



Ore-Cutts

Volume XLI Number 8

August 2006

WELCOME TO THE OMS RAINBOW OF GEMS SHOW!

The Orcutt Mineral Society's 39TH annual GEM show is from Friday, August 4th through Sunday, August 6th at St. Joseph's Catholic Church at 298 S. Thompson Ave., in Nipomo. Show hours are from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. daily.

Highlights of this year's show include: rocks, minerals, crafted stone items, jewelry, beads, tools, and equipment from all over the world at rock bottom prices. Beautiful exhibits, demonstrations, great food, and wonderful people will be found at the show!

Rainbow of Gems Show -2006

Wednesday August 2, 8:00 a.m. to completion	Measure lay out and mark the Show areas .Wes needs help with this.
Thursday August 3, 8:00 a.m. to completion	Set up for the show. We need some strong folks to move tables and cases, and everyone else to help with skirting the tables. Coffee and donuts will be there to reward the faithful.
6:00 p.m. to 7:30p.m.	Chicken Dinner for Vendors, Exhibitors, and Club members who have helped to lay out and set up the show.
Friday August 4, 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.	Opening of 39 th annual Rainbow of Gems Show. Each family is requested to bring 2 pies for the Snack bar. Help is needed in the Country Store, Hospitality Booth and the Snack bar. Volunteer! Jump right in! Get your Raffle tickets in.
Saturday August 5, 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.	Enjoy the Displays, Demonstrations, and the myriad of delightful rocks and minerals for sale. Enjoy the great food in the snack bar. Help is needed

6:30 p.m.	in the Country Store, Hospitality Booth and the Snack bar. Volunteer! Jump right in! Best darned B-B-Q on the Central Coast! Tickets are \$8.50 for Adults and \$4.50 for kids 12 & under. Don't miss it!
Sunday, August 6, 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.	Meet old friends, and make some new ones. Learn something new. Enjoy the good food in the snack bar. Help is needed in the Country Store, Hospitality Booth and the Snack bar. Volunteer! Jump right in! Treasure Chest raffle drawing, good luck!
5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.	Clean up and tear down. We need to be out of the Hall and classrooms by 7:00p.m. Everybody can help with something.
7:30 p.m.	Celebration Dinner at The Golden Dragon, 151 W. Dana, Nipomo

To volunteer contact the committee chairman for each activity, or show up & pitch in!

Committee Chairmen For 2006		
Show Chairman	Bob Bullock	928-6372
Show Co-Chairman/ Country Store	Debbie Hood	481-6860
Dealer Chairman	Wes Lingerfelt	929-3788
Exhibits/Demonstrations	Lucky Virgin	929-4525
Treas. Chest/Hospitality	DeeDee Magri	595-2755
Decorations	Ralph Bishop	925-4122
Snack Bar/Dinner	Sylvia Nasholm	481-0923
Skirting/Set up/Clean up	Everyone	

OMS Presents Scholarship at Hancock

Wayne Mills, Scholarship Chair

On the evening of May 25, President-Elect Deborah Hood and I attended the Awards Banquet for Alan Hancock College. The purpose of our attending was to present the 2006 Orcutt Mineral Society Earth Science Scholarship. OMS has been presenting awards at both Alan Hancock and Cuesta College for over 25 years. The recipient of the 2006 award was Adrianna M. Rosales. Ms. Rosales was a gracious recipient, and thanked us for our \$750 scholarship in a letter dated June 1, 2006. Her letter follows:

“Dear Orcutt Mineral Society:

Thank you to all the members of the society for helping me to pay my schooling. Thanks to the people that put the efforts, time and their money to the Orcutt Mineral Society Earth Science Scholarship in order to help students like me that have a financial need and also have dreams to become a person that in the future or along the way of reaching the goal to give back to societies like the Orcutt Mineral Society as a gesture of gratitude for helping. Thank you to Mr. Mills and the future lady president for representing the Orcutt Mineral Society at the 37th Annual Scholarship Award Banquet, the flowers were beautiful. I am looking forward to the next meeting; hope to see all the Orcutt Mineral Society then.

I sincerely would ask the whole Orcutt Mineral Society to keep on helping students to reach their goals.

*Respectfully,
Adriana Rosales”*



Adriana is the first member of her family to go to college, and she hopes to obtain a degree in the Marine Sciences. She also has a part time job to help pay her college expenses, as well as being recommended by her teachers to tutor Freshman Composition and Marine Biology.

We look forward to having Adriana visit our upcoming show and meetings, as her busy schedule permits.

In Memoriam: Herta Borm

Wes Lingerfelt

Many of you may not have known Hans & Herta Borm who joined our group (OMS) in 1989. They were very active members of the OMS back then and we had many extended fieldtrips with them over the years. These trips were exceedingly enjoyable and resulted in many exceptional memories. As the years took their toll the Borms finally had to withdraw from active participation in the club. We have missed them but will always hold them dear to our hearts. Recently Herta passed away and there was a Memorial Service held at the Grace Baptist Church in Santa Maria. OMS was represented by Wes & Jeannie Lingerfelt, Jan, Stan & Brenna Ferguson, Ken Kreh, Lee Reyburn, Bob Wright, and Debbie Hood.

Herta was born in 1925 in Magdeburg, Germany, and married Hans in 1944. They survived the war and its immediate aftermath, and immigrated to the U.S. settling in Southern California, and later moved to Santa Maria. Herta is survived by her husband Hans, one son, two grandchildren, and numerous great grandchildren.

In Memoriam: CHARLES R FERGUSON

Age 47 and resident of Nipomo, CA, passed away peacefully at home. Friends were invited to a visitation on Friday, June 30, 2006 at Chapel of the Roses, in Atascadero. Wes, Jeannie and Marty Lingerfelt and Debbie Hood represented OMS at the viewing. Internment was private.

Chuck was born in Salt Lake City, Utah on April 19, 1958 and moved to California with his family about 1964. He graduated from high school in Goleta and went directly into the Navy. On discharge Chuck moved to Santa Barbara, then to Nipomo in 1986. Chuck loved the outdoors and most of his working career was in jobs that allowed him to be outdoors. His jobs included landscaping and working as an inspector for Vandenberg Air Force Base and as a guard for the Snowy Plover Breeding areas.

Chuck never married and had no children. His favorite place was the jade hunting areas of the central coast. His older brother, Eric got him started rock hounding. Chuck was a talented craftsman and rock hound who will be missed by OMS. A display of his finds will be in the exhibit hall at our upcoming show.

The Joy of Bead Making

By Jeannie Lingerfelt

It's been over 10 years since I last took up the torch to make enamel beads. Having to retire from the hobby to take care of an ailing Mother wasn't easy but very necessary. Now that the care

giving has ended it's time to re-enter the hobby. Enamel bead making is indeed a fascination I've long held as it allows me to conjure up colors and designs to make apparel stand out like nothing else. You can with a little patience match almost any color. Using imagination allows for designs and combinations of findings, regular



beads and handmade enamel beads that draw notice. It's rewarding to hear the compliments generated from a unique design showing the color combinations I've mixed to make that one special necklace, bracelet

and earring set. And it's really not that hard to master the art or craft. The hobby of enameling has a wide range of design combinations such as making flowered pendants or drops or simple round or oval beads.

My mentor was Shirley Briggs from Michigan and

I will forever be in her debt for showing me the techniques and tools of the hobby. I've also learned much from watching other skilled crafts persons such as Laura Turner, Edna Tenny and Floy Myers. Most of my current stock of enamel glass came

from the estate of Edna Tenny many years ago. One of the foremost practitioners of a similar craft today is Cheri George who works in dichroic glass.

Cheri will be a demonstrator at our annual Gem Show in August. A very good reference and description of enamel bead making can be found at the following website:



<http://www.lapidaryjournal.com/stepbystep/enamelbeads.cfm>

Yes, you too can make enamel beads. I'm willing to help anyone wanting to learn more. Give me a call and arrange for a one-on-one session. It's a lot of fun!

THE MAGIC ROCK CLUB

The following was the PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE by Joe Meade and appeared 12-19-78, and was the 1st Place Adult Article in 1979 AFMS Editors Bulletin Contest ... THERE IS A LOT OF 'FOOD FOR THOUGHT' in the article ... which appeared in the October 4, 1997 bulletin THE ROCKY ROAD, Water-Oak Gem and Mineral Society, Inc. of Waterville, Maine...

Once upon a time, in a beautiful valley, there was a magic rock club, or at least many of its members thought it was. Why did they think so? Because many strange and wondrous things do happened in their club. After all, they only had to bring themselves to the club meeting once a month, and they found at the beautiful meeting hall their chairs all lined up neatly for them, the place ablaze with light, the coffee pot perking away, the cookies and many other delicious "goodies" all set out and ready for them. The microphones were all hooked- up and buzzing quietly, and the President, Secretary and Treasurer's tables all set up. It was indeed wondrous. The members needed only to sit down, and soon they were told all the bills had been paid, correspondence answered, and problems solved. They were brought up to date on what was happening not only in their area, but also what was happening for many miles around that might affect their hobby of rock collecting. Something called "The Federation" always- took care of defending their favorite collecting areas. They didn't know much about this "Federation", but they did know somebody in their club always looked out for their interests and they were content.

This indeed was a wondrous club, as there was hardly ever anything to argue about during the short, pesky thing they called the "business meeting." Somehow the problem, whatever it might be, was solved whether they paid attention to what was happening or not. After all, if they all said "Aye" to whatever motion was being made, and they all always did, they could gripe about it later when they really found out what they voted on. Anyhow, they were anxious to get on to the rest of the meeting that they liked so well, like passing out of beautiful and wondrous pieces of gemstone or finished jewelry as door prizes. Though many had been members for years, they were not sure exactly where these prizes came from, but it was probably more magic that they always appeared. But that was not all; some liked the "committee reports", because some of them were really interesting. They could find out who was not feeling well, how they were doing; find out about a forthcoming field trip; find out how much money the club had in the bank; find out what the next program

would be; about books in their very own library; latest news on their big annual show; and many other interesting things. During the parts they were not interested in, they could always talk to their neighbor, but if anyone talked during the part they were interested in, they could shush them. But the best part, was when they could visit with their friends, and enjoy the knowledgeable speakers, there were bingo games for gemstones, there were "silent auctions", where slabs of gemstone from the four corners of the world could be had for a few pennies, and there were picnics and potluck suppers. Many were only vaguely aware of how these things came about, but after all wasn't it magic?

Ah, it was indeed a fortunate thing to be a member of this club, many members felt. The telephone would ring, and they would be told of anything of interest to them regarding the club. They knew that if a member was ill, flowers and cards and messages from their club would appear to express their concern for them. If they wanted to go on a field trip, and not many did, the location was already surveyed for them, and they knew what gems they might find, how to find them, what they looked like, where they could park, what to bring, and everything they needed to know. Not only did many members feel lucky to be a part of a magic rock club they were also proud! After all, didn't they often see their club mentioned in the newspaper, hear it discussed on the radio, and wasn't it always a feature of the big District Fair? People would come from far and near to "Ooh" and "Ahh" at the beautiful gems in the cases with their club's name on them. Many never even bothered to go see for themselves, as they knew that the cases would always appear at the appointed time. The building would be available; the kitchen would be clean; the electrical wiring would line up and test itself, the big heavy tables would march into place; and a thousand and one other things would somehow happen whether they were there or not. But that was not all! Every month a club newspaper would suddenly appear in their mailbox. This was really a wondrous thing. Many were amazed at how the news, articles of interest, and other things would assemble themselves, type themselves, run themselves through a mimeograph machine, staple, address, stamp and mail themselves too! The members knew that if they had not paid attention or even come to the last meeting, everything that happened would be in their club paper. Ahh, what wondrous things did themselves in the magic rock club. However, there was one long-standing mystery in this magic rock club that had never been solved by a President or committee chairman. This was the strange thing that happened every time the word "VOLUNTEER" was mentioned!!! Practically the whole membership would suddenly find something immensely interesting in either the ceiling or floor, and commence to gaze intently at them for long periods of time. However, there were

always certain members who knew there was really nothing there to see, just as they had learned the truth about Santa Claus long ago, so one of them would say "I volunteer", and immediately the other members lost interest in whatever had intrigued them about the floor or ceiling.

If you really want to know the secret of this Magic Rock Club, you can find the names of nearly all the magicians listed on the inside of the back cover of your magic Napa Valley Rock and Gem bulletin. Of course, all are not listed there, because many of them have quietly and unheralded "made things happen" year after year. To each of you, individually and collectively, I would like to express my sincere appreciation for the privilege of working with you during the past year.

Hail to the Chief

By Wayne Mills, Ore-cutts staff writer

Robert Bullock is the current president of OMS. He has recently retired from the San Luis Obispo County Sheriff's Department where he had served as a sheriff since 1974. Prior to joining the Sheriff's Department, he was a corrections officer. Most recently, Bob has served as a bailiff in the County Court. I bet he has a lot of interesting stories from THAT assignment. Perhaps that is where he derived his e-mail address— slobull@aol.com (Bull is slang for police officer. Best not used in their presence.) Bob was probably the most decorated officer in the department for life-saving, his commendations including one signed by President Ronald Reagan, and the US Attorney General.

Bob was born in Fresno, but has lived in this area since he was a young boy. His father took a position as a cowboy at Suey Ranch, and later owned a dairy in the same area. So, Bob had a lot of opportunities to collect local rocks, and he has, as evidenced by his front and back yards, and the fact that he is our current Field Trip Chairperson. One of his coolest early rock adventures was when he and his brother met a United States Geologic Survey (USGS) geologist who gave them samples of a rare, and newly discovered mineral called Sanbornite.

Bob's first introduction to his wife, Rosemarie was when she threw a water balloon at him in 1968 while he was still in high school. He was formally introduced to her through his mother's efforts in 1971 when he was in the Coast Guard. Rosemarie is descended from one of the pioneer families of the area. Her grandfather Guggia came to the area in 1898. Bob and Rosemarie have two children, Justin, age 26, and Jennifer, age 28.

When asked about his favorite collecting trip, he said "that has to be Arizona". Bob and his brother, Rick, along with another couple were privileged to spend several days with Bill Gardner and his partner Ed Davis touring several of their mines in the Arizona Desert, culminating with a visit to the Purple Passion mine near Wickenburg.

Another of Bob's favorite trips was a motorcycle trip to Death Valley where he thoroughly enjoyed the varied rock formations. (Downside of motorcycles? Can't carry any big rocks home.) He has fun on some of his trips by prospecting with a metal detector. Hasn't got the knack for finding nuggets (at least gold ones) yet though.

Bob joined OMS in June of 2002, but has been collecting for the last 15 years or so. His favorites are big rocks, geological oddities including concretions, and local fossils. He is looking forward to being the inside chairperson for our August 4-6 annual show.



Cerro Gordo (Fat Hill) June 2006

Wayne Mills, OMS Roving Reporter

"Hi o Silver" was packed, and fueled, as we left Arroyo Grande on a cool Friday morning, headed for Lone Pine in the Owens Valley. Warm temperatures had been predicted, but so had a one-time-a-year opportunity to collect minerals at the famous Cerro Gordo (silver) Mine. MapQuest said that the trip should take 6 and one-half hours via Route 58, and that it was about 330 miles, but I had a trick up my sleeve.

I wanted to try the Kern River Canyon shortcut, (Route 178), since I heard about it earlier this year. So I headed out 166, turned left at Maricopa on 33, picked up 119 at



Taft, took the jog on Route 99 to Bakersfield, and a short stretch of Route 58 east to Route 178, and started the gentle climb up the Kern River Canyon. Thank providence for air conditioning, as temperatures in the canyon were about 107° F. But the view of all that rushing water below was somehow refreshing. It was interesting to

observe how the Joshua Trees thinned to Pinion Pine and Juniper forest at Walker Pass (5000 feet), then decreased in number again from heavy to light again on the other side of the Pass.

Accompanied by some of my favorite CD's, we swung north again on Route 14. Temperatures had cooled to 95° at Walker Pass, but hit 109° down at the 178/14

Intersection. Again, I was thankful for my AC. Silver cruised up the highway now to the tune of Aaron Copeland's "Rodeo", and soon we were passing the basalt flows south of the Owens Lake, then the lakebed itself, and then pulled in to Lone Pine. We had made it to our destination, non-stop in 4-hours and 20 minutes, and had really enjoyed the variety of scenery as well as relatively unimpeded traffic flow. Of course 178 is 2-lane most of the way, and I would NOT advise driving it at night, especially westbound!

After gassing up and a brief stop at the Pedenau's home, I headed for Diaz Lake where I had camped about 25 years ago. This a nice camping facility managed by Inyo County, and for \$10 per night, it is a spectacular setting. After a bowl of tuna casserole, I took a little walk in the cool of the evening, to the LA Aqueduct on the hill behind the campground. Picked up some freshwater clamshells, and a couple of interesting rocks with a pink mineralization, then returned to camp to hit the rack. Again, I was serenaded by what the Biologists at work are telling me are bullfrogs. And come to think of it they SOUND like bulls, "unnh, unnhing" all night long. Soon, another singer joined this melody. As I found out the next morning, it was a yellow-headed blackbird, a new bird for me. His contra-melody sounded like "freak bo ti ti." As the sun rose the next morning, other voices joined the chorus, and since it was not orchestral, I call it a cacophony.

The new players were the "coo cooing" of ring-necked doves (imports from India that got loose in Los Angeles, and have spread throughout California), and the jabbering of the boat-tailed grackle, also a new bird for me. Breakfast over, Silver and I headed for the hills.



First to Haystack for beryl and aquamarine (I can dream, can't I)? Then after a couple of hours fruitless search (well, I got some good exercise, and of course picked up a couple of rocks, including some pretty green, massive to roughly crystalline epidote), I headed to Darwin. I had heard there was talc (I am thinking soapstone) and garnets there. The road was Highway 136, and took me past Keeler on the eastern edge of Owens Lake. I am thinking, "why would anyone want to live there", and expressed the same to Francis and Francee Pedenau, just before Francee informed me that Francis had been born there. All I could say in response was "oh, that must have been interesting"

Anyhow, I found a turnoff to the clay mines, but after cresting a couple of hills, was still a good way from the mines, and thought better of trying to take my Subaru Outback there. So I walked. When my car was a speck on the horizon, I got to the mine dumps, and picked up a

couple of pieces that scratched with my thumbnail, but were still pretty hard. After casting around for garnets, I found a piece of limestone with some dark lumps on top that I presumed were the garnets. The temperature was now about 98 degrees, and I am questioning my sanity for being out in the heat, alone, looking for rocks that I already HAVE! So I hiked back to *Hi o Silver*, and we hightailed it back to Keeler- a tall iced tea was sounding pretty good. What a surprise-no café in Keeler, only an auto-body shop and a post office. So I headed for Micky Dees in Lone Pine, and slaked my abundant thirst. Had a couple of hours to kill before I was due at the Pedenau's for dinner, so drove up to the park at the north end of town and sat in deep shade near the little creek to snooze. After a power nap, I walked south along the west side of the street to the local rock shop that had a nice display by the Lone Pine Club of materials found in the area.

Just down Bush Street from the Pedenau's (they live on W. Bush...), I visited the local museum. They have a nice variety of historical materials, including a couple of displays donated by the Lone Pine Club—what an active group! The gentleman on duty was quite well informed, and accommodating, as he showed me their most impressive collection that I might otherwise have missed. A local teacher has given his insect collection to the museum. While it has a few exotics (check out the rhinoceros beetle!), most of the specimens were locally collected. The specimens are exceptionally well mounted and displayed. They have some ugly bugs in the Owens Valley!



The rest of the afternoon was spent talking rocks with folks who genuinely enjoyed the topic. Francis's brother from South Dakota had tales of collecting Teepee and Fairburn Agates, and

coincidentally, Francis and Francee had excellent examples of both. One of the Fairburn's found by Francis was valued at about \$600! It was surprising to learn that those exceptionally patterned ones are worth more uncut and unpolished.

Ron Schmitz from the Napa Club was also present (I had met him at Angel's Camp two weekends previous) and had some whoppers of his own, all true, I am sure. I pretty much just sat, listened and ate. And drank a lot of iced tea! As the sun was descending, I asked Francis for the location of his big fulgarite. [A fulgarite is created when a lightning strike fuses the soil around where the strike penetrates the ground. This fulgarite and its remnants look like green glass because the soil is rich in epidote] It is 5.5 feet long folks, not 16 feet like the guy in the museum thought, and Francis obliged me by drawing a

map. Ron was game, so we drove out Route 136 past the river, and eventually found the location just off a dirt road. Francis's details were spot on, as the material was found within about a 2 square foot area. Without one tiny detail Francis included, we would have been skunked.

Sunday morning, about 40 folks from several different clubs met at the Chevron Station south of town. After about a half hour of swapping rock stories, we headed for Cerro Gordo about 8:10 a.m. The dirt road up to Cerro Gordo, a famous silver mining district, begins near Keeler on Route 136, and climbs from about 1500 to 8500 feet in about 8 miles. The scenery is austere lovely as you pass through canyons of tortured Paleozoic marine limestone (from Silurian to Triassic in age). Occasionally, you can catch a glimpse of the multicolored bed of Owens Lake, farther and farther below. I learned that *Silver* is not a



perfect car, as about half way up, the cool air turned hot, and the temperature gauge came within a quarter of an inch of redlining. So I reluctantly turned off the AC, and turned the heat on to cool off the engine. Boy was I

happy when we arrived at the mine/hotel complex.

After a brief orientation, we were turned loose on the vast mine dump piles. About 50 minerals occur in the Cerro Gordo District, and I wanted them all, even though some occur as mere crusts, and most of the crystalline minerals require a magnifying glass to see well. The real mineral treasure at this mine is the lime green to blue green smithsonite, a zinc carbonate that occurs here with the argentiferous (silver bearing) galena (lead sulfide) that was the primary ore of the mine. "Smith" as mine owner Mike Patterson calls it, also occurs in white, translucent gray and yellow botryoidal forms at the mine.

Francis advised us to walk around and see what rocks the winter rains had revealed. While a lot of the rocks were gray limestone, and white marble and quartzite, there was a scattering of greens and blues. These proved to be mostly malachite and little smears of azurite. A couple of my blue-green specimens were identified as "Smith", and I have hopes some of the other blue minerals I collected is aurichalcite, or possibly linarite.

The minerals I brought back from Cerro Gordo include: Bornite (peacock copper), Hemimorphite, Argentiferous (silver bearing) Galena, Quartz, Calcite, Tetrahedrite, Azurite, Malachite, Brochantite (?), Limonite (basically rust), Smithsonite, and Chalcopyrite, among others.

From the top of the waste piles, you can look back on what is left of the town, and what has been rebuilt. After the steep climb up here, it is amazing to imagine that this was a lively town over a hundred twenty-five years ago. In fact, Mike Patterson had one of the areas roped off

where they are finding artifacts from this old town, and has much of his office dedicated to relics of Fat Mountain's colorful past.

"With two daily stages from Owens Valley serving the camp, Cerro Gordo was well established as a mining town by 1871. The main street was being lined with buildings as fast as the lumber could be obtained. The two-story American Hotel was completed that year, as were several other permanent structures. High false-fronted general stores, restaurants, and saloons soon replaced the canvas shacks scattered throughout town. Just over the divide, at the head of San Lucas Canyon, small clusters of stone and canvas dwellings were strung down the canyon floor. The predominant structure was the large shaft-house covering the 300-foot vertical shaft of the Newtown mine. Either side of the canyon was covered with prospect holes and miners' shanties.

The combination of whiskey and women made the dance halls, and the red-light houses of Lola Travis and Maggie Moore, the principal scenes of gunplay. Dr. Hugh McClelland, physician at Cerro Gordo, reflected upon one such incident that happened the night he accompanied a young man wishing to visit one of the dance halls. A hot-tempered Mexican girl overheard McClelland explaining to his younger companion the reason for her odd nickname, and came at the good doctor with a stiletto in her hand. An Irish girl caught her by the wrist and disarmed the screaming Mexican, but not before a Mexican man was shot dead by George Snow when he tried to plunge a knife into McClelland on behalf of his girlfriend. This ended in a general shooting until the lights were extinguished."

--Text excerpts are from "*From this Mountain - Cerro Gordo*" by Robert C. Likes and Glenn R. Day (1975).

Another side-note to this story is that of the Bessie Brady, an 85-foot long stern-wheel steamer that was built to haul charcoal from the western shore of Owens Lake to stoke the fires at the smelter above Keeler and the one at **Swansea** (left), and to bring silver and lead ingots from both on the return trip.

The Bessie Brady operated from mid-1872 until May 12, 1882 by which time the mines at Cerro Gordo had ceased production, and the Bessie caught fire and burned at her moorings at the Lone Pine Landing [According to the Inyo Independent, of Independence, California, (Saturday, May 13, 1882.) Francis Pedenau, who grew up in Keeler, later found the Bessie's anchor, but had it taken from him by persons unnamed.] Owens Lake, that had been kept full by an abundant supply of water from the Owens River, eventually dried up because astute business people from Los Angeles bought the Owens River water with silver obtained from the mines at Cerro Gordo and other locations. (From an Article by Al Millsbaugh, *Desert Magazine*, July 1971)



About 3:00 p.m., after thanking Francis and Francee for a great field trip, I decided to head for home, praying to get down the mountain without burning my brakes up, and for the

same, light traffic I enjoyed on the way over. Luck held, and I cruised into the Buckhorn Restaurant in Cuyama for dinner as the western sky was turning red, tinted by smoke from the fires that had been burning nearby for a week. Fire crews were encamped just up the road from the Buckhorn, and I was privileged to share the diner with several of the young men. However, I ate quickly and got back on the road about 7:30 p.m., hoping to be home before dark, and I was. The cool of the coast was a refreshing change from the heat of the Owens Valley, but the new friendships I made, and my collecting experiences of the past weekend were worth the drive.



Ron Schmitz inlaid walking stick, a 25-year project.

OMS Adopt-a-Highway, July 15, 2006

By Wes Lingerfelt

With the passing of time, and the grass having dried out; it was dead and brown. Without the green fullness of the weeds and grass to mask what lies beneath its blades, the trash seemed worse than usual. There were 9 workers consisting of Bob Bullock, Marty Lingerfelt, Lucky Virgin, Don Nasholm, Geary Sheffer, Jeannie & Wes Lingerfelt, and Wayne & Todd Mills. The area at the pullout at the junction of CA 166 and US 101 was especially littered with trash. The weather was ideal for hiking along the Highway, however the trash bags soon were filled to the brim. It required 3 bags to cover my ½ mile stretch alone. Lots of cans and plastic bottles were recovered and will be turned in to the recycler soon.

All those present felt the absence of Chuck Ferguson and we sorely missed him. Our esteemed and departed member Buck Strader started this activity and we now also have Chuck to add to our reason for continuing the effort in their memory. Additional volunteers are always welcome and needed. We really need someone to lead this worthwhile effort.

OMS Breakfast

Wes Lingerfelt

I'm at a loss as to what to say, as there were only 5 members and 1 guest there this time: Bob, Jeannie, myself, Marty, Don and Sylvia. We had fun socializing while eating breakfast ordered from new menus, which included a 30% price increase and no senior discounts now. I have a hard time writing about this sad situation. *[Editor's note: we have called for suggestions about the breakfast and gotten no replies. Do none of you have any ideas about a purely social activity that would draw more participation? My first thought is to find some place with a more reasonable price, and a bit more central location. Come on; let's hear YOUR ideas! What would it take to get you to participate once a month? If you are shy send an e-mail, or even an anonymous letter.]*

President's Corner

Hello fellow Rockhounds, Here comes our show, August is here and summer time is about to end. I know it all seems like things get a bit disorganized around this time but we do have some very steady hands in our group to get through. Barring a stampede of ground squirrels the vendors and other guest should have a most enjoyable time. However in case of a stampede be ready to lend hand or two to any poor person under duress. Squirrels like to run up legs and they don't give a hoot who's it is. Should you find someone running in circles or rolling on the grounds screaming in hysterics, calmly walk up to them, and in a serious way (See Ralph for training on this) ask them if they have a squirrel in their pants. Should they answer yes, remind them that once caught they can't turn them loose and must take them home. I'm looking forward to getting smokey flavored at the BBQ; it might help preserve me better. That reminds me that you sure don't want to go into bear country smelling like BBQ'ed steak or any other good food. Cause Griz's don't care what they eat, man, beast, fish or plant. Anyway here's hoping for fun, and a good time for all. Thanks to everyone in every way! Bob

Orcutt Mineral Society Board Meeting Mussell Sr. Center, Santa Maria, CA July 11, 2006

President Bob Bullock called the meeting to order at 6:20 p.m.

Board members present were: Gary Sheffer, Debbie Hood, Bob Bullock, Elaine Von Achen, Wes Lingerfelt, Sylvia Nasholm, Dee Dee Magri, and Wayne Mills. Guests were: Jeannie Lingerfelt, Bill Hood and Don Nasholm.

Minutes of the previous board meeting were approved as published in the July 2006 newsletter.

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

Correspondence: Elaine Von Achen reported newsletters received from Santa Cruz Mineral & Gem Society and South Bay Lapidary and Mineral Society.

Committee Reports: none

Old Business:

Wes Lingerfelt noted that we had received our copy of the book "Banded Agates" that we had ordered for our library.

New Business:

Wes Lingerfelt requested that he be reimbursed for expenses to attend the Federation meeting for \$150.85 over the \$100.00 allowed. A motion was made by Wayne Mills to pay Wes that amount and was seconded by Elaine Von Achen. Motion passed.

Wayne Mills announced that he would not be able to be the prospector for the panning for gold at this years gem show.

Elaine Von Achen announced that John had found a gentleman to do guard duty for us this year.

Sylvia Nasholm said she would be passing around a sign-up sheet for kitchen help at the general meeting.

Wayne Mills agreed to contact newspapers, radio etc. to advertise this years gem show.

President Bob Bullock adjourned the meeting at 6:40 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted:

Elaine Von Achen, Secretary, OMS

Orcutt Mineral Society General Meeting Mussell Sr. Center, Santa Maria, CA July 11, 2006

President Bob Bullock called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Joseph Martinez led the flag salute.

Mike Henson gave the invocation.

Bob Bullock asked that we have a moment of silence to remember Chuck Ferguson who passed away.

We had 33 members and 3 guests present. Guests were Joshua Simonson, Richard Sittinger and Carol Bowen. Guest, Virginia Rogers, paid her dues and became a new member.

Minutes of the July 22, 2006 board meeting were read by Elaine Von Achen and approved as read.

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

Correspondence: Elaine Von Achen reported newsletters received from Santa Cruz Mineral & Gem Society and South Bay Lapidary and Mineral Society.

Committee Reports:

Sunshine: Debbie Hood reported that Kay Volmer had been ill but was on the mend.

Abused Children: Debbie Hood reported that tonight's auction would include an amethyst crystal and 5 mineral

specimens courtesy of Richard Sittinger our guest speaker for the evening.

Highway Clean up: With the loss of Chuck Ferguson we again need someone to chair highway clean up. Everyone was asked to consider this need.

Old Business:

None

New Business:

Wayne Mills made a motion to donate \$100.00 to the California Federation to have Chuck Ferguson's name put on a memorial plaque. The motion was seconded by Lee Reyburn and carried.

Wes Lingerfelt gave a report on his trip to the federation meeting. He and Jeannie had an enjoyable time. The 2007 meeting will be held in Palmdale and 2008 will be held in Ventura.

Dee Dee Magri announced that dessert for tonight's meeting will be pie donated by Elaine Von Achen, Jeannie Lingerfelt, Margaret Henson and Dee Dee Magri.

Wayne Mills reported that some of the items for tonight's raffle include a book on wire wrapping, crystals, tiger-eye, jasper, fossils, travertine, copper and more.

Dee Dee Magri announced that there would be a prize given to the item with the most votes donated to the treasure chest for the show. She encouraged everyone not to forget to vote.

Show reports:

Wes Lingerfelt has the dealers situated. Wednesday, August 2nd will be grounds layout at 8:00 a.m. Thursday, August 3rd will be show set-up. Lucky Virgin said we have 23 displays signed up so far. Thursday evening there will be a chicken dinner for all workers and dealers at 5:00 p.m. Sylvia Nasholm has a sign-up sheet for anyone willing to help. Debbie Hood has a sign-up sheet for the country store and Dee Dee Magri has a sign-up sheet to help with the treasure chest.

Our guest speaker for tonight is Richard Sittinger who will speak on Minerals and his business, which is "Mineral of the Month Club".

President, Bob Bullock adjourned the meeting at 9:00 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted:

Elaine Von Achen, Secretary, OMS



A 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.

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 1989, 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 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.

2006 OMS Officers

Pres	Robert Bullock	(805) 928-6372
Pres. Elect	Debbie Hood	(805) 481-6860
Secretary	Elaine Von Achen	(805) 929-1488
Treasurer	Wes Lingerfelt	(805) 929-3788
Immed. Past Pres	Lucky Virgin	(805) 929-4525
CFMS. Rep.	Wes Lingerfelt	(805) 929-3788

2006 OMS Board Members

Geary Scheffer	(805) 925-8009
Sylvia Nasholm	(805) 481-0923
Dee-Dee Magri	(805) 595-2755
Wayne Mills	(805) 481-3495
Jill Nelson	(805) 925-2550

Ore-Cutts Editors

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

OMS Membership (dues) is \$18 per year. Junior memberships (under 18) are \$9 per year. Membership dues are due January 1, and are prorated for each month thereafter.

Membership Chairperson is Elaine Von Achen (805) 929-1488.

August 2006 Calendar	
Tuesday August 1, 2006 7:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.	OMS Board Meeting Mussell Senior Center. All members are welcome at this business meeting.
Friday August 4- Sunday August 6	39 th Annual Rainbow of Gems Show St. Joseph's Church, Nipomo
Tuesday August 8, 2006 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.	OMS General Meeting Elwin Mussell Senior Center. Program- Show wrap-up Display- Show acquisitions & Foreign rocks.
September 2006 Calendar	
Tuesday Sept. 5, 2006 7:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.	OMS Board Meeting-Elwin Mussell Senior Center. All members are welcome at this business meeting.

Saturday Sept. 9, 2006 8:00 a.m. to ?? p.m..	Field Trip to the Los Padres National Forest
Tuesday Sept. 12, 2006 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.	OMS Board Meeting OMS General Meeting-Elwin Mussell Senior Center. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Program- Glaciers, Global Warming, great floods and Early Man in America-W. Mills • Display: Fossils • Refreshments-Cakes
Saturday Sept. 16, 2006 8:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m.	Roadside Clean up After the cleanup we have coffee and pastry at "Francisco's Country Kitchen" in Santa Maria.
Saturday Sept. 23 2006 8:15 a.m. to 9:15 a.m.	OMS Monthly Breakfast- Francisco's Country Kitchen in Santa Maria. For details, call Ken Kreh at 343-7749.
September 23-24	San Diego, CA

2006 Hours: 10 – 4 both days	San Diego Lapidary Society Bernardo Winery 13330 Paseo Del Verano Norte, Rancho Bernardo Kim Hutsell; (619) 294-3914 Website: www.sandiegolapidarysociety.org
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Check out our OMS web site at <http://omsinc.org> or send mail to [info @omsinc.org](mailto:info@omsinc.org).
-mail to [info @omsinc.org](mailto:info@omsinc.org).

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