

WHITTIER



May Program:

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ROCKHOUNDER

THE PREZ SEZ:

May is already upon us, where has the year gone already? We are heading into summer, vacations; trips to visit relatives are already in the planning stages. What a lot of us forget is shortly after is our show. It will be here before you realize it. Summer is a great time to plan for the show, getting your display ready adding a few new pieces to it. It is a time for doing maintainance on equipment or on your case if you own one or trying a new color for your liners. Then when the time comes for the show you'll be ready. And while you're at it perhaps you can create a prize for the raffle at the show or possibly tumble stones for the prizes for the game. Yes, a lot of things can be done this summer; actually you could even start now on some of these things.

Since the price of gas has gotten to be so high, the fieldtrips are being re-thought and what we will be doing is going on trips closer in. Many can be done as day trips, so "car" pooling can be a solution to getting in the field. Or we'll be staying in a central location and striking out from there to different locations within a short drive.

What ever you do, do it safely and have fun.

Joe Goetz



South Western
Federal Credit Union

Contact (562) 694-8296 for information

WGMS General Meeting

Thursday, May 25, 2006

at 7:30 PM

We are still working on a “killer” program for this month but it is not in-the-bag at this time. Bring something to brag about to the meeting and we will see you there.

Izzie

Clarence Pool: A Real Plastic Pioneer

Clarence and Frieda joined the Whittier Gem & Mineral Society in 1959. Clarence lays claim to being the oldest member of the club, edging out George Cyrog, though only by a few months. The following story appeared in a plastic industry trade magazine and I felt it was worth reprinting for the benefit of WGMS members. ED.

A news story by Roger Renstrom, in the trade magazine Plastic News, featured a man who is a true Plastic Industry veteran.

Clarence Pool was born in 1909 in the middle of a raging Wyoming blizzard. In 1911, the Pool family moved to sunny southern California. Clarence attended Redlands High School where he excelled in track and field events. While in school, he was a Boy Scout and attained the highest Scout rank of Eagle Scout. After high school graduation, he attended college off and on for several years. In 1928, he took a job with Douglas Aircraft as an Electromechanical Engineer. While employed at Douglas, he developed several innovations and new techniques in aircraft production. One was a new method for flush riveting; another was a compression molded hydraulic packing retainer to replace aluminum. He also perfected a 65-degree chevron packing that could withstand cold down to minus 65 degrees and still be operational.

He left Douglas in 1939 and started his own molding business, Hydropack, to build various types of hydraulic equipment. The first of these was a manually operated toggle press for thermoset resins. He went on to build six 50 ton hydraulic and three 500 ton presses; all his own design and very fast operating. During World War II, they produced hydraulic aircraft valves and

(Continued on Pg. 6)

Rockgabber News

The April Rockgabbers was held at Jay & Kathy Valle's home and the project of the month was making an elongated loop chain. Twelve members of the club attended, and made chains. The chains were great, and everybody built on their previous skills of silver soldering. The potluck was great as usual.

Scheduling around field trips, club shows, and other club workshops, it was again decided to hold the workshop on a Saturday, and May 6th was the chosen date. Rockgabbers will meet at Jerry and Kathy Turner's home at 1:00 PM, and will conclude with a potluck at 5:00 PM.

The project this month will be bezel making. This project will build on the skills learned at the previous meetings. Bezels can be made open back or closed back to suit the item being set. Kathy Turner is purchasing silver for this month's class, so contact her and decide what style and pattern of bezel wire or gallery wire you wish to use.

You will need a torch, some needle nose pliers, solder and flux.

Tony & Sandie Fender

P.S. As we have discussed at Rockgabbers, Izzie Burns has agreed to put in a case of the Rockgabbers silver chains that have been made at the classes. Please bring your items to be displayed to the May meeting so that labels can be made for the case.

Annual Dementia Test

It's that time of year to take our annual "Dementia Test." Exercise of the brain is as important as exercise of the muscles. As we grow older, it's important to keep mentally alert. If you don't use it, you lose it!

The following is a very private way to gauge your loss or non-loss of intelligence. Take the test presented here to determine if you're losing it or not. The questionnaire jumps from page-to-page so you don't see the answers until you've made your answer.

OK, relax, clear your mind and begin.

Question 1: What do you put in a toaster? (Go to Pg. 7)

May Birthstone : Emerald Birthstone Color: Deep Green

Spring is a time of new growth and rebirth. And the intense brilliant green of the Emerald, May's birthstone, is as refreshing to the eyes as a spring garden after a rain. Within it's depths are often tiny fractures or inclusions, which the French call "jardin," or garden, because of their resemblance to foliage. The Egyptians were known to engrave Emeralds with the symbol for foliage to represent eternal youth, and to bury these jewels with their dead. The ancient Romans associated this gemstone with fertility and rebirth, and dedicated it to Venus, the goddess of love and beauty.

The Ancient Egyptians mined Emeralds in the eastern desert region 2,000 years before Cleopatra's birth, braving extreme heat, scorpions and snakes to search for the beautiful crystals. During Cleopatra's reign, she claimed the Emerald mines as her own, as this was her favorite gem. She often wore lavish Emerald jewelry, and it is said that she bestowed visiting dignitaries with large Emeralds carved with her likeness when they departed Egypt.

In the sixteenth century, the Spanish Conquistadors were amazed to find the native people wearing Emeralds larger and more magnificent than any they had ever seen. Although the natives attempted to hide their Emerald mines, the Spaniards soon discovered and conquered most of them. But it took twenty years before they found the abundant mining operation held by the Muzo Indians, and another thirty years to overtake this aggressive tribe. The Muzo mine was in the area known today as Colombia, and it remains the source of the most prized Emerald specimens. Other sources of Emeralds are Brazil, Zimbabwe, Pakistan, Afghanistan, Madagascar, Nigeria, and Russia.

The Emerald is a member of the beryl family of minerals. The green crystals grow slowly within metamorphic rocks and are restricted in size by the rock, making large Emeralds rare and costly. Although this gemstone is relatively hard and durable, it must be protected from blows because the inclusions found within make it susceptible to breaking.

Some people believe that wearing an Emerald brings wisdom, growth, and patience. And as any couple in a long-term relationship would agree, all of these qualities are essential for a successful and lasting love. This may explain why a gift of Emerald for an anniversary - or anytime - is considered symbolic of love and fidelity.

From <http://www.about-birthstones.com/>

Clarence Pool (Continued from pg. 4)

packing as well as indicator light lenses. The Air Material Command at Wright Field, Ohio, sought his advice on design and production of hydraulic seals and valves that would have service life down to minus 65 degrees Fahrenheit. Clarence successfully designed and furnished the equipment to the Air Force. Every plane built in the United States had his parts in it.

In the waning days of the War, and immediately after, he built a mold for toy blocks. The blocks were an immediate success, so he constructed a 36 cavity mold and had Calmar take over the production. Over a million sets of blocks were sold. At about this time, Pool formed a new company, Cal-Tron Corporation, an injection molding operation, which is now located in Bishop, CA and managed by his son, Dan.

As a hobby, Clarence is a long time "Rock Hound"; rock, as in stones, not music. He has designed and patented a tumbler that cuts the time to polish rocks to a polished state dramatically. Also tools to facet or shape stones into a cabochon gem.

During his career, Clarence has 67 patents issued in his name. He still participates and maintains his interest in rocks and has been honored by the Whittier Gem and Mineral Society. He was an original member and served as Vice President of the Mold Makers Association.

Along the way, he designed an electric organ, prior to the Korean War. However, there was a shortage of transistors which made further development of the instrument impossible. In 1948, Clarence built an air rifle which was not pursued because of a lack of commercial or military interest.

Clarence and his wife of 75 years, Frieda have one daughter, three sons, 11 grandchildren, 30 great grandchildren and 3 great-great grandchildren.

Note - Clarence is one of our "new" Pioneer members.

Annual Dementia Test - Part 2

Answer 1: "bread." If you said "toast," give up now and do something else. Try not to hurt yourself. If you said, bread, go to Question 2.

Question 2: Say "silk" five times. Now spell "silk." What do cows drink? (Go to Pg. 9)

**The Holbrook Experience:
A rockhounds dream come true!
By Jay Valle**

Many years ago I enjoyed a vacation with my two kids and my dad. We planned a visit to the Grand Canyon, Meteor Crater and the Petrified National Forest. The Grand Canyon was grand and Meteor Crater was an awesome hole in the ground. But my most vivid memory is of going through the Petrified Forest National Park.

The tour through the Petrified Forest included stops at various locations where hundreds of huge fossil trees could be seen and touched, scattered about like so much kindling. I have been a rockhound for a very long time and was fascinated by the vivid colors and variety of patterns visible around me. Eventually though, I became frustrated with only being allowed a brief glimpse of these beautiful lapidary materials without being able to bring anything home. After that, the entire park just appeared to be merely another case of governmental greed gone wild. I didn't know about the ranches then.

A few weeks ago, it was my pleasure to return to the Petrified Forest, not as an observer but as a collector. There are ranches surrounding the Park which the National Park Service has coveted for a long time. These ranches have their own little petrified forests scattered across their ranges, and some of them sell that wood to collectors. The Park Service now has these independent ranches in their sights and it is only a matter of time, perhaps only weeks, when they will have the last few locked up forever. One of those ranches on the chopping block has for one last time permitted interested collectors to harvest and purchase petrified wood from their land.

Don Ogden, bulletin editor for the North Orange County Lapidary Society and webmaster for the CFMS, and I made the 480 mile trip in about 9 hours. The adventure started at the Dinosaur Museum east of Holbrook. There we paid a \$50 entrance fee and followed the long line of other searchers out to the ranch and from there out to the collecting sites. There were three locations we could visit and one location we were to leave alone.

Don and I visited two of the three collecting locations, the Crystal Forest and the Rainbow Forest. Both locations proved fruitful for me. A 160 lb. "stump" was found and retrieved from the Crystal Forest, along with several beautiful pieces of colorful, and considerably lighter chunks. At the Rainbow Forest location, more wood in pieces and smaller rounds was collected. Along the way, we stopped at an area known as "THE LOGJAM" (see picture on the cover) where no collecting was permitted. It was a small area just overrun

with logs and vast quantities of petrified wood. As instructed, we took only pictures.

At the end of the day, the fossil wood we had collected was weighed and we returned to the museum the pay for our treasures.

I have to say that the trip was not cheap. Gas prices have continued to escalate, and we paid for lodging and food. On top of all that, we paid an entrance fee and \$1.00/pound for all the wood we could collect. But the experience of wandering through fields of colorful gemstone trees, picking and choosing from the many varied patterns and types more than made up for the overall cost of the trip. And if I have another chance before the government steals it all away, I will go back and collect a little more.

**Field Trip
May 27 - 29, 2006
Kramer Corners Area**

The tentative field trip for May will be to the Kramer Corners area (Hwy 395 & Hwy 58) west of Barstow. The primary areas we plan to hunt are: the Princess Pat Mine area for garnets, Kramer Corner for agate, jasper, and palm wood, and the Sierra Pelona Claim at North Edwards, for onyx.

This will be dry camping at its best.

For maps and info contact Dave Kelty at:

davidkelty@juno.com or (626) 303 7821.

Dave

Annual Dementia Test - Part 3

Answer 2: Cows drink water. If you said "milk," don't attempt the next question. Your brain is over-stressed and may even overheat. Content yourself with reading a more appropriate literature such as Auto World. However, if you said "water", proceed to question 3.

Question 3: If a red house is made from red bricks and a blue house is made from blue bricks and a pink house is made from pink bricks and a black house is made from black bricks, what is a green house made from? (Go to Pg. 11)

**Stone Trails welcomes you to our:
- Rockhound's Tools List -**

Stone Trails has put together this short list of tools which can be used at the locations we list on our website. Pick the type of mining you wish to do and there is your list of recommended tools.

Golden Rules:

1. Always, always, always, bring plenty of fresh drinking water.
2. Bring an appropriately stocked First Aid kit.
3. Allergic reaction to bites/stings? Bring emergency medication. Make sure someone knows how to help you, should you require it.

Light Tools

Can include items from "Specialized Light and Fossil Tools" below.

1. Small gardening shovel.
2. Collection/Carrying container.
3. Rock hammer.
4. Prospector's pick/shovel.
5. Labels and marker pens.
6. Screwdriver.
7. 10x or 20x loupe.
8. Zip-loc bags.

Specialized Light and Fossil Tools

Can include items from "Light Tools" above, plus:

1. Dental picks
2. Whisk broom.
3. Tarps.
4. Trowel.
5. Center punch.
6. Small chisels.
7. 1" paint brush.
8. Butter knife.
9. Steel scratch awl.
10. Fingernail polish or shellac.
11. Outdoor spatula.

12. Zip-loc bags.
13. Masking tape.
14. Tape of "Lucy in the Sky With Diamonds."

Medium Tools

Includes tools listed in "Light Tools" above, plus:

1. Small sledge hammer.
2. Center punch.
3. Rock hammer.
4. Medium chisels.
5. Screwdriver.
6. Butter knife.
7. Midsized shovel.

Heavy Tools

Includes tools listed in "Medium Tools" above, plus:

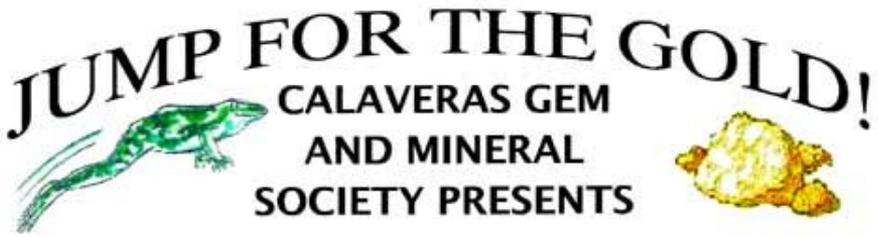
1. Yard Shovel.
2. Large sledge hammer
3. Heavy center punch.
4. Heavy chisels.
5. Spike, chisel, and pry bars

<http://www.stonetrails.com/index.htm>

Annual Dementia Test - Part 4

Answer 3: Greenhouses are made from glass. If you said "green bricks," why the hell are you still reading these??? If you said "glass," go on to Question 4.

Question 4: It's twenty years ago, and a plane is flying at 20,000 feet over Germany (If you will recall, Germany at the time was politically divided into West Germany and East Germany.) Anyway, during the flight, TWO engines fail. The pilot, realizing that the last remaining engine is also failing, decides on a crash landing procedure. Unfortunately the engine fails before he can do so and the plane fatally crashes smack in the middle of "no man's land" between East Germany and West Germany. Where would you bury the survivors? East Germany, West Germany, or no man's land"? (Go to Pg. 13)



The 67th Annual
**CALIFORNIA FEDERATION
GEM & MINERAL
SHOW**

**AT THE CALAVERAS COUNTY
FAIRGROUNDS**

ANGELS CAMP, CA

June 9 - 11, 2006

**FRIDAY, SATURDAY AND SUNDAY
10 AM to 5 PM Daily**

**EXHIBITS DEALERS
DEMONSTRATORS**

**Jewelry * Gems * Minerals * Beads *
Fossils**

**SPECIAL EXHIBITS
FIELD TRIPS
KID'S BOOTH
GRAB BAGS**

**SILENT AUCTION
DOOR PRIZES & RAFFLE
SNACK BAR
CAMPING AVAILABLE**

ADMISSION \$5.00

KIDS UNDER 12 FREE (with adult)

FREE PARKING

LOCATION

Calaveras County Fairgrounds (Frogstown)

Angels Camp, CA

Fairgrounds is located 2 miles south of

Angels Camp on Highway 49.

Turn off at Gun Club Road

Annual Dementia Test - Part 5

Answer 4: You don't bury survivors. If you said ANYTHING else, you're a dunce and you must stop. If you said, "You don't bury survivors", proceed to the next question.

Question 5: Without using a calculator - You are driving a bus from London to Milford Haven in Wales. In London, 17 people get on the bus; In Reading, six people get off the bus and nine people get on. In Swindon, two people get off and four get on. In Cardiff , 11 people get off and 16 people get on. In Swansea, three people get off and five people get on In Carmathen, six people get off and three get on. You then arrive at Milford Haven. What was the name of the bus driver? (Go to Pg. 14)

Upcoming CFMS Gem Shows

May 6-7 **Anaheim, CA.** Searchers Gem & Mineral Society
2271 W. Crescent Avenue
Hours: 10 - 4:30 both days

May 6-7 **Bakersfield, CA.** Kern County Mineral Society
Kern County Fairgrounds, 1142 South P Street
Hours: 10 - 5 both days

May 6-7 **Bishop, CA.** Lone Pine Gem & Mineral Society
Eastern Sierra Gem & Mineral Show
Hours: Sat. 9 - 5; Sun. 10 - 4

May 20-21 **Newbury Park, CA.** Conejo Gem & Mineral Club
Borchard Park Community Center, 190 Reino Rd.
Hours: Sat. 9-5 Sun. 10-4:30

May 20-21 **Yucaipa, CA,** Yucaipa Valley Gem & Mineral Society
Yucaipa Community Center, 34900 Oak Glen Road
Hours: Sat. 9 - 5; Sun. 10 - 4

June 3-4 **Glendora, CA.** Glendora Gem & Mineral Show
859 E. Sierra Madre
Hours: Sat. 10 - 5; Sun. 10 - 4

June 3-4 **La Habra, CA,** North Orange County Gem & Mineral Society
La Habra Community Center, 101 W. La Habra Blvd.
Hours: 10-5 both days

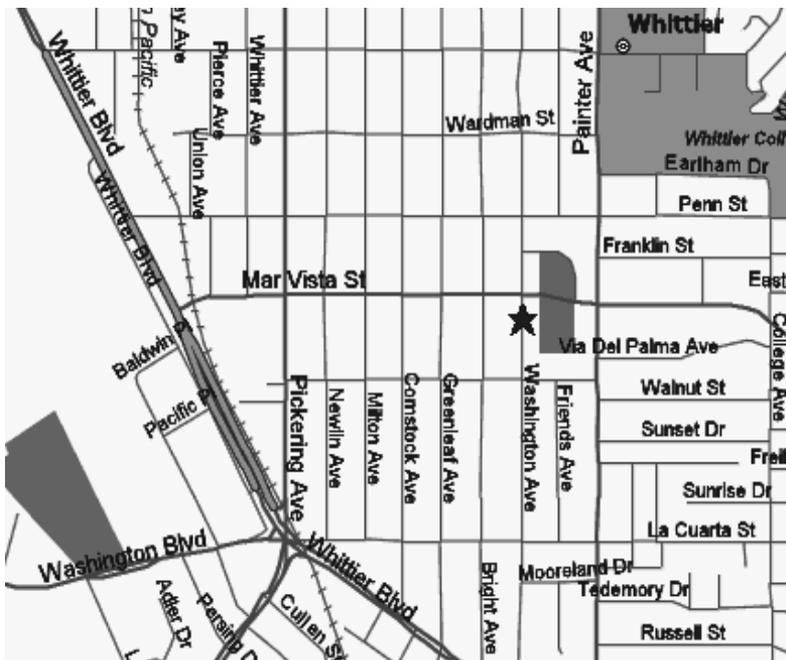
Annual Dementia Test - The End

Answer 5: Oh, for crying out loud! Don't you remember your own name? It was YOU!!

Now pass this along to all your friends and pray they do better than you.
PS: 95% of people fail most of the questions.

Courtesy of Nancy Bird, NOC

WGMS MEETING LOCATION!
Whittier Community Center
7630 Washington Ave. Whittier



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

Affiliations



California Federation of Mineralogical Societies
American Federation of Mineralogical Societies
Special Congress Representing Involved Bulletin Editors



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Location: Whittier Community Center
(see page 4 for information)