



Ore-Cutts

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July, 2004

NOVICE ROCKHOONDING in Arizona, New Mexico and California, Part 2

Mike & Margaret Henson, Members, Orcutt Mineral Society

After a nice layover in Los Lunas, New Mexico (22 miles south of Albuquerque) visiting wonderful friends, we headed south on Hwy 25. Our intent was to continue rock-hounding at/near Socorro, Magdalena, San Antonio, Truth or Consequences, Rincon, Hatch, and Deming before heading west on I-10.



Specimens from Lorenzo Arroyo

Our first stop was in Belen for gas at \$1.69 per gallon (explain that to me). Ten miles north of Socorro at Lorenzo Arroyo, we looked for agate, jasper and geodes. The road to the collecting area was rough, washboard with ruts and shallow washes, and the collecting site was a sandy arroyo. We walked about $\frac{3}{4}$ of a mile, found a few pieces of jasper and agate, and maybe a small 1" geode. We decided, in order to really do a proper search, we would have to come back and spend a few days.

At Socorro we took Hwy 60 to Magdalena, a distance of 27 miles and located near the Kelly, Nitt and North Graphic Mines. The mine owners allow collecting for a small fee. The Kelly Mine is famous for specimens of sky blue

smithsonite, the Nitt for nice pyrite, and at both the Nitt and North Graphic you can find azurite, barite, pyrite, bornite, iron ores, and smithsonite. We decided to make this part of our next trip, and spend a few days.

We skipped San Antonio, and went on to Truth or Consequences to spend the night. On the way, there is a location called Candy Rock, named for the banded rhyolite found there. The directions say to take 9th Street to I-25, then take the tunnel under the highway. When we got there, 9th Street ended above the highway, and the area was being worked over with construction equipment. Oh well, another time, because the rhyolite really sounded interesting (dark reddish-brown to cream with highly contrasting bands).

The next morning we headed 40 miles south to Rincon, and Rincon Quarry. The road to the quarry was very rough, but worth it. At the quarry we found lots of red and gray-banded rhyolite, small pieces of onyx (one with crystals), red jasper, and yellow jasper.

In Hatch, after stopping to buy some New Mexico Chili, we went to the rockhound site just south of town. Here we found agate, jasper, and chalcedony (at this time we had no idea what chalcedony roses looked like). There was supposed to be pink opal here, too, but if we found any, I don't know about it.

After spending the night in Deming, we went looking for a rock shop to get directions to the Lindberg Agate Claims south of Deming. We didn't find the shop, so we went east of town to Borders Rock Shop on Hwy 10 Alternate. The owner told us that MS Lindberg had passed away, and as far as she knew, the

claims were closed for the time being. We bought several samples of agate to give us a better idea of what we would look for on our next trip. It's starting to sound like we didn't do anything but plan other trips on the way home. It's just that time flies when you're having fun, and we wanted to be home for Easter.



Copper Ore from Shakespeare area

We headed for Lordsburg, and the ghost town of Shakespeare, which is 2.3 miles southwest of Lordsburg. The collecting site is about four-tenths of a mile south of Shakespeare. The town is privately owned, and tours are given on the second Sunday of the month. There are eighty-five mines listed in the area surrounding the gravel road through the Pyramid Mountains. Most are abandoned, but a few aren't, so be certain not to collect on private property. Bright blue and green copper ores, bornite, malachite, azurite, chrysocolla, lead, linarite, and countless other minerals are located in this area. We found a lot of interesting-looking stuff, including copper ores. About 3:30pm we headed back to Lordsburg, and took Hwy 90 to Silver City.

The drive was relaxing with lots of scenery, and very little traffic. We spent the night in Silver City, and decided that it would be a nice place to come back to. The next morning we headed for Mule Creek on the Arizona/New Mexico State Line. We were disappointed in this site because we read that there were Apache tears everywhere, and all we found were a few. Later we found out it was our own fault, and learned the importance of reading ALL of the directions in the guide book. What we had both missed was that you had to crawl

under the highway fence to access the Apache tear field. We'll be back.

Just before Safford off of Hwy 191, there is a location called Black Hills Rockhound Area, and is maintained expressly for the benefit of mineral collectors. Since we weren't sure what we were looking for, and there was another couple out there, we asked them for information. Wouldn't you know it, they were new at rockhounding too, and weren't sure either. Anyway, we found quite a few pieces of chalcedony. It was everywhere, and some with fire. During this time it started raining and hailing. When the lightning came in, we decided we had better leave. We spent the night in Wilcox, then traveled on to Tucson for a few days with my cousins.

From Tucson we headed north through Phoenix, and on to Wickenburg. Wickenburg was just gorgeous with lots of flowers, ocotillos, and saguaros. We went on up to Desert Roses, but the road was impassable due to the last rainstorm washing out spots. So, we went on to a site named Date Creek. Here the road was much better. We searched for quartz crystals, but just found a few broken pieces. However on the way out we found some real nice specimens along the road.

We returned to Wickenburg, and collected at a site to the northeast called Wickenburg Nodules. We found lots of rhyolite containing small crystals, and geodes (we were a little disappointed to find out later that they weren't geodes).



Nodules from the Wickenburg area

If anyone has been curious about where we had been putting all the rocks we were picking

up, it's like this: when we started out we were placing them in all the cracks between things. Then as we ate all the camping food for lunches and snacks, drank the water and soda, gave gifts to good children in Los Lunas, and sold the tent in Tucson, we had space for rocks. ;-)

From Wickenburg we headed to Brenda on Hwy 60. Brenda is 3 miles before you get to Hwy I-10. There are two sites here featuring agate, jasper chalcedony, and colorful "Brenda Jasper". I haven't taken a close look yet at what we picked up, but Margaret says it's incredible.

We went through Quartzsite, and took Hwy 95 up to Parker where we spent the night. Heading west on Hwy 95, we reached Big River and its offerings of botryoidal chalcedony with drusy quartz, jasper, and agate. We found very little jasper, but lots of small pieces of chalcedony and quartz.



Rocks from the Turtle Mountain rockhounding area

We continued north on 95 to Turtle Mountain for snowy chalcedony roses. The road to the collecting area was very long (10 miles), and bumpy, but passable. We found lots of beautiful pieces of pure white chalcedony and later, when Wayne Mills showed me what a rose was, we found out that we had indeed picked up some chalcedony roses (Yea!). We spent the night in Barstow, and arrived back home in Santa Maria the 9th of April.

We had a great trip, and are learning more and more about rock hounding. On the route we took, there were probably another 100 to

150 sites we could have visited. We are really looking forward to going back to some, and visiting some we missed.

Fred Summerson Passes

Fred Summerson, master silversmith and Australian opal expert, passed away peacefully on June 2, 2004 in Lompoc, CA. Fred shared his love of Australian opals with all who wanted to learn the "proper way to address an opal". He was an active participant in OASIS Senior Center's "Silversmithing and Faceting Classes" and OMS until cancer prevented him from attending. He will be greatly missed by his friends and students.

Cards of condolence may be sent to Rose, Fred's beloved wife, at 981 Cynthia Drive, Lompoc CA 93436.

Help Needed for OMS Show

SNACK BAR

Our Rock show is only one month away. A few generous souls have volunteered to help in the snack bar, but I could use a LOT more help. Please consider helping, either in the snack bar or one of the many other jobs that need it. Snack Bar shifts will be three hours – 10 to 1, and 1 to 4 Friday, Saturday, and Sunday.

Once again, I will need a pie from each family to sell in the snack bar. No cream or custard pies, please. Bring your pie Friday or Saturday. If you need help delivering it, please call me. Your donations provide extra money for the scholarship fund, and are a huge crowd pleaser with the dealers, and the public as well.

If you will be unable to attend the July meeting, please call me at 481-0923 to sign up. Or, if you have any questions, don't hesitate to call me.

Thank you! Sylvia

Treasure Chest & Hospitality

Once again our OMS Rainbow of Gems Show is nearing. One way to raise revenue for our club is by having a Treasure Chest Raffle drawing. The raffle will be held on Sunday, August 8th at 4:00 p.m. A big thanks for all the wonderful donations already received.

With much appreciation, Dee Dee Magri

Orcutt Mineral Society

Board Meeting

Mussell Senior Center, Santa Maria CA

1 June, 2004

Call to Order at 7:00 p.m. by President Deborah Hood. Board members present were Sharon Duncan, Bill Hood, Debbie Hood, Wes Lingerfelt, Geary Sheffer, Bess Shields, Lucky Virgin, Sylvia Nasholm, Wayne Mills, Immediate Past President, and Dick Shields, Past President.

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

Minutes of the previous Board Meeting were approved as published.

Correspondence:

- Sun Valley Indian School newsletter.
- *Lapidarian* newsletter from Santa Cruz Mineral & Gem Society.
- *Yellowstone Deposit* newsletter from Billings (Montana) Gem & Mineral Club.

Committee Reports:

Bulletin (Ore-Cutts): Bess Shields reported that the Ore-Cutts won three awards at the CFMS Mariposa Show last weekend. "Kay Vollmer: the Jade Lady", "The Korean Order", and judging of our overall newsletter format won OMS recognition. Also, OMS won the silver plaque for the CFMS "All American Small Club".

CFMS: Wes Lingerfelt attended the Director's Meeting on Saturday in Mariposa. One item of concern was that insurance and CFMS dues must now be paid for all honorary members.

Library, Books, Videos: OMS will be displaying at the main Santa Maria Library during June and July. Members are encouraged to loan their specimens to Dick and Bess Shields for the exhibit. Library set-up will be on Monday, June 7th from 8 to 10 am.

Show: Wes Lingerfelt announced that we had a cancellation in the hall, and 5 tables now need to be rented. Wes reported that the squirrel population has tripled in the last year since a neighbor has been disposing leftover foodstuffs in the squirrel area. Rosie (from the church) says that the field will be professionally plowed this year prior to the Gem Show.

Sunshine: Debbie Hood reported that she, Bill, and Kay Vollmer were in an auto accident, and

Debbie is back in a knee brace. Fred Summerson is resting at home on heavy sedation. Don Nasholm is anxious to return to normal activities, and tired of being sick. Helen Bishop had a severe allergic reaction, and is recuperating at home with Ralph's assistance. Lucky Virgin faces surgery next week. Elaine VonAchen is recovering from severe bronchitis.

Old / unfinished business: Wes Lingerfelt is organizing the Annual Picnic, and will get a list from Don Nasholm on preparations and supplies needed for the event. Marshall Reeves will again conduct the Silent Auction.

New business: Debbie Hood reminded members about the OMS Breakfast on June 26th, the Brea Creek field trip on June 12th, and the Annual Picnic this Saturday.

Meeting was adjourned at 7:46 p.m. by President Hood.

Respectfully submitted,
Bess Shields, Secretary, OMS

Orcutt Mineral Society

General Meeting

Pioneer Park, Santa Maria CA

5 June, 2004

The Annual OMS Barbecue and Silent Auction were held at Pioneer Park with 40 members in attendance. Wes Lingerfelt deserves special thanks for accomplishing all of the shopping, and lining up the barbecue crew. Thanks to the barbecue crew of Lucky Virgin, Don Nasholm, Truman Burgess, JT Mock, and Wes Lingerfelt. The meal featured top block sirloin, roasted corn, a vast assortment of salads, beans, toasted garlic bread, and a multitude of desserts.

The Silent Auction was also a great success thanks to everyone who donated materials and participated. The final tally for funds raised at the Silent Auction was \$96.50. Bess Shields conducted the auction, and thanks all members who donated slabs, and specimens for this event.

Respectfully submitted,
Bess Shields, Secretary, OMS

HOODS SAY THANKS!

Bill and Debbie Hood extend a special thank you to Marty Lingerfelt for his assistance following the Hood's recent automobile accident. Marty

handled the situation calmly and methodically, and his efforts were greatly appreciated!

The Wanderer Goldbug Gala Highlights

Our long weekend in Mariposa at the CFMS Goldbug Gala was incredibly rewarding. CFMS recognized OMS as an energetic, functional club, and earning numerous awards proved this to be true.

Paul Patrick's article on "The Korean Order" caught the attention of the judges. The biographical piece on "Kay Vollmer: the Jade Lady" was also selected as a winner. And, *The Ore-Cutts* won as one of the top ten newsletters in CFMS.



Our editor accepting the newsletter awards

CFMS also recognized our club as the Silver Winner in the Small Club category (see separate CFMS article about this award).

Numerous OMS members made the trek to Mariposa for the show. Wes Lingerfelt and Marshall Reeves attended the CFMS business meetings, and enjoyed two days of renewing old friendships. Wayne Mills showed up at noon on Saturday, but could only spend a couple of hours taking in the sights before he had to head out. Sharon Duncan and her sister popped in for the museum and mine tour, and enjoyed a big shopping spree buying new wirewrapping materials.

The Fluorescent Mineral Society tent contained numerous displays that were admired by young and old alike. Bill Gardner's new "Ul-

traRev", and "Fluorarium" attracted lots of attention because of their professional designs.

Dick and I handed out educational materials about various fluorescent minerals, and distributed copies of the CA Dept of Conservation, Division of Mines and Geology note #11: Benitoite. The weekend was physically exhausting, mentally stimulating, and educationally important. What we learn about our avocation needs to be passed on to newcomers, youth, and curious visitors. This weekend provided us with an opportunity to share our knowledge, and we look forward to sharing again at future events. Happy Hunting, Love, Bess

Web Sites of Note:

July 2004

A fairly fast mounting technique:

<http://www.mineralcollecting.org/articles>

Managing a collection:

<http://rockhoundingar.com/collections/sizes.html>

High Desert Rock Collecting Sites:

<http://www.highdesertinsider.com/html/caljasp.htm>

California Federation of Mineralogical Societies:

<http://www.cfmsinc.org/>

American Federation of Mineralogical Societies:

<http://www.amfed.org/>

Check our OMS web site at

<http://omsinc.org> or send email to
oms@ix.netcom.com.

Official Stuff

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 La Brea 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.



Orcutt Mineral Society, Inc.

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.

2004 OMS Elected Officers

President	Debbie Hood	(805) 481-6860
President Elect	Lucky Virgin	(805) 929-9525
Secretary	Bess Shields	(805) 937-0357
Treasurer	Wes Lingerfelt	(805) 929-3788
Immediate Past President	Wayne Mills	(805) 481-3495
CFMS Representative	Wes Lingerfelt	(805) 929-3788

2004 OMS Board Members

Geary Sheffer	(805) 925-8009
Sylvia Nasholm	(805) 481-0923
Bill Hood	(805) 481-6860
Sharon Duncan	(805) 929-2209
Marshall Reeves	(805) 588-8932

Orcutt Editors

Dick and Bess Shields	(805) 937-0357
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Webmasters

Dick Shields	(805) 937-0357
Wes Lingerfelt	(805) 929-3788

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Orcutt Membership dues are \$15 per year. Junior Membership is \$7.50. New membership dues are pro-rated from January 1st of the first year.

July 2004 Calendar

Tuesday July 6, 2004 7:00 PM - 8:30 PM	Orcutt Board Meeting -- Mussell Senior Center. All members are welcome at this business meeting.
Saturday July 10, 2004 8:30 AM - 5:00 PM	Field Trip to Vandenberg Beaches -- Meet at Mussell Senior Center Parking Lot Bring a valid government issued picture ID (i.e., CA driver's license) and proof of auto insurance for each vehicle. Also bring plenty of water and a lunch. Call Dick Shields at 937-0357 for details
Tuesday July 13, 2004 7:00 PM - 9:00 PM	Orcutt General Meeting -- Mussell Senior Center. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Program: "Displaying" by Wayne Mills • Display: Best 1 X 1 (foot) Display • Refreshment: Pie
Saturday July 17, 2004 8:00 - 10:00 AM	Orcutt Highway Cleanup -- Intersection of Highway 101 and 166 After the cleanup we have coffee and pastry at yet to be determined location. Contact Marshall Reeves at 733-2775 for details.
Saturday July 24, 2004 8:15 AM - 9:15 AM	Orcutt Monthly Breakfast - Call Ken Kreh at 343-7749 for details.

August 2004 Calendar

Tuesday August 3, 2004 7:00 PM - 8:30 PM	Orcutt Board Meeting -- Mussell Senior Center. All members are welcome at this business meeting.
Friday - Sunday August 6-8, 2004 10:00 AM - 5:00 PM	37th Annual OMS Gem Show - - St Joseph's Church, 298 South Thompson Avenue, Nipomo. For details go to http://www.omsinc.org/tailgate.html For reservations call Wes Lingerfelt at (805) 929-3788 or Debbie Hood at (805) 481-6860
Tuesday August 10, 2004 7:00 PM - 9:00 PM	Orcutt General Meeting -- Mussell Senior Center <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Program: OMS Gem Show Recap, Pictures from Show • Display: Agates from everywhere • Refreshment: Cookies
Saturday August 28, 2004 8:15 AM - 9:15 AM	Orcutt Monthly Breakfast - Call Ken Kreh at 343-7749 for details.

September 2004 Calendar	
Tuesday September 7, 2004 7:00 PM - 8:30 PM	OMS Board Meeting -- Mussell Senior Center. All members are welcome at this business meeting.
Saturday September 11, 2004 9:00 AM - 4:30 PM	Field Trip to Los Padres Forest -- Meet at Mussell Senior Center Parking Lot. Explore a local private ranch with an interesting green chert deposit and fossil shells. Accessible for 2 wheel drive vehicles and no hiking required. Bring lunch and water to drink.
Tuesday September 14, 2004 7:00 PM - 9:00 PM	OMS General Meeting -- Mussell Senior Center. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Program: "Lost Wax Casting" by Jan Ferguson • Display: Minerals - massive, crystalline, mysterious • Refreshment: Cake and Cupcakes
Saturday September 18, 2004 8:00 - 10:00 AM	OMS Highway Cleanup -- Intersection of Highway 101 and 166 After the cleanup we have coffee and pastry at a yet to be determined location. Contact Marshall Reeves at 733-2775 for details.
Saturday September 25, 2004 8:15 AM - 9:15 AM	OMS Monthly Breakfast – Call Ken Kreh at 343-7749 for details.

“Omelets and More” is No More

Ken Kreh is off seeking a new location for the OMS Monthly Breakfast because our favorite gath-

ering spot has been sold. We thank the management of “Omelets and More” for their hospitality and service over the years, and wish them well. Watch this space to learn where we will gather in the future.

37th Annual OMS Gem Show

Earth's Treasures - Rocks - Minerals - Gems
Exhibits - Tailgaters - Demonstrations - Lapidary Equipment
St Joseph's Church
298 South Thompson Avenue
Nipomo, California

3 Big Days! 10 AM-5 PM
August 6th, 7th, 8th 2004

ONE-OF-A-KIND CRAFTED STONE
MERCHANDISE FROM ALL OVER THE
WORLD. ROCK BOTTOM PRICES!
RAFFLES! PRIZES!
FOOD ON SALE!

MONSTER SANTA MARIA STYLE BBQ ON
SATURDAY NIGHT ONLY \$7.50 FOR
ADULTS, \$3.50 FOR KIDS 12 AND UNDER.
Free Parking – Free Admission!

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

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