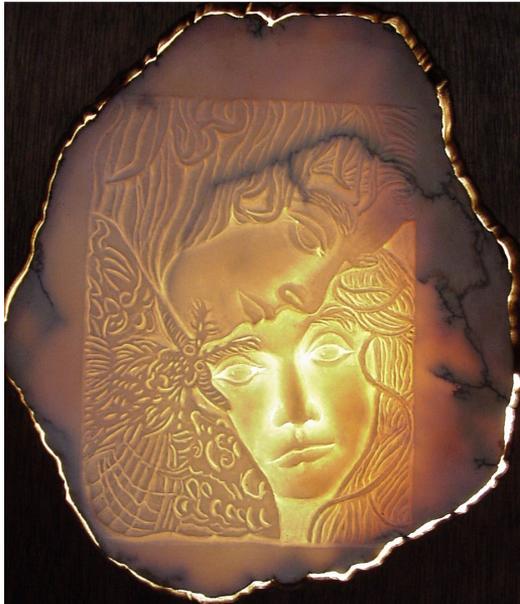


November 2003

WHITTIER

ROCKHOUNDING
GEM & MINERAL
SOCIETY

**“Sulfuric Acid Cave Formation in Mexico”
Presented by Will Heltsley**



A fine example of the artwork of Virginia Pace

ROCKHOUNDER

THE PREZ SEZ:

We did it! This year's annual club show, "Geodes: Nature's Treasure Chest," was a quality show that we can all take pride in. As is the case every year, it is only possible to produce a successful show because of the countless ways in which club members step forward and pitch-in before, during, and at the close of the show.

So many club members contributed to the success of this year's show that I will not try to identify anyone in particular for their effort, with the exception of Jay Valle. I must recognize Jay, who was our show Chairman for the third year in a row. He not only guided us through the careful preparation before the show, but also actively participated (as did so many others) in every facet of the execution of the show itself. With that said, I know that elsewhere in this issue of the Rockhounder Jay will have a great deal more to say about the show.

On other club matters, please remember that in November and December, we move our club meetings to the Third Thursday of the month. That means that for this month the club will be meeting on Thursday, November 20.

At our November club meeting, one of the important business matters that will be placed before you will be election of new Club Officers and Board Members for next year. I am pleased to see that we have a great slate of candidates who have stepped forward and offered to lead our club next year. Although I have another engagement on the night of the 20th that will prevent me from attending our November meeting, I hope that all of you who can, will attend the meeting, participate in the election process, and support our new leaders when they assume their offices in January.

Once again, to everyone who helped make our show such a success, thank you, (and thank yourselves), for your effort.

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

Art

2003 Show Recap
"Geodes: Nature's Treasure Chest"

2003 will probably be remembered as "**The Year of the Geode**". Our theme "**Geodes: Nature's Treasure Chest**" brought out a wealth of top quality thundereggs from our members and guest exhibitors. The displays included objects of lithic art from around the world, many self-collected, including the **Friday Plume collection** of the **Burn's** and **Al Burn's** internet rockhounding collection of **amethyst**. The geodes ranged in size from as small as a grape to the 100+ pound Brazilian Agate "*nodule*" brought in by **Bill & Isabella Burns**. Many larger geodes were set out on the **Touch-and-Feel** table for our members and guests to touch and to hold (they had to put them back, though.) We had to bring out the old sawhorses for the show cases this year and it really turned out good. There was more space for display cases and they were at a better eye level. We will probably continue to use the sawhorses in the future, even if the Community Center offers us tables. Thanks go to **Isabella Burns** for the excellent mix of exhibits this year.

I would also like to thank **Valerie Marrs** and **The Whittier Daily News** for their Page 3 article featuring **Isabella Burns** and her collection of geodes which were on display at the Whittier Library.

This year, three of our regular dealers were not able to come. "**Jade and More**" and "**Kendall**" both retired and "**Wonderworks**" had a scheduling conflict, but hopefully he will be back next year. The new dealers were "**Sumner's**", who we know from prior shows, "**Rocar Gems**" and "**Fossils Plus**". Thank you all for coming! **Joe Goetz, Vern Cliffe and Jay Valle** all participated in this job.

We had a fine group of demonstrators headed up by **Les Roy**. They were visited by a lot of interested guests. The exhibitors include **Sylvia Cliffe** on carving; **Ginger Ragazzi** and **Les Roy** at the cabbing machine; **Virginia Pace** demonstrated her fine carving techniques and her latest creations; **Sandie Fender** and dealer **Sherri George** showed dichroic glass creation techniques; **Dottie Jacobs** crocheted silver wire into fine silver ropes; **Darrel Boomer** brought in and demonstrated his homemade faceting machine; and in his booth, **Bob Backus** made spheres on his homemade sphere machine. Thank you all for your fine effort.

In the Kitchen, **Kathleen Turner, Flo Zywocienski** and **Anne Marie Nastase** held the fort and handled the food chores. Special thanks to **Bill Siefert and family** for donating lots of groceries for our kitchen.

Isabella Burns and **Jack Zywocienski** greeted our guests and handed out literature.

Marcia Goetz was the one responsible for all the nice flower arrangements.

Publicity was jointly handled by **Jerry & Kathleen Turner** and **Jay Valle**.

Les Roy coordinated things with the City of Whittier.

Marcia Goetz and **David Martinez** ably handled the "onslaught" of kids at the Spinning Wheel and Scavenger Hunt. **Al Burns** and **James LaBorde** filled in where needed. The Sales Table, supervised by **Joe Goetz** and assisted by **John and Helen Johnson** on Saturday, made a large contribution and sales were up.

We had a fine assortment of Donation Awards which were dispatched with characteristic efficiency by **Kathy Valle**, assisted by **Jason Valle** at ticket sales.

Vern Cliffe headed up the security team which included **Jerry Turner**, **David Martinez**, **Art Ragazzi** and **John Lugo's** round-the-clock security guys. **Jerry Turner** was also the man who created all the great signs and posters seen at the show, and **Art Ragazzi** supervised the setup and teardown phases of the show. Thank you one and all for your contributions to our successful show!

At this time I want to remember a friend of the WGMS (and many other Clubs) who has assisted us during our shows for the past 20 years, but was not able to make it this year. On Thursday, November 6, **Ernie Gaytan** passed away due to cancer. Ernie was granted an associate membership in the Whittier Gem & Mineral Society several years ago because of his continuing contributions to our Club. He was a active and enthusiastic man who was liked by all who knew him. Our condolences and good thoughts go out to Ernie's family at this time.

Last but certainly not least, I would like to thank the **Whittier Community Center staff** for their work in helping us make this event happen. All in all, this was another fine, successful production which was put on by our enthusiastic members, dealers and volunteers.

Thank you all for your support and hard work.

Jay Valle
2003 Show Chairman

**Ernie Gaytan
January 6, 1937 to November 6, 2003**

Recently, a staunch friend of ours passed away from complications of cancer. He was only 66 years old. **Ernie Gaytan** has been a supporter of the Whittier Gem and Mineral Society for as long as I can remember. He has come to our shows and meetings and helped out as needed. The WGMS acknowledged his contributions each year by granting him associate membership in the Club.

Ernie was born in The Township of Belvedere, California (?) on January 6, 1937. He grew up with a brother and sister. He graduated from Garfield High School and then joined the Air Force, spending 4 years in the service of his country. After leaving the service, he went to trade school, majoring in electronics. This was to be his profession for the years to follow. He worked for several years at North American Aviation before settling down as an electrician for the Montebello School System.

Ernie loved to ride. He was a member of a Harley Davidson motorcycle club and still had all the bikes he had ever owned (this was always a source of amusement to his friends and family). Each year, he participated in several annual motorcycle events and his greatest pleasures were found in the freedom of the road. A few years ago, he was able to make it to Milwaukee for the 100th Anniversary of Harley Davidson Motorcycles, considering it a high point in his riding life.

Family was always very important in Ernie's life and they remember him, always with a smile and a helping hand. A few years ago, when his parents became disabled, Ernie moved in and took care of them.

The lapidary arts were only one of Ernie's interests, and typically, he brought great skill and craftsmanship to his work. He was a worker in wood and silver, specializing in lost wax casting and silver engraving. He taught silver casting at Baldwin Park and was continually taking classes to learn new techniques. He did metal engraving for firearms and rebuilt old Ford trucks.

What Ernie is remembered for most, though, is for all the people he helped and befriended over many, many years. He was there for anyone who needed him. I have met Ernie at various gem club events over the years, sometimes demonstrating his art, sometimes just helping where needed. He was always there for the Whittier Gem & Mineral Society to assist in the setup and teardown phases of our annual show. He will be missed, not because he can't help us anymore, but because we liked him and he was our friend.

**Thanksgiving Field Trip
Wiley's Well
November 27 - 30, 2003**

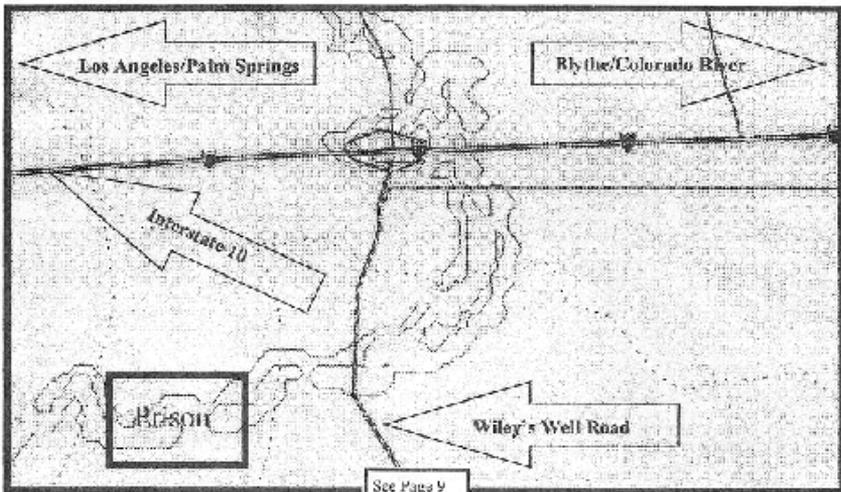
Join us for the **Thanksgiving Weekend Fieldtrip to Wiley's Well** on **November 27th through 30th**. Plan on have Thanksgiving Dinner with the club around 4:00 PM on Thursday. A potluck dinner will be enjoyed on the following days, also at around 4:00 PM.

Things we can find if we're lucky, willing to dig or walk are crystal lined geodes, nodules, various type of agate in seams, fire agate (fee), fluorite, jasper and convicts. OOPS, just kidding, but no digging next to the prison. With a little scouting you too can locate a new geode or agate deposit.

It seems that the Federation is also holding their Thanksgiving Field Trip there, too. There will be lots of options for collecting. We will be leaving camp at 8:00 AM in the morning for the trips.

Take I-10 east to the Wiley's Well Road exit. Go right, past the prison, and onto the dirt road. Continue for about 12 miles, past the Wiley's Well and Coon Hollow Campgrounds. Follow the PLS signs to our camp. As you pass the Coon Hollow Campground, watch for signs there because we may just stay in the campground for this field trip.

*Your often lost chairman
Joe Goetz*



Uncoming CFMS Gem Shows

- Nov 22-23** **Victorville, CA.** Victor Valley Gem & Mineral Club
San Bernadino County Fairgrounds
14800 7th Street
Hours: Sat 9-5, Sun 9-4
- Nov 29-30** **Barstow, CA.** Mojave Desert Gem & Mineral Society
Barstow Community Center
841 South Barstow Road
Hours: 10 - 5 both days
- Dec 6-7** **San Bernardino, CA.** Orange Belt Mineralogical Society
San Bernardino Women's Club
503 31st Street
Hours: Sat 10 - 6, Sun 10-5
- Dec 13-14** **Los Angeles, CA.** Society of Southern California & The
Natural History Museum of LA Co. , 900 Exposition Blvd,
Across from U of So Cal - Just off the 110 Fry
Hours: 10-5 both days
Admission: Adult \$8, Students/Seniors \$5.50, ages 5-12 \$2
- Jan 30 thru** **Redlands, CA.** Southern California Micro-Mineralogists
Feb 1 San Bernardino County Museum
2024 Orange Tree Lane, Redlands, CA
- Feb 13-22** **Indio, CA.** San Gorgonio Mineral & Gem Society
"Riverside County Fair & National Date Festival"
Gem & Mineral Bldg. Fairgrounds; @ 46-350 Arabia St.
Hours: 10 - 10
- Mar 6-7** **Arcadia, CA.** Monrovia Rockhounds
Los Angeles County Botanical Gardens
301 N. Baldwin Avenue
Hours: 9-4:30 both days
- Mar 13-14** **San Marino, CA.** Pasadena Lapidary Society
San Marino Masonic Center
3130 Huntington Dr.
Hours: Sat. 10 - 6; Sun. 10 - 5

**WGMS Presidents
1949 to 2004**

The following is an honor roll of past Presidents of the Whittier Gem & Mineral Society. You may recognize a few names of individuals who served in our first two decades. That is pretty amazing in terms of longevity and Club loyalty!

Year	Presidents	Year	Presidents
1949	Bob Meyers	1977	F.E. Sleep
1950	Bill McIninch	1978	Norm Donaldson
1951	Francis Croft	1979	Muriel Berg
1952	Ken Tharpe	1980	John Isenbarger
1953	George Cyrog	1981	Jerry Turner
1954	Blanche Hutcheson	1982	Francis Gilbert
1955	Bill Burns	1983	Bob Dietl
1956	Donna Patrick	1984	Pat Maggs
1957	Sol Stern	1985	Vern Cliffe
1958	Sylvia Cliffe	1986	Ken Manning
1959	Jim Berry	1987	Joe Goetz
1960	Eunice Berry	1988	Jim Bennett
1961	Dora Stern	1989	Mike Maneth
1962	Marian Hubbard	1990	Mike Maneth
1963	Bruce Buell	1991	Mike Maneth
1964	Del Jones	1992	Sandie Fender
1965	Frank Hewlett	1993	Sandie Fender
1966	Mick Wingett	1994	Joe Goetz
1967	Art Logue	1995	Les Roy
1968	Bill Burns	1996	Les Roy
1969	Muriel Berg	1997	Les Roy
1970	Lefty Stroh	1998	Jerry Turner
1971	George Merton	1999	Isabella Burns
1972	Floyd Berg	2000	Jay Valle
1973	Margery Horsfall	2001	Jay Valle
1974	Lefty Stroh	2002	Art Ragazzi
1975	Bob Carlisle	2003	Art Ragazzi
1976	F.E. Sleep	2004	James LaBorde (nom)



A large measure of the enjoyment of our hobby consists of collecting in the field. For that reason, the members are proud to endorse the following:

"Code of Ethics"

- I will respect both private and public property and will do no collecting on privately owned land without permission from the owner.
- I will keep informed on all laws, regulations or rules governing collecting on public lands and will observe them.
- I will, to the best of my ability, ascertain the boundary lines of property on which I plan to collect.
- I will use no firearms or blasting material in collecting areas.
- I will cause no willful damage to property of any kind such as fences, signs, buildings, etc.
- I will leave all gates as found.
- I will build fires only in designated or safe places and will be certain they are completely extinguished before leaving the area.
- I will discard no burning material - matches, cigarettes, etc.
- I will fill all excavation holes which may be dangerous to livestock.
- I will not contaminate wells, creeks, or other water supplies.
- I will cause no willful damage to collecting material and will take home only what I can reasonably use.
- I will practice conservation and undertake to utilize fully and well the materials I have collected and will recycle my surplus for the pleasure and benefit of others.
- I will support the rockhound project H.E.L.P. (Help Eliminate Litter Please) and will leave all collecting areas devoid of litter, regardless of how found.
- I will cooperate with field-trip leaders and those in designated authority in all collecting areas.
- I will report to my club or federation officers, Bureau of Land Management or other authorities, any deposit of petrified wood or other materials on public lands which should be protected for the enjoyment of future generations for public educational and scientific purposes.
- I will appreciate and protect our heritage of natural resources.
- I will observe the "Golden Rule", will use Good Outdoor Manners and will at all times conduct myself in a manner which will add to the stature and Public Image of Rockhounds everywhere.

Revised July 7, 1999 at the AFMS Annual Meeting

**Agates with Inclusions
Sagenite and Plume
By Pat McMahan**

Agates with inclusions are some of the rarest and most beautiful agates in the world. These inclusions may be sagenitic (sagenite), plume, dendritic, or moss. A description of each of these most common types of inclusions is important here.

Sagenite, or more accurately, **sagenitic agate** is any agate having acicular or needle like mineral growths. These hair like filaments are often arranged in fans or sunbursts. The inclusions come in a wide array of colors.

Plume agate has fluffy looking inclusions which appear soft and have depth. Sometimes plume agate inclusions resemble feathers, plants, or flowers. Colors may vary as in sagenite.

Dendritic agate has thin, two-dimensional, treelike growths, usually black or dark brown, as is the case with Montana Agate. Dendrites may also occur in limestone, talc, and sandstone, and in beryl, corundum, and other minerals.

When inclusions in agate are random in pattern, often creating the appearance of seaweed or moss, we have **moss agate**. Moss agate comes in many colors and is often green. Moss is the most common type of inclusion in agate.

The main focus here is on sagenite and plume agate.

I have identified sagenite from over 250 different agate deposits worldwide. My belief is that at least a little sagenite can be found at most agate fields. It is impossible to say today what percentage of the original deposits was sagenitic, but in the hundred or so agate fields I have been to, a very small percentage of the agate has sagenitic inclusions. With the exception of a small number of fields, probably less than five percent of the available agate at fields I've been to is sagenitic. Those few agate fields that have a higher incidence of sagenite offer a rare and exciting treat to the collector.

Plume is surprisingly more common than most of us might believe. Many collectors know of Priday Plume, Graveyard Point, Del Norte (Colorado), West Texas, and Mexican Plume. The oxides which form plume and other inclusions are quite common. If they are present and conditions are right, the inclusions form. I have plume from over a hundred agate fields in my

collection.

Inclusions occur where iron oxide, manganese oxide, or other oxides are present when the agate is formed. The oxide minerals grow in the agate when it is in a liquid or gelatinous state. The inclusions grow and are supported by this liquid medium. If sagenite inclusions grow outside of the gel, the tops of the needles resemble a pin cushion.

In very rare instances, plume and sagenite are found in the same rock. Plume and moss are often associated together. I have found sagenite in or near moss only a few times.

Multicolor plumes appear to be more common than multicolor sagenitic sprays. This observation is based on looking at several thousand specimens. I have not yet seen plumes or sagenite needles penetrate bands in agate. My belief is that sagenite and plume are formed in silica gel after the gel fills or partially fills the cavity. Banded agate apparently forms at a different time. Some of my favorite agates have fortification next to inclusions.

The thrill of finding a quality agate in the field is only topped by making that perfect, often lucky cut in the saw. Unlike banded agate which often gives the cutter multiple quality slabs, we seldom get more than one outstanding cut per rock with plume or sagenite.

As a collector, I am very selective in what I pick up in the field and still less than 5% of what I cut goes in my display case. That's the nature of what we do. A very small quantity of agates are exceptional.

My hope is to increase interest in quality agates, particularly sagenite and plume.

As a collector, I actively buy and sell quality material. I very much like to trade material and will trade agate hunting locations.

I love to exchange ideas on hunting, cutting, and displaying. I enjoy digging and sharing a good campfire.

I can be reached at:

e-mail: mcmahan@sedona.net

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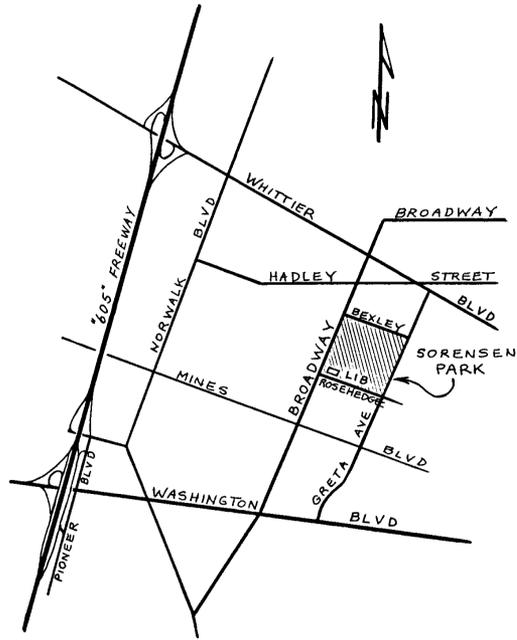
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Hacienda Heights, CA 91745



Meeting Date: **November 20 at 7:30 PM**
Location: **Sorenson Park**