



Ore-Cutts

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September, 2004

Learning Rockhounding in the California Gold Country

By Mike and Margaret Henson, Members, OMS

Here we are again on the road, searching for that perfect rock. This time we are headed north, following Highway 49 through the Gold Country. The original intent of the trip was to visit our friends Mark and Shan in Cool (just outside of Auburn), and my sister, Chris, in Sonora. We expanded it to add rockhounding after we joined the club.



Gold Country trip route showing Hwy 49

Our first stop was in Hornitos on a side trip out of Mariposa. This was a neat old town, and ruins site of the original Ghirardelli Store built in 1859. It was operated by D. Ghirardelli Company, the well known chocolate makers of San Francisco. It's a great place for taking pictures. We were able to pick up some small pieces of quartz along the road.

Along the Hwy south of San Andreas most of the road cuts contain serpentine in all differ-

ent shades of green, different densities and different textures. Most of what we picked up will go in the garden since there's not a lot you can do with it.



Remains of the Ghirardelli store in Hornitos

The first night we spent in Jamestown at the Railroad Motel, which is near the Railtown State Historic Park. The town has lots of historic buildings.

The next day we went to Sonora and met my sister, Chris. She showed us around the area, and we found out she is a member of the Eldorado Gem & Mineral Society (we have always been a close knit family). She showed us and told us where to find specimens in the area, and was happy to show off some of her collection. Chris is much better at rockhounding than

we are. She said EG&MS goes on field trips to Nevada a lot. Wes Lingerfelt described one specimen that we got as a Quartz Palm.



Quartz Palm

After leaving Sonora, we went to New Melones Reservoir just outside Tuttletown. Chris told us that there were lots of pieces of quartz with nice crystals in them. She said to “go to the right of the boat ramp, look on the shelf and on the slope down to the water”. Margaret found some very nice pieces, as opposed to Mike finding lots of weird broken chunks of quartz. Non-the-less we were both pleased.

Next we went on to Jackson and stayed several days checking out the town, Indian Grinding Rock, and Black Caverns. We purchased several nice specimens from the area: *epidote*, *garnets* and *pyrite crystals*. We drove on some of the side roads around the area, and found a lot of mine dumps that were fenced-in.

Then it dawned on us that the dumps were so extensive that we were driving through a lot of the veins. So, we started looking along the roads, and found some rather interesting looking specimens.

Next we went to Cool to visit Mark and Shan. Mark knew of several places where we

could go look for rocks. So, after getting settled in the first day, we headed out on the second day. At a place called Halsey Forebay we found some nice specimens of Chinese writing rock.



Chinese Writing Rock

The next day we took Hwy 49 to Hwy 80 East to Foresthill exit, turned right on Mosquito Ridge Road (to quote Dave Berry, “I’m not making this up”), go right on Ralston Reservoir Road, and go to the reservoir. On the road we found lots of serpentine, crystals, antigorite, quartz veins, and slate with small iron pyrite crystals. Most of the crystals had fallen out or were oxidized, but it was exciting anyway.

It was time to head home. On the way, we stopped at the Northern Mariposa County History Center in Coulterville. They had some great displays, including a fantastic dollhouse (general store and pharmacy) made by one of their residents. We purchased some Mariposite, and got the name and phone number of the man who now owns the quarry (it is rarely open). If you would like this information, let us know.

Along Hwy 49 just north of Fremont’s Fort Historical Marker, we found a beautiful hill full of quartz with crystals. Since we are nuts for anything shiny or sparkly, we stopped and picked up several (LOL) pieces. We arrived home about 7 pm, and our cat was very happy to see us! Happy rockhounding.

CFMS ENDOWMENT FUND

By Lois Allmen

CFMS Newsletter, August 2004

Have you any idea the benefit the CFMS Endowment Fund has been to the clubs? We have been busy getting the Fund to grow, now interest has been used twice to our advantage. First, when we started with McDaniels Insurance an advance of \$13,000.00 was made, and the second for \$10,000 in 2002. 2003 saw a loan of \$22,000 when McDaniels needed the entire insurance payment at one time. The loan is being paid off as the yearly fees from the clubs come in. (The alternative was to ask the clubs to dig into their pockets for extra money.) Insurance comes due in October and most clubs do not have their dues sent in until the first of the year.

The way I heard it, the Endowment Fund was the idea of Bill April in 1988 during the presidency of Ellen Schulz. Ellen asked Shirley Leeson to have a plan ready for the following year. This she did. Shirley had a professional parliamentarian write it up the same way as the CFMS Scholarship Fund. She then turned it over to the attorney Francis Marshall, a long time CFMS member. He fought with Internal Revenue Service to gain the 501C(3) status, which became the precedent for all our clubs to claim the same exemption.

At the beginning, Modesto Club gave the money from their show to start the Fund. Various clubs donated \$100.00. Shirley was the first patron. Shirley Leeson sold notepaper, posters, and took pictures of people dressed up for the Feddy Bear Parade and sold the pictures back to them. The Fund was now nearing \$50,000.00.

About this time, Mike Kokinos took on the IRS and fought their attempt to revoke club exemptions and assess \$5,000.00 in tax, interest and penalties. Mike took no payment, charged no brokerage fees, there was no cost to CFMS, but asked the clubs to donate to the Endowment Fund in appreciation of his services. Those donations took the Fund to over \$100,000.00. Only the interest can be used, any funds coming in go directly to the principal.

Others who have chaired and worked hard for the Endowment Fund are Bural LaRue, Wes Lingerfelt, and now for the third time Ray and Florence Meisenheimer. It is with great appreciation we laud the foresight and efforts of all these people.

It is a great beginning, people, but we need to keep those donations rolling in!

(Information was given by Mike Kokinos, Shirley Leeson, and Ray Meisenheimer. Errors contributed by the president.)

More About CFMS Endowment Fund

By Lois Allmen

CFMS Newsletter, August 2004

It is in the interest of all of us that the Endowment Fund continue to grow. Its purpose is to help provide funds for operating the business of CFMS and funding those activities needed by the clubs that would otherwise demand an extra contribution from them.

Its growth comes from you, the CFMS Clubs and their Members. All donations go directly into the principal and are restricted. Interest only can be used.

How do you contribute to the Endowment Fund:

1. As a memorial to a member by a person or/and club.
2. As a donation from a member or club.
 - a. For a \$25.00 donation – the persons name is put on a plaque
 - b. For \$100.00 the person or couple receive a pin(s)
 - c. A \$100.00 donation from a club plus \$1.00 from each member, the club's name is engraved on a plaque.
3. The Foundation Fund Chairman holds a sale at the CFMS Show and will gladly accept good saleable items. (The chairman is always in need of good donations for the sales. Give those items to Chair Ray Meisenheimer).

How do I make a donation? Make your check out to: CFMS Endowment Fund. Send donations to: Pat La Rue, PO Box 1657, Rialto CA 92377-5664. State the name of the individ-

ual or club making the donation. Give the name and address of the individual or club making the donation. If it is a memorial or recognition of someone, please give the person's name and address so a card can be sent to the family or individual – making them aware of the donation.

(Editor's Note: During the past year, OMS has made donations to the CFMS Endowment Fund in memory of Linda Virgin, Vic Jonas, John Mock, Don Roberts, Oleta Ross, Al Ryzner, Louise Ryzner, and Fred Summerson)

Orcutt Mineral Society

Board Meeting
Mussell Senior Center, Santa Maria CA
3 August 2004

Call to order at 7:08 p.m. by President Debbie Hood. Members present were Sharon Duncan, Bill and Debbie Hood, Wes Lingerfelt, Wayne Mills, Don and Sylvia Nasholm, Marshall Reeves, Geary Sheffer, Bess and Dick Shields, and Lucky Virgin.

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 said that the area needs to be cleaned again because of the summer crowd. Marshall renewed our contract for another two years.

Bulletin: Bess Shields reported that the Ore-Cutt went out on Sunday. Debbie Hood liked the Kindred Spirit article.

Sunshine: Debbie Hood reported that Glenda Reeves was in an accident, and the car is a wreck, but Glenda is OK.

Old/unfinished business:

Show:

Wes Lingerfelt announced that the insurance certificate to cover OMS at the show has arrived. The lot is now smooth, and ready for vendors. Wes will have maps available for insertion into the vendor packets. The Adobe Press will have a Gem Show article on Thursday. Wayne Mills said that his back is out, but he'll be at the show anyway.

Bess Shields announced that we have filled all display cases, and demonstrators are lined up. Also, 250 grab bags are ready to sell. Ralph Bishop has volunteered to fill blank spaces in the display area. Sir Paul Howard and Rick Kennedy will give numerous talks and slide shows on Saturday and Sunday.

Debbie Hood will have the Country Store set up on Thursday.

Sylvia Nasholm said that everything is under control, and Don has done most of the shopping.

Marshall Reeves has the Saturday Barbecue ready to go.

New business:

Ken Kreh wants to start a Political Action Committee. Anything with the club name on it has to go through the OMS Board, and a written copy turned in to the secretary. It was suggested that we hold breakfasts alternating in north and south counties every other month.

Marshall Reeves has rings for the raffle, and the Board will give him further input after the show.

Treasure Chest still needs donations, and they will be solicited at the show.

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
August 10, 2004

Meeting opened at 7:05 p.m. Invocation was given by Debbie Hood due to Bess Shields' absence. Flag salute was led by Lucky Virgin. Members present: 25, with 6 guests attending.

Sheriff's Report: Bill Hood reported no violations. Even our guests have nametags.

Minutes of the July Board Meeting were accepted as published. Minutes of the July General Meeting were accepted as published.

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

Gem Show Reports and Commentary:

- Sylvia Nasholm thanked all those who worked in the kitchen. Final figures on income are not available yet, but the Snack Bar did well.
- Debbie Hood thanked everyone who helped set up, man, and tear down the Country Store, especially Geary Sheffer. We made \$400.67 this year (about 3 times last year). The success was due in part to the efforts of Ralph Bishop to boost donations this year.
- Wes Lingerfelt reported that Treasure Chest income was about 3 times more than last year due to DeeDee Magri's efforts at ticket sales and donations. DeeDee won the sphere for most tickets sold again this year. Also, the big newspaper coverage increased attendance, and having the ticket sales out front in the tent really worked to increase Treasure Chest sales. Grab bags did not sell well this year. We need to think about how to spotlight them and boost sales.

- Maida Williams commented that we could use a few more trash cans nearby for dealer use.
- Wayne Mills thanked those who helped him in the Prospecting Adventure, especially Bob Bullock. The adventure made \$112.50.

Debbie Hood congratulated everyone on another good show, well done. Wes commented on his early fears of disaster when, during set up, one member and one guest were slightly injured, but that apparently used up the bad luck and everything else went well.

Field Trip: The next field trip will be on September 11 to the Los Padres area to collect chert and fossils on a private ranch. Meet at Mussell Sr. Center at 9:00 a.m.

Highway Clean Up: The next cleanup is on September 18 from 8:00 to 10:00 a.m. Coffee and pastry at Country Kitchen, SM will follow.

OMS Monthly Breakfast: Every 4th Saturday at 8:15 a.m. we meet at Country Kitchen on Broadway in Santa Maria.

Correspondence: Metal Stone and Glass Magazine.

Old Business:

Lepidolite sphere awarded to Ralph Bishop for best Treasure Chest Donation for May/June.

Sharon Duncan reported that she's working on plans to whip "historical stuff" into shape, and will report on it next month.

New Business: Ken Kreh volunteered to put together a Political Action Committee.

Program:

Wes Lingerfelt introduced our guest speaker, Sir Paul Howard, of Australia. Sir Paul showed us a wonderful slide show of inclusions in Australian and New Zealand agates. He explained what inclusions were, and how they formed (as far as known), and many that are still mysteries. It was truly awe-inspiring show. Paul, at one point, even asked if we were still there as everyone was so quiet and wrapped up in the show.

At the end of the show, Paul offered to come to the wirewrap group on Thursday, and show us what he teaches in his wirewrap classes. Therefore, the beading and wirewrap classes switched off, and the beading classes will be the 3rd and 4th Thursday of August. The wirewrap class will be the 2nd Thursday at Elaine VonAchen's home.

Raffle was held quickly due to time constraints.

Next month's program will be Aaron La Barre of SLO Public Health Department on "Proper Disposal of Hazardous Waste". Displays will be "Minerals: massive, crystalline, mysterious".

Meeting was adjourned at 9:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Debbie Hood for Bess Shields (who chose to not share the virus)

The Wanderer Rock Talks

September 2004

It's September, and school is once again in session. The students' excitement is contagious, and I'm gearing up to go back, too. I've prepared several new "Rock Talks" to use in the classroom, and at scout meetings I have been asked to visit this year.

Teachers in our area know that they can rely on someone from our OMS Speaker's Bureau to give short, rock-related talks. The Rock Talks are designed to augment the curriculum's science block, and still be entertaining. I bring hands-on specimens into the classroom, which are always popular with the students (especially the coprolite). Also, I prepare handouts, information sheets, and website resources.

I give each student a poke sack of tumbled stones after the talk, and show the students how to identify their stones. I also leave classroom specimens for the teacher to keep. By the time I'm done, she/he has samples of igneous, metamorphic, sedimentary, and crystalline rocks. The most popular talks seem to be on "fossils of our area", and "nearby crystal locations".

It only takes an hour or so out of your busy schedule to volunteer as an OMS speaker. But, the students are so appreciative and interested. Years from now, the student may fondly remember "a rockhound" who came into the classroom, and talked about rocks. Who knows, there may be a budding geologist in the class you are entertaining!

Happy Hunting, Love, Bess

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

Highway Cleanup

Please join us on Saturday, 18 September for the next Adopt-a-Highway Cleanup. We meet at the intersection of Highway 166 and Highway 101 at 8:00 a.m., and go out for pastry and beverage (and another prize drawing!) following the cleanup at Country Kitchen on north Broadway in Santa Maria.

Library Notes

A huge thank you is extended to Al Wilcox for donating "The Complete Book of Rocks and Minerals" by Chris Pellant to our OMS Library. It is well written, and the graphic representations make mineral identification EASY. I would recommend this book to teachers, and rockhounds alike. It would be a valuable aid for pebble-pups (a great Christmas present!).

Please remember our library when you are researching a new aspect of our hobby. We have books and videos available for member check-out on subjects as diverse as crystal collecting, faceting, and jade objects d'art. Just give me a call, and I'll bring the materials to our General Meeting, or you're always welcome to come on over. Love, Bess

Web Sites of Note:

September 2004

E Clampus Vitus:

<http://www.sonnet.com/eqdir/clamper/skunks.html>

Wright's Rock Shop:

<http://www.wrightsrockshop.com>

The Breastplate of Aaron gemstones:

http://www.about-birthstones.com/breastplate_of_aaron.html

Australian agate education site:

<http://www.amonline.net.au/geoscience/earth/concretions.htm>

Indians, tar pits, and tar mines:

http://www.sjgs.com/tarpits_hist.html

Smithsonian Institute on Global Volcanism:

<http://www.si.edu/highlight/volcano/paricutin.html>

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 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* (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: "Gold Country" photos by Mike and Margaret Henson. Map by Dick Shields.

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

September 2004 Calendar

Tuesday September 7, 2004 7:00 PM - 8:30 PM	OMS Board Meeting -- Mussell Senior Center. All members are welcome at this business meeting.
Saturday September 11, 2004 9:00 AM - 4:30 PM	Field Trip to Los Padres Forest -- Meet at Mussell Senior Center Parking Lot. Explore a local private ranch with an interesting green chert deposit and fossil shells. Accessible for 2 wheel drive vehicles and no hiking required. Bring lunch and water to drink.
Tuesday September 14, 2004 7:00 PM - 9:00 PM	OMS General Meeting -- Mussell Senior Center. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Program: "Proper Disposal of Hazardous Waste" by Aaron LaBarre of SLO Public Health Dept. • Display: Minerals - massive, crystalline, mysterious • Refreshment: Cake and Cupcakes
Saturday September 18, 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 "Country Kitchen" in Santa Maria. Contact Marshall Reeves at 733-2775 for details.
Saturday September 25, 2004 8:15 AM - 9:15 AM	OMS Monthly Breakfast -- "Country Kitchen" in Santa Maria. Call Ken Kreh at 343-7749 for details.

October 2004 Calendar

Tuesday October 5, 2004 7:00 PM - 8:30 PM	OMS Board Meeting -- Sierra Vista Park. 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: "Wired" by Sharon Duncan • 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 -- "Country Kitchen" in Santa Maria. 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 Park. 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"> • 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 "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 -- "Country Kitchen" in Santa Maria. Call Ken Kreh at 343-7749 for details.

Save the dates:

**INVITATION TO THE
PASO ROBLES 13th ANNUAL
ROCKHOUND ROUNDUP**

The Santa Lucia Rockhounds, our collecting buddies to the north, have invited us to join them on September 18th and 19th for their 13th Annual Rockhound Roundup. The event will take place at Pioneer Park and Museum (2010 Riverside Avenue, Paso Robles), just south of the Mid-State Fairgrounds.

The show features numerous exhibits, the bank vault fluorescent room, and demonstrators on both days. The outside park will host a wide assortment of vendors, a lively silent auction, games, youth activities, and snack bar. The raffle is exciting, and the Saturday night barbecue is a good place to bond with our northern neighbors.

Admission is free, parking is free, and friendly folks are bountiful. Show begins at

10:00 a.m. and closes at 5:00 p.m. on both days. For details contact Mike Doherty (805) 466-4061 or email at mdoherty@tcsn.net, or Paul Savage's email at egavasp@starband.net.

We hope to see you there!

ZZYZX is coming!

Beginning in November, you will have an opportunity to submit an application for Zzyzx. Information is available on-line at the CFMS site, and in the November *Ore-Cutt*.

Earth Sciences at Zzyzx will be held from April 3-10, 2005. This will be the camp's 20th anniversary, and special events are planned. This week long 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.

What the Heck?

Didn't we just do this?

No, you are not seeing things. We wanted you to have a "cut out" to put on the fridge as a reminder to keep the show date in 2005 open!

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

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

38th Annual OMS Gem Show

Earth's Treasures - Rocks - Minerals - Gems
Exhibits - Tailgaters - Demonstrations - Lapidary
Equipment

St Joseph's Church
298 South Thompson Avenue
Nipomo, California

3 Big Days! 10 AM-5 PM
August 5th, 6th, 7th 2005

ONE-OF-A-KIND CRAFTED STONE MER-
CHANDISE FROM ALL OVER THE WORLD.
ROCK BOTTOM PRICES! RAFFLES!

PRIZES!

FOOD ON SALE!

MONSTER SANTA MARIA STYLE BBQ ON SAT-
URDAY NIGHT ONLY \$7.50 FOR ADULTS, \$3.50
FOR KIDS 12 AND UNDER.

Free Parking – Free Admission!