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## Gem of a hobby

Story by Debra Cano  
Photos by Sam Gangwer  
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**ANAHEIM** — To Bill Keyes, an ordinary rock just won't do.

The 34-year Anaheim resident is a lapidary. A self-confessed rock hound, he hunts for semi-precious rocks in the Mojave Desert or buys imported African Malachite, then cuts and polishes his found treasures into jewelry, book ends, wall clocks, spheres, bowls, belt buckles, pen desk sets.

"I'm kind of an artist," he said. "That is, I have an imagination. I hope."

Keyes displayed his lapidary collection at the 29th annual "Searchers Gem Roundup," held Saturday and Sunday at Brookhurst Community Center in Anaheim.

The show is devoted to dealers from California, Arizona and Oregon, who display and sell their gem and mineral creations, Keyes said.

The annual show is sponsored by Anaheim's Searchers Gem and Mineral Society, Inc. The 150-member club meets the third Thursday of each month at the Anaheim Cultural Center.

Lapidaries must know some geography, and chemistry, and be familiar with collectible rocks, Keyes said.

Keyes, who also is a silversmith, said he works mainly with quartz because it has the



Please see GEMS/B2 Anaheim faceter Floyd Neeley holds a blue topaz that he cut from a raw stone.



### Collectors share their treasures

Ernie Littlepage, above, repairs the setting on a customer's ring. Henry Freedman, far left, shows off his collection of polished mineral spheres made of semi-precious stones. An amethyst formation, below, was one of the many exhibits at the 29th annual "Searchers Gem Roundup" held Saturday and Sunday at the Brookhurst Community Center.

