



PROGRAM FOR OCTOBER:
*“INTRODUCTION TO THE
IDENTIFICATION OF
PETRIFIED WOOD*”

**It's
SHOW
TIME!**

OCTOBER 1998

ROCKHOUNDER

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

October is a very significant month. Ghosts, goblins, witches, and all sorts of nefarious creatures, fictional and factual, will be invading our neighborhoods, demanding payment in cookies and candies and all sorts of treats to assure that pranks from mischievous entities will fail to materialize. Some will, but it has been a long time since Farmer Brown's buggy was found atop the barn. The memories usually fill in for what reality mundanely omitted. In the finest traditions of Mudville, the champions of the baseball diamond will meet for one last glorious encounter to decide who is the best of the best. For members of the Whittier Gem and Mineral Society, October means so much more than the mere embodiment of supernatural creatures or the clash of titans ... *IT'S SHOW TIME!!!*

Traditionally the President's message for the October Rockhounder is all about the show. I won't disappoint you, but I expect that you will be inundated with articles about the show in this issue, so I'll just touch the highlights. Last month I said you that each of you will be asked to contribute what you can to make the show a huge success. It's not too late to donate cabochons or finished jewelry for prizes. The Whittier Gem & Mineral Society has joined the world of political correctness, the raffle AKA donation awards drawing will now be known as an "Opportunity Drawing". I must be getting old, or perhaps I'm just "sensibility challenged". **Les Roy** needs volunteers for demonstrations. Remember that the kitchen depends upon donations of pies and soft drinks from the membership.

I'm pleased to announce that we finally have our library books available at the general meetings. **Les Roy** constructed a clever addition to the audio-visual cabinet to house all of the library books that have been stored at The Boys & Girls Club. The doors are totally removable to permit easy browsing of the shelves, yet they can be securely padlocked to provide security. By adding the shelves to the existing audio-visual cabinet we do not require additional floor space in the already crowded storage area at Sorensen Park.

Jay Valle received 93 out of a possible 100 points in a judging by The American Federation of Mineralogical Societies of club bulletins. The bulletin was the September Rockhounder, and I am convinced that judging would have picked up at least another 4 ½ points had our last meeting not

President's Message (Continued)

been a pot luck dinner with a “throw away” business meeting. I almost trashed the notice, since it appeared to be an undeliverable Rockhounder, but my curiosity was aroused because somebody had bothered to add a stamp and mail it back to the P.O. Box. I’m glad I opened the Rockhounder, which included the judging form, because **Jay** probably would not have said anything about it. Congratulations **Jay** on publishing an excellent bulletin throughout the year.

October 17th & 18th are the days of the show. Our last show meeting will be Monday the 28th. We will not have a general meeting before the show, so remember the 17th & 18th of October and “Break a Leg”. ----- No **Joe**, I didn’t mean to really break a leg!

Jerry Turner

October Program

Our October program will be featuring **Helga and Werner Wagner’s** presentation, *“Introduction to the Identification of Petrified Wood”*. They will be displaying rocks from their own collecting trips and will have books about petrified wood on display and for sale.

Michelle Sebresos

Do You Need a Show Case?

Members planning to display in our October show this year need to contact **Jack Zywocienski** as soon as possible to reserve a case.

Jack can be reached at: (562) 943-1281.

Jack Zywocienski

Items Needed for the Kitchen

As usual, we are asking members to donate 2 pies and a six-pack (soda pops only, please) for the kitchen. They will be needed by Saturday morning, October 17 by 10:00 AM. Anyone willing to help out in the kitchen or on the cash register please contact Sandie at (626)798-3913.

Thanks very much!

Sandie Fender

September Door Prizes

MAIN PRIZE: An 8' tool organizer and holder, just what everybody needs to reduce their tool "clutter", won by **Jim Akin**.

ADDITIONAL PRIZES:

- 1) A slab of silver onyx, won by **Jerry Turner**
- 2) A 3" rotary circular end brush, **Joe Goetz**
- 3) An insulated 6-pack carrier for those remaining hot days, drawn by **Izzie Burns**
- 4) A 6" inside-outside caliper tool, **Jay Valle**.
- 5) A pocket screwdriver with 6 assorted bits, **Les Roy**.

Remember, everyone who purchases 10 tickets for \$3.00 fills out a single ticket to go into the December Christmas Party Drawing for a \$50.00 gift certificate. Congratulations to this month's prize winners!

Vern Cliffe

September General Meeting Notes

The business portion of the meeting went quickly, dominated by show discussions. **Jerry Turner** informed us that it was time to form a nominating committee to select next years officers. He nominated **Jay Valle** as the President's selection and the membership selected: **Bill Burns, Angie Harwood and Michelle Sebresos**. The last nominee will be the Board's selection, the chairman of the committee. **Bill Burns** informed us that both he and **Izzie** were nominated for the #1 and #2 Vice-President spots in the AFMS (congratulations to both of you).

The new library was on display atop the multimedia storage box (the place we keep the TV and VCR). **Les Roy** did a terrific job on it. We still need to organize and inventory the books, but it looks like for the first time in a while, and the first time at this location, we will have our Lapidary Library open for business at the regular meetings!

Our program was a video about Russian Gemstones. It was an enjoyable and informative look at what is currently being found in Russia and what was discovered in the past. The video looked at many of the jewels of the Tsars, and showed some incredible (and massive) uses to which gem-quality rock was put in the Imperial Palaces and government buildings. We looked at some Russian folk art and how it influenced the artwork of Faberge, artisan to the Tsars. Thank you to **Isabelle Burns** for bringing it in for us to enjoy

JValle.

CFMS Federation Report

Excerpted from the "*The Last Word in Desert Fun*", an article by **Bob Jones** which appeared in his "*On The Rocks*" column in *Gems & Minerals*

Where the heck is Zzyzx? And what is it? Those two questions rattled around in my head as soon as **Bill Burns**, past president of the California Federation of Mineralogical Societies (CFMS), and his wife **Isabella**, a current vice president of the American Federation, asked me to go there. If you have driven from Los Angeles to Las Vegas on I - 15, you may have noticed a lonely exit sign reading Zzyzx Road. It's east of Barstow and just before you pass Soda Springs Playa and the desperate little town of Baker.

So, why would a rockhound be interested in Zzyzx? It so happens that this remote setting is the site of a wonderful one-week retreat hosted by the CFMS every March. Members of the Federation are invited to sign up for the retreat and take advantage of the classes in carving, silversmithing, wire wrap and lapidary techniques offered by knowledgeable instructors there. Field trips to collect are an integral part of the daily routine as well.

Most people probably don't realize just how important the natural springs around Soda Springs were 100 years ago. Zzyzx has in fact stood for thousands of years as an oasis for travelers. It was a major stop for wagon trains going from California to the interior and back. And before that, the Mojave Road near here was one of the original Native American trails used as a trade route before the white man's arrival.

Zzyzx is a fascinating place. It is a rock outcrop, a true oasis in the desert, on the west edge of Soda Springs where natural artesian waters emerge. Today it is the site of the Desert Study Center, where endangered fish (Mojave chub) and the local plant and animal life is protected and studied. Long ago, it was a site where Native Americans obtained water, made tools and weapons and, rested from their hunting and migrating journeys.

In 1976, the BLM, the California Desert Studies Consortium and California State University joined efforts to turn the resort into today's modestly equipped Desert Studies Center, where research is in ongoing activity. In conjunction, the facility is available for nonprofit group retreats: one of which is the CFMS Spring Retreat.

My trip to Zzyzx reminded me of summer camp. We supplied our own bedding or sleeping bag. Some folks brought their self-contained RVs. There are no hookups at Zzyzx as power is generated by wind, solar panels and a diesel generator. The water here is quite mineralized, thanks to the dissolved halides and soluble carbonates like salt and natron (sodium carbonate) that turn the surface of the dry lake a brilliant white in the afternoon sun. You

can drink the water, but you don't want to wander far afield for a while after. The outdoor latrine becomes your best friend! Potable water is available for drinking and cooking.

As interesting as the place is, the most enjoyable part of the stay is the program offered by CFMS. Its field trip leaders make every effort to make the retreat both interesting and enjoyable. As well planned as the programs are, the real treat is to be in the good company of the collectors and lapidaries who attend.

I knew just a few of the people in my group when I arrived, having met them at past events. By week's end, I felt everyone there was a close friend. When I left it was hugs all around. And that's what a real retreat should do. It should give you a chance to learn, but of even greater value, it should give you a chance to renew friendships, make new friends, discover a little about yourself and immerse yourself in the hobby.

To attend the CFMS retreat to Zzyzx, you have to sign up well in advance. Your club bulletin should have the necessary information when it is received by your club. If not, check with your club leadership and get signed up. The cost is nominal considering that it includes lodging with food for a week, great entertainment and a chance to learn a new skill or revive an old one.

Though Zzyzx is on the very edge of Soda Springs, where the earth's salts emerge, the real salt of the earth shows up in people who attend this wonderful event.

Submitted by Bill and Isabelle Burns

CFMS NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT

- President..... **Kenneth Kruschke**
- 1st Vice President/Pres. Elect **Beverly Hafeli**
- 2nd Vice President **Bob Stultz**
- Secretary **Jo Anna Ritchey**
- Treasurer **Jack Williams**

These highly qualified people are submitted for your vote by CFMS nominating Committee for 1999 term.

Nominating committee: Mary Andersen, Chairman; Shirley Leeson; Dick Pankey; Jean Stultz; Toni Ewers; Charles Leach (Alternate)

**Show Meeting/Board Meeting
Highlights - 09/28/98**

- **Bill and Izabelle Burns**, both very active members, have been nominated as officers in the AFMS: **Bill** as the **1st Vice-President**, and **Isabelle** for the **2nd Vice-President**.
- Rockgabbers cancelled for October due to several time conflicts and the upcoming show.
- The WGMS board selected **Izzie Burns** as their choice to chair the 1999 Whittier Gem & Mineral Society nominating committee. The Nominating Committee for the year of 1999 consists of the following individuals:
 - Board Appointee: **Isabelle Burns, Chairman**
 - President's appointee: **Jay Valle**
 - Membership Appointees: **Bill Burns**
Angie Harwood
Michelle Sebresos
- Need field trip pictures for a club display from as far back as you like (need soon, though, so pictures can be scanned or put in place before show time. Contact Jay Valle at (626) 336-3714).
- Boys & Girls Club to provide show helpers, same as last year. They will be assisting during setup on Friday and teardown Sunday night.
- Saturday October 3 at 8:30 AM: a work party will meet to work on show cases damaged by termites while in storage. We will meet at the Masonic Temple on Greenleaf and Mar Vista.
- Sandie reminded members to bring 2 pies and a 6-pack of sodas to the show.
- Les is still looking for people to demonstrate any and all facets of the lapidary arts (contact Les at (562)943-8634 to volunteer).
- The setup for the show will be Friday afternoon, October 16th. We can use all the help we can get!

JValle

**Field Trip Report
Round Valley - September 5, 1998**

The kids and I got up Saturday morning early and headed for the San Bernadino Mountains. We had the map with directions from the September bulletin in hand but we still got lost on the way to **Phil Terrio's** cabin and ended up in Lake Gregory (the town, not the lake). With some helpful directions from a checkout lady at 7-11 in town, we headed in the right general direction and promptly made a wrong turn again. More directions from some (not too) amused locals got us into the approximate area and we knew we were there when we saw **Jason Badgely's** red pickup. **Jason** and **Phil** were there, as well as **Ed Imlay**, all from the Pasadena club (we were the only participants from the Whittier club). We waited for some other hardy souls to arrive but gave up and left at around 9:30 AM.

We followed Highway 18 east until we reached Big Bear Lake where we turned northeast onto Hwy 38. Along the north shore, we stopped at the brand new "Discovery Center" to pick up "ADVENTURE PASSES" (don't get me started on what I think of this onerous program), then on toward our goal. Hwy 38 rejoined Hwy 18 just past Big Bear and we continued to Baldwin Lake where we turned south on Baldwin Lake Road, then east onto Vale Drive. Here we picked up a dirt road designated 2N02, which we followed until a stream was crossed. We stopped at the creek to stretch our legs and listen to Phil talk about the area. Apparently, gold dust can be panned from the center of the stream, but it takes a lot of work, a good eye, and a gold pan, which we didn't have. Onward until we came to road 2N01 where we turned south and parked after a short distance, next to a road leading east. This new road looked pretty bad, so, everyone piled into Jay's 4Runner as it was the only vehicle there with 4-wheel drive (and we needed it, too). It was a rough 1/4-mile or so down that washed out part of the road, then the going became smoother.

We first stopped at a group campground that featured an improved natural spring from which we filled our canteens. A quick stretch, then on at last to the quartz mine. It was obvious from the undergrowth on the road leading to the mine that no one had visited since before summer, probably not since our visit last year. The mine itself is dug into a quartz pegmatite and we spent a few hours collecting in the tailings. Everyone found small crystals in float around the main diggings, but only a small effort was expended digging into the main vein. During a break to explore (read Nature Call), I came on a live scorpion, under some old boards, which I dispatched and brought back to show the kids (and the big kids, too). No doubt they were all impressed. Phil warned us to watch out for rattlesnakes, too. but even though I beat around

the bush somewhat, none were seen.

After lunch, we decided to spend what was left of the afternoon at the "jasper mine". So back we came, past Big Bear to the turnoff to this location. The "jasper mine" probably started off life as something else, but now it's known for its yellow and brown jasper, and for the absolutely marvelous druzy agate/jasper pieces which can be found here. We collected until about 5:00 PM then the party broke up. Jay and family returned home, and Phil, Jason and Ed went back to the cabin.

JValle

**October 24 - 25 Field Trip
to the Whittier Club Claim
(see map on facing page)**

The field trip for October will be to the famous stomping grounds of the Whittier Club -- the Whittier Club Claim! Let's all come out and show our guests(?) a good time. Potluck is Saturday night, to be followed by a blazing campfire, weather permitting. Because of winter hours, we will start our collecting adventures at 8:00 AM, going to that distant hike over to the Honey Onyx. Possibly before lunch, we will head out to Mule Canyon (if not before lunch, definitely after). Depending on the time, we may do a bit of exploring.

Happy Hour will be at 3:30, followed by dinner at 4:30.

Sunday, before lunch, we will go to Harvard Road to see if we can find an unchipped rock (Jason Badgely has preceded us). Maybe we should dub it "Jason's Kanan Road East".

November 26 - 29 Field Trip

November will find us further south. We will be camped somewhere along Indian Pass Road, having Thanksgiving in the Great Open Spaces. We will be searching for Dumortierite and whatever else we can find. Come on out!

Your man in the field, behind the weeds, Joe Goetz

WHITTIER CLUB ONYX

APPROXIMATELY 115 MILES FROM WHITTIER

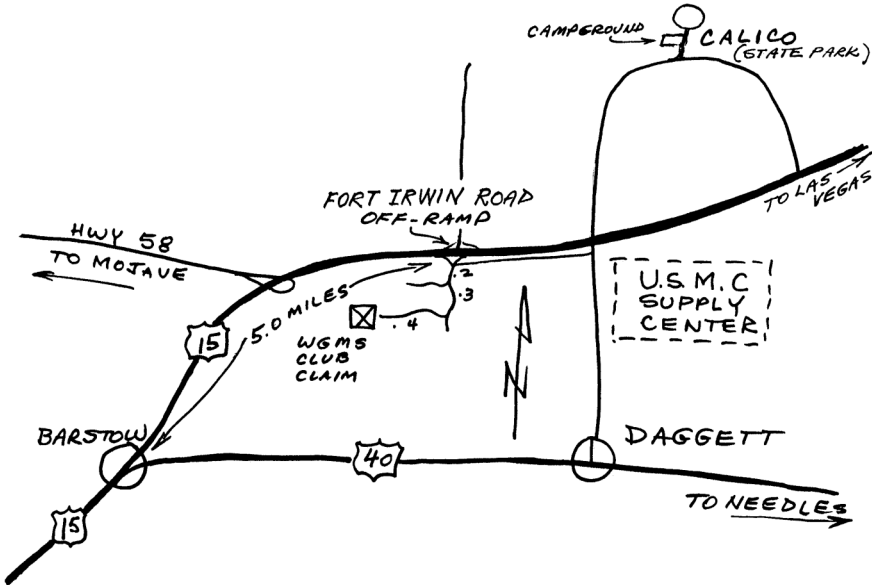
COLLECTING MATERIAL:

HONEY ONYX — COLLECTING AT THIS LOCATION CAN ONLY BE DONE AFTER RECEIVING PERMISSION FROM THE WHITTIER GEM AND MINERAL SOCIETY, % CLAIMS SEC., P.O. BOX 66, WHITTIER, CA 9060



TOOLS — HEAVY EQUIPMENT, CHISELS, PRY BARS, SLEDGES, WEDGES, ETC.

SUPPLIES IN BARSTOW. FOR INTERESTED BEGINNING ROCKHOUNDS (WITHOUT CAMPER, TRAILERS, ETC.) YOU MAY WISH TO STAY IN A MOTEL IN BARSTOW AND DRIVE TO THE CLUB CLAIM. AN EASY WAY TO GET TO KNOW THE "WORKINGS" OF A ROCK CLUB FIELD TRIP.



What You Need To Know Before Buying Gold Jewelry

GOLD JEWELRY is sold just about everywhere these days. Chains are the best-selling item. Earrings are the second-best seller followed by charms and bracelets.

How do you know it's real gold?

Most gold jewelry is 14 karat gold. Even professional jewelers have difficulty distinguishing between 10K, 14K, and 18K gold just by looking at it. It is often impossible- even for an expert- to tell gold electroplate or gold-filled jewelry from real gold.

The law doesn't require labeling of gold content in jewelry. But when jewelry is marked 14K, the law requires that it be at least 13.83 karats.

A 14K mark on the clasp of a bracelet or necklace doesn't necessarily mean the entire bracelet or necklace is 14K gold. It could mean that only the clasp is 14K. It's better to find the karat mark in a loop that attaches the chain and the clasp.

How can you tell the quality of jewelry?

The workmanship of jewelry should be carefully observed before buying. Even good-quality chains have minor kinks, especially the herringbone design. Chains can have mismatched end caps or connecting rings (called "jump rings") and clasps may be too large or too small for the chain. Jump rings and end caps should be soldered closed, not just pressed closed. Soldering makes a chain more secure, but, if not done correctly, soldering can make a piece look poorly made. Be alert to the possibility that the chain may have been damaged in the shop or by a customer who had purchased and returned it.

EARRINGS, PINS, and charms are usually stamped or made from a mold. When you're buying such pieces, examine their finish. You shouldn't see or feel rough spots. Improper casting can cause pinhole-sized pock marks all over the surface of an earring, pin, charm, or ring. Even fine finishing won't remove them.

On a high quality charm or pin, you should be able to see details of the image, on a bad copy, you will not.

How much should I pay?

With machine-made jewelry like gold chains, the gold content is the most significant factor in determining price. The amount of gold in two seemingly similar gold chains can vary significantly. It's the price per gram of gold that counts. A simple gold chain shouldn't be priced at more than

\$25 to \$30 per gram of gold.

Watch out for the so-called "percent off" sales. The ads are very common. Don't always believe them.

High price doesn't always mean high quality. A \$20 per gram chain from a discount store could be as good as a \$40 a gram chain from an upscale department store.

IF PRICE WERE the only criterion, flea markets would offer the best buys. But you also have to consider the availability of repairs or refunds, in case the clasp falls or the chain breaks. Before you buy gold jewelry, ask if the seller will repair broken clasps. Also ask about the seller's refund and exchange policy.

What about gold filled or gold overlay jewelry?

Gold-filled and gold-overlay jewelry look like gold without the high price. It is possible to buy a gold-filled or gold-overlay chain for much less than the price of a similar chain of karat gold. Gold-filled or gold-overlay jewelry maintains its good looks for a long time.

When buying karat gold jewelry, stick with traditional forms- a rope chain, ram's head earrings, etc. - that never go out of style.

Submitted by Michelle Sebresos

The Price of Knowledge

Anyone purchasing a new book is well aware of the increases in their cost in the last 2 decades, but do you know what some of the "elder statesmen" of your library might cost to replace if you had to do so?

recently I borrowed "gem cutting and lapidary manual" by J.Sinkankas from another member. While browsing through a catalog of field related items I was startled to find this book in softcover selling for \$80.00! You can bet I returned the borrowed book to its owner mighty quick !

The original (1959) volume of Sinkankas "Gemstones of North America" can be found with a little effort for around \$100.00. The current version is obtainable at Peri-Lithon books for \$65.00. What did it cost in 1959?

(continued on next page)

The Price of Knowledge (continued)

How about Pogue's "Turquoise".... \$40.00

Got a 1932 "Book of Amber" by Williamson? \$150.00

"The Book of Agate" \$40.00

The softcover "Agates of North America" originally went for \$2.00. Now it's a steal at 35.00, if you can find one!

Have any old California Division of Mines bulletins ... "Geology of Southern California" circa 1954, rare at \$125.00. Someone in the family hand down an 1868 "Yosemite Book" by J.D. Whitney? High 4 figures which is what many of the turn of the century volumes in French, Latin and German demand.

Our club libraries possess books not only of considerable dollar value but of historical interest as well. Some can't be replaced without a lengthy and costly search with luck.

If you haven't already appraised your private library, it might pleasantly surprise you to find that not everything depreciates. Books are a treasure in more ways than one.

submitted by Michelle Sebresos

HEADLINES

via Hale Sweeny
via AFMS Newsletter

- MAN STRUCK BY LIGHTNING FACES BATTERY CHARGE
- NEW STUDY OF OBESITY LOOKS FOR LARGER TEST GROUP
- ASTRONAUT TAKES BLAME FOR GAS IN SPACECRAFT
- KIDS MAKE NUTRITIOUS SNACKS
- CHEF THROWS HIS HEART INTO HELPING FEED NEEDY
- ARSON SUSPECT IS HELD IN MASSACHUSETTS FIRE
- BRITISH UNION FINDS DWARFS IN SHORT SUPPLY

Canyons can be gorge-ous.
Artists know where to draw the line.

October's Gemstone is Opal

We know the people of ancient India valued opal as a precious stone because the Sanskrit name "Upala" stood for just that meaning. The Romans modified it to "Opalus", today's opal. This lovely silica gem, the October birthstone for centuries, has not decreased in value.

While superstitions hinting of bad luck befalling opal wearers seem to be of recent origin (some say a Sir Walter Scott novel!) some prejudice must have arisen from opal's sensitivity; to sudden temperature changes, aridity, it's brittleness and delicacy despite a hardness of 5 1/2 to 6 1/2.

All opal contains water to some degree, more in precious opal contributing to its translucency. Australian studies in 1966 with an electron microscope explain the "play of light" as produced by microscopic spherules layered within the stone which diffract rather than absorb light. These ultra fine grids return only the purest hues accounting for the intensity of color.

Opal silica carried by water is deposited wherever space is available, not infrequently replacing wood (opalized wood). It is often associated with volcanic rocks.

The following, taken from an old Gems & Minerals magazine, describes a safe environment for a precious specimen:

Opal specimens may be mounted in the globe containers, with a plastic base, originally designed to hold flowers. Use an odd piece of petrified wood for mounting the specimen. Do not use ordinary wood, as, after a time, it will discolor the water. - Donna D. Hoffman, Sacramento, California

Submitted by Michelle Sebresos

THE WORLD'S OLDEST AND LARGEST METEORITE has been discovered in China near the northeast city of Shenyang. The meteorite, locally called Huashitai Hill, is estimated to be 4.5 to 4.6 billion years old and fell to earth 1.9 billion years ago. The meteorite mound is 600 feet long, 250 feet wide and about 300 feet deep. It weighs about 2 million tons and is covered with granite. The meteorite is older than any natural earth rock. The site is planned to be a state protected nature reserve.

Rocky Trails via Hellgate Breezes via AFMS Newsletter

**A PUBLIC SERVICE OFFERED TO "LOCAL"
SUPPLIERS OF PRODUCTS FOR ROCKHOUNDS**

The Whittier board approved a plan to send a monthly listing of Gem and Mineral Shows to suppliers of products in our general area.

Vern Cliffe presented the idea, with the thought that the suppliers would display the Gem & Mineral Shows listing in exchange for placing the Whittier flyers close by. **Vern Cliffe** offered to send out the listings each month and four suppliers were chosen to receive the show information. The four chosen suppliers are: **Kenneth H. Lee, Bellflower; California Crafts, Anaheim; Lapidary International, Anaheim; and Michael's Lapidary & Gift Shop, Orange.**

The shows are listed on **Whittier Gem & Mineral Society** letterhead along with the Turner's phone number for anyone wishing to contact our society.

A cover letter was included which gave the suppliers an opportunity to cancel out and so far no one has called to do so.

The first mailing was sent with shows listed for September, and the second mailing covering the October shows is planned for the last week of September. Hopefully the society can establish a line of communication with each of the suppliers, and by using the shows list for their customers, the suppliers can look forward to having customers look for the shows listing each time they visit the store.

Vern Cliffe

Telephone Scam Alert

The first of two scams that we heard about goes like this. Someone calls and claims to be a "technician" working on your phone lines. They ask you to dial 9, 0, #. This gives the scam artist access to your phone lines and allows them to call all over the world at your expense. This actually happened at our South Gate office. Kathy Reed, our top notch receptionist, got a call from a man who ask her to help him check our lines by pressing the numbers. She asked him for his name and identification and told him that to her knowledge there was no work being done to our phone lines. The scam artist quickly hung up. Our telephone representative told us, "Don't ever press 9, 0, # on your telephone for anyone'.

The second scam going around is the old "Slamming" scam. This is where long distance service is switched to another provider without the consent of the phone customer. Rules that require your confirmation in writing are not working. The fly-by-night scam artists are forging signatures and altering tapes of people agreeing to things other than a phone switch. Check your phone bills carefully for changes in long distance companies or other unauthorized charges. Tell your employees not to discuss phone business with outsiders. Remember, get everything in writing before you approve any changes.

*Submitted by Michelle Sebresos
from "The Reporter" newsletter, Sept. 98*

**WATCH NEXT MONTH'S BULLETIN FOR A CORRECTION
AND UPDATE ON THE MONTANA SAPPHIRE ARTICLE
PUBLISHED LAST MONTH.**

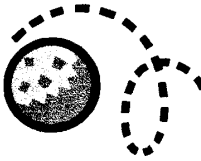
In last month's bulletin, **Sylvia and I** wrote an article on **Montana Sapphires**, based on information we had heard while on vacationing in Montana last year and interspersed with "facts" from a letter received from a Montana native familiar with sapphire collecting in Montana. As a matter of policy, we made sure that the bulletin was sent to the **Jewel of the Rockies** mine and also to the letter writer. Several days after the bulletin was mailed, we received a phone message from **Michael Duffey**, the supervising manager of the **Jewel of the Rockies** mine (owned and operated by the **American Gem Company**) to let us know that the article was not completely factual. He offered to fax us complete information with regard to the operation of the mine in order to correct the misinformation reported in the September article. We told him we would welcome the chance to set the record straight and publish the up-to-date information in the next bulletin. However, due to having problems receiving a fax from him on our machine, and his having to leave for a management meeting in Toronto for several days, the information we were expecting has not reached our hands in time to be placed in the October bulletin. So, look in the November bulletin for the current and correct information regarding the **Jewel of the Rockies/American Gem Company** and sapphire collecting policies in Montana.

Vern & Sylvia Cliffe

Gem and Mineral Shows

- Sept 30 - Oct 4 **Joshua Tree** - The Sportsmans Club Jamboree and Tailgate. 6225 Sunburst. Hours: 8 - 5 daily.
- Oct 10 - 11 **Trona** - Searles Lake Gem & Mineral Society. 13337 Main Street. Hours: Sat 8 -5, Sun 8 - 4
- Oct 10 - 11 **Victorville** - Victor Valley Gem & Mineral Club. San Bernardino Co. Fairgrounds. 14800 7th St. Hours: Sat 9 - 5, Sun 9 - 5.
- Oct 17 - 18 Whittier - Whittier Gem & Mineral Society. Whittier Masonic Temple, 4604 Greenleaf Ave. "Old Woman Meteorite " (replica) and special meteorites. Hours: Sat 10 - 6, Sun 10 - 5.**
- Oct 24 - 25 **El Cajon** - El Cajon Valley Gem & Mineral Soc. El Cajon Valley Masonic Temple, 695 Ballantyne. Hours: Sat 10 - 6, Sun 10 - 5.
- Nov 6 - 8 **San Diego** - San Diego Lapidary Society. Al Bahr Shrine Center, 5440 Kearny Mesa Road. Hours: Fri & Sat 10 - 6, Sun 10 - 5
- Nov 7 - 8 **Fontana** - Kaiser Rock & Gem Club. Calif. Steel Industry Bldg., 9400 Cherry Ave. Sat-Sun 9 - 5
- Nov 7 - 8 **Ridgecrest** - Indian Wells Gem Mineral Society. Empire Fairgrounds. Field trips both days. Hours: 9 - 5 both days.
- Nov 7 - 8 **Anaheim** - American Opal Society. Quality Inn. 616 Convention Way. Hours: Sat 10 - 6, Sun 10 - 5.
- Nov 7 - 8 **Pomona** - Mineralogical Society of So. California. Fairplex, Building 6. Hours: Sat 10 - 7, Sun 10 - 5
- Nov 21 - 22 **Oxnard** - Oxnard Gem & Mineral Society. Oxnard Performing Arts Center, 600 Hobson Way. Hours: 10 - 5 both days.
- Nov 28 - 29 **Barstow** - Mojave Desert Gem & Mineral Society. Barstow Community Center, 841 S. Barstow Road. Hours: Sat 10 - 6, Sun 10 - 5.
- Dec 5 - 6 **San Bernardino** - Orange Belt Mineralogical Soc. San Bernardino Woman's Club, 503 "W" Street. Hours: Sat 10 - 6, Sun 10 - 5.

Vern Cliffe



**SEE
3 + TON
"OLD WOMAN"
METEORITE
(REPLICA)
AND
ACTUAL SPACE
METEORITES**



WHITTIER GEM & MINERAL SOCIETY'S

**"TREASURES OF
ROCKHOUNDING"**

GEM, MINERAL & JEWELRY SHOW

**OCTOBER 17TH & 18TH, 1998
SATURDAY 10-6, SUNDAY 10-5
WHITTIER MASONIC TEMPLE
GREENLEAF/MAR VISTA, WHITTIER**

SOMETHING FOR ALL AGES

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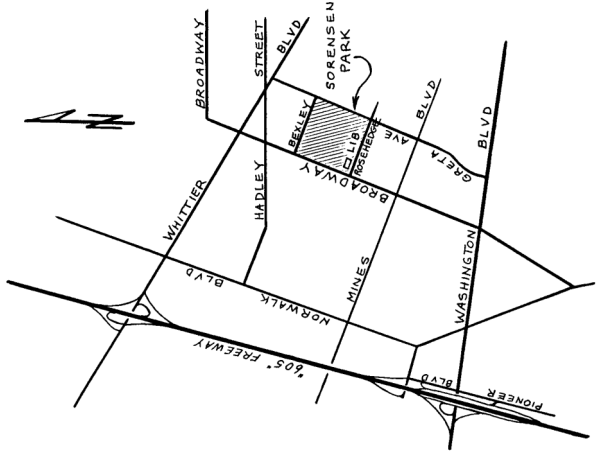


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