



**The Prez Box—
May 2021**

Wayne Mills for Bill Brown, OMS President

Happy Spring! Well, for some folks anyhow. We are sad to report that our President, Bill Brown, has suffered a heart attack, and has spent the last 3 weeks or so in the hospital undergoing a quadruple bypass and a difficult recovery. Wow, that is a lot to undergo. Our best thoughts are with Bill as he and Jeanne struggle through this difficult time.

But things are starting to open up. We recently got word that we can have our **face to face Board Meeting** at the Nipomo Chamber of Commerce on May 4 with a maximum of 10 members. Oasis Center will notify us by late April if we can have our May 11 General meeting there. And, we are supposed to hear from Santa Maria Parks and Recreation by late April to mid-May if we can have our June 12 Picnic in Pioneer Park. So, keep your fingers crossed, and PLEASE let Wayne know (I'm in the Red Book) if you are interested in coming to the Picnic.

SO, WHAT ABOUT ROCKS? Kim Noyes, President of the San Luis Rock Club, has been leading ad-hoc, non-affiliated field trips to several locations on the Central Coast most weekends in the last 4 months. If you have not been getting Kim's announcements about these trips, please contact him at kimnoyes@gmail.com and ask to be placed on his notification list. I attended one of Kim's trips to Estero Bluffs (as I recall), and he had several new, eager rockhounds with him. THAT is encouraging.

At this writing (April 26), we have not heard from Oasis Center or from Santa Maria Parks & Recreation. We are still hoping for confirmation on our meeting and our Picnic. We will get the word out when we hear. We are also still waiting for our President to come home from the hospital (latest word is Wednesday—4/28). Keep Bill in your good thoughts, and stay well and healthy yourselves. We would also love to hear from you—how have you been, any new rock-related or other projects, or ideas for (y)our bulletin. We're trying to keep it interesting for ya'll. Be well!

Wayne Mills, OMS IPP

BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

Greetings go out to those folks who are having Birthdays and Anniversaries in

MAY

BIRTHDAYS

Stan Ferguson	5/6	♄
Sally Griffith	5/12	♄
Lisa Azevedo	5/19	♄

ANNIVERSARIES

Wes & Jeannie Lingerfelt	5/20	# 63!!
Jeannie & Bruce Nybo	5/29	#56!

***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 **Wayne** so they will be included in the next edition (January 2021)*

BIRTHSTONE(S) FOR MAY EMERALD

From the May 2017 Ore-Cutts (Photo via GIA)

The birthstone for May in Modern tradition is Emerald. Even in the 15th-16th Centuries, it was Emerald along with Agate.

According to Purdy's Gems on Pinterest, **Emeralds** are thought to improve memory, faith and intuition. They are a symbol of consistency and faith and are believed by some to grant their owner foresight, good fortune and youth. The name comes from the Greek *smaragdus* meaning green.

Emeralds are green beryl—*beryllium aluminum silicate*. (Blue Beryl is **Aquamarine**). The most notable location for Emeralds is Columbia and Brazil in South America, though emerald crystals can also be found in North America, most notably in the gem mines of North Carolina, but also in Connecticut, Montana, Nevada, and South Carolina, as well as in the Yukon in Canada.

According to www.gemsociety.org/article/worlds-largest-emeralds/, the largest known emerald is The **Bahia Emerald** (Picture Wiki.com), an 840 lb. stone discovered in Bahia, Brazil in 2001. It reportedly contains over 180,000 cts of emeralds (approximately 79.38 lb), including the largest single shard of emerald ever found,



described as "the size of a man's thigh."

LOCAL ROCKS Wayne Mills, Secretary, OMS



One of my favorite vistas in all of San Luis Obispo County is the top of Perfumo Canyon/ See Canyon Road. From that vantage point, you can see down Los Osos Valley toward Los Osos one way, and toward Highway 101 the other way.

The picture above shows me with a couple of young ladies from the Santa Lucia Club looking out toward the western end of the 7 Sisters Chain of peaks that end at Morro Rock, but continue underwater for some distance. I recently learned that these peaks which are made of **Dacite**, an intrusive igneous rock. According to **Mountains of Fire**, a book by Sharon Lewis Dickerson, these intrusions were made under the ocean about 24 million years ago about the location of (what is now) Palmdale, California, some 161 miles south of their current location, and they have been moved northwestward to their present location along the San Andreas Fault at a rate of about 5 centimeters (2.5 inches) per year. At that rate, it is said that Los Angeles and San Francisco will be sister cities in about 50 million more years.

When I was a Cub Scout leader, I made-up a mnemonic device for remembering the names of the Sisters starting at Black Rock and heading East. "Black cats hunt rats, chew bites slow" for Black Hill, Cerro Cabrillo, Hollister Peak, Cerro Romulado, Chumash Peak, Bishop Peak, and Cerro San Luis.

The view from the top is lovely year-round, but a good time to go is in September when you can stop in at Gopher Glen and buy fresh Jonalicious apples and fresh apple cider.

BITS AND BYTES

The internet is truly an amazing place with something for (almost) everybody. Betty Campbell of OMS has assembled a list of about 350 websites and e-groups for rock hounds. These sites include those of **regional interest** (like [Pacific Northwest Rock & Gem Identification](#), **general interest** (like [Identification of Rocks & Minerals](#) and [Geology](#)), and **specific interest areas** (like [Cabs and Slabs](#) and [Sphere Making](#) and [Variscite](#)).

To expand this a bit, we will list a few sites in different categories that may be of interest to our readers, some of which have been approved by Betty.

ROCKS AND MINERALS

[Pacific Northwest Rock & Gem Identification](#)
[Identification of Rocks & Minerals](#)
[Rocks in the Field](#)
[Mineral Mania](#)
[Rockhounds United](#)
[Nipomo Rocks \(!!\)](#)

ARTIFACTS

[Ancient Artifacts of the South](#)
[Ancient Native American Artifacts & Arrowheads](#)
[My Indian Artifacts](#)

FOSSILS

[Green River Formation Fossils](#)
[Rock, Mineral and Fossil Identification](#)
[Palm, Shrinkwood & Petrified Wood](#)
[McElmo Canyon and 4 Corners fossils and finds.](#)
[Sale & Trade](#)

LAPIDARY

[Lapidary](#)
[Cabochon Auction Place](#)
[Heusler's Lapidary and jewelry](#)
[Cabs, Slabs and Jewelry Sales](#)

ASSEMBLING CALIFORNIA

From a talk by Wayne Mills, April 2021

Much of California west of the Sierras (including the Central Coast) is a patchwork of “exotic terranes” scraped off the Pacific Plate as the former spreading center and Plate Boundary that is now the San Andreas Fault was pushed toward, and eventually subducted beneath the edge of the North American Continent about 30-million years ago. **The Central Coast** is a wonderful array of geologic remnants of this epic encounter. The **Franciscan Formation** (mélange) is a Jurassic to Cretaceous age (about 125—65 million year old) group of metamorphosed sediments (Metamorphic Rocks) that shows on geologic maps as green and purple stripes. The **Monterey Formation** is a Miocene-aged (about 15 million year old) group of marine sediments (Sedimentary Rocks) that shows up as light and darker brown stripes (Mm), on the Geologic Map of California, and the Granitic rocks found along the Monterey Coast, and near Santa Margarita, as well as the 7-9 Sisters found in the Los Osos Valley near San Luis Obispo, AND the Nipomo Volcanics, are intrusive igneous rocks that show up as reddish-pink spots (Mv) on a geologic map.

The fascinating story of the assembling of California is told in some detail and with considerable humor in John McFee's **Assembling California**. And the story of the formation of the 7-9 Sisters is found in Sharon Lewis Dickerson's book **Mountains of Fire**.

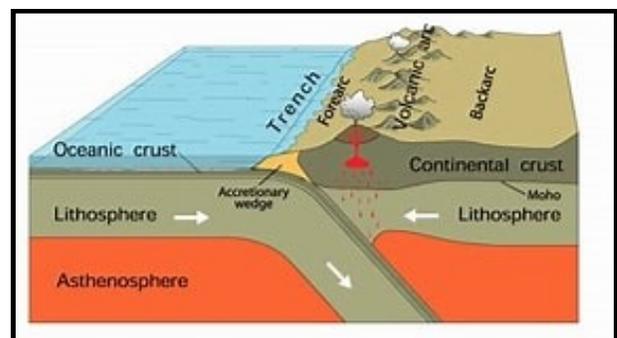


Image: [usgs.com](https://www.usgs.com)

ICE AGE MAMMALS OF THE CENTRAL COAST

By Wayne Mills from a talk by Ralph Bishop on March 13, 2001

The last ice age ended about 12,000 years ago. Since that time, the earth has been gradually warming, and worldwide sea levels have risen 350-400 feet due to the polar ice cap melting. Within the last 10,000 years, camels, sloths, giant elk, mammoths, mastodons, saber-tooth tigers and man have co-existed in the area around the Central Coast. All of these mammals, except for man became extinct in our area 7000 to 9000 years before present (BP), while pygmy mammoths survived on Wrangell Island in Alaska until about 4000 years ago.

The reasons for the demise of these animals have been given as over-hunting by man, and changes in the environment that affected the animal's food supplies. The truth is probably a combination of both these reasons. From radiocarbon dating, we know that man has been in this area the last 13,000 years. Early people in the area were roaming hunter-gatherer types that followed the herds and lived off the land. Not until about 5,000 to 6,000 years before present did the Chumash Indians settle this area in agrarian villages. Temperature gradients varied widely between 14,000 and 99,000 years before present (based on palynology-the study of pollen), but after about 9,000 years BP, annual temperatures are remarkably similar.

Mr. Bishop has found Ice Age bones at numerous locations on the Central Coast, and at several other locations between Goleta and the Carrizio Plains. These represent a mega-fauna that existed in the area between 100,000 years BP, and 9,000 BOP. This fauna included giant ground sloths (12-18 feet high at the shoulder) mammoths, mastodons, woolly rhinoceros, camels, huge elks and giant bison (*Bison antiquis*). These are represented by bones found in a Nipomo Creek and other locations. It is hard to tell some of these bones from common cow bones, but many have the patina of age, and, to the experienced, feel slightly heavier than modern bones of the same size. The bones wash out of a yellowish marl that is often associated with gravel layers in local creeks and streams. This horizon is just below the modern soils in our area. Mr. Bishop hypothesizes that this layer represents a tule swamp where these ancestral mammals became trapped and their bones covered with sediment.

Ralph has a particular fondness for these remarkably large and recent inhabitants of our area, because they shared a similar environment to what we enjoy today, and what the earliest inhabitants of the area enjoyed. These early people likely had a greater appreciation for this beautiful and bountiful area than the modern people who live here today. These people ply the movie houses and malls of the Central Cost, giving little thought about their lovely perch on the edge of the great ocean that we call "Pacific".



*Mastodon tusk, jaw with tooth and associated tool,
Ralph Bishop Collection blue, Nipomo*



<https://exhibitions.nysm.nysed.gov/cohoesmastodon>

SALE OF FORMER MEMBER'S CHUCK AND KAY VOLLMER'S ROCK COLLECTION UNDERWAY

On Sunday, April 18, the second of a series of sales of rocks from long-time OMS Members Chuck and Kay Vollmer was held at their Nipomo home. Members of all three local rock clubs were invited to the sale, and about 25-30 folks showed-up. These folks “dug-up” some **amazing** rocks from piles in the back-yard, and trays of slabs and tumbled stones on the tables. Notable among the finds were some great slabs of Nipomo Sagenite and Marcasite agate, a large chunk of Ocean Jasper from Madagascar, a hand-sized piece of Petoskey stone and some other large fossil corals, a nice chunk of Morgan Hill Poppy Jasper, a great specimen of andradite garnet and tourmaline, and lots of Jade and whalebone.

The good news is that there are a LOT of rock treasures left to be discovered. Kay and Chuck collected them over a period of more than fifty years, so it will take a lot more than 25 or so folks and 4 hours of looking to rediscover all their treasures!

Many thanks to all the folks who showed-up in response to our notifications. Wes and Jeannie Lingerfelt, Tara Machin, and Betty Campbell were among the OMS folks who attended. There is another sale planned for Sunday, April 25 from 10-2. At this writing, Wendy Armstrong, Chuck and Kay's daughter, still has their lovely glass-fronted wood display case with storage space (about 6' x 6' x 15") for sale for (a very reasonable) \$350. Wendy can be contacted at 310-936-5116 to make arrangements to see the case in person.

Wendy says she is still finding treasures in the house to share with visitors to her upcoming Sunday Rough Rock Sale.

The second sale as held on Sunday, April 25. It too was quite well attended, and many more wonderful pieces were uncovered including a neat polished piece of rutilated quartz, some more large Petoskey Stones, some entire agatized whale verts, and a couple of large specimens of Botryoidal jade— all at \$.50 per pound!

There is still plenty of material to be uncovered, and Wendy is planning another sale in two weeks. Stay tuned!



ROUGH ROCK SALE PICTURES (4/25/2021)

Pictures by Wayne Mills



Cashier Ariel and her assistant



Slabs and agate hunters searching the rock-pile



OMS & SLR Folks searching the piles



Somebody got a nice slab of rutile in agate



Laurie W. from SLR and her cool T-shirt

CFMS SHOWS

May 1-2, 2021 – Jackson, CA

Amador County Gem & Mineral Society
Kennedy Mine Gem and Craft Show
Hwy 49 in Jackson CA
Saturday – 10 AM – 5 PM, Sunday – 10 AM – 4 PM
Contact: (209) 296-4061, black-wolf@vgolcano.net

May 7-8, 2021 Yucaipa, CA

Yucaipa Valley Gem and Mineral Society
Yucaipa Blvd and Adams St, Yucaipa, CA 92399
Friday, May 7: 6 pm to 10 pm, Saturday, May 8:
noon to 10 pm
The YVGMS Gem, Mineral and Jewelry Show
will have fantastic dealers, kids activities, a great
raffle, and club store. It is held in conjunction with
the City of Yucaipa Music and Arts Festival.
Make it a day for the entire family. Besides our
show, there will be music, arts and crafts, and
other vendors.
Contact: grandpasmgs@gmail.com
Website: <http://yvgms.org>

June 12-13, 2021 – Escondido CA

Palomar Gem and Mineral Club
340 N. Escondido Blvd., Escondido CA 92025
Saturday – 10 AM – 5 PM, Sunday 10 AM-4PM
Palomar Gem and Mineral Show – presented by
the Palomar Gem and Mineral Club. Held in the
California Arts Centers museum and ballroom. A
beautiful indoor facility. Secure for vendors and
comfortable for attendees. 30-35 dealers.
Website: pgmcshow@palomargem.org

June 25-27, 2021 Lodi, CA – **Cancelled**
CFMS Annual Show and Conference

AFMS SHOWS

June

June 17-20, 2021 — Big Piney, Wyoming. AFMS Convention Show.

Sublette County Fairgrounds. 10937 Hwy. 189,
Big Piney, Wyoming. There will be field trips the
next weekend.

ORCUTT MINERAL SOCIETY BOARD MEETING

Teleconference
April 6, 2021

Cancelled due to the lack of a President (he
was in the hospital!)

Respectfully submitted,
Wayne Mills, OMS Secretary

ORCUTT MINERAL SOCIETY GENERAL MEETING April 13, 2021

Cancelled due to COVID —
our meeting place, Oasis Center in Orcutt,
was inaccessible.

Respectfully submitted,
Wayne Mills, OMS Secretary

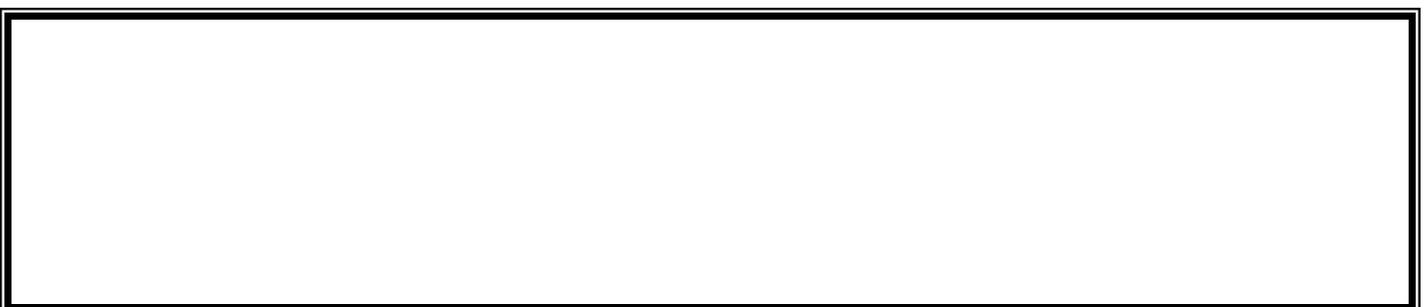
**ROCK TALK -Do you know what a tafone
is? (picture and text from Wikipedia.com)**



Tafoni (plural of tafone) are commonly defined as
small to large cavity features that develop in either
natural or manmade, vertical to steeply sloping, ex-
posures of granular rock with smooth concave walls,
and often round rims and openings. Recognized
subcategories of tafoni include honeycomb, stone-
lace, alveolar, sidewall, basal, nested, and relic
tafoni. Generally caused by wind blown sand ero-
sion.

OMS CALENDAR	
MAY 2021	
Tuesday, May 4 7:00 p.m.	OMS Board Meeting, Nipomo Chamber of Commerce Building
Saturday, May 8 8:00 a.m. South east corner of Highways 101/166 east	Highway Clean-up
Tuesday, May 11 7:00 p.m.	OMS General Meeting, Oasis Senior Center. (Pending notification from Oasis Center)
No Breakfast in May	OMS Monthly Breakfast
JUNE 2021	
Tuesday, June 5 7:00 p.m.	OMS Board Meeting, Nipomo Chamber of Commerce meeting room. Limited to 10 folks. Sorry.
Saturday, June 12 11 a.m.-2 p.m.	Semi-Annual Meeting (Picnic) in Pioneer Park (Pending notification from SM Parks & Rec)
Saturday, June 26 8:30 a.m.	Breakfast (TBD)

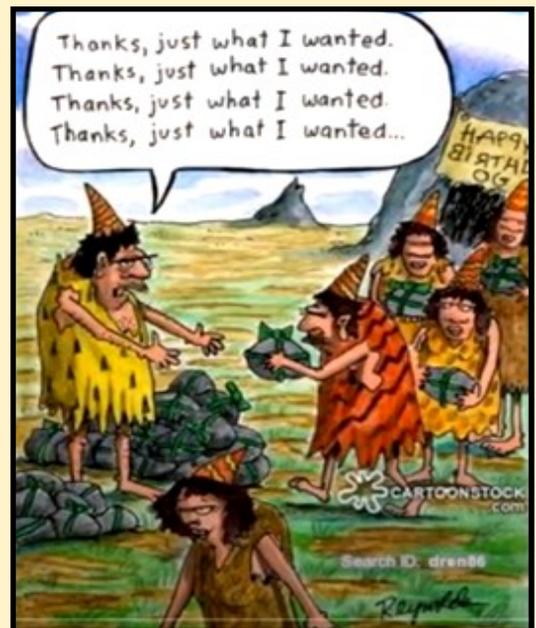
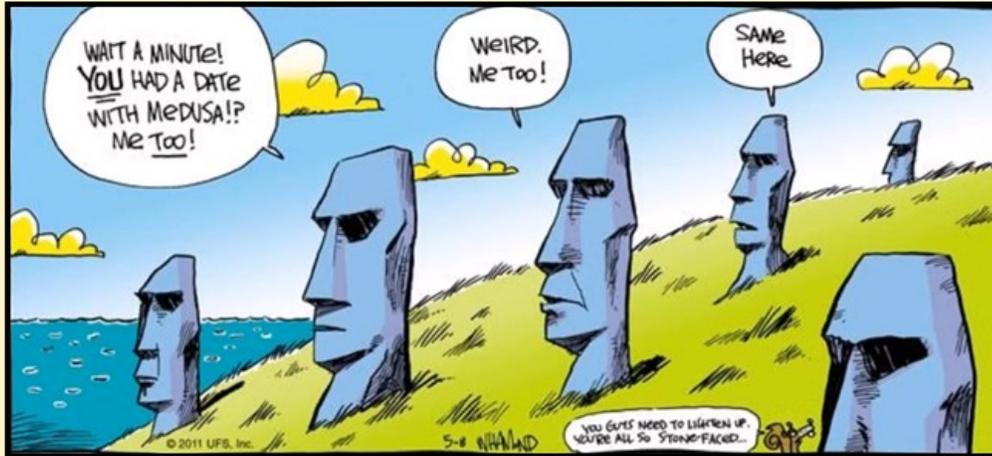
2020-OMS OFFICERS		
President	Bill Brown	(805) 481-1811
President-Elect	Jeanne Brown	(805) 481-1811
Secretary	Wayne Mills	(805) 481-3495
Treasurer	Betty Campbell	(805) 929-5344
Imm. Past Pres.	Wayne Mills	(805) 481-3495
2020-OMS BOARD MEMBERS		
	Dick Bazzell	(805-757-9123
	Jan Ferguson	(805) 474-9977
	Sally Griffith	(805) 928-6848
	Debbie Hood	(805) 481-6860
	Renea Suttcliffe	805) 929-2783
CFMS FEDERATION DIRECTOR		
	Renea Suttcliffe	805) 929-2783
Copyright 2017 Orcutt Mineral Society. Material in this newsletter may be duplicated provided that credit is given this publication and the author(s). For commercial use, the individual author(s) must be contacted. Editor may be contacted c/o OMS, P.O. Box 106, Santa Maria, Ca. 93456-0106, or via club web site omsinc.org .		
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: ?		
OMS Webmaster –Bill Brown– (805) 481-1811 Check out our OMS web site at: http://www.omsinc.org or send e-mail to: info@omsinc.org .		
Ore-Cutts Editor/Publisher		
Wayne Mills	(805) 481-3495	wwmills50@hotmail.com



Check-out the OMS Web page at :omsinc.org for our old bulletins (since 2002) and a wealth of other information We have a Bibliography to help your bulletin search.. Our bulletins look much better in COLOR!

Check-out our Facebook page. Elisabeth does a great job keeping that up. (Search for Orcut Mineral Society in Facebook Search.

Rockhound Humor
From #TexasRoadRunnerRockhounds



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

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.