

November 2002

WHITTIER

ROCKHOUNDER
GEM & MINERAL
SOCIETY

“I LIKE AGATE” or “THE PRIDAY PLUME STORY!!”
Presented by Bill and Isabella Burns



Priday Plume Agate

ROCKHOUNDER

THE PREZ SEZ:

You met the challenge! Everyone who helped search for and locate a new location for our annual show helped meet the challenge. Everyone, who helped plan for our first show in a new venue, helped meet the challenge. Everyone who participated in setting up, conducting the show, preparing a showcase, and tearing down the hall after our recent show, helped meet the challenge.

I sit here and think that at this time last year, none of us had any idea that things were going to change with respect to how and where the club's annual show had been held for so many, many years. When the decision was made, that a new location had to be found, many stepped forward to help in the search for a new site. That help continued with the planning, and execution of what I believe we can all consider an outstanding show, especially for a new location.

I am sure that elsewhere in this edition of the *Rockhounder* our hardworking and dedicated Show Chairman, Jay Valle, will be reporting on this year's show. While he will (appropriately) thank so many people who made critical contributions to the success of our show, all of us who participated with him in the planning, know that his tenacious drive to keep the planning on track and all of us properly focused, deserves special recognition. That said, I think that all of us, that participated can justifiably shout – **WE DID IT!** Great job everyone!

That's it for now. Keep those gems polished!

Art

WGMS Regular Meeting
Bill and Izzy will present a program titled:
“I Like Agate“ or “The Priday Plume Story”
Thursday, November 21st Program at 7:30 PM at Sorenson Park

If you visited our Gem Show this year you got a rare treat. An entire case of excellent quality Priday Plume Agates were on display. The owners of this fine (and valuable) collection, **Bill and Isabella Burns**, will be our guest speakers at the next WGMS General Meeting to be held November 21 at Sorenson Park. Bill and Izzy have presented many fine programs over the years and this program will be about this spectacular agate from a classic, and now closed, location. They will describe how the agate was formed and how those beautiful pictures got into the agate.

James LaBorde

October Meeting Notes

The WGMS post-Show General Meeting was held at the Whittier Community Center on October 24. It was a little cozy but we had an excellent turnout including several new members to hear Francis Lau, a retired diamond merchant, speak about “Buying Diamonds Wisely. Mr. Lau has spent many years buying and selling diamonds and he shared some of his knowledge with us.

Beyond the basic 4Cs (carat weight, color, cut & clarity), we learned that buying a large flawless or nearly flawless diamond doesn't guarantee a gem with good fire. The amount of fire a diamond produces is related to the type of cut, the critical angles and the size of the table. The ideal cut is the ROUND BRILLIANT and for investment purposes, this is the cut to purchase. The 4Cs give a solid foundation for judging quality, but the weight of the diamond is the determining factor for the cost of a stone within a specific quality range. A diamond of .9 carats may be worth \$5,000, a respectable sum. But add .1 carat to make up a full 1-carat gem and the price jumps to \$8,000. Diamond cutters often employ a few simple techniques that boost the carat weight and thereby the value of the stone. Increasing the girdle thickness can provide added weight but increases the height of the stone. The most frequently used method is to increase the width of the table. The perfect table expressed as a percent of the gem's width is 53%. This gives maximum fire. Cutting a wider table increases the carat weight but decreases the fire, giving a large, but colorless, stone.

News From Around the Club

We have recently received the following information about some of our WGMS members.

“Zeke” Wilder died October 30, 2002 (see obituary starting on page 8). His memorial service was November 6. The WGMS was represented by the Burns, the Valle’s, and Dottie Jacobs.

Walt Abramson is not doing well and would probably enjoy a card or phone call from his friends.

Clarence Pool was in the hospital for what was they thought was a heart attack but when examined, no sign of one could be found. He is recovering at home and says he should be on his feet again soon.

A word about the Show From Les...

As I write this I want to THANK ALL of the nice people that joined us at the demonstration table during our show. I will not name names lest I omit someone (age does that to some people). You all did a great JOB. We had more action around the tables than ever. We can only get better from now on.

Les Roy, Demonstrations Chairman

"Lets all get wired"

Wire Wrapping Classes

Presented by Marcia Goetz

February 20, March 6 and March 20

Location: Whittier Senior Center

We are doing well at our newly established classes. Izzy has put together a nice package and certainly at a good price for all. Club members are encouraged to enroll in these classes and learn some of Marcia's secrets. We need at least 6 students to keep these classes going. Join now at the senior center and we will see you in February.

Cost: \$10.00 Class Fee when you sign up for the class at the Senior Center
\$10.00 Materials Fee, paid at the class

Les Roy, Community Relations Chairman

Show Wrap Up Report

I wish to thank all of you who participated in putting on the Whittier Gem and Mineral Society's 53rd Annual Gem Show. I believe that we presented a fine, quality Gem Show under slightly more difficult circumstances than in recent years.

First a little history. The WGMS Annual Gem Show has been held in several locations over the last 50-odd years. For a long time, we enjoyed the use of Palm Park in Whittier. I remember many fine Shows during this period. However, in 1987, Whittier had an earthquake and the Palm Park building was severely damaged, so much so that it had to be completely demolished. This earth-shattering event happened right before our annual show. A frantic search began for another suitable location. Thanks to the timely intervention of Francis Gilbert, a WGMS past president, we found a new home at the Whittier Masonic Temple located in Uptown Whittier on Greenleaf Avenue. Our association with the Masons continued until this year, 2002, when the fee for using the Hall became too expensive. Once again the search parties were sent out and a possible candidate was identified as the Whittier Community Center. **Les Roy** and **Kathleen and Jerry Turner** negotiated with the Community Center and the City of Whittier to allow us to monopolize the gymnasium for the weekend of our show. After a lot of wrangling, a price was agreed upon which, though high, was still significantly lower than the Masonic Lodge just down the street. So it was settled and plans went forward. A new layout had to be designed which would accommodate all of our dealers, the WGMS Sales Table, Donation Awards, Demonstrators, Show cases and an eating area near the kitchen. The layout was designed by **Vern Cliffe** and the Community Center set all the tables exactly where he told them to. He also did the rough power calculations and recalculated the Dealer costs. **Jerry and Kathy Turner** did a fine job working on pre-Show publicity and supported **Les Roy** in his continuing negotiations with the City of Whittier. As the Show date approached, Les pulled off a major coup and convinced City Hall to give us a huge discount on the Community Center. I don't know how he did it but he did a great service to the Club. Our one big disappointment was the complete lack of coverage by the Whittier Newspaper which flatly refused to print any information about our Show in spite of the hard efforts of **Jerry and Kathy**.

On Friday, October 18, Show Time finally came. When we arrived at the Community Center at the appointed time with our rented U-haul van, we were delighted to find all of the tables and power outlets already in place. Not having to set up tables saved us an enormous amount of time and things went up fast. All the Show Cases were set up and filled under the direction of

Sylvia Cliffe and everyone did their assigned tasks flawlessly. There were some anxious moments when it was discovered that the Community Center had rented out the Kitchen for an Italian Cooking class on that Friday night during set up and we couldn't get into the kitchen until Saturday morning. Everything worked out fine, though, thanks to the Kitchen management of **Kathy Turner**, assisted ably by **Flo Zywocienski** and **Anne Marie Nastasi**.

Saturday morning, we opened on time and, as they say, the rest is history.

I want to mention the people who helped us put on our Show and thank them all for their hard work. **Kathy Valle** and **Erin Valle** handled the Donation Awards responsibilities with style and grace. **Kathy Turner**, **Flo Zywocienski** and **Anne Marie Nastasi** handle the Kitchen duty. **Sylvia Cliffe** did her usual excellent job with the layout and planning of the display cases. **Bill and Isabella Burns**, along with **Jack Zywocienski**, greeted our guests and pointed them in the right direction to enjoy the Show. At the Sales Table, **Joe Goetz**, assisted by various members, such as **Vern Cliffe**, **Art Ragazzi**, and **James LaBorde** who roamed around and filled in where needed. **Marsha Goetz** and **Jason Valley** manned the Spinning Wheel and ran the Children's Programs. Over at Demonstrations, **Les Roy** and **Ginger Ragazzi** led the demonstrators which were one of the highlights of the Show. Thanks also to our setup and teardown assistant **Ernie Gaytan** who shows up and helps us out every year. A special thanks goes out to **Al Burns** who displayed his collection of amethyst and also joined the Club during the Show.

We also want to welcome 3 individuals and 1 family who joined the Club during the Show. They are:

Courtney Kennedy and Family
Lee Valle
Allan R. Burns
Joseph Abal.

Finally, a warm thanks to the Whittier Community Center staff and all of their hard work to make the 2002 Gem Show happen.

Jay Valle, 2002 Show Chairman

Cecil "Zeke" Wilder
February 1911 to October 2002

On October 30, 2002, one of our Life Members, Cecil "Zeke" Wilder passed away at a convalescent hospital in Whittier. He was 91 years old. A graveside service was held on November 6 at Rose Hills Memorial Park in Whittier. Zeke is survived by his son Don Wilder, daughter Sandra and his companion of almost 9 years, May Richardson. He was blessed with 7 grandchildren and 10 great-grandchildren.

Cecil "Zeke" Wilder was born February 9, 1911, on the Rancho Del Saguaro which was located outside of Glendale (near Phoenix) in what was then Arizona Territory. His mother died as a complication of childbirth and his father left for work in California, leaving Zeke to be raised by his Grandparents. After bouncing around from farm-to-farm for 4 years, the family decided to move to California. They crossed the Mojave Desert at Needles in a Model-T Ford using the 2-car wide plank road in use at that time. Zeke claimed to still remember his first campout in the desert along that old rickety road and the pungent smell of mesquite smoke from their campfire that night.

The next few years saw Zeke and his Grandparents in Long Beach, Lynwood, Perris and Pomona. In 1917 he discovered the world of airplanes. He used to talk of his memories of big tri-planes, military SPADS (a type of bi-plane) and old Curtis JN4s (remember, this would be during or right after WW1. There weren't any 747s then).

Zeke started working in his teen years. During Junior High he bought a bicycle and took on a paper route delivering the Pomona Progress Bulletin. It was a 10-mile circle and he had to get up at 3:00 AM, finishing at 6:30 and finally to school by 8:00. He worked as a truck deliveryman for the San Luis Obispo Slaughterhouse in 1927. That same year Zeke entered High School, majoring in drafting, applied industrial science, aviation and machine shop.

During his freshman year, Zeke bought a 1925 Harley-Davidson, kick-starting a lasting love affair with motorcycles. He joined the Pomona Valley Motorcycle Club which was a Police-sponsored alternative to gangs which were a problem then as now. He participated in many club rides and races over a lot of years.

In 1931 Zeke joined the California National Guard and was discharged 2 years later as a Corporal. He went to Nevada and drove trucks for the

Wilkerson Silver Mining Company. Always looking for excitement, he worked as the dynamiter's helper when he nothing to haul. During his time at the mine, Zeke explored every trail in the area on his "bike". Becoming homesick after 7 months, he was back in Pomona and working on the dynamite blasting crew with the California Conservation Corp (CCC) as the "local expert", making fire roads around Mt. San Antonio.

Zeke first met his future wife Manetta Hill in 1932 while still in High School. He traded in his "bike" in favor of a car which he promptly wrecked. Ok, so it was back to motorcycles for the next few years. On September 29, 1935, Zeke and Manetta tied the knot at a garden wedding before family members and fellow bikers from the motorcycle club. It was the last day of the L.A. County Fair and the fairgrounds could be seen from where the wedding was performed.

In 1936, Douglas Aircraft hired Zeke to design equipment for various aircraft and top secret projects. He spent the next 13 years with Douglas. He tried his hand at starting his own business selling fish but only lasted 5 months (rumor has it that Netta couldn't stand the smell). Next was 13 years working for Diamond Machine Tool Company in Los Angeles designing new machine tools. This job gave him the opportunity to travel around the country making sales and engineering calls.

On one such trip he had the adventure of his life when he was given a chance to fly a jet aircraft. He flew over 45,000 feet during the performance of acrobatic maneuvers at over 1000 MPH. He talked about that experience for the rest of his days. It was during this period that he bought his Whittier home.

In 1961, he started work for Osco Corp of Santa Monica and 2 years later formed his own company, Wilder Engineering Co. in partnership with the president of Osco Corp. This was his last (and probably best) job until he retired as a mechanical engineer.

In or about 1990, Netta passed away and Zeke was having health problems. In 1993, he employed May Richardson to be a part-time caregiver and eventually a 9 year relationship blossomed. On August 16, 2002 Zeke entered the Royal Court Convalescent Hospital (Berryman West) where he died October 30.

(Continued on the next page)

Cecil "Zeke" Wilder

(Continued from page 8)

Zeke joined the Whittier Gem and Mineral Society after the October Gem

Show in 1976. He jumped right into the club operations as a Director in 1978, and then as chairman of various and sundry committees thereafter. His main interest, though, was field trips; rock collecting and camping.

In 1979 he led his first field trip to Owl Hole Mountains and in 1980 was Field Trip Chairman. (As a side note, Zeke was Field Trip Leader on the first Club field trip I went on). He was active on trips as participant or leader until the late 1980s.

Zeke also brought his mechanical engineering skills to work on various problems in the Club. He designed our Spinning Wheel used during the WGMS Gem Show and also an identical one for the North Orange County Gem Club. He designed and built the metal field trip signs which were widely used during the 1980s. He designed and helped build Pappy Harwood's 36" walk-in slab saw which Pappy used to cut his giant petrified wood slabs. He also redesigned the saw-horses used during the annual Show to hold our Showcases (this is the first year that they were not used). Zeke was made a Life Member of Whittier Gem and Mineral Society in 1989.

Zeke is also remembered for some of his other "interests". Zeke loved to dance and is remembered as a fairly good dancer. His life-long love of airplanes led him into flying model airplanes, some of which he displayed at one of our Gem Shows.

Due to failing health, Zeke was not able to participate in Club activities for the last several years but he is remembered affectionately for his good humor and enthusiasm. He led an interesting and varied life and enjoyed many eclectic interests and experiences with the respect and admiration of those who knew him.

Jay Valle

**Field Trip Report - October 26 & 27
Whittier Gem & Mineral Club Claim**

Sylvia and I picked up the key to the Whittier Club claim from the Brubaker-Mann company on Friday afternoon about 3 o'clock and opened the gate for other arrivals. **Ed & Corinne Imlay** joined us shortly thereafter.

By 8:30 Saturday morning about twelve other members and one visitor showed up and we went over to the red agate area about a mile away. Following **Sylvia**, several members found an area that turned out to be productive and a number of double fist-sized chunks were dug out. The group returned to camp for lunch and the afternoon was spent visiting the algae agate site and an agate site pointed out by **Bob & Dorothy Brower**. From there some of the group headed over to the "country" store at Yermo for ice cream and a couple went home while several of us headed out to an area that **Joe Goetz** had indicated had some agate and palm root. Sure enough, a few pieces of palm root were found.

Potluck turned out to be the usual great source of delicious food.. In spite of all the careful packing Sylvia and I had done (first trip with our new pickup and fifth wheel trailer) I had forgotten to load in the club tables and our chairs. But, out of nowhere, there appeared enough tables and chairs to put out the food and seat everybody. Three couples stayed overnight, enjoying a roaring fire with enough wood left over for the next group that shows up there.

A total of about 18 persons enjoyed the outing, the weather was almost perfect. It drizzled early Saturday morning and stopped about 7:30, doing a great job of keeping the dust down.

The last persons leaving the site, cleaned up some beer cans and trash around the gate area, locked it up and headed out about 10 am.

I called Brubaker-Mann Monday morning and thanked them for moving the boulders for us and that we had not seen anything unusual while we were there.

Hope you can join us on the next trip to Owens Valley over Thanksgiving.

Vern & Sylvia Cliffe

**Thanksgiving Weekend Fieldtrip
Nov 28th through Dec 1st**

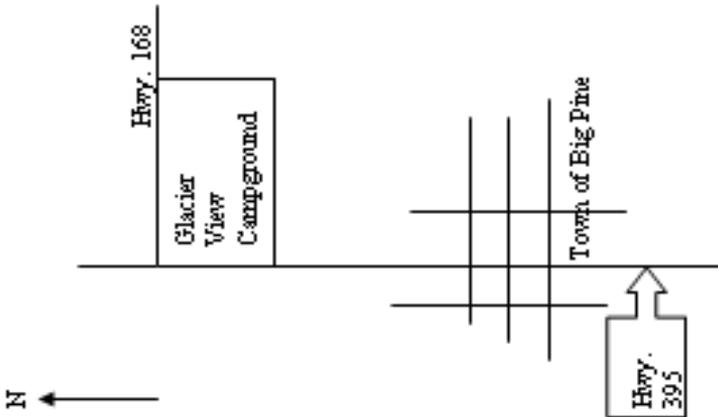
The upcoming trip over the Thanksgiving Holiday will be to the Owens Valley. The club went on a similar trip a few years ago. Of course there are beautiful quartz crystals both clear and smoky and amethyst as well. Depending on how far we are willing to travel we could even collect such minerals as rhodochrosite and even tourmaline!

The last time we stayed at the Triangle campground at the north end of Big Pine. That campground is now called Glacier View Campground. A company called Browns administers it and they are doing improvements. The rates are w/o hookups are \$10 (possibly \$11) per night and with hookups \$15 (possibly \$16) per night. The hookups are water and electrical. Bathrooms are available, so there is no needed running to look for a bush.

For the areas we will most likely go to, Big Pine is centrally located. Marcia and I will be going up on Wednesday to insure that you will have a campsite. The only way to reserve a spot is to prepay for it. So if are going to be there, say on Friday, we'll need to hold a spot for you (we'll need your fee and the license plate number). The people managing the campground don't believe it will be filled on this holiday, though .

So sign up for the Field Trip at the General Meeting on November 21 or call Joe Goetz at (626) 914-5030.

Joe Goetz, Field Trip Chairman



Proposed WGMS Officers for 2003

This year’s Nominating Committee, consisting of Isabella Burns and Jay Valle, decided to see if our 2002 Officers would be willing to continue in office for one more year. They all said yes.

The following is the list of proposed WGMS Officers for 2003:

- President Art Ragazzi
- 1st Vice President..... James LaBorde
- 2nd Vice President..... Jack Zywocienski
- Secretary Marcia Goetz
- Treasurer Jay Valle
- Federation Director..... Bill Burns
- Directors: Les Roy
- Jerry Turner
- Joe Goetz

Per our By-Laws, nominations will be asked for from the WGMS Club Members attending the November General Meeting on November 21. When all nominations have been received, we will be taking the vote.

TUMBLER HINTS

By using small pieces of Styrofoam plastic, instead of the hard round plastic beads, your polishing agent will do a better and quicker job. Those hundreds of polish-impregnated little Styrofoam pieces will really put a shine on everything in the tumbler and will disappear from sight by the end of the polishing cycle. *[From the Rockcollector 4/01 via The Pineywoods Rooter 03/02]*

How to Burp a Tumbler: If you're running a tumbler and it keeps burping out gas and making a mess in your shop, here's a tip that I discovered several years ago. I even got it published. The burping is due to gas generated by acids and metals. A common example is the iron in a stone (say bloodstone) reacting with the weak acids formed by grinding other rocks. Simply drop a couple of antacids in the tumbler and the problem will be reduced or go away. Tums for the tumbler, so to speak. *[From Canaveral Moonstone 04/00, via The Roadrunner 03/02]*

Gneiss Gnews April 2002

Scavenger Hunt Results
Whittier Show October 19 & 20, 2002

The following is a summary of the results of the annual “Scavenger Hunt“.

There were **38** children who participated in this years event.

Below are the questions asked and the answers we received:

- 1. A carving on Rim Jasper of a woman's or child's face is called ...
(correct answer **Cameo**)

- 29** **Cameo**
- 3 Rim Rock Jasper Lapidary Art
- 1 Cameo/Rim Rock Jasper 1 Lapidary
- 1 Lapidary Arts
- 3 Walk in the Garden

- 2. Rock slabs cut to shape and domed are called ...
(correct answer **Cabochon**)

- 34** **Cabochon**
- 4 Pyrite cases

- 3. Jewelry made using wire is called ...
(correct answer(s) **Wire Wrap, Wire Wrapping, or Wire Wrapped**)

- 3** **Wire Wrap**
- 2** **Wire Wrapping**
- 15** **Wire Wrapped**
- 12 Wire Wrapped Jewelry
- 1 Necklace
- 1 Necklaces
- 1 Glass Pebbles
- 1 Tony Fender

- 4. An agate from Madras, Oregon that has beautiful colors is called _____
Plume. (correct answer **Priday**)

- 38** **Priday**

- 5. There is one case with petrified wood. How many types of wood are there?
(correct answer **10** - oak was listed twice)

- 5 10
- 26 11
- 4 13
- 3 14

6. The bookends in one of the cases are made from what material? ...
(correct answer **Houser Geode Bed Nodules**)

18 Houser Geode Bed Nodules

- 1 Geode
- 1 Geode Bed
- 8 Houser Geode
- 1 Agate
- 4 Wood
- 4 Petrified Wood
- 1 Todd Neikirk

7. Name one of the stones in the "Field Trip" case ...

- 2 Tri-Colored Marble
- 1 Red Agate
- 2 Agate
- 1 Quartz
- 1 Bone Fossil
- 1 Petrified Wood
- 2 Jasp-Agate
- 4 Mariposite
- 1 Blue Dolomite
- 3 Gold Panning
- 3 Galven in Quartz
- 2 Garnets in Matrix
- 3 Stone Canyon
- 2 Canyon Jasper
- 1 Red Moss
- 8 Red Moss Agate
- 1 Jasper

Courtesy of Marcia Goetz

Eye Safety: SAFETY FIRST
by Bill Klose, EFMLS Safety Chairman

Most articles on rock hound safety invariably touch on eye safety in some form or another, whether it is protection from the sun on the way to a collecting site, protection from flying particles at a collecting site, or protection from dust, chemicals, or particles while processing the finds back in the shop.

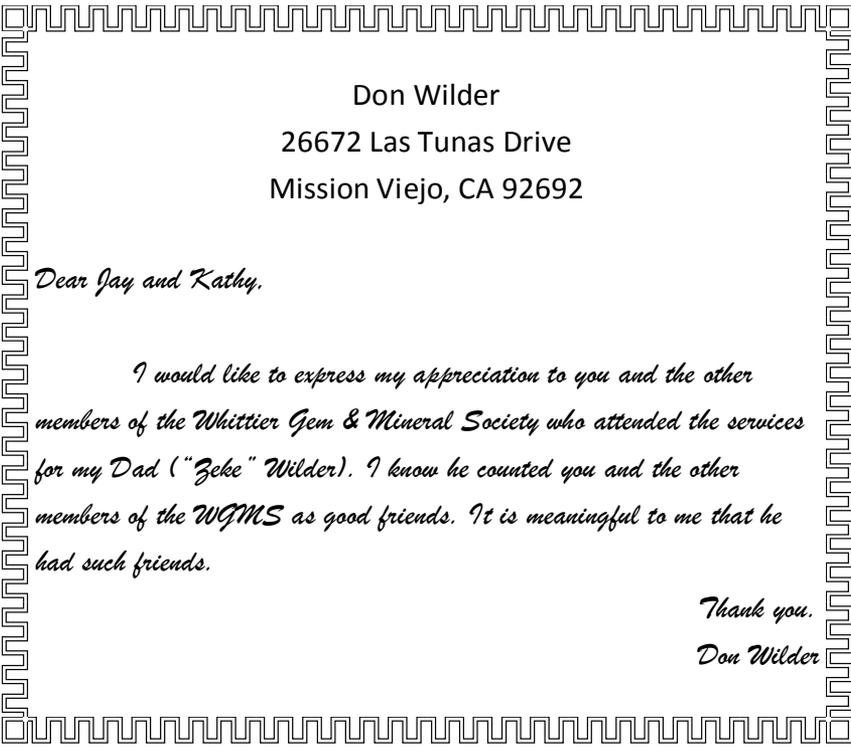
Eye hazards include particles, mists, vapors, fumes, gases, laser light and ultraviolet light. At once you can see that not all of these hazards are commonly encountered by most rock hounds, but some will be encountered by all rock hounds.

Safety glasses or spectacles are designed to provide impact protection from flying particles and have heavier frames than normal spectacles and impact resistant lenses, usually of polycarbonate. They can be tinted to protect the eyes from laser or ultraviolet light. As most particles enter the eyes at an angle it is recommended that they accommodate and are worn with side shields. Safety glasses with prescription corrective lenses are available, even bifocal and "multifocal". Do not use spectacles intended for protection from radiation and glare from the sun indoors where your vision may be impaired by the tinted lenses. Spectacles should be fitted to your eye and bridge size and temple length. The temples should fit comfortably over the eyes. The frame should be close to the face and supported by the bridge of the nose. Keep spectacles clean and clear of scratches. Store your spectacles in a case in a dry, clean place where they will not fall or be stepped on. Scratched or damaged spectacles interfere with vision and do not provide protection. Safety spectacles alone do not provide adequate protection for the eyes from fumes, vapors, liquids and large particles. Safety goggles provide a secure shield around the entire eye area to protect against hazards coming from many different directions and spread the force of impact over a larger area around the eye. Goggles are most effective when worn with safety spectacles and are also provided with impact resistant and tinted lenses. Goggles that are unvented or indirectly vented will provide protection from splash hazards. Goggles can be provided with fog free coatings. Face shields should

be worn with safety spectacles and goggles to provide additional protection of the face from sparks, splashes, splatter, and larger particles. Never wear a face shield alone. Face shields are available with protective head gear and chemical hoods. Typical rock hound usage of a face shield would include pouring hot liquids, use of acids to clean minerals or fossils, breaking rocks with hand and mechanical equipment, and dressing grinding wheels.

So whatever your pleasure while rock hounding, consider what potential hazards are present and select the appropriate face and eye protection required.

EFMLS News 01/01 via GNEISS GNEWS, 09/02



Don Wilder
26672 Las Tunas Drive
Mission Viejo, CA 92692

Dear Jay and Kathy,

I would like to express my appreciation to you and the other members of the Whittier Gem & Mineral Society who attended the services for my Dad ("Zeke" Wilder). I know he counted you and the other members of the WQMS as good friends. It is meaningful to me that he had such friends.

Thank you.

Don Wilder

Upcoming Local Gem Shows

- Nov 23-24 Victorville, CA.** Victorville Gem & Mineral Club's 27th. Annual Show, San Bernardino County Fairgrounds
14800 7th. Street, Hours: Sat. 9-5; Sun. 9-4
- Nov 30 - Dec 1 Barstow, CA.** Mojave Desert Gem & Mineral Society
Barstow Community Center, 841 South Barstow Road
Hours: 10 – 5 both days
- Dec 7-8 San Bernardino, CA.** Orange Belt Mineralogical Society
503 W 31st. Street, Hours: Sat. 10-6; Sun. 10-5
- Dec 7-8 Los Angeles, CA.** Mineralogical Society of Southern California, and the Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County, and the Museum's Gem & Mineral Council.
Show Theme: "Gems & Minerals of California":
Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County
900 Exposition Blvd., Exposition Park - Los Angeles, CA
Info can be found at website <http://www.mineralsocal.org>
The regular museum admission gets you into the museum and show. \$8.00 Adults, \$5.50 Seniors (62+) or Students, \$2.00 Children 5 - 12 years, FREE Children under 5 years.
Hours: 10 - 5 both days

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Bulletin exchanges are welcome and should be sent to the editor.

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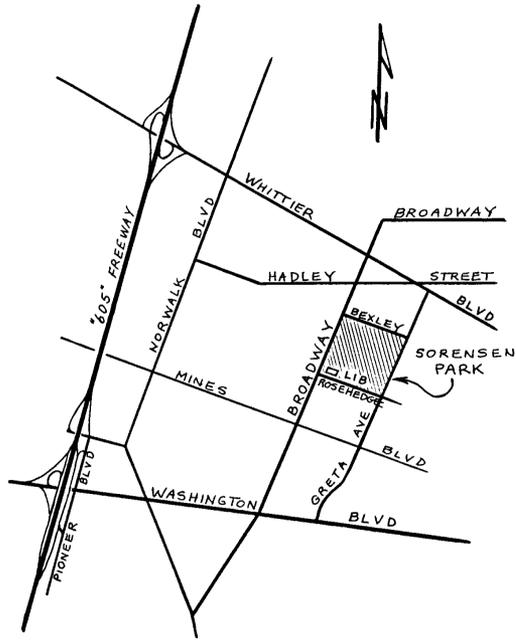
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Meeting Date: **November 21 at 7:30 PM**
Location: **Sorenson Park**