



Ore-Cutts

Volume XLIX Number 6

June 2015

The Pres Box—June 2015

Dyana Cridelich, OMS President 2015



It's hard to believe that we are already halfway through 2015 and that the Summer Solstice is almost here. Solstice translates into "sun standing still". For 3-4 days, the sun rises and sets in nearly identical places before continuing on. This is the meteorological start of

summer and June 21st is the longest day of the year. So grab your favorite beverage and enjoy the season, because for many of us, it is much too short.

Speaking of enjoying the season, one of our most pleasurable activities of the year is the **Semi-annual Meeting and Potluck Picnic at Pioneer Park**. It has a little bit of everything for everyone: amazing food, a first-rate silent auction and wonderful fellowship. Make sure to save the date and time: June 6th from 11:00am till 3:00pm. We will be eating at 12:00pm. The Club will provide the meat, bread, coffee and tea. **Remember to bring your favorite dish to share, whatever drinks you prefer, your own table settings (plates, cups, silverware and tablecloth) and last but not least, rocks for the silent auction.** The silent auction is truly a highlight of the day, so come early to chat and to browse the auction table.

The Santa Lucia Club in Paso Robles had another wonderful show. The new venue at the Fairgrounds was well received with lots of dealers and our own Rock Doctor, Wayne Mills, doing what he does best. Thanks to the Nasholm's, the Lingerfelt's, the Von Achen's and to Wayne Mills for

supporting their fellow rock hounds with their beautiful showcases.

Thanks to all of you who participated in the **Third Annual Tailgate Sale at the Von Achen's Barn**. Everyone seemed to have a wonderful time and many commented on the great deals they received. Special thanks go out to Elaine Von Achen, who went out of her way to feed all the workers such yummy lunches.

I've heard only good things concerning our program on the Rhodochrosite mine. It was very well done. I never envisioned Rhodochrosite could be so gemmy and beautiful.

Breakfast for June will be at the Hometown Buffet at 1431 S. Bradley Road, Santa Maria. Be there on June 27th at 8:30am for a combination of good food and good friends

If you check your calendar, you may note that there are only "2" months left before our annual show. If you haven't done so already, please think about what you would like to do. Do you want to set up a display? Do you need posters and flyers? Get some Treasure Chest tickets and sell them to everyone you know. Donate a prize to the Treasure Chest and make someone happy. There are lots of committees that need your help. Look at what is available and don't be shy. The choice is up to you. Give me a call or drop a note any time. Have a wonderful day. See you at the BBQ.



BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES



Birthday greetings go out to those folks who are having Birthdays and Anniversaries in **June Birthdays**

Bishop, Ralph	6/2
Schmidt, Michael	6/4
Sheffer, Geary	6/9

Anniversaries

Bill and Debbie Hood	6/7
Stan and Jan Ferguson	6/27
Roger and Donna Lehman	6/30

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 Wes Lingerfelt so they will be included in the next edition (2016).*

OMS SEMI-ANNUAL MEETING AT PIONEER PARK—JUNE 6

Bring a place setting, plates, cups, drinks, table cloth, side dish or dessert to share and rocks for the silent auction. "Let's Get this Party Started" about noon.

SUNSHINE

Jeannie Lingerfelt

OMS sends our sympathies to former member Keith McKay who recently lost his mother Pat.

If you have good or bad news that you would be willing to share with our members, please notify Jeannie Lingerfelt and Wayne Mills.

MAY PROGRAM REVIEW

The story about "Big Red" the Rhodochrosite from the Sweet Home Mine in Alma, Colorado was fascinating—good choice Alexis! We didn't quite get through the movie, but Wes showed the best parts. Amazing that a silver mine that opened in 1873 and produced

only \$215,000 in silver could also yield such lovely and valuable minerals.

The mine was reopened in 1965 to search for silver, but all they found was a nice specimen of Rhodochrosite that was sold to a local mineral dealer for \$2,500. That crystal (the **Queen of Alma**) is now displayed at the Museum of Natural Sciences and is valued at \$250,000. At 10 cm (4 inches) in diameter, the Queen is considered one of the finest gems in the world!



*Queen of Alma, Park Co., Colorado.
Photo Huston Museum of Natural Sciences*

Much of the story focused on the faith of new partners who reopened the mine in 1990 to extract the pink crystals that were formerly considered gangue (residue) minerals, and how their gamble eventually paid off for them big time!

After a dry spell, the miners continued working with additional funding from the partners, and in 1992 they found a huge pocket containing the **Alma King** that at 14 centimeters by 16.5 centimeters (5.6 inches by 6.6 inches) is the largest complete Rhodochrosite crystal in existence. The King was purchased by the Coors Brewing Company for a rumored \$1 million, and resides in the Denver Museum of Natural History.

*King of Alma,
Park Co.,
Colorado.*

Photo socalfoodie.blogspot.com



Check out <http://www.mindat.org/loc-3690.html> to see what other minerals are found in the mine.

OMS TO DISPLAY AT NIPOMO LIBRARY

Elaine Von Achen is seeking specimens to put in the OMS Case at the Nipomo Library for the Month of July. This effort is to encourage folks to visit our show, so get your best specimens to Elaine sometime this month! Call her at 929-1488 to arrange getting your specimens to her.

PAPER SHUFFLERS

Wayne Mills, Adopt-A-Highway Coordinator

Thanks to the following faithful few who helped clean the highway on Saturday, May 9: Wes, Jeannie and Marty Lingerfelt, Joe and Lisa Azevedo, Sally Griffin, Allyn Goodall, and Alexis Van Natta. The clean-up went pretty smoothly, and we had a nice chat at Francisco's afterward. The winner of the drawing for a dragon on quartz is probably the luckiest woman in OMS—Jeannie Lingerfelt, who has picked-up the Highway Heroes prize on several occasions.

ORE-CUTTS 20-YEAR BIBLIOGRAPHY NOW ON LINE

Wayne Mills, Ore Cutts Editor

One of my goals as your editor was to make the past issues of our newsletter more available to all. For that reason, I have recently completed a searchable bibliography of the Ore-Cutts between 1994 (when I joined), and 2014. The information is contained in an Excel Spreadsheet that can be copied and sorted by title, author, or date, and can be fairly quickly searched for articles occurring in a particular year. The database has 983 entries, and has some major headings that will group in a title search. These include Humor, Poems, Field Trip (opportunities) and Field Trip reports, Bench Tips, safety, OMS Functions, and Show Reports. If anyone has suggestions to improve the database, I say—go for it! I have a few

copies of older bulletins, and will work on those as time permits. As I have requested before, if anyone has copies of the Ore-Cutts issued between 1958 and 1994, I would really like to borrow them for a while.

Remember that past issues of the Ore-Cutts can be found on line at omsinc.org/Archives. We have all issues since 2002 in the data base.

TAILGATE FUN!

I believe that most participants in the OMS Tailgate held on Saturday, May 23 at the Von Achen's Barn had fun, though attendance was not high, and one of our dealers sold nothing! The Nasholm's manned our club booth, and sold **all** the club's rock in buckets and cartons for \$3.00 per container, much to the Von Achen's delight, as the rocks had been stored near their barn (for years). We had dealers from OMS, Santa Lucia Rockhounds, and from out of town.

I know the dealers enjoyed talking to each other, and shared some of their profits by buying more rock from each other. A little after 1 pm, Elaine served the dealers a hearty and tasty meal of hot dogs potato salad, chips, drinks and gourmet cookies. Joseph Martinez did a great job on grillin' the doggies.

The show ended at 3:00 pm, and folks wandered back to their lives outside the "world of rocks".



Santa Lucia Rockhounds confab



Wes Lingerfelt's layout



Lucky and Renea and Lucky's spheres

SEEING RED

Compiled by Wayne Mills, Ore-Cutts Editor



Picture and information from <http://www.bbc.com/news/world-europe-32717029>

An article appearing in BBC news on May 13 noted the sale of the world's most expensive colored gem stone (excluding diamonds). The "Sunshine Ruby", a 20 plus carat, pigeon blood red, translucent ruby was sold at auction for 19.1 million pounds (\$30 million USD). For

comparison, the Hope Diamond which resides in the Smithsonian Institution in Washington DC, weighs 45.52 carats and is valued at \$200-250 million according to Wikipedia. The Hope Diamond was mined in India sometime before 1812.

While looking for further information on this topic, we came across an interesting story about "The Gem of Tanzania", a 10,725 carat ruby that in 2009 was valued at 15 million pounds, but the next year, was sold at auction for only 8100 pounds when it was found to be *Anyolite*—the poorest grade of ruby. Some shady business dealings were part of that story.

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-1251782/Tanzanian-ruby-valued-11m-sells-just-8-000-proved-lump-rock.html>

ROCKS IN THE LANDSCAPE

Story and pictures Wayne Mills, OMS

In many landscape situations, rocks have a wonderful naturalizing effect. They have been around for a lot longer than humans, and have always been part of most natural landscapes with the exception perhaps of swamps, deserts, plains and tundra. But who wants their front yard to look like tundra?

In my case, I have found uses for rocks in creating raised borders, dry stream beds, as accent pieces in some of my beds, and as top dressing and accent pieces for some of my competition plants (succulents). I also use bricks (former rocks) as edging for my lawns and flower beds.



But that is just me. I feel that having objects from nature in my yard brings me closer to nature.

And that is a much nicer place to feel close to that the commercial chaos that surrounds us.

Actually, I even use rocks and sand inside my home (is that called homescaping?) Inspired by some of the Japanese gardens that I have seen, I created this raked-sand backdrop for some of my petrified wood rounds in a former flat-topped coffee table.



I will close this article with two poems from a book called Zen Rock Gardening by Abd al-Havy Moore.

*The perfection of Zen is to be
Perfectly and simply human.*
Alan Watts (1915-1973 English Scholar and Writer

*To see the world in a grain of sand,
And a heaven in a wild flower,
Hold infinity in the palm of your hand,
And eternity in an hour*
William Blake (1757-1827) English poet

BITS AND BYTES

Check out this site for proper labeling of specimens:

<http://www.mindat.org/article.php/1263/Making+Labels+for+Mineral+Specimens>

Check out this website for **fantastic** views from space—88 images:

<http://www.msn.com/en-us/news/technology/spectacular-photos-from-space>

Trailer for a movie on gem mining
www.sharingtherough.com

Facebook page for Chelsea Thompson, owner of Rockchuck Gallery in Schurz, Mineral Co., Nevada. It is great to see what youngsters are still finding out in the desert!

https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100006943715724&fref=tl_fr_box&pnref=lhc.friends

KID'S CORNER

Text and illustrations From Diamond Dan's Mini Miner's Monthly Vol. 9 No. 1

The Calcite Group of Minerals

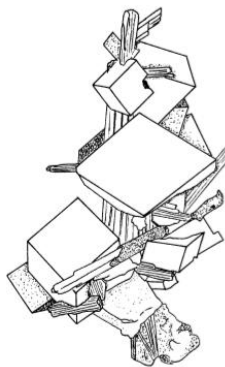
The Calcite Group of minerals all have CO_3 (carbonate) in their chemical formula.

The minerals in the calcite group **include**: Calcite, Rhodochrosite, Smithsonite, siderite and magnesite.

All calcite group minerals crystallize in the trigonal crystal system (a category of the hexagonal system). They all have rhombohedra cleavage, and have similar chemical formulas. Look at the drawings of these three different calcite group minerals, and compare their shapes. They all look like boxes that have been bent to an angle. Mineralogists call this shape a rhombohedron.

For the chemists out there, here is a comparison of the formulas of the different calcite group minerals. Right away, you will see why they are so similar. (Kids—look up the mineral on the internet or in a book and color in the crystals appropriately.)

Calcite	CaCO_3	Calcium carbonate
Rhodochrosite	MnCO_3	Manganese carbonate
Smithsonite	ZnCO_3	Zinc carbonate
Magnesite	MgCO_3	Magnesium carbonate
Siderite	FeCO_3	Iron carbonate



Green brown siderite crystals covered with

Calcite on Stibnite from Romania.



colorless quartz crystals from France.

Bright red Rhodochrosite crystals with quartz from Peru.



Diamond Dan's Mini Miner's Monthly, Volume 9 No. 4 has a great article on how different minerals were named. It also has a great cartoon that we will include in this issue.

Howlite was named in honor of Henry Howe who died in 1879 and the Greek word *lithos* meaning stone. Howe was a chemist, geologist, and mineralogist from Nova Scotia who first described this mineral.

(Howelite is a hydrated calcium borosilicate that rarely forms 1 mm tabular crystals, but more commonly forms white, porcelainous nodular masses resembling cauliflower. A famous location for this material is Tick Canyon in Los Angeles County, California. Ed.)

Jade is a group name that refers to the Pyroxene mineral **Jadeite**, and to the Amphibole mineral, **Nephrite**. The name "Jade" is thought to be derived from the Spanish phrase "*pedra de yjada*" meaning "stone of the side" because it was believed to be a remedy for kidney problems.

(Pyroxenes are a group of rock forming silicate minerals among which calcium, magnesium and iron rich varieties predominate.

Amphiboles are generally dark-colored, needle or prismatic silicates that often contain magnesium and iron. Ed.--From Encyclopedia Britannica)

Labradorite is a type of feldspar found in large, cleavable masses on the coast of Labrador, Canada.

The mineral is named for this important locality. *(Though the iridescent blue form of this*

mineral is also found at several other locations worldwide) Ed.



WHY I LIKE MINERALS

Story and pictures Wayne Mills, OMS

Though few people may care about my interest in minerals, we have several column inches to fill, and nobody else has offered any articles (in almost a year) to fill them. So here's my story:

Since before I was born, my Uncle Tom O'Neill was a geologist for Kaiser Aluminum Company. When I was a youngster, my parents took us on a visit to Uncle Tom's in Lafayette, California. I was fascinated with Uncle Tom's minerals, and one day he gave me a shoebox full of specimens labeled in his neat handwriting (well, printing). Each label had the name of the mineral, its chemical formula, and where it was from. Some of the specimens were dark and dense, and some were light and crystalline. I wanted to know why they formed the way they did, and what those funny symbols meant. So I did reading on my own, and started to amass more of a rock and mineral collection. My parents took my sister and I to the LA County Museum where I drooled over their wonderful, large and colorful specimens. I visited rock shows and looked at the private collections that some folks had amassed, and learned (a bit at a time) about color, cleavage, crystal form, density, fracture, fluorescence, hardness, and streak as ways to differentiate between the minerals.

I adopted my favorite mineral almost solely because of its' lovely, dark green-blue color. It looks stunning sitting on the stark white calcite crystals that come out of the mine in Tsumeb, Namibia. Maybe because my high school colors are green and white, but I don't think so. The lustrous dark green-blue of Diopase (a hydrated copper silicate) is refreshing in and of itself, like a plunge into an isolated lagoon. It is the color of trees and money and mint, three of my favorite things.

I like a lot of other minerals too. Gold, Rhodochrosite, Tourmaline, Garnets (especially Uvarovite and

Spessartite), Fluorite, and a host of others, but Dioptase remains my favorite.

What is YOUR favorite mineral? I challenge the readers of this bulletin to send in a story about YOUR favorite mineral (or any other rock-related item.)



Russian Dioptase left, Tsumeb Dioptase right

**ORCUTT MINERAL SOCIETY—
Board Meeting
Nipomo Chamber of Commerce Office,
Nipomo, CA
May 5, 2015**

President Elect Alexis Van Natta, standing in for President Dyanna Cridelich, called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m.

Board members present were Wes Lingerfelt, Jeannie Lingerfelt, Elaine Von Achen, Sandy Berthelot, Mike Henson, Alexis Van Natta and John Von Achen. Paul Berthelot, Margaret Henson and Wayne Mills were guests.

Minutes: Minutes were approved as printed in the May bulletin.

Treasurer's report: Wes Lingerfelt gave the treasurer's report. Report was accepted as given.

Correspondence: None

Committee Reports:

Abused Children: None

Annual December Luncheon Meeting: None

Annual Gem Show: Wes reported that he has cancelled the kitchen facilities and kitchen workers for our up-coming show as we are having the food catered by G-brothers Smokehouse from San Luis Obispo and will not need the school kitchen.

Breakfast: May's breakfast will be on the 23rd at 8:00 a.m. and will be held at the Sunset Grill, 1424 Fairway Drive, Santa Maria. Please note that the time has been changed from 8:30 a.m. to 8:00 a.m. this one time only to accommodate members who are attending the breakfast

as well as being a dealer at our Tailgate on the same day.

Bulletin: May's bulletin is out.

CFMS: The CFMS show in Lodi will be June 12th, 13th and 14th.

Education: Wayne mentioned that he was the "Rock Doc" at the Santa Lucia Gem and Mineral's annual show in Paso Robles on May 2nd and 3rd. People could bring a rock in and he would try to identify it. He also said that he wanted to "toot his own horn" and report that he had won 3rd place for his showcase of picture rock. Congratulations Wayne.

Field Trip: Our next field trip will be on May 23rd and will be to our Tailgate Show held from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. at the Von Achen's, 636 Cherokee Place, Nipomo. For more information please contact Elaine Von Achen or Wayne Mills.

Highway Clean-up: Our next clean-up will be held May 9, at 8:00 a.m. Members will meet on the South East corner of Highways 101 and 166.

Library: None

Membership: None

Refreshments: Alexis Van Natta reported that the refreshment for May will be pie donated by Sandy Berthelot, Jeannie Lingerfelt, Jan Ferguson and Lucky Virgin.

Scholarship: Wes said he had mailed a check in the amount of \$1,000 to Santa Barbara City College. By getting it in before the end of April it is eligible for matching funds from the College.

Sunshine: Jeannie Lingerfelt reported that former member, Pat McKay, has passed away. She is the mother of former member, Keith McKay.

Old Business: Wes Lingerfelt, Geary Sheffer, Wayne Mills and John Von Achen, sorted, cleaned and restacked items in the storage locker. Wes purchased 8 additional tables and we now have a total of 80 tables.

New Business:

Wes said he is going to confirm our reservation for the Pioneer Park for our annual Barbeque to be held on June 6th.

It has been our (OMS) practice to award pins to our elected officers as well as the board of trustees at the end of our year. Because of the time and effort it takes to put out the bulletin Elaine Von Achen made a motion that we also present the bulletin editor with a pin. Alexis Van Natta seconded the motion. Motion carried.

The meeting was adjourned by President Elect Alexis Van Natta at 7:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

Elaine Von Achen, Secretary, OMS

**ORCUTT MINERAL SOCIETY—
General Meeting
Luis Oasis Senior Center, Orcutt, CA
May 12, 2015**

President Dyanna Cridelich called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Mike Henson gave the invocation.

Joseph Martinez led the flag salute.

Minutes: Elaine Von Achen gave the minutes from the May 5, 2015 board meeting. Minutes were approved as read.

Treasurer's report: Wes Lingerfelt gave the treasurer's report. It was accepted as given.

Correspondence: None

Committee Reports:

Hospitality: There were 26 members and 6 guests in attendance. Our guests were Fred Moreno, Nancy Diaz, Paden Gibbons, Shanna Smith, Tori Richard, and Janet Bair. Guests were greeted and thanked.

Refreshments: Alexis Van Natta thanked Sandy Berthelot, Jeannie Lingerfelt, and Lucky Virgin for their donations of pie for the evening's refreshment.

Committee Reports:

Annual December Luncheon Meeting: None

Abused Children: None

Breakfast: May's breakfast will be held at the Sunset Grill, 1424 Fairview Drive, Santa Maria at 8:00 a.m. on the 23rd.

Bulletin: The bulletin has been mailed and is on the web.

CFMS: None.

Door Prizes: Joseph Martinez reported donations from Wayne Mills-Various items, Lucky Virgin - Slabs, Roger & Donna Lehman - Rhodochrosite specimen and I remember something really pretty from Donna but didn't get it marked down. There were also lots of other items donated by Wes Lingerfelt.

Education: None

Gem Show: None

Historian: None

Field Trip: Our next field trip will be May 23rd to the Von Achen's for our 3rd annual tail gate. Hours are 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Members can buy a table for \$10.00

and non-members for \$20.00. For further details, please contact Wayne Mills.

Highway Clean-up: Wayne reported that the last clean-up was held the 9th of May. Persons attending were Wayne, Wes, Jeannie & Marty Lingerfelt, Joe & Lisa Azevedo, Sally Griffith, Allyn Goodall and Alexis Van Natta. Jeannie Lingerfelt again won the door prize.

Library: None

Membership: None

Junior Members: None

Political Action Committee: None

Property: None

Scholarship: None

Sunshine: Jeannie Lingerfelt reported that Roger Lehman has been ill and that was all she knew of.

Old Business: There will be a tailgate show at the Von Achen's on the 23rd of May. Members can get a table for \$10.00. There will be a hotdog barbeque with potato salad, beans and cookies for dessert for all participating vendors. Elaine asked for a volunteer to sell club rock, books, etc.

Elaine reminded members who would like to display in the Nipomo Library for the month of July, that this was the last meeting before it would be time to put up the display. If any member wants to show something, they have to get it to Elaine before July 1st.

Members were reminded that June 6th will be the annual barbeque at Pioneer Park. The wood will be started at 10:00 a.m. and lunch will be served at 12:00 noon. Members need to bring a table cloth, plates, silverware, napkins and drinks as well as a dish to share. The club provides the meat, bread and coffee.

New Business: Members enjoyed a film from CFMS called "Rhodochrosite-Red Treasure of the Rockies" for May's program.

Dyanna thanked the following people for their displays this evening: Mike & Margaret Henson - Eagle Rock, Wayne Mills - Petrified Wood, Dyanna Cridelich - Fluorite Sphere and Petrified Wood Sphere and Sally Griffith - Petrified Wood.

President Dyanna Cridelich adjourned the meeting at 9:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

Elaine Von Achen, Secretary, OMS

OMS CALENDAR

JUNE 2015

Tuesday, June 2	OMS Board Meeting, Nipomo Chamber of Commerce meeting room, All members are welcome at this meeting
Saturday, June 6 11 a.m.-2 p.m.	OMS Semi-Annual Meeting Pioneer Park. Silent Auction
Saturday, June 27 8:30 a.m.	OMS Monthly Breakfast- Hometown Buffet--SM

JULY 2015

Tuesday, July 7 7:00 pm	Board Meeting 239 W. Tefft, Nipomo
Saturday, July 11 8:00 am	Highway cleanup- 101/166 East
Tuesday, July 14 7:00 pm	General Meeting — Luis Oasis Senior Center Program: A Program generated by Wes Lingerfelt (Surprise!) Display: Any 1' x 1' display Dessert: Cakes
Saturday, July 25 8:30 am	☉ Breakfast— Country Kitchen, Santa Maria

CFMS SHOWS JUNE 2015

June 6 - 7: GLENDORA, CA

Glendora Gems & Mineral Society
Goddard Middle School
857 East Sierra Madre
Hours: Sat. 10 - 5; Sun 10 - 4
Contact: Bonnie Bidwell, (626) 963-4638

June 12 - 14: LODI, CA

Rocks & Vines, CFMS 2015 Show & Convention, Lodi CA June 12 - 14
Hours: Friday & Saturday 10-5; Sunday 10-4
Contact: Margaret Kolaczyk,
markolaczyk@gmail.com

June 27 - 28: CULVER CITY, CA

Culver City Rock & Mineral Club
Veterans Memorial Auditorium
4117 Overland Blvd (@ Culver Blvd, near the
405 & 10 Freeways)
Hours: Sat 10 - 6; Sun 10 - 5
Contact: Janice Metz
Email: janicemtz@yahoo.com
Website: www.culvercityrocks.org

JULY 2015 *No shows!!*

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President	Dyana Cridelich	(805) 937-4347
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Treasurer	Wes Lingerfelt	(805) 929-3788
Imm. Past Pres.	Elaine Von Achen	(805) 929-1488
Federation Rep.	Wes Lingerfelt	(805) 929-3788

2015-OMS Board Members

Sandy Berthelot	(805) 349-3977
Jan Ferguson	(805) 474-9977
Mike Henson	(805) 934-1308
Jeannie Lingerfelt	(805) 929-3788
John Von Achen	(805) 929-1488

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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 Elaine Von Achen** (805) 929-1488

OMS Webmaster - Wes Lingerfelt - (805) 929-3788

Check out our OMS web site at: <http://www.omsinc.org> or send e-mail to info@omsinc.org.

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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.

