



Volume LIV Number 11

December 2020



The Prez Box— December 2020

Bill Brown, OMS President

For our December Board Meeting, we are using [FreeConferenceCalling.com](https://www.freeconferencing.com). Instructions for joining the conference are as follows. Call **1-612-746-**

7377. When the machine answers, it will ask for a conference code. Enter **323428**

The club has been unable to meet and it has been difficult to get anything going for the nominating committee. We will hold the current officers and board until we can have two face to face meetings of the general membership. The first meeting would be to nominate officers, and the second to hold a vote. If anyone has objection to this or has a better idea, please contact me or any member of the board. I can be reached via president@omsinc.org. Other officers and board members have emails in the Red Book. Just to rehash, The current officers and board would remain as caretakers until the nominations and elections can be held. There would have to be a couple of changes. Wayne has indicated that he would continue as Secretary, but that it has become too hard to continue as Bulletin Editor. Wayne has done a wonderful job, but Secretary and Bulletin Editor are both very heavy jobs and he doesn't feel that he can continue to do both.

I would love it if anyone would be willing to take over the Bulletin Editor position. It is a heavy load, but I know we have creative people who could carry on the job. If we are unable to find anyone, I will attempt to carry on. I am not the communicator that Wayne or Elizabeth have been, and I have much less knowledge of rocks and geology. I will probably end up publishing the minutes, the calendar, and re-publishing articles from our old bulletins. I think we would be much better off if one of our creative people took the position.

Oasis is on the list of things that are required to be closed in purple status, so we will not be able to have a general meeting until COVID is brought un-

der control.

We were going to try to get-together at Betty's place since she had room for us and was kind enough to offer. Unfortunately, with the county going to **purple tier** for COVID, we will not be able to do that, since the county and state do not allow more than 3 households worth of people to get together. I sincerely thank Betty for the offer, but with COVID as it is, we will have to stay away from each other.

The board meeting will on Tue, Dec 1 from 7 to 9 p.m. It will be by teleconference. It seems to work well, and we will continue with that until we can again meet face to face.

There will be no breakfast in December. Everyone have a Merry Christmas. Everybody stay well. We will get through this!!

Bill

BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

Greetings go out to those folks who are having Birthdays and Anniversaries in

DECEMBER

BIRTHDAYS

Jeanie Brown	12/1	✂
Truman Burgess	12/6	✂
Renea Suttcliffe	12/15	✂
Karen Dry	12/22	yo
Jeannie Nybo	12/23	yo

ANNIVERSARIES

Bob & Rosie Bullock	12/9
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Congratulations! If you don't see your name here when you should, then the information is not in The Red Book. Please write your important dates down and give them to **Wayne** so they will be included in the next edition (January 2021)

BIRTHSTONE(S) FOR DECEMBER TURQUOISE, TANZANITE, & ZIRCON

Story compiled from Wixom's Jewelers.com, Brilliant Earth.com and <https://www.jewelsforme.com>. From Ore-Cutts, December 2017

According to the American Gem Society, there are three stones for December. These are all blue, perhaps reflective of the iciness that we typically associate with that month. The stones are **Turquoise**, **Tanzanite** and **Zircon** (though it comes in other colors, blue is the overwhelming favorite).

Turquoise (Photo [com-mons.wikimedia.org](https://commons.wikimedia.org)), is regarded as a love charm. It is also a symbol of good fortune and success, and it is believed to relax the mind and to protect its wearer from harm. Turquoise rings, in particular, are thought to keep away evil spirits.



Tanzanite (Photo javaherbinia.com) is a one-of-a-kind gemstone and can only be found in one place on Earth, the foothills of Mount Kilimanjaro in Tanzania. This gem possesses an exotic velvety blue with a rich overtone of purple, a color unlike any other gem. Tanzanite is a member of the Zoisite family, and was discovered in 1967 by a prospector named Manuel d' Souza who thought they were sapphires. Since they are a relatively recent discovery, not much folklore has been built up around them, but it is thought to have the power to transform negative energies into positive ones. It assists in manifesting your own self rather than being influenced by others or trying to conform to the norm.



Although **Zircon** (Photo pailing.gemstones.com) isn't as well-known as some other gems, this stone is a celebrity among geologists. The oldest rock ever discovered was a zircon found in Australia dating 4.4 billion years, nearly as old as the planet itself (the oldest diamonds are 3.3 billion years old). Zircon can be found in a rainbow of colors, including blue, brown, green, orange, yellow, red and even clear. Clear zircon is one of the most brilliant non-diamond gems, and was often used as a diamond alternative in the nineteenth century (though zircon is different than cubic zirconia, a type of imitation dia-



mond). According to the American Gemological Society, folk wisdom says that zircon has the power to relieve pain, protect travelers and prevent nightmares.

LOCAL ROCKS--

SAGENITE AGATE FROM NIPOMO

Text & Pictures by Wayne Mills, Ore-Cutts Editor



One of the most desirable agates in San Luis Obispo County is Sagenite Agate from the 15 million-year old Nipomo (basalt) Volcanics in Nipomo. Also known as "Weed Rock" by local collectors,

Sagenite comes in a variety of colors (white, red and brown) and forms, most often hemispherical sprays extending from the outside of the agate into the center.

It is thought that the needle-like sprays occur first, originating from relict gasses trapped in the gas bubbles and seams in the cooling lava (which in this case becomes basalt). Subsequent to the formation of the sagenite needles, the silica-saturated rainwater, or hydrothermally and silica rich water is injected into the cavities housing the needles and they are encapsulated in Chalcedony.

Sagenite occurs in many forms world-wide, but Nipomo is "famous" nationwide for their wonderful varieties of Sagenite Agate.

Ralph Bishop Collection



BITS AND BYTES

QUARTZITE GEM SWAPMEET TO BE OPEN FOR 2021...maybe. Follow link below for possible show schedule:.

<https://www.desertusa.com/cities/az/quartzsite.html>

MAIN TUCSON SHOW IS CANCELLED DUE TO COVID, BUT INDEPENDENT SHOWS IN THE AREA MAY STILL OPEN.

<https://www.kgun9.com/news/coronavirus/tucson-gem-mineral-show-canceled-for-2021>

WORLD'S LARGEST TSAVORITE GARNET FROM KARO, TANZANIA

<https://www.geologyin.com/2015/12/the-largest-tsavorite-in-world.html>



2 GOLD NUGGETS WEIGHING A COMBINED 7.7 POUNDS FOUND IN AUGUST, 2020 NEAR



TARNAGUILA IN VICTORIA, AUSTRALIA

The nuggets combined worth could exceed \$250,000 U.S. Dollars

<https://www.cnn.com/2020/08/20/asia/australia-gold-nuggets-scli-intl/index.html>

COLLECTING HERKIMER DIAMONDS

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HuMGDZZN4NA&feature=youtu.be&fbclid>

CASTLE HOLDING WORLD'S LARGEST COLLECTION OF TURQUOISE, ALSO A FINE GEM COLLECTION IN ALBUQUERQUE, NEW MEXICO



<https://www.onlyinyourstate.com/new-mexico/nm-turquoise-museum-castle>

IF YOU FIND A ROCK

By Peggy Chastain
From the Idaho Gem Club in
Rockhound Connection

If you find a rock—a rock that's not
A skipping rock or a throwing rock,
Or a chalk rock, or a resting rock,
Or a wishing rock—

That's not a splashing rock or a sifting
rock

Or a worry rock or a hiding rock,
That's not even a climbing rock or a
crossing rock,
Or a fossil rock or a walking rock,

But you like it anyway,
Because it reminds you of a place
Or a feeling, or something important,
Then you have found a memory rock,
and sometimes those are the best rocks
of all.

ALASKAN ADVENTURE

Wayne Mills, Orcutt Mineral Society



During my Senior Year in High School, my English teacher tasked us with writing a sonnet. I thought about the project a few times during the next couple of weeks, but was surprised when I walked into class one day and the teacher said “your sonnets are due at the end of the period”. So I scribbled out my poem during class and turned it in on time. A week or so later the teacher handed the assignment back and asked me to type it up for the National Poetry Anthology. About a month later, the poem was named one of two “Special Mention” poems from our school in that contest. The poem read:

ON A DESERTED COAST

The sea pounds and thunders on the coast
And from dark, obscure cliffs the seagulls screech
As roaring inward pounds the ageless host
Reaching for driftwood that lies on the beach.

As each time outward rolls the tide it leaves behind
A sample of the sea in many pools
And overhead a cool, prevailing breeze
Blows gently over Nature’s precious jewels.

The sea pounds upon this ancient shore
As it will when we are alive—no more.

When my parents asked me what I wanted to do for my Senior Summer, I said: “I want to go to Alaska and be a commercial fisherman with Uncle Mel (my mother’s younger brother). And I want to hitchhike up the Al-Can Highway”. My mother’s response was “you’ll fly”.

So in early August, 1963 I arrived at the Anchorage Airport. It was a lot more primitive than Los Angeles International Airport that I had departed from. After a few days in Seward, my uncle, my younger cousin Dennis and I headed for Seldovia, Cook Inlet and Uncle Mel’s 43-foot drift-netter, the PG 73. We loaded our gear on board, and set out for the fishing grounds. On the first night, a nice little storm blew-up and I was awakened by my uncle about 2 in the morning to steer the boat! THAT was a challenge! After a couple of weeks on the water, one day my uncle told me to hop in the skiff, and we headed to a place on the western shore of Tuxedni Channel on Cook Inlet where he said I might be able to find some fossils. The rocky shore where he dropped me off was aptly called “Fossil Point”. When I hopped out of the boat, Uncle Mel said “I’ll be back to get you in about an hour”. I tried not to think too much about the stories he had told me about encountering bears in the wilderness as I started to look around. It did not take me long to realize that this place was a lot like what I had described in the poem that I wrote earlier that year. And, I started to find pieces of fossils—the first fossils that I had ever collected in person. This location is Mid-Jurassic Age, about 176-161 million years ago, during the age of the dinosaurs. Only this location is fossilized marine sediments, and the primary fossils were ammonites. Pictured below are two of the three fossils I

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collected. I can't find the third one, a 3" pen shell fossil.

Oh, and we caught lots of salmon, went camping with the Boy Scouts, and I fell in love with a local merchant's daughter who I was never introduced to, and who I never saw again. What a memorable summer!



AMMONITE FOSSILS (Mid-Jurassic (176—161 million years before present)
Fossil Point, Tuxedni Channel, Cook Inlet, Alaska
(Self Collected 1969)
Zemistephanus sp. (left), *Aulacosphinctoides* sp. (right)



Sinclair Oil Dinosaurs going to the New York World's Fair in 1964. (Picture from Sinclair Oil Corp.)

KID'S (Of All Ages) PAGE —

THE FUTURE OF ROCKHOOUNDING

Wayne Mills, Ore-Cutts Editor



Clayton Keady is the son of the owners of **Rock Chuck Rock Shop** of Shurz, Nevada.—John and Chelsea Keady. He is being raised by folks who love mines and mining, and he appears to be getting it! I love this picture. It gives me hope for the future of Rockhounding. The picture reminds me of the absolute delight that rockhounds experience, just being in the out of doors, and occasionally finding a beautiful or unusual rock, fossil or mineral. If one youngster can get it, I have hope for the future. Is that an infectious smile, or what?!

For more on Clayton and his parents, see the June and July 2020 issues of The Ore-Cutts at: [omsinc.org/ Bulletins in .pdf format](http://omsinc.org/Bulletins.in.pdf). The Keadys have an ideal location in the relatively unpopulated Mineral County, Nevada. Access to hundreds of square miles of numerous locations where then can mine agate, turquoise, variscite, quartz crystals and more.

LET'S BUILD A DINOSAUR

Wayne Mills, Ore-Cutts Editor

In the Summer of 1973, I had the opportunity to teach a Summer School Class at Goddard Jr. High School in the Glendora School District in Los Angeles County. I thought it might be a fun project for the 4th-8th Grade students to build a life-sized dinosaur, so we all bought in materials and went to work. I chose a Dimetrodon ("Sail-back Dinosaur") because a life-sized one was an achievable goal in the 5 weeks we had. We even made the local paper!

Summer School Dinosaur

Using a 10 cent plastic toy as a model, plus several pictures from science books, students in Wayne Mills' Summer Seminar classes at Goddard Jr. High School, Glendora, pooled their talents and made a "do-it-yourself dinosaur."

Mills divided his class into committees to build the reptile in pieces, assigning one committee to build the head, another the tail, and others the legs, body and sail. The students used paper mache, chicken wire, cardboard and newspaper stuffing

for the head, legs and body, with boards and cardboard for the sail. They put the parts together (they all fit!) and painted it a fairly authentic blue-green-grey. The final touch was a pair of eyes from Bock's Variety Store.

Building the dinosaur, actually a dimetrodon or sail-back dinosaur, also gave the 17 students, who range from 4th to 8th grade, a chance to do some research, according to Mills. The purpose of the

large sail, they believe, was to provide a cooling surface for the reptile—a prehistoric heat transfer unit.

Dinosaur building was one of seven "mini-classes" offered gifted children this summer in the five-weeks Summer Seminar program. Coordinator for the summer program was Andy Mullhall. Peggy Harding serves as Mentally Gifted Minors (MGM) coordinator for the Glendora Unified School District.



LIFE-SIZED DINOSAUR—Newspaper, paper mache, chicken wire and cardboard were used by students at Goddard Junior High School this summer to create Fido, a sail-back dinosaur. Instructor Wayne Mills poses with the reptile and some of its builders, from left, standing, Kelly Bogg, Mills, Anne Carrier and Lori Pugh. Seated, from left, Robert Peck, Glenn Oberholtz, Russell Douglass and Anne Hagna.

ORCUTT MINERAL SOCIETY BOARD MEETING

Nipomo Chamber Conference Room

Nov 3, 2020

Members present: 2020 Board Bilol Brown (President), Jeanne Brown (President Elect), Betty Campbell (Treasurer), Wayne Mills, IPP, Secretary), Board: Dick Bazzell, Jan Ferguson (phone), Sally Griffith (phone)

Members absent: Debbie Hood, Renea Suttcliffe.

Called to Order at 7:10 p.m.

MINUTES: (Wayne) In the November Bulletin accepted as presented

TREASURER'S REPORT: (Betty) Officer's insurance paid to McDaniels

CORRESPONDENCE: (Wayne) Not picked-up by meeting date, will report in December Bulletin. **Got mail November 14.** 3 requests for donations from Salvation Army, September and October bulletins from Santa Lucia Rockhounds, November 2020 AFMS Newsletter, November 2020 Newsletter from Underground Gold Miner's Museum (Alleghany, CA), Annual Privacy notice from California Division of Taxes and Fees, South County Visitor and Community Guide, Santa Barbara City College 2019—2020 Report to the Community.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Bulletin- Presz Box misspelled. Will be corrected.

CFMS- (Renea) CFMS Zoom meeting November 14.

Membership – Nothing new

Field Trip – Sally. None in November or December. We will work on some trips for 2021.

Adopt-a-Highway – Our next highway cleanup will be on November 14. Please consider attending. (Clean-up cancelled due to conflict with CFMS Zoom meeting.)

Annual Awards Banquet: We should have an answer from Madonna by November 17. We will try to contact members who have responded to our request in the November bulletin (5), and others in the club if possible. As an alternative to a cancellation at Madonna we are tentative planning an awards event at Betty Campbell's on Saturday December. **Members are requested to let Bill or Wayne know if they are interested in attending either event (probably at Betty Campbell's on December 12).**

Breakfast- Our breakfast for 11/28 was scheduled

for Denny's in Santa Maria. The OMS Board decided to cancel it because it is on Thanksgiving weekend

Education (Wayne) None to report.

Library- (Alexis) No report.

Sunshine- We are sorry to hear that Fred Campbell is having problems with his leg. May require surgery. Our good wishes go out to Fred and Betty. Sally is recovering from wrist surgery and is still planning to attend the Highway Cleanup on November 14!

Scholarship (Jeanne) Decisions postponed to 2021.

Show—We are looking forward to having a great show in 2021.

Old Business- None.

New Business- Oasis Center said that since Santa Barbara County is in the **Red tier**, we could hold a meeting with 10 folks plus an "instructor". If Santa Barbara County downgrades to **Orange tier** we could have 25 folks plus an "instructor". At that level we would probably start having our meetings again.

Adjourned at 7:45 pm

**Respectfully submitted,
Wayne Mills, OMS Secretary**

ORCUTT MINERAL SOCIETY

General Meeting
November 10, 2020

The November General Meeting was cancelled due to the Coronavirus shutdown.

**Respectfully Submitted
Wayne Mills, Secretary, OMS**

CFMS SHOWS

DECEMBER (2020)

None listed on the CFMS website.

OMS CALENDAR

Check August Bulletin for COVID Updates

DECEMBER 2020

Tuesday, December 7:00 p.m.	OMS Board Meeting, Tele-conference. See Prez Box.
Saturday, December 12	OMS Annual Meeting/ Awards Luncheon—Cancelled
No Breakfast in December	OMS Monthly Breakfast

HAPPY HOLIDAYS TO ALL!
WE HOPE TO SEE YOU IN JANUARY

JANUARY 2021

Tuesday, January 5 7:00 p.m.	OMS Board Meeting, Nipomo Chamber of Commerce meeting room. Limited to 10 folks. Sorry.
Saturday, January 9 8:00 a.m. South east corner of Highways 101/166	Highway Clean-up
Tuesday, January 12	General meeting (TBD)
Saturday, January 23 8:30 a.m.	Breakfast (TBD)

2020-OMS OFFICERS

President	Bill Brown	(805) 481-1811
President-Elect	Jeanne Brown	(805) 481-1811
Secretary	Wayne Mills	(805) 481-3495
Treasurer	Betty Campbell	(805) 929-5344
Imm. Past Pres.	Wayne Mills	(805) 481-3495

2020-OMS BOARD MEMBERS

Dick Bazzell	(805-757-9123)
Jan Ferguson	(805) 474-9977
Sally Griffith	(805) 928-6848
Debbie Hood	(805) 481-6860
Renea Suttcliffe	805) 929-2783

CFMS FEDERATION DIRECTOR

Renea Suttcliffe	805) 929-2783
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OMS Membership \$24.00 for Individual, \$34.00 per couple, \$5.00 Each Additional Family Member, \$5 for Juniors under age of 18. One time initiation fee for new members is \$10.00. **OMS Membership Chairperson is: ?**

OMS Webmaster –Bill Brown– (805) 481-1811
Check out our OMS web site at: <http://www.omsinc.org>
or send e-mail to: info@omsinc.org.

Ore-Cutts Editor/Publisher

Wayne Mills	(805) 481-3495 wwmills50@hotmail.com
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STATE AND NATIONAL RECOGNITION FOR THE 2019 ORE--CUTTS AND SLR

The recent AFMS Newsletter noted that the **Ore-Cutts** won 7th place nationally for Small Bulletin, and an article by Wayne Mills (Amazing Agates) won 7th Place in Adult Advanced Articles. The Santa Lucia Rockhounds won Best Club in the US based on Mark Nelson's compilation of their 2019 activities.

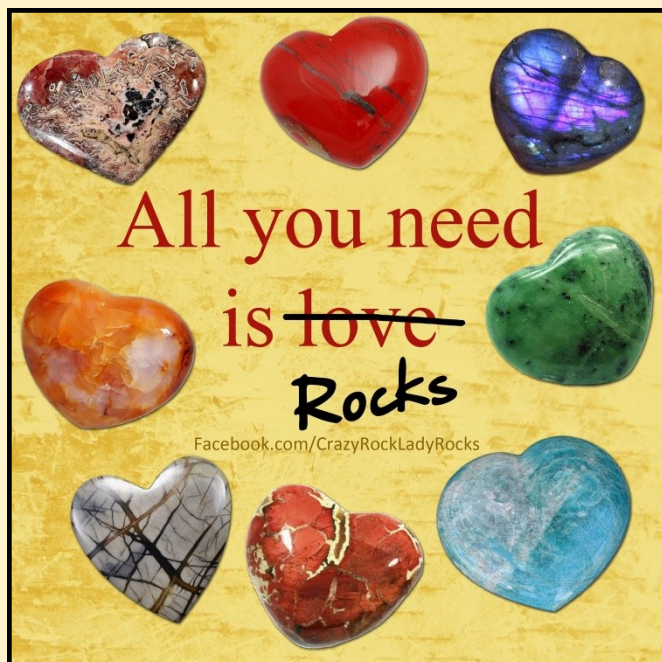
Check-out the OMS Web page at :omsinc.org for our old bulletins (since 2002) and a wealth of other information We have a Bibliography to help your bulletin search.. Our bulletins look much better in COLOR!

Check-out our Facebook page. Elisabeth does a great job keeping that up. (Search for Orcutt Mineral Society in Facebook Search.

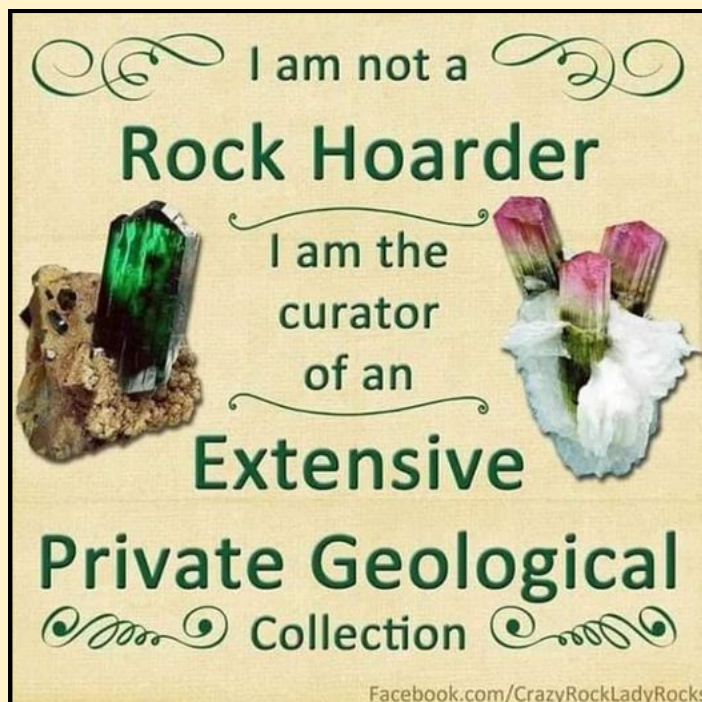
ROCKHOUND HUMOR



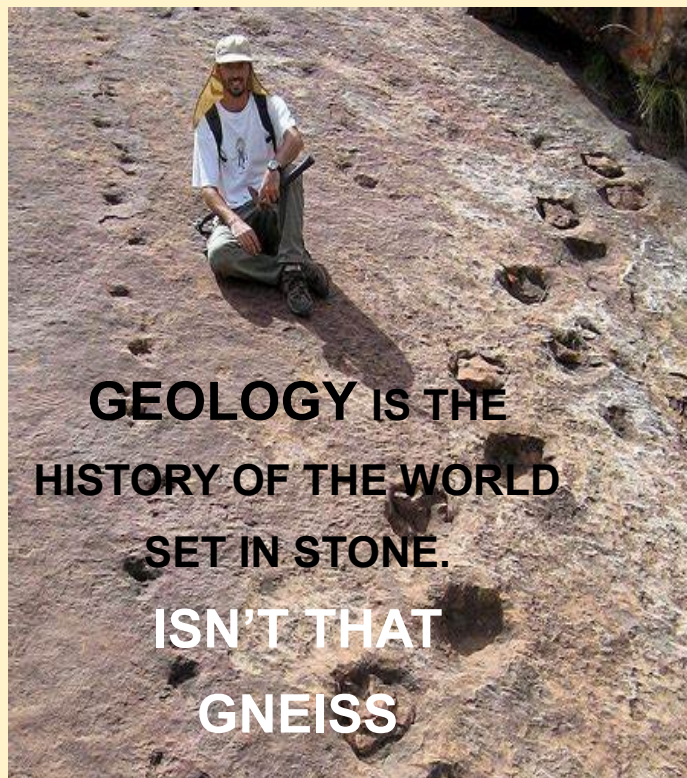
Rockhound Connection — 11/2/2020



Facebook—CrazyRockLadyRocks



Facebook—CrazyRockLadyRocks



Picture from: <https://th.bing.com/th/id/OIP.EfTriUZ4ggVbVgrZSTCikAAAAA?pid=Api&rs=1>

Orcutt Mineral Society, Inc.
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ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED



The ORE-CUTTS (named after William Orcutt) was first published in 1966. Member Helen Azevedo was the first editor. The Orcutt Mineral Society was founded in 1958, and was also named after Orcutt who was 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 in Los Angeles. The La Brea Tar Pits are one of the most significant fossil finds in paleontological history.

OMS is a non-profit organization 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.