



# Ore-Cutts

Volume XL1 Number 3

March 2006

## In Memory of Helen Smith

By Debbie Hood

It is with sadness that we note the passing of Helen Smith who was a 25 yearlong member of OMS. Helen died on February 9, at Arroyo Grande Hospital after surgery to improve circulation to one leg, and a series of complications.

Helen was born in a rural town in Minnesota on Nov 2, 1916. As a small child she moved with her family to North Dakota where she grew up on a farm and developed an interest in hunting the local agates with her mom. She graduated from high school and moved to New York State to go to business school in Chillicothe, where she met Ralph Smith. They were married on March 5, 1938. They both loved to travel and lived in Chicago and San Francisco before Ralph went into the army. While he was in the Philippines she worked in the film library for the Army at Ft. Knox. While there, her daughter, Jan, was born.

After the war they moved to Baldwin Park, California. In 1952 their interest in rocks and lapidary arts blossomed. They took classes at a local school, bought some used equipment, and collected anything they could cut and polish. They made collecting trips to 35 states while Jan was growing up. They joined a club and Helen was a member of a Silversmithing group that met in member's homes. She made many beautiful pieces including a Squash Blossom necklace with malachite stones.

They moved to Arroyo Grande in 1981 and joined the OMS. They both were active members until their deaths, Ralph in 2000, and Helen in 2006. She was the inspiration behind our club's Abused Children's Fund and was it's first committee chairman.

Her love of traveling took them all over the world, and wherever they went, she found stones to love. Some of their trips were with other club members, including yearly trips to Deming, New Mexico where they also belonged to the Deming Rock Club. They traveled to and collected in the other 15 U.S. states.

Helen also was an avid gardener, she had a mail order business selling Iris and Dahlia bulbs, and her home in the

springtime was a riot of blooms. She loved birds and raised specialty parakeets for sale until someone broke in while they were out rock hunting and let her birds out.

But above all she loved her rocks: collecting and cutting them was her joy. She was fond of saying that she had never collected a rock she didn't like!

Her daughter and Son-in-law, Jan & Stan Ferguson and their daughter, Brenna, who are all OMS members as well as their son and daughter-in-law, Sean and Cheri Ferguson, and their grand daughter, Savannah, survive Helen.

## “MAKE A PLACE FOR A ROCK TO GO AND IT WILL GO THERE”

By Ralph Bishop, honorary member, Orcutt Mineral Society

The first time I heard about Graveyard Point was from a sweet little lady named Mamie Cavin. I had met her at the OMS summer picnic at Nojoqui Falls. I was probably 12 or 13. I later visited her at her Rock Museum (The Bonanza) in Shell Beach. There I saw large (1' x 2') slabs of Plume Agate in yellow buff and pink. These were astounding for a young kid that hunted Sagenite in Nipomo where a big agate was only fist sized. Now Mamie had hunted rocks since forever and explained how lucky I was.

When she started hunting there were no diamond saws to speak of. It seemed only after the technology achieved during WW2 to cut optical quartz for gauges in aircraft and submarines was there any widespread availability of surplus diamond blades. Before that time circle saw blades would be used. First the teeth would be removed until the rim was smooth. Then a chisel was used to notch the rim on both sides. Diamond dust and grease was tamped in to the groove and peened (the notch being hammered closed). This rudimentary diamond blade could make very few cuts before it was worn out and screamed its way through a hard agate.

It seems when Mamie was a young lady there were very few people who were interested in “rocks”.

There were of course, miners of strategic minerals (gold, silver, and iron) but other than that there were only a few “questionable” types scattered far and wide. One was the “Gabby Hayes” type such as Chuckwalla Slim who disappeared into the Mojave Desert for months, then reappearing in the L.A. area with a truckload of curiosities of the mineral nature. He was able to sell his crystals, petrified wood, and curiosities to hobby shops and a few collector types. These sales would allow him to disappear again (grub-staked) into the recesses of the vast Mojave. The other type was like Dr. Dake, a mineralogist. They existed in sparse numbers, these Earth Scientists who were interested in aesthetic minerals (petrified wood, crystals, fossils) rather than strategic minerals. They had free rein over the earth—after all, to most people they were—well—strange and harmless. Well, Mamie told me many stories about her “adventures” with her “Bo’s”. She brought the lunch basket and fed the gentlemen very well, all the time explaining how big and strong they were. Guess who carried the rocks? Mamie was a maiden lady. I wonder how many “mules” she wore out?

But let’s get back to Graveyard. Mamie said when she first saw the point she saw why it was called Graveyard Point. It was a nose of land on the west side on the Snake River plain. During the day it was just unassuming landform but at sunset the low light changed things. There were lines of stones, shaped like gravestones that stood here and there in rows across the promontory. These “grave stones” were pieces of large vein agate full of plume. The veins had resisted weathering and sections had remained standing in their vertical position. Mamie remembered riding in a Model A pickup between the “grave” stones until she saw a good one out the window (Road Hunting similar to what Sylvia Nasholm did at Tuscarora, but that’s another story). Then of course she had her big strong “date” load the rock (“my what big strong muscles you have”) into their truck! “Those were the days my friends. We thought they’d never end”. Well, the years went by, there was a World War.

With the end of the war the “Boys” came home. They settled down and got married and had families. With more and more leisure time a number of them became interested in all the things going on out in the “Hills” and collecting rocks. The bloom of rockhounding had begun and by the “60’s” it became the most popular hobby in the nation. There was a rockhound on every block and a rockshop in every

town. I was the one on my block nurtured by the men and women of the Orcutt Club. By the time I was able to leave the nest I had been well infected with the “Rock Bug”. So in 1970 I married my high school sweetheart and moved to Oregon. I thought the grass would be greener there and there were lots of rocks. Well, there were lots of rocks and I found out the reason it was greener; because it rained from November until April 1<sup>st</sup>. (The last time I talked to Marshall Reeves who recently moved to Oregon, it was pouring and moss was growing behind his ears—nothing has changed!) Well, it came to pass that I met Tom Caldwell who mined agate for Mr. Stewart of Stewarts Rock Shop. He claimed to need some “Hep” producing some “Agit” for Stewart at Graveyard Point. “Wouldya be interested?” “You Bet!”

It was a hot day in June in 1973 when I crossed the canal and drove up the dusty road toward Graveyard Point. Memories of Mamie’s stories coursed through my mind. The gravestones, Model A’s, those were the days back in the 30’s. Now in the late afternoon I saw no gravestones, instead silhouetted against the evening sky was a backhoe and track drill. As I climbed the short incline I saw the top of the nose. Flat, dusty, hot, and rocky with a few sagebrushes here and there. Not a stitch of agate. Instead a large number of trenches where Mamie’s agate veins once stood. It was apparent that the glory days were gone. The vein was now accessed by a notch shot into the side of the hard black basalt “nose”. A full 12 feet of basalt had to be drilled and shot to expose and remove the 8-inch to one-foot wide agate vein. Tom would drill for a day, and then pack the drill holes and “let’er rip”. Tom hated to “waste a hole”. So he would over pack the holes with dynamite. BOOM! We’d hide behind the large rear tire of the backhoe. Then like a meteor shower pieces would rain down on the backhoe. The backhoe looked like the surface of the moon. It was the “Graveyard Hoe”. So this went on for a week and I picked up my one ton, payment for my help picking and loading agate.

It was now the 3<sup>rd</sup> of July and was time for me to leave and haul my load to the 4<sup>th</sup> of July Prineville Rockhound POW-WOW. Like Chuckwalla Slim before me, I needed a grubstake to be able to disappear back into the high desert of Oregon. I woke up tired and gritty on that hot July morning ready to leave Graveyard Point—stretched, and took a walk to water the weeds. Remember the Agate Goddess? Well, I was a young whippersnapper back

then and not totally aware of the “facts of life”. But this hot July morning she caused me to learn a valuable lesson in life—one that will serve me the rest of my days. On the way back from my morning’s constitutional, I saw it! Hiding under a thirsty bush was a glint of agate. Now you know how dangerous it is for me to turn and head for the barn. So, what the heck, it was early and the sun was just rising over the Sawtooth Range to the East. I had plenty of time! I was back shortly with a set of tools and dislodged the poor sagebrush. (By the time Wes and I went to Stonewall Pass, some 20 years later, the western sagebrush had become an endangered species, but that’s another story). This was Western Idaho in July and it wasn’t long until that gully was like an oven. An hour had gone by and the easy surface dirt and decomposed Basalt had been cleared. Now the fist sized rock was a one-foot wide triangle sticking out of the ground. The plumes were 4 to 5 inches tall and frosted with crystals of druzy Marcasite in milk-white agate. Wow! The rock was pretty! Now the rock got bigger and wider as it went into the bedrock. This big rock would wiggle with the bar but the stubborn bedrock still held it. It was hot; it was frustrating...then a calm but strong voice came out of the blue “Mornin’ young man! I see you gotta good agit thar”! There stood a man built like a boxcar about 5’9” and an “axe-handle wide at the shoulders”. Soft spoken he was and tipped his XXX Beaver. “Warm Mornin’, but looks like a mighty fine agit” he said. “Yup!”, I replied. I went back to prying this way and that, cussing a little and sweating a lot. He sat for a while watching my youthful energy being wasted. His name was Quirt from Silver City, Idaho. It seems his Dad had found the quartz/silver stringer (Thin vein) in the late 1800’s in an isolated part of the Idaho scabland. “I started shoveling ore when I was 9”, he said. “Being short wuz a vantage. Started drillin’ and shootin’ when I was tall enough to bend over the drill”. It was a pleasant one-sided conversation. I was frustrated and cussing. Then came the words that would serve me well the rest of “borned” days. Words I could pass on to other young men the rest of my life. “YOUNG MAN” he said, “IF’N YOU’D MAKE A PLACE FOR THAT ROCK TO GO IT WILL GO THAR”! I was exhausted from wrestling that rock and I was all of 22 years old. I kept struggling with the bar and thought to myself...”be silent, humor the old fart” I continued for some time before he piped up again. “YOUNG MAN, YOU’RE MAKING ME AWFUL

TARD JUST WATCHIN YOU IN THIS HEAT”! IF’N YOU WOULDN’T MIND AN OLD MANS HEP, ...“IF’N YOU’D MAKE A PLACE FOR THAT ROCK TO GO, IT’D GO THAR”! The sun was bearing down on my 140 pounds, my judgment wasn’t too good and I was frustrated to boot. But I was brought up right and so I politely replied, “Quirt! She’s all yours” and I stepped out of the way, out of the badger hole. He took off his Stetson and laid it carefully on the bank. He ran his fingers through his silver hair and stepped up to the rock. He looked straight at the rock then sideways. He set the bar to work with a few jabs then he leaned on the bar. A rock the size of a lemon popped out. “Keystone”! He calmly said. Then he moved to the side of the rock and repeated the process. Another rock or two popped out. Then he stabbed the bar behind the rock. THAANNNGG! The steel sang and stood vertical. Quirt retired to the bank without out raising a sweat and donned his Stetson, “JES LEANONER YOUNG MAN” he said. So I did. I heard a few snaps of sound and then a shearing groan and a 150-pound agate flopped at my feet. I was dumbstruck! “For god’s sake, Quirt”! “Thank you, I owe you”. He replied, “No young man, you owe Jake Simmons, the old scutter who taught me”. “And some day you can retire your debt by helping some youngster like yourself”. “Just remember all that college edacation is dangerous...Strips a man of his common sense”. So I rolled the big one down the hill and loaded it into the front seat. I pulled a 100-pound plate of angel-wing plume out of the back (2 inch marcasite plumes with yellow and red flames running into the angel-wing) and set it on Quirt’s tailgate. “Why I can’t take that, young man”! “That’s deep rock...god-a-mighty...look at the colors”! “Sure you can”, I said. You taught me more in 10 minutes than I learned in 3 years of college. “God bless you, son, this will be my prize agit”. So we parted ways on that hot July morning, never to meet again. A chance encounter? Not on your life! As I write this story, my tears are flowing hard. And Jake and Quirt are smiling.

So years passed and my hair has grayed with experience. One day in the late 90’s, Marshall Reeves and I went to San Bernardino to the Blue Calcite Quarry. It was a hot morning and a young man was working up a lather trying to remove a big piece of blue Calcite from the bedrock. So I saddled up and said, “YOUNG MAN, IF YOU’D MAKE A PLACE FOR THAT ROCK TO GO, IT WILL GO

THAR”! And I showed him what he needed to know. Jake and Quirt were sitting on that silver cloud; I paid my debt “I’d dun made’em proud”! (Note: A sphere cut out of the big rock and slabs made from the 1973 Graveyard dig will be at the next meeting).

Next months story took place in 1998 on a club trip to Stonewall Pass, NV where we learned that Sage Brush had become endangered species.

### ‘Beads, ‘n More Beads, Oh My!

Wayne Mills, member, OMS

Over the 2005 Christmas Holiday, my son Todd and I traveled to my sister’s new home east of Phoenix, Arizona. One of our rockhounding adventures (in the 4 days we were there) took us to The Bead Museum in Glendale (a suburb of Phoenix) after a frustrating morning trying to find turquoise that we slogged our way north through the mass of traffic on Route 60 to get to. The good news is that the weather was picture perfect.

The Bead Museum is a rare find, even if you are not especially “into” beads. Now, I have made a few (soapstone) beads, and am in the process of trying to make a necklace out of some (less than) high quality turquoise I found in Nevada, but I was blown away by the comprehensive nature of the collection in the museum. The attached pictures do not do it justice, because they have drawers and more drawers under each display with additional items.

Perhaps the most instructive feature for a history buff like moi, is the bead chronology pictured below. This chronology has examples of beads used throughout history, from the earliest forms dating to about 20,000 years ago to the present. And they have chronologies from different areas of the world as well. A ‘beadoholic’ or an archaeologist could spend a couple of days just trying to digest this display. But that would be difficult with eye-catching displays of Amber and Coral beads (compare the size of those beads to my 6 foot 5 inch tall son), and turquoise jewelry from around the world. I think the largest bead we saw was the chevron bead (see illustration). I did not find out what giant wore THAT one, or where.

Some of the modern beadwork is also remarkable as the photo below is supposed to illustrate. It is a constant source of amazement to me how after 20,000 years of “civilization”, people are able to come up with new and innovative ways to adorn the modern woman.

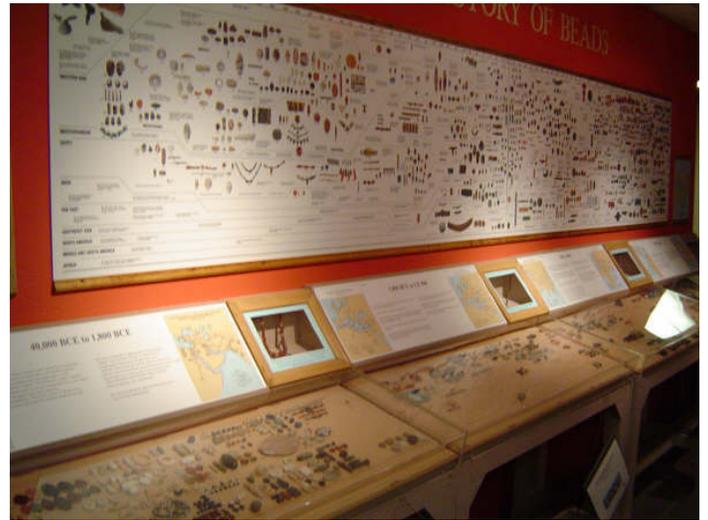


Figure 1 The Chronology of World Bead Making

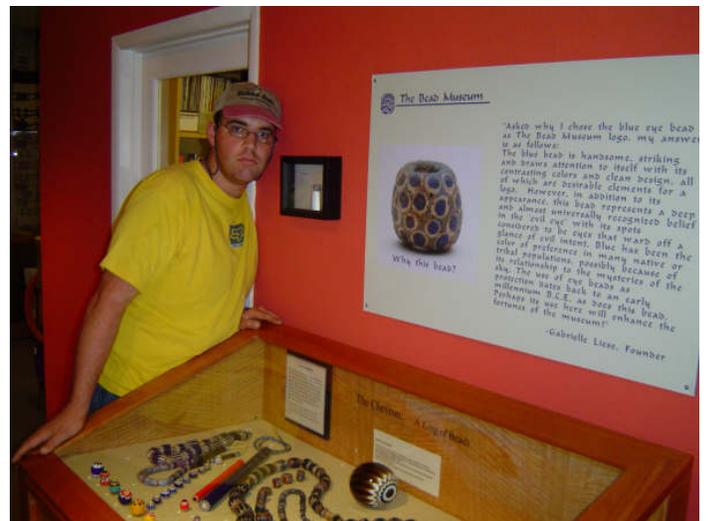


Figure 2 Chevron Beads



Figure 3 Coral and Amber Beads



**Figure 4. Modern Beadwork**

Let's face it, most of the beads produced in the modern world wind up some-where on the female form, or in her jewelry box. In formative times, as can also be seen in the museum, men had some wonderful beaded adornments. Well, some men in Africa still do. I have long admired the ornately beaded moccasins and deerskin shirts worn by some of our plains and woodland culture Native Americans, and the bandoliers crafted by the Ojibwas of Minnesota. I had the opportunity to get a picture of some of those a couple of years ago.



**Figure 5 American Indian Bandoliers**

Gabrielle Liese in Prescott, Arizona founded the Bead Museum in 1986. The museum moved to its present location in Historic Glendale, Arizona in 1999. The museum's mission to educate the public about beads includes classes in beading, publishing research, and public exhibition. The Bead Museum is

located at 5754 W. Glenn Drive, and is easily accessible off Route 10 in Phoenix. For further information, please call 623 931-2737. For information about beading classes offered through the museum, call 623-930-7395. The museum's web-address is [www.beadmuseumaz.org](http://www.beadmuseumaz.org)

## March Display (February Winners!)

The February best natural/crafted heart competition brought some beautiful entries. Winner in best crafted heart competition was Sandy Berthelot who brought in a tray of about 12 polished hearts, each about 3-inches long. I think the Laboradorite heart was my favorite. Sandy won a hematite heart necklace. The best natural heart was a piece of jade found by Wayne Mills at Willow Creek in Monterey County. Wayne won a zeolite crystal (orange Stilbite) from India.

March display is easy—GREEN rocks (in honor of Saint Patrick). While no prize is offered, you can contribute to the fun by bringing in the biggest, prettiest, or greenest green rock of all. How many different green rocks can YOU think of?

## Raffle Thanks

The raffle seemed to go pretty smooth in February, and it must have been great in January too with \$90 reported income. Thanks to Mike Hanson and others for handling it. The February raffle mostly consisted of materials from Quartzite, but featured 4 polished rocks, and 4 polished dino bone cabs from Ralph Bishop, and 3 slabs from Lucky Virgin. Lucky's slabs were Lace Agate from Australia(?) Rainbow Ridge Agate, and what looked like golden moss agate. Thanks guys for your much appreciated contributions.

## January Breakfast

By Wes Lingerfelt

Present were Don & Sylvia Nasholm, Dick & Bess Shields, Bob Bullock, Marty, Wes & Jeannie Lingerfelt. It was a great social hour of Rock & Gem chatter. It's always good to converse with friends about your true love of rocks; past and future rock trips and even grandkids. I encourage everyone to get into the circle of great people. You are missing a lot! Cheers!

## Field Trip to Jade Cove

This month's field trip was cancelled due to the storm, as the coast up there is a dangerous place to be during heavy rain. We've had rather bad luck with field trips this year, so far the only two times it has rained have been field trip dates,. Let's hope for better weather for the March trip to Carrizo Plains on

March 11, all this rain should make it glorious! See calendar for details.

## President's Corner

Dear fellow Rock Hounds:

Here we are passing into the third month of the new year and it seems that we are getting along fine with our changes: A new editor for the Ore-Cutts, a new Secretary, and me. Still chugging ahead, we are. Not to forget those that went before, I would like to say a heart felt thanks to Dick and Bess for all they've done and to wish them well on their moving to Texas to be near their kids. Just don't forget the bug repellent and watch out for those darn fire ants.

As a reminder, our field trip will be March 11 '06 heading out to the Carrizo Plains for a look-see. My last time through was some months back during the dry season, and it was. Folks farmed and ranched the area for many years, now the Government owns a big chunk of it. Hopefully we'll get to see the seasonal change taking place and a few deer and antelope at play. Oh, please bring cameras, binoculars, food, water, TP, and a friend or two. The road is, I believe, an improved graveled roadway. So pre-check your vehicle to make sure you have good rubber and fluids are topped off. Hopefully the weather will be nice.

Anyway, in closing I would like to also thank our in house storyteller, Ralph, you're the man! See ya'all at the meeting. Bob

## February Breakfast by Wes Lingerfelt

Jeannie, Marty and myself joined Don & Sylvia along with Ken Kreh and his friend Carol Bowen who was a guest at the last meeting. We had a good time badgering each other with funny tales and poking fun (Especially at Ken) over mundane things. It was rather crowded around the table since we didn't get one of the larger tables in the back (We aren't the only group scheduling the place). In other words, we all enjoyed ourselves and we're looking forward to next month at the breakfast table.

## Bakersfield, California's 4th Annual Rock and Gem Rendezvous

Saturday & Sunday March 18th. & 19th.

9:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M. Both Days

Kern County Fair Grounds

1142 South P. Street Bakersfield California

Corner South P and Belle Terrace

VENTURA GEM & MINERAL SOCIETY, INC.

presents

"ARTISTRY FROM NATURE"



44<sup>th</sup> Annual Gem, Mineral, Lapidary & Fossil Show  
Seaside Park, Ventura County Fairgrounds  
Ventura, California

MARCH 4 & 5, 2006 (10-5:00 Sat., 10-4:00 Sun.)

Gems-Minerals-Rocks-Fossils-Jewelry-Exhibits-Displays  
Demonstrations-Prizes-Video Presentations-Dealers

Kids' Activities-Free Admission

Show Chairs: Jim & Nancy Brace-Thompson, (805) 659-3577

Society Web Site: <http://www.vgms.org>

## Orcutt Mineral Society Board Meeting

Mussell Sr. Center, Santa Maria, CA February 7, 2006

The meeting was called to order at 6:55 p.m. by President Bob Bullock. Board members present were: Bob Bullock, Debbie Hood, Bill Hood, Wes Lingerfelt, Wayne Mills, Sylvia Nasholm, Dee Dee Magri, Lucky Virgin and Elaine Von Achen.

Wes Lingerfelt swore in Elaine Von Achen and Sylvia Nasholm as 2006 board members.

Sylvia Nasholm noted a correction to the January 10 Board Meeting minutes. She was listed as being present at the meeting and was not in attendance. Minutes of the previous Board Meeting were approved as printed in the newsletter with the above noted correction.

Treasurer's report was read and accepted as read.

Committee Reports:

Sunshine: Debbie Hood reported that Helen Smith is in the hospital and not doing well. She has pneumonia. Truman Burgess is doing great, but not driving as yet. We should see him next month. Bob Bullock said he is going to start treatments and will follow with radiation.

Adopt-a-Highway: We need a chairman. Chuck Ferguson is a possibility.

CFMS Director: Wes Lingerfelt reminded us that the Ventura Show would be held on March 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup>.

Education: Wes shared a letter from Mrs. Elliott (Rm. 16) from Nipomo Elementary and pictures of rocks from the kids for a talk he recently gave. He also had thank you notes from students at Oceano School for a program he gave them. Wes stated he has three more talks scheduled: Vandenberg Village Boy Scout meeting on February 21, Nipomo

Elementary (Rm. 30) on February 22 and then Oceano Elementary on March 15<sup>th</sup>.

Wayne Mills will be attending Career Day at Paulding Middle School on February 23.

Monthly Raffle: Wayne Mills said he spent \$279.00 in Quartzsite for raffle items and has enough for 18 items for each meeting for the rest of the year.

Field Trips: Bob Bullock reminded everyone that the next field trip would be to Jade Cove on Saturday, February 18. People planning to go will meet at the Elwin Mussell Sr. Center parking lot at 8:00 a.m. He also stated that the March 11<sup>th</sup> field trip would be to the Carrizo Plains.

Correspondence: Elaine Von Achen read a thank you note from Mary and Dave Sumpter. We received a form to be listed in the Lapidary Journal.

We also received a quarterly magazine from Australia, Metal, Stone and Glass. A newsletter was received from the Sun Valley Times.

Old Business: None

New Business:

Wes Lingerfelt announced that the flyers were ready for the August Gem Show.

Bill Hood reported that reservations have been made for our Christmas luncheon and that the Sweet Adelines have been reserved as our entertainment.

Elaine Von Achen mentioned that we would need someone for Hospitality as she is now holding the secretary's position.

Bob Bullock said we need a Field Trip Chairman as well.

Wes Lingerfelt wanted to know if we wanted to continue to support the American Lands Access Association. Annual dues are \$25.00. After some discussion Wes made a motion to continue our support, it was seconded by Bill Hood and passed.

Wes Lingerfelt bought an Adobe Acrobat supplement to enable the editor's to put out the newsletter. Cost was \$127.00. Wayne Mills made a motion to reimburse Wes; it was seconded by Bob Bullock and passed.

Wes Lingerfelt brought up the fact that there was a resolution to add new President, Robert Bullock, to the Mid State Bank account and to remove Wayne Mills. This is stated in the minutes of the December 10, 2005 annual meeting at Maria del Sol and printed in the January 2006 newsletter.

There was discussion regarding getting our general meeting dates and times out to the public. It was suggested that we try to get it into the Santa Maria

Times, the Adobe Press and possibly on television in the Community Calendar.

Elaine reported that columnist Steve Corbett of the Santa Maria Times indicated that he would come to one of our general meetings and do a story on our group. It was suggested that if it was not too short of notice it would be nice to have him at our February meeting as Ralph Bishop was going to give a talk on dinosaur bones. Elaine is to try to set this up.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:56 p.m. by President, Bob Bullock.

Respectfully submitted,

Elaine Von Achen, Secretary, OMS

## **Orcutt Mineral Society General Meeting**

Mussell Sr. Center, Santa Maria, CA February 14, 2006

President Bob Bullock called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m. Mike Henson gave the invocation.

John Belzel led the flag salute.

We had 29 members and 4 guests present. Guests were Joseph Martinez, Maddy Belzel, Carol Bowen, Don and Gloria Dana and their daughter Shelly Dana.

Refreshments for tonight are cake, which is provided by Dee Dee Magri, Elaine Von Achen, Sandy Berthelot, Margaret Henson and Linda Kolasinski.

Minutes of the February 7, 2006 Board Meeting were read by Elaine Von Achen and approved as read.

The treasurers' report was read by Wes Lingerfelt and accepted as read.

Wayne Mills announced that we would be voting on the best natural heart shaped rock and the best-crafted heart shapes.

Correspondence:

There was a thank you from Dave and Mary Sumpter and a memorial for Rosamond Riggle. Newsletters received: Ventura Gem & Mineral, Santa Cruz Gem & Mineral and the Sun Valley Times.

Wes Lingerfelt announced that the Red Book comes out March 1<sup>st</sup> and that we need all of the positions filled.

Committee Positions for 2006:

Abused Children Fund: Debbie Hood, Jan Ferguson and Margaret Henson

Adopt a Highway: Chuck Ferguson

Annual Awards Banquet: Debbie and Bill Hood

Monthly Breakfast: Ken Kreh

Budget and Audit: Don Nasholm

Ore-Cutts Editor: Debbie Hood, Wayne Mills and Jan Ferguson

Webmaster (Newsletter posting on Web Site)

Wes Lingerfelt

By-Laws/Parliamentarian: Wes Lingerfelt

CFMS Director: Wes Lingerfelt

Chaplin: Mike Henson

Education: Wayne Mills, Wes Lingerfelt, and Debbie Hood

Field Trips: Open

Historian: Sharon Duncan

Hospitality: Sharon Duncan and Margaret Henson

Library Books/Video: Gary Sheffer

Membership: Elaine Von Achen and Linda Kolasinski

Property: Gary Sheffer

Publicity: Wayne Mills and Wes Lingerfelt

Raffle: Wayne Mills

Red Book: Wes Lingerfelt

Refreshments: Dee Dee Magri

Scholarship: Wayne Mills

Sheriff: Bill Hood

Show Chairman: Bob Bullock

BBQ: Wes Lingerfelt, Bob Bullock, Truman Burgess and Lucky Virgin

Dealer Contacts: Wes Lingerfelt

Food: Sylvia Nasholm

Displays/Demos: Lucky Virgin

Inside Affairs: Debbie Hood

Sunshine Report: Elaine Von Achen announced that there was to be a get-together on Wednesday, February 15, 2006 at the Lady Family Mortuary from 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. to honor the life of Helen Smith.

There was discussion regarding flowers and it was stated that our club rules allow us to spend \$50.00 without having to bring a motion before the board.

Old Business: None

New Business:

Wes Lingerfelt announced that flyers for the Gem Show were ready.

The Field Trip to Jade Cove and Willow Creek will occur on Saturday, February 18, provided it doesn't rain.

Don Nasholm made a motion to donate \$100.00 to the California Federation to have Ralph and Helen Smith's name put on the memorial plaque. The motion was seconded by Sandy Berthelot and carried.

Wayne Mills mentioned some of the items to be raffled included thunder eggs, moss agate, amethyst

crystal, Montana agate, tiger-eye necklace and fossils.

Margaret Henson has an arrowhead spear point (Donated by Ralph Bishop) and an Amethyst crystal for the Abused Children's Raffle tonight. Sharon Duncan won the spear point and Stan Ferguson won the Amethyst crystal.

The program for the evening is a talk on Dinosaur Bones given by Ralph Bishop.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:52 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Elaine Von Achen, OMS Secretary

Check out our OMS web site at <http://omsinc.org> or send e-mail to [info@omsinc.org](mailto:info@omsinc.org).

## YOU MAY BE A PRACTICING ROCKHOUND IF:

- \*You associate the word "saw" with diamonds instead of "Wood."
- \*You begin wondering what a complete set of the Mineralogical Record is worth.
- \*When you find out, you actually consider paying it.
- \*You've fabricated a backpack for your dog.
- \*You've installed more than one mineralogical database program on your computer
- \*The baggage handlers at the airport know you by name and refuse to help with your luggage.
- \*You receive a letter from the county informing you a landfill permit is required to put any more rocks on your property.
- \*Your Internet home page has pictures of your rocks.
- \*They won't give you time off from work to attend the Tucson Gem & Mineral Show and you go anyway.
- \*You begin fussing because the light strips you installed on your bookshelves aren't full spectrum.
- \*The polished slab on your bola tie is six inches in diameter.
- \*You find yourself compelled to examine individual rocks in driveway gravel.
- \*You've ever purchased an individual, unfaceted rock, regardless of the price.
- \*You've ever spent more than ten dollars for a book about rocks.

From the Sunsites Gem & Mineral Club Newsletter



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.

## OMS Purpose

Orcutt Mineral Society was founded in 1956, and was 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 1989, Orcutt discovered the mineral and fossil wealth of the La Brea Tar Pits on the property of Captain Alan Hancock. The La Brea Tar Pits are one of the most significant fossil finds in paleontological history. The OMS is a non-profit club 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 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.

### 2006 OMS Officers

Pres.	Robert Bullock	(805) 928-6372
Pres. Elect	Debbie Hood	(805) 481-6860
Secretary	Elaine Von Achen	(805) 929-1488
Treasurer	Wes Lingerfelt	(805) 929-3788
Immed. Past Pres.	Lucky Virgin	(805) 929-4525
Federation. Rep.	Wes Lingerfelt	(805) 929-3788

### 2006 OMS Board Members

Geary Scheffer	(805) 925-8009
Sylvia Nasholm	(805) 481-0923
Bill Hood	(805) 481-6860
Dee Dee Magri	(805) 595-2755

Wayne Mills	(805) 481-3495
Jill Nelson (ex-officio)	(805) 925-2550

## Ore-Cutts Editors

Deborah Hood	(805) 481-6860
Wayne Mills	(805) 481-3495
Jan Ferguson	(805) 474-9977

## OMS Webmaster

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

Ore-cutts Photo Credits: "Beads, Beads And More Beads, Oh My!" by Wayne Mills

### March 2006 Calendar

Tuesday March 7, 2006 7:00 PM - 8:30 PM	OMS Board Meeting -- Mussell Senior Center. All members are welcome at this business meeting.
Saturday March 11, 2006 8:30 AM - 5:00 PM	Field Trip to Carrizo Plains -- Trace the San Andreas Fault from Highway 166 north through the Carrizo Plains to Soda Lake. If we are lucky, we'll hit the highlights of wildflower bloom. Bring lunch and water. Short hikes possible. Contact Bob Bullock at 928-6372 for details.
Tuesday March 14, 2006 7:00 PM - 9:00 PM	OMS General Meeting -- Mussell Senior Center. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Program: Disposing of Hobby Oils Properly</li> <li>• Display: Picture Rocks</li> <li>• Refreshments: Pies</li> </ul>
Saturday March 18, 2006 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 Bob Bullock at 928-6372 for details.
Saturday March 25, 2006 8:15 AM - 9:15 AM	OMS Monthly Breakfast -- "Francisco's Country Kitchen" in Santa Maria. Call Ken Kreh at 343-7749 for details.

### April 2006 Calendar

Tuesday April 4, 2006 7:00 PM - 8:30 PM	OMS Board Meeting -- Mussell Senior Center. All members are welcome at this business meeting.
Saturday April 8, 2006 8:30 AM - 5:00 PM	Field Trip to Figueroa Mnt. --Serpentine, Agate and Jasper. Bring lunch and water. Short hikes possible. Contact Bob Bullock at 928-6372 for details.
Tuesday April 11, 2006 7:00 PM - 9:00 PM	OMS General Meeting -- Mussell Senior Center. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Program: TBD</li> <li>• Display: Picture Rocks</li> <li>• Refreshment: Cookies</li> </ul>
Saturday April 15, 2006 9:00 AM - 11:00 AM	OMS Storage Locker Cleanup. Contact Geary Sheffer at 925-8009 for details.
Saturday April 22, 2006 8:15 AM - 9:15 AM	OMS Monthly Breakfast -- "Francisco's Country Kitchen" in Santa Maria. Call Ken Kreh at 343-7749 for details.

<b>May 2006 Calendar</b>	
Tuesday, May 2, 2006 7:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.	OMS Board Meeting-Elwin Mussell Senior Center. All members are welcome at this business meeting.
Tuesday, May 9, 2006 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.	OMS General Meeting-Elwin Mussell Senior Center. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Program-TBA</li> <li>• Display-Flower rocks</li> <li>• Refreshments Cakes-</li> </ul>
Saturday, May 13 2006 8:00 a.m. to ?? p.m.	OMS Field Trip to Big Sandy meet at Mussell Senior Center Parking Lot Bring a lunch and bottled water.
Saturday May 20, 2006 8:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m.	Roadside Clean up After the cleanup we have coffee and pastry at "Francisco's Country Kitchen" in Santa Maria.

Saturday May 27, 2006 8:15 a.m. to 9:15 a.m.	OMS Monthly Breakfast-Francisco's Country Kitchen in Santa Maria. For details, call Ken Kreh at 343-7749.
<b>June 2006 Calendar</b>	
Tuesday June 6, 2006 7:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.	OMS Board Meeting Mussell Senior Center. All members are Welcome at this business meeting.
Saturday ,June 10, 2006 10:00 a.m. to 3:30p.m.	OMS Annual Bar-B-Q-Potluck at Pioneer Park 10000 W Foster Road, Santa Maria. 11:00am – 3:30pm.
Saturday April 22, 2006 8:15 a.m. – 9:15 a.m.	OMS Monthly Breakfast-Francisco's Country Kitchen in Santa Maria. For details, call Ken Kreh at 343-7749.

**OMS Membership** (dues) are \$18 per year. Junior memberships (under 18) are \$9 per year. Membership dues are due January 1, and are prorated for each month thereafter. Membership Chairperson is Elaine Von Achen (805) 929-1488

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

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED