

Orcutt Mineral Society, Inc.



Ore-Cutts



Volume LIII, Issue 3

THE PRES BOX—MARCH 2019

Wayne Mills, OMS President



Our February meeting was (again) sparsely attended. We had an interesting program “Rochers Extrordinaire” (Extraordinary Rocks) about rock formations around the word with commentary added by yours truly about their age and composition.

Our next highway clean-up will be on March 9, the Saturday before our General Meeting, (so we hope folks put the clean-up on their calendars). We meet at 8:00 a.m. at the Park-n-Ride at the southeast corner of Route 101 and 166 east. It is good exercise, and kind of fun, especially when we are having treats and coffee afterwards at the Country Kitchen in Santa Maria. And we can always use another hand or several.

Our February Field Trip to Ralph Bishop’s Museum on February 16th was fun for the folks who attended. About 14 rockhounds, including a couple of my friends from the Santa Lucia Club, enjoyed Ralph’s amazing rocks and stories (yeah, the stories are amazing too!). Ralph even gave out some great rock slabs to each attendee!

The Program for March is Show and Tell. The display is rocks you would like to Show and Tell about! Please everyone bring a favorite rock or two and be ready to share with others about why they are special to you.

Our Monthly Breakfast will be on the 23rd (4th Saturday) at Hometown Buffet in Santa Maria (1431 S. Bradley). There was some discussion about changing the meeting time for the breakfast at our February meeting, but

nothing was decided. The 2019 breakfasts will follow the order that is shown in the 2018 Red Book (page 11). Please make plans to attend at least one during the year, as they are often not well attended. “The more the merrier” as the saying goes.

Don’t forget to put the CFMS/Pasadena Lapidary show at the Pomona Fairgrounds (March 8-10) on your calendar, it should be a great show! The weekend before (March 2 -3) is the Ventura Show. That one should be a really good one too.

Be Safe Out There
Wayne Mills

OMS MEMBERS MARCH BIRTHDAY’S

Greetings & Congratulations go out to our members who are having birthdays this month:

BIRTHDAYS

Jeannie Lingerfelt	3/7
Krystal Rose	3/8
Bill Hood	3/18

NOTE: *If you don’t see your name here when you should, then the information is not in The Red Book or the Editor made a mistake in the list; either way please write your important dates down and give them to Wayne so they will be included in the next edition (April 2019)*

FIELDTRIP TO RALPH BISHOP'S MUSEUM

FEBRUARY 16, 2019

Wayne W Mills, OMS

Ralph was born June 2, 1949 into the house that his Grandfather built in 1927. His mother once told him that she had him to help carry her rocks. And by age 10, he was “hooked on rocks”. In his late teens, Ralph had two other interests in addition to rocks—fast cars and women. His mother and grandparents were worried, and discussed ways to divert him from a “dangerous” path. In 1970, Ralph got married and moved to Oregon. When he returned to Santa Maria on a visit, his mother told him that

she had a present for him and handed him a key. She told him to “open the door at the rear of the garage”. When he opened the door, Ralph found a new room where he remembered there used to be an apple orchard behind the garage. The room was lined with 4 rows of 6-7 foot tall display cases—a double row of cases back-to back in the middle of the room. The cases were hand made by a family friend who was a carpenter. Helen’s next words to Ralph were “now get your rocks out of the house!” That kept him busy for awhile.

One of the stories that Ralph told the 12 or so guests who showed-up for his museum tour concerned a large leaf fossil that Ralph had found in Colorado, where he went to escape the heat in the fish fossil



Picture above and on bottom page 3: Two pieces of rip-cut (with the grain) Petrified Wood from Boron California make remarkable framed ocean images in one of Ralph's cases

quarry in Kemmerer, Wyoming. When he went back to Kemmerer to resume digging fish fossils from the Green River Shales there, Ralph showed the leaf to some workers from the Denver Museum who notified their superiors who arrived in Kemmerer soon afterwards. When they tried to trick Ralph into giving them the fossil, Ralph replied that he was taking it to the Bishop Museum (a famous museum of history and natural science in Honolulu, Hawaii). Stunned, the big wigs said “you live in Hawaii?” Ralph replied “sure”, so as of that point, Santa Maria had the second most famous Bishop Museum in the world.

I must add that a few of the folks who came to the

(Continued on page 7)



AMAZING AGATES - PART 3

Pictures and Text by Wayne W Mills, OMS (unless otherwise noted)

Polka Dot—Well-described by its title, Polka Dot Agate is little dots of color in a white, translucent rock. The Friday Beds near Madras, Oregon are one location where this material is found.



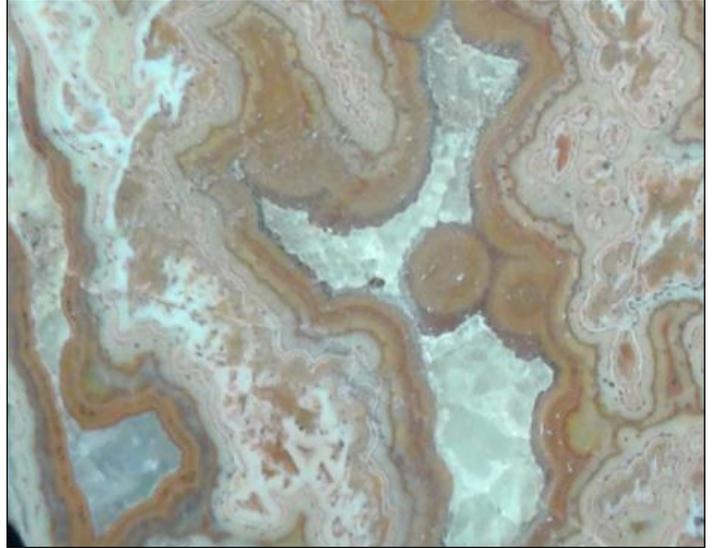
Polka Dot Agate

Sagenite—Needles of rutile or aragonite grow in a vug in basaltic rock, and the vug is subsequently filled in with hydrothermal or precipitating chalcedony. Nipomo, California is nationally famous for their sagenite agate. aragonite sagenite rock can be found near the Men's Colony on Highway 1 in San Luis Obispo County .



A specimen of sagenite agate from Nipomo, CA showing a botryoidal (bubbly) chalcedony crust. It has some moss too!

Snowflake—Differing from Snowflake obsidian, Snowflakes in agate are tiny irregular inclusions of differing colors randomly scattered through the agate. Agates from many locations display “snowflake” patterns.



Random reddish “snowflakes” dot this Dryhead Agate from Montana

Tiger Eye—Tiger Eye Agate is silicified asbestos. It is primarily known from South Africa, but varieties are found in other locations including the Pilbara Region of Western Australia (“Miramamba”). <https://tinyurl.com/yxfedcl6>



Tiger Eye iron from Western Australia

Turritella Agate—Is not exactly an agate and are not really turritellas. This material is called agate, but it has little translucency (one of the main qualities of agate). The enclosed shells are (fresh water) snails called *Elimia tenera*, <https://geology.com/gemstones/turritella/>. They come from the Eocene Age (~45 million year old) Green River Shales found near Wamsutter, Sweetwater Co., Wyoming. Turritellas are marine snails.



Above picture is a rough slab and below picture finished slab of Turritella Agate from Wayne's Collection



Tube—From pin-sized to somewhat larger, tubes are obvious flow lines made during the formation of the agate. Many locations have tube agates



This Sagenite Agate from Nipomo, CA has both sagenite and tubes

Waterline pattern—Often seen in Thundereggs, waterline agate form in gas bubbles in rhyolite (an extrusive igneous rock) and exhibits straight lines of alternating color. These waterlines indicate a level surface (like that of a lake) during the time of deposition. Sometimes, waterlines in the same rock can change orientation (or tilt) showing that the orientation of the rock changed during the (slow) deposition of the material that solidified to make the waterlines.



The above Thunderegg from Oregon displays waterlines and "tilt" at least three times during the deposition of the rock.

FEBRUARY PROGRAM - ROCHERS EXTRADORDINAIRES

Wayne W Mills, OMS

The original title of the Program was “**ABC’s of Rocks**”, but we threw in a few more letters. I wrote the dialogue for an unattributed program that I found on line called “Rochers Extradordinaires” (Extraordinary Rocks). The full program can be found at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=V3lPrWO0BqU>

The program showed 34 different rock formations in 33 different locations (two from Arches National Park in Utah), and it covered two of the three main rock types (igneous and sedimentary). It showed rocks sculpted by wind, water and glaciers that ranged in age from Precambrian to 2 million years ago. One of the formations was much older, but was revealed by glaciation only in the last 10,000 years.

One of the more spectacular pictures was this of the Preikstolen (“Pulpit Rock”) on Lysefjord in Southern Norway. The 1982-foot tall rock is Precambrian Granite formed from magma inside the Earth (intrusive igneous) more than 600 million years ago. The rock has been uplifted, then sculpted by the action of the glacier that also carved the fjord that the rock overlooks about 10,000 years ago. 1982



Preikestolen , Pulpit Rock, Norway

feet is a LOT of ice! <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Preikestolen>

Another of the unusual rock formations in the program is the Fairy Chimneys from Goereme National Park in Turkey. These unusual formations were weathered by wind and water from volcanic tuff (an extrusive igneous rock). The (up to 130 foot tall) chimneys have been hollowed-out since the 4th Century AD. OMS member Jeanne Brown noted that an underground city was built in the area to help Christians hide from the Romans during their age of conquest. <https://theculturetrip.com/europe/turkey/articles/the-story-behind-cappadocias-famous-fairy-chimneys/>



Fairy Chimneys, Goereme National Park, Turkey

These limestone pillars (sedimentary rock) called The Externsteine, about 70 million years ago formed from “earth forces” that jointed and began the erosion of the existing limestone formation in the Teutoburg Forest in North Rhine-Westphalia, Northern Germany. The four main rocks are over

155-feet high. The pond that currently lies at the foot of the formation is artificial and created in the 19th century. <https://magic-places.ch/en/externsteine-teutoburg-forest/>



The Externsteine, Teutoburg Forest in North Rhine-Westphalia, Northern Germany

FIELDTRIP TO RALPH BISHOP'S MUSEUM

Continued from page 3

tour were there for the first time, and my impression is that they were as awed by the variety and quality of the rocks and fossils that Ralph displayed as those of us who have been there in the past continue to be. Ralph also (very generously) put out three boxes of slabs of a variety of materials for us to choose from, and then—he proceeded to identify each rock by name and location.

Oh, the weather cooperated beautifully! To say that a great time was had by all would be an understatement. THANKS Ralph!



UPCOMING CFMS SHOWS

March 8 - 10, 2019: POMONA, CA
80th CFMS SHOW & CONVENTION

Hosted by the Pasadena Lapidary Society

FairPlex, Building 6, Pomona, CA

Hours: Fri. & Sat. 10 - 5, Sun. 10 - 4

Website: <http://pasadenalapidary.org/>

Showpage: <https://pasadenalapidary.org/2019-show/>

April 13 - 14: PASO ROBLES, CA

Santa Lucia Rockhounds

Paso Robles Event Center

2198 Riverside Avenue

Hours: 10 - 5 Daily

Contact: Kim Noyes, (805) 610-0603

Email: kimnoyes@gmail.com

Website: <http://www.slrockhounds.org/>

April 27 - 28: SANTA CRUZ, CA

Santa Cruz Mineral & Gem Society

Santa Cruz Civic Auditorium

307 Church Street

Hours: 10 - 5 daily

Contact: Sarah Hawklyn

Email: shawklyn@yahoo.com

Website: <http://www.scrockngem.org/>

2019 MEMBERSHIP DUES

Regular adult membership \$24.00, Two adult family members \$34.00, Each additional family member at the same address \$5.00.



Dues can be paid at the March General Meeting, but please bring exact change if paying by cash. Dues must be paid by the March General Meeting to be included in the 2019 Red Book.

IF SHE WERE AGATE

By Katjmarie

<https://www.powerpoetry.org/poems/if-she-were-agate-0>

If the World were agate
the Sun would be a vast topaz,
shining for the emerald
life atop bronzen earth, smiling down on sapphire
seas. The sky at night would be flawless onyx
and during storms, the clouds would weep opals.

Her tears, too, would be opals
if the World were agate.
She fills Her lungs with onyx
air. Her mind shames the topaz
out of the Sun: Her wisdom pierces sapphire.
Her courage is emerald.

Seas of cobalt and emerald
roll like waves through Her opal
veins. She whispers soft sapphire
words to the wind, Her agate
soul breathing topaz
life into breathless, formless onyx.
She dives headfirst into onyx
space, tossing shattered emeralds
to the wind behind Her. Topaz
curls burn with the Sun, and the sky weeps opals.
If the World were agate,
Her mind would be sapphire.

For She is the child of the sapphire
Moon, and now She bathes in onyx
skies. The stars are Her agate
children, plucking emerald
shards of courage from the bronzen earth. The opals
turn away from tears; the Sun abandons topaz.

In Her absence, the seas are topaz,
rolling waves under a sapphire
Sun. Brilliant opals
grow from earth made of onyx
and bronze stars bathe in skies of emerald.
Her children still are agate.

Her tears would be topaz, if Her own earth were onyx.
But Her mind is a sapphire, and Her blood runs cobalt
and emerald,
and oh, She weeps opals, for the World is agate.

DETECTING FOR ROCKS

Wayne W Mills, OMS

I recently had the opportunity to metal detect on the property of some acquaintances from the Santa Lucia Club. The property is in the historic Garden Farms area north of Santa Margarita. The original home built about 1927 was built on part of a Spanish Land Grant. In the late 1940's, the home was turned into a rock shop, and a new structure was built. The owners used to go to rock shows around California, and when they returned, they would leave metal trays with their left-over rocks out on the slope near the rock shed; assumedly, to be reused at the next show. After a time, the trays were abandoned in place, and became covered with tree leaves and other sediments.

Fast forward to 2018 when the new owners began looking around their acreage, they found some of the partly buried trays and their lovely contents, mostly a variety of agates, jaspers and jade. They found a lot of other rocks on the property as well, but the cut ones in the trays appeared to be some of the most desirable. They thought that they had found all the trays, but asked me to be on the lookout for any more. Well, a 2' x 2' metal tray is a pretty big target to miss, and lo and behold, we found another one—filled with nice pieces of different kinds of agate, jasper, and jade! I also found a square nut, the last item in my Scavenger List for my metal detecting club. A pretty good day's-worth of detecting!



OMS CALENDAR

MARCH 2019	
Tue, Mar 5 6 to 7 p.m.	OMS Board Meeting, Nipomo Chamber of Commerce 239 W Tefft St, Nipomo All members are welcome at this meeting
Sat, Mar 9 8 a.m.	Highway Clean-up Southeast Corner Hwy 101/166 East
Tue, Mar 12 7 to 9 p.m.	General Meeting: Oasis Senior Center 420 Soares Av, Santa Maria, CA Program: Show and Tell Display: Favorite rock you would like to tell the club about (in a few words). Refreshments: Cake to be brought by Joe & Lisa Azevedo, Dick Bazzell, Margaret Hanson, Tara Machine
Sat, Mar 23 8:30 a.m.	OMS Monthly Breakfast Hometown Buffet, Santa Maria 1431 S. Bradley Rd, Santa Maria
APRIL 2019	
Tue, Apr 2 6 to 7 p.m.	OMS Board Meeting, Nipomo Chamber of Commerce 239 W Tefft St, Nipomo All members are welcome at this meeting
Tue, Apr 9 7 to 9 p.m.	General Meeting: Oasis Senior Center 420 Soares Av, Santa Maria, CA Program: Scottish Rocks, Jim Mills Display: Petrified Wood or Anything Refreshments: Cookies to be brought by Truman Burgess, Debbie Hood, Don Nasholm, Jeanne Watkins
Sat, Apr 27 8:30 a.m.	OMS Monthly Breakfast Denny's in Santa Maria 1019 E Santa Maria, Ca

2019 OMS OFFICERS

President	Wayne Mills	(805) 481-3495
President-Elect	Bill Brown	(805) 481-1811
Secretary	Debbie Hood	(805) 481-6860
Treasurer	Jeanne Watkins Brown	(805) 481-1811
Imm. Past Pres.	Sylvia Nasholm	(805) 481-0923

2019 OMS BOARD MEMBERS

Dick Bazzell	(805) 736-5033
Dyanna Cridelich	(805) 937-4347
Jan Ferguson	(805) 474-9977
Alexis Van Natta	(805) 937-4347
Renea Sutcliffe	(805) 929-2783

CFMS FEDERATION DIRECTOR

Renea Sutcliffe	(805) 929-2783
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OMS Membership: \$24 for Individual, \$34 per couple, \$5 Each Additional Family Member, \$5 for Juniors under age of 18. One-time \$10 initiation fee for new members.

Membership Chairperson:

Debbie Hood (805) 481-6860

OMS Webmaster: Bill Brown (805) 481-1811

OMS web site at www.omsinc.org or e-mail info@omsinc.org

Ore-Cutts Editor/Publisher: Elisabeth Nybo

Orcutt Mineral Society, Inc.

P.O. Box 106

Santa Maria, CA 93456-0106

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**ORCUTT MINERAL SOCIETY GENERAL MEETING
LUIS OASIS SENIOR CENTER
ORCUTT, CA
FEBRUARY 12, 2019**

Opened at 7:05 PM by President Wayne Mills.

Invocation by Debbie Hood.

Flag salute by Sylvia Nasholm.

Minutes of the January General Meeting were read by Secretary Debbie Hood and accepted as corrected, minutes of the February Board Meeting were read and accepted with corrections.

Treasurer's Report was given by Treasurer Jeanne Brown and accepted as given.

Members present 19 and 1 guest, Bruce Autolitano.

Correspondence:

- From Santa Barbara City College regarding scholarship.
- Shows of Integrity show news flyer.
- Santa Lucia Rockhounds newsletter.

Wes Lingerfelt swore Dick Bazzell in as a Board Member.

Committee Reports:

Bulletin: is out and is a very good issue.

Refreshments: Sally Griffith reported that Jan Ferguson, Tara Machlin, Jeannie Lingerfelt brought Pies and Stan Ferguson brought cookies.

CFMS: Renea Suttcliffe had nothing to report.

Membership: Debbie Hood had nothing to report.

Field Trip: to Ralph Bishop's Museum February 16th 10:00 am to 1:00 pm.

Adopt-a-Highway: Will be March 9. Last clean up there were only 6 people. Wayne spent \$59.00 for treats and Sally Griffith won the door prize.

Hospitality: Bill Hood reported there are 19 members and 1 guest (Bruce Autolitano) present.

Annual Awards Banquet: Dyanna Credilich reported we have the Madonna Inn reserved for December 14, 2019.

Breakfast: Bill Hood reported it will be February 23rd at Country Kitchen in Arroyo Grande at 8:30 am. There was a short discussion about what could be done to improve participation.

Education: Wayne Mills had nothing to report.

Library: Alexis Van Natta reported she is 30% done transferring those programs from tape to disc that are still usable.

Sunshine: Margaret Henson and Dyana Credilich have both been ill.

Scholarship: Wayne Mills had nothing to report yet.

Show: Contract has been submitted to the School District. Dealer contracts have all been mailed. 29 of 54 outside dealers have said they are coming, 4 have already paid; 6 of 11 inside dealers are returning and 1 is paid. Richard Sittinger will not be there so we have a large space available.

Old Business:

- Wes Lingerfelt made a motion that the changes to the Standing Rules be accepted; Renea Suttcliffe seconded, passed unanimously and will be posted on our web site.
- Oasis Center use agreement, insurance and donation have all been arranged.
- Bill Brown is dealing with our Domain name expiration in March.

New Business: Wayne Mills filled more 2019 Committee spots and Gem show slots.

Break.

Program

Door prizes

Meeting closed at 8:50 pm

Respectfully Submitted,
Debbie Hood
OMS Secretary

**ORCUTT MINERAL SOCIETY BOARD MEETING
LUIS OASIS SENIOR CENTER
ORCUTT, CA
FEBRUARY 5, 2019**

The meeting was opened at 7:09 pm.

Present were Wayne Mills, Debbie Hood, Jan Ferguson, Jeanne Brown, Bill Brown, Alexis Van Atta, Dyana Credilich, Renea Suttcliffe, and Sylvia Nasholm.

Minutes of the January 8, 2019 Board meeting were read by Debbie Hood and accepted as corrected.

Minutes of the January 8, 2019 General meeting were read by Debbie Hood and accepted as corrected.

Treasurers Report was given by Jeanne Brown and accepted as presented. Jeanne is receiving checks from Dealers for spaces in our show this year.

Correspondence:

- The Ventura Show will be March 2 - 3, 2019, the weekend before the CFMS Show.

- We are still getting bills for the Newspaper ads from the last show-Sylvia will deal with it.
- We received confirmation of our donation to Oasis Center.
- We received a Thank You from the Salvation Army
- We received the 2019 receipt for the PO Box rental.
- We received a letter from the Department of Justice requesting the 2014 Raffle Permit files.
- Received 2018 Recap Report from the South County Chambers of Commerce, Gem Shows of Integrity show news, and Santa Lucia Rockhound Newsletter.

Bulletin: Elisabeth has not gotten the bulletin out yet. Alexis Van Atta and Dyana Credilitch did not receive their email bulletins last month.

Refreshments: Pies will be provided by Jan, Tara, and Wayne. Jeanne L., Stan and Jan brought cookies.

CFMS: Show will be March 8-10, in Pomona.

Membership: No report.

Field Trips: February 16th we will go to Ralph Bishop's Museum from 10am to 1 pm

Adopt-A-Highway: Will be on March 9. The cost of Jan cleanup was \$59.00.

Annual Awards Banquet: Dec 6, 2019 at the Madonna Inn.

Breakfast: Breakfast had 10 people present. February 24th is the next breakfast at The Country Kitchen, Arroyo Grande. There was some discussion regarding what we can do to increase participation.

Education: No Report.

Library: Arrangements are made to have displays in the Nipomo Library June 29 to July 26, and the Santa Maria Library for July and August. The updating of the list of CDs in our library is not completed yet.

Sunshine: Wayne has bursitis in his elbow, Debbie & Bill Hood have had the flu.

Scholarship: No Report.

Show: The contract has been submitted to the school district for the use of the high school for the show. All dealer contracts have been mailed, 31 of 54 outdoor dealers have replied and 6 of 11 inside dealers have answered. There is 1 inside space available. Food: we are in talks with "Big Truck." We will try to get the folks who did the BBQ last year to do it again this year. Jeanne Brown will contact them. Wayne filled more Show Committee slots.

Old Business: The Board reviewed the Standing Rules proposed changes.

New Business:

- Wayne now has a key to the Door at the Chamber of Commerce Meeting place .
- Program for Feb: ABC'S of Rocks film. Bring Mystery rocks for identification.
- Request Bill Hood to bring his camera
- March Program will be a Show and Tell, bring your favorite rocks.
- Meeting closed at 8:30pm.

Respectfully Submitted,
Debbie Hood
OMS Secretary

The ORE-CUTTS, named after William Orcutt, was first published in 1966. Member Helen Azevedo was the first editor.

The Orcutt Mineral Society (OMS) was founded in 1958, was also named after William Orcutt. He was a geologist and civil engineer who, in 1888, worked in the Santa Maria Valley as a District Manager for Union Oil Company. In 1889, William Orcutt discovered the mineral and fossil wealth of the La Brea Tar Pits in Los Angeles, on the property of Captain Alan Hancock there. 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.

Additionally, 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. OMS affiliations include American Federation of Mineral Societies, and California Federation of Mineral Societies.





Orcutt Mineral Society, Inc.
P.O. Box 106
Santa Maria, CA 93456-0106

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED



Ore-Cutts



“Granite is a common type of felsic intrusive igneous rock that is granular and phaneritic in texture. Granites can be predominantly white, pink, or gray in color, depending on their mineralogy. The word “granite” comes from the Latin granum, a grain, in reference to the coarse-grained structure of such a holocrystalline rock. Strictly speaking, granite is an igneous rock with between 20% and 60% quartz by volume, and at least 35% of the total feldspar consisting of alkali feldspar, although commonly the term “granite” is used to refer to a wider range of coarse-grained igneous rocks containing quartz and feldspar.” <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Granite>

Sphere of Ozena Granite, collected off Hwy 33 in Northern Santa Barbara County, from Wes Lingerfelt Collection.

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

 <https://www.facebook.com/OrcuttMinerals/>