



# Ore-Cutts

Volume XLIV Number 9

September 2008

Come join us on September 9 for a program on **Fossils of The Central Coast** to be given by Wayne Mills, at the Mussell Senior Center, 510 E. Park St., Santa Maria, Ca.

The display this month will be **Fossils**, any fossils, but we would particularly like to see ones found here on the Central Coast...even if you don't know their formal names.

Dessert will be **Pies** brought by Jan Ferguson, Jeannie Lingerfelt & Virginia Rogers



## The Marble Quarries of Carrara, Italy: Review of July Program

By Dee Dee Magri

On a two-week family trip to Italy this year, I remembered that not too far from my husband's hometown of Fornaci Di Barga in the northern Tuscany region of Italy, were the famous marble quarries of Carrara. While visiting his cousin Carlo, we talked about the quarries and the next thing you know we were on our way to these sheer, white, mountains raising out of the coastal plain. Mountains filled with dense forests of Chestnut trees and winding, narrow quarry roads with their notorious hairpin bends. I found the city of Carrara to be somewhat modernized. As we kept going I knew that I just had to have marble to take home with me. So it wasn't too long after that when we came to a quarry work area. I asked the owner for a piece of cut marble. He looked at me, covered in flour-white dust, and cut for me a piece of marble in 5 seconds, no charge. He showed us all the marble he had cut and



polished. I had to keep my purchases small, but on my return there will be larger additions.

We continued to climb the mountain and, located just below the quarry, was the town of Colonata, it is very Medieval in appearance and known locally as the Marble Village, with hereditary connections to quarry work. The quarries were a vast landscape of white. Even the river there looked like a current of white milk six days a week. It was like entering a different world in another time.

The chain of events that brought this mass of marble to Carrara began 200 million years ago, as the primordial continents began their free-floating voyages across the earth's crust. In those days the area that is northern Tuscany lay at the bottom of a deep sea inhabited by shellfish and other tiny calciferous creatures. Over tens of millions of years the skeletal remains of these animals formed limestone sediment hundreds of feet deep on the sea floor. Perhaps as recently as 12 million years ago, this huge seabed of sedimentary limestone was caught in a continental collision and subjected to enormous pressure and heat. A million years of metamorphosis was sufficient to turn base limestone into perfect crystalline white marble. Another eon or two of continental drift and erosion, folding and refolding the crust of the former ocean floor, brought the marble deposit to the surface of the Apuan Alps.

The marble varies considerably from quarry to quarry, each with its own qualities discernable with the trained eye. The quarry workers have developed a vocabulary to describe the subtlest variations of crystal structure, color, luminosity and hardness. The quarries have also been given names such as "Gioia Quarry" and, of course, "Michelangelo's Quarry." Some sites were called "The big Tooth," and "Big Cliff." One quarryman, on seeing a photograph, pointed out a spot high up on a well-worn wall announcing "That is where Michelangelo cut the block for his 'Pieta'." He went on to explain that on a visit to Vatican City he had studied the sculpture, not as a work of art, but as a stone, and had determined that its particular qualities could be found only in that one place in the quarry.

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The political history of Carrara has been as full of upheavals as its geology. In 177 BC the Romans secured the area just north of modern Carrara. The indigenous Apuan people did not accept this intrusion without resistance. Eventually the Apuans were deported and the Romans took the area for themselves, and artifacts of Roman activity such as tools, inscriptions, even half-finished works are still found throughout the region at the highest elevations. With the decline of the Roman Empire, several people had their day in this area, such as the bishops, the Austrians and the French. The quarries were abandoned, but once again started flourishing. There were many uprisings along with the then newly-formed labor and socialist movements of the end of the 19<sup>th</sup> century,

The techniques used to extract marble during the Renaissance were probably similar to Roman era methods. The cutting and squaring of the stone was accomplished with hand tools, with the workman relying on strength, persistence and the crystalline stone's natural proclivity to cleave along certain planes. By the 18<sup>th</sup> century, the use of explosives became widespread. Black powder made it possible to dislodge huge quantities of rock in very little time, yielding large, irregular blocks that were then squared by hand. There was much waste produced by this method, the detonations not only destroyed vast amounts of good marble, but they also filled the landscape with enormous dumpsites of pulverized debris.

Real innovation arrived at Carrara in the late 19<sup>th</sup> century in the form of a new system using wound steel cable to make long, smooth cuts through the quarry walls. They were powered by an electric motor. The actual cutting was not accomplished by the moving wire itself, but by an abrasive slurry of sand and water that was applied to the cable as it made contact with the stone. It was the use of this helicoidal wire that first gave the quarries the sliced, angular appearance they have today.

In the days before the modern roads were built, it was the job of a group of people called the "Lizzatori" to lower 20-ton blocks onto wooden sleds called, "Lizza," which are pulled down the slopes by gravity. A "Lizza" team consisted of 8 or 10 men often working together for decades, relying on the skill and experience that each had in order to preserve life and limb. Road transport trucks have now replaced these teams. As well have the "Tecchiaioli" men, revered for their ability to remove loose rock while dangling from ropes that were suspended from the marble cliffs been replaced by mountain climbers. The tools used to extract huge blocks of stone have evolved from the ancient way of handsaws and oxen to pneumatic pumps, diamond saws and bulldozers the size of houses, but a thirty-ton block of

marble resolutely resists any technology. The taking of the stone still depends on unhurried calculation.

As the pressures of production intensify, much less attention is being paid to routine safety procedures. Working in the open, under towering walls of stone, quarry workers are constantly exposed to sudden unpredictable rock falls. The conditions in the underground quarries have men exposed to incessant noise, dirt, and fumes from heavy machinery. Hearing



loss has become a huge problem. In the heavily worked areas there are some walls that are collapsing causing terrifying landslides.

Quarry workers like to see

themselves as craft workers engaged in art rather than a job. Like wood, marble has "knots," and "grains" called "Peli" which are the fine lines that crisscross the marble blocks at irregular intervals. Hidden faults are either invisible or created after the block has been cut known as "Peli Nemici"-enemy faults. These faults are critical to the way workers must excavate the marble and predict potential danger. The quarry workers like to give every small imperfection in the stone a particular name. Like many other miners, they are attuned to minute transformation within the rock face and to the sounds that might predict cracking and rock falls.

The extraordinary landscape of Carrara and its quarries has been a source of inspiration for many visual artists- especially photographers, the quality of the white light, the translucence of patterning of the stone. These sculptural forms shaped by the action of human labor, the scale of the mountains, the sense of human presence in the stone is all part of the mystique of Carrara. It has recently been suggested that the landscape here is an event rather than a thing. It is as much psychological as it is physical, an unforgettable world of marble beneath the image of the stone.

## The 41<sup>st</sup> Annual Rainbow of Gems – Another Record Set, Review of Aug. Mtg.

By Wes Lingerfelt, OMS Treasurer

The show is over and we can all sit back and relax for a few months at least. I have filed the papers required by the Attorney General and State Law which includes the Charity Raffle Report and the request for a permit to have a raffle drawing next year. These filings are due before 31 August 2008.

Overall I would say we did great! The total income was up this year since we increased the price of a dealer space

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by \$10.00 and the Saturday Night BBQ was increased to \$10.00 from \$9.50 for adults and the kid's price went from \$4.50 to \$5.00. It's a good thing we made the change, as the total costs rose significantly this year. As I peruse the figures for this year I see we have a net income of roughly \$6350.00 and that is better than 2007's number of \$6007.00.

I really appreciate the fact that the storage locker isn't several miles away from the show as it was in years past. I know I've personally saved several hundred dollars in gasoline. They say that necessity is the mother of invention and the addition of the storage locker to the show site is a classic example of that.

The show ran smoothly this year with no major incidents other than an increase in theft reported by some of our dealers, and the ladies restroom was a target for pranksters. Why anyone would want to stuff paper towels into the drain and the overflow hole and then turn on the water is really hard to comprehend. I hear this happened three times. It makes me wonder if someone was mad at our Society or were they mad at the Church, I wonder?

Next year we must all do a better job of helping to protect our dealers. We cannot survive a bad word of mouth if the problem escalates. We **can** do more to stop the shoplifting. We had about 20 percent new dealers this year and they overflowed on to the grass lawn in front of the recreation hall. I would be interested to hear of any of your experiences with these new dealer additions.

The BBQ totals are up and we served 209 paid tickets plus the line workers. The reputation of this main event is intact but a single complaint has been relayed to me. Several people have told me that some (a small amount) of the meat was tough and chewy. I myself noticed on occasion as I was sampling (one of the perks) a tough and grizzly mouthful. I believe a few miss-cuts made it through the process and next year we will have to improve on that function. With cost going up everyday the BBQ still managed to render a profit of \$481.39. Anything over break even is fine with me on this people-drawing event.

The snack bar was a huge success thanks to Elaine Von Achen and DeeDee Magri with the guidance and hard work of Sylvia Nasholm and all the volunteer workers. Some of the best pies in California were served over the weekend. We had higher return from this activity than last year and that is with much higher prices for supplies. Anyone going to the grocery store these days knows what I'm talking about.

The Country Store did well and moved a whole lot of books along with miscellaneous items donated over the past year. We hauled a big load to the dump so we will be anticipating more donations for next year.

We had, I believe, 36 display cases presented this year and each one was deserving of a trophy. Over the years I've attended many shows throughout the State and our show ranks up there with the very best for displays. You should all be very proud of yourselves. All of them are worthy of entering into competition at the CFMS Annual Show.

Now is the time to start thinking and planning for next year. We have a rhythm going and it will serve us well so long as we continue to work together and have fun. We have several new members who are eager to join in and contribute and that is the hope for the future. *Well done you all!*

### The Pres Box

By Wayne Mills, President, OMS

OMS's 41<sup>st</sup> Annual Rainbow of Gems Show is in the books, and based on preliminary accounting, it was a rousing success thanks to the joint efforts of most of our active members. Things went off pretty much the way we planned them, and most of our dealers went home happy with their weekend's income.

The show had heroes and heroines, but next to Wes Lingerfelt, who puts an incredible amount of time and effort into each show we have had since I can remember, I have to give the nod to Elaine Von Achen, Dee Dee Magri, and Sylvia Nasholm and their "Kitchenettes" (well, MOST of the crew was female, and I take nothing away from Paul and Don who were, Um! Instrumental in the kitchen).

Everyone who pitched in to help out with the Saturday Night Barbecue did an awesome job, and in spite of a butter shortage and under-roasted corn (my bad!), no one went away hungry, or unhappy with the meal.

Deborah Hood, Bud Burgess, Shelly Dana and Lee Reyburn did a fine job of turning a profit in the Country Store, and from personal experience, I can attest that Bud could sell iceboxes to Eskimos, (though that job is getting easier with the onset of global climate change).

Sharon Duncan, Mike & Margaret Henson, and all the rest of the crew who sat in the Hospitality Tent did a great job greeting and directing our guests, collecting money and prizes for the Treasure Chest, and handing out over 90 prizes in short order.

Sharon handled this job for the first time, and came up with the innovative idea of having the folks who won prizes but were not present at the show come to HER for their prizes—a good lesson for future shows. And speaking of lessons, not everything went perfectly smoothly, and we have a



long list of “lessons learned” for next year’s show. If any of the membership have ideas that they think could help us in 2009, they are welcome to call, write or e-mail me so I can add their comments to the list.

And while we are thinking about heroines, I know there is a golden plunger somewhere with Jeannie Lingerfelt’s name on it. She can cook (12 pies!), make prize winning jewelry (3<sup>rd</sup> place in Peoples Choice Awards) and clean toilets—whatta’ woman!

Thanks again to all of you who helped make our show a rousing success. I hope to see you at our September meeting where we will talk about (and hopefully display) fossils of the Central Coast. (My talk and fossils will focus on the Central Coast, yours can be from anywhere!)

### People’s Choice Awards

By Wayne Mills

We had 37 high quality displays this year, and tried something new to boot. I adapted the idea of People’s Choice Awards from the Santa Lucia Club, and it seemed to work pretty well. The displayers who got feed back (comments on the ballot form) seemed pleased, and the three OMS members who won the trophies were definitely pleased.

Marty Lingerfelt won the sphere of San Simeon Brecciated jasper donated by his father (first place) for his case of Bruneau Jasper, Shelly Dana won the piece of Montana agate that I polished (second place) for her mixed display, and Jeannie Lingerfelt won the piece of Tuscarora wood (third place) that I polished for her case of lovely wire wrap (see sample in the Pres Box). The quality of the winner’s cases shows me that the voters had an eye for beauty.

We may continue this activity next year with some modification in the way votes are registered. Your thoughts on the matter?

### Geology of the Central Coast- A Series- Guadalupe Dunes-Talk about Sand!

By Wayne Mills

Folks who live on the Central Coast have many geological wonders in their backyard. Not the least of these is the Guadalupe Dunes, the largest accumulation of coastal sand in North America. The dunes are 18 miles long and up to a mile and a half wide. They are bounded to the north by the cliffs at Pismo Beach, and to the south by Point Sal. The primary source areas for the sand in these dunes are Arroyo Grande Creek and the Santa Maria River. The accumulation is up to a half mile thick, and the age of the dunes is estimated at 10-15,000 years. An interesting note from a video on the dunes is that the finer the sand on the beaches you encounter, the older the sand is. Makes sense!

The dunes are home to a tremendous variety of life including coyote, bobcat, mountain lions, deer, kangaroo and dusky footed wood rats, raptors, shorebirds and a number of migrant bird populations. The lagoon at Pismo Beach State Park (accessible off Pier Street in Oceano) is one of the best places in the county to see a wide variety of the county’s winged inhabitants.

The dunes have been inhabited by man for many years. Several Chumash Village sites are evidenced by the presence of dark shell mounds called middens scattered through the dunes. More recently, the Dunes were the home to an eclectic group of artists and eccentrics that included the son of President Chester Arthur and Moon Mullins (“I was never smart enough to be called sun, so they called me moon.” Do you remember the Moon Mullins comic strip, one of the longest running strips [1923-1990?]) The community of Moy Mell existed from the 1930’s to 1974 when the last residents departed. Due to their at times Saharan appearance, the dunes have been host to a number of Hollywood-produced movies.

The most spectacular of these was “The Ten Commandments” produced by Cecil B. Demille in 1923. Relics of the set for this movie were excavated in 2007.



Picture from Dunes Center website

#### Sources

[santalucia.sierraclub.org/osoflaco.html](http://santalucia.sierraclub.org/osoflaco.html)

[www.dunescenter.org](http://www.dunescenter.org)

[The Dunites](#), Norm Hammond, South County Historical Society, 1992

### Sunshine



Kay Vollmer has moved to Los Angeles to live with her daughter, Wendy, and her family. We all wish her safety, health & happiness and there will be updates from time to time. Those wishing to correspond with her, please contact Debbie Hood for address/phone number.

### Fare Well!

And with great sadness I must tell you that Dee Dee & Aldo Magri is moving to Benicia, Ca. This is a big move up for Aldo. Dee Dee plans to maintain her membership in OMS and will be back to visit us from time to time.

### Six Weeks On The Road

By Bob Bullock

Well I didn't make it out of the country like Truman Burgess, but I did a little traveling. On the road on and off for six weeks, my wife, Rosey, and I did a coast-to-coaster, or at least she did. I made it as Far East as Nashville, TN. Going to, and coming back from, is where

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the story is at. (*Eds. Note: Yes, I Do know better, but like Yogi Berra, Bob is known for such "Boberisms."*) Heading out from my brother's place in Texas, after putting my wife on a plane to Virginia to see family. I made my way to Hope, Arkansas to visit my great grandmother's burial site and to also visit the Crater of Diamonds state park in Murfreesboro, AR. Did I say, Hope? Yup, I did, and how many folks recall who was born there? Ya'all figure *that* out.

Anyway, after getting business done at the cemetery, I packed up the next day and headed on over to Murfreesboro to the Crater of Diamond's park, about a 45 minute drive. Murfreesboro is a small town that caters to the folks passing through to the park, there are places to stay and places to eat, just think small, nice, and friendly. On the road you are not going to get lost, just read the signs and enjoy the countryside while getting there. When arriving at the park I found the parking area to be large and very generous. Please check out their web site at: [www.craterofdiamondsstatepark.com](http://www.craterofdiamondsstatepark.com) for more info.

Being about the second pick up truck in the parking lot, I took my time loading my equipment up onto my hand truck. When checking in I was told, no hand trucks, so back to the pickup to rearrange things. As it turns out you can take in a wheeled ice chest, baby buggy or what ever you can carry on your back. OR, just walk in and rent everything from a wheelbarrow, sifter screens, small hand tools, etc. A small portable air conditioner unit would have been nice as well; hot muggy weather was the order of this day.

Getting oriented to the facility is a real good item to get on with as well. There is a gift shop with the usual items, a museum to check out past finds and the history of the park, and movies telling you what to look for, these last two are must do's for everyone. I don't want to get all wrapped up telling folks what to look for cause you can see examples of the real things there. Just think broken brown beer bottle glass to broken clear bottle glass, ANYTHING that is shiny and clear is fair game, and think small. They said mud doesn't stick to diamonds, to you on the other hand it is like glue.

I did have a wonderful day and I'm still going through my finds, I also gave a sack of ore to our club's treasure chest, so buy some tickets at the gem show. If you win it, let me know, I'll help you clean it up.

Well, traveling on I met up with my wife in Nashville, and went to the Grand Ole Opry, and the Coast Guard convention with my folks and their friends. After rapping things up in Nashville, Rosey and I headed back to Texas and then hit the trail homeward bound.

Our next stop was Holbrook, AZ and the Petrified Forest. We stayed two nights in Holbrook, checking out Jim Gray's rock shop's pricey petrified, but beautiful,

wood items, Stewarts Petrified Wood and Meteorites along with the very *creepy* road art to draw people in, think *Tales From the Darkside* when entering here. In between Gray's and Stewart's the long way back around, we toured the Petrified Forest on the back of my Harley, making several stops to enjoy the most wonderful view of Mother Nature's work. We also took in the Interpretive Center and a movie. Meeting up with some fellow travelers along the way at a high overlook of the valley, we exchanged greetings and found out they were here on holiday from England. Watching other folks, especially those from other countries, enjoy what we have here makes one even more proud of our country.

Moving on, we enjoyed a quick lunch just off of Old Highway Route 66 in downtown Holbrook. While in the Holbrook area we did see the Sun Valley School that our club helps support. We didn't go bother the folks, but I felt after seeing the place from the outside, that the kids there were in good hands and cared for.

After pulling out the next morning we headed on to Winslow, AZ., and stood on the corner with the bronze statue and shared photo opp's with other travelers. Then on to Meteor Crater. There are man-made wonders, there are Mother Nature's wonders and then are *WONDERS*. This is not a state park, or federal park, they missed this one big time, and so it should be. Privately owned since the turn of the 20th century this unique interface of our small planet and the endless outer reaches of space and beyond is there waiting to "*Ah*" you. It is deeper than the Washington Monument is tall, 12 football games can be played at the same time on the bottom floor, with over 2 million fans watching from seats along the crater walls. There is also a gift shop, sandwich shop, theater, museum, lectures and hikes at the very modern facility now there. Just think, this all started with a 150x150x150 foot piece of iron traveling at about 40,000 mph, 50,000 years ago, and a very big bang that turned a section of the earth over on it's self. After taking this in, on down the road again, this time for home with as few stops as possible.

Pulling up in the driveway later in the evening we were glad to be home, six weeks on the road all together, tired we were. But, that's not the end.

A week later, we were back on the road again headed to Temecula, CA to take the granddaughter to her other grandparents. Not being one to pass an invite up, Rosey and I stayed with Dick Shields in San Diego. Dick had invited me to come along with him and a group of friends and his co-workers to the Oceanview Mine in Pala, CA, to dig for gems. Oceanview is one of the last old gem mines in the Pala area, originally there were 73 over the last 2 centuries. (Please visit their website at [www.digforgems.com](http://www.digforgems.com))

After about a 45 minute or so drive from San Diego to our hook-up point, we settled into loaded vehicles and headed off to the mountains. Going through Pala, and on up the mountains behind the Pala Indian reservation, we finally hit the dirt road to the mine. Meeting up with folks from the mining operation we passed off our liability waivers and fees, it's \$60.00 for the day and believe you me it is well worth it. Upon our arrival at the dig site we were met by the mine's owners Jeff Swanger and Steve Koonce, who lectured us on safety, what to find, and introduced us to our individual processing tables. We were looked after by the staff to make sure we had enough water to drink and to process with. It was a warm day with plenty of sun. Oh, yes, bring a pop-up tent for your comfort, food, drinking water, sunscreen, first aid kit, and be ready to work. There are restrooms (blue portables) and a nice shaded lunch area, rattlesnakes and a tour of the actual mining area. In the middle of the processing area is **the pile** and everyone has a bucket, and shovel and when it's time to start you hit **the pile**, dig a bucket full, go to your table and process it out looking for the "Ooh's" and "Ahh's."

There were a good number of folks present, world travelers, children, and wives and, of course, rockhounds with plenty of mud and dirt to go around. At closing time, which is 3 pm, clean-up starts, carried out by the staff. The processed material is pushed away by tractor to a fill spot, tables cleaned and reset, and the pile of material replenished with freshly mined material. No, I didn't hit the **mother lode**, but I had fun. I did get mineral items I've never gotten before, met new people from around the world and the USA, saw where some things come from, some things that happened, will wonder about things to come, and yes I'd go back.

### Birthdays & Anniversaries



Very happy returns of the day go out to Sharon Duncan, Karen Dry' Marshall Reeves, Margaret Henson' Molly Kerlick, Peter Dettelis, Bud Burgess, Dyana Cridelich, & Joseph

Martinez, who all celebrate September birthdays!

Anniversary congratulations are in order to. Dick & Bess Shields, & Dee Dee & Aldo Magri. May you all have many more!



### We Get Thanks

Wayne Mills, Scholarship Chairperson

This month (*Eds. Note: received in July*), we got nice notes from our two scholarship winners. Our Cuesta College recipient writes:

*"My name is Eliza O'Rourke. I am writing to thank you for your generous award. I am also honored to receive this award for the second time. I appreciate your continued faith and support.*

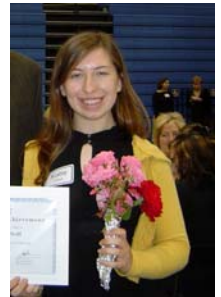
*I am currently working on my general education requirements at Cuesta. Once they are completed, I will transfer to a University, and study Environmental Science. This has been a dream of mine since I was in Elementary School.*

*Attending college is important to me. When I graduate, I will be the first in my family to complete school. I also value the example I am setting for my young daughter. Although she is only one year old, I know she will look at what I have done and see that she can do it too. I am lucky to have the support of my family and friends.*

*Thank you again for the generous support. When I am in a better place I hope to return the favor and give back to the community in a similar way. I think it is a wonderful thing that your organization takes the time and resources to help young people achieve their goals.*

*Sincerely,*

*Eliza 'O Rourke"*



Our Alan Hancock College Student wrote:

*"THANK YOU! Orcutt Mineral Society, I really appreciate being selected as the recipient of your Earth Science Scholarship. Thank you for taking the time to meet me and present me with this scholarship at the AHC Foundation Banquet.*

*I hope to put your donation towards more academic adventures in geology! Sincerely,*

*Katie O'Neill*

### CFMS Show Report

By Wayne Mills

Todd and I managed to make it down to Ventura for the non-sponsored CFMS Show last month. The drive down and back was about an hour and forty-five minutes, and we got to spend about two hours there before we had to dash home. We did stop near the Pipefish location in Buellton, and found "indications".

The show was nicely laid out, but in two different buildings at the (Ventura) county fairgrounds than the Ventura club show is normally held in. There were a bunch of displays (more than 60?), and all were high quality, including OMS's Don's—Nasholm and Dana. Mr. Nasholm has a wonderful display of silverwork with some fantastic stones that the judges gave a blue ribbon to in the Novice Class. Mr. Dana also did well with two faceted stones. There were several other prime cases there including a wonderful fossil exhibit from Jim

Brace-Thompson, who has agreed to share his exhibit again at our August show.

Todd was a bit bummed that there was no plant sale that is a staple of the Ventura Club show that is also hosted at the Ventura Fairgrounds, and there was no silent auction, but otherwise, the show was well run and the dealers appeared to be doing well, so I would say it was a successful show, even though I didn't find anything much that wanted to come home with me. I did get the case favors for our gem show though. You will have to show up to see what they are...

### **Orcutt Mineral Society Board Meeting Elwin Mussell Sr. Center, Santa Maria, Ca.**

**August 5, 2008**

The Meeting was called to order at 7:08 p.m. by President, Wayne Mills.

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

Minutes from the July 1, 2008 board meeting were approved as printed in the August 2008 newsletter.

**Correspondence:** None.

**Treasurer's Report:** Wes Lingerfelt read the treasurer's report. The report was accepted as read.

**Committee Reports:**

**Gem Show:** Wes Lingerfelt gave an overview of happenings at the show. At the Saturday night barbeque we served 209 dinners and made a profit of \$527.60. The snack bar had a profit of \$2,233.59 and the country store brought in \$445.66.

A discussion on "Lessons Learned" included the following points:

**Barbeque:** It was recommended that the fellows involved with preparing the meat for the barbeque should attend a meat-cutting lesson before the next barbeque. It was also recommended that we differentiate between adult tickets and child tickets, perhaps by printing them in a different color. It was difficult to know how many meals sold were adults and how many were children. It was also noted that we need to figure out a better way to serve the dinners, as 90 minutes was too long.

**Thursday Night Dinner:** A list of dealers and exhibitors needs to be given to the Thursday night dinner chairman so they can better plan on how many dinners will be served. Some of those lists will overlap. We will also need to provide security for the inside dealers while we are outside having dinner. We had a couple of incidents of theft this year.

**Show:** Unfortunately, we also had a couple of incidents of theft outside as well. A couple of dealers were missing items and Daniel Limon sat his wallet down while purchasing some rock and it disappeared. We need a better way to get customers to the back classrooms than having prize tickets hidden in among their wares. When it was announced that there were four tickets hidden in amongst the four dealers in back, children and at least one dealer looking for the tickets swarmed

them. They weren't as careful as they should have been with the dealer's merchandise.

**Treasure Chest:** There was discussion regarding cutting off ticket sales early on Sunday so there would be time to get things set-up for the drawing. Also, that the drawing start at 3:00 as it is hard to give 90 plus prizes in one hour. It was noted that there was no place for people to sit during the drawing. There were quite a few blank tickets, tickets with no name or phone # and we need to make note to check tickets before they are dropped in to the cage.

**Clean-up:** Someone stuffed up the drains in the bathroom sinks and then turned on the water and walked away. It also came to Wes's attention on Monday morning that the bathrooms had not been cleaned the evening before. We had a problem, which was ultimately resolved, with supplies belonging to the church. We also had a problem with a classroom that had been cleaned, and then apparently used, which was left dirty. Again, the problem was resolved but it was suggested that in the future we take pictures of the rooms, the main hall, bathrooms, etc. after they have been cleaned. Before it became clear that OMS was not responsible for those two incidents it had been suggested that we might have to pay a deposit of \$1,000.00 next year.

Wes reported that he was very happy with K.C., the guard, who he felt did a great job. He also thanked John Von Achen for being in charge of trash duty.

**Bulletin:** Debbie Hood reported that the newsletters had been mailed and that it appears the post office is eating them for breakfast. It is also on the web.

**Membership:** None.

**Sunshine:** Debbie reported that Keith McKay's mother, Pat, fell and hurt her arm and her ankle. Also, Erica Erskine has had bronchitis.

**Old Business:** None.

**New Business:**

Wayne Mills read a thank you letter he had written to Bill & Isabella Burns thanking them for their generous donation of \$20.00 to go toward our scholarship fund. They had many kind remarks regarding the quality of our show and shared them with Wayne.

August's general meeting program will be a review of the Gem Show and a slide presentation compiled by Wes Lingerfelt from pictures taken by various members of our recent show.

Display for August will be whatever great treasure or treasures you found at the show and would like to share with our members.

Refreshment will be cookies and bread pudding with lemon sauce prepared by Elaine Von Achen from the leftover bread from the snack bar.

The meeting adjourned at 8:32 p.m. by president, Wayne Mills.

Respectfully submitted:

Elaine Von Achen, Secretary, OMS

**Orcutt Mineral Society General Meeting Elwin Mussell Sr. Center, Santa Maria, Ca. August 12, 2008**

President Wayne Mills called the meeting to order at 7:04 p.m.

Mike Henson gave the invocation.

Joseph Martinez led the flag salute.

Elaine Von Achen read the minutes of the August 5, 2008 Board Meeting. Minutes were approved as read.

**Correspondence:**

Elaine Von Achen reported newsletters received from Santa Cruz Mineral & Gem Society and South Bay Lapidary & Mineral Society. She also noted a flier announcing the Searles Lake Gem and Mineral Society's 67<sup>th</sup> annual GEM-O-RAMA to be held October 11 and 12, 2008. A flier was received announcing the McDermitt Rock & Gem Show in McDermitt Nevada on September 18 through the 21, 2008.

**Treasurer's report:**

Wes Lingerfelt gave the treasurer's report. It was accepted as given.

**Committee Reports:**

**Hospitality:** Sharon Duncan announced 34 members and 3 guests. Guests included Rod Ness, Pat Knight and Margaret Ensminger.

**Abused Children:** Jan Ferguson noted a fire opal from Mexico, a garnet & quartz crystal from Brazil and a calcite pseudomorph from Arizona as this evening's door prizes.

**Adopt-a-Highway:** The next clean up will be September 13, 2008 at 8:00 a.m. We will meet at the intersection of Highways 101 and 166.

**Monthly Breakfast:** Gloria Dana was ill and did not give a breakfast report. Our next scheduled breakfast will be August 23 at Huckleberry's in Pismo Beach at 9:00 a.m.

**Bulletin:** Debbie Hood announced that August's bulletin had been mailed and was also on the web. She also requested stories or articles from members.

**CFMS:** None.

**Education:** Elaine Von Achen announced a jewelry class to be held at Cuesta College Sept. 3 through Sept. 24 and a follow-up class to be held October 29 through November 29, 2008.

**Field Trips:** None.

**Hospitality:** Dee Dee Magri thanked Erica Erskine who brought a birthday cake to celebrate her birthday with OMS members. We also had cookies donated by Margaret Henson, Don Nasholm and Debbie Hood. Elaine Von Achen brought bread pudding and lemon sauce.

**Property:** None.

**Public Lands Access Committee:** Dick Belzel asked members to write their congressman to oppose a bill coming up for a vote that would seriously limit individuals from owning and collecting fossils.

**Refreshments:** Dee Dee Magri reported the night's refreshment as cake donated by Sylvia Nasholm, Sharon Duncan, Shelly Dana, Dee Dee Magri, Elaine Von Achen, Gisela Schrum and Margaret Henson.

**Scholarship:** None.

**Membership:** Elaine Von Achen welcomed Betty Ann Kern as our newest OMS member.

**Publicity:** Wes Lingerfelt said that an article ran in the August 1 and the August 8 Adobe Press regarding our annual Gem Show.

**Door Prizes:** Bob Bullock reported a piece of petrified wood from Buellton, donated by Gary Gresham, some poppy jasper and some lace agate donated by Lucky Virgin as well as some arrowheads, crystals, etc. for the evening's drawing.

**Sunshine:** It was reported that Kay Vollmer has moved down south with her daughter. Sandy Berthelot's mother passed away and Gloria Dana was not feeling well.

**Old Business:** None.

**New Business:**

Elaine Von Achen thanked everyone who donated pies and the people who worked in the snack bar at the Gem Show. She gave each of her kitchen helpers a thank you card and gift. She also had a drawing for a beautiful wire wrapped pendant, donated by Jeannie Lingerfelt. The lucky winner was Sandy Berthelot.

The program for the evening will be a slide show put together by Wes Lingerfelt on pictures from the show.

The display for tonight will be "A TREASURE YOU PICKED UP AT THE SHOW"!

The program for September's general meeting will be given by Wayne Mills titled "Fossils of the Central Coast."

The meeting was adjourned by President, Wayne Mills at 9:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

Elaine Von Achen, Secretary, OMS

**September 2008 Calendar**

Tuesday Sept. 2, 2008 7:00 to 8:30 p.m.	<b>OMS Board Meeting-Elwin Mussell Senior Center, Mussell Senior Center, 510 E. Park St., Santa Maria, Ca.</b> All members are welcome at this business meeting.
Tuesday Sept. 9, 2008 7:00 to 9:00 p.m.	OMS General Meeting-Elwin Mussell Senior Center. • Program: "Fossils of The Central Coast" by Wayne Mills



## Ore-Cutts

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Display: Fossils</li> <li>• Refreshments-Pie</li> </ul>
Saturday, September 13, 2008 8:00 to 10:00 am	Roadside Clean up After the cleanup, coffee and pastry at "Francisco's Country Kitchen" in Santa Maria
Saturday Sept. 20, 2008 8:00 am to 5:00 p.m.	Field Trip to be announced
Saturday Sept. 27 2008 9:00 to 10:00 a.m.	OMS Monthly Breakfast- At Nita's Creekside Café at 338 W. Tefft St., Nipomo. For Information call Gloria Dana at 929-6429
<b>October 2008 Calendar</b>	
Tuesday Oct. 7, 2008 7:00 to 8:30 p.m.	OMS Board Meeting-Elwin Mussell Senior Center, 510 E. Park St., Santa Maria, Ca. All members are welcome at this business meeting.
Tuesday, Oct. 14, 2008 7:00 to 9:00 p.m.	OMS General Meeting-Elwin Mussell Senior Center. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Program TBA</li> <li>• Display- Best 1'x1' Display</li> <li>• Refreshments- Cakes</li> </ul>
Saturday Oct. 18, 2008 8:00 am to 5:00 pm	Field Trip to be announced
Saturday Oct. 25 2008 9:00 to 10:00 a.m.	OMS Monthly Breakfast- to be announced

### CFMS Show Schedule 2008

**September 13-14 2008, Downey, CA**

Delvers Gem & Mineral Society  
Woman's Club of Downey  
9813 Paramount Blvd  
Hours: Sat. 10 - 6; Sun. 10 - 4  
Guynell Miller (562) 633-0614  
Email : guynellallen@sbcglobal.net

**September 20-21 2008, Paso Robles CA**

**Santa Lucia Rockhounds**  
**Pioneer Park Museum**  
**2010 Riverside Drive**  
**Hours: 10-5 both days**  
**Mike Doherty (815) 466-4061**  
**Email: mdoherty@tcsn.net**

**September 20-21 2008, Redwood City CA**

Sequoia Gem & Mineral Society  
Community Activities Building  
1400 Roosevelt Ave.  
Hours: 10-5 both days  
Carol Corden (650) 248-7155  
Email: [ccorden@earthlink.net](mailto:ccorden@earthlink.net)  
Website: <http://sgms.driftnine.com/home.htm>

**September 25-28 2008, San Bernardino CA**

Orange Belt Mineral Society, Inc.

Western Region Little League Ball Park  
6707 Little League Dr.  
Hours: 9 a.m. - Dusk each day  
Emma Rose Couveau (951) 288-6182

**September 27-28 2008, Monterey, CA**

Carmel Valley Gem & Mineral Society  
Monterey Fairgrounds  
2004 Fairgrounds Rd.  
Hours: Sat. 10 - 6; Sun. 10 - 5  
Sky Paston (831) 417-7477  
Email: [sky@familystones.net](mailto:sky@familystones.net) Website: [www.cvgms.org](http://www.cvgms.org)

**September 27-28 2008, Stockton, CA**

Stockton Lapidary and Mineral Club  
Scottish Rite Masonic Center  
33 West Alpine Ave.  
Hours: Sat. 10 - 5; Sun. 10 - 4  
Nettie Meissner (209) 858-2263  
E-mail: [footsey1@yahoo.com](mailto:footsey1@yahoo.com)

**October 5 2008, Fallbrook, CA**

Fallbrook Gem & Mineral Society  
"Fall Festival of Gems"  
FGMS Museum  
123 W. Alvarado  
Hours: 10 - 4  
Mary Fong-Walker (760) 728-1130  
Diane Tjepkes (780) 468-8028

**October 11-12 2008, Grass Valley, CA**

Nevada County Gem & Mineral Society  
"Earth's Treasures"  
Nevada County Fairgrounds  
11228 McCourtney Road  
Hours: 10 - 5 both days  
Kim Moore (530) 470-0388  
Email: [Kmoore160@comcast.net](mailto:Kmoore160@comcast.net)

**October 11 - 12 2008, 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: [glgms@wvisp.com](mailto:glgms@wvisp.com)  
Website:  
[www1.wvisp.com/tronagemclub/tronagemclub.html](http://www1.wvisp.com/tronagemclub/tronagemclub.html)

**October 11-12 2008, 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](mailto:jontom@nethere.com)  
Webpage: [ecvgms.com](http://ecvgms.com)

**October 11-12 2008, Vista, CA**

Vista Gem & Mineral Society  
Antique Gas & Steam Engine Museum  
2040 North Sante Fe Avenue  
Hours: Sat. 10-5, Sun. 10-4  
Cherie Wilson (760) 941-7073  
Lois M. Hair (760) 724-0395

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## Ore-Cutts

<b>OMS Webmaster - Wes Lingerfelt</b> –(805) 929-3788.
Check out our OMS web site at <a href="http://omsinc.org">http://omsinc.org</a> or send e-mail to <a href="mailto:info@omsinc.org">info@omsinc.org</a> .
Ore-Cutts Photo Credits: Photographs used in this bulletin were taken by Wes Lingerfelt, & Wayne Mills except where noted
<b>OMS Membership</b> (dues) is \$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

### 2008-OMS Officers

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

### 2008-OMS Board Members

Sharon Duncan	(805) 478-9359
Sylvia Nasholm	(805) 481-0923
Sandy Berthelot	(805) 349-3977
Dee-Dee Magri	(805) 595-2755
Mike Henson	(805) 934-1308



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

### OMS Editor

Debbie Hood	(805) 481-6860	<a href="mailto:debillhood1@sbcglobal.net">debillhood1@sbcglobal.net</a>
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***ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED***

