

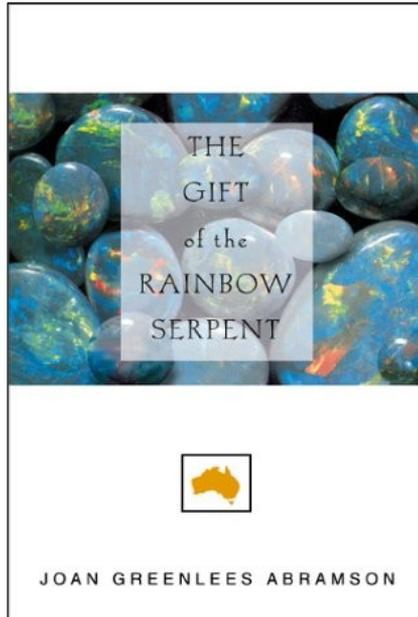
January 2002

WHITTIER



ROCKHOUNDER

**GEM & MINERAL
SOCIETY**



***“The Gift of the Rainbow Serpent”* is a new book written by WGMS Member Joan Abramson. It is reviewed on page 9.**

ROCKHOUNDER

THE PREZ SEZ:

With this being my first “message” as your new President, before anything else, I must say a word about our outgoing President.

As your President following Jay Valle, I am faced with a “hard act to follow.” Serving on the Board this past year, I observed first hand Jay’s efforts. We each owe Jay a great deal of thanks for his hard work and dedicated commitment to our club. I am especially pleased that Jay has agreed to serve in 2002 as our Club Treasurer, Newsletter Editor, and Show Chairman.

With that said, I believe it is appropriate that I share with you a little bit about myself. As a youngster, I grew up in the San Fernando Valley, with frequent trips to the Naval Ordnance Test Station at Ridgecrest to visit “Uncle Harry and Aunt Verla.” These visits often included day and weekend trips into the desert to explore. Uncle Harry, an amateur “prospector” was always willing to share what he knew about the interesting rocks I began to collect.

Fast forward to just a few years ago and I was involved in Sports Car Club of America Road Racing as a driver, with the tow to events at Phoenix International Raceway in Goodyear Arizona taking us through Quartzite. On one of our January return trips from PIR we stopped in Quartzite to checkout the “rock hounds and their stuff.” After spending several hours, Ginger and I were hooked.

At Quartzite, we found a flyer for the Searchers annual show. At their show, we found a meeting notice for WGMS. Attending our first WGMS meeting, we were welcomed and made to feel at home by several wonderful members. We were willingly recruited as new members. It did not take long before someone realized that I am one who, in addition to participating in the good times, believes in doing his share of the work.

Continued on Page 4)

The Prez Sez:

**Program for January 24
Video: "Geology and Minerals"**

At the November 2001 General Meeting, we attempted to enjoy this video but were unable to watch it because of the unexpected and very loud presence of a Mariachi Band that Sorenson Park had booked simultaneous with our meeting. So we are going to give it another try.

James LaBorde

Dues Are Due!!

The following is the dues schedule for Year 2002 and is unchanged from last year. Dues can be paid at the January or February meetings, or mailed directly to the WGMS Treasurer, Jay Valle (his address is listed below).

- Adult Individuals .\$.15.00
- Married Couples...\$25.00
- Juniors.....\$5.00

Dues can be mailed to: **Jay Valle**
1421 Latchford Avenue
Hacienda Heights, CA 91745

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Serving as a club officer, is not a new experience for me. I have actively participated in everything from building a new church sanctuary, to serving for two years on the inaugural volunteer Board of the Peterson Automotive Museum in 1995-96. I have served as President for car clubs and Condominium Homeowner Associations.

I agreed to take the job of President knowing I would be working with a Board and Committee Chairs consisting of wonderfully talented and dedicated people who will help me ensure our club's ongoing success.

That's enough for now. Please give me a call whenever you have a concern, or just want to "chat" about OUR club.

Art

December 2001 Christmas Party/Potluck Notes

The WGMS Annual Christmas Party/Potluck was threatened by rain but actually came off without a hitch. As sometimes happens, we had a lot of one food item, in this case ham, but there was still plenty of variety for the discriminating diner to enjoy.

After dinner was replete, I mean complete, Jay Valle inducted the new 2002 Club Officers with a program entitled “The Puzzle that is the Whittier Gem and Mineral Society“. As props he used giant jigsaw puzzle pieces which the new Board Officers had to fit together to create a complete banner (see page 6 and 7 for the complete text and a picture).

We did the final raffle of the year and the “red ticket” drawing was held, with Kathy Valle being the lucky winner of the 2001 Grand Prize.

Finally, we concluded with the gift exchange which was enjoyed by all.

Boys and Girls Club Christmas Party 2001

We had a great time at the annual Boys and Girls Club Christmas Party. We accomplished all the things we wanted to do.

I want to thank some people that can always be depended on, **Jerry & Kathy Turner and Bill & Izzy Burns**. Without their support it would have been a very difficult job. By planning ahead, gluing the stones, etc., we did not have to mess with the hot glue guns this year. No burnt fingers or returns because the stone separated from the findings. **Kathy** came in early and set the tables up and when the rest of us arrived, we were ready to go. We handled the initial rush and had no problems. **Jay Valle** donated the bales he had purchased last year at Quartzsite, **Kathy and Jerry** donated necklaces, and **Bill** had his usual pocket full of polished stones.

You all might think about some donations you could make for next year. I will assure you that if they are donated for the Boys and Girls Club Christmas Party, they will be used there. We had a much smaller crowd this year but all went well.

THANKS PEOPLE. I APPRECIATE YOUR HELP. SEE YOU NEXT YEAR

Les Roy

**The Puzzle that is the Whittier Gem and Mineral Society
Presented by Jay Valle**

It is my pleasure tonight to introduce and install the Whittier Gem and Mineral Society Board of Officers for 2002.

As I began to search for the words to this annual December event, it occurred to me that the members of the WGMS Board are the pieces in a giant, animated jigsaw puzzle. Each of these officers has his own unique “color and shape”, which is their individual talents, interests and abilities. One of the puzzling problems is that you cannot force people to “fit” together. For things to work out right, these human puzzle pieces must work together to insure that a solution to the WGMS puzzle is the end result.

Our job tonight, then, is to see if we can help these pieces of the Whittier Gem & Mineral Society 2002 Puzzle fit together.

The first piece belongs to James LaBorde, the new 1st Vice President. His job is very important to the Club. James must attempt to stage interesting programs for our meetings and coordinate summer potluck/swim parties. If he does his job well, we will bring in both members and guests to our monthly meetings.

This next piece belongs to Jack Zywoციenski, the 2nd Vice President, which is Membership. Jack’s task is to record attendance at meetings, introduce guests, sign up potential new members and bring them to the attention of the Board for a vote.

Our Secretary will be Marcia Goetz. Her job is to put down in writing what goes on at the meetings and to produce a summary report. Marcia’s report is a legal and historical record of club events. It is used as a legal document and should accurately record decisions. It can also be referenced later in order to prevent misunderstandings and incorrect actions.

The Club Treasurer for 2002 will be Jay Valle. It is the Treasurer’s job to make sure that money is correctly received and spent, to keep the annual budget and keep the bank records in order.

An important and valued piece of our puzzle is Bill Burns, Federation Director. Bill participates in the decision-making processes at the CFMS and he is our voice at Federation meetings. Bill is a Life Member of WGMS and has brought distinction to the Club.

And where would we be without our directors, those advisors to the Board, our three wise men. They bring many years of experience with Club policies and procedures to our puzzle. The Year 2002 Directors are: Les Roy, Jerry Turner, and Joe Goetz.

Now lets see if we can help our puzzle pieces fit together and see where we are.

<Line up pieces and fit them together>

Have you ever done a jigsaw puzzle and when you get to the end, discover to your horror that you are missing the last piece? I hate it when that happens! Well, it appears that **WE** are missing a piece.

Just kidding!! The final piece of the puzzle is arguably the most important, our President for the Year 2002, Art Ragazzi. Art's mandate is to oversee all of the operations of The Club. He is in charge at meetings and he selects the committee assignments. His leadership and vision will determine the direction of the Club for the next year, and possibly longer. He is the central, unifying piece in our WGMS puzzle.

<Line up final piece and complete the puzzle>

In truth, I would like to tell you that we are all pieces of the Whittier Gem and Mineral Society puzzle. But this puzzle is a living, breathing work of art. Because this jigsaw puzzle is made up of members, it will never really be complete. It grows larger or smaller with every year. The thing that makes this puzzle special is how we all choose to fit together.



**January Field Trip to Quartzsite
January 25 - 27, 2002**

The field trip committee decided to publish the January field trip dates at this time so club members and field trippers can make their plans for the event. See the Quartzsite show dates below for the different shows.

We plan on camping at the usual place, the BLM campground about 3/4 of a mile east of exit 19 on the south side of the freeway. Follow the WGMS or PLS signs into the actual campsite.

In addition to the shows, we hope to get in one or two field trips to areas as yet undetermined. So plan on joining us for a great trip.

- Desert Gardens* 1/1 to 2/28
- Tyson Wells 1/4 to 1/13 and 1/18 to 1/27
- Main Event..... 1/19 to 2/3
- QIA Pow Wow..... 1/23 to 1/27

*Joe & Marcia Goetz
Vern & Sylvia Cliffe*

Trivia

32 things you need to know...

1. A rat can last longer without water than a camel.
2. Your stomach has to produce a new layer of mucus every two weeks, or it will digest itself. YUCK!
3. The dot over the letter "i" is called a tittle.
4. A raisin dropped in a glass of fresh champagne will bounce up and down continuously from the bottom of the glass to the top.
5. A female ferret will die if it goes into heat and cannot find a mate. (You've probably met people like that!)
6. A ducks quack does't echo. No one knows why.
7. A 2 X 4 board is really 1-1/2" by 3-1/2".
8. During the chariot scene in "Ben Hur", a small red car can be seen in the distance.
9. On average, 12 newborns will be given to the wrong parents daily!
10. Donald Duck comics were banned from Finland because he doesn't wear Pants.

(Continued on Page 10)

Book Review:
“The Gift of the Rainbow Serpent”
By Joan Greenlees Abramson

I don't normally do book reviews, but this title is special because it was written by a member of the Whittier Gem & Mineral Society, **Joan Abramson**. It is an enjoyable book and I read it in one sitting.

The storyline takes place in the Australian opal mining town of Coober Pedy, a real place that Walt and Joan visited several years ago and dug for opal (I still remember the program where they related their fascinating adventures there). The protagonist, Eric Christianson, is a divorced and out-of-work teacher who is looking for a son that he has never seen. He is also searching for himself, though he doesn't know it at the time. His quest takes him to Coober Pedy where he meets and becomes involved in the lives of several people.

Mr. Christianson starts his search with the local police officer who doesn't like Americans and is not helpful. His inquiries attract the attention of a local con-artist who is also involved in several other crooked schemes, including blackmail. He meets the mysterious Janet working at the local restaurant and eventually discovers that she has a secret that will be very important to him. He becomes strongly attracted to Molly, a nurse at the local hospital who is part Aborigine and who plays a central part throughout the story. Molly introduces him to native philosophy and mythology, including that of the Rainbow Serpent. For both exercise and money, our hero becomes partners in an opal mine and finds himself entangled in murder and blackmail. In the end, he completes his quest, finds true love and a new life for himself, and discovers an affection for the Australian land and people.

I found the “Gift of the Rainbow Serpent” to be thoroughly engrossing. It has adventure, romance, seduction, murder and blackmail. The characters were interesting and I liked the ending. The town and it's ethnically varied residents are described in detail. Of interest to rockhounds, some of the techniques of opal mining are explained, as are the way opals are graded and sold by the miners.

The book “The Gift of the Rainbow Serpent” can be ordered through your local book dealer or by ordering at www.amazon.com.

JValle

Trivia (Continued from Page 8)

11. Because metal was scarce, the Oscars given out during World War II were made of wood.
12. The number of possible ways of playing the first four moves per side in a game of chess is: 318,979,564,000.
13. There are no words in the dictionary that rhyme with orange, purple and silver.
14. The name "Wendy" was made up for the book "Peter Pan." There was never a recorded use of that name before.
15. The very first bomb dropped by the Allies on Berlin in World War II killed the only elephant in the Berlin Zoo.
16. If one places a tiny amount of liquor on a scorpion, it will instantly go mad and sting itself to death. (Who was the sadist who discovered this??)
17. Bruce Lee was so fast that they actually had to s-l-o-w the film down so you could see his moves. That's the opposite of the norm.
18. The first CD pressed in the US was Bruce Springsteen's "Born in the USA".
19. The original name for butterfly was flutterby.
20. The phrase "rule of thumb" is derived from an old English law which stated that you couldn't beat your wife with anything wider than your thumb.
21. The first product Motorola started to develop was a record player for automobiles. At that time, the most known player on the market was Victrola, so they called themselves Motorola.
22. Roses may be red, but violets are indeed violet, not blue.
23. By raising your legs slowly and lying on your back, you cannot sink into quicksand.
24. Celery has negative calories. It takes more calories to eat a piece of celery than the celery has in it to begin with.
25. Charlie Chaplin once won third prize in a Charlie Chaplin look-alike contest.
26. Chewing gum while peeling onions will keep you from crying.
27. Sherlock Holmes NEVER said "Elementary, my dear Watson".
28. An old law in Bellingham, Washington, made it illegal for a woman to take more than 3 steps backwards while dancing. (???)
29. The glue on Israeli postage is certified Kosher
30. The Guinness Book of Records holds the record for being the book most often stolen from Public Libraries.

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Trivia (Continued From Page 10)

How Benitoite Became California's Gemstone

By Shirley Leeson, CFMS Historian

Carmelita Swarts of the San Diego Mineral & Gem Society began this project in 1984 because the SDMG club was hosting the AFMS/CFMS National Show. We thought it would be great to have this event coincide with the show. We had a wonderful "lady" Assemblywoman, Lucy Killea from San Diego and "Rusty" Areias from the 25th Assembly District, San Benito County carry the bill SB2404 through the Assembly. They didn't have any trouble with the Assembly. We were shot down in the Senate. We had failed to realize that we needed a Senator to also sponsor the bill.

In the Sacramento Bee, Monday July 2, 1984 "Assemblywoman Lucy Killea's bill to declare Benitoite as the State Official Gemstone was laughed to death Friday." The bill was unanimously approved by the Senate Judicial Committee. It should have been a consent item. By the time Mrs. Killea learned of the action it was too late to request a re-hearing. The budget, as usual, had drained the energy from the Senators, and it was closing time. There were also two other bills for the state to recognize - they were for folk dancing and grass. (Don't know, but think this was some sort of native grass, not "the grass!")

The Nielsen, Napa and other areas around there following Senate members voted NO: Ayala, Los Angeles/San Bernardino, Carpenter, Orange; Dills, Los Angeles; Greene, Los Angeles; Hart, Los Angeles/Santa Barbara; Keene, DelNorte/Mendocino/Sonoma, Russell, Los Angeles; Vuich, Fresno, Tulare. Johnson, Butte, etc; Lockyer, Alameda; Maddy, Fresno/Maders Marks, San Francisco; Montoya, San Francisco; Roberti, Los Angeles; Rosenthal, Los Angeles; Seymour, Orange; Speraw, Los Angeles.

The bill was again introduced in 1985 by Rusty Arias and Lucy Killea. This time the entire CFMS was willing to work to get this bill passed. The names of those who had voted no were lobbied. This time the Bill was AB-2357. Charles Leach, CFMS President, 1984 went to Sacramento to lobby as well as those who lived in or near Sacramento. The bill finally passed the Senate on Wednesday, Sept 11, 1985. The Governor signed the bill on October 1, 1985.

Those voting in the negative this time were: Boatwright, Contra Costa; Lockyer, Alameda; Presley, Riverside; Seymour, Orange Stern, Kem/Kings/Los Angeles.

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How Benitoite Became California's Gemstone
(Continued from page 11)

A Gleam in Your Eye

By Mel Albright, Safety Chair

Looking for rocks? There's a gleam in your eyes. Doing some soldering? There's a gleam in your eye. Driving into the sun? There's a gleam in your eye. Enjoying the scenery? There's gleam in your eye. Boy, look at that fluorescent stuff! There's a gleam in your eye.

Have you thought about what your eyes receive as you follow your hobby? The answer is radiation, of course. Most of that radiation is in the visible light range and gives us no problems if it isn't too strong. But, some is infrared, some ultraviolet A and some ultraviolet B. The infrared is of wavelength longer than we can see. The ultraviolet is of wavelengths shorter than we can see.

But, radiation is all around us as we follow our hobby. The first source is the sun. We all know not to look straight at it. But, sunlight is reflected from any surface other than pure black and pure black radiated infrared when heated. Infrared energy hurts us by heating tissue. Your eyes are one place. Infrared re-radiates as heat - Dern that tool's hot! Although eye damage is more probable than skin energy, both are possible with visible as well as infrared. These rays can be focused by your eye lens so they cause retinal injury - up to blindness. IR also comes from UV lamps, resistance heaters, and flames (including welding and soldering)

Ultraviolet hurts us causes biological chemical reactions that injure us. A sunburn - eye problems - sensitivity to light - These are some of UV's effects. UV comes from the sun, of course. But it also comes from welding, plasma torches, gas discharge lamps ("black" light, mercury lamps, germicide lamps, welding and soldering torches, and the like). Too much UV can also blind you. Dangerous visible energy may come from the sun, or from welding and soldering flames. The Commission International d'Eclairage (CIE) International Lighting Commission classifies radiation as follows: The numbers are wavelengths in nanometers. 100-280, far UV or UV-b (actinic); 280-315, Middle UV or UV-a (actinic); 315-380, Near UV, black light; 38-780, visible light; 780-1400, Near IR; 1400-3000, intermediate IR; 3000-10,000, far IR; and over 10,000, microwaves.

"Infrared (IR) energy produces harm by heating tissue. Ultraviolet (UV) energy can cause injury by triggering chemical reactions in proteins and oth-

er biological molecules. This is termed photochemical injury. UV can also cause harm by heating tissue. Visible light can cause injury by heating, but visible energy with wavelengths below 550 nm can also produce photochemical injury. Although eye injury is more serious than skin injury, the skin and eyes are equally vulnerable to all wavelengths except those between 400 nm and 1400 nm. Energy with wavelengths between 400 and 1400 nm entering the eye can be focused by the lens and reach the retina at the back of the eye; therefore, retinal injury, which can lead to partial or even total loss of vision, is a serious concern at these wavelengths." Source: <http://www.llnl.gov/es_and_h/hsm/doc_11.02/doc11-02.html#26.8>.

For all radiation - there are safety glasses which will protect your eyes - actinic glasses for UV (see glass-blowing), sunglasses for visible, and darkened glasses for strong visible and IR. IF you are going to have much exposure, be sure to buy and use this safety equipment. Sun block also protects the skin against UV.

FINALLY, laser light is extremely dangerous to your vision. Avoid being around them if you can. If you must be around lasers, there are safety glasses designed for that. Use them.

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Not voting were: Ayala, Los Angeles/San Bernardino; Foran, San Francisco Garamendi; Alpine, Amador etc; Green, Sacramento; Hart, Los Angeles; Montoya, Los Angeles; Nielsen, Butte/Colusa, etc; Richardson, Inyo/Los Angeles; Rosenthal, Los Angeles; Russell, Los Angeles; Vuich, Fresno, Tulare.

There is a beautiful specimen in the Los Angeles County Natural History Museum that is on loan from the CFMS. It is taken each year from there to the CFMS convention, and then returned.

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Uncoming CFMS Shows

- Jan. 12-13** **Exeter, CA.** Tule Gem and Mineral Society
Exeter's Veteran's Memorial Bldg. - On Hwy. 65
Hours: 10-5 both days
- Feb. 1-3** **Redlands, CA.** Southern California Micro-Mineralogists
37th Annual Pacific Micromount Conf.
San Bernardino County Museum
2024 Orange Tree Lane
Web Site: <http://www.mineralsocal.org/micro/>
- Feb. 15-24** **Indio, CA.** San Gorgonio Mineral & Gem Society
Riverside County Fair & National Date Festival;
Gem & Mineral Bldg (on the Fairgrounds)
46-350 Arabia Street
Hours: 10-10
- Feb. 16-17** **Stockton, CA.** Stockton Lapidary & Mineral Club
"Earth Treasures", Scottish Rite Temple
33 W. Alpine Ave.
Hours: 10-5 both days
- Mar. 1-10** **El Centro, CA.** Imperial Valley Gem & Mineral Society
Imperial Valley Expo & Fair
Hours: Mon. thru Thurs 4-10, Fri. thru Sun. 10-10
- Mar. 2-3** **Arcadia, CA.** Monrovia Rockhounds, Inc.
The Arboretum of Los Angeles County, Ayres Hall
301 N. Baldwin Ave., Arcadia, CA 91007
Hours: 9-4:30 both days

11. Astronauts are not allowed to eat beans before they go into space because passing wind in a spacesuit damages them. (Not to mention the other drawback to being in such a confined space....)
12. Bats always turn left when exiting a cave.

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**Editor: Jay Valle, 1421 Latchford Avenue, Hacienda Heights, CA 91745
Home: (626) 934-9764; E-Mail: jvalle@aqmd.gov
Bulletin exchanges are welcome and should be sent to the editor.**

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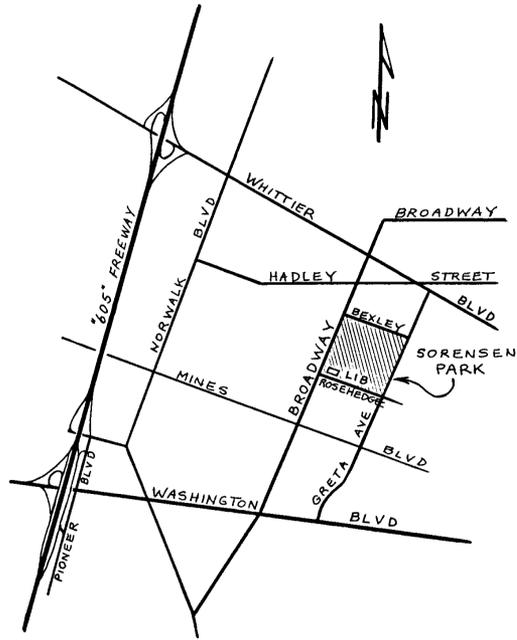
Whittier Gem and Mineral Society, Inc.

Post Office Box 865

Whittier, California 90608-0865

Editor: Jay Valle, 1421 Latchford Ave.

Hacienda Heights, CA 91745



Meeting Date: **January 24 at 7:30 PM**
Location: **Sorensen Park (See Map)**