



Ore-Cutts

Volume XL, Issue IX

September, 2005

How I spent My Summer Vacation- Oregon on \$80 a Day

By Wayne Mills, Board Member, OMS

When I got the invitation to my cousin's daughter's wedding June 30-July 1, I was tempted to go. I hadn't been to Oregon for about 23 years, except for a quick foray into McDermott in 1998. (That trip cost me more than \$10,000, but that is another story.) When I discovered that the Madras Gem Roundup was the same weekend, I took the time off work, and RSVP'd for the wedding. I wound up getting 11 days off work for taking 5 days of vacation, a pretty good deal.

So, I rented a new Mazda Tribute, packed up my camping gear, and headed for the border. Made it to Eugene, Oregon in time to help set-up chairs for the wedding, bartended after the services, and then helped set up for ANOTHER reception in a local county park the next day.

I slipped away about 4:30 p.m., and headed to Madras. After a two and a half-hour drive, found the fairgrounds and set up my tent. Talked to a couple of guys from Washington and Canada who had been on the field trips of the past couple of days, and they said they had done well. I was not really impressed by the small thunder eggs they had, but kept that to myself. The Madras club did have a rock auction that night that was pretty lively, and it went on until after I retired at 11 p.m. The auctioneer was appropriately named "Rocky". One of the club members said that the auction raised over \$2,000 for the club.

The next morning I cruised around the fairgrounds, and talked to several of the dealers.

There were not a LOT of fossils, but there were some real nice ones. Since I am doing some research about fossil turtles, I was impressed by the \$425 specimen from the Brule Formation (Oligocene) of the Black Hills. It had carapace and plectrum well preserved, and was about 11 inches long. Then I saw the other specimen (with no price). It was about 13 inches long, and only had the carapace preserved, but underneath one could see the skull, neck, and leg bones preserved.



A vendor's offering at the Madras Gem Roundup

I got a couple of pieces of polished cycad (in a grab bag) from the Argentina Lady (who markets agatized Araucaria cones), as well as a few other goodies at the show. Then I headed

for Prineville to pick up some rocks one of the dealers had for a guy in Orcutt Mineral Society.

After Prineville, I headed north to the John Day beds. I saw the Painted Rocks unit (pretty non-fossiliferous according to the sign), then headed east to Mitchell, and the Sheep Rock Unit. At the headquarters, the National Park Service has a nice collection of materials from the four units that make up the John Day beds, as well as an excellent 15-minute video about the deposition of the beds. The display on the single crystal (Sanidine) Argon - Argon dating method allows them to date the lahars that make up the tall palisades that characterize John Day to an accuracy of one-tenth million years - was fascinating. A lahar is a mudflow consisting of primarily volcanic ash. These occurred regularly in Central Oregon over the period from about 45-25 million years ago, making a remarkably complete record of the fauna and flora of the region. It is interesting to note that each of the formations that cover this period represent successively drier climates.



Beautiful downtown Fossil, OR

On July 4th, I was ready to do some F(f)ossil collecting. After lunch, I headed for the High School up the street from the one restaurant in Fossil, Oregon, and found the docent, Karen Mossberg, at her station. We talked for awhile, and Karen mentioned that Keith Lindholm and Carole Lockhart (from Fossils for Fun) had been there twice, most recently a few months ago. Karen seemed interested in my job as paleontology coordinator for Caltrans, and asked me about a couple of her mystery fossils. I must have made some sense,

as she opened their museum to another collector and myself. After that motivation, I charged up the hill, and started clearing talus from a hole Karen had indicated. I was able to dig out a few large slabs of the (Middle Miocene) shale in the two and-a-half hours I was there, and was pleased with what I found, both for me and for the museum. Karen seemed pleased too. I am still cleaning the material, but it includes a couple of nice *Metasequoia* “fronds”, some alder (I think) cones, oak and sycamore leaves, a winged seed pod, a rush, and some mystery wood with cool, diamond-crazed bark.

The next day, I visited the Clarno beds, and did the “walk through time” and the “fossil trails”. I think the coolest thing on the fossil trail was the leaf that was preserved as it was draped over a fist-sized rock. It was also pretty amazing to see what is left of petrified logs sticking through the huge boulders of lahar. Outside the park, I picked up a sample of the material with impressions of wood and who knows what else.



The palisades formation, part of the John Day lahar

After Clarno, I headed back toward Eugene, but I decided to make a slight detour to the world-famous Richardson (formerly Friday) Ranch. It is about 14 miles north of Madras. The drive was worth it, as the owners have a great little lapidary museum, and acres of rocks from around the world. I had to get some rubellite in fuchsite from India, and some purple jade from Turkey, because I had never seen any before. It was seven more, hot, dusty miles out to the thunderegg beds, so I just bought a couple of ranch “eggs”, and called it good.

Then I headed back over the Cascades to Eugene. I kept the Three Sisters in view a long time, and was happy to see their windward side when I got past Sisters.



Richardson Ranch rock sales area

The next morning in Eugene, my cousin's husband helped me find the old Sears warehouse near Interstate 5 and the railroad tracks, and I actually got to explore a location from Ellis Ransom's "Fossils in America". I have had the book for about 30 years, and I think this is the first of his nebulously located fossil locations I have found. Anyway, other folks know about this place because there were smashed boulders at the base of the railroad cut. With a little judicious hammering, I found a murex, a razor clam, 2-inch long tusk shell, turritellas, and several small pelecypods. This material is Oligocene (but marine), about 15 million years older than the terrestrial material I dug in Fossil.

After my fossil expedition, I headed for Lincoln City where my aunt has a condominium. Headed west on Route 126, and it was a long (about 70 mile) drive to get to the coast. The weather that had been nice most of the week, was drizzly from Eugene to the coast, but cleared up as I drove northward. Oregon has some beautiful beaches, but the sand was covering most of the agates and petrified wood. Picked up a few small agates at Yachats, and found one beach about 7 miles north of Newport with tumbled gray coquina. Collected one cobble, but the shells in it were mostly poorly preserved pelecypods—not too interesting. Finally, about dinnertime, I arrived at Lincoln

City where I was surprised to find my aunt (she was not supposed to arrive until the next day).

The next morning, I got up with the roosters, and headed for the beach. It was cold and drizzly, but when I started finding agates (though small), I forgot about my discomfort. The tide was out, so even though much of the gravel was covered up, there was enough in the out-wash fans to hold my interest. Found a couple of pea to marble-sized pieces of sagenite, some wanna-be carnelian and lots of red agate, but no petrified wood, or at least none that wanted to go home with me. At 11 a.m., I said goodbye to my aunt, and headed home, hoping to reach Central Point Oregon before 5 p.m.

I got to the Crater Rock Museum in Central Point at 4 p.m., just as they were getting ready to close. But Frank Callahan, Past-President of Roxy Ann Gem and Mineral Society which owns and manages the museum, was most accommodating, and let me take a look around both buildings. The first building was impressive, but the next one that housed the minerals, shells and gift shop was absolutely breathtaking! "How does a world-class mineral collection wind up in Central Point, Oregon?" I asked. Mr. Callahan responded that the owner of the collection happened to be elderly, lived nearby, and wanted to start a museum. Donating the minerals to a local museum seemed an expedient compromise. Well, the museum is well rounded. They (say they) have one of the best petrified-wood collections in the world, and they do have other excellent fossils, some nice shells, a wonderful collection of Oregon thundereggs, awesome agate, and several other materials I can't remember. But I would definitely go back. Mr. Callahan says they have a lot of things in storage that are not on display, and they are in the process of expanding the museum as we speak!

The rest of the trip is a bit of a blur. After spending about an hour at the museum, I gassed up, and continued my trip home. After a total of 17 hours, and 800 miles after my de-

parture from Lincoln City, I arrived home at 5 a.m. Saturday. My bed felt awfully good.

Rockhounding in the Southwest with Novice-Plus-One-Year Rockhounds

By Mike and Margaret Henson, Members, OMS

Here we are taking off again, having bid good-bye to our cat, Lizard, and leaving her in full charge of seeing that someone remembers to feed the goldfish. We are feeling confident that we have learned a lot this year, and will come home with more specimens and less leaverite.

Leaving Santa Maria May 5th and heading east, our first stop was near Ludlow, California where we looked for jasper, agate and chalcedony. We didn't spend a lot of time searching, being in a hurry to get to our first night's stop in Needles, and consequently didn't find much. We got to Needles and were excited about getting an early start the next morning to Turtle Mountain, where we found snow white chalcedony last year.



Chalcedony from the Turtle Mountain area

Leaving Needles early the 6th we headed south on Hwy 95 to Turtle Mountain. Driving on a dirt road 11 miles into the desert, we received a new lesson on rockhounding: we knew we were in the same place as last year, but it looked like the whole surface area had changed, or several million rockhounds had come and collected everything that didn't have roots. All we found were small, broken pieces. We got back in the truck, and headed south to Parker, AZ. After about a mile and a half, Margaret yelled, "Stop!", got out, and picked up a beautiful white rose. I parked, and we had better luck. There was a lot of rain last winter, and everything got moved around.

We spent the night in Parker with all the stinkbugs (beetles) in the world. Margaret put a towel at the bottom of the door to keep them out, but they were coming out of the ground on some kind of migration.

In the morning we drove south to Quartzsite, and spent most of the day checking out rock shops. We used our Golden Rock Hammer to get some samples of specimens we were hoping to find. We wanted to visit Crystal Hill on the Kofa National Wildlife Refuge, so we asked one of the rock shop proprietors for directions. We were told that you could still collect there, but only by hand, no tools of any kind allowed. We verified this the next day. There were signs posted everywhere. We asked why, and were told that someone had gone out and used heavy construction equipment on the site.

We went six miles east from Hwy 95 on a good dirt road, and did some searching in the wash at the base of the hill with no luck other than some broken stuff in the wash. It was worth the drive, however, because the cactus and desert plants were in full bloom. We spent that night back in Quartzsite.

The 9th we headed east on I-10 to US-60, and to Brenda. Another lesson at the collection site: the area was much smaller because of ranch fences perpendicular to the highway fence. The jasper was scarce, but we did find a few pieces.

From Brenda we kept going east to Salome where we headed south on Harquahala Mine Road. The scenery was very nice, but all the mines we spotted were posted no trespassing. We didn't stop since there's something about possibly getting shot that doesn't appeal to me. Harquahala Mine Road comes out on I-10 at the south end where we went east on I-10 to exit 94 (Tonopah). From Tonopah we went to Saddle Mountain to look for chalcedony and fire agate. This was a successful stop, except for lots of gnats, and we were able to find some nice specimens. From Saddle Mountain we worked our way east to Gila Bend and spent the night.

On the 10th we decided to visit Painted Rocks State Park. It has nice petroglyphs, picnic tables, and restrooms. We headed north, and found the Rowley Mine. It looked like a lot of work was being done, so we weren't sure if we could look around or not. I saw a sign posted on a structure and it said the mine was under new ownership, but rockhounds were allowed to surface collect. But please stay away shafts, fences and enclosed areas. We felt this was very nice of the owner, and hope no

one ruins it for others. Besides finding some nice specimens of fluorite, chrysocolla and as yet unidentified material, it was worth going to the mine just to see the remains of the old structures. We spent the night in Casa Grande, and on the 11th we went to Tucson for a short visit with Mike's cousins.



Petroglyphs at Painted Rock State Park, AZ

We left Tucson, and headed south on Old Nogales Highway to Sahuarita Road, east to Santa Rita Road to the Helvetia Mining District. We took some really rough side roads, and found nice pieces of copper ore with green, blue-green and blue in it. We didn't get to any of the mine dumps because the roads were worse than we were willing to risk. Mike would like to go back and spend more time exploring there. We will have to do it real soon though, because like so many other places we have been to, developers are starting to section the flat land off, install streets and housing. We don't know what's worse, National Monuments or development as far as blocking rockhounds from collecting.



Morenci Azurite - we were the only rockhounds on the tour so we didn't have to share ;-)

From the Helvetia Mining District we went up Hwy 83, back to I-10 and east to Hwy 191 which we took north to The Black Hills Rock Hound area. We picked up some chalcedony and fire agate be-

fore continuing on to the Morenci Mine tour that our fellow club member, DeeDee, told us about. Talk about a company owned town. We haven't seen one of those since we left Mississippi. The tour was outstanding, and about half way through it the guide took the time to let us go through a pile of tailings at the stop.

We left Morenci after the tour, and headed south on Hwy 191 to 78, and east on 78 to Mule Creek. We had the same kind of success as before at Mule Creek with a bonus of Mike being a feast for deer flies. We got out of there, and headed for Silver City to spend the night. We found out later from a rock shop owner that our books were wrong, and we were hunting in the wrong place for the Mule Creek Apache Tears. We left Silver City via Hwy 180 and I-10, and headed east to Deming, New Mexico.

On the 16th we went just north of Deming to Cook's Peak by way of Greenleaf Mine Road. At approximately 6.5 miles we found some mine dumps, agate, jasper, psilomelane, and a couple of small pieces of carnelian agate. We went a little further out and found another mine with pieces of circular crystalline patterns scattered all over them (to be identified), and some agate.

On the way back we stopped at the 6.5 mile mark, and picked up a few more pieces of agate and psilomelane. Margaret climbed a small hill, slipped and fell in gravel, and ended up taking pictures the rest of the time we were out there. On the way back to Deming we stopped along the road a few times but didn't find anything.



Mining remains near Cook's Peak

Back in Deming we went to the Red Roof Rock Shop per Bess and Dicks' recommendation, and really had to concentrate on keeping the Golden

Rock Hammer in our pocket (we still didn't get away clean).

The next morning 5/17 we headed for Rockhound State Park. On the way we stopped at Paul Colburn's (Geode Kid) shop. The massive door you have to knock on to gain entrance was answered by Paul's partner, Chris. He took us in, and introduced us to Paul. We all had a real nice chat, Paul gave us a map to his Baker Egg Mine and we did a little rockhounding with our Golden Rock Hammer (it wouldn't stay in my pocket this time).



Geodes from Paul Colburn's shop near Deming, NM, harvested with the "golden rock hammer"

We planned on going to the Baker Egg Mine the next day, but the local news that evening reported on a big drug bust in Columbus that day, and most of the people arrested were from California. So, remembering that "Discretion is the Better Part of Valor", we decided not to go.

From the Geode Kid's shop we went on to Rockhound State Park, and learned a lot about the park from the Attendant Ranger, including the best areas to look for geodes. It was a very informative morning and will make for another good trip.

That afternoon we went to the Deming Luna-Mimbres Museum to see the Geode Kid Collection. The exhibit represents 50 years of collecting from well over 100 locations in America, Africa, Europe, Canada, Mexico, Argentina, and Australia. If you happen to be in the Deming area, be sure and stop to see it. We still find it difficult to believe even after seeing it.

We left Deming on the 19th and went north on Hwy 26 and 27 to the Ghost Town of Lake Valley. There are a lot of buildings, and a caretaker to stop any collecting. The schoolhouse has been fixed up, but the rest of the town looks like they are just letting it go. Continuing north on Hwy 27, we came across a highway cut where we found rectangular-shaped quartz crystals in clusters, and some agate. We continued on 27 to Hillsboro, and went west on

Hwy 152. After crossing a couple of bridges, we found lots of spotted and banded rhyolite, as well as some dark brown material that looks like jasper, but is more brittle and fractured. Turning around and heading east, we stopped at Percha Creek Bridge, the oldest steel decked bridge remaining in New Mexico. We spent the night in Truth or Consequences.



Banded Rhyolite from Truth or Consequences, NM

After breakfast the next morning, we went across Hwy 25 to see if we could find some banded rhyolite that the locals refer to as "candy rock". We went south to a shooting range, and then northwest thru the shooting range about $\frac{3}{4}$ of a mile where we found some nice pieces of the rhyolite. After finding and picking up some rhyolite we got out of there in a hurry before anyone turned up to do some target practice.

Back on Hwy 25 we headed north to Los Lunas, arriving around noon. We stayed with friends, and celebrated their granddaughter's graduation and birthday. We had a great time and look forward to seeing them again soon.

We left Los Lunas, took Hwy 6 to I-40, west to Grants, up to 547 north, searched for Milepost 8, and finally to look for Forest Road 450. Reports of topaz, garnet and obsidian nodules in the area, but we never did find Forest Road 450. We went back to Milepost 8 where we got some apache tears, and some chunks of rhyolite.

We spent the night in Holbrook. We headed south 6.5 miles on Hwy 77 to the Woodruff turn off, followed this well-graded dirt road, and stopped along the way to pick up pieces of wood, chert and agate. After the Woodruff stop, we turned south toward Snowflake, and Silver Creek. After collecting along this road for about 3 hours, we found a nice place overlooking a small creek canyon, and

had our picnic lunch. Margaret spotted a nice piece of colorful wood weighing about 10 lbs. We also found some colorful pieces of sandstone. When we got back to Holbrook, we went to a rock shop that had nothing very impressive, then to a petrified wood rock shop that had crystals Margaret really liked, so there went the Golden Rock Hammer.

From here we decided we better save some places for next trip and head home. We arrived back in Santa Maria June 3rd. It was a great trip!

Check our OMS web site at
<http://omsinc.org> or send email to
info@omsinc.org.

Avila Deedeeite Re-visited

By Wes Lingerfelt, Treasurer, OMS

It was the 19th of August, 2005 and the boys were getting restless. The boys being Ralph Bishop, Marshall Reeves and Wes Lingerfelt. A call to the girls went unanswered, so we decided to hit the trail to Avila on our own. Who needs the "Girls Gone Wild!" anyway? We looked at the tide chart and noted the best time to go was in the afternoon.

About 2 PM we arrived at the beach area to find nary a parking space. After a short wait, someone decided to pull out, and I had a chance to prove my prowess at parallel parking with the giant and long F350 truck. Smooth as silk I entered the spot. It made for a much longer walk than we had hoped for, but we were there in any case.

The beach was crowded with lovelies in bikinis, and the weather was perfect for rock hunting. We loaded up with our gear looking totally out of place on the beach with picks and carry bags. It wasn't long before a lovely female engaged Ralph in conversation with many a question as to what we were up to. As Marshall and I sauntered on down the beach toward the Deedeeite deposit, I turned around to see Ralph leaning on his long iron bar, still engaged in conversation. We had walked over a hundred yards, but Ralph wasn't moving. Oh well, more Deedeeite for us!

We arrived at the scene with excited expectation of finding a good seam of agate with the oatmeal appearance. We set upon the slope with a vigor not felt for a long time. Rock after rock came tumbling down the slope. Ralph finally arrived and set upon the slope as well. Giant boulders came rolling down, but alas, nary a single one had the desired Deedeeite seam in them. Several tons of

rock was handled and visually screened in the pursuit of the once "Ugly" rock. It would appear that the days of easy pickings is over.



Ralph surveys while Marshall digs...the usual poses

The easy to see and pick up material is long gone. It would appear that anything large enough for our purpose (Sphere making) will have to be worked much harder for, assuming we find it at all. While it is possible that the sand of the beach has covered some material, it will be some time before the winter storms wash the beach sands away. In the meantime, a determined rock hunter will have to work the slope (the old cat push), or climb up the ridge to find the original seam in place.

One big problem with doing that is the property belongs to Union Oil, and it is "Posted". Another problem with working the slope is the presence of giant boulders at the top of the cat push, ready to roll down and crunch you if you remove the wrong keystone beneath it. We were very careful not to disturb those stones keeping them up there.

During our labors we had many sightseers wander by, and toss a lot of questions our way. We gave the little kids some nice agates for souvenirs from Avila Beach. Their little faces simply glowed with joy when we handed them the pretty stones.

We spent the rest of the day searching for the elusive rock, finding only a couple of small ones with possibilities. It was good to get out, and do a little "hounding" for a change. However, the next day I was reminded just how long it's been since I last did that. I was sore to the bone, barely able to walk the next day from sore, stiff muscles. I need to get out more before this old frame gives out completely. It's getting toward the Fall season and cooler temps out in the desert. I'm getting ready to go!

The Wanderer**Sharing Field Trips**

Do you remember your first rockhounding trip? With summer drawing to a close, we hope you enjoy reading about three rockhounding adventures some of our members made this summer.

Wes Lingerfelt and the guys made a day trip to Avila Beach, and report on the availability of DeeDeeite.

Mike and Margaret Henson now have a full year of rockhounding experience under their belts, and entertain us with tales about their month on the road, their trials, successes, and life-lessons using the "Golden Rock Hammer."

Wayne Mills combined family obligations with a series of fossil and mineral adventures in Oregon.

If you have traveled to a rockhounding locale, and think other OMS members would like to read about your adventures, and see your photos, give us a call. We'll help you write up your adventures, and share your story in the *Ore-Cutts*. Plus, you will be eligible to compete in the "newsletter competition" next June at the CFMS Show in Calaveras.

Happy Hunting,
Love, Bess

Orcutt Mineral Society

Board Meeting

Mussell Senior Center, Santa Maria CA

2 August 2005

The meeting was called to order at 7:05 p.m. by President Lucky Virgin. Present were Lucky Virgin, Sharon Duncan, Wes Lingerfelt, Bess Shields, Sylvia Nasholm, Geary Sheffer, Bob Bullock, DeeDee Magri, Wayne Mills, and Debbie Hood. Guests attending were Dick Shields, and Bill Hood.

Minutes of the previous General Meeting were approved as read.

Treasurer's Report was read by Wes Lingerfelt, and accepted as read.

Committee Reports:

CFMS Director, Wes Lingerfelt read excerpts from the CFMS Newsletter, and commented that OMS won 10 awards and honorary mentions in the newsletter compe-

tion. Wes also discussed the "Officer Liability Insurance" issue.

Sunshine: Debbie Hood reported that she will have hand surgery on 31 August. June Apperson had eye surgery recently.

Correspondence:

- *Rockonteur* newsletter.
- *Lapidarian* newsletter.
- *Dinny's Doin's* newsletter.

Old Business:

None.

New Business:

Membership: applications for membership were received from Kevin and Robert Cochran. Wes Lingerfelt moved that they be accepted as members since all membership requirements have been met. Wayne Mills seconded the motion. Motion passed.

Gem Show:

The man who was hired to perform Guard Duty at our show suffered a massive heart attack last night. Wes Lingerfelt reported that Elaine Von Achen's relative, Gino Barrett, can perform this function since he has the proper training.

Wayne Mills reported that he has submitted the Gem Show ads to all of the local newspapers, and radio stations.

Wayne Mills volunteered to perform the General Meeting Raffle function, and received materials to conduct the raffle at meetings. Wayne submitted a beginning inventory to be filed with the OMS minutes. Wayne will turn in a yearly inventory reconciliations at the end of each year to be filed with the minutes.

Wes Lingerfelt has signed up 41 dealers, and prepared a newly corrected dealers list. Lucky Virgin has not yet made the Gem Show programs or vendor location maps.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:55 p.m. by President Virgin.

Respectfully submitted,
Bess Shields, Secretary, OMS

Orcutt Mineral Society

General Meeting

Mussell Senior Center, Santa Maria CA

9 August 2005

The meeting was called to order at 7:07 p.m. by President Lucky Virgin. Flag salute was led by Geary Sheffer. Invocation was given by Mike Henson.

Minutes of the previous Board Meeting were approved as read.

Treasurer's Report was read by Wes Lingerfelt, and accepted as read.

DeeDee Magri reported 33 members, and 5 guests were present. Guests were Dick Bazzell, Sue Cejda, Erika Erskine, Lucy Massey, and Linda Kolasinski.

Committee Reports:

Adopt a Highway needs a volunteer to head the committee.

Breakfast: Ken Kreh reported that the last Breakfast at Francisco's was a success.

Library, Books, Videos: Geary Sheffer has numerous books and tapes that members can check out tonight. Topics include opals, gold mining, a little bit of everything.

Raffle: Wayne Mills will hold a special auction at the end of the meeting tonight, and explained the rules.

Show: Rob Bullock reported that "everybody ate good!" at the Gem Show BBQ. Bess Shields turned over \$22.25 to Wes Lingerfelt for sales of Fluorescent Grab Bags.

Sunshine: Debbie Hood reported that Helen Azevedo passed away last Friday.

Correspondence:

- Correspondence from Rock & Gem magazine.
- California Secretary of State request for officer information.
- Gem Faire advertising.
- Confirmation of Gem Show local ads run in Pulitzer Central Coast newspapers.

Unfinished Business:

Dick Shields reported that members can have nametags made with an OMS logo. They cost \$3.75 each.

Rob Bullock reported that the field trip in September has been changed to September 10th, and will be to Gaviota Beaches. We'll leave promptly at 8:30 a.m. from Mussell Center.

New Business:

Wes Lingerfelt reported on the financial aspects of the Gem Show. Although advertising cost nearly \$600.00, it brought a lot of folks to the Show. Wes told the story of Ralph Bishop, an old wagon, and a pile of DeeDeeite (Ralph's unique method of raising money).

Following refreshments of assorted cookies, we had a show recap discussion. Displays were "Agates".

The meeting was adjourned at 8:44 p.m. by President Virgin.

Respectfully submitted,
Bess Shields, Secretary, OMS

OMS Membership dues are \$18 per year. Junior Membership is \$9.00. New membership dues are pro-rated from January 1st of the first year.

OMS Receives Thanks from Scholarship Recipients

By Wayne Mills, Scholarship Chairperson

Orcutt Mineral Society recently received thank you notes from both of our 2005 Scholarship recipients. The notes are worth sharing, as is the Scholarship Application we received from our Alan Hancock Recipient.

The first note comes from our Cuesta College recipient, along with a Certificate of Appreciation from the College.

"Dear Orcutt Mineral Society Geology and Earth Science:

Thank you so much for the \$400 Scholarship. It is going to help me buy all of my school supplies while I am attending Cuesta. I am going to be taking many biology and photography classes while participating in cross country and track. Thank you again for your generous support.

Sincerely, Megan Mullin"

The second note comes from the Alan Hancock College(AHC) scholarship winner, Tiffany Mahan.



President Elect Sharon Duncan and Scholarship Chairperson Wayne Mills, presenting Tiffany Mahan her scholarship at the June 2005 AHC award ceremony

"Dear Orcutt Mineral Society:

"I can't thank you enough for the gift that you gave me. Your scholarship came at a time when I was wondering how I would ever be able to afford the rising costs of college. You helped renew my hope that I could afford to become a geologist. With your generous help I will be attending C.S.U. Sacramento in the fall, and will finally get to take more in depth geology classes. I am very excited about that!

"I not only want to thank you for the scholarship but also for making me feel special the night of

the ceremony. I think I was one of the few people who were lucky enough to not only meet just one, but two very nice people from my donor, your society. I know I was the only person lucky enough to receive such a beautiful rose bouquet!

"I am forever thankful and grateful to all of you. "Your scholarship recipient, Tiffany S. Mahan"

Web Sites of Note:

September 2005

Crater Rock Museum:

<http://craterrock.com/>

Richardson's Rock Ranch:

<http://richardsonrockranch.com/>

GSA Cordilleran Section Field Trip:

http://www.geolab.unc.edu/Petunia/IDS_Web_Site/FTG.html#STOP%207

Virtual and Online Field Trip Guides:

<http://www.lib.utexas.edu/geo/onlineguides.html>

Antique Bottles:

http://www.blm.gov/historic_bottles/

The Amateur Geologist:

<http://www.amateurgeologist.com/shop/index.html>

Clear Lake Volcanic Field, California:

<http://vulcan.wr.usgs.gov/Volcanoes/California/ClearLake/>

Mining Stock Certificates:

http://minerals.state.nv.us/programs/min_stockcer.htm

California Federation of Mineralogical Societies:

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

American Federation of Mineralogical Societies:

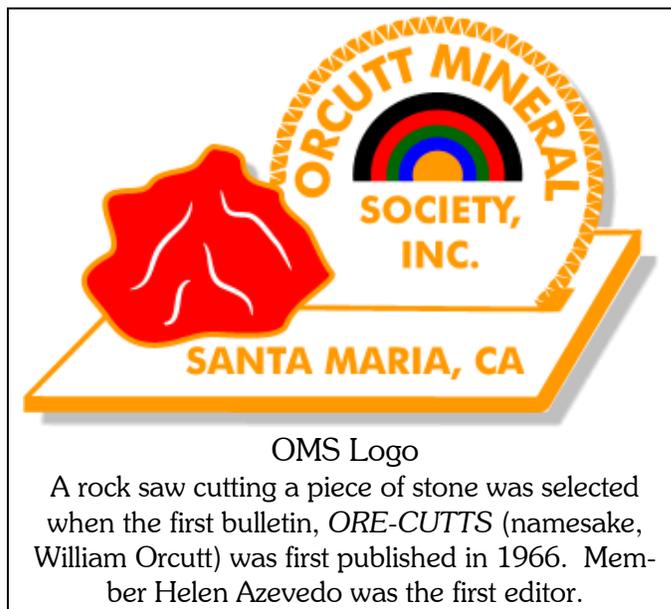
<http://www.amfed.org/>

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* (namesake, William Orcutt) was first published in 1966. Member Helen Azevedo was the first editor.

2005 OMS Officers

President	Lucky Virgin	(805) 929-4525
President Elect	Sharon Duncan	(805) 478-9359
Secretary	Bess Shields	(805) 937-0357
Treasurer	Wes Lingerfelt	(805) 929-3788
Immediate Past President	Debbie Hood	(805) 481-6860
CFMS Representative	Wes Lingerfelt	(805) 929-3788

2005 OMS Board Members

Geary Sheffer	(805) 925-8009
Sylvia Nasholm	(805) 481-0923
Robert Bullock	(805) 928-6372
DeeDee Magri	(805) 595-2755
Wayne Mills	(805) 481-3495

Ore-Cutts Editors

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

Webmasters

Dick Shields	(805) 937-0357
Wes Lingerfelt	(805) 929-3788

Ore-Cutts Photo Credits: "Oregon" by Wayne Mills; "Novice Rockhounds" by Mike and Margaret Henson; and "Avila Revisited" by Wes Lingerfelt, and "Scholarship" by Anonymous.

September 2005 Calendar	
Tuesday September 6, 2005 7:00 PM - 8:30 PM	OMS Board Meeting -- Mussell Senior Center. All members are welcome at this business meeting
Saturday September 10, 2005 8:30 AM - 4:30 PM	Field Trip to Refugio and Gaviota Beaches -- Meet at Mussell Senior Center. Entrance fee required for an all-day pass covering both parks. Bring a lunch - the beach concessions only operate in the Summer. Contact Bob Bullock at 928-6372 for details.
Tuesday September 13, 2005 7:00 PM - 9:00 PM	OMS General Meeting -- Mussell Senior Center <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Program: "Fluorescing" by Dick Shields • Display: Bring rocks and minerals to fluoresce • Refreshment: Cakes
Saturday September 17, 2005 8:00 AM -10:00 AM	OMS Highway Cleanup -- Intersection of Highway 101 and 166 After the cleanup we have coffee and pastry at "Francisco's Country Kitchen" in Santa Maria. Contact Lucky Virgin at 929-4525 for details.
Saturday September 24, 2005 8:15 AM - 9:15 AM	OMS Monthly Breakfast -- "Francisco's Country Kitchen" in Santa Maria. Call Ken Kreh at 343-7749 for details.

October 2005 Calendar	
Tuesday October 4, 2005 7:00 PM - 8:30 PM	OMS Board Meeting -- Mussell Senior Center. All members are welcome at this business meeting.
Tuesday October 11, 2005 7:00 PM - 9:00 PM	OMS General Meeting -- Mussell Senior Center. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Program: "Sherm and Bea Grisille's Collection" • Display: Favorite Rocks from 2005 Field Trips • Refreshment: Pies.
Saturday October 15, 2005 8:30 AM - 5:00 PM	Field Trip to Clear Creek -- Meet at Mussell Senior Center Parking Lot A long day to hunt in a prized California gem collecting area. We can find botryoidal jade, orbicular pieces of jasper, chatoyant material, serpentine, cinnabar, and turtle jade. Bring lunch and sturdy shoes for short hikes. We'll eat dinner on the way home. Contact Bob Bullock at 928-6372 for details.
Saturday October 22, 2005 8:15 AM - 9:15 AM	OMS Monthly Breakfast -- "Francisco's Country Kitchen" in Santa Maria. Call Ken Kreh at 343-7749 for details.

November 2005 Calendar	
Tuesday November 1, 2005 7:00 PM - 8:30 PM	OMS Board Meeting -- Mussell Senior Center. All members are welcome at this business meeting.

Tuesday November 8, 2005 7:00PM - 9:00 PM	OMS General Meeting -- Mussell Senior Center. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Program: CFMS Video on "Tourmaline" • Display: Crystals • Refreshment: Cookies
Saturday November 12, 2005 8:30AM - 5:00 PM	Field Trip to Avila, Cayucos, and Morro Bay -- Meet at Mussell Senior Center Parking Lot Observational trip to a classic location. Bring a lunch and bottled water. Some hiking required. Contact Bob Bullock at 928-6372 for details.
Saturday November 19, 2005 8:00 AM -10:00 AM	OMS Highway Cleanup -- Intersection of Highway 101 and 166 After the cleanup we have coffee and pastry at "Francisco's Country Kitchen" in Santa Maria. Contact Lucky Virgin at 929-4525 for details.
Saturday November 26, 2005 8:15 AM - 9:15 AM	OMS Monthly Breakfast -- "Francisco's Country Kitchen" in Santa Maria. Call Ken Kreh at 343-7749 for details.

Helen Azevedo

It is with deep sympathy that we report the passing of Helen Azevedo on August 5th. Helen was married to Charles ("Charlie") in 1947, and had two children, Kathy and Joe. Helen is remembered by OMS as its first bulletin editor.

A Great Big THANK YOU!

From our President:

I want to express my gratitude and sincere thanks to everyone involved in making our 2005 Gem Show a success. It was a great show, and had a big turnout. It took a lot of hard work from all of us to make it such a success.

The donation to our Scholarship Fund will result in college scholarships that OMS will award next year. Our hard work directly benefits our local community.

I look forward to next summer's Gem Show, and encourage you to join me in supporting this worthwhile project. -- Lucky Virgin

From the Dealer Chairman:

WOW! What a show! This was the best show ever. I can't recall when I've experienced a show with fewer problems to solve. We must be getting it down to an art or something. With the able help of several members, everything came together. Well Done Members! Attendance at the last 3 shows was well up. Special thanks to Emily Slater of the Adobe Press, and Kirsten Flagg at Pulitzer News

Service for the great articles that hit the streets of 4 local cities on opening day. We live in a great community! Now is the time to start thinking about next year's show. – Wes Lingerfelt

From the Kitchen:

Let me take this opportunity to thank the world's best kitchen crew ever!

Everything ran so smoothly this year, as though we'd all worked together for years! Not only did we have fun, but we did a record business and our customers loved the great food and smiling great service. Your contribution of time and energy meant added revenue for the scholarship fund.

It goes without saying that the contribution of pies and other goodies donated by our club members helped us realize those record revenues.

Noticeably missing this year were Lois and Jerry Harr. Jerry is doing well we hear and we are looking forward to seeing them both soon. Most generously, they sent a prize to be given to a member of the kitchen crew. It will be handed out at the September club meeting.

Thank you all for making my job such a pleasure! - Sylvia Nasholm

From the Fluorescent Room:

Many thanks to all of those who volunteered and assisted in the Fluorescent Room, and sold Fluorescent Grab Bags. A special thanks to Rick Kennedy for making the trek from San Jose to entertain us with his "Benitoite Etching" talks. A special rockhounding newcomer, Connie Klein, also

made the trip from the Bay Area to exhibit her collection of "Fluorescent Spheres". – Dick and Bess Shields

Reserve the dates

You are so used to seeing this ad on the back of our bulletin, you probably don't notice this is for NEXT year. Cut it out now and paste it to your fridge as a reminder about next year's dates!

39th 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 4th, 5th, 6th 2006

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 \$8.00 FOR
ADULTS, \$4.00 FOR KIDS 12 AND UNDER.
Free Parking – Free Admission!

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

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED