



Ore-Cutts

Volume XLV Number 4

April 2009

Come join us on April 14, 2009 at 7:00 p.m. at the Mussell Senior Center, 510 E Park, Santa Maria, for a **Program, on Uranium Exploration by Geologist Steve Pavlak.** Steve has a lot of experience in the field of uranium and other energy sources, and we all need to be more informed about the risks and benefits of various sources for the energy we all use, so come and learn!



The **Display** theme will be self-collected rocks.



Desert will be cookies brought to us by Debbie Hood, Truman Burgess, Alexis Van Natta, Dyanna Credilich & Gloria Dana.

Swimming In Rhodonite

By Ralph Bishop

Over the decades since I joined the Orcutt Mineral Society at 10 years of age, I have had great success as a “*Rock Hound*,” rock shop owner and professional gem miner. With the help and guidance of many *Old Timers* I was able to “swing a wide loop” over the western states. My family was always supportive, especially my mother, who traveled on many of my ventures and elicited *Guardian Angles* of the Creator to send with me. They stayed with me through mountain lions; rattle snakes, rock falls, thunderstorms and tidal waves in my “hell bent for rocks” life style. Most, if not all of them must be on Workman’s Comp’ stress leave at this juncture.

Most of my true life adventures (fiction is too boring) have to do with my hunts in the wilds, *this* one, however, concerns an urban hunt (no, not dumpster diving.) Many an Old Timer swung as wide a loop as I

did and accumulated a large pile of rocks when the gettin’ was good. Many materials such as Stone Canyon jaspers and Horse Canyon agates, once a common commodity, are now rare because their locations are now inaccessible to collecting. Countless locations on Federal land in the Mojave desert are off limits unless you want to hike or ride a mule in (I suggest you name your mule Pelosi,) 20 miles and then carry your rock back out 20 miles. *Federal Government: “By and For the People.” Yeah, right!*

These accumulations are time capsules of quality domestic materials and appear as “Estate Sales” or “Rock Sales,” (what I call, “I’m not dead yet sales.”) Prices at these sales range from 25 cents to a dollar per pound, which is a good deal considering much of the trash sold at Quartzite for \$10.00 per pound. This story is about such a rock hoard.

My Ole Buddy Wes and I heard of a rock pile bigger than both of ours combined, so we couldn’t help ourselves. We took off bright and early, and traveled over Highway 166 headed for Rosamond, on the west margin of the Mojave Desert, near Edwards A.F.B.

It was a beautiful morning as we pulled up to the gate and were greeted by a lovely lady named Lucy, a flock of geese and a happy Golden Lab named Ralph. And, of course, a rock pile. Holy Moley! The main pile was 70-feet in diameter and 4-feet tall, surrounded on

Breaking News!

The OMS entry in the 2009 Bulletin Editor’s contest placed in the top five in the small bulletin category, also articles by Debbie Hood, Sylvia Nasholm and Ralph Bishop placed in the top five for their categories. We will bring you more details as they become available!

2 sides by 50-gallon drums of rock. I recognized materials from locations I had hunted as a youth, most of which are now off limits, no thanks to the *eco-cratie Bureaucratic Land Mongers*. Lucy was a darling and let me hose down the pile (I am infamous for playing in water.) At 25 cents per pound, Wes and I had a field day and stuffed the truck.



The next day, we started cutting and got some good sphere blanks. Among the rocks we brought home was a triangular black rock that I had recognized as Rhodonite (shades of Lime Kiln Creek's "**Amazing**

Grace.") I put it on the saw and when I opened the lid, the cut was a heart attack of vibrant pink, and a touch of yellow with black dendrites. It was much brighter than the "soft" pink of Lime Kiln Rhodonite and just as agatized. Wes was likewise impressed and the decision was made that we had to return and find more Rhodonite.

Within the month, Wes, Marshall Reeves and I were again greeted by Lucy, Ralph and the geese. We poked around for a while but found no more black rocks. So I sat down with Lucy over a cold drink, and showing the cut piece of Rhodonite, asked her if she had any more. There was a silence, and a 30-year stare into her past life as a young wife, just married, living in what was at that time a boomtown during the rocket testing of the "Cold War."

"Yes," she said, "There is much more, much much more," in a voice that traveled off in a whisper of time.

"Where?" I asked.

"There," she said, pointing to the huge pile, still speaking with a distance in her voice, and a sigh. That can't be, I thought I'd been all over that pile. Lucy began to tell me a story of her younger years.

"We were just married when we moved here. My husband was an equipment operator and got a job on the Tejon Dam Project. We weren't rockhounds then. One day he brought home some rocks from the job. Black rocks that were a beautiful pink inside, so I asked him to bring more home for decoration. And so he did as I asked. Little did I know that this would turn into a

hobby, an obsession to collect rocks. We showed some local rockhounds our pretty rock that they were blasting through to make the dam. They were duly impressed and soon we joined them on field trips to Kramer Junction, Mule Canyon, Rainbow Ridge, so many places and wonderful days! Day after day he brought home rocks from work and made a pile that got bigger and bigger.

Now in my younger years I loved to swim and asked him to build a swimming pool."

"Where?" I asked, and she pointed to the massive pile of rocks.

"Well, he dug the hole with the backhoe. Then one day I made a mistake. The pile of Rhodonite had gotten huge, 30 tons, maybe 50, who knows? Any way, I was worried about what the neighbors might think in this new neighborhood. I shouldn't have said a word; after all, I *had* asked him to bring the rock in.

Well, the day I opened my mouth he said, "Okay, I'll take care of it."

I went in to cook dinner and thought little of hearing the backhoe starting up. My husband came in for dinner saying little except that he had taken care of the "problem" I thought little of his comment until I went to wash the dishes and looked out of our kitchen window. The big pile of Rhodonite was gone and so was my swimming pool. All that was left was a smooth expanse of sand where the pool hole and the rock pile had been.

"He buried the Rhodonite in the pool?" I asked.

"Yes, he did!" she answered.

"You're kidding?" I asked.

"No," she said, "But I never complained about piles of rock after that!"

"So, where's the pool?" I asked.

"Well, I think it's about where that big piece of onyx is in the middle of the pile, but that was a long time ago. I was stunned: 30, maybe 50 tons of high grade Rhodonite buried under all that rock! What else could I do? Marshall and Wes helped me roll the 300 pound piece of onyx to one side and I started to toss rocks from fist-size to 100 pounds away from an 8-foot diameter area. As I went down, the pile kept collapsing, and the 100 pounders were a real hassle to roll out! Three hours of grunting later, I reached the flat sand bottom, and my hole was now only 5-feet in diameter. I scraped around with my pick. **CLANG!** And the sand started to disappear like the sand in an hourglass, between two big, black rocks. I let out with a whoop, which brought everyone, including Ralph, tail wagging,

to the edge of my bomb crater. The glory pool was struck! Katie Bar The Door! We were swimming in Rhodonite!

As fast as I could throw this pink gold out of the hole, Marshall and Wes stacked it out of the way, and in short order we had a ton to wash down and high-grade. Another pile was made, and then another. We left that day with the springs on Wes's 1-ton pickup flattened out and riding like a 1955 Buick Roadmaster, and Lucy had well over \$500.00 for our efforts. We didn't wait long to return and loaded up again. Before the word got out.

The third and fourth trips got interesting, as wall collapse became a problem as the hole expanded under the massive pile. On the forth trip we hit bottom at approximately 9 feet. At that point Marshall was in the bottom of the hole and we pulled out the ladder and offered Lucy a trade. Being the hucksters we were (I think it was Wes's idea,) (Oops! I just lied,) we offered to trade this specimen of manhood for a load of rock. Marshall thought we were kidding and kept digging. We figured a 150-pound specimen for 1,200 pounds of Rhodonite was a good deal, even though Lucy *would* have to feed him, so the ladder was withheld. Lucy pondered the offer with an interesting smile while Ralph, the dog, wagged his tail in approval. There *was* an inequity in value though, as we placed Marshall's value at just under \$2.00 per pound, and we should have pled the fifth when Lucy asked if he was married. Alas, Lucy declined our offer, so we traded the use of the ladder to Marshall for loading the truck.

May I suggest to the readership that there is still a lot of good rock at Lucy's including a lot of Rhodonite? Her yard encompasses a myriad of materials from many locations no longer available. At 25 cents a pound, what better fieldtrip could a rockhound ask for?

On April 11 we will be having a fieldtrip to Lucy Tunnel's Swimming Pool. Meet up with Wes Lingerfelt, Assistant Trailmaster-for-a-day at 7:30 am at Mussell Senior Center. Please let Wes know if you are planning to go! Bring buckets, gloves, lunch & water. Also bring your best manners; we will be there at Mrs. Tunnel's pleasure.

February Program Review

In February Honorary Member, Ralph Bishop gave us a program, **All Tapped out, On Finding Good**

Material At A supposedly Over-Collected Site. As an example of how he goes about searching an over-picked area Ralph told us the story of Tuscarora Wood and brought in some very beautiful samples of cut and polished as well as rough wood, that were all found on the following expedition.

In the 1980's the Bakersfield Club fell in love with the beautiful petrified wood found in the Tuscarora, Nevada area, and they took many fieldtrips to the site. Eventually rockhounds found less and less there and the word went out that there was no more good material to be had.

One day as Ralph and Wes Lingerfelt were talking, Wes asked if there was any chance that Ralph could work his magic and find some of this material as Wes had a hankering to make some spheres of the beautiful, rich light-brownish red stone with creamy markings. Now, Ralph tries to downplay the "magic" part, but we've all seen him work, and we KNOW magic when we see it.

So, in the early 1990's they and club member Marshall Reeves made a trip to the Tuscarora site and Wizard Ralph put his MIND to work. First he identified the area where wood had been found in the past, and using his knowledge of how petrified wood forms, identified the layer of material in the surrounding hillsides that it had to have come from. Then he looked for hillsides where there were exposures of that layer, and began to walk a grid, from bottom to top looking for even the tiniest chips of the right material and marking those spots. You can mark the spots with twigs or flags or whatever you will be able to spot again. Generally, on a sloping hillside, you will eventually end up with a triangular-shaped area marked with your flags. If there is any strong wind or runoff, or other occurrences that could change the pattern of the flow of water in the area you are searching, this will have to be recognized and it's effects accounted for, if you don't end up with a nice triangular dispersal field. (If you are searching a flat area, walk an ever-widening circle, marking the finds, and again use your knowledge of the material and how it forms – or references and maps- to identify the dispersal range.)

As you get to the tip of the triangular area, look for the geological structures that the material forms in. Look in areas where there are larger concentrations of flags and dig some test holes. Also, try to think of areas

where NO ONE has dug nearby...such as parking areas...they just may be virgin territory.

Most geological formations are large and lots of material formed. It is not reasonable to assume that humans could completely mine out an area in a few years of hobby collecting. But it may be necessary to search similar geology nearby in order to find it, and to use an educated and systematic method of searching for it. See, no magic...

Prez Box

By Debbie Hood

Well, the March meeting went a bit smoother and I will continue to limit the amount of business we all have to sit through to the absolute minimum. Remember, *if you should want to know what's going on, you will need to read the minutes printed in the monthly bulletin.* ☺

My next project is to try to motivate **all** club members to have and wear a red vest with the club logo on the back, and a nametag. To that end I have started a list of sources for vests. The only rule is a RED sleeveless vest. It can be of any clear red material, although *washable* is recommended. We have had knitted vests and they worked, although they could get warm at our August show. Crochet would be another option. It can be any style of vest that appeals to you, as long as it is red. Vest patterns can be gotten at any fabric retailer and the popular companies always have one or more styles available (check under costumes as well as many costume patterns include a vest.) Patterns are also available online. One source for reasonably priced poly-cotton material and patterns is Wal-Mart.

Why am I pushing this? It is one way to recognize other members, know who is a guest and needs special TLC, and even at other club shows has a purpose: it lets the other club see we are supporting them, and some vendors will give anyone wearing a club vest a discount on purchases.

The following web sites are for companies selling simple red poly-cotton vests at reasonable prices, which do not have a minimum order:

<http://www.sdserversstion.com/vestsjackets.html>

Or

<http://www.happychefuniforms.com/800-347-0288/order.cfm?ProductID=398&Ref=Become>

Other ideas are :

many dry cleaners will do custom sewing, but may be pricey, and you would need to provide the material and a pattern in most cases.

Seamstresses can be found in the phonebook-and Elaine Von Achen has found a local one who is willing to make vests-we are working to arrange for material and patterns to be gotten to her and the price will be in the \$15.00 range for the sewing. Elaine will be bringing sample vests to a future meeting so that members can see

them, try them on for size, and orders will be taken. Elaine has volunteered to handle the ordering for us. Thanks, Elaine!

Anyone who is reasonably skilled at sewing such as a friend or relative could also be sweet-talked or bribed into making one for you.

So, please, lets all of us try to have and wear a red vest by our Gem Show this year!

OMS Treasure Chest

The Treasure Chest has its first item, let's not let it get lonely. Please be planning and executing your donations as this is one of our big money makers at the show. How well it does determines scholarship amounts.

FIELD TRIP TO FIQUEROA MOUNTAIN

By Wes Lingerfelt

March 21, 2009. The morning was wet and drizzly. We gathered at the appointed time of 8 a.m. in the parking lot of the Elwin Mussel Senior Center in Santa Maria, CA. There was Don & Sylvia Nasholm, Wes & Jeannie Lingerfelt, Paulette & Charlotte Mireles, Dick Bazzell, Moksha Badarayan, and Fearless Leader Bob Bullock. Everyone was looking at the sky wondering if the clouds would soon burn off. Surely, we thought, once up on the mountain the sky would be clear. The drive down the freeway was overcast but uneventful. We met up with Keith McKay and his Mom Pat and Erica Erskine at the turn off on Figueroa Mountain road. The wild flowers were out and showed splashes of color everywhere.

Unfortunately the California Poppies were closed up since the sun was hiding from them. The hills were green and the billowy clouds gave an eerie glow all around us. As we climbed the mountain road I kept anticipating the sun bursting through the clouds but I was continually disappointed.

Every few yards I would see a beautiful scene of Nature at her best. I decided to hold my camera up to the window and try to capture it for a possible program at a club meeting. Eventually after several shots with the flash going off, Fearless Leader pulled over and I pulled along side to see what was the matter. He said, "What are all those flashes I'm seeing in my rearview mirror?" "OH! That's just me flashing pictures", I said. A lady in the car remarked, "Ah, now we know Wes is a Flasher!" Everyone got a big laugh from that.

We arrived at the Figueroa Ranger Station looking for a place to unload the numerous cups of coffee we had consumed earlier. Alas, there wasn't a john in site. A

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couple of the ladies decided the old abandoned building provided enough privacy out back so off they went to find relief.

When we arrived at the parking spot turnout it was so foggy we couldn't see the rest of the gang and where they had parked. I got out of the car and stood silently listening. I heard voices coming from down the road in the valley so we moved forward and broke through the fog behind them where I parked the car. I got out and advised the group that we should be up on top of the mountain as that is where I found the best hounding to be on our last trip to this place. We all backtracked up the road and parked next to the asphalt road and began to gather the tools and backpacks for the hike into the foggy wet countryside.

I decided the best approach was to make a wide circle around the mountaintop so I began by hiking through the wet grass in a Northwesterly direction. The first few hundred yards I found my shoes and pant legs getting very wet up to the knees. The rock was showing signs of jasper but nothing worth taking home. I told myself "No pain, No gain!" and continued my hike around the mountain. I checked every outcrop I came across but nothing of lapidary value was present. After about an hour of hiking I came upon a canyon that held promise. There was sign of good jasper present in the wash running down the mountain. I spent a little time moving rocks and chipping a few to see what was hiding inside. I collected a few samples for cabs and decided to leave the big ones for now as I didn't know how far I was from the SUV parked on the other side of the mountain. It also looked like a pretty steep climb to get out the canyon. Visibility was still poor and I hoped I could find the right way back to the vehicle.

As I hiked in the direction of the car I soon heard a loud horn honking, telling me I was on the right path. I climbed the mountain path and soon began to realize how far out of shape I am, as the air didn't seem to be getting into my lungs fast enough. I had to stop many times to catch my breath. At times like these I ask myself "Why am I doing this?"

Upon returning to the vehicle and showing off my finds it was apparent that most of the group had spent enough time in the wet grass and the warmth of home was calling to us. We made a side trip over the Los Padres road called the Cat walk and found it dead-ended several miles down the road. We backtracked back to the main road and decided to call it a day. I was anxious

to get home and see if what I carried up the mountain was really worth it.

It Was!

(Editor: We received two reports, here is Trailmaster Bob Bullock's version of the trip:



The call came in early AM on Saturday, the day of the field trip to Figueroa Mountain from Erica Erskine, "It's raining here in Santa Barbara" she said, I said, "we're going anyway, see you there". So I was late getting to Mussel Center or Wes was just anxious to leave cause he called me too.

Getting to the Center I got Dick and Moksha loaded up and we all blasted off to the mountain. Traveling along I was thinking that this was going to be a wet one, as that the cloud cover stuck with us all the way to Tunnel Rd. up on the mountain. Well it was, but it wasn't raining, just wet and we scattered out to all points. Collecting what ever happened to be there, Jasper was in abundance and I got real close to it. Falling on my butt and rolling around I got to see some rock material really close, next I whacked a sample to check it's color. Well kids don't do this at home or in the field with out proper safety equipment or adult supervision, lacking all aspects of these two categories I proceeded to wound myself and bled like a stuck hog. Oh well spilling a little blood must have appeased the mountain god as that the sky began to clear a little and restrooms were located, yeah.

We did get to see some very beautiful backcountry before we pulled out and the wild flowers were starting to pop out as well. All in all I think we had a nice damp time of it and the snakes were still asleep, Moksha did wake up a Tarantula spider, but it found new sleeping quarters. Well, Ta Ta till next time, Bob

Prehistoric Bones of Sloth Found at East Village Site

By Greg Gross, San Diego Union-Tribune
Originally published 7:54 a.m. March 10, 2009,
updated 9:41 a.m., March 10, 2009

(Posted by Kim Noyes on the Central Coast Rockhounds site 3/11/09)

DOWNTOWN SAN DIEGO — More prehistoric bones – this time, those of a giant sloth – have been

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found at the East Village construction site of the Thomas Jefferson School of Law, the school said yesterday. But the bones are in poor shape and may not be salvageable.

The bones – part of a vertebra, as well as tooth and skull fragments – were unearthed Friday in a different part of the site from where whale and mammoth bones were found last month. The sloth bones were found at about the same depth as the whalebones, indicating the sloth lived about 600,000 years ago.

Paleontologist Pat Sena of the San Diego Natural History Museum, who found the sloth bones, said the bones are poorly preserved.

Ironically there is a species of giant ground sloth that is named after the law school's namesake, Thomas Jefferson: *Megalonyx jeffersonii*. It is not known if the find is a *Megalonyx jeffersonii*. Jefferson, who is thought of as the father of modern paleontology, had a strong interest in the fossils of huge creatures such as mammoths and giant sloths.

In case you are keeping score on the construction site finds: the 500,000 year old Columbian Mammoth remains (skull, tusks and several foot bones) were found at the site on Feb. 3, 2009. The California Gray whale skeleton was found on Feb. 26, in the exact same location, but 10 feet deeper, and is believed to have lived 600,000 years ago.

All three animals date from the Pleistocene Period -- the Ice Age.

Sunshine

The only sickie this month is Debbie Hood who has grown a whole crop of stomach ulcers, but is otherwise fine.



Challenge

By Ore Key Ore cutter, Wayne Mills

Have you played Chickenary © on line yet? It is fun and addicting. Here's a Rocktionary © challenge for you. How many words can you make from the letters appearing in the word *metamorphic*? A bonus point if the word is rock related. There may or may not be a prize for the best list. Bring your lists to the May Meeting.

OMS Cleans-up!!

Wayne Mills, Adopt-A-Highway Liaison

After having missed our January Highway clean-up date because Caltrans had not yet made the newly required ANSI II vests (2" wide horizontal and vertical, reflectorized stripes) available to us, we pulled off a

successful March clean up with only 4-days advanced notice. Bob Bullock "bull-dogged" the Santa Maria Maintenance folks until he was able to collect the vests for us the Friday before our March meeting. We had a great turnout, (12 folks), and we got the job done in about 1.25 hours.

OMS is responsible for cleaning about 5 lane-miles of Highway 166 (both sides of a 2.5 mile stretch) in the odd months of the year.

I want to thank the following folks who showed up at 0800 on a cool Saturday morning to help us out:

Stan and Brenna Ferguson
Don and Sylvia Nasholm
Wes, Jeannie, and Marty Lingerfelt
Geary Sheffer
Lee Rayburn
Bob Bullock
Paulette Mireles

Birthdays & Anniversaries

Birthday greetings go out to Bob Bullock, Dick Shields, & Robert Schrum who are having birthdays this

month. Happy Birthday & Many more!

Celebrating an anniversary in April are Richard & Karen Dry, Paul & Sandy Berthelot, John & Elaine Von Achen & Robert Cochran and his wife.



Bits and Bytes

By Wayne Mills

--Check out: <http://www.rockhoundingvideos.com> for several free collecting videos, including 6 locations near Los Angeles and several in Arizona. Rockhounding goes techno! Great Job Justin! He is requesting donations to produce more of these videos. I say it's worth 5 bucks a piece to have access to videos like these.

--Latest jewelry news <http://jewelry.alltop.com/>

Orcutt Mineral Society Board Meeting Elwin Mussell Sr. Center, Santa Maria, Ca. March 3, 2009

The Meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by President, Debbie Hood.

Board members present were Elaine Von Achen, Debbie Hood, Wayne Mills, Wes Lingerfelt, Sylvia Nasholm, Sandy Berthelot, Jan Ferguson and Gloria Dana. Guest included Bill Hood and Paul Berthelot.



Minutes from the February 10, 2009 general meeting were approved as printed in the February, 2009 newsletter.

Correspondence: Elaine Von Achen reported newsletters from South Orange Co. Gem & Mineral Society, San Geronio Mineral & Gem Society and the Sun Valley Indian School. The Salvation Army sent a thank you for the \$50.00 donation at Christmas time. We also received a notice of the 1st annual County Council Tailgate Show on April 3, 4, & 5th, 2009 to be held in Vista, Calif.

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

Committee Reports:

Bulletin: The newsletter is out both on the web and in the mail.

Annual Gem Show: Wes Lingerfelt said the contracts are out and he has already received some of them back.

Field Trips: Bob Bullock reported the next field trip will be to Figueroa Mountain on March 21st. Members will meet at 8:00 a.m. at the Elwin Mussell Sr. Center. You will need an adventure pass. The February to Figueroa had to be cancelled.

Scholarship: There was some discussion as to possibly opening the scholarship to the Tri-Counties college's and having interested students apply to OMS directly. We would review the applications and award the scholarships to the persons we felt best exemplified what OMS stands for. Elaine Von Achen made a motion to establish a committee to write procedures to have interested students apply directly to OMS for our annual scholarships. The motion was seconded by Jan Ferguson. Motion carried. Elaine Von Achen said she would chair the committee and Wayne Mills, our current Scholarship Chairperson, would be on the committee as well. President, Debbie Hood, said she would open it to the general membership at the March general meeting.

CFMS: Wes Lingerfelt announced a field trip to Ant Hill, near Heart Park, in Bakersfield being put on by the Conejo Gem & Mineral Society. They have invited anyone interested in collecting shark teeth to join them on Saturday, March 21 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. The Federation show will be in San Jose on April 17, 18, & 19th, 2009.

Membership: Elaine Von Achen read an application for membership from Moksha Badarayan. Wayne Mills made a motion to accept Moksha for membership. Sharon Duncan seconded the motion. Motion passed.

Old Business:

We are in need of a chairperson for the snack bar for our August gem show.

New Business:

There was much discussion on new member packets and providing a place to get an OMS vest for both new and old members. The new member packet currently includes an OMS bookmark, a flyer on club history, a membership card and a membership book (Redbook). It was suggested that we also include a copy of the operating rules and regulations and a copy of items currently available to borrow from the OMS library. In addition it was decided that we would include an OMS pin in the new member packet. A motion to give these pins to new members retroactive to January 1, 2009 was made by Wayne Mills. The motion was seconded by Elaine Von Achen. Motion passed.

Elaine Von Achen volunteered to try to find a local seamstress who would be available to make the red OMS vests for members. She will report back at the next board meeting.

The program for March will be given by Ralph Bishop and is titled "Collecting at Picked Over Sites". Refreshment will be cake. Display will be green rocks.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:14 p.m. by president, Debbie Hood.

Respectfully submitted:

Elaine Von Achen, Secretary, OMS

**Orcutt Mineral Society General Meeting
Elwin Mussell Sr. Center, Santa Maria, Ca.
March 10, 2009**

President Debbie Hood called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m.

Mike Henson gave the invocation.

Joseph Martinez led the flag salute.

Elaine Von Achen read the minutes of the March 3, 2009 Board Meeting. Minutes were approved as read.

Correspondence:

Elaine Von Achen reported newsletters from Santa Cruz Mineral & Gem Society, So Orange Co. Gem & Mineral Society, Santa Cruz Mineral & Gem Society & San Geronio Gem & Mineral Society. We also received a notice from Ventura announcing their upcoming show.

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

Sheriff Bill Hood said everyone was wearing a nametag.

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Committee Reports:

Abused Children: Jan Ferguson had a pendant from crazy lace agate from Mexico, a garnet crystal specimen and a piece of mica w/rutile for the evening's offerings.

Annual Gem Show: Debbie Hood said we are still in need of a chairman for the snack bar.

Hospitality: Sharon Duncan announced 40 members and 2 guests. Guests, June Stephansen and Carol Bowen were welcomed.

Field Trips: Bob Bullock announced the field trip set for February 21st was changed to March 21st to Figueroa Mountain. We will meet in the parking lot of the Mussell Sr. Center at 8:00 a.m. Bring a jacket and a sack lunch. Members will need an adventure pass.

Bulletin: Debbie Hood announced that the bulletin has been mailed.

Door Prize: Bob Bullock announced offerings including a donation of chiastolite from June Stephansen, a donation of a sphere from Lucky Virgin, a donation of a picture frame from Maida Williams and much more.

Refreshments: Refreshments were provided by Paulette Miereles, Elaine Von Achen, Laura Gebhart, and Margaret Henson.

Highway Cleanup: Our next clean-up will be held March 14, at 8:00 a.m. We will meet at Highways 101 and 166. We have new vests and are good to go.

Membership: Elaine reported that she had received positive feedback from a local seamstress regarding the making of OMS vests. She will meet with the seamstress and firm up the requirements. She will report back at the next board meeting.

Monthly Breakfast: Lucky winners from the February breakfast were Bill Hood who won a book and Wes Lingerfelt who won a geode. The March 28th breakfast will be at the IHOP restaurant in Santa Maria with members meeting at 9:30.

Scholarships: A committee has been formed to set-up parameters for having scholarship applicants submit their requests directly to OMS. This will be brought before the board again when we have a clearer idea on what is required to do that.

Sunshine: Debbie Hood welcomed Pat McKay back to the meetings.

Old Business:

None.

New Business:

Wes Lingerfelt said we have 30 dealers signed-up for our August gem show.

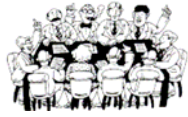
The program for the evening will be given by Ralph Bishop on collecting in sites that have been collected out. He will share some of his Tuscarora, Nevada wood.

The Display for March is green rocks.

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

Respectfully submitted:

Elaine Von Achen, Secretary, OMS

April 2008 Calendar	
Tuesday April 7, 2009 7:00 – 8:00 p.m.	OMS Board Meeting Mussell Senior Center. All members are welcome at this business meeting. 
Saturday April 11, 2009 7:30 a.m. to ?? p.m.	Field Trip To Lucy Tunnel's "swimming Pool". Meet at Mussell Senior Center. Bring buckets, gloves, lunch & water. Call Wes Lingerfelt at 929-3788 and let him know you will be going.
Tuesday April 14, 2009 7:00 to 9:00 p.m.	OMS General Meeting Elwin Mussell Senior Center. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Program- Geologist <i>Steve Pavlak</i> will talk about Uranium Exploration • Display-Self-Collected Rocks • Refreshments-Cookies
Saturday, April 25, 2009 10:30 am to 12:30 pm	Storage Locker cleanup St Joseph's Church
Saturday April 25, 2009 9:00 to 10:00 a.m.	OMS Monthly Breakfast at Creekside Café in Nipomo-for information, call Gloria Dana at 929-6429.
May 2009 Calendar	
Tuesday May 5, 2009 7:00 to 8:30 p.m.	OMS Board Meeting-Elwin Mussell Senior Center. All members are welcome at this business meeting.
Saturday May 9, 2009 8:00 to 10:00 a.m.	Roadside Clean up After the cleanup, coffee and pastry at "Francisco's Country Kitchen" in Santa Maria.
Tuesday May 12, 2009 7:00 to 9:00 p.m.	OMS General Meeting-Elwin Mussell Senior Center. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Program- • Display: Refreshments
Saturday May 16, 2009 8:00 a.m. to ?? p.m.	Field Trip To Be Announced
Saturday	OMS Monthly Breakfast- for

May 27, 2009
8:15 to 9:15 a.m.

information call Gloria Dana at 929-6429.

CFMS Show Schedule 2009

April 3-5 2009, Vista, CA

San Diego Co. Council of G&M Societies
The Tractor Museum
2040 N. Santa Fe Ave. & Museum Way
Hours: Fri. Noon-5; Sat. & Sun. 9-5
Contact: Ray Pearce (760) 7570
Email: raysrocks@cox.net

April 4-5: Mariposa, CA Mariposa Gem & Mineral Club

Mariposa County Fairgrounds
Highway 49 (S. of Historic Mariposa)
Hours: Sat. 10-6; Sun. 10-4
Diane Vereschagin
Email: mineralmuseum@sti.net
Website:

www.thematrixmariposagemmineralclub.info/events.html

April 11-12 2009, Paradise, CA Paradise Gem & Mineral club

Paradise Elks Lodge
6309 Clark Road
Hours: Sat. 10-5; Sun. 10-4
Carol Eggleston (530) 343-0894; Cell (530) 321-6941
Email: cjeggy@chico.com
Website: www.goldnuggetwebs.com/PGMC

April 17, 18, 19, 2009, San Jose, CA

54th Annual CFMS Show, Nature's Showcase
Hosted by the Santa Clara Valley Gem & Mineral Society
Santa Clara County Fairgrounds
334 Tully Road
Hours: 10-5 Daily
Email: info@scvgms.org
Website: www.scvgms.org

April 18 - 19 2009, Lancaster, CA

Antelope Valley Gem & Mineral club
Lancaster High School
44701-32nd St. West
Hours: 9-5 daily
Vivian Watts (760) 373-1309
Email: vivea22@yahoo.com
Website: www.geocities.com.av.gem

April 25 - 26 2009, Santa Cruz, CA

Santa Cruz Mineral & Gem Society
Santa Cruz Civic Auditorium
Corner of Center St. & Church
Hours: 10-5 daily
Don Welder (408) 353-2675
Email: wdeanweder@yahoo.com
Website: www.scmgs.org/newsite/shows/index.html

May 1-3 2009, Bishop, CA

Lone Pine Gem & Mineral Society
Tri County Fairgrounds Bishop
Corner of Sierra St. & Fair Drive
Hours: Fri. 6p.m.-10p.m.; Sat. 9:30-4; Sun. 10-3
Jeff Lines (760) 872-6597

Email: franceem@qnet.com

May 2-3 2009, Anaheim, CA

Searchers Gem & Mineral Society
Brookhurst Community Center
2271 West Crescent Ave.
Hours: Sat. 10-5; Sun. 10-4:30
James Williamson (714) 995-9080
Email: showchair@searchersrocks.org
Website: <http://www.searchersrocks.org>

May 9-10 2009, Reno, NV

Reno Gem and Mineral Society
Reno Livestock Events Center Exhibit Hall
1350 N. Wells Ave., Reno, NV
Hours: Sat. 10 - 5, Sun. 10-4

May 15, 16, 17 2009, Anderson, CA

Superior California Gem & Mineral Society
Shasta District Fairgrounds
Near Redding off hwy 273
Hours: Fri. & Sat. 9-5, Sun. 10-5
Manuel Garcia (530) 877-7324
Email: mmpg@earthlink.net
Website: www.superiorcal.com

May 16-17 2009, Newbury Park, CA

Conejo Gem & Mineral Club
Borchard Park
190 Reno Road
Hours: Sat. 9-5, Sun. 10-4:30
Robert Sankovich (805) 494-7734
Email: rmsora@adelphia.net
Website: www.cgamc.org

May 16-17 2009, Yucaipa, CA

Yucaipa Valley Gem & Mineral Society
Yucaipa Community Center
34900mOaknglen Road
Hours: Sat. 9-5, Sun. 10-4
Bill Jochimsen (909) 790-1475
Email: webmaster@yvgms.org
Website: www.yvgms.org

May 30 -31 2009, Glendora, CA

Glendora Gems
859 E. Sierra Madre Ave. Glendora
Hours: Sat. 10 - 5, Sun. 10-4
Bonnie Bidwell (626) 963-4638
Email: Ybidwell2@aol.com

Did You Know?

- California has a greater number of minerals and wider variety of rock types than any other state.
- California was the first state to designate a State Rock.
- Serpentine, a shiny green and blue rock found throughout California was named the official State Rock in 1965.
- It contains the state principal deposits of chromite, magnesite, and cinnabar.

Roc Toc 12/07 via Gem-N-I 06/08



Ore-Cutts

<p>OMS Webmaster - Wes Lingerfelt –(805) 929-3788.</p> <p>Check out our OMS web site at http://omsinc.org or send e-mail to info@omsinc.org.</p>
<p>OMS Membership (dues) is \$24 per year. Junior memberships (under 18) are \$10 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</p>
<p>Ore-Cutts Photo Credits: Photographs used in this bulletin were taken by Wes Lingerfelt, & Wayne Mills except where noted</p>

2009 OMS Officers

President	Debbie Hood	(805) 481-6860
Pres. Elect	Sylvia Nasholm	(805) 481-0923
Secretary	Elaine Von Achen	(805) 929-1488
Treasurer	Wes Lingerfelt	(805) 929-3788
Immed. Past Pres.	Wayne Mills	(805) 481-3495
Federation. Rep.	Wes Lingerfelt	(805) 929-3788



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 the 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. Affiliates of the OMS include the American Federation of Mineralogical Societies and the California Federation of Mineralogical Societies

OMS Editor

Debbie Hood 805-481-6860 debihood1@sbcglobal.net



ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

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

