



# Ore-Cutts

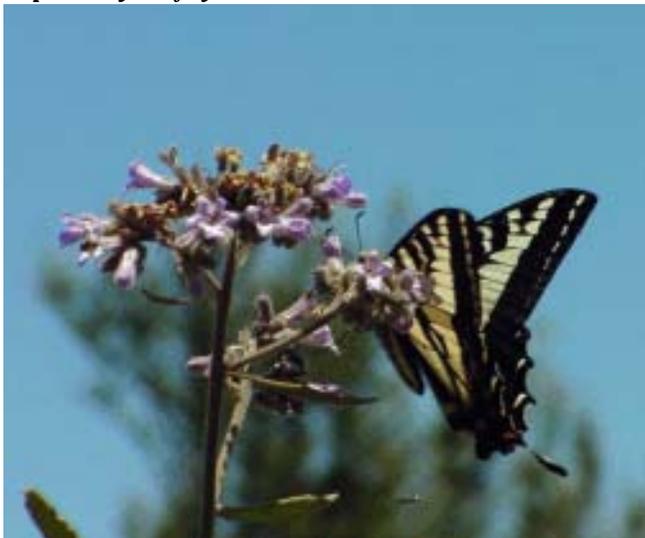
Volume XXXVIII, Issue V

May, 2003

## Spring in the Air

Dick Shields, OMS Field Trip Chairman

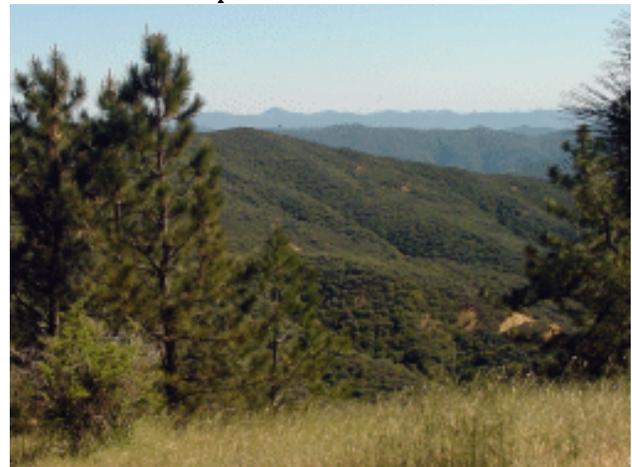
Spring on the Central California Coast this year is unfolding as seasonally pleasant, with an abundant display of wildflowers. We've experienced several episodes of rain showers between warm spells, prolonging the green season. The warmth has made our field trips to Figueroa Mountain and to Santa Agueda Creek especially enjoyable.



Pale Swallowtail on chaparral blossoms

Our upcoming trip will be to La Brea Creek, a tributary of the Sisquoc River, located about 30 miles east of Santa Maria. We explored the area last year in May, and found an abundance of wildflowers and wildlife (Remember the ticks from last year's bulletin? Bess does!), as well as butterflies. The creek is filled with large boulders suitable for landscaping and abundant cobbles. Some cobbles, we found, do fluoresce! The creek cuts through Monterey Shale and ancient streambeds filled with a mixture of

materials, including the ever popular "Monkey Turds", colorful cobbles in a brown matrix. At the far reach of our trip we see into the Cuyama basin from the crest of Miranda Pine Mountain escarpment.



View south from Miranda Pines across the San Rafael Wilderness

We will be on the northern edge of the San Rafael Wilderness area and will have vistas into rarely traveled canyons and mountain ranges. The entire trip from Colson Canyon to the Miranda Pines area will be 33 miles of unimproved roads (our favorite kind). For nearly 8 miles the road forms the northern boundary the boundary of the wilderness.

## San Rafael Wilderness

Bess Shields, co-editor of *Ore-Cutts*

Sometimes it gets a bit confusing trying to tell the difference between a Wilderness Area, National Forest, and State Park. Because Dick is planning a club trip to the edge of the Los Padres/San Rafael Wilderness area, he must be certain that we have all of the facts before setting out on our trek. Where can we pick up a

few rocks without being arrested? What is the condition of roads? Are there campgrounds and latrines, or places for us to picnic? Preparation is obviously the key.

It's the duty of a Field Trip Chairman to check these things out before we hit the road, and to (hopefully) prepare adequately for the journey. So, this month I watched as Dick planned this club adventure. He made numerous phone calls, downloaded maps, and consulted with people who had made similar trips to the area in the past.

A little natural history lesson on the wilderness area will help us appreciate this beautiful spot in our own backyard:

"After the initial preservation of land under the Wilderness Act of 1964, the original San Rafael Wilderness (1968) was the first Primitive area added to the NWPS's roster. Here in the chaparral-covered San Rafael Mountains, elevations range from 1,166 feet near the confluence of Manzana Creek and the Sisquoc River in the west to over 6,800 feet on Big Pine Mountain near the eastern boundary and Dick Smith Wilderness. Too rocky and shallow to entice river runners, except perhaps in spring high water, all but two of the Sisquoc's 33 Wild and Scenic miles are within the Wilderness, tumbling through pools and oak-shaded grasslands, over waterfalls and past archaeological sites. The region known as Hurricane Deck stretches for 17 miles of steep escarpments, grassy potreros, dry plateaus, and wind-carved sandstone formations. Wildflowers are abundant March through June. The Wilderness contains the Sisquoc Condor Sanctuary, and black bears and mountain lions also live here with numerous smaller animals. San Rafael Wilderness has over 125 relatively rugged miles of trails that receive moderate human use. A path follows the Sisquoc River east-west for about 26 miles, and campsites abound. Large portions of the Wilderness are closed during fire season (July through mid-November) because of extreme fire danger."

We will be traveling on National Forest roadways, but can see the rugged and beautiful San Rafael Wilderness from the comfort of our cars.



Typical creek crossing on La Brea Creek

For additional information see:

Wild & Scenic River:

<http://www.nps.gov/rivers/wsr-sisquoc.html>.

The California condor program:

<http://www.lazoo.org/ctime.htm>.

Fossils of this area:

<http://got.net/~dbasye/fossils/fossils.html>.

"Remember, when visiting any wilderness area, always follow these principles:

- Leave No Trace
- Plan Ahead and Prepare
- Travel and Camp on Durable Surfaces
- Dispose of Waste Properly
- Leave What You Find
- Minimize Campfire Impacts
- Respect Wildlife
- Be Considerate of Other Visitors "

Source: USDA website on San Rafael Wilderness

Check our OMS web site at the new location,  
<http://oms.home.netcom.com> or send email  
 to [oms@ix.netcom.com](mailto:oms@ix.netcom.com).

## Orcutt Mineral Society

Board Meeting

Mussell Senior Center, Santa Maria, CA

1 April, 2003

The Board Meeting was called to order by President Wayne Mills at 7:00 p.m. Board Members present were Bill and Deborah Hood, Wes Lingerfelt, Wayne Mills, Sylvia Nasholm, Geary Sheffer, Bess Shields, Lucky and Lynda Virgin.

Minutes of the March 4th Board Meeting and March 11th General Meeting were approved as published.

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

### Committee Reports:

**Bulletin (Ore-Cutts):** Bess Shields reported that the April issue was published on Sunday.

**CFMS Director:** Wes Lingerfelt said that the show dates are wrong in the CFMS newsletter, and Wayne will correct the error.

**Field Trips:** Dick Shields was in Los Angeles but sent information with Bess. The Saturday field trip to Figueroa Mountain was very successful with lots of jasper and serpentine being collected. The Santa Agueda Creek trip will be on April 12th. We will carpool from Mussell Senior Center at 9:00 a.m., and should be back by 5:00 p.m.

**Property:** Geary Sheffer invites us to the OMS locker cleanup (if it is not raining!) on April 5th at 8:00 a.m., followed by pastry and coffee at Omelets & More.

**Refreshments:** Wayne still has not found a chairman.

### Show:

**Dealers:** Wes Lingerfelt reported that 40% of the dealer spaces have already been sold.

**Displays:** Bess Shields has already signed up 12 people to display, and has 4 people interested in demonstrating their expertise.

### Correspondence:

- *Tule Smoke Signals* newsletter from Tule Gem & Mineral Club.
- *Mineral Messenger* newsletter from San Luis Obispo Gem & Mineral Club.
- *Dinny's Doins* newsletter from Fossils for Fun.

- *The Agatizer* newsletter from South Bay (Torrance) Club.
- *Rocky Review* newsletter from Conejo Gem & Mineral Club.

### Old / unfinished business:

- Membership: Paul Morris is the newest member of Orcutt Mineral Society.
- Maida Williams won the distinction last month of best donated item to the Gem Show Treasure Chest. Wayne Mills made her a soapstone and wood trinket box as her thank you prize, and it will be presented to her at the April General Meeting.

### New business:

The Board voted to continue Metal Stone and Glass as a quarterly addition to our OMS Library.

Wayne Mills reminded us that the 1' x 1' practice display will take place at the April General Meeting. Wayne said that there will be a prize for best display.

Wayne Mills asked for comments concerning the General Meeting refreshment and coffee pot situation. He wants to keep the supplies simple and manageable.

The Program for next week's meeting will be Wes Lingerfelt's "How to Create a Lapidary Display". Display table will be "One foot by one foot Display (practice)". Display competition will be next month.

Refreshments will be cookies.

The Board Meeting was adjourned at 7:37 p.m. by President Mills.

Respectfully submitted,  
Bess Shields, Secretary, OMS

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## Orcutt Mineral Society

General Meeting

Mussell Senior Center, Santa Maria CA

8 April, 2003

Call to Order at 7:00 p.m. by President Wayne Mills.

Invocation and Flag Salute were conducted.

There were 20 members, and 5 guests 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:

**Field Trips:** Dick Shields provided us with information about the upcoming trip to Santa Agueda.

**Library:** A videotape was donated by Jan Ferguson entitled "National Geographic: Splendid Stones, Smithsonian Gems and Minerals".

**Sunshine:** Debbie Hood is sending cards to Wes Lingerfelt and Lynda Virgin.

### 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.)

- *Tule Smoke Signals* newsletter from Tule Gem & Mineral Club.
- *Rockonteur* newsletter from Santa Lucia Rockhounds Club.
- *Mineral Messenger* newsletter from San Luis Obispo Gem & Mineral Club.
- *Dinny's Doins* newsletter.
- Sun Valley Indian School newsletter.
- *Lapidarian* newsletter from Santa Cruz Mineral & Gem Club.
- *Pick & Shovel* from San Geronio Mineral & Gem Society.
- *Rocky Review* newsletter from Conejo Gem & Mineral Club.
- *The Agatizer* newsletter from South Bay (Torrance) Club.
- *Rockhound Notes* newsletter.
- Elko Mining Expo and Show invitation to attend.
- Valley Prospectors Rendezvous invitation to attend.

### Old / unfinished business:

Maida Williams was awarded the prize for best donation to the Treasure Chest last month.

We welcomed Paul Morris as the newest member of OMS.

### New business:

Members are reminded of the AFMS/CFMS Ventura Show on June 5th through 8th from 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. for only \$5.00 admission at the Ventura Showgrounds.

Following the break for refreshments, Wes Lingerfelt presented a talk on "How to Create a Lapidary Display". He stressed the importance of displaying with labels: be clear, correct, and concise. Three people who set up practice displays at tonight's meeting discussed their exhibits.

The raffle was held after the program. Meeting was adjourned at 9:00 p.m. by President Mills.

Respectfully submitted,  
Debbie Hood, President-elect for  
Bess Shields, Secretary, OMS

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### The Wanderer

#### Show and Tell

One of the favorite activities our offspring remember from childhood was looking through my jewelry box. I would explain the stories about each little piece to share our family history, and create a tangible link with the past.



Al Orin's Display Case with Abalone from OMS Gem Show August 2002

I think of my display case as a little piece of history, too. At our recent monthly General Meetings, we have learned about effective methods to display our rockhounding treasures. Whether your first display case was set up thirty years ago, or this year will be your first time, we have all benefited from the instruction and encouragement offered by other club members.

My own displays are usually youth-oriented and utilize local rocks. My method includes simple titles, a few collecting site photographs, accurate rock descriptors, and a finished project that is easily accomplished. Also, I include a small card with contact information for those who have additional questions.

We have noticed that guests of our Annual Gem Shows admire the numerous displays. Yes, we have silver and goldsmiths, sphere makers, gem facet artists, jewelers, some who paint on rocks, bead makers, those who make little bug art, and more. We are indeed blessed to have so many talented people as club members!



Paul Patrick's Jade Trees from OMS Gem Show August 2002

If you are willing to go dig out the rock, and don't have equipment, write us an e-mail and we'll line you up with someone who will share. If you don't own a display case, just contact us and we'll loan you one of ours during the show. And, if you place a card in the display, folks have been known to buy treasures directly from the artisan.

Let's get busy and create our own unique 2'x4' atmosphere for those "Show and Tell" beauties! The Annual Gem Show is just around the corner.

Happy Hunting,  
Love, Bess

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### SAFETY

Reprinted from CFMS Newsletter, May 2003  
by Chuck McKie, CFMS Safety Chairman

Going on vacation? Play it Safe! This is the time of year many of us head off for a wonder-

ful vacation. Following are some tips to have a happy home coming:

Crime Prevention Tips - You are going on vacation, help burglars take one too! An empty house is a tempting target for a burglar. Use this checklist of tips to help safeguard your home while you're away.

#### CHECKLIST:

- Have good locks on all doors and windows and USE THEM.
- Ask a neighbor to watch the house while you're away. It's a good idea to leave your vacation address and telephone number with a neighbor so you can be reached in an emergency.
- Never leave your house key hidden outside your home.
- Stop all deliveries, or arrange for a neighbor to pick up your mail, newspapers and packages.
- Arrange for someone to mow your lawn, rake leaves and maintain the yard to give the home a lived-in look.
- Plug in timers to turn lights, a radio or television on and off at appropriate times. This helps disguise the fact that you are away.
- Turn the bell or ringer on your telephone down low. If a burglar is around, he won't be alerted to your absence by a ringing phone.
- Don't announce your absence on answering machine messages.
- Leave the blinds, shades and curtains in a normal position. Don't close them unless that's what you do when you're home.
- Close and lock garage doors and windows. Ask a neighbor to occasionally park in your driveway. If you leave your car at home, park it as you normally would. Vehicles parked outside should be moved occasionally to show they are being used.
- Secure storage sheds, attic entrances and gates.
- Tell your local police you plan to be away. Patrol officers may have the opportunity to periodically check your home.

- Engrave your valuables as recommended in Operation I. D. This simple step will allow your stolen property to be identified and returned to you if recovered by the police.

**READY TO TRAVEL!**

- If you are driving, make sure your vehicle has been properly serviced and is in suitable condition for the journey.
- Try to have specific directions and routes to your destination.
- If you get lost, call the police for directions or assistance.
- Always keep your vehicle doors and windows locked.
- At stop lights and other traffic delays, leave enough space in front of your vehicle so that you have an escape option in case of an emergency.
- Let someone know the route you intend to travel and your itinerary. This will help authorities in locating you if there is a need to do so.
- Plan your trip carefully and allow for such factors as weather, fatigue, facilities for lodging, food and fuel. Be sure you have sufficient finances- either cash, traveler's checks or credit cards.
- Ask the hotel or motel staff about their security measures so you know what to expect.
- Use the hotel safe to store your valuables during your stay.

Staying alert to safety may make your vacation much more pleasant and enjoyable. Being a victim of a crime is no fun. Relax, have fun, and be safe!

For additional information about burglary prevention, Block Watch and other crime prevention measures, call your area Police Precinct.

**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 |
| Harold Virgin   | (805) 929-4525 |
| Linda Virgin    | (805) 929-4525 |
| Marshall Reeves | (805) 733-2775 |

Ore-Cutts Editors

|                       |                |
|-----------------------|----------------|
| Dick and Bess Shields | (805) 937-0357 |
|-----------------------|----------------|

May 2003 Calendar

|  |   |
|--|---|
| Tuesday<br>May 06, 2003<br>7:00 PM - 8:30 PM   | <b>OMS Board Meeting</b> -- Mussell Senior Center. All members are welcome at this business meeting   |
| Saturday<br>May 10, 2003<br>8:00 AM - 5:00 PM  | <b>Field Trip to Brea Creek</b> -- Meet at Mussell Senior Center Parking Lot Explore the northern edge of the Dick Smith Wilderness area. Plan to get your shoes wet in the creek, fill your gas tank (no services in the canyon), and bring plenty of bottled water and a lunch. Wilderness Pass required. |
| Tuesday<br>May 13, 2003<br>7:00 PM - 9:00 PM   | <b>OMS General Meeting</b> -- Mussell Senior Center<br><ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Program: Wayne Mills will present, "Soapstone Carving and Bead Making"</li> <li>• Display: Best One by One Foot Display (competition)</li> <li>• Refreshment: Cakes and Cup Cakes</li> </ul>                |
| Saturday<br>May 17, 2003<br>8:00 AM - 10:00 AM | <b>OMS Highway Cleanup</b> -- 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<br>May 24, 2003<br>8:30 AM - 9:30 AM  | <b>Monthly OMS Breakfast</b> -- 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.  |

June 2003 Calendar

|   |   |
|---|---|
| Tuesday<br>June 03, 2003<br>7:00 PM - 8:30 PM   | <b>OMS Board Meeting</b> -- Mussell Senior Center. All members are welcome at this business meeting   |
| Saturday<br>June 14, 2003<br>7:30 AM - 5:00 PM  | <b>Field Trip to San Miguel Area</b> -- Meet at Mussell Senior Center Parking Lot at 0730 or at Mission San Miguel near the Gift Shop at 0900.                          |
| Saturday<br>June 21, 2003<br>10:00 AM - 3:00 PM | <b>OMS Annual Picnic</b> -- Pioneer Park, Orcutt Meat, bread, and sodas are provided. Bring your own plates and silverware a side dish to share. We also suggest bring- |

June 2003 Calendar

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|  | ing a lawn chair for comfort.   |
| Saturday<br>June 28, 2003<br>8:30 AM - 9:30 AM | <b>Monthly OMS Breakfast</b> -- 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<br>July 01, 2003<br>7:00 PM - 8:30 PM   | <b>OMS Board Meeting</b> -- Mussell Senior Center. All members are welcome at this business meeting   |
| Tuesday<br>July 08, 2003<br>7:00 PM - 9:00 PM   | <b>OMS General Meeting</b> -- Mussell Senior Center<br><ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Program: OMS Annual Show Preparations</li> <li>• Display: Petrified Wood</li> <li>• Refreshment: Pies</li> </ul>                                  |
| Saturday<br>July 12, 2003<br>8:00 AM - 6:00 PM  | <b>Field Trip to Vandenberg Beaches</b> -- 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<br>July 19, 2003<br>8:00 AM - 10:00 AM | <b>OMS Highway Cleanup</b> -- 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<br>July 26, 2003<br>8:30 AM - 9:30 AM  | <b>Monthly OMS Breakfast</b> -- 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.                                  |

**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-cfmshow.org>

Don't miss the **Kern County Mineral Society** annual Gem Show on May 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> at the Kern County Fairgrounds near Ming and P Street, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. both days.

Do you have email? You can save the club 63¢ per month by receiving your copy of *Ore-Cutts* via email. Notify us by sending a message to [oms@ix.netcom.com](mailto:oms@ix.netcom.com).

**Web Sites of Note:**

May 2003

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| Los Padres National Forest  |
| <a href="http://www.fs.fed.us/r5/lospadres/index.html">http://www.fs.fed.us/r5/lospadres/index.html</a>                       |
| Wild & Scenic Rivers:   |
| <a href="http://www.nps.gov/rivers/wsr-sisquoc.html">http://www.nps.gov/rivers/wsr-sisquoc.html</a>                           |
| California Condor Conservation:   |
| <a href="http://www.lazoo.org/ctime.htm">http://www.lazoo.org/ctime.htm</a>   |
| Spanish & Mexican Land Grants:  |
| <a href="http://www.ss.ca.gov/archives/level3_ussg3.html">http://www.ss.ca.gov/archives/level3_ussg3.html</a>                 |
| Sisquoc River running:  |
| <a href="http://www.sierraphotography.com/creeking/sisquoc01.htm">http://www.sierraphotography.com/creeking/sisquoc01.htm</a> |
| Fossil link:  |
| <a href="http://got.net/~dbasye/fossils/fossils.html">http://got.net/~dbasye/fossils/fossils.html</a>                         |
| Surface Currents of California:   |
| <a href="http://www.crseo.ucsb.edu/iog/codar_realtime.htm">http://www.crseo.ucsb.edu/iog/codar_realtime.htm</a>               |
| Chabazite information:  |
| <a href="http://www.gsaresources.com/chabazit.htm">http://www.gsaresources.com/chabazit.htm</a>                               |
| Llano Uplift:   |
| <a href="http://uts.cc.utexas.edu/~rnr/llano2.html">http://uts.cc.utexas.edu/~rnr/llano2.html</a>                             |
| What's older? Herkimer diamonds or dinosaurs?   |
| <a href="http://www.herkimerdiamond.com/museum.html">http://www.herkimerdiamond.com/museum.html</a>                           |

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|---|
| Orcutt Mineral Society<br>P.O. Box 106<br>Santa Maria, CA 93456 |
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ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

**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 SATURDAY NIGHT ONLY \$7.50 FOR ADULTS, \$3.50 FOR KIDS 12 AND UNDER.

Free Parking – Free Admission!