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WHITTIER



**ROCKHOUNDING**

GEM & MINERAL  
SOCIETY

**Program: The CFMS - Explained**



Children of all ages like playing in the sand!  
This year's new kid's game: The Sand Scoop

# ROCKHOUNDER

## THE PREZ SEZ:

**W**ell we did it! Another show has come and gone. This year's show had more public in attendance (a little bit over 1100) around twice of the attendance of last year. I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the members who helped in putting on the show. Jay Valle should get a round of applause for his leadership in putting on the show. And from what I hear the vendors were quite happy.

The fieldtrip was well attended, a combination of three clubs, North Orange County, Pasadena Lapidary and of course Whittier Gem & Mineral. If you like to drive off pavement, you would have liked this trip. Lots of different materials were collected and I can hardly wait to see how some of it will work up!

The fieldtrip over Thanksgiving will be to Opal Mountain. Some members will be going out on Wednesday and staying until Monday -- that is up to 6 days of collecting and exploring! It sounds like fun doesn't it. This is a chance to get away from it all without having to go very far to do it. We'll be camping in our usual spot. More information can be found further in the bulletin.

So a big Thank-you again for a successful Annual Show! And soon we'll start to plan next year's show, so start thinking about a possible theme for it. Have an excellent Thanksgiving and I'll see on the fieldtrips.

*Going the wrong way!*  
*Joe Goetz*

**WGMS General Meeting  
Thursday, November 16, 2006  
at 7:30 PM**

**Overview of the CFMS**

**Presented by Izzy Burns**

**I** feel that most members of the various clubs belonging to the CFMS or California Federation of Mineralogical Societies don't truly understand what the federation actually does, or what goes into a CFMS show.

To help make things a little clearer, we are going to explain the CFMS and present a very short video about the upcoming 2007 CFMS show in Palmdale.

*Izzie Burns*

**2007 Nominations for WGMS Officers**

**T**his is the slate of Officers nominated for the 2007 term. More nominations will be taken from the floor at the November 16 meeting, followed by the actual voting. Please come out and exercise your right as a member of WGMS.

- President..... Joe Goetz
- 1st Vice-President (programs)..... Marcia Goetz
- 2nd Vice President (membership)..... Art Ragazzi
- Secretary..... Jay Valle
- Treasurer ..... Isabella (Izzy) Burns
- Federation Director ..... Bill Burns
- Directors:..... Les Roy (community affairs)
- ..... Jerry Turner (bylaws)
- ..... Jack Zywocienski

*Jay & Kathy Valle, Larry & Vivian Rice and Art Ragazzi  
WGMS Nominating Committee*

## What a Great Show!!!

**I**t might have been the weather, maybe the World Series was uninteresting (no West Coast teams), less competing shows, more effective publicity, or perhaps just the phase of the moon. Whatever your favorite theory, the bottom line is that we had a lot of people visit our Gem Show this year.

One of the things we did this year that was new was our participation in the Wednesday evening Whittier street festival, each of the three weeks prior to the show. Bill and Isabella Burns spearheaded the effort to get out the word and manned the booth by themselves the first night. The last two setups were assisted by Jay Valle and Les Roy. We met and greeted mainly Whittier local residents and handed out flyers. Bill gave tumbled stones away to kids of all ages and we were able to "talk rock" with a number of interested people. Several of these individuals and some families were later seen and talked to at the show. A successful new (to us) program thanks to Bill and Izzy.

The San Gabriel Tribune and Whittier Tribune carried a picture of Vivian Rice and Kathleen Turner, seen at Rockgabbers. This fine publicity went out on Friday, the day before our show. Thank you Jerry & Kathy Turner and Clarence Pool for your efforts to get us in the local papers.

There was a good looking group of demonstrators showing various phases of our lapidary hobby. **Dottie Jacobs** demonstrated various techniques of wire wrapping, wire crocheting and beading; Darryl Boomer showed how to facet stones using his home brew faceting unit; Virginia Pace and Sylvia Burns carved beautiful objects from stone, along with rookie carvers Jessica Moberg and Cheyenne Gibbons. Ginger Ragazzi displayed her skill on the capping machine. Bill Burns displayed some of his benitoite crystals and educated visitors about the State Gemstone. Kathy & Jerry Turner made silver chains and silver metalwork.

Marcia Goetz ran the new kids "game", The Sand Scoop" which took in over \$200. Wow!! Joe Goetz and a changing group of helpers ably ran the Sales Table which actually appears to be running low on slabs (and after all these years, too.)

The Kitchen was dropped for this year due to lack of someone to run it. However, the Rice's, Larry & Vivian sold snacks and drinks to members, guests and dealers, making almost as much as last year's kitchen, without the expenses. However, we all missed the chili and hot dogs. Well, maybe next year...

*(Continued on page 11)*

## **November Birthstone : Citrine Birthstone Color: Yellow Gold**

**N**ovember's gemstone, Citrine, is as warm as a Van Gogh painting of sunflowers. The name Citrine comes from an old French word, "citrin", meaning lemon. One of the more rare forms of quartz, this gemstone ranges in color from the palest yellow to a dark amber named Madeira because of its resemblance to the red wine.

Perhaps because of its scarcity, there is little mention of Citrine used as a gemstone prior to the first century B.C. The Romans were thought to be the first to wear the yellow quartz, crafting it into cabochon, or highly polished but uncut facets of stone set into jewelry. Citrine became more popular during the Romantic Period, when artisans often favored these warm colored gems to enhance gold jewelry. Citrine, like all forms of quartz, was believed to have magical powers and was worn as a talisman against evil thoughts and snake venom. It was also considered to have medicinal properties and was commonly used as a remedy for urinary and kidney ailments.

Sister stone to the purple quartz known as Amethyst, Citrine crystals are found in igneous metamorphic and sedimentary rocks. It is believed that some Citrine may have actually begun as Amethyst, but heat from nearby molten rock changed it to the yellow form of quartz. Citrine is known to change color when subjected to heat and is routinely heated in the jewelry-making process to intensify its color. For this same reason, though, this gemstone should not be left in direct sunlight for a long time because it will permanently alter the color. Most Citrine is mined in Brazil, but other sources of the quartz are Bolivia and Madagascar.

A gift of Citrine is symbolic for hope and strength. With its sunny brightness, this gemstone is ideal for helping anyone to get through the tough times in life!

### **Alternate Birthstone**

Yellow Topaz is an alternate gemstone for those born in November. It's golden color was believed by the Egyptians to be the glow cast by the sun god Ra. Yellow Topaz ranges in color from a peachy blush to a deep cognac. A gift of this gemstone is said to symbolize friendship and to strengthen one's capacity to give and receive love.

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

**George William Cyrog**  
**September 6, 1909 —August 17, 2006**  
**By Ms. Marcia Linn (George's daughter)**

**Tribute**

**I**n his last week, when he learned that he was suffering from an infection he acquired in the hospital, George responded, "I want a refund." When asked about the major advance in his lifetime, he singled out the computer -- illustrating his response with examples from photography, computation, and jewelry design -- as well as from the careers of his children and grandchildren. My sister and I recall his excitement when he bought us each electronic adding machines with paper tape for Christmas -- and hoped we would do better in keeping track of our allowance.

He died just short of his 97th birthday, alert and responsive, with the family around him. He greeted his 15-month-old great grandson Benjamin Linn Rogers with a huge smile and playful conversation. One of his last actions was to exchange hand taps with Ben, echoing their early form of communication when they first met in November of 2005.

His legacy of handmade jewelry, enamel on copper plates, framed fossil fish, photographs, and adventures will live on in our hearts and minds. We love him. We miss him. We honor his memory by living our lives with the same exuberance, sense of humor, and love of family and friends.

**Biography**

George was born in Milwaukee, Wisconsin on Sept 6, 1909. His brother Art was 8 years older, his sister Nina was 4 years older. His brother Bob was born 4 years later and sister Anita was born 8 years later. He survived them all -- so much for the theory that middle children are at a disadvantage!! George's parents came from France and Germany. The family lived in Milwaukee during the school year and spent the summer fishing and boating at Green Lake, a few hours away.

George's father, Edward, made saddles, harnesses, and other leather goods. Most leathersmiths lost their jobs when automobiles replaced buggies but

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**OPAL MOUNTAIN FIELDTRIP  
November 24 to 26, 2006**

When you hear the word opal, you might think about the white colored cabochon with flashes of red, green, yellow and other colors as well. To those outside the hobby may even think the finished stones they see in the stores are what are actually coming out of the ground. Some I have talked to are surprised that there is a place in California that you can find opals, much less an entire mountain of it. They are ready to go and scoop up all those cabochons right then and there. However, we know this not the case. We know the opal to be found there is common opal not fire opal. We also know it comes in a variety of colors; honey, peach, cherry, green and combos of colors. But take heart - these colors of opal can be faceted or carved and made into cabochons! There are some at home shopping networks that sell faceted cherry opal and call it Mexican fire opal. And they sell it for a pretty penny!

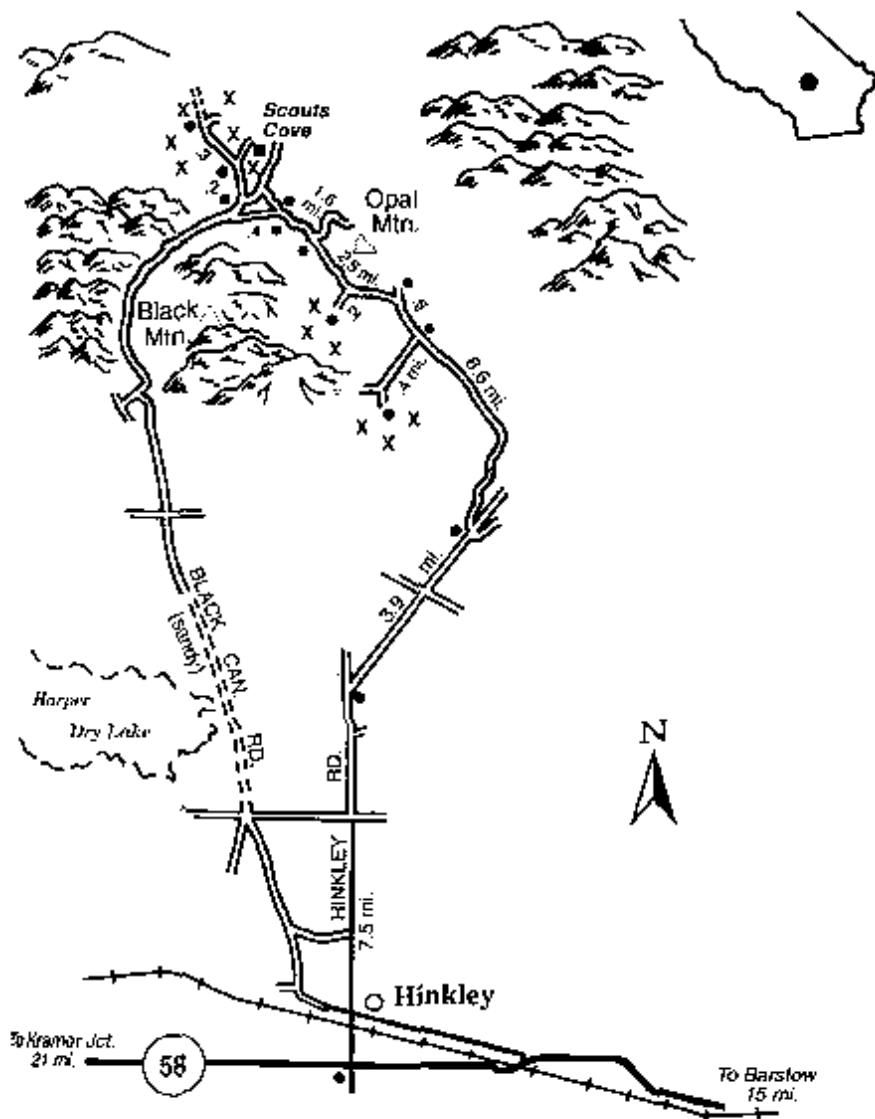
While this trip is close enough to done as a day trip, I believe it is better to camp out at a location that's within short travel distance to the various collection spots. If camping isn't your thing, you have the option of staying in Barstow or even Mohave and driving from there. For those who do camp you should know this is typical desert camping meaning you bring water, food, a camera and the essentials (including a potty, walking around in the dark to "do in the bushes" is not fun) with you as well as some wood for the campfire weather permitting.

There will be a potluck on Saturday evening around 5:00 PM. Sunday morning possibly go and do a little exploring around.

To get there: get to highway 58 either from Mohave or from Hwy 15 at Barstow. If coming from Mohave go east on 58 and get off at the Hinckley off ramp, turn and head north through town. From Barstow, take Hwy 58 west about 10 miles to Hinkley. Continue north after the pavement ends (total distance from highway 58 is approx. 7-1/2 miles) bearing right at the fork in the road. Continue for 3.9 miles and bear left at yet another fork in the road and go then another 6.6 miles to a general area for collecting. There will be signs along the way; they may be "W" or "PLS" or both at the appropriate places and will lead you to camp.

*With Opal Dreams,  
Joe Goetz, Fieldtrip Leader, etc.*

# OPAL MOUNTAIN





## **Field Trip to the Calico Area November 4 & 5, 2006**

**T**his Field Trip included three clubs, NOC, PLS and WGMS. It was one of the largest turnouts that we have had in some time. A total of 26 people attended the Field Trip. Several of the members from the North Orange County Gem & Mineral Society stayed at the Oaktree Inn in Yermo, CA which is very close to the Whittier Club's Claim. Six members of the NOC Club, Don & Ofelia Warthen, Richard & Yolanda Schirer, & Don & Kathy Eschbach arrived early on Friday Nov. 3 and drove to the Calico Early ManSite. We had a lot of fun and gained a lot of knowledge about this area. This area is said to have been occupied by early man about 17 million years ago. We saw stone tool artifacts and the areas where archaeologist are still digging today. After leaving the Early Man Site, we traveled to an area that Don & Ofelia knew about to collect rocks for about an hour.

Saturday Morning Nov. 4

We couldn't have had better weather! The sun was out with beautiful blue skies and the temperature was about 75 degrees. Jay Valle led the field trip on Saturday morning. Our first stop was the Red Moss Agate location. We were there for about two hours and then off to what I commonly refer to as, "The Bill & Izzie Burns Site." We all collected a lot of nice material which included Palm Wood, Agate, and Jasper. We had lunch at this location and then Joe Goetz lead us to two locations where we looked for Palm Wood. After this stop, 14 of us headed to a 50's restaurant called, "Peggy Sue's" where we had a nice enjoyable dinner and listened to 50/60's music while we all "stuffed ourselves" with terrific food. The evening ended with a warm campfire tended by Jay Valle at the Whittier Honey Onyx Mine Campsite.

Sunday Morning Nov. 5

Sunday was another beautiful morning and we were all looking forward to a wonderful day of rock collecting. Dave Kelty lead this Field Trip to an area near the Calico Early Man Site. This was a terrific location with Desert Roses, Palm Wood, Agate, and Jasper. Next we were off to a Marble location. On this trip, we ran into a little difficulty with the road that we were on... it turned out to be impassable. Dave Kelty and Jay Valle did

a terrific job in getting us all turned around and rerouted to the Marble location. At this location several people found tiny Garnets on the surface of the Marble. We spent about an hour at this location and then it was back to the Oaktree Inn to freshen up for our final dinner at Peggy Sue's.

This Field Trip was very successful and everyone had a great time. We are all looking forward to future field trips!

*Don Eschbach*

### **What a Great Show!!!**

*(Continued from page 5)*

Kathy and Jason Valle ran the raffle prizes again this year with the timely assistance of friend Lisa Walker. Donation awards sold out the entire supply of 1500 tickets and had to dip into last year's leftover tickets to continue. Kathy also designed the nice exhibitor/dealer ribbons given out this year. Thanks both of you.

I want to thank Marie Zimmerman who sent over some of her spectacular flowers which were quickly scooped up, sometimes even before being placed out for sale (how did that happen?).

Jack Zywocinski and Izzy Burns filled in at the Greeter's Table and did a fine job of passing out information, directing visitors to the Donation Awards , displays and dealers, and getting quite a few of them (most?) to sign our guest book. Great job!

Our displays were excellent, as usual, with many new cases and some favorites. A memorial case was presented in memory of our last Charter Member dying. Most of the materials and the Main Prize Ring were graciously sent by his daughter Marcia Linn. Marcia also sent the obituary which is included in this bulletin starting on page 7.

We had a great show and I want to thank all of you who made it happen. Without your help we could not have a gem show. And a hearty thanks to our fine dealers without whom it would be difficult to attract visitors.

One more thank you goes to John Lugo and his security team who attempted to watch everyone when the hordes arrived.

*Jay Valle*  
**2006 Show Chairman**

**George William Cyrog**

*(Continued from page 7)*

Edward continued to work for the dairy. As George explained, the dairy preferred horses because they could move the wagon along while the milkman delivered the milk to 5 or 6 customers and then returned to the wagon to pick up the next load.

George's mother, Clara, was a tailor. When they started a family, she made clothes for everyone in the family, raised and canned fruits and vegetables, caught fish, brewed beer and even tried wine making. George loved her root beer, made from a kit supplied by Hines. It was his favorite beverage during his last hospital stay. Clara perfected hundreds of great recipes -- mostly for dessert! George always preferred dessert over normal food. In fact it was normal food to him.

George loved fishing with his mother, making leather goods with his father, collecting agate at Lake Superior with his brothers, swimming at Green Lake, skiing in the Wisconsin hills, and participating in school activities. He was active in DeMolay and the Presbyterian Church. At age 21 he traveled to Colorado as the Wisconsin delegate to the DeMolay leadership program.

He was fascinated by inventions. He experimented with cameras from an early age—winning contests in high school and college. He set up his own photo lab to enlarge and develop pictures. He loved mechanical things and could fix almost anything.

He loved to work with his hands which led to jewelry making, first silver and then gold. Both his brothers and his sister Anita shared this interest. He also spent many years making enamel on copper bowls and plates. He generally selected vibrant colors and crafted very contemporary designs.

He met Fran in 1935 and they married in 1938. The same minister that married her parents married them. They traveled all over the world together, including Australia, Mexico, Europe, and Asia. Before they married Fran's parents took them both on a road trip to Mexico in 1937. They went to the World's Fair in 1940 in New York.

Dad's career started at the Electric Company in Milwaukee. From 1935 to 1940 he was the Night Wire Chief. He worked in the lumber business as a

financial manager and finally ended up at the Post Office in Whittier, California.

The family, which consisted of two daughters, moved out West when Marcia (the eldest ) was recovering from Meningitis and the doctor recommended a warm climate for health. George's brother Art recommended Whittier -- a college town. In Whittier they became active in the local Presbyterian Church, Friends of the Library, and little theater.

George was a founding member of the Whittier Gem and Mineral Society. George wanted his family to share his passions -- especially his love of the outdoors and prospecting for new rocks to collect. Linda thought she was born in a sleeping bag in Glacier National Park. He inspired his grandchildren to have the same interests -- running a river in Jackson Wyoming with Jaime and Jeffrey when he was in his 80s. And, he loved to cook on the campfire. He pioneered dinner specialties combining cans of potatoes, tomatoes, beans, beef, and mystery seasonings. His recipes became legendary and were published in gourmet magazines such as the Rockhounder!!

He studied accounting at the University of Wisconsin leading to his lifelong love of investing. George also loved to play the market. Stocks and bonds fascinated him, as did the silver and gold market. He loved to gamble. For years his daughters thought Las Vegas was on the way to every national park -- later we learned we just always went there first, so Dad could win the money to finance our trip.

George was a great teacher. He always wanted people to learn new things. He taught everyone to drive. First he taught mailmen to drive mailsters. This was very challenging -- many were first generation drivers, and they had to sit on the curbside of the vehicle. This prepared him to teach Marcia. Nothing prepared him to teach Linda [he claimed he needed to reserve the LA airport]. For grandson Matt, he planned a 3000-mile trip with his camper pulling a trailer. Man still makes really wide turns

He taught many members of the Whinier Gem and Mineral Society to make jewelry. But, his best student was Roger Purdy, who will carry on the tradition, using his tools and equipment!!!

He died 3 years short of a century of living!! And living a great life was what it was all about.

**Upcoming CFMS Gem Shows**

- Nov 11-12 Anaheim, CA.** American Opal Society  
Clarion Hotel Anaheim Resort, 616 Convention Way  
Hours: Sat. 10 - 6; Sun. 10 - 5
- Nov 18-19 Oxnard, CA.** Oxnard Gem & Mineral Society  
Oxnard Performing Arts Center, 800 Hobson Way  
Hours: Sat. 9 - 5; Sun. 9 - 4
- Nov 18-19 Victorville, CA.** Victor Valley Gem & Mineral Club  
San Bernardino County Fairgrounds, 14800 7th Street  
Hours: Sat. 9 - 5; Sun. 9 - 4
- Nov 25-26 Barstow, CA.** Mojave Desert Gem & Mineral Society  
Barstow Community Center, 841 Barstow Road  
Hours: 10 - 5 both days
- Jan 20-28 Redlands, CA.** The Mineralogical Society of Southern CA  
42nd. Pacific Micromount Conference  
San Bernardino County Museum  
2024 Orange Tree Lane (exit North on California St. from I-10)  
Hours: Fri. 7 - 10; Sat. 10 - 10; Sun. 9 - 12
- Feb 16-25 Indio, CA.** San Gorgonio Mineral & Gem Society  
Riverside County Fair & National Date Festival  
Gem & Mineral Building Bldg #1, 46-350 Arabia Street  
Hours: 10 am - 10 pm
- Mar 3-4 Arcadia, CA.** Monrovia Rockhounds  
Los Angeles County Arboretum & Botanical Garden  
301 N. Baldwin Ave.  
Hours: 9 - 4:30 both days
- Mar 3-4 Ventura, CA.** Ventura Gem & Mineral Society  
Seaside Park - Ventura County Fairgrounds, 10 W. Harbor Blvd.  
Hours: Sat. 10 - 5; Sun. 10 - 4
- Mar 16-18 San Bernardino, CA.** Orange Belt Mineralogical Society  
Western Regional League Ballpark, 6707 Little League Drive  
Hours: Fri, Sat. 9 a.m. to dusk; Sun. 9 - 4

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



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Affiliations



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**Meeting Date: November 16 at 7:30 PM**  
**Location: Whittier Community Center**  
**(see page 15 for map)**