



Ore-Cutts

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The Adventures of Wes and Marshall

It was the middle of the week and I thought it would be a good day to travel to Los Angeles. What a bust that idea was as the traffic was horrible. I needed some supplies and to pick up a trim saw for a customer so the trip was necessary. Why else would anyone go to the Big City? Well, the trip turned out to be extremely interesting and educational.

We were directed to a company called Diamond Systems, Incorporated operated by Mr. Gordon Hinshaw. Mr. Hinshaw is an expert in diamond tool manufacturing as he has been doing this for over 30 years. He was indeed a wellspring of information. In less than two hours he debunked many an "old wives tale" about how to sharpen and maintain diamond cutting blades.

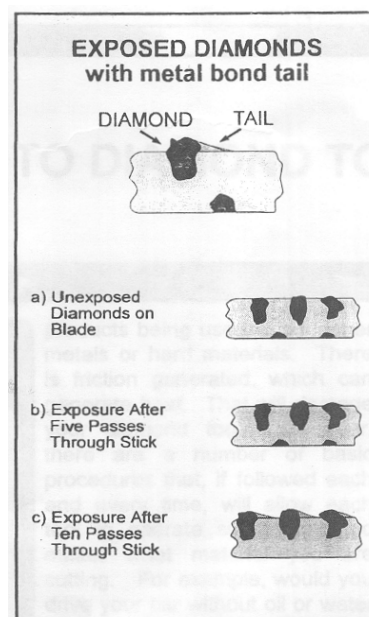
As it turns out Gordon's company makes the majority of diamond saw blades manufactured for sale in the Western states. These are very high grade blades and nothing like the ones being imported from China these days. The first tidbit concerned the different lengths of segments used on a sintered blade. Long segments means it's good for cutting softer material like marble and granite where as agate requires a blade with short (half inch) segments. His explanation of cooling rates and lubrication characteristics made a lot of sense. He drilled in to our heads the importance of proper coolant, RPM, and dressing of the blade. I had always thought that one or two passes through a dressing stone would be sufficient. Wrong! It takes 10 times and perhaps up to 20 times to get a diamond blade properly dressed. I've heard that a blade needs a square edge similar to that found on a new blade. Wrong again! A rounded edge is desired as it helps the blade track to the center of the cut.

According to Mr. Hinshaw one of the most

problematic conditions with diamond saw blades is metal fatigue near the hub. He recommends always using large side reinforcement plates on the blade just below the depth of cut. This makes a blade last much longer. There are some Lapidary saw manufacturers that include a roller bearing sharpener to rub on the edge of the blade as it turns in place. While this may indeed crack the diamonds and make for a faster cut

temporarily, it also allows the diamonds to exit their mountings in the steel bonding.

The only proper way to sharpen a diamond blade is to use a dressing stone made of softly bonded carborundum or silicon carbide which builds up a tail of metal on the back side of the raised diamonds. Mr. Hinshaw presented Marshall and I with a free sample to help us understand the proper type dressing stone.



These tidbits of information are only the beginning. I've written to Mr. Hinshaw to request permission to reproduce his diamond tool guide in our newsletter. Once we have it we will be wise to follow the directions contained within it. In the mean time, save your old worn out blades. We just might be able to get them restored to new condition at less cost. We'll keep you informed. Happy cutting!

Wes Lingerfelt

DISPLAY TIPS

By Pat LaRue, Rules Committee

Visitors to gem and mineral shows always seem to "zero in" on the really outstanding displays and hardly look at some of the others. How have some exhibitors managed to catch your attention and "made" you stop and look at what they chose to display? If you look closely at the overall picture a case tries to convey, you may pick up some hints.

Look at the background colors used-are they



subtle and do they enhance the case contents? What about pattern and texture-does it distract in any way? Examine the arrangement of the case contents-is there a focal point and a sense of direction for the eye or does it appear cluttered? Does the exhibitor clearly identify the contents of the case or does he/she make the viewer guess? What about neatness-is the case clean or are there smudges all over the place?

Based on years of experience exhibiting and judging other displays, I have developed some do's and don'ts for exhibitors regarding showmanship. Although these ideas were originally aimed at the non-competitive exhibitor, they apply equally to the competitive exhibitor whether you choose to display at the CFMS show or the fairgrounds.

1. When selecting fabric for lining your case, subtle tones work best. You should avoid bright colors such as red or green. Suggested tones include grays, whites, beige, light blue (very effective with jewelry), pale yellow. It is best to select fabric with little or no texture; the nature of the display items dictate how much texture you can use. A display of large fossils or petrified wood allows use of textured fabrics whereas a display of faceted stones or other

small items would not. No shiny fabrics please!

2. Do line the case! Cardboard panels from large packing boxes work well and are generally available from moving companies. Panels can also be cut from fiberboard or thin plywood and then covered with fabric. Although seen at some club shows, a "draped" case has no place in any type of competition.

3. Risers can be as simple or as elaborate as you care to make them. They can be made from wood or Styrofoam and painted, if wood, or covered with fabric. The covering can be glued or pinned in place. Hint: curved corners are easier to work with than perfectly square ones. Covering risers is not easy-don't be afraid to ask someone who has mastered the art to help you!

4. Don't overcrowd your display. A common mistake among beginners is to overfill their cases. How much is too much often depends upon what is being displayed. Some very attractive cases feature a few items. In a non-competitive situation, a large mineral specimen or lapidary item can BE the display. If 'in competition, make sure you read the section that tells you the maximum and minimum number of pieces your display must have.

5. Don't leave the viewing public guessing. Make sure your display has labels. These must be neat and of a uniform size that complements the display. What you make them from is up to you. I've seen everything ranging from simple card stock to engraved plastic. Spelling and correct identification do count! In competition don't lose valuable points because you forgot to proofread or put the wrong label in front of the wrong item.

Showing off your prized specimens, lapidary and/or jewelry skills is one of the things you can do to promote our activities to others. If you plan to enter CFMS competition this year, it is not too early to begin planning your display.

Note: This article appeared in a past edition of the CFMS Newsletter. You can obtain a copy of the current rules book and supplements by contacting the author, who is the 2002 CFMS Executive Secretary/Treasure. Pat's phone number is (909) 874-5664 or you can e-mail her at bplarue@earthlink.net.

Orcutt Mineral Society Board Meeting

Mussell Senior Center, Santa Maria CA
June 4, 2002

The Board Meeting was called to order by President Dick Shields at 7:05 p.m. Board Members present were Bill and Deborah Hood, Wayne Mills, Don and Sylvia Nasholm, Marshall Reeves, Dick and Bess Shields. Ted and Marjorie Hoogenbosch attended as guests.

Minutes of the May 7th Board Meeting, and the May 14th General Meeting were approved as written.

Treasurer's Report:

Wes Lingerfelt was ill, so the Treasurer's Report will be given at the General Meeting. (Copy of report is attached to these minutes).

Committee Reports:

Show Update: Sylvia Nasholm reports that 25 exhibit case requests have been submitted so far. Dick Shields is trying to get the Monterey Club to exhibit, borrow a CFMS "Minerals of California" exhibit, and borrow one from the Fluorescent Mineral Society for the August Gem Show.

Education: Wayne Mills needs prospectors for Saturday's Dana Adobe event.

Annual Barbecue/Picnic: Dick Shields announced that the Picnic will be at Pioneer Park on Sunday, June 9th from 10:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m., and will include the Silent Auction. Board members are reminded to bring a few donate items for the auction.

Highway Cleanup: Marshall Reeves will get more supplies so that more of us can participate. We had 14 volunteers recently, and not enough hats, vests, gloves, and retriever sticks to outfit everyone.

Breakfast: Dick Shields will make reservations for the June Breakfast. Last month, which also happened to be a holiday weekend, 90 boy scouts filled "The Girls" restaurant, leaving no room for our group to meet.

Annual December Meeting: Bill Hood reported that the room is booked already at Maria del Sol, the food has been selected, the price will be the same as last year, and he even booked Sweet Adelines already.

Speakers: Dick Shields has a speaker in mind for either our July meeting or at the Gem Show. Rick Kennedy offers a talk on "Benitoite and etching it out of the matrix". Debbie Hood volunteered to postpone her July program if

Kennedy can come. This will tie in with the fluorescent display room being assembled for one of the classrooms at the Gem Show. Local fluorescent materials are being collected for display, and to hand out as samples for kids attending the show.

Publicity: Don Nasholm will be in charge of highway signs again this year. Marjorie Hoogenbosch volunteered to do community calendar and contact KUHL (1440) for free advertising. Marshall Reeves has reserved two Lompoc libraries for the month, and will advertise the Gem Show at the library. Marjorie can't recall if she reserved the Santa Maria library, but Bess Shields will check on this. If so, we'll assemble an exhibit and use library books, videos, and materials in the exhibit and state that the materials can be checked out at SM library. Marjorie noted that we need to issue a press release, and knows that it is available from Wes Lingerfelt.

Correspondence:

- A copy of Mineral Messenger from the San Luis Obispo Gem Club.
- Sun Valley Indian School newsletter.
- Rockhound Notes newsletter.
- Petrograph newsletter from Peninsula Gem & Geology Society.
- Rockonteur newsletter from Santa Lucia Rockhounds.

Old / Unfinished Business

Debbie Hood asked about the Lapidary Room at Mussell Center, and any progress the Parks Department has made on restoring its use to our club. Dick Shields reported that there was no response from Brenda or the Parks Department yet, but he plans to continue following up with them.

Copier: Marshall Reeves stated that OMS originally paid \$300.00-400.00 for a PCII copier about 5 years ago. Glenda Reeves used the copier for printing newsletters until it became inoperative, then began printing the newsletter at her workplace. The copier is now stored in Marshall's garage. Don Nasholm suggested offering the copier for \$50.00 (as is) in the Country Store at the Gem Show instead of attempting to fix it.

Dick Shields reported that several businesses were contacted about printing the Ore-Cutts, and the least expensive route is to print them on his system at home. The Board concurs that we will have more flexibility to print additional Ore-Cutts for the Gem Show while keeping the quality high.

New Business:

Dick Shields will assemble an OMS exhibit case to display at the CFMS Show in Placerville if there is enough interest. The Board agreed that there are enough talented people, with enough items they have made, to warrant a case.

Entertainment for the Picnic Lunch/General Meeting next week will be "Going, Going, Gone: the Silent Auction.

The Board Meeting was adjourned at 8:05 p.m. by President Shields.

Respectfully submitted,
Bess Shields
Secretary, OMS

Orcutt Mineral Society General Meeting

Pioneer Park, Santa Maria CA
June 9, 2002

There was no formal General Meeting held since this was our annual Potluck Picnic and Silent Auction. Pioneer Park is located west of Broadway at 1000 West Foster Road, Santa Maria.

The group gathered at 10:00 a.m. to start the fire, season the tri-tip, and prepare the toasted garlic bread. Many thanks to Don Nasholm, Wes Lingerfelt, and their crew of cooks for the wonderful barbecue.

Attendees brought a dish or dessert to share. Lunch was served at noon to 40 members and their families.

A short Board Meeting was held at 12:55 p.m. to make a motion. Wayne Mills moved that "the copier be sold 'as-is' at the Gem Show Country Store for \$50.00 minimum bid". The motion was seconded by Debbie Hood. The motion passed. The meeting was adjourned at 1:00 p.m.

Silent Auction items were donated by numerous members, and this proved to be a popular activity again this year. The festivities concluded at 3:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Bess Shields
Secretary, OMS

To contribute news, articles, opinions or information the rest of the club needs to know, send a letter to the OMS P.O. Box, send e-mail to oms@ix.netcom.com, or call Dick and Bess at 937-0357.

The Care & Feeding of Benitoite

What is benitoite? Where do I find it? Why is it an important mineral? Who knows the answers to my questions?

Dick Shields has asked the benitoite expert, Rick Kennedy, to attend our Gem Show in August. Until that time, here are some of Rick's enlightening observations about this unusual mineral:

"Benitoite is the only mineral that crystallizes



in the trigonal bipyramidal form. It is a lovely blue-purple color, and is a beautiful and valuable gemstone.

Neptunite is a rare mineral, only found in a few other places in the world, it is a very, very deep red that appears as black. The form and luster from this locality makes it the best in the world.

Joaquinite was first discovered at the Benitoite Gem Mine, and remains a rare mineral. Careful etching will help you save those joaquinites that you would otherwise wash right off of your specimen.

Jonesite is extremely rare, even at the Benitoite Gem Mine, the only place it has been found."

Rick will talk about getting started in the etching process, selecting a specimen, etching the benitoite, and finishing off the specimen. Since he has such a vast knowledge of the subject, and unlimited quantities of available material, Rick is truly a "gem of an expert". We look forward to seeing him Saturday and Sunday at the show.

The Official Staff

OMS Purpose

Founded in 1958, and is named after William Orcutt, a geologist and civil engineer who worked in the Santa Maria Valley as a district manager for Union Oil Company in 1888. In 1889, Orcutt discovered the fossil wealth of the LaBrea Tar Pits, one of the most significant fossil finds in paleontological history. The Society is a non-profit club, dedicated to stimulating an interest in rocks and minerals. The club offers educational programs, field trips, youth activities, and other opportunities for families and individuals to pursue an interest in collecting and lapidary treatment of rocks, fossils, gems, minerals, and other facets of Earth Sciences. In addition, a goal of this Society is to promote good fellowship and proper ethics in pursuit of the society's endeavors. Operating rules have been set forth to guide the Officers and members of the Society in accomplishing these purposes. Affiliations: California Federation of Mineralogical Societies and American Federation of Mineralogical Societies.

2002 OMS Elected Officers

President	Dick Shields	(805) 937-0357
President Elect	Wayne Mills	(805) 481-3495
Secretary	Bess Shields	(805) 937-0357
Treasurer	Wes Lingerfelt	(805) 929-3788
Immediate Past President	Glenda Reeves	(805) 733-2775
CFMS Representative	Wes Lingerfelt	(805) 929-3788

2002 OMS Board Members

Bill Hood	(805) 481-6860
Debbie Hood	(805) 481-6860
Don Nasholm	(805) 481-0923
Sylvia Nasholm	(805) 481-0923
Marshall Reeves	(805) 733-2775

The Wanderer

White Elephant Trudge:

Dick Shields, Ralph Bishop and I drove a short way up Colson Canyon in search of the elusive White Elephant Mine, and its beryllium deposit. Yes, we missed the turnoff last time up, but this time we had plenty of maps, Dick's GPS, and a printout of coordinates. The beast wouldn't elude us this time!

The butterflies have nearly all left the canyon, and the stream has almost dried up in the past month. The raspberries in the streambeds are now ripe, and ready to eat. By mid-morning, the birds had already sought the cool shade of oaks, sycamores, chemise, and manzanita.

After a quick lunch at Lazy Camp (and fun with ticks), we started up the narrow trail toward White Elephant Mine. I do not know how a tractor, jeep, or any wheeled vehicle EVER made it up or



down that route when the mine was still in operation. Nowadays, even mountain goats or rockhounds have a hard time maneuvering some of the washout areas and shifting slate on the trail.

On our map, the hike looked like a steep 1 1/2 miles to the mine. The topo map indicated closer to 3 miles actual walking distance. After reaching the one-third point, Dick and I pooped out. Ralph kept on trekking up the backbone to the halfway point in search of the illusive quarry. He reached a scenic overview, and could see the mine in the distance. He decided that 90 degrees in the sun, no shade trees in sight, and the possibility of no beryllium was a good enough reason to consider turning back. But, oh does that guy have the luck! He found an overturned wagon and collected some heavy, light colored material, hoping that it was beryllium.

After a couple of war whoops to catch our attention, he conveyed the message to us that he would collect a few pieces, and meet us at the bottom. Little did we know that the wagon was 200 feet DOWN the cliff, and he had to pick his way around yucca, heavy scrub brush, and still be on the lookout for snakes. SUCCESS! The rocks were indeed

beryllium!

I had inadvertently picked up a piece of beryllium on the walk back downhill, and only did so because it had some unusual structure, and a crystalline appearance. Before heading back to Santa Maria, we searched the streambed near the car for float. We found that some of the white river-washed material glowed when we scrutinize them in the fluorescing room back home.

You will need your Adventure Pass since this is on Los Padres Forest land. It is past Wagon Flat Campground, and the trailhead is just before you reach Lazy Camp (which is a dead-end road). Take plenty of water with you, watch for snakes, wear sunscreen 45 or higher, and wear a hat. It gets hot in a hurry with very few trees to shade you. After the weather cools down a bit, I'm sure we will try this adventure again.

Happy Hunting!

Love, Bess

Lucky Dip

While we were visiting Grandkids in Texas this January, we saw this done in the Fredericksburg Gem Show. It can be modified to suit church and scouting events, or other gatherings:

Visitors buy a ticket, add their name and phone number to the back, and put the completed ticket in the bucket next to the item(s) they want to win. The items are numbered and on display in a case next to the ticket buckets. At the end of the show, winning tickets are drawn from each bucket. Some of the donations were bookends of amethyst clusters, half geodes, handmade beadwork, a cabochon swan brooch, and an amulet bag with stones.

The money raised by this activity supported the Pebblepups of their club, and many of the donations were made by the kids!

Rancho Nipomo Heritage Days at Dana Adobe

Wayne Mills and Ralph Bishop represented Orcutt Mineral Society at the recent "Discover the Rancho

Day" at Rancho Nipomo (the Dana Adobe). The event, held on June 8th, featured Wayne and Ralph as gold panning forty-niners. The two gold-grubbers invited preschool as well as middle school children to share in the educational endeavor, and the young "panners" were rewarded with small specimens.

Other activities during Heritage Days included playing Chumash games, learning about primitive hunting techniques, developing their own cow branding symbol, watching weavers, candlemakers, and blacksmiths working in their trade

Funds raised by the various volunteers support the restoration of the Dana Adobe. For further information about this historical site in our backyard, call Lisa at 929-5679 or 929-4507. Or, better yet, take a little trek up there to investigate the landmark for yourself.

OMS Library

Did you know that you can borrow books on rock and fossil hunting sites? Did you know that OMS owns LOTS of educational videos that can be shown in teaching situations? Did you know that this is one of your benefits as a member of OMS?

Every month there are at least 4 videos and 4 books available at the General Meetings to check out. There is also a full list of available titles in the OMS Library binder at the front table. Next time you have questions about cabachons, wirewrapping, earthquakes, or dig sites, just remember that the OMS Library is here for you to use.

PS - the newest edition of "Metal Stone and Glass", a beautiful Australian magazine, is now here, and other issues are available.

Roadside Cleanup

Once again we will gather to clean our two-mile strip of Highway 166 on July 20th. Meet at Highway 101 and 166 at 8:00 - 9:30 a.m., for the cleanup, then join us for free coffee and pastries at Omelets and More.

WEB SITES OF NOTE

Glass Buttes OR:

<http://orerockon.com/glassbut.htm>

Good How-to site:

<http://www.frii.com/~dnorris/tipmenu.html>

Stromatolites:

http://rockhounds.com/grand_hikes/stromatolites_in_the_hakatai/

Cabochon Making Tips:

http://www.rockhounds.com/rockshop/oplc_cab.html

Giant Crystal Cave Discovered:

http://news6.thdo.bbc.co.uk/hi/english/sci/tech/newsid_787000/787776.stm

Faults in California:

<http://www.scecdc.org/nwfault.html>

Department of Conservation (CA Geological Survey):

<http://www.conserv.ca.gov/cgs/index.htm>

Oklahoma Crystal Collecting:

<http://www.brightok.net/~rockman/>



Tranquillion Peak Thunder Egg from Jalama Beach,
Collection of Charlie and Helen Azevedo

OMS Annual Gem Show

The Orcutt Mineral Society Annual Gem Show is from August 9th through 11th at St. Joseph's Church (298 S. Thompson Avenue, Nipomo). Show hours will be 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. daily.

We are currently seeking the following:

Books, and good donated materials for the Country Store. Please contact Debbie Hood (481-6860) about your items.

Donations for the Treasure Chest, and small amounts of tumbled rock for kid grab bags should be given to Bess Shields (937-0357).

We need additional volunteers in:

the Refreshment area (please call Sylvia Nasholm 481-0923),

our Country Store (contact Debbie Hood 481-6860),

on the Barbecue Crew (Don Nasholm heads this up 481-0923), and

with the Treasure Chest Table, and the Children's Resources Table (Bess Shields 937-0357).

Show Chairman, Wes Lingerfelt can always use spare hands, so give him a call at 929-3788 to volunteer.

Marshall Reeves has tickets for the raffle, and will distribute them at the July General Meeting. Call Marshall at 733-2775 for further

OMS Logo



A rock saw cutting a piece of stone was selected when the first bulletin, *ORE-CUTTS* (namesake, William Orcutt) was first published in

1966. Member Helen Azevedo was the first editor.

information.

This year's Gem Show is shaping up to be even bigger than last year! Remember, the burden is light when there are many helping hands!

July Program

Please join us at the OMS General Meeting on 9 July from 7:00-9:00 p.m. The speaker, Debbie Hood, will give us present a talk on the history of bead usage and bead making.

Also, Dick Shields will bring his new fluorescent light (36 watts each of long wave and short wave) so you can try out those suspicious specimens lurking in the garage.

This is pie night with Lisa Dabbs, Jeannie Lingerfelt, and Lucky Virgin bringing the baked delicacies.

OMS MONTHLY BREAKFAST

You are invited to join us for breakfast at The Girls, 1237 Grande Ave, Arroyo Grande on Saturday, July 27 at 8:30 a.m. We plan to pick Wes' brain about the LA saw trip, discuss the upcoming Gem Show, and get to know one another a little better. Please come join us.

SAVE THE DATES

- Placerville CFMS Show on July 12.
- La Brea Tar Pit trip in September.

Please call Wayne Mills at 481-3495 for further information.

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

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED