



Ore-Cutts

Volume XXXVIII, Issue VI

June, 2003

Soapstone Carving

Wayne Mills, President, Orcutt Mineral Society

Last month Wayne Mills presented an excellent General Meeting talk on "Soapstone Carving". Wayne described his soapstone acquisition experiences, educational sources, and numerous techniques on how to get started in this interesting pursuit.



Wayne's Pig Bear, Bowl and carved Mushroom

Wayne stated that, "I started carving soapstone at Camp Paradise about 5 years ago. At the carving area, I found a piece of white soapstone on the ground and determined I would carve a bear out of it. For the first 4 days I worked on it, everyone who saw it said, "What a cute pig". Then, on the 5th day, it became a bear!"

During his talk, Wayne passed around soapstone samples for us to keep, and invited us to see his completed works on the front table following the presentation. Wayne described carving as "hard to teach, but easy to learn by doing. It is a great exercise for hand eye coordination, and it is very fulfilling to take a piece from rough rock to a smooth and shiny piece of art. The time it takes to carve a sculpture is as

long as it takes until you are satisfied with your piece."

One item in particular was unique: a masculine necklace. Wayne explained, "I have found soapstone in several California locations, and have made beads from each of these locations for a necklace. Places I have found soapstone are: Willow Creek, and Jade Cove in Monterey County; Camp Paradise, and Reservoir Lake in Yuba County; Lotus in El Dorado County; near Coulterville in Mariposa County; and about 5 miles north of Coulterville in Tuolumne County. I am still looking for deposits rumored to be in San Luis Obispo and Santa Barbara Counties. I have acquired pieces of the material from near Valley Springs in El Dorado Co. (sandy gold); the Pulga River in Plumas County (dark green); Olancha in Inyo Co. (white with gray streaks), and southwestern Montana (white material with gray dendrites)."



Carved "Knight" and Wayne's Initials

In closing, Wayne said, "I hope that you will find carving soapstone as enjoyable as I do. And if you do some carvings from this material, please bring in your creations and share them with us. Everyone has a different idea about what and how they want to create their art, and

those ideas can be inspirational to the rest of us. Even if you think your carving is not the greatest, it might fire someone else's imagination."

Thank you, Wayne, for sharing your skills, techniques, and love of soapstone carving with us!

SCHOLARSHIP PRESENTED

Wayne Mills, Scholarship Chairperson

On March 22, I was privileged to present the annual Orcutt Mineral Society Earth Science Scholarship (OMSESS) at Alan Hancock College's annual awards event. The Thursday night affair was held at the Santa Maria Elk's Club since the Hancock Gym was undergoing renovation.

The OMS award went to Tracy L. Curry, a second year student who plans to transfer to San Diego State College, one of my alma maters. There, she hopes to pursue a BS in Geology or Earth Science. Tracy said that she thought about Astronomy, but really enjoys all the earth sciences. She is off to the Colorado Plateau this summer for a field geology class.

When I gave Tracy the traditional rose, there was an audible "aah" (the "isn't that sweet" kind) from the audience. Tracy sounds enthusiastic about attending a future OMS meeting. She was one of 174 students who received over \$155,000 in scholarships Thursday night.

I took the opportunity to invite the audience to our August show, explaining that the show helps fund our annual scholarships.

Gold

by Tony Fender in *The Rockhounder*, 12/02 via *The Pegmatite*, 3/03 and *CFMS Newsletter* 5/03

Technically, Gold is a face-centered cubic crystal structure with an atomic number of 79, a specific gravity of 19.2 - 19.3, depending on work hardening, atomic weight of 197.2 (although in 1959 the international atomic weight was listed as 197.0 and in 1966 relisted as 196.967). Its symbol is Au and it has a melting

point of 1063° C (1945° F). The thermal conductivity of pure gold is 3.18 Watt/(cm ° K) at 273 ° K, and 2.51 Watt/(cm ° K) at 1300° K.

Gold artifacts have been found dating back to 3000 B.C., making it probably the second metal to be worked by man, after copper. All the gold ever found, if it were cast into a single ingot, would be a block 20 yards cube, and weigh about 20,000 tons.



Crystalline California Gold

One ounce of gold when flattened would cover over 100 square feet, or when drawn, would make a single wire almost a mile long. Gold purity is measured by Karat, with 24K being pure. 12 Karat is 50% gold and 50% alloy material. Electrum is a combination of 50% gold and 50% silver, and for a gold/silver mix, it is the ratio which gives the hardest metal. Adding copper to gold, up to 18%, reduces the melting point of the alloy to 880° C. To reduce the melt point further, add silver.

Gold filled is a base metal which has been clad with gold, then rolled to make sheets or drawn to make wire. 1/20 G.E. means that the ingot which was made was clad with 5% gold before it was rolled. Usually, this is done by cladding 12K gold 10% by weight on the base metal.

There are numerous different alloys popularly used, some of which are listed here:

Purity	Type	Composition
22K	Yellow	92% gold, 4% silver, 4% copper
	Coinage	90% gold, 10% silver
18 K	Yellow	75% gold, 15% silver, 10% copper
	Rose	0% gold, 75% silver, 5% copper, 20% zinc
	White	75% gold, 25% palladium
14 K	Yellow	58% gold, 25% silver, 17% copper
	Rose	0% gold, 58% silver, 10% copper, 32% zinc
	White	58% gold, 42% palladium

Please note that Rose Gold has no actual gold in it.

Orcutt Mineral Society

Board Meeting

Mussell Senior Center, Santa Maria, CA

6 May, 2003

The Board Meeting was called to order by President Wayne Mills at 7:03 p.m.

Board Members present were Bill and Deborah Hood, Wes Lingerfelt, Sylvia Nasholm, Marshall Reeves, Geary Sheffer, Bess Shields, and Past President Dick Shields.

Minutes of the April 1 Board Meeting and April 8 General Meeting were approved as published.

Treasurer's Report:

Wes Lingerfelt read the Treasurer's Report. It was accepted as read.

Committee Reports:

Adopt-a-Highway: Marshall Reeves reminded us of the cleanup on May 17th at 8:00 a.m., followed by breakfast at Omelets & More.

Bulletin (Ore-Cutts): Bess Shields reported that the May issue was published.

CFMS: Wes Lingerfelt announced the Camp Paradise dates, and suggested that a short article should appear in the Ore-Cutts.

Education: Marshall will teach 100 youth on July 9th at the Lompoc Library, and is seeking assistance on the project. The theme is "The Earth's Treasures", and will

be geared for kindergarten through middle school aged children.

Field Trips: Dick Shields reported a successful trip to Santa Agueda. He reminded us that the Brea Canyon trip will be on May 10th. Wes Lingerfelt and Dick reported on the successful Bakersfield Show held last weekend. Additionally, a trip to Salty's Ranch will be held on June 14th. We will be joined by Santa Lucia Rockhounds, and will be their guests the following weekend at a nearby site. Santa Lucia invites us on their trip to Figueroa Mountain next weekend. A trip to Vandenberg AFB beaches is scheduled in July. An "old Highway 99" trip is being planned for the fall.

Hostess: Wayne will ask Dee Dee Magri to fill this position as General Meeting hostess.

Scholarship: Wayne asked Wes Lingerfelt to prepare scholarship checks for Hancock College and Cuesta College.

Show:

BBQ: Marshall Reeves will take over the Barbecue responsibilities.

Country Store: Debbie Hood will run the Country Store in Room 4, and will ask for volunteers at the General Meeting.

John Von Achen will plow the field soon at the Gem Show site.

Sunshine: Debbie Hood reported that Linda Virgin is undergoing chemotherapy. Wes Lingerfelt is still recuperating. Marjorie Hoogenbosch had back surgery. John Mock is doing well. Kay Vollmer is doing better.

Correspondence:

- *Dinny's Doins* newsletter from Fossils for Fun.
- Sun Valley Indian School newsletter.
- *Tumble Rumble* newsletter from Capistrano Valley Rock & Mineral Club.
- *The Agatizer* newsletter from South Bay (Torrance) Club.
- *Rocky Review* newsletter from Conejo Gem & Mineral Club.
- *Rockhound Notes* newsletter.
- Notice of Updated BLM Public Meetings schedule.
- Adopt a Wild Horse or Burro program announcement.
- Kern County Mineral Society Gem Show announcement.

Old / Unfinished Business:

Wayne Mills will contact Desert Gardens Gem & Mineral in response to their request to distribute show flyers on our hostess table.

New Business:

Lucky and Linda Virgin have resigned from the Board due to Linda's serious medical condition. Wayne Mills is

seeking volunteers to serve the remaining months. Bill Hood volunteered to fill one position. The Board will seek a second volunteer at next week's General Meeting.

The Program for next week's meeting will be Wayne Mills' "Soapstone Carving". Display table will be "Best 1' x 1' Display". Refreshments will be cake. The Board Meeting was adjourned at 8:05 p.m. by President Mills.

Respectfully submitted,
Bess Shields, Secretary, OMS

Orcutt Mineral Society

General Meeting
Mussell Senior Center, Santa Maria CA
13 May, 2003

Call to Order at 7:10 p.m. by President Wayne Mills. Invocation was given by Bess Shields on "Our Constant". Flag Salute was led by Fred Summerson.

Fred Summerson reported that 23 members, and 2 guests were present.

Treasurer's Report was read by Wayne Mills, and accepted as read.

Minutes of the previous Board Meeting were approved as amended.

Committee Reports:

Redbook: Wes Lingerfelt asked members to sign for their new Redbooks at the Welcoming Table.

Scholarship: Wayne Mills reported that the scholarship checks will be awarded at a dinner on May 23rd.

Field Trips: Dick Shields reported that the Brea Creek trip turned into a Carrizo Plains Exploration. Only one other club member, Geary Sheffer, was able to attend. Samples of Glauberite, Halite and Thenardite were brought back. The June Field Trip will be at Salty Tapper's property. Meet at San Miguel Mission on 14 June at 9:00 a.m. Santa Lucia Rock Club has invited us to their 21 June trip which will be near Parkfield. More information will appear in the Ore-Cutts.

Hospitality: Wayne thanked Sylvia Nasholm for setting up refreshments tonight.

Sheriff: Bill Hood didn't catch anyone tonight because we didn't have nametags available at the sign-in table.

Correspondence:

(Show fliers, exchange bulletins, and notices announced under correspondence are at the hostess table following the business portion of the meeting, and during refreshment time, for members to view.)

- *Dinny's Doins* newsletter.
- Sun Valley Indian School newsletter.

- *Tumble Rumble* newsletter from Capistrano Valley Rock & Mineral Club.
- *Rocky Review* newsletter from Conejo Gem & Mineral Club.
- *The Agatizer* newsletter from South Bay (Torrance) Club.
- *Rockhound Notes* newsletter.
- Notice of Updated BLM Public Meetings schedule.
- Adopt a Wild Horse or Burro program announcement.

Old / Unfinished Business:

Everyone is invited to the Ventura AFMS/CFMS Gem-Show on June 5-8th. Be sure to look for exhibits by OMS members Paul Patrick, Wayne Mills, and Dick Shields.

Marjorie Hoogenbosch thanked everyone for giving pull tabs to the Ronald McDonald House project.

New Business:

The June Board Meeting is scheduled for Veterans' Memorial Hall on June 3rd, 7 pm. The General Meeting in June is our annual BBQ Picnic at Pioneer Park on June 21st.

We have two Board positions which need to be filled for the remainder of the term due to Lucky and Linda Virgin leaving their posts due to illness. Sharon Duncan, and Bill Hood volunteered to serve. Our thanks to both members for their contribution.

Marshall Reeves is seeking assistance for talks on May 30th for approximately 60 school children at Battle School. Please contact him if you can help.

Following the break for refreshments, Wayne Mills presented a talk on "Soapstone Carving".

The raffle was held after the program. Meeting was adjourned at 8:55 p.m. by President Mills.

Respectfully submitted,
Bess Shields, Secretary, OMS

June Field trip to Salty's Ranch

Join us on a unique field trip to Salty's Ranch on Saturday, June 14th. where we plan to collect jasper formed near the San Andreas Fault. The Santa Maria carpoolers will meet at Mussell Senior Center parking lot at 7:30 a.m. We will then re-gather at the Mission San Miguel gift shop area by 9:00 a.m. before proceeding to Salty's. This is a riverbed collecting trip, so massive exertion and carrying are not required. The host even has an ATV with trailer to help us bring back especially heavy beauties.

Please bring sunscreen, plenty of water, a hat, and your lunch (we'll be way out there in the country...). We should be finished by 5:00 p.m., but you know how carried away rockhounds can get.

Joint Santa Lucia Rockhound/OMS Field Trip 19th of July, 2003

We have been invited by the Santa Lucia Rockhounds to a joint educational field trip on Saturday, July 19th. Bea and Sherm Griselle have developed an indoor mini-museum which holds the best of their collection. Their ranch is located in the Adelaida area west of Paso Robles.

In addition, their extensive outdoor rock pile storage areas are worthy of inspection. This is an educational field trip, and not a collecting trip. The ranch will be available for hiking if members wish to walk some trails on beautiful rural property, and enjoy the wonderful country atmosphere.

Please contact Dick Shields, Field Trip Chairman, at 937-0357 so we can give Bea and Sherm an idea of how many OMS members wish to attend.

The Wanderer Cruizin' Carrizo

Since our turnout was slim for the scheduled field trip to Brea Creek, the group decided to explore the Carrizo Plains National Monument instead.. What a wonderful adventure, and well worth the time!



"Speedy" the fuzzy caterpillar on fresh salt

We began the journey at Highway 166, east of Cuyama, and worked our way north on Soda Lake Road. We inspected the mineral deposits at mile 2.5, walked amid swarms of ladybugs, watched lizards, jackrabbits, and fuzzy-wuzzy caterpillars hurry across the soda flats. At Traver Ranch (about mile

16) we inspected numerous pieces of dry farming equipment from the 1940's which are on display.

We continued north, paralleling the Temblor Range, sometimes coming within a mile of the San Andreas fault zone. To our west, the Caliente Range showed evidence of numerous abandoned mining camps. KCL Campground, at mile 20, provided a pleasant lunch stop with numerous shade trees, picnic tables, and portable toilets.

A visit to the Education Center was an informative experience. Ann Chadwick, the visitor center coordinator, spent quite a bit of time explaining the geology of the area, showing us samples of halite (NaCl), thenardite which is also called mirabilite or glauber's salt ($\text{Na}_2\text{SO}_4 \cdot 10\text{H}_2\text{O}$), and glauberite ($\text{Na}_2\text{SO}_4 \cdot 10\text{H}_2\text{O}$) which all came from Soda Lake. She's a bit of a rockhound herself, and answered all of our questions about the geology of the Carrizo Plains and San Andreas Fault.



Pronghorn Antelope in tall wild oats

Painted Rock is temporarily closed due to ongoing restoration. We hope to see it on another trip. We photographed numerous antelope, and spotted hawks swirling in the dust devils and thermals between the visitor center and California City. Mirages were observed on the Soda Lake, too!

We came away with a few rock samples, and a greater appreciation of the newest national monument. We'll plan another jaunt in the near future. Care to join us!

Happy Hunting,
Love, Bess

Opportunities for Service

It's almost OMS Gem Show time again. This is our opportunity to welcome friends, neighbors, and fellow rock-hounds from other rock clubs to the central coast. It takes a lot of coordination, but with everyone doing just a little, we can accomplish much! An hour of volunteering in the kitchen, welcoming guests at the Hostess Table, directing visitors to the demonstrator tables, and answering the numerous questions about our club is all it takes.

So, you aren't sure who to contact? Just give the following chairmen a call, and say, "I'd like to help out!" Together, we can make it bigger, better, friendlier, and more fun!

Chairman	Wayne Mills
Co-chair	Debbie Hood
Dealers	Wes Lingerfelt
Exhibits	Bess Shields
Country Store	Debbie Hood
Treasure Adventure	Wayne Mills
Snack Bar	Sylvia Nasholm
Treasure Chest	Dee Dee Magri
Demonstrations	Bess Shields
Decorations	Ralph Bishop
Grab Bags	Bess Shields
Hostess	Dee Dee Magri
Electrical	Wes Lingerfelt
Publicity	Wayne Mills
Signs	Don Nasholm, Wes Lingerfelt
Security	Marshall Reeves
Show Layout	Wes Lingerfelt
Skirting, set-up & clean-up	All members
Thursday Dinner	Sylvia Nasholm

May Highway Cleanup

Many thanks to the nine OMS members who participated in the May Highway 166 Cleanup. Sharon Duncan, Bob Bullock, Marshall Reeves, Wayne Mills, Don Nasholm, Dick Shields, Geary Sheffer, Ralph Bishop, and Wes Lingerfelt met after the cleanup at Omelets and More. Apparently, Ralph had a few tales to tell about a recent trip, so it was a lively breakfast!

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.



OMS Logo

A rock saw cutting a piece of stone was selected when the first bulletin, *ORE-CUTTS* (name-sake, William Orcutt) was first published in 1966. Member Helen Azevedo was the first editor.

2003 OMS Elected Officers

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

2003 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) 733-2775

Ore-Cutts Editors

Dick and Bess Shields	(805) 937-0357
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Check our OMS web site at the new location,
<http://oms.home.netcom.com> or send email
 to oms@ix.netcom.com.

June 2003 Calendar

Tuesday June 03, 2003 7:00 PM - 8:30 PM	OMS Board Meeting -- Shields' home, 937-0357. All members are welcome at this business meeting
Saturday June 14, 2003 7:30 AM - 5:00 PM	Field Trip to San Miguel Area -- Meet at Mussell Senior Center Parking Lot at 0730 or at Mission San Miguel near the Gift Shop at 0900.
Saturday June 21, 2003 10:00 AM - 3:00 PM	OMS Annual Picnic -- Pioneer Park, Orcutt Meat, bread, and sodas are provided. Bring your own plates, silverware, and a side dish to share. We also suggest bringing a lawn chair for comfort.
Saturday June 28, 2003 8:30 AM - 9:30 AM	Monthly OMS Breakfast -- Baker's Square, Santa Maria Breakfast location alternates between Baker's Square in Santa Maria and The Girl's in Arroyo Grande. Call Dick Shields at 937-0357 for details.

July 2003 Calendar

Tuesday July 01, 2003 7:00 PM - 8:30 PM	OMS Board Meeting -- Mussell Senior Center. All members are welcome at this business meeting
Tuesday July 08, 2003 7:00 PM - 9:00 PM	OMS General Meeting -- Mussell Senior Center <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Program: OMS Annual Show Preparations • Display: Petrified Wood • Refreshment: Pies
Saturday July 12, 2003 8:00 AM - 6:00 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.
Saturday July 19, 2003 8:00 AM - 10:00 AM	OMS Highway Cleanup -- Intersection of Hwy 101 and Hwy 166 After the cleanup we have coffee and pastry at "Omelets and More" in Nipomo. Contact Marshall Reeves at 733-2775 for details.
Saturday July 26, 2003 8:30 AM - 9:30 AM	Monthly OMS Breakfast -- Girl's Restaurant, Arroyo Grande Breakfast location alternates between Baker's Square in Santa Maria and The Girl's in Arroyo Grande. Call Dick Shields at 937-0357 for details.

August 2003 Calendar

Tuesday August 05, 2003 7:00 PM - 8:30 PM	OMS Board Meeting -- Mussell Senior Center. All members are welcome at this business meeting
Friday - Sunday August 08 - August 10, 2003 10:00 AM - 5:00 PM	36th Annual OMS Gem Show -- St Joseph's Church, 298 South Thompson Avenue, Nipomo. For details go to http://home.netcom.com/~shields6/tailgate.html For reservations call Wes Lingerfelt at (805) 929-3788 or Wayne Mills at (805) 481-3495
Tuesday August 12, 2003 7:00 PM - 9:00 PM	OMS General Meeting -- Mussell Senior Center Program: OMS Annual Show Recap Display: Amazing Agates Refreshment: Cookies
Saturday August 23, 2003 8:30 AM - 9:30 AM	Monthly OMS Breakfast -- Baker's Square, Santa Maria Breakfast location alternates between Baker's Square in Santa Maria and The Girl's in Arroyo Grande. Call Dick Shields at 937-0357 for details.

AFMS/CFMS Seaside GEMboree

Thursday through Sunday, 5,6,7 & 8 June, 2003
 Thur-Sat 10 am - 6 pm and Sun 10 am - 5 pm
 Seaside Park (formerly Ventura Fairground)
 10 W. Harbor Blvd, Ventura
 info: <http://www.afms-cfmsgemshow.org>

Web Sites of Note:

June 2003

State Resource Maps online:

http://legacy.ca.gov/new_atlas.epl

Wildflower hotline:

<http://info@theodorepayne.org/>

Carrizo Plain National Monument:

<http://www.ca.blm.gov/bakersfield/carrizoplain.html>

Rock Doctor:

<http://www.cobweb.net/~bug2/rock1.htm>Flying Reptile, *Thalassodromeus sethi*:http://www.jpoinstitute.com/news/jn_thal.jsp

Soapstone Sculpture:

<http://www.sandycline.com/sculpture>

American Federation of Mineralogical Societies:

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

California Federation of Mineralogical Societies:

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

36th 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 8th, 9th, 10th 2003

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 SATUR-
DAY NIGHT ONLY \$7.50 FOR ADULTS, \$3.50 FOR
KIDS 12 AND UNDER.

Free Parking – Free Admission!

At the AFMS/CFMS Seaside GEMboree from
5-8 June in Ventura – look for displays by OMS
club members Paul Patrick, Wayne Mills, and
Dick Shields (of course, his glows).

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

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

Want Ads

Jeannie Lingerfelt has a freezer for sale. The actual size is debatable (Wes wasn't sure) but the price is certain (a bargain) - \$100. Call her at 929-3788.

Remember to put out hand bills for the Gem Show when you visit public places, the doctor's office, and anywhere else the public might see them. Also, Marshall Reeves is hosting a competition for most Gem Show raffle tickets sold. Prize is a very fine sphere (we've seen it, but it's camera shy) that will be featured in the next bulletin.

Reminder: we are still supporting the Sun Valley Indian School with Campbell's Soup labels.

OMS 2003 PICNIC INFORMATION

June 21st 10 am to 3 pm

Silent Auction

Pioneer Park, West Foster Road, Orcutt

Meat, bread and soda provided

Please bring a dish or dessert to share