

Holiday Party Y2K

By Joan Macomber

Sixty Searchers, clad in festive holiday garb, gathered at the Garden Grove Elks Club to enjoy the annual Holiday Party. The Y2K Board was acknowledged and thanked for their contributions to our club. The 2001 Board was (literally) trumped in a not soon to be forgotten ceremony, reciting a 'rocky' oath with 'weighed' tongues, and their positions bestowed upon them in a rock pick'en knighting ceremony by our toga clad, laurel wreathed Clarke Benich.

Conrad created and donated an exquisite-big "Wow" necklace with silver channel work, Rhodonite flowers and malachite leaves. This was won by wheel-chair wheel'en Beth Pel-frey!

Master of Ceremony Walter Mroch generously provided numerous, much admired minerals, won by some delighted participants. There was a goethite pseudomorph, a topaz, a bixbite garnet. Trudie Reed won dolomite with turquoise colored crystals on it. Dot Johnson won a lovely garnet on matrix, and Connie Van Kampen won an excellent specimen—topaz in bixbite.

James Pelowin organized the evenings entertainment, The Choral Bells, who began singing as the PTA Mother Singers 30-some-years ago; and they must have practiced all of that

time because they were excellent singers and entertained us with humor, wit and charm!

Heniette and James Perlowin provided merry seasonal centerpieces, gleefully won by one member of our Searchers family at each table. Unfortunately, the Perlowins were greatly missed that evening as they were unable to join our party due to illness. Thank you for providing these decorations during such a difficult time.

Many of the Searchers closed the club down, dancing and singing into the night with the Elks. Thanks to all of you that made our Holiday Party such a special occasion.



Conrad's Creation

Special Interests:

- Membership Dues Are Due Now—See Milly.
- New E-mail Address For The Newsletter.

Volume 36, Issue 1

January, 2001



The Rock Slab News

SEARCHERS GEM AND MINERAL SOCIETY, INC.

SEARCHERS GEM AND

P. O. Box 3492
Anaheim, CA 92803

E-Mail: searchersnews@hotmail.com

January 2001 – Birthstone

January belongs to the garnet, a stone ranging from colorless to black. Its most common color is a deep red. Garnet is typically found in Africa, Brazil, India, Sri Lanka and in some parts of the United States.

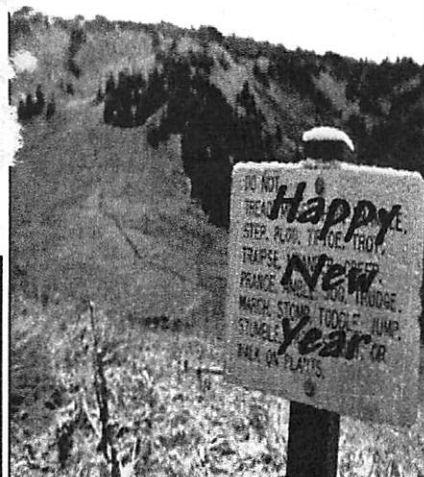
Some believe that Noah hung a large garnet in the ark for light. It reportedly also gives its wearer guidance in the night, protection from nightmares, and according to the Egyptians, is an antidote for snakebites and food poisoning.



We're On The Web

<http://www.gemandmineral.com/searchers.html>

Get Your Free Subscription To Our Bulletin Online!



Club Officers 2001

☆☆☆☆ Club Officers ☆☆☆☆

President	Nancy Norlund.....	714/960-6957
1st Vice President.....	Roger Ewing.....	714/525-1826
2nd Vice President	Robert Burson.....	562/860-5938
Secretary	Sharon Burson	562/860-5938
Treasurer.....	Beth Pelfrey.....	714/774-2754
Director	Betty Nelson.....	714/530-1365
Federation Delegate.....	James Perlowin.....	949/837-7213

☆☆☆ Committee Chairpersons ☆☆☆

Anaheim Arts Council	Margaret Neeley.....	714/535-2030
Arts Council Alternative	OPEN	
Badges.....	Marge Jordan.....	714/897-2407
Editor.....	Joan Macomber.....	714/821-0129
Coeditor and Mailing.....	Darren Hansen.....	714/821-0129
Greeter.....	Larry Richey.....	714/846-3573
Historian.....	OPEN	
Hospitality	Lana Brown.....	714/870-4859
Library.....	OPEN	
Membership.....	Milly Arvanites.....	714/838-1924
Monthly Drawing.....	Jerry Norlund.....	714/960-6957
Phone Committee.....	OPEN	
2001 Show Chairperson.....	Connie Van Kampen.....	714/993-2827
2001 Co-Show Chairperson.....	Beth Pelfrey.....	714/774-2754
Silent Auction.....	OPEN	
Sunshine.....	Dottie Johnson.....	714/535-8579
Veterans Coordinator.....	John Velasquez.....	310/835-4432
Ways & Means Chairman.....	OPEN	
Workshop Coordinator.....	Herb Beckman.....	714/778-1496
Youth Chairman.....	Norbert Bernhardt.....	714/734-9665

General Meetings are held on the second Tuesday of each month, January through November at 7:00 PM. Visitors are always welcome.

Board Meetings are held on the third Thursday of each month, January through December at 7:00 PM. Members are always welcome.

Workshop is open every Thursday 7:00 PM to 10:00 PM, and every Saturday 4:00 PM to 7:00 PM (until 10:00 PM if staffed).

Please note: exceptions to usual workshop hours are located on the bulletin calendar.

All meetings and workshops are held at:

Anaheim Downtown Community Center
250 East Center Street
Anaheim, CA

Address inquiries to:

Searchers Gem and Mineral Society, Inc.
P.O. Box 3492
Anaheim, CA 92803

Newsbulletin articles are due at the end of each month and distributed at the following meeting.

Late articles are welcomed and will be accommodated when possible.

Submit articles via e-mail to: Searchersnews@hotmail.com, or call or FAX to 714/821-0129

Shows January and February, 2001

January 29 - February 10; Tucson, AZ: Wholesale show; Atrium Productions; Four Points Hotel, 350 S. Freeway; 10-7 every day, Feb. 12 10-4; 195 U.S. and international exhibitors, one-of-a-kind pieces, designer jewelry, rough and faceted gemstones, collector and museum-quality specimens, cabochons, crystals, beads, lapidary, findings and more; pre-registration available; contact George Zrakat, Atrium Productions, 6060 N. Miller Rd., Scottsdale, AZ 85250-4626, (480) 998-4000, fax (480) 998-4748; e-mail: atriumpro@aol.com.

January 31 - February 5; Tucson, AZ: Trade show; G.L.D.A. Inc.; The Holiday Inn Broadway; contact G.L.D.A. Inc., P. O. Box 2391, Tucson, AZ 85702, (520) 792-9431; e-mail: glda@azstarnet.com.

February 16 - 25, 2001 Indio, CA
San Gorgonio Gem & Mineral Society
Riverside County Fair & National Date Festival, Gem & Mineral Building
46-350 Arabia Street, Hours: 10-10 daily
Don Grisham (909) 845-9361 or
Bert Grisham (909) 849-1674.

February 24 - 25, 2001 San Jose, CA
Santa Clara Valley Gem and Mineral Society, Santa Clara Fairgrounds
334 Tully Road, Hours: Sat 10-6,
Sun 10-5, Bill Gissler (408) 241-0477
Web site: <http://www.slip.net.com/~ccox/svgms/>

February 24 - 25, 2001 North Hollywood, CA, San Fernando Valley Gem Fair, Del Air Rockhounds, Sierra Paloma Club, and Woodland Hills Rock Chippers:
Valley Plaza Recreation Center
12240 Archwood Street
Hours: 10-5 both days
Julie & Oacar Marin (818) 886-7190
E-mail ohmarin@flash.net

February 17 - 18, Apache Junction, AZ: 36th annual show, "Symphony in Stone"; Apache Junction Rock & Gem Club; Apache Junction High School Cafetorium, Ironwood and Southern; Sat. 10-5, Sun. 10-4; admission \$2.50, students \$1, kids under 12 free; demonstrations, showcases, hourly prizes, raffles; contact Irvin Swanson, 600 S. Idaho Rd. #345, Apache Junction, AZ 85219-5250, (480) 983-9050;
e-mail: iswanson@worldnet.att.net.

February 24-25; San Jose, CA: 46th annual show, "2001 A Gem Odyssey"; Santa Clara Valley Gem & Mineral Society; Santa Clara County Fairgrounds, 334 Tully Rd.; Sat. 10-6, Sun. 10-5; admission \$6, kids under 12 free with adult; gems, jewelry, minerals, fossils, dealers, demonstrations, exhibits; contact Bill Gissler, 1075 Blossom Dr., Santa Clara, CA 95050, (408) 241-0477.

ool of Madrid and the UNED have a WEB mineralogical uned.es/cristamine for their students in Spanish. Illustrated 1000 photos of minerals from the best museums and private or country with spectacular specimens. English text is acc-GIF on the first site page (different flags).

Shows

January and February, 2001

January 13-14, Exeter, CA:

45th annual show, "Gemboree";
Tule Gem and Mineral Soc.;
Veterans Memorial Building,
324 N. Kaweah (Hwy. 65);
Sat. 10-5, Sun. 10-5; free admission;
dealers, gems, rocks, minerals, jewelry,
demonstrations, lapidary supplies, dis-
plays, door prizes, grab bags, silent auc-
tion, wheel of fortune; children under 12
receive a free polished rock; contact Ray-
mond Cooke, 2645 S. Fulgham St.,
Visalia, CA 93277, (559) 733-0271, or
George Thrasher (559) 686-5669.

January 19-21, Globe AZ:

44th annual show; Gila County Gem and
Mineral Soc.; Gila County Fairgrounds;
Fri. 9-6, Sat. 9-6, Sun. 9-4; admission \$2,
free for high school students with identi-
fication cards, free for kids with adults;
dealers in lapidary equipment, finished
jewelry, books, tools, minerals, slabs,
fossils; demonstrations of gold casting,
silver casting, silversmithing, chain mak-
ing, fire agate polishing, wirecraft, jew-
elry making, copper enamel bead making;
snack bar, door prizes; contact John
Baker, (480) 503-0651.

January 28 - February 10; Tucson,

AZ: Show, "Arizona Mineral & Fossil
Show"; Martin Zinn Expositions; The
Executive Inn Hotel, 333 W. Drachman,
The Ramada Inn-University, 1601 N.
Oracle Rd., The Inn Suites Hotel, 475 N.
Granada, and the Mineral & Fossil Mar-
ketplace, 1333 N. Oracle Rd.; free admis-
sion, registration not required; more than

400 dealers; contact Martin Zinn Expo-
sitions, LLC, P.O. Box 999, Evergreen,
CO 80437-0999, (303) 674-2713, fax
(303) 674-2384; e-mail: mz0955@aol.
com.

January 28 - February 10; Tucson,

AZ: Business-to-business trade show;
AKS Gem & Jewelry Show Produc-
tions; Howard Johnson Hotel and Holi-
day Inn Express, both located at I-10
and Starr Pass Blvd.; business-to-
business trade show only; strict admit-
tance; registration and proof of business
is required; contact Kay Schabillon,
AKS Gem & Jewelry Show Productions,
P.O. Box 24552, New Orleans, LA
70184, (504) 455-6101; e-mail:
kay111@gateway.net.

January 28 - February 10; Tucson,

AZ: Show; Martin Zinn Expositions;
Executive Inn Hotel, 333 W. Drach-
man; Ramada Inn University, 1601 N.
Oracle Rd.; Inn Suites Hotel, 475 N.
Granada; Mineral and Fossil Market-
place, 1333 No. Oracle Rd.; over 400
dealers from all over the world; free
shuttle bus to other shows; no admission
fee; registration not required;
"International Celebrity Night" on Sun-
day night at Executive Inn; contact Mar-
tin Zinn Expositions, P.O. Box 999,
Evergreen, CO 80437-0999, (303) 674-
2713, fax (303) 674-2384; e-mail:
mz0955@aol.com; Web site: mzexpos.
com.

Calendar Of Events

January

- 9 - Tu **General Meeting 7:00 PM**
- 11 - Th Workshop open 7:00 PM to 10:00 PM
- 13 - Sa Workshop open 4:00 PM to 10:00 PM
- 18 - Th **Board Meeting 7:00 PM**
- 18 - Th Workshop open 7:00 PM to 10:00 PM
- 20 - Sa Workshop open 4:00 PM to 10:00 PM
- 20 - Sa Himalayan Mine Field Trip: Simon King/Gladys Walker; 619/444-3731
- 25 - Th Workshop open 7:00 PM to 10:00 PM
- 26 to 28 **Quartzsite/Hauser Field Trip:** Joan Macomber; 714/821-0129
- 27 - Sa **WORKSHOP MAY BE CLOSED DURING FIELD TRIP.**
- 28 - Su **Micromount Mineral Field Trip:** Beverly Moreau; 714/577-8038 (Pg. 17)

February

- 1 - Th Workshop open 7:00 PM to 10:00 PM
- 3 - Sa Workshop open 4:00 PM to 10:00 PM
- 3 - Sa Himalayan Mine **Field Trip:** Simon King/Gladys Walker; 619/444-3731
- 6 - Tu **Show Committee Meeting 7:00 PM**
- 8 - Th Workshop open 7:00 PM to 10:00 PM
- 10 - Sa Workshop open 4:00 PM to 10:00 PM
- 13 - Tu **General Meeting 7:00 PM**
- 15 - Th **Board Meeting 7:00 PM**
- 15 - Th Workshop open 7:00 PM to 10:00 PM
- 16 to 19 **Anza Borrego/Canyon Sin Nombre Field Trip;** Cat Van Kampen
- 17 to 19 **South Cady Mountains Field Trip:** Robert Burson; 562/860-5938



(Right to left) Richard Butler, Clarke Benich, Nancy Norlund, Roger Ewing,
Sharon Burson, Robert Burson, Beth Pelfrey, Darren Hansen, Betty Nelson
and Mike Casey at the Holiday Party Club Officers 2001 Initiation Ceremony.

Thanks For The (2 Years Of) Memories President Betty

By Beth Pelfrey

What can I say about Betty Nelson that others have not said before me? I guess I have known the Nelsons since before the Great Searcher Field Trip to Alaska, so I probably would be guilty of saying way too much for this brief space. Betty agreed to run for President at a time when the club was in crisis in terms of membership losses and a distinct lack of volunteerism for many if not most jobs. The new folks were either not asked to help or they didn't feel comfortable enough to offer; the old members were getting tired and felt they were "doing it all".

With a hard-core management background, she was, in fact, the ideal person-looking retrospectively--to take on this huge challenge. She cajoled, asked, begged, sometimes demanded every ounce of work she could get from each of us. One of her dreams for the club for several years had been to create a youth group; recognizing Norbert's enthusiasm

and abilities, she enabled it to happen. Like many strong leaders Betty brought out both the best and the not so hot in most of us. Her perennial youthfulness kept brand new members from thinking of us as old fogies. Our membership has grown in the two years to include a new bunch of folks who are so much fun and such hard workers. Knowing that leaders lead, not do, Betty was able to follow most aspects of the club development. In spite of all her personal problems during this last year, Betty came through like a trooper...and not "F Troop"!

It's been an education working this past year with this very sweet and punny woman who is so devoted to the club we both love. Now she can hit the trail again on field trips once in a while--isn't that why they joined?

I cannot even remember the Searchers without Betty and Harry! Thanks for the.....you know the rest.



Betty Nelson, President (right to left) with outgoing Y2K Club Officers: Joan Macomber, 2nd Vice-President and Co-Editor; Nancy Norlund, Secretary; Alicia Ojeda, Treasurer; Walter Mroch, Director; and Beth Pelfrey, Federation Delegate.

More News

Pacific Micromount Conference

By Beverly Moreau

San Bernardino County Museum
2024 Orange Tree Lane, Redlands, CA
Friday, January 26, 3:00PM – 9:00PM
Saturday, January 27, 9:00AM – 9:00PM
Field Trip Sun., January 28, 2001 .

The Southern California Micro-Mineralogists welcome you. Theme: New California Minerals. Bring your microscope. Register at 3:00PM on Friday or contact:

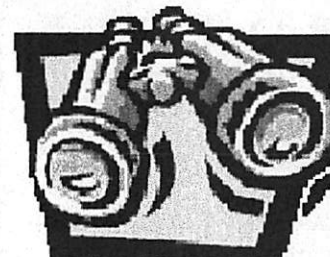
Beverly Moreau
Phone: 714/577-8038
E-mail: bcmoreau@4dnet.com



Wanted To Buy:

Used faceting machines, Genies Pixies or other lapidary equipment, any condition. Please contact:

Ken Reed, President of the DeLand, Florida Gem & Mineral Club.
(904) 738-4879 Evenings
E-Mail: kr1113@aol.com
or write to:
1113 Cass St. DeLand, FL 32720



UP FOR GRABS

(To The Right Person)

One pair of very nice binoculars
in a worn leather case.
These were left on the
Mule Canyon trip
and turned up in my rig.
We can get together:

Beth Pelfrey 714/774-2754

CFMS Endowment Fund Faceting Material For Sale

A moderately large amount of faceting material has been donated to CFMS Endowment Fund. This includes rutilated quartz, tourmaline crystals, citrine, peridot, sunstone, cab ruby, aquamarine, kyanite chips, garnet, Mexican topaz, amethyst, turquoise chips, turquoise nuggets, and Mexican opal nuggets. It is all for sale. Interested parties please call:

Ray Meisenheimer
Phone: (805) 642-3155

CFMS Show

(Continued)
Paso Robles, CA

(Continued from previous page)

As the bay receded millions of years ago, shells along the water's edge were covered with soil and gravel debris carried down mountains by rainstorms and landslides caused by earthquakes. This material of shells and debris was cemented together through a limestone process, over millions of years, into beds of rock filled with fossil shells. You need to know where to look for exposed remnants of these ancient fossil beds in the Los Angeles Basin.

Major fossil beds have been discovered in downtown Los Angeles in excavations as deep as 80 feet below street level during

foundation diggings for high-rise buildings. One such bed was unearthed in 1969 during construction of multi-story buildings at Sixth and Flower Streets. A paleontologist retrieved tons of 'fossil stone' from the excavation site. Much of the material was turned into highly polished table tops, bookends, and other objects. Very little rough material remained.

A specimen of rough material from this site will be on display during the 2001 CFMS Show in Paso Robles, June 22-24. Attend the Show and view this remnant of an ancient marine environment. It is a part of California's natural history you won't want to miss.

Anaheim Arts Council

By Beth Pelfrey

In the club's interests, Marvin Mog agreed to attend the December meeting of the Anaheim City Council in its chambers as there was to be a vote which could have affected the Searchers. The council was to have discussed and voted on the new Cultural Plan for the City of Anaheim.

The Cultural Arts Plan was developed by a committee of the Anaheim Arts Council

in order to make it easier for the AAC to become a Section 501(c)(3) tax exempt organization. There is no intent in the plan for there to be any effect on the existing member groups of the AAC.

The vote was postponed until the first meeting in January due to the absence of one of the Council Members.

Quartzsite Gem and Mineral Shows Schedule

Desert Gardens	Jan 1-Feb 28	Bisson's Four Corners	Jan 17-Feb 11
Tyson Wells Rock/Gem	Jan 5-Jan 14	Tyson Wells Sell-A-Rama	Jan 19-Jan 28
Hi Jolly Daze Parade	Jan 6	Sports, Vacation & RV	Jan 20-Jan 28
Hobby, Craft & Gem	Jan 10-Jan 14	Q.I.A. POW WOW-35th	Jan 23-Jan 28
Rock & Roll Classic Cars	Jan 13-Jan 14	Tyson Wells Arts & Craft	Feb 3-Feb 19
Main Event	Jan 13-Jan 28	Quartzsite Maze Days	Feb 15-Feb 19

President's New Year Message

By Nancy Norlund

I certainly enjoyed getting down on my knees to accept the office as your president for the year 2001, though I was a little wary of the rock pick and which end would be used. If you missed our joyous Holiday Party this year, you may not want to miss the next one. Who knows what will happen!

I'm looking forward to working with the new board members and have been contacting members to fill the vacancies on various committees. I would like to use some new members to fill the vacancies for the position of Anaheim Arts Council

Alternate, Historian, Librarian, Phone Committee, Silent Auctions and 2002 Show Chairperson. I would be very happy if you would call me at home or contact me at the January meeting and I will explain any position you are interested in. Our club motto should be: **Ask not ...What my club can do for me, but what can I do for my club?**

I'm looking forward to seeing you all at the January meeting and will have a suggestion box available to members for their ideas and suggestions on activities and programs that the club can enjoy.

Treasurer's Report

By Beth Pelfrey

This is an open letter, written in December, on the 21st to be specific, to each and everyone of you in the club. Please pass it on to folks who might not have read the paper yet!

The year-end process of turning over the books of the club from one Treasurer to the other is a touch involved: the old Treasurer must finalize all December deposits, outstanding bills and reimbursements to members, summarize the books and turn it over to be audited. An annual audit is required.

In the meantime, the old Treasurer, President and Secretary must meet with the new Treasurer, President and Secretary to change the signatures at the bank, and turn over the papers and checkbooks so that the business of the club can proceed smoothly.

Alicia and I are trying to get together, I hope for a short time this weekend, as there are many current items which need to be alternately posts, reimbursed, deposited and so forth.

Please be patient with us until we get through the transition, and remember we are also in the throes of the Holiday time. (Come visit us and wield a paintbrush and carry boxes!)

As soon as I can get the second part of the process going—getting the cards signed and getting the checkbooks—those of you with receipts will see your checks.

If you have questions, please call me, Beth Pelfrey, 714/774-2754

The Newsbulletin's E-Mail Address Has Changed To: searchersnews@hotmail.com

Sealed Bid Auction

Home Cabbng Unit

A home cabbng unit is available to the Searcher submitting the highest sealed bid in our February auction. Minimum bid is \$50.00.

The donated unit appears to be from the 1950s, and is apparently in good condition. It is in working order, but the saw is a little noisy and you may want to eventually replace the silicon carbide grinding wheels with diamond wheels. A little paint, and future water hose replacement may be in desired. The cabinet contains ancillary parts and polishing materials. The Searchers will not provide any reconditioning.

In the April, 1960 Gem and Minerals magazine ad, to the right, a similar unit sold for \$320 new in 1960. Our unit up for bid has 2 identical motors (one motor

works the saw and one supplies the wheels) rather than the single motor demonstrated.

Please direct questions to Herb Beckman at 714/778-1496, or you can usually find Herb at the workshop during open hours.

Submit sealed bids to Herb in person or send via mail to:

Herb Beckman
2105 Bangor Way
Anaheim, CA 92806-3026

The winner will be announced at the February 13, 2001 General Meeting.

Sealed Bids Must Be Submitted To Herb Beckman By Close Of Lab On Thursday February 8, 2001.

Good luck!

2001 Show Committee

By Cat Van Kampen

Greetings and Happy New Year Searchers! We'll be having our first show meeting for the new year on February 6th, Tuesday, at 7:00 P.M. at the Anaheim Senior Citizen's Center. If you are a committee chairperson, please try to attend this meeting; we need your comments, ideas and suggestions to format the 2001 Show. If you just want to see what's going on, come on down and join us at the Community

Center at 250 Center Street, Anaheim, CA.

Show Committee Meeting dates are the 1st Tuesday of the month:

*February 6, March 6,
April 3 & May 1, 2001*

*Show dates are
May 5 & 6, 2001*

2001 Membership Dues Are Due

Annually: \$20 for adults, \$25 per couple, \$2 for junior members under 17-years of age.

Give your dues directly to Milly at the January or February Meetings or mail to:

Milly Arvanties

5200 Irvine Boulevard, Space 388

Irvine, CA 92620-2061

California Federation Of Mineralogical Societies (CFMS) Show

June 22 to 24, 2001 (Continued)

Paso Robles, CA



(Continued from previous page)

The vertebrae will be on display during the CFMS 2001 Show in Paso Robles. Come to the show and be amazed by this huge and rare fossil discovery.

Palygorskite To Be Displayed At CFMS 2001 Show

By Bea and Sherm Griselle

Yes, Palygorskite is a mineral, but you have to see it to believe it. Mountain Leather is the common name given to Palygorskite and it looks like fluffed-up newspaper papier-mâché. It is described, along with its chemical formula, as hydrous basic silicate of calcium and aluminum in *Minerals of California*.*

Palygorskite is a rare actinolite formation which develops in white to gray leather-like open clumps or in matted masses. Mountain Leather is composed of flexible interlaced fibers. This structure is rare as actinolite usually forms as solid masses of inter-growing crystals, such as nephrite jade.

Mountain Leather is metamorphic in origin and generally results from alteration of siliceous dolomites. It is often found in contact zones of metamorphic rocks. The specimen to be displayed is the uncommon fibrous form prized by collectors.

The specimen of Mountain Leather to be displayed was found at the Mammoth Mine, Metaline Falls, Washington. It is an excellent example of actinolite formed in open fibrous sheets and clumpy masses. It is difficult to realize that Palygorskite is really a mineral as its appearance is unlike the solid rocks and minerals rockhounds are accustomed to seeing. It's an incredible natural wonder and you can see it at the CFMS 2001 Show in Paso Robles, June 22-24.

*California Division of Mines and Geology, *Minerals of California: Centennial Volume (1866-1966)*, Bulletin 189, Ferry Building, San Francisco, California, 1966, p.67.

Did You Know.....?

By Bea and Sherm Griselle

During the Upper Pliocene Epoch, 5 to 7 million years ago, the Los Angeles Basin was mostly under water. Some islands protruded above the shallow bay, such as areas that we now know as the Palos Verdes Hills, Beverly Hills, Baldwin Hills, and Signal Hill. Bay waters supported a varied marine life, including many mollusks. Shells of these early mollusks can still be found throughout the Basin.

(Continued on next page)

California Federation Of Mineralogical Societies (CFMS) Show
June 22 to 24, 2001
Paso Robles, CA

The California Federation of Mineralogical Societies (CFMS) Show and Convention, Gem, Jewelry, and Mineral Show will be held June 22 to 24 in Paso Robles, CA

The Show Hosts are the:

San Lucia Rockhounds
 California Mid-State Fairgrounds
 2198 Riverside Avenue
 Paso Robles, CA

Co-Chairs:

Bea & Sherm Griselle (805) 238-4366

Fairground camping fees:

\$10.00 per night for dry camping
 (showers, restrooms & dump
 available)
 \$17 per night for water & electric.

Note:

Only 46 W & E sites are available.
 EARLY reservations are necessary.

There is a new RV park 2 miles north of town with full hookups at:
 Paso Robles RV Ranch
 (805) 226-9373.

More show information:

thegriselles.tcsn.net
 or
 Rosemary at rwnetto@tcsn.net



**Hugh Fossil Whale Vertebrae
 To Be Displayed At The
 CFMS 2001 Show**

*By Bea and Sherm Griselle of The
 Santa Lucia Rockhounds*

The vertebrae from an ancient whale was discovered northwest of San Miguel, California. The vertebrae dates from the Middle Miocene Epoch and is 10-12 million years old. The vertebrae was found in a Monterey Shale Formation which is the remains of the ocean floor of an ancient marine environment.

The vertebrae is one of the largest ever discovered. Whales during this time averaged 15 feet in length. It is estimated that the whale from which this vertebra came measured over 72 feet in length. Paleontologists did not believe whales of this epoch lived to reach this great length until discovery of the skeleton from which this vertebrae came.

The whales of this epoch swam in huge lagoons and deep bays. They shared these water bodies with the largest predator shark to ever live, the giant Carcharocles Megalodon, a distant cousin of the present "Great White". Ancient Megalodon sharks reached a length of 60 feet or more. It is remarkable that this whale survived to reach its great length in such dangerous waters.

(Continued on next page)



Sealed Bid Auction
Home Cabbng Unit (Continued)

HIGHLAND PARK

THE LAPIDARY'S STANDARD OF VALUE

... INDIVIDUAL CLUTCH OPERATIONS

... ALL METAL CONSTRUCTION

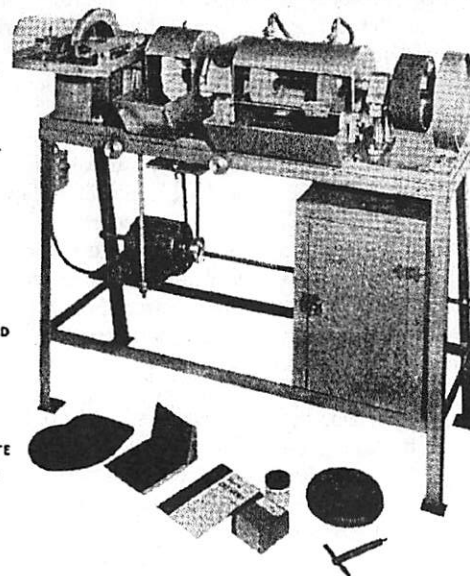
... PERFORMS ALL OPERATIONS

• LIGHT
 GREY
 HAMMER-
 TONE
 FINISH
 THROUGH-
 OUT

• EASY
 TO CLEAN

• NO WOOD
 TO ROT
 OR WARP

• COMPLETE
 —ALL YOU
 NEED IS
 THE ROCK



• SAWING
 • GRINDING
 • SANDING
 • POLISHING

• BALL
 BEARING
 THROUGH-
 OUT
 INCLUDING
 TRIM SAW
 ARBOR

• HAS 8"
 RAG BUFF
 WITH PAN,
 NO INTER-
 CHANGING

MODEL B-12

STANDARD EQUIPMENT FOR THE MODEL B-12

- | | |
|--|--------------------------|
| 1 — 10" x .040" Congo diamond blade | 1 — 8" disc with leather |
| 1 — 8" x 1 1/2" - 100 grit grinding wheel | 1 — 8" x 1" rag buff |
| 1 — 8" x 1 1/2" - 220 grit grinding wheel | 1 — 8" sanding disc |
| Dresser Rest — Polishing Powder — Book on Cutting Gems | |
| Extra Sanding Disc — Cement — Vise for Slabbing | |

1 Model B-12 complete with stand, motor & switch \$320.00

1 Model B-10 table model less motor \$269.00

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April, 1960 Gem & Minerals ad for a similar unit being auctioned in February.

Calico Thanksgiving Weekend Field Trip Report

By Beth Pelfrey

We had a very wonderful and fantastic Thanksgiving trip. Of course, Mom and I carefully scouted the area to find just the perfect place to camp, with no noise or distractions and very little dust. We settled on a beautiful spot near the road about 1.5 miles into Mule Canyon. It seemed as if it would be sheltered from the Mojave wind and almost ideal to be able to accommodate car and tent campers as well as self-contained rigs.

Eight of us were there by Wednesday night. It turned a little chilly, or, maybe, as Jacque Mog said, "Beyond chilly." Thursday morning dawned bright and still. Boy were we excited about the potluck! A few more dribbled in Thursday morning, including a brief visitor from the Hemet club, until we had 10 for Thanksgiving Dinner. That wasn't the most impressive number we've had, but the crowd was all quality! It was a good thing we didn't have any "C C & R Restrictions!" We had a wonderful time enjoying each other. The campfire was awesome.

Thursday brought the first hint of social disturbance--the nice pair of rigs at the opposite end of our camp site were augmented in the night by big trailers and LOTS of ATCs and dirt bikes. The dust-devils began immediately. We made signs to post on the road, to small avail. When BLM Ranger Jerry came to visit, he said that a large dirt motorcycle race from Ridgecrest to Las Vegas would go through our camp!

Well, more biker-campers came and then the race! Poor Jacque Mog! She lived the whole day inside a dust storm of epic proportions. 250 to 300--or was it 3,000 bikes rushed through camp pretty much

all day. We went to Green Ash Hills, then to Chinaman's Cove in the Calicos that day collecting petrified palm root, multi-colored jaspers and agates. Darren Hansen handed out John Deere hats to the troops. The Calico Ghost Town Heritage Days activities were enjoyed by some. No potluck Friday due to the storm. Zero visibility at times, fine insidious volcanic dust at all times! Shades of Tonopah.

Saturday, we went to the Mojave Gem and Mineral Club's Show where they held a silent auction just so that the visiting Searchers could participate. Connie lead a field trip for everyone there and we drove toward Fort Irwin for lots of Butler onyx; had a terrific group dig for the material.

Sunday, we went to the Bruebaker/Mann's mine for desert jade, in a range of light blues to dark green colored rocks. There was an abundance of this float material making it easy and pleasurable to collect. Everyone had fun at that quarry where Searchers and guests found dendrites on green marble. There are nice dry camping spots available and the Searchers have been invited to camp in that area on future digs.

Throughout the weekend more Searchers came to join us, making a total of folks in and out of camp all weekend 32 souls--including Beethoven and Trona, two of the official club Rock Hounds. Campfires were awesome. The stars were merely feet over our heads and the shooting stars made us all poets. I was so happy so many newer members joined us and hope that will continue to be the case forever. A true party crowd, the Searcher and friends!

CFMS Earth Science Studies (Continue)

ZZYZX Road, Soda Springs, California

March 25 - April 1, 2001

Send form and payment made out to CFMS to:

Florence Meisenheimer
101 N. Wake Forrest Ave.
Ventura, CA 93003-2246
(805) 642-3155

Cal & Dee Clason (661) 589-4189
Ray & Florence Meisenheimer
(805) 642-3155

----- Keep part above this line -----
Please Print in Block Letters

Name _____ Phone _____

Address _____

I belong to _____ society, an AFMS Member

Do you use a cane ____ Walker ____ Are you diabetic ____

Please list the activities that interest you - 1st, 2nd, 3rd choice

FIELD TRIPS

____ Rock Collecting

____ Sightseeing

PROGRAMS

____ Speakers

____ Films

WORKSHOPS

____ Beadstringing

____ Silversmithing

____ Sculpting

____ Wire Wrap

____ Cabochons

Name & number of persons to contact in emergency _____

Double room \$220.00 per person _____

Dormitory room \$220.00 per person _____

RV (no hook-ups) \$220.00 per person _____

Total amount enclosed _____

**California Federation of Mineralogical Societies
(CFMS)
Earth Science Studies at Soda Springs ZZZZX
March 25 to April 1, 2001**

**By The (CFMS) Committee:
Cal and Dee Clason,
Ray and Florence Meisenheimer**

Now that the Earth Science Studies committee has made closure on the very successful week at Camp Paradise we are looking forward to, and preparing for ZZZZX. Ninety-six were in attendance at Paradise, however we are limited to 60 persons at ZZZZX so it is important to register early, to assure a spot,

ZZZX is located 50 miles northeast of Barstow, 8 miles west of Baker, CA on Highway 15 to ZZZZX Road.

The facilities are rustic, with dorm style rooms and rooms with double beds or cots. Rest rooms and showers are in a separate building nearby. No pets are allowed.

These desert studies offer instruction in our hobby/craft, field trips to historical and collecting sites, and discussion of flora and fauna of the area. Our primary goal is to provide a congenial learning experience. Workshops include bead-stringing, silversmithing, sculpting, wire wrap, cabochons and perhaps others. Also there will be field trips and speakers and programs to round out a busy day. If

you register you will receive a list of what to bring and other instructions.

- Professionals in preparing meals serve three wholesome meals a day.
- There is ample room for RVs and you may be more comfortable if you own one to use it.
- As this is a Desert Preserve dedicated to desert studies, no pets are allowed.
- The fee for this entire week is \$220.00 per person, which includes workshops, lodging, meals and field trips.

Don't forget-it is important to register early using the form on the adjacent page in this newsletter. For more information, call: Cal at 661/589-4189 or Ray at 805/642-3155.

Register for this educational and fun filled week by completing the form below, with a check for \$220 per person by March 1, 2001. An administrative fee of \$25.00 will be assessed for any cancellation prior to March 1. There will be no refund for cancellation after March 1 unless you can provide a replacement. The fee includes instructions, quarters and meals.



**Calico Field Trip Report
(Continued)**

You may notice I said nothing about my rig's electrical failure. Well, that's because I had help from two of the nicest guys I know: Mike Casey and Clarke Benich. Karen Martinez, Faye and the guys and I survived very well cooperating on food and labor. They got me mobile on Monday and home safe. Faye and I even got to go to Wal-Mart on assignment! We were able to get in one more field trip to petrified palm and black agate; can life get any better than that? It

can! After I got home, I gracefully exited the motorhome and hit the edge of the curb, breaking a bone in my left foot. I am so devastated that I can't help to actually do the work of painting, moving furniture, lifting boxes, patching holes.... well you all know how really crushed and broken I am to miss out on that.

Come camp with us again! I will try to provide desert pavement and not blowing ash!

**South Cady Mountains Field Trip
February 17 to 19, 2001
By Robert Burson**

The February Field Trip will be to the South end of the Cady Mountains. After scouting this area recently we found it to be proliferate in all types of chalcedony. Tons of float on the surface exhibitions agates, jaspers, and jasp-agate with multiple colors and patterns.

Camping facility
Dry camp at Hector Road exit.

Directions from Barstow:
Drive 36 miles East on Interstate 40, exit Hector Road. Head North and look for the Searchers' sign. We will meet at 9:00 AM

Saturday morning at the Dairy Queen in Ludlow, which is 15 miles east of the camp and 52 miles from Barstow.

Motel reservations
May be obtained at the Ludlow Motel (10 units) at 760/733-4338.
For additional information on locality, refer to *Desert Gem Trails* by Mary Frances Strong, South Cady Mountains.

Questions may be directed to Robert at:
Phone: 562/860-5938
E-mail: dancing.rocks@get.net

**Calling All Crafters
By Lynn Selden**

This year we are hoping for a phenomenal turnout from all of you who can contribute just 12 articles (or more if you are so inclined) of your favorite craft to help our show. There are over 16 weeks to go and that is less than one craft per week to make! I have heard that we have quite a creative group and so I ask you to please consider what you would like to contribute

to our craft corner. Suggestions: home-made jams or jellies, fudge, soup in a jar, crocheted items, boutique items, pet rocks, napkins rings, paperweights, potted plants, etc. Then either contact me at home (714) 826-4291, or sign up at the General Meetings. I, as well as the rest of the Show Committee, would be so grateful for your assistance and talent. Thank you.

Quartzsite and Hauser Geode Bed Field Trip

January 26 to 28, 2001

By Joan Macomber

Tenters, car campers, and RVers are encouraged to join the Searchers attending the oh-so-famous Quartzsite Show, digging for geodes and fire agate at and around Hauser Geode Beds, and camping at Coon Hollow Campground. Hotel accommodations are available in Blythe, CA--but reserve a room early as the beds in town sell out.

If you haven't been to Quartzsite--you have to see it to believe it! At this time of year this little truck stop town explodes with over 250,000 snowbirds and vendors from around the world selling everything and anything imaginable...some for a pretty good price--and bartering is part of the thrill of the hunt.

To locate the campground, take the 10 Fwy. East. In approximately 3 hours exit Wiley's Well Road right heading south, which is the same exit as the state prison. At the next stop sign (do not turn right leading to the prison entrance) continue straight onto the washboard dirt road, watching your speed on the turns, driving past Wiley Wells Campground, and make a right into Coon Hollow Campground (about 12 miles from the Hwy.). Our group will camp to the right end of the campground. There are fire rings (bring firewood, chairs and drinking water), a water pump (not for drinking), vault toilets, ramadas and 2 dump stations on returning to the highway. The fee is \$20 for a 1-week pass.

Saturday at 8:00 AM we will head into Quartzsite. Clouds will be open this year and is the 1st stop on the list. Continue East on the 10 Hwy., through Blythe, across the Colorado River and about 10-

miles into Arizona. At Exit 19 (the 2nd exit into Quartzsite) turn left. Drive downhill on the North side of the freeway and Clouds will be the first 'bazaar' area on your right. Pack a lunch, or there's plenty of food in town, and public showers available enroute.

The 35th Annual Pow Wow runs from January 23 to January 28, 2001 (see schedule listed on Page 16). Don't want to shop? Camel and ostrich races can be found on January 26 and 27, 2001 at 1:00 PM both days at the Main Event Rodeo Arena--with prize money of \$1,500 if anyone's game for it--"Rider up"!

6:00 PM Saturday evening we'll have a potluck at camp, for those not dining in town--and fire-up the campfire.

8:00 AM Sunday morning we'll drive across the road from the campground, towards the opal mine. We'll stay to the right of the fork (away from the mine) and head up to the end of The Road To No Where. A little strolling around the area will provide surface fire agate and chalcedony roses, and perhaps opal eggs.

9:00 AM we'll swing back through the campground to pickup late arrivals and head out to the geode beds. We'll hit several sites and everyone should come back with bags and buckets of geodes. High clearance 4x4 recommended, but not required. Driving distance from Anaheim: 200 miles one way to the campground, approximately 220 miles to Quartzsite. Driving time approximately 3.5 hours. Bring pick, shovel and chisel.

Questions? Call Joan at 714/821-0129.

Quartzsite and Hauser Geode Bed Field Trip

(Continued)

January 26 to 28, 2001

