ca.gov/CGS/minerals/images/YellowMap.pdf>

Ethnicity of Flintknapping:

<http://www.newscientist.com/opinion/opbooks.jsp?id=ns24652>

Building Materials of the CA Gold Country:

http://www.cagenweb.com/quarries/articles_and_books/gold_country/gold_country_bldg_materials.html

Jewelry Designer's Guild:

<http://www.jewelrydesignersguild.com>

California Federation of Mineralogical Societies:

<http://www.cfmsinc.org/>

American Federation of Mineralogical Societies:

<http://www.amfed.org/>

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 in-

dividuals 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* (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

Ore-Cutts Photo Credits: "Alaska" photos by Sharon Duncan and Sandra Brazil; "All's Well" by Aldo Magri; "Wanderer" by Dick Shields.

OMS Membership dues are \$15 per year. Junior Membership is \$7.50. New membership dues are pro-rated from January 1st of the first year.

OMS General Election

If you would like to be an active member of the Board of Directors, please contact Bill Hood, Marshall Reeves, Lucky Virgin, or Wayne Mills. Nominations will be taken at the October 12th General Meeting. Elections will be held at the November 9th General Meeting. Installation of Officers will occur at the Annual Christmas Banquet on December 11th.

October 2004 Calendar

Tuesday October 5, 2004 7:00 PM - 8:30 PM	OMS Board Meeting -- Mussell Senior Center. All members are welcome at this business meeting.
Tuesday October 12, 2004 7:00 PM - 9:00 PM	OMS General Meeting -- Mussell Senior Center. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Program: "Alaska!" by Sharon Duncan and OMS Gem Show pictures • Display: Rocks from 2002 - 2003 Field Trips • Refreshment: Pie
Saturday October 16, 2004 7:00 AM - 7:00 PM	Field Trip to Clear Creek -- Meet at Mussell Senior Center Parking Lot A long day to hunt in a prized California gem collecting area. We can find botryoidal jade, orbicular pieces of jasper, chatoyant material, serpentine, cinnabar, and turtle jade. Bring lunch and sturdy shoes for short hikes. We'll eat dinner out on the way home.
Saturday October 23, 2004 8:15 AM - 9:15 AM	OMS Monthly Breakfast -- Yet another change: "The Girls" in Arroyo Grande. Call Ken Kreh at 343-7749 for details.

November 2004 Calendar

Tuesday November 2, 2004 7:00 PM - 8:30 PM	OMS Board Meeting -- Sierra Vista Community Center, 809 North Fremont (take Donovan east to Fremont, turn right, go ¾ mile to the center). All members are welcome at this business meeting.
Tuesday November 9, 2004 7:00 PM - 9:00 PM	OMS General Meeting -- Mussell Senior Center. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Annual Election of Officers • Program: "World Class Minerals" by Richard Lewis • Display: Rocks and Petrified Wood • Refreshment: Cookies

Saturday November 13, 2004 8:30 AM – 5:00 PM	Field Trip to Avila, Cayucos, and Morro Bay -- Meet at Mussell Senior Center Parking Lot. Observational trip to a classic location. Bring a lunch and bottled water. Some hiking required.
Saturday November 20, 2004 8:00 - 10:00 AM	OMS Highway Cleanup -- Intersection of Highway 101 and 166 After the cleanup we have coffee and pastry at the "Francisco's Country Kitchen" in Santa Maria. Contact Marshall Reeves at 733-2775 for details.
Saturday November 27, 2004 8:15 AM - 9:15 AM	OMS Monthly Breakfast -- "Francisco's Country Kitchen" in Santa Maria. Call Ken Kreh at 343-7749 for details.


Saturday December 18, 2004 8:30 AM - 5:00 PM	Field Trip to Refugio and Gaviota -- Meet at Mussell Senior Center Parking Lot Entrance fee required for an all-day pass covering both parks. Bring a lunch - the beach concessions only operate in the summer.
Saturday December 25, 2004 None Scheduled	OMS Monthly Breakfast -- None scheduled. Call Ken Kreh at 343-7749 for details.

Save the dates:

ZZYZX is coming!

Beginning in November, you will have an opportunity to submit an application for Zzyzx. Information and an application form are available on-line at the CFMS web site (link from our "Web Sites of Note"), and printed copies will be available at the OMS General Meeting sign-in table.

Earth Sciences at Zzyzx will be held from April 3-10, 2005. Zzyzx is limited to the first 60 CFMS applicants. This will be the camp's 20th anniversary, and special events are planned. This week long training event features silversmithing, lapidary, wire artistry, soft stone sculpture, bead stringing, and amazing field trips to many prime collecting areas in the Eastern Mojave Desert.

December 2004 Calendar	
Tuesday December 7, 2004 7:00 PM - 8:30 PM	OMS Board Meeting -- Mussell Senior Center. All members are welcome at this business meeting.
Saturday December 11, 2004 12:00 PM -3:00 PM	 <p>OMS Annual Meeting -- Maria Del Sol, 1405 East Main Street, Santa Maria</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Buffet Luncheon <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Members \$7.25 • Guests \$14.50 • President's Annual Report • Awards • Installation of Officers • "Sweet Adelines" Christmas Performance <p>Bring canned goods for Goodwill and donations for the Abused Children Fund Call Bill and Debbie Hood at 481-6860 for details</p>

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

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED