



Ore-Cutts

Volume XLIII Number 10

October 2007

Come join us on October 9 at 7:00 p.m. at Mussell Senior Center for a program entitled *Favorite Field Trips*.

Display: Your rocks from your all-time favorite field trips.

Refreshments will be Pies brought to us by Jan Ferguson, Sharon Duncan & Jeannie Lingerfelt

Visiting Agate Creek, the Home of Queensland Agate.

By Sir Paul Howard.

The fossicking season for this Queensland Government's gazetted fossicking area is April to August, inclusive, the winter months in Queensland.

The author of the book '*Fossicking for Queensland Agate*' went seeking more of these beautiful agates early in the season in 2007. It is a 2200 kilometre journey over five days in a motorhome to reach the field from his home on the Gold Coast, south of Brisbane.

Sealed roads prevailed all the way till the last 100 kilometres. This stretch was a graded gravel road in fair to good condition, but very dusty. Seal keyholes in your vehicle and any other place where dust can get in with masking tape before you travel on this road. Be sure to remove it on arrival. The notorious black spot on this road was the crossing of the 150 metres-wide, sandy Robertson River, but this has been eliminated now by a hard base causeway. Conventional one-axle drive vehicles can negotiate this road OK. One of the hazards you are likely to encounter on a single lane part of this highway approaching Georgetown, is a 127-ton, four trailer road-train 60 metres long, carrying lead/zinc ore. Pull right off the road and stop. They ALWAYS have the right of way.

The last big town for supplies is Georgetown, which is the centre of a huge mining and grazing district. It has a hospital and a magnificent gemstone and mineral museum called 'The Terrestrial Centre'. Don't miss it.

Georgetown is 140 kilometres north from the agate field and approximately 500 kilometres from the Coral Sea Coast with its cities of Cairns and Townsville.

The Mines Department in Georgetown is where you obtain your Fossicking Licence for all gemstone and mineral fossicking in Queensland.

Don't be caught without a Fossicking Licence, heavy fines apply.

Agate Creek fossicking area is located on a huge cattle station in a very remote area of far north Queensland. Phone and TV are only available by satellite, limited radio and no electricity. The agate field is approximately 4500 hectares with two registered claims of 1/2 hectare each that are excluded from the fossicking area. The author owns the one for agates; the other one is for thunder-eggs.

There are two campsites to choose from. The bottom campsite is outside the entrance to the fossicking area. The Pastoral Lease holders, David and Dot Terry of Robin Hood cattle station run it. It has no camp manager, an honesty box is provided for camp fees. There is good drinking water, fireplaces, and hot showers if you light the water heater yourself. There are flush toilets.

The top camp is within the agate field, known as the Safari Camp, a further 12 kilometres up the valley. A brand new sign has been erected at the entrance proclaiming you have reached your destination.

There is a resident manager, phone 07 4062 5574. It has good spring water, fire places, hot showers and flush toilets. The green grass and shady trees with its resident flock of Apostle Birds make it an oasis in this remote dry area.



This year the annual Monsoon Cyclones and wet weather did not happen; Australia is in the grip of a disastrous drought, this area included. The creeks did not run much this year, so specking the Agate Creek and its gullies was not as rewarding as previous years. Digging in the dry crumbly soil or the decomposing brecciated basalt/andesite is the best way to win these beautiful semi-precious quartz gemstones with their concentric banded colourful patterns of every colour of the rainbow.

One of the unwritten rules of fossicking is that if you come across a hole or disturbed ground with no one there, but there is a pick or other fossicking tools left there at the site, it means that someone is working that site, so don't touch it, leave it for the fossicker who started it, till he/she abandons it.

When digging holes to seek agate on this field, do it in the early morning before 11 a.m., and drink plenty of water! The hot sun and the lack of humidity will dehydrate



you very quickly and could cause heat stroke. April is early in the fossicking season, but some good finds have been made already like the huge agate found by Ray Brindley from Forsayth, which weighs in at 14.5 kilos. This is a very rare find; the average size is 50 to 60 millimetres along the main of the agate.

There are many named areas within the field where you can dig for certain colours. The Pink Patch not far from the entrance to the Safari Camp yields beautiful porcelain pink agates and sometimes plates of crystals. Simpson's Gully, nearby is famous for its yellow-green agates with a water shadow effect, and across the road at Blue Hill, agates that are blue on the outside and red or pink on the inside can be found. Sometimes you can find onyx-banded agate in this location too, but Spring Creek area is more likely where you find these, especially on the slopes and flats near Stallion Rock. The Potato Patch near Bald Hills is another popular new digging area and of course the Black Soil Creek area has been famous for its deep blues and reds for years. There are many other areas to check out too. You will be rewarded in most places you dig and your success will be directly related to the effort you put into your work. Digging is hard work; it really sorts out the men from the boys. Be guided by other diggings as to where you start your hole, or enlarge an abandoned one. The author railed home five 20 litre (4.4 gallon) drums of agate for three weeks work this season.

During May when the author was there, sunrise was about 7am and sunset was about 6pm. Temperatures ranged from 10 degrees Celsius (50 degrees F) in the

mornings to 36 degrees Celsius (98 degrees F) during the day. Some days can get much hotter. In this tropical region it gets dark within 10 minutes after sunset. It is very important that you return back to camp before dark, otherwise you are considered lost. Searching for you starts the next morning.

Agate fossickers are a gregarious mob, after their evening meal about sunset, they all gather around the campfire for their chin-wag about their day's activities and what they found. The Southern Cross dominates the brilliant stars of the Milky Way on these



warm nights after hot days. Sometimes the fire lighter sets up a hollow log in a vertical position in the centre of the fire for a chimney fire. Sometimes photographic slides of agates or travels are presented. On other nights campers bring along a showcase of their previous years finds, or tales of experiences on other fields in previous years. Another occasion is when a microscope is set up so campers can see the miniature beauty in formations and inclusions in the local agates or minerals. Whatever the subject for the night is, everyone gets to know one another and a friendship for life has been cemented.

A Sea Of Pearls

By Debbie Hood, from a program given September 11, 2007

Go to any rock or bead show and you will find many pearls of every shape, size, color and price. But do you know what makes a "good" pearl, and how it is valued? With so many choices, most folks are confused, and no wonder. Even the pearl industry doesn't have a consistent, universal grading, cataloguing, and valuing system.

What are pearls? Pearls are organic mineral aggregates that form in mollusks. There are 7 varieties of mollusks that make pearls: Abalone, Queen Conch, Mussels, and 4 varieties of oysters that grow in either salt or fresh water. These creatures form pearls to reduce irritation from foreign objects such as sand, bits of broken shell and parasites that lodge in the soft inner body where the creature cannot expel them. To ease the irritation, mollusks secrete a smooth, hard crystalline substance around the irritant. This substance is called nacre (or Mother-of-Pearl), which is composed of microscopic crystals of calcium carbonate. Nacre and mother of pearl are secreted by the mantle, the tissue that surrounds the internal organs and that lines the shell of the mollusk, which it also secretes.

Throughout most of human history, pearls were all "natural", made by mollusks to wall off irritants that had

gotten into their shells. Pearls were found at random as a result of the search for food. They were rare, and so valuable that only royalty were allowed to wear them; pearls became the ultimate symbol of wealth and power. References to pearls are to be found in the earliest human records and in every culture that had any access to them. Pearls were used to decorate idols, and were important to the practice of magic, astrology, and divination.

In the 17th Century, the Chinese learned how to induce a mollusk to make blister, or ½ round pearls and other oddities such as small nacre covered carvings of Buddha by placing objects in the mantle of an oyster, but it was a very unreliable process.

Then in 1893 in Japan, a method of growing and seeding oysters was developed, and by 1905 Mikimoto had perfected the technology that reliably produced the best cold-water pearls. At this time pearls became less rare and more affordable to the general public. Japan held a virtual monopoly on pearls for many years, but about 25 years ago Australia, Polynesia and the U.S. began culturing pearls. Then Japanese waters began to be polluted and their oysters began dying of diseases, so the Japanese contracted to produce freshwater pearls in China. They hybridized a new freshwater mollusk that produces higher-grade pearls. The Chinese are now major players in the world pearl market.

There are four categories of pearls, each type comes from a different region and has its own characteristics:

AKOYA PEARLS: are the pearls that Mikimoto made famous and affordable. They are created by insertion of a spherical bead, made of mother of pearl, into an oyster. Layers of nacre are deposited on it creating the pearl. Pearls are no longer primarily grown in Japan, but most are still processed there and labeled as a product of Japan, primarily because they have the marketing system and the ability to do the sorting, bleaching, dying, irradiating and polishing of pearls. Akoyas are round or very nearly so, white or cream colored with pink overtones. They are rarely over 7 mm in diameter due to the size of the oyster they are cultured in. The cold water they live in limits their growth as well. Akoyas are most noted for their luster and matching of color and size.

SOUTH SEAS PEARLS: These are grown in Australia, Indonesia and the Philippines. In warmer waters, mollusks grow faster and larger and are able to lay down nacre faster and thicker. Larger seeds are used to nucleate these oysters producing much larger pearls, commonly 12-13-mm, and they can grow up to 24-mm in diameter. These pearls come in white, cream, yellow and gold and are noted for their unusual shapes such as ringed, drops and baroques, as well as rounds. South Seas pearls are most noted for their sizes and shapes.

TAHITIAN PEARLS: are grown in French Polynesia in the large, black-lipped oyster that produces black, gray,

bronze and purplish pearls with overtones of yellow, green, pink and purple. They are usually greater than 10mm in size and can get up to 24mm. They are unique in size, color and overtones and consequently are usually quite expensive.

FRESH WATER PEARLS: pearl-forming freshwater mollusks are found throughout the world. In the Americas, the natives valued them highly and the invading Europeans quickly discovered them, and just as quickly most areas were fished out. In the U.S., the Mississippi and its tributaries were the home of a pearl producing oyster that created a large industry in the 19th Century that included canning the meat for food, and using the shells to make mother of pearl buttons and household articles. The Mississippi too, was also fished out long ago, although there remains an industry in the lakes of some southern states to culture pearls and manufacture the “seeds” used to culture pearls worldwide.

CHINESE FRESHWATER PEARLS: are the most common. Strangely, their culture started in Lake Biwa, Japan, but was ruined by pollution of the lake, which killed off the majority of the oysters. The Japanese companies then contracted the growing of pearls out to the Chinese. In fresh-water culture, bits of the mantle tissue from another species of freshwater mollusk is inserted into the pearl-producing mussel triggering production of a pearl-sac, much like the cysts humans can develop around a splinter, but prettier. There is no shell bead core. The sac takes 3 to 8 years to form a pearl, and the longer it is left, the bigger the pearl grows. While most pearls are bleached and dyed, they do occur naturally in a wild array of colors and overtones. The Chinese have over 100,000 active pearl farms and each can have up to 10,000 shells in production. Each shell can nurture up to 30 pearls at a time. Chinese production is measured in tons, but quality varies widely. Fresh-water pearls are noted for their wide range of colors and shapes, luster due to their solid nacre, and especially for the volume of production.

Pearl values are based on 7 attributes, but there is NO universal grading system.

Luster is the amount and quality of light reflected from the surface of the pearl. Akoyas are the gold standard because the cold waters of Japan produce crystals that reflect the light strongly because of the orderly way in which the platelets of nacre are stacked.

Overtone and Orient are properties of the diffraction of light at the edges of the aragonite platelets that make up the nacre. Where platelets meet, sutures form (sutures are the joined edges of two or more plates.) If the sutures are curved and deep, you get a rainbow effect (orient.) If the sutures are straight and parallel, as in Tahitian pearls, you get purplish-pink or green overtones. South Seas Pearls are the leaders in orient due to their thick layers of nacre. As light passes through the upper layers of platelets, it is

reflected from, and refracted by the lower layers, creating the colors of the overtones. Many pearls receive a polishing process to remove irregularities and enhance luster, overtone and orient.

Surface Quality is the number and locations of abrasions, bumps, chips, circles, cracks, flats, gaps without nacre, pits, scratches, spots wrinkles and the other slings and arrows of outrageous fortune. Usually the worst blemish becomes the drill site for the hole, but some of these “defects” can add character to pearls and be desirable.

Size & Shape of pearls is measured in millimeters. Large pearls are rare and much more costly. Size of pearls is related to the species/size of the mollusk forming it, the size of the bead nucleus used, and the time in the water laying down layers of nacre. As for shape, round is the rarest, but drop shaped pearls with good symmetry can be as valuable. Akoyas are the most common rounds while most South Seas pearls are baroques, and fresh water pearls come in an infinite variety of shapes.

Color is the body color of the pearl, usually white, cream, gray, silver, black, pink, etc. The “best” color is dictated by fashion and taste, and changes with them.

Nacre Thickness & Quality relates to longevity of pearls. Bead nucleated pearls with thin layers of nacre are prone to chipping, especially near the drill holes, which shortens the life span of the pearl. Freshwater pearls are all nacre, and are not at risk of wearing off the nacre or chipping.

Matching pearls carry a premium price when they are the same in color, overtones, luster, shape and size. Most strands of well-matched pearls are Akoyas or very, very pricey.

WORKING WITH PEARLS:

Pearls are drilled with rather fine drills to reduce chipping, so the hole will sometimes need to be enlarged. The best bet is to use diamond reamers that can be had inexpensively and still do a fine job.

It is probably best to buck conventional wisdom about stringing pearls on silk. It used to be that real pearls were produced in the orient, where they also produce silk, and so the pearls were strung on silk. Faux pearls would be strung on other, cheaper materials. However, silk soils more easily than synthetics, and is prone to fraying, necessitating frequent restringing.

Pearls should be knotted between each bead to prevent rubbing of the nacre and knocking together at the hole site where pearls are most prone to chipping. Knotting also prevents loss of valuable pearls, should the strand break you are only at risk of losing 1 pearl at most.

Pearls will go with just about any other beads whether stone, organic or manmade. They add a rich, warm feel to jewelry made with them, as well as imparting a sense of importance to your work.

CARE OF PEARLS

Always keep pearls in a separate container with a soft lining to reduce scratching and chipping.

Pearls should be worn often; your natural body oils are the best protection for your pearls. Cosmetics, perfumes and hairspray are their enemies and will destroy the surface of your pearls. So put the pearls on after you have finished applying all your artificial beauty aids.

Pearls can be cleaned with a soft, damp cloth. If the cord becomes noticeably soiled, restring your pearls. If pearls become very soiled with food or other crud, they can be soaked in a MILD dishwashing detergent and water until the offending substance is softened enough to remove. But remember that detergents also remove the body oils protecting the pearl’s surface; so don’t make a habit of washing them.

Take a cue from the oyster: whenever something irritates you, find a way to turn it into a thing of beauty and value...even if it takes years.

Adopt-A-Highway-Coastal Clean-up Day

Wayne Mills, Adopt-A-Highway Coordinator

September 15, 2007: Seven dedicated OMS members showed up for the Highway cleanup on a lovely Santa Maria morning. There were probably a lot more pleasant things they could have been doing that morning, but they were there as most of them had been for many of our past cleanups. The best attendance has to go to Wes, Jeannie and Marty Lingerfelt. They have been the staunchest supporters of our Adopt-a-Highway effort, and they have probably seen more of these than any other folks in the club. Sylvia and Don Nasholm are also in the “frequent flyers” club, and they keep their section at the eastern edge of our two-mile stretch of Route 166 picked clean. Also in attendance were yours’ truly, and Bud Burgess, (see Profiles-June 2007) one of our newest members.

The cleanup went pretty quickly, even with our small crew. We were at Francisco’s in Santa Maria before 10:00 a.m., and I was on my way home by about 10:30 a.m. Over coffee and pie, I found out that not much unusual stuff was found, but aside from a few pee bottles (trucker bombs,) we came up with 3 quarters, sign straps, a milk crate, a couple of bungee cords and hooks, a chisel, a used (unmentionable), and a small squirt bottle. We have a few cans and plastic containers to recycle as well. “Lucky” Lingerfelt latched onto the lovely faceted amethyst that was offered as a prize for the cleanup participants.

Santa Lucia Show Fun

By Wayne Mills, OMS Staff

Three trips from AG to Paso Robles in three days is not normally my idea of a fun weekend, but September 14-16 proved to be an exception. I decided late in the week to put a display in for the Paso show, after a call from Barbara Bilyeu earlier in the week saying they were short on displays. So after throwing it together Friday morning, I took the display up in mid-afternoon.



Case by Wayne Mills, OMS ("Evolution")

Saturday, I went back to check out the show and visit with some of the dealers. I recognized several from our show,

and had a chance to chat with Ron Campbell, Andy De Boor, the Millards, Manny and Dahlia Hernandez, Sammi Cordova, Tom DeMaris, and a few others. Got a couple of pictures, got my 12-for-a-dollar slabs from Jerry Wells, then sat down for a delicious steak and chicken dinner prepared by the Native Sons of the Golden West. I even got an invitation to join them, but the meetings are on the second Tuesday of the month, and that doesn't fit well with my schedule...

Sunday, after getting some yard work done, headed back about 2:00 p.m. to take my case out.

Case by Joyce Baird, SLGMS



Found a few more good deals, got a small bucket of variscite and Copper World stuff from the silent auction table for \$2.00, then checked the cases out again. There weren't as many cases as they had last year, but there were some nice ones. I like the way that the Santa Lucia club has people's choice awards as an incentive for putting in good cases. They have three awards picked by the show visitors, and one awarded by the President. Our own Don and Sylvia Nasholm won the President's Award this year for their case of fine silver and lapidary work. Barbara Bilyeu, a frequent award winner, won third place for her case of agates. Another surprise for OMS was that Bill Hood won one of the big prizes in the raffle.

He seemed pleased when I delivered his bag of goodies that was almost too heavy to carry. All in all, it was a fun three days that passed all too quickly.



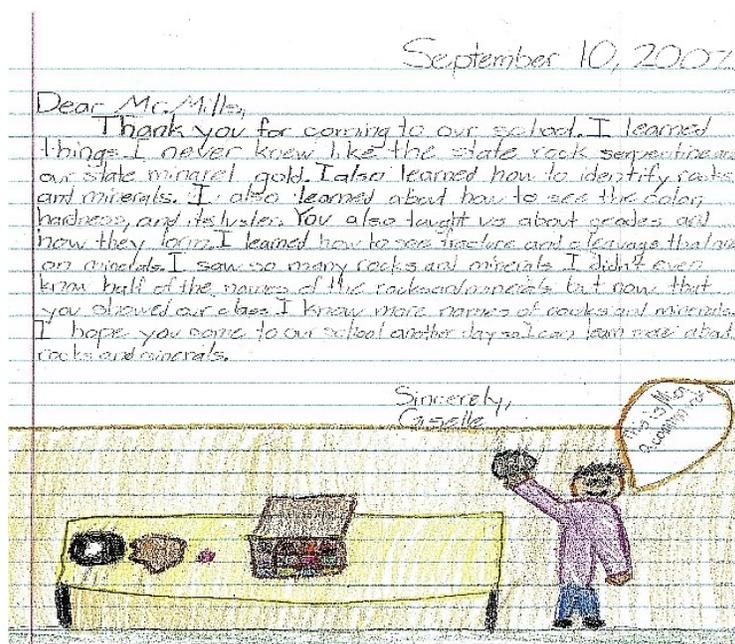
Ron Campbells "Career cut" CZ

OMS Goes to School

Wayne Mills, Education Chair

On Friday, September 7, Elaine Von Achen and I traveled to Rice School to talk to Elaine's grandson Joseph's 4th Grade Class. The event began a little shakily, as the school was in lock-down when I arrived, but we were set-up and ready to talk by 1 p.m.

The talk and questions lasted until about 2:30 p.m. when school let out for the day. The kids seemed interested in our discussions about elements, minerals and rocks, and their properties, especially with the incentive of a free rock for each correct answer. The reward for giving the talk came nearly a week later when Elaine brought me a stack of letters from the class. That they were listening to us is evidenced in the attached letter from one of the students.



I Bits and Bytes

Wayne Mills-

Cool site for Eocene Plant ID.

[http://websearch.burkemuseum.](http://websearch.burkemuseum.washington.edu/paleocollaborator)

[washington.edu/paleocollaborator](http://websearch.burkemuseum.washington.edu/paleocollaborator)

Errata

The article on the show was only an overview and was not meant to be all-inclusive but we have a correction and a few additions: Don Dana was not helping in the snack bar; he was doing yeoman's duty in the Country Store. The following were not listed but *were* in the Snack Bar: Margaret Henson was there all three days, Lee Rayburn was there everyday despite injury, Linda Kolasinski Sat and Sunday, Sylvia's friend Donna McCray was there both Sat & Sun., Christine covered a shift and let us not forget, Sylvia's rock solid aide on Thursday, Gary Scheffer. We apologize and hope no one's feelings were hurt, as everybody's assistance is important and appreciated.

We of the Ore-cutts news do the best we can, hoping to receive articles from those involved in the OMS activities. When they do not come forward we do not like to post the newsletter with nothing in it about the recent activity. Be it a success or failure, our efforts are well intended. We really, *REALLY* need everyone's help in letting the world know what we are doing and whether we are meeting our mission goals as stated in the Articles of Incorporation for our group. Once again we *need* your help! Even if you don't want to write the articles just give us the input and the ideas that will let us do a better job. Please, won't you help? What we are doing is worthy of letting the world know but we can't do it right without your help. -Editor

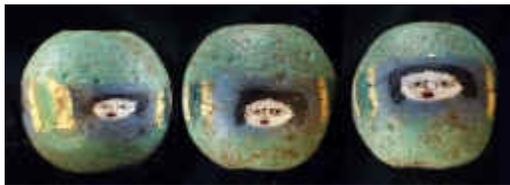
Let it Be(ad)

By Wayne Mills

While researching this piece, I came across a site for an Australian beadmaker

who was using the lamp work technique to duplicate historical beads of many types and eras. The site is the Australian Glass Beadmakers Group (AGBG), and the website is <http://www.aussiebeadmakers.com/articles.html>.

Roman face beads were made before the founding of the Roman Empire about 100 BC. It is comforting and disconcerting to look at faces from so long ago,



Roman 2-3rd Cent. AD (14x14 mm) and find out people have not really

changed much since those (simpler) times. It is amazing to me that by the time these beads were made, man had been making glass and glass beads for *34 centuries!* And what was the earliest glass (found in Egypt and eastern Mesopotamia) used for? Why beads, of course.



- Roman 1 Cent. AD (13x10x4 mm)

Face beads were developed during the "Roman Period" of 100 BC-400 AD at

glass-Roman 2-3rd Cent. AD (12x14x15mm)



making centers throughout the empire. At the height of its influence, the Roman Empire included Syria, Egypt, Italy, Switzerland, the Rhineland, France and England. Interestingly, the 1st Century bead appears



(13x14x13mm)

<http://www.glassonline.com/infoserv/history.html>

Photographs from <http://www.ancienttouch.com/ancientbeads-mosaic-antiquity.htm>

to show and early perm, and the 3rd Century bead looks like a miniature version of Edvard Munch's *The Scream*. Roman 3rd Cent. AD

Rock My World- From Northeastern University

<http://www.casdn.neu.edu/~geology/department/staff/colgan/ice/land/rocks.htm#igrock> Although there are over 4000 different minerals and hundreds of rock types, there are only about **8 common minerals** and **20 common rocks** found at the Earth's surface. This makes it relatively easy to learn how to recognize the vast majority of minerals & rocks that you will ever see. All it takes is a little practice.

This information is handy to have available if you are asked to do a talk for a local school.

The most common minerals

[quartz](#)

[potassium feldspar](#)

[plagioclase feldspar](#)

olivine (green mineral in gabbro and basalt)

[pyroxene](#) (augite-dark phenocrysts in basalt)

[amphibole](#) (hornblende-dark mineral in granite)

[mica](#)

[calcite](#)

The most common igneous rocks

[rhyolite](#) (light extrusive igneous, microcrystalline, sometimes with phenocrysts)

[granite](#)

[andesite](#) (gray extrusive igneous)

[diiorite](#)

[basalt](#)

[gabbro](#)
[peridotite](#) (coarse-grained intrusive igneous rock with olivine, pyroxine, and amphibole)
[obsidian](#)
[pumice](#)
[scoria](#)

The most common sedimentary rocks

[shale](#)
[sandstone](#)
[conglomerate](#)
[limestone](#)
[tillite](#) poorly consolidated/cemented glacial till

The most common metamorphic rocks

slate	low grade meta-shale
phyllite	low-medium grade meta-shale
schist	medium grade meta-shale
gneiss	high grade meta-shale
marble	meta limestone
quartzite	meta sandstone

Orcutt Mineral Society Board Meeting Elwin Mussell Sr. Center Santa Maria, Ca. September 4, 2007

The meeting was called to order at 7:06 p.m. by President Debbie Hood.

Board members present were Wayne Mills, Mike Henson, Gary Sheffer, Sandy Berthelot, Wes Lingerfelt, Debbie Hood, Elaine Von Achen and Sylvia Nasholm. Guests included Paul Berthelot and Bill Hood.

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

Wes Lingerfelt gave the **treasurer's report**. It was noted that the amount to be added to the Scholarship fund from earnings made on the Gem Show was \$900.72. Wayne Mills made a motion to increase this amount to and even \$1,000.00. The motion was seconded by Mike Henson and passed. Treasurer's report was accepted as given.

Wes Lingerfelt gave an **accounting of the Gem Show**. The net income was \$6,007.21. He also noted that Mid State Bank was offering a 3.9% interest rate.

Correspondence: Elaine Von Achen reported newsletters from South Bay Lap & Mineral Society and Capistrano Rock and Mineral Club. We received a letter from Searles Lake Gem & Mineral Society announcing their Gem-O-Rama 2007 to be held October 13 & 14. It included an invitation to participate in various field trips given during the show.

Committee Reports:

News Letter: Debbie Hood announced that the September Bulletin was out on the web but was still at the

printers for the mailers. They will be picked up on Wednesday and mailed.

Education: None

CFMS: Wes noted that he would be attending the business meeting in November.

Highway Cleanup: Wayne Mills announced that the next cleanup would be September 15, 2007 at 8:00 a.m. meeting at Highways 101 and 166.

Library: Gary Sheffer said that there are some geology books and a few others that are not being checked out. He proposed that he not bring books to the meeting but bring a listing and they can be ordered.

Scholarship: None

Gem Show: None

Sunshine: Debbie Hood reported that Kay Vollmer could use phone calls to keep her connected to the club.

Abused Children: None

OLD BUSINESS: Wayne Mills announced that he had submitted an application to the City of Santa Maria for meeting rooms for the next year.

NEW BUSINESS: Debbie Hood noted that we need to form a nominating committee for next year's board members. Bill Hood offered to be on the committee along with Wayne Mills and Debbie Hood.

The Program for September will be a talk given by Debbie Hood on Pearls. September's display will be "Minerals – Massive, Crystalline & Mysterious. Dessert will be Cake.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:03 by President, Debbie Hood.

Respectfully Submitted:

Elaine Von Achen, Secretary OMS

Orcutt Mineral Society General Meeting Elwin Mussell Sr. Center Santa Maria, Ca. September 11, 2007

The meeting was called to order at 7:08 p.m. by President Debbie Hood.

Debbie Hood requested a moment of silence in memory of the lives lost on September 11, 2001.

The flag salute was led by Mike Henson

Sharon Duncan reported 29 members and 5 guests. Guests included Joe Martines, Daniel Limon, Jean McIlvanie, Cheryl Hagopian and Donna Lehman.

Elaine Von Achen read the **minutes** of the previous meeting and they were approved as read.

Wes Lingerfelt gave the **treasurer's report** and it was accepted as given.

Correspondence: Elaine Von Achen reported newsletters from South Bay Lap & Mineral Society and Capistrano Rock and Mineral Club. We received a letter from Searles Lake Gem & Mineral Society announcing their Gem-O-Rama 2007 to be held October 13 & 14. It

included an invitation to participate in various field trips given during the show.

Committee Reports:

News Letter: Debbie Hood announced that the September Bulletin was out on the web and the mailers went out last Wednesday.

Refreshments: Dee Dee Magri announced the evening's refreshment would be cake donated by Elaine Von Achen, Lee Rayburn, Sharon Duncan, Margaret Henson, Peggy Johnson and Dee Dee Magri.

Education: Wayne Mills reported that he gave a program to Mrs. Vaughn's 4th grade class at Rice School. He had letters written by the class thanking him for a great program.

CFMS: None

Abused Children: Jan Ferguson reported an Amethyst Crystal from Brazil and two minerals would be the evening's raffle.

Membership: Elaine Von Achen noted that she has given out quite a few applications and has received two back to be read at the next board meeting.

Highway Cleanup: Wayne Mills announced that the next cleanup would be September 15, 2007 at 8:00 a.m. meeting at Highways 101 and 166.

Field Trip: It was noted that September's field trip has been cancelled due to fire.

Library: None

Scholarship: None

Gem Show: None

Sunshine: Debbie Hood reported that Kay Vollmer could use phone calls to keep her connected to the club.

Monthly Breakfast: Gloria Dana announced the September breakfast will be on the 22nd at 9:30 a.m. at Fat Cats in Avila Beach.

Raffle: Wayne Mills noted that we have a beautiful Amethyst Cathedral from Brazil as our grand prize tonight along with some shells donated by Roger Lehman as well as turquoise, crystals, condor agates, an agate sphere and much more.

OLD BUSINESS: President Hood reminded members that we are still looking for a chairman for the Public Lands Access Committee.

A vote from the membership was taken as to what they would like to see done with the New Zealand Agates donated by Sir Paul Howard.

NEW BUSINESS: Debbie Hood announced that she along with Bill Hood and Wayne Mills would make up the Nominating Committee for the Board for next year.

The Program for the evening will be a talk on Pearls given by Debbie Hood.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:00 by President, Debbie Hood.

Respectfully Submitted:

Elaine Von Achen, Secretary OMS



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

Orcutt Mineral Society was founded in 1958, and was named after William Orcutt, a geologist and Civil engineer who worked in the Santa Maria Valley as a District manager for Union oil Company in 1888. In 1889, William Orcutt discovered the mineral and fossil wealth of the La Brea Tar Pits on the property of Captain Alan Hancock. The La Brea Tar Pits are one of the most significant fossil finds in paleontological history. The OMS is a non-profit club dedicated to stimulating an interest in the earth sciences. The club offers educational programs, field trips, scholarships, and other opportunities for families and individuals to pursue an interest in the collecting and treatment of lapidary materials, fossils, gems, minerals, and other facets of the Earth Sciences. In addition, another goal of this Society is to promote good fellowship, and proper ethics in pursuit of the Society's endeavors. Operating Rules have been set forth to guide the Officers and members of the Society in accomplishing these aims. Affiliations of the OMS include American Federation of Mineral Societies, and California Federation of Mineral Societies

October 2007 Calendar

Tuesday Oct. 2, 2006 7:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.	OMS Board Meeting-Elwin Mussell Senior Center. All members are welcome at this business meeting.
Tuesday, Oct. 9, 2007 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.	OMS General Meeting-Elwin Mussell Senior Center. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Program-Favorite Field Trips (3 x 15) • Display- Rocks from your all-time favorite field trips • Refreshments- Pies
Saturday Oct 13, 2007 9:00a.m. till ?	Field Trip to natural history museum in Santa Barbara. Meet at Mussell Senior Center. We will spend the better part of the day enjoying all of the natural wonders they've collected and, with Ralph's help we'll have a most excellent interpreter. There will be something for everyone: Indians artifacts, bones, rocks, and many paintings and other arts. We will have a very nice, sun filled picnic in the garden area so every one bring potluck for a picnic. If we have enough time we may be able to get to the marina to view the museum there as well. \$8.00 per person Senior/Kids (65 and over \$7) You must sign up for trip at the club meeting or call

	Bob Bullock at 928-6372. Check out web site: http://www.sbnature.org/ Just in case it rains at least we'll be in doors
Saturday Oct. 24 2007 8:15 a.m. to 9:15 a.m.	OMS Monthly Breakfast-Francisco's Country Kitchen in Santa Maria.
November 2007 Calendar	
Tuesday Nov. 6, 2007 7:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.	OMS Board Meeting-Elwin Mussell Senior Center. All members are welcome at this business meeting.
Saturday	Field Trip announced
Tuesday Nov. 13, 2007 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.	OMS General Meeting-Elwin Mussell Senior Center. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Program-CFMS Program • Display-Best 1x1 Display • Refreshments-Cookies
Saturday Nov. 17 2007 8:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m.	Roadside Clean up After the cleanup, coffee and pastry at "Francisco's Country Kitchen" in Santa Maria.
Saturday Nov. 24, 2007 8:15 a.m. to 9:15 a.m.	OMS Monthly Breakfast-Francisco's Country Kitchen in Santa Maria.

2007-OMS Officers

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

2007-OMS Board Members

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

Ore-Cutts Editors

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

OMS Webmaster - Wes Lingerfelt -929-3788
Check out our OMS web site at <http://omsinc.org> or send e-mail to info@omsinc.org.

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

Show Schedule

October 7, 2007, Fallbrook, CA

Fallbrook Gem & Mineral Society
"Fall Festival of Gems"
FGMS Museum
123 W. Alvarado
Hours: 10 - 4
Mary Fong-Walker (760) 723-3484
Email: mrwizard@tfb.com
Website: FGMSORG/organization/orglocations/html

October 5-7, 2007 Big Sur Jade Festival at Pacific Valley School,

October 13-14, 2007 Fall Cayucos Gem, Jewelry and Mineral Show Cayucos Vets Hall on the Pier, Cayucos,

October 13-14 2007, Grass Valley, CA

Nevada County Gem & Mineral Society
"Earth's Treasures"
Nevada County Fairgrounds
11228 McCourtney Road
Hours: 10 - 5 both days
Cliff Swenson (530) 272-3752

October 13-14 2007, Lakeside, CA

Cajon Valley Gem & Mineral Society
Lakeside Rodeo Grounds
12584 Mapleview
Hours: 10-5 both days
David Newton (619) 390-5054
Email: jontom@nethere.com

October 13-14 2007, Trona, CA

Searles Lake Gem & Mineral Society
"66th Annual Gem-O-Rama"
Searles Lake Gem & Mineral Society
13337 Main Street
Hours: Sat. 7:30 - 5; Sun. 7:30 - 4
Bonnie Fairchild (760) 372-5356
Email jbfairchild@verizon.net
Website:
www1.iwvisp.com/tronagemclub/tronagemclub.html

October 20 2007, West Hills, CA

Woodland Hills Rock Chippers
"9th Annual Show"
First United Methodist Church
22799 Sherman Way
Hours: Sat. 10 - 5
Virginia Rotramel (818) 790-7598
Email: info@rockchippers.org
Website: www.rockchippers.org

October 20-21 2007, Anderson, CA

Shasta Gem & Mineral Society
Shasta District Fairgrounds
Hours: 1Sat. 9-5: Sun. 10-4
Bill Seward (530) 365-8641

October 20-21 2007, Placerville, CA

El Dorado County Mineral & Gem Society
El Dorado County Fairgrounds
100 Placerville Drive
Hours: 10 - 5 both days
Jackie Cerrato (530) 677-2975
Email: jacobcer@directcon.net
Website: eldoradomineralandgen.org

October 20-21 2007, Santa Rosa, CA

Santa Rosa Mineral & Gem Society
Veterans' Memorial Auditorium
1351 Maple Avenue, Santa Rosa
Hours: Sat. 10-6, Sun. 10-5
Shirley Mattson or Tom Dering / (707) 795-1730 or (707) 564-4537
Email: squirly48@yahoo.com or farmarch@sonic.net
Website: www.gem-n-i.org

October 20-21 2007, Whittier, CA

Whittier Gem & Mineral Society
Whittier Community Center
7630 Washington Avenue
Hours: Sat. 10-5: Sun. 10-5
Jay Valle: (626) 934-9764

November 3-4 2007, Concord, CA

Contra Costa Mineral & Gem Society
Centre Concord - 5298 Clayton Rd.
Clayton Fair Shopping Center
Hours: 10 - 5 both days
Sam Woolsey (925) 837-3287



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

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

November 3-4 2007, Anaheim, CA

American Opal Society
Clarion Hotel Anaheim Resort
616 Convention Way (off Harbor Blvd.)
Hours: Sat. 10-6; Sun 10-5
Jim Lambert (714) 891-7171
Email: jlamb777@yahoo.com

November 3-4 2007, Lancaster, CA

Palmdale Gem & Mineral Society
2551 W. Ave. H, Hwy 14
Hours: 9 - 5 both days
Susan Chaisin-Walblom (661) 943-1861
Email: SLChaisson@yahoo.com
Website: pgms@antelecom.net

November 3-4 2007, Ridgecrest, CA

Indian Wells Gem & Mineral Society
Desert Empire Fairgrounds, Mesquite Hall
520 S. Richmond Rd.
Hours: 9-5 both days
John De Rosa (760) 375-7905

November 10-11 2007, Yuba City, CA

Sutter Buttes Gem & Mineral Society
"Festival of Gems"
Grace Franklin Hall
442 Franklin Avenue
Hours: Sat. 9 - 5; Sun. 9 - 4
Cliff Swenson (530) 272-3752

November 17-18 2007, Oxnard, CA

Oxnard Gem & Mineral Society
800 Hobson Way
Hours: Sat. 9 - 5, Sun. 10-4
Miriam Tetrault (805) 642-5779
Website: www.OGMS.net