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WHITTIER

ROCKHOUNDER
GEM & MINERAL
SOCIETY

General Meeting: March 25



Chuckwalla Spring after a rain.

ROCKHOUNDER

THE PREZ SEZ:

♪ *All day I faced the barren waste without the taste of water --
Cool, clear water.* ♪

Now that's supposed to conjure up a word picture of perhaps an old wizened prospector trudging through the desert with his faithful mule Betsy at his side or something along those lines. No longer will this be the case for me. I will remember being in the hospital with an NPO order posted at the door. NPO is Latin for "Lets starve this sucker". Actually it means nothing by mouth including water or ice chips. I cannot remember when I have been so thirsty.

For those of you who were at the meeting, you already know that I was in the hospital for a hernia operation. Bad timing! From what I heard, we had an excellent program on beading. I would have liked to have been there. Dwelling a bit upon the barren waste theme, I would like to nominate water as mineral of the month. We usually don't think of water as a mineral, but the gem form, crystalline ice, can be as beautiful as any gemstone, albeit transitory in nature, and much tastier. Enough of the ravings of a delusional post cabin fevered curmudgeon. We have a big year ahead of us and have gotten off to a good start. We have a show theme identified, "Hot Rocks and Cool Beads" and Rockgabbers held their first meeting after a too long hiatus. I want to thank everyone for their good wishes, and a special thanks to Art for taking the helm during my absence. I expect to be back to 100% very shortly.

Thanks again

Jerry

WGMS General Meeting

Thursday, January 28, 2010

at 7:30 PM

FIELD TRIP TO THE RAYMOND QUARRY

In 1995 one of the club's field trips took us to the Mariposa area and we were privileged to take a tour of the Raymond Quarry. The quarry slabbed and polished material for sides of buildings in addition to smaller pieces for countertops and headstones. It was a fun and informative tour, and we were lucky to have saved it to video. For those who have been in the Whittier Club for a while you will recognize some of the people who were at the tour.

See you there,

Marcia Goetz

Passing of Jack Zywocienski

If you have not already heard, Jack Zywocienski died. He had been in ill-health for the last couple of years and finally succumbed.

Jack was a staunch supported of the Whittier Gem & Mineral Society for a very long time. He came to most meetings, worked our annual shows and served on the Board. He donated to the monthly door prizes and generously gave of his time. Jack was there for our infrequent work parties and as needed.

Jack is survived by his wife Florence (Flo) and family.

Board Meeting

March 18 at 7:30 PM

Jerry & Kathy Turner's House

The March Board Meeting has been scheduled at Jerry & Kathy's Whittier house for March 18. All members are welcome and encouraged to join in the discussion of Club business. Contact the Turner's for questions or directions.

Gold Jewelry

You probably have already heard that when you buy gold jewelry, it is rarely pure gold. Gold jewelry is really an alloy, or mixture of metals. The purity or fineness of gold in the jewelry is indicated by its karat number. 24 karat (24K or 24 kt) gold is as pure as gold for jewelry gets. 24K gold is also called fine gold and it is greater than 99.7% pure gold. Proof gold is even finer, with over 99.95% purity, but it is only used for standardization purposes and is not available for jewelry.

So, what are the metals that are alloyed with gold? Gold will form alloys with most metals, but for jewelry, the most common alloying metals are silver, copper, and zinc. However, other metals may be added, especially to make colored gold. Here's a table of the compositions of some of the most common gold alloys:

The Color of Gold and Alloy Composition

Yellow Gold (22K)

Gold 91.67%
Silver 5%
Copper 2%
Zinc 1.33%

Red Gold (18K)

Gold 75%
Copper 25%
Rose Gold (18K) Gold 75%
Copper 22.25%
Silver 2.75%

Pink Gold (18K)

Gold 75%
Copper 20%
Silver 5%
White Gold (18K) Gold 75%
Platinum or Palladium 25%

White Gold (18K)

Gold 75%
Palladium 10%
Nickel 10%
Zinc 5%

Gray-White Gold (18K)

Gold 75%
Iron 17%
Copper 8%

Soft Green Gold (18K)

Gold 75%
Silver 25%

Light Green Gold (18K)

Gold 75%
Copper 23%
Cadmium 2%
Green Gold (18K) Gold 75%
Silver 20%
Copper 5%

Deep Green Gold (18K)

Gold 75%
Silver 15%
Copper 6%
Cadmium 4%

Blue-White or Blue Gold (18K)

Gold 75%
Iron 25%

Purple Gold

Gold 80%
Aluminum 20%

Via Ore-Bits, 12/08

Dendrites vs. Moss Agates Orbicular Jasper vs. Polka Dot Agate

We are usually delighted, but not surprised, to find inclusions in crystal, e.g. quartz of one color or another, rutile, sagenite and "stars". The appearance of inclusions is obscured, our imagination takes hold.

Chalcedony (clear to cloudy), agates (clear but usually banded), and jasper (opaque) are all variations of silica oxides, with hardness between 6 and 7, which makes them very suitable for polishing. They may all have included material, and the nature of the inclusion is dictated by the composition of the host rock material and the manner of rock formation.

Dendritic chalcedony and moss agate are terms or names frequently applied to the same material. They are basically similar, but dendrites can form not only in chalcedony and agate, but also on limestone and soapstone and some sandstones. The dendrites form on a surface and are two-dimensional, like snowflakes or frost crystals on a windowpane. If the rock is chalcedony, the dendrite forms on the surface, but more chalcedony may entomb it. The dendrites are usually earthy, black, brown, or reddish, but near Four Corners, in the eastern Mohave, near the junction of Hwy 58 & Hwy 395, rockhounds reputedly find blue.

The "mosses" of moss agate, not organic material at all but chlorite or celadonite, are visible impurities in the agate. Scientists attempt to distinguish between the two by determining, if possible, whether the dendrite/moss or the material rock formed first. The moss forms while chalcedony is still gel like and can then form three-dimensional shapes with the stone. Moss agate, also widely distributed, can be a variety of colors, green, black, white, yellow, red, orange, and tan. It is widely used in jewelry, and polishes beautifully, if care is taken not to cut into and pluck the moss.

Multi-colored balls can appear in rhyolite flows. Rhyolite is a fine grained igneous rock, if it contains sufficient silica to take a brilliant polish, and is sometimes called jasper. Orbicular material usually appears as a mass of rhyolite that has silicate. As the rhyolite cools, sometimes excess silica starts to precipitate out of the magma, forming spherical balls. The ball shape is the form that extremely concentrated silica (cristbalite) takes, as opposed to the crystal form in dilute concentrations. However, any material that by composition or consistency is immiscible (not mixable) with the host magma will also form balls.

Regional metamorphism can also form orbicular jaspers. We hear names like

Rainforest Jasper from Australia, Leopard Skin Jasper from Mexico, Poppy Jasper from California, and Ocean Jasper from Madagascar. We may find one color surrounding another, or bands of balls, veils of lighter colors staining the background. Polka Dot Agate, from Oregon, has iron rich spheres floating in a snowy, extremely fine-grained jasper, along with veils of golden brown. The material is so fine-grained it is almost chert and resembles porcelain.

The rock distinction of jasper and chert is: if it's attractive, it's jasper; if it's dull, it's chert. Some jasper represents replaced limestone or dolomite, some occurs as nodules, and sometimes it is part of the gangue of mineral deposits by hydrothermal or metasomatic processes.

Agates are translucent and usually banded, with sub-vitreous luster; jasper is opaque with a dull to pearly luster; to a rockhound, jasp-agate is a fine mixture of the beautiful oxides.

Via Breccia, 09/08; via Rock Chip Reporter, 04/08; via Petroglyph, 06/03; via Calumet Gem, from The Tumbler 03/09, via The Pegmatite, 01/10

"But ... The Rocks Are All Wrong"

by Richard Busch (FGMS Member)

The next time you go to the movies, watch the reactions of the moviegoers to what appears on the screen. You'll notice that while the cat burglar deftly twirls the dial of the hidden wall safe and quickly opens it to reveal the priceless jewels within, all of the locksmiths in the movie theater shake their heads in disbelief. As the movie doctor operates to save the life of his dying "patient," the moviegoing real doctors in the audience roll their eyes to the ceiling.

Well, locksmiths and doctors are not the only people to have their fields of expertise misrepresented by the entertainment industry. Geologists and gemologists, too, frequently grit their teeth at the silent indignities perpetrated on the movie or television screen. True, a geological inaccuracy rarely contradicts the central plot of the drama; but to those people properly attuned, a geological error of fact can undermine the basic premise of the story.

Some errors are so egregious that the situation is laughable. Remember the old Superman series on TV? To this day, I remember an episode in which the Man of Steel takes a lump of coal in his hand and squeezes it with such force that it changes into a diamond. That's ok if you accept the basic premise upon which

(Continued on page 10)

LAVIC SIDING

March 21-22, 2010

Wouldn't it be nice to go to a place where you could camp and collect in the same spot? Well that place is Lavic siding - off the I-40.

After a good night's sleep you step out of your tent or RV with a cup of coffee in hand and you wonder where you'll go to do some collecting. It's then that you realize all you really need to do is bend over and pick-up the very stone you're there to collect!

That's right! The stone is jasper, it comes in green, red, orange, various shades of brown, yellow. Some are mixes of these colors and others have agate "windows" with flecks of color in them.

You'll have this chance on this fieldtrip! Now you may think you're limited to this one area - well this isn't true at all! If you go up the road which you had driven down the day before and check the washes that run north to south, you'll probably find even larger pieces of jasper.

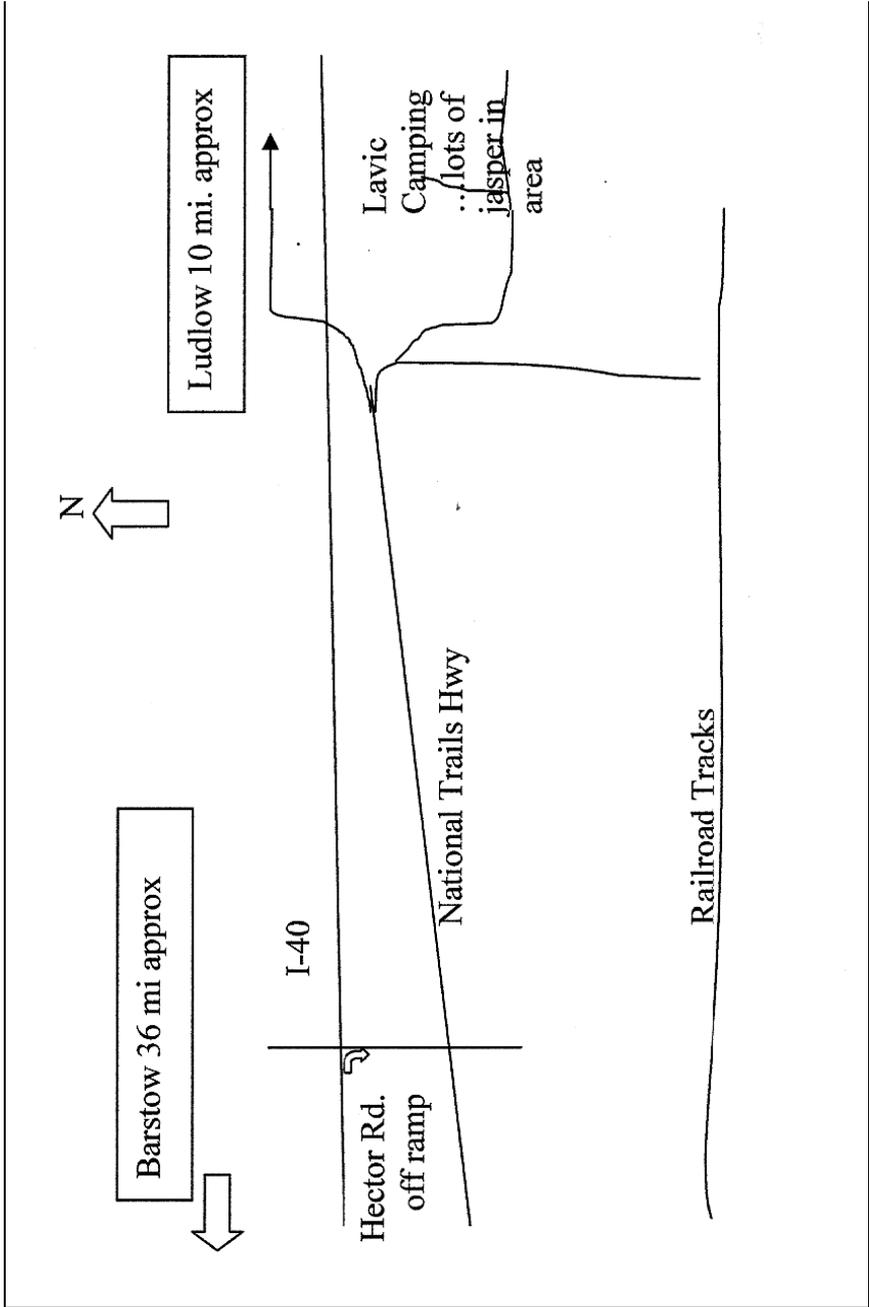
Across the freeway are the Cady mountains, a treasure trove of stones and minerals to collect. Minerals such as, psilomelane, gypsum and copper to name a few.

Agates of plume, moss, banded and fortification, as well as jaspers of all colors possible, similar to what is found in camp. You could quite literally spend a week or two exploring and still not find everything that is out there.

This is a good trip for both the first-timer or the veteran rockhound; there is lots of stuff to collect. It's only 2-1/2 hours from Pasadena, so come for the day!

Typically we will be leaving camp (FRS radio channel 14-0) to the collecting sites around 8:00AM. On Saturday evening we will have a potluck dinner at 4:30PM. Hope to see you there!

..... Somewhere in California going the wrong way *Joe Goetz*



"But ... The Rocks Are All Wrong"

(Continued from page 7)

Superman is based; but when Superman opens his hand to reveal the newly created gem, we see that it is complete with facets -- round brilliant, as I recall.

Some geological errors are not so obvious. Lisa Rossbacher points out several in the February 1993 issue of *Geotimes*. If you saw the relatively recent movie *The Last of the Mohicans*, you'll remember the beautiful scenery -- rugged peaks and granitic rocks. The only problem was that the movie was supposed to take place in upstate New York where the Paleozoic sediments have been thoroughly glaciated to form rolling hills. The film was actually made in the Carolinas where the rocks are all wrong.

Ms. Rossbacher cites other examples of geological errors in films. Here are some: *The Battle of the Bulge* features an exciting tank battle that is supposed to take place in the snowy Ardennes region of Belgium; halfway through the battle, we see the tanks rumbling through the Mojave Desert. *Rooster Cogburn* and *True Grit* are supposed to be set in Oklahoma and Arkansas. Unfortunately, the glaciated mountains in the background were set in Oregon and Colorado long before any movie makers set up cameras; glaciers never quite made it to either Oklahoma or Arkansas. The movie *Revolution* featured the Battle of Yorktown being fought, not on the gentle southeastern coast of Virginia, but rather on some high, white cliffs that bore a striking resemblance to the famous ones located on the southern coast of England. Continental drift? Hardly.

Geological errors are not restricted just to movies and television shows. In 1969, a novel written by Michael Avallone and based upon a screenplay written by Clifford Gould hit the bookstores. The name of the novel, chosen by someone other than Mr. Avallone, was *Krakatoa, East of Java*. The true location of Krakatoa--southeast of Sumatra and west of Java--was not lost upon Mr. Avallone. In fact, he contacted the publishers and informed them of inaccuracy. Unfortunately, it appears that in some publishing and entertainment circles marketing takes precedence over geographical reality and, despite Mr. Avallone's efforts, the title of the book was not changed to reflect the truth. [Note: The original version of this article incorrectly stated that the book's title was the responsibility of Mr. Avallone. In fact, Mr. Avallone worked to correct the erroneous title that was created by another individual. I am pleased to set the record straight and apologize for previously questioning Mr. Avallone's diligence in researching his novel. -- RAB (1999)]

This brings us to the summer's megahit, *Jurassic Park*. Yes, we all know that *Jurassic Park* is a science fiction-fantasy-adventure film. But here's the way that science fiction is supposed to work: One or two (currently non-existent) scientific developments are assumed to have been made. Given those assumptions, the remainder of the film is supposed to operate logically and

consistently within the framework of current knowledge and reality.

In Jurassic Park, the assumption is that science has discovered a way to recreate living organisms solely from a sample of their DNA. Fine, we'll accept that as the premise of the movie. The rest of the story should conform to established scientific fact. Too bad that it doesn't.

The most obvious scientific errors in Jurassic Park have to do with the sizes of the various 'saur. Apparently Steven Spielberg likes his dinosaurs big. Both the gentle, vegetarian, Brachiosauri and the nasty ol' Velociraptors are depicted at about two to three times their real size. Not only that, but in one scene Spielberg has an especially plump brachiosaurus standing on its hind legs to munch veggies from a treetop. Impressive but, given the size of the creature, it probably should have collapsed into a heap due to the relative weakness of its leg bones.

But not all of the dinosaurs in Jurassic Park are portrayed as larger than life. The Dilophosauri are presented at about one-third of their real size, presumably to make this insidiously dangerous dinosaur look cute. Further, neither the Dilophosauri neck frills nor their toxic spit have been documented. As depicted in the movie, the Dilophosauri look more like "gremlins" than dinosaurs.

All of the above notwithstanding, the real error in Jurassic Park is that the rocks are all wrong. In the movie, the scientists get their dinosaur DNA from the belly of an insect that was found inside of a piece of amber. Ok -- no problem so far. But the movie goes out of its way to tell us that the amber came from the Dominican Republic; and this is where the error lies. Dominican amber has been dated at 20 to 40 million years. The dinosaurs died out 65 million years ago. Thus, the amber in the movie is at least 25 million years too young to contain remnants of dinosaur DNA.

Spielberg could have chosen Lebanese amber (115 to 135 million years old) or Siberian amber (80 to 115 million years) or New Jersey amber (90 million years) or Alaskan amber (80 million years) or Canadian amber (70 million years). But, no; he chose Dominican amber -- and got it wrong.

Well, don't let the above comments deter you from seeing Jurassic Park. The special effects are terrific and the action is heart-pounding. Go see it if you haven't done so already. Enjoy it, if you can. Just try not to think about the fact that the rocks are all wrong.

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An irreverent funny...

The Washington Post's Mensa Invitational once again invited readers to take any word from the dictionary, alter it by adding, subtracting, or changing one letter, and supply a new definition.

Here are the 2009 winners:

- Cashtration (n.): The act of buying a house, which renders the subject financially impotent for an indefinite period of time.
- Ignoranus : A person who's both stupid and an asshole.
- Intoxicaton : Euphoria at getting a tax refund, which lasts until you realize it was your money to start with..
- Reintarnation : Coming back to life as a hillbilly.
- Bozone (n.): The substance surrounding stupid people that stops bright ideas from penetrating. The bozone layer, unfortunately, shows little sign of breaking down in the near future.
- Foreploy : Any misrepresentation about yourself for the purpose of getting laid.
- Giraffiti : Vandalism spray-painted very, very high
- Sarchasm : The gulf between the author of sarcastic wit and the person who doesn't get it.
- Inoculatte : To take coffee intravenously when you are running late.
- Osteopornosis : A degenerate disease. (This one got extra credit.)
- Karmageddon : It's like, when everybody is sending off all these really bad vibes, right? And then, like, the Earth explodes and it's like, a serious bummer.
- Decafalon (n.): The grueling event of getting through the day consuming only things that are good for you.
- Glibido : All talk and no action.
- Dopeler Effect: The tendency of stupid ideas to seem smarter when they come at you rapidly.
- Arachnoleptic Fit (n.): The frantic dance performed just after you've accidentally walked through a spider web.

- Beelzebug (n.): Satan in the form of a mosquito, that gets into your bedroom at three in the morning and cannot be cast out.
- Caterpallor (n.): The color you turn after finding half a worm in the fruit you're eating.

The Washington Post has also published the winning submissions to its yearly contest, in which readers are asked to supply alternate meanings for common words.

And the winners are:

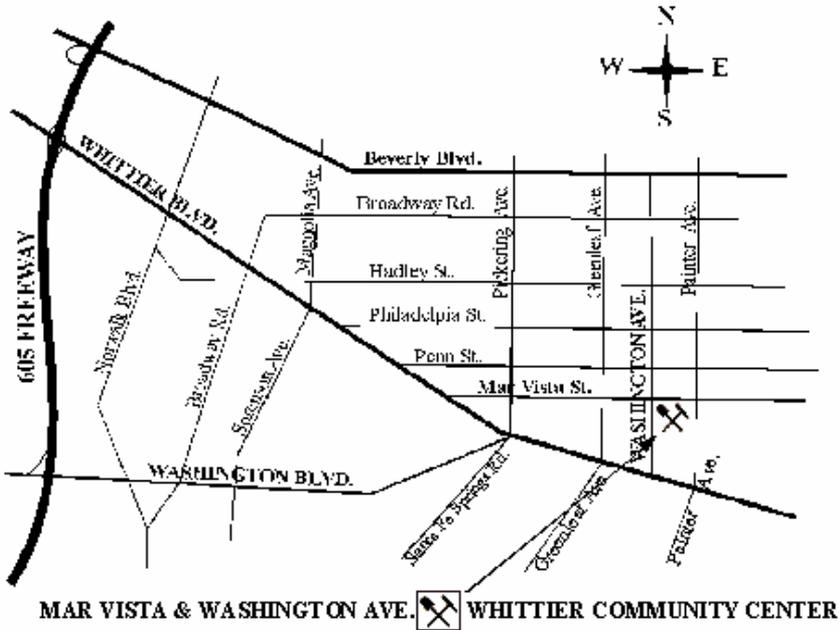
- Coffee, n. The person upon whom one coughs.
- Flabbergasted, adj. Appalled by discovering how much weight one has gained.
- Abdicate, v. To give up all hope of ever having a flat stomach.
- Esplanade, v. To attempt an explanation while drunk.
- Willy-nilly, adj. Impotent.
- Negligent, adj. Absentmindedly answering the door when wearing only a nightgown.
- Lymph, v. To walk with a lisp.
- Gargoyle, n. Olive-flavored mouthwash.
- Flatulence, n. Emergency vehicle that picks up someone who has been run over by a steamroller.
- Balderdash, n. A rapidly receding hairline.
- Testicle, n. A humorous question on an exam.
- Rectitude, n. The formal, dignified bearing adopted by proctologists.
- Pokemon, n. A Rastafarian proctologist.
- Oyster, n.. A person who sprinkles his conversation with Yiddishisms.
- Frisbeetarianism, n. The belief that, after death, the soul flies up onto the roof and gets stuck there.
- Circumvent, n. An opening in the front of boxer shorts worn by Jewish men.

The Internet, via Nancy Bird

Upcoming CFMS Gem Shows

- Mar 12-14 Victorville, CA.** Victorville Valley Gem & Mineral Society
Stoddard Wells Tailgate, Bell Mountain/Stoddard Well exit I-15
Hours: 8-5 daily
- Mar 13-14 San Marino, CA.** Pasadena Lapidary Society
San Marino Masonic Center, 3130 Huntington Drive
Hours: Sat. 10-6; Sun. 10-5
- Mar 19-21 San Bernardino, CA.** Orange Belt Mineralogical Society
Western Regional Little League Ball Park
6707 Little League Drive
Hours: 9 a.m. - Dusk daily
- Mar 20-21 Bakersfield, CA.** San Joaquin Valley Lapidary society
Kern County Shrine Club
700 south P. Street (P & Bell Terrace)
Hours: 9-5 daily
- Mar 20-21 Escondido, CA.** Palomar Gem & Mineral Club
Army National Guard Armory
304 Park Avenue, Escondido, CA 92025
Hours: Sat. 9-5 Sun. 9-4
- Mar 20-21 Fallbrook, CA.** Fallbrook Gem & Mineral Society
Fallbrook Gem & Mineral Society Meeting Hall
123 W. Alvarado Street
Hours: Sat. Symposium 9-3 Sun. Field Trip 9 a.m.
- Mar 27-28 Torrance, CA.** South Bay Lapidary & Mineral Society
Torrance Recreational Center, 3341 Torrance Blvd.
Hours: Sat. 10-5 Sun. 10-4
- Apr 9-11 Vista, CA.** San Diego County Council
Antique Gas & Steam Engine Museum
2040 N. Santa Fe Avenue
Hours: 9-5 daily
- Apr 10-11 Lancaster, CA.** Antelope Gem & Mineral Society
Lancaster High School, 44701 - 32nd Street West
Hours: 9-5 daily

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



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