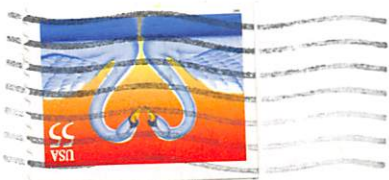
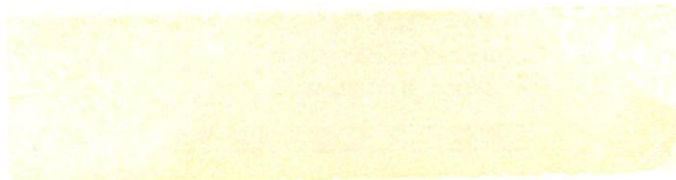


9-1998



P.O. BOX 3492  
ANAHEIM, CA 92803





SEARCHERS GEM AND MINERAL SOCIETY, INC  
Established June 20, 1958

Mailing Address: P O Box 3492  
Anaheim, CA 92803

CLUB OFFICERS

President	Cliff Warner	472-2083
1st Vice President	*Audrey Nichols	533-4675
	*Betty Nelson	530-1365
2nd Vice President		
Secretary	Louise Oleson	(562) 930-0989
Treasurer	Faye McDowell	(562) 597-7684
Federation Director	George Mitchum	897-2407
Director	Herb Beckman	778-1496

COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS

Historian	Jan Gillette	776-9467
Anaheim Arts Council	Margaret Neeley	535-2030
Arts Council Alternate	Mae Freedman	774-6665
1998 Show Chairman	Milt Green	456-0550
1998 Co-Show Chairman	Jim Williamson	995-9080
Bulletin Editor	Marge Jordan	897-2407
Bulletin Editor Alternate	Audrey Nichols	533-4675
Bulletin Mailout	Janet Cole	639-9025
Membership	Milly Arvanites	838-1924
Public Lands	Max Johnson	535-8579
Refreshments/Hospitality	Nancy Norlund	960-6957
Sunshine	Doris Pelfrey and Froma Reiter	774-2754
Silent Auction	Jerry and Nancy Norlund	960-6957
Veterans Coordinator	Larry Richey	846-3573
Library	Bob Dixon	534-5063
Monthly Drawing	Harry and Betty Nelson.	530-1365
Meeting Host		
Phone Committee	Marge Jordan	897-2407
Social Director	Beth Pelfrey	774-2754
Workshop	Herb Beckman	778-1496

AFFILIATIONS: California Federation of Mineralogical Societies  
American Federation of Mineralogical Societies

The Searchers Gem and Mineral Society, Inc. regular meetings are held on the second Tuesday of each month on the basement level of the Anaheim Memorial Hospital Medical Office Building, 1211 W. LaPalma Avenue, Anaheim, CA. Meetings begin at 7:30 PM. Visitors are always welcome.

Membership dues are accepted January thru September. Adult Members: \$10.00 each, and Junior Members (under age 17) \$2.00.

Board Meetings are held on the fourth Tuesday of each month January through October and the third Tuesday in November and December. The meetings are held in the basement level Boardroom of the Anaheim Memorial Hospital Medical Office Building at 7:30 PM.

Field Trips are usually held on the second weekend of each month. These are announced monthly. Trip maps, added activities, time changes and other pertinent information will be published in the bulletin.

WORKSHOPS: 651 South State College Blvd, Unit # 9, Fullerton. Thursday 6:00 PM to 10:00 PM. Phone Number: (714) 870-7625.

REQUIREMENT: Items for the Bulletin must be in the hands of the editor by the first (1st) Tuesday of each month. Please mail all items to: Marge Jordan, 12161 Bartlett Street, Garden Grove, CA 92845-1525

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

NO MESSAGE RECEIVED! MESSAGE TO BE GIVEN AT THE GENERAL MEETING.

Cliff Warner  
President

FUTURE CLUB EVENTS:

September 17th      Arts and Culture Focus Day - New Senior Center - Anaheim  
September 25th      Searchers' invited to join Long Beach Gem & Mineral Club  
                         on Field Trip to Palos Verdes Peninsula  
September 22nd      Board Meeting  
October      6th      Bulletin Items for October due  
October 17th & 18th      Field Trip - Green Ash Hills

SHOW DATES:

Sep 19 - 20th      Faceter's Guild of Southern California  
                         Brookhurst Community Center  
                         2271 W. Crescent Avenue  
                         Anaheim, CA  
                         Hours: Sat 10:00 AM to 6:00 PM  
                         Sun 10:00 AM to 5:00 PM  
  
Sep 26 - 27      Delvers Gem and Mineral Society  
                         Downey Women's Club  
                         9813 Paramount Blvd  
                         Downey, CA  
                         Hours: Sat 10:00 AM to 6:00 PM  
                         Sun 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM  
  
Sep 26 - 27      Vista Gem & Mineral Society  
                         Brengle Terrace Community Center  
                         120 Vale Terrace  
                         Vista, CA  
                         Hours: Sat 10:00 AM to 5:00 PM  
                         Sun 10:00 AM to 5:00 PM  
  
Sep 30 to Oct 4th      Joshua Tree - The Sportsmans Club  
                         6225 Sunburst  
                         JAMBOREE/TAILGATER  
                         Joshua Tree, CA  
                         Hours: 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM Daily  
  
Oct 10 - 11      Searles Lake Gem & Mineral Society  
                         13337 Main Street  
                         Trona, CA  
                         Hours: Sat 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM  
                         Sun 8:00 AM to 4:00 PM

HIGHLIGHTS - AUGUST GENERAL MEETING:

In the absence of President Cliff Warner, meeting called to order by our Co-Vice Presidents, Betty Nelson and Audrey Nichols at 7:50 PM.

Guests welcomed. Treasurer's report given. Faye McDowell, Treasurer has the books open for inspection if anyone would be interested in seeing them.

Due to her hiking mishap, Nancy and Jerry Norlund was unable to help with refreshments and do the evening's silent auction. Thanks to Larry Richey for transporting some of the material and to Herb Beckman for setting up and running it.

Milt Green, 1998 Show Chairman read the Show Report prepared by Faye and thanked everyone who worked during the show and on set-up and clean-up which contributed to a successful show. A copy of the show profit is attached to the Official Copy of the Minutes, please ask our Secretary if you desire to review this document.

In the absence of Manny Sandico (Trophies and Ribbon Chairman for the '98 Show) Audrey Nichols presented the Trophies and Ribbons to members who had cases in our Annual Show.

Betty Nelson, our Orange County Fair chairperson gave us good news. The Searchers' won two Blue Ribbons and a Trophy. This is the second year Searchers' have won a Blue Ribbon for their Division. In addition, the Orange County Fair Committee continued their support of the Searcher efforts by presenting to our representative, Betty, a special framed Award for our Club's participation in the 1998 Fair. Betty also displayed photos on our "show and tell" table of members participating during Searcher Day at the Fair's Gem and Mineral Building.

Larry Richey, Veteran's Coordinator, reported that the veterans are doing some channel work, cutting opals, and making opal triplets. Some have already finished their triplets.

Floyd Neeley's project is making progress. Motion made by Max Johnson and seconded by Milt Green to give \$162.77 to Floyd for material to help out on this project. Also, thank you to Nancy and Dick Reed, Margaret and Floyd, Max Johnson and Elmer Parsons for their time and help.

Betty Nelson, our Acting Co-VP for the evening announced that progress is being made on working out the details of our new Workshop and Meeting Rooms in the new downtown Anaheim Senior's Center.

Louise Oleson announced again the invitation from Long Beach Gem and Mineral Society to join them on a one day field trip to Carlsbad Beach on Friday, August 21st, and also their one day trip, Friday, September 25th to the Palos Verde Peninsula featuring Professor Wally Boyd a noted authority on the Palos Verde area.

No program this evening due to the Award Presentation and the Silent Auction.

Meeting adjourned at 9:30 PM.

Louise Oleson  
Secretary

FEDERATION NEWS:

I've had word that after Jim Strain's (CFMS, PLAC Chairman) report at the recent CFMS Convention meeting in Monterey, that Jim and Bill Burns (CFMS Dir) asked for the CFMS support in opening a "Rock Hound Park" in the Wiley Wells area. Mr Strain was able to secure Ed Hastly, California state head of BLM. Jim and Bill moved along on the idea of making a special area of the desert in the Hauser Geode area for collecting. They met with a little opposition. Many groups are opposed to the idea. Even some of the politicians and higher ups got involved, so for now this is on hold. They even heard that there was picketing against them. At least people know that PLAC and Rockhounds exist. Info via "The Rockhounder", Sep 1998.

George Mitchum  
Federation Delegate

TROPHIES AND AWARDS - 1998 SEARCHER SHOW:

Ribbons were given out to thirty-two members who exhibited their cases in our 39th Annual Show in May. Five Trophies were presented to the following members.

25 Year Trophy - Hal and Doris Pelfrey	(25 Consecutive years)
20 Year Trophy - Joan and Jim Everitt	(20 " " )
20 Year Trophy - Betty and Harry Nelson	(20 " " )
15 Year Trophy - Alice and George Lux	(15 " " )
10 Year Trophy - Larry Richey	(10 " " )

Congratulations to these members for the many years they've exhibited their innovative lovely cases.

Audrey Nichols

SPEAKING OF AWARDS:

We had three Searcher members who received Blue Ribbons at the recent Orange County Fair:

Betty Nelson for her photograph "Window of Time"

Nancy Norlund for her case of "Gem Trees"

Allen Silverstein for his Fluorescent exhibit

We're proud of you folks!

Editor

NOTICE: I would like all items for the October Bulletin NOT LATER THAN Tuesday, October 6th. Thanks.

Marge

HIGHLIGHTS - BOARD MEETING MINUTES - August 28, 1998:

Minutes of the July 14, 1998 Board meeting read and corrected.

Herb Beckman said he did not agree to change his method of bookkeeping for the shop when we move into the new Senior's Center. Herb will happily change the format of his workshop bookkeeping report if so directed by the Board or membership in the form of a Motion.

Concerning guidelines for Dealer Show Cancellations at the July 14th Board meeting, the motion to adopt these guidelines was made by Betty Nelson (Co-Vice President) and seconded by Audrey Nichols (Co Vice President). Motion passed, 5 Yeas and 1 Nay. Marge Jordan, Bulletin Editor, asked that the following change be made, i.e. the two Co-Vice Presidents are only entitled to one vote and only one should be designated as the voting Vice President. The Secretary was asked to check the past Minutes/records of the voting for this year to see whether or not there have been two votes cast by that office that would change any previous motions or actions. A discussion was launched concerning the previous passage of the new guidelines for future show cancellations. No action was taken.

Faye McDowell, Treasurer, asked about the progress of obtaining an Auditor to review last year's books. Faye did not feel that her office should get the Auditor. Betty Nelson agreed and volunteered to ask Marie Cole if she would ask someone from her office to conduct the Audit.

Cliff Warner had paperwork from the city of Anaheim requesting the Searchers to have some lapidary demonstrators at the Grand Opening Celebrations for the new Senior Center. Cliff said that he has asked Ben Byland, Larry Richey, Max Johnson and Floyd Neeley to represent the Club.

Cliff said that the City of Anaheim needs a Donation of \$5000.00 from all of the Arts and Cultural organizations who will benefit from the new Center. This money will help them complete work on the new facility. Several suggestions were outlined for the amount the Searchers would donate. After we had read them, George Mitchum felt that the Board should suggest to the Membership that the Searchers donate either \$300 or \$500. This was the amount that we felt was going to be donated by other organizations in the Cultural Arts. This donation would entitle the Searchers (among other "perks") an 8" x 10" Recognition Plaque.

Betty Nelson gave an up-date on our 1998 Christmas Dinner arrangements. We will have a choice of two entrees, Prime Rib (\$16.00) or Turkey (\$13.00). Marge Jordan suggested that the Club again this year, pay \$5.00 towards MEMBERS ONLY dinner. The Board will take this recommendation to the Membership.

George Mitchum suggested that in addition to paying for the Board Members Christmas dinners that the Club also pay for the Membership Chairperson and the Bulletin Editor. These two jobs are demanding and time consuming and both Milly and Marge work hard with very little recognition. Herb Beckman moved that we show our appreciation for their work by treating them to Christmas Dinner. Faye McDowell seconded the motion. Motion carried, 6 Yeas (unanimous).

Cliff announced that he had talked Max Johnson into accepting the open position of 2nd Vice President (Field Trip Chair). Max has been doing this work anyway.

Max Johnson would like some input from Searchers who usually go on the extended field trips concerning a proposed trip to Deming area of Mexico. The agate found there is the best in the world and he thinks he may be able to arrange to have Brad LeCross, author of "Agate of Northern Mexico" to lead this trip of several days.

HIGHLIGHTS - BOARD MEETING MINUTES - Aug 28, 1998 Cont'd:

Herb Beckman said he had received a request from the Faceter's Guild to use one of our cables for their show at the Brookhurst Community Center, Sep 19th and 20th. This cable is used during our Searcher Show and is especially designed for that facility. The Faceters borrowed this electrical last year and spent \$100 rebuilding it. Herb thought this was a good idea as they returned it in better shape than we had loaned it to them. Herb made a motion that the Faceters' again be granted permission to use the requested item. Louise Seconded the Motion. There were 5 Yeas and 1 Nay, George Mitchum voting Nay.

Meeting adjourned at 9:40 PM.

Louise Oleson  
Secretary

**School  
Time!**

MEMBERSHIP:

Welcome new member who joined in August:

BROWN, Lana  
2246 Loma Alta Drive  
Fullerton, CA 92833



This brings our membership total to 177.

Milly Arvanites

REFRESHMENTS:

Refreshments for the August meeting were served by Dottie Johnson and some of our other ladies helped her out.

Nancy and Jerry Norlund will do refreshments this evening and Nancy has asked for volunteers for October and November. Please give Nancy a call (714) 960-6957 or sign up tonight.

marge

PROGRAM REPORT:

We did not have a program during the August meeting due to a Silent Auction and presentation of Trophies and Ribbons to those members who exhibited at our annual Gem Show in May.

Tonight we will have a video of our 1998 Gem Show. Dick Reed will be presenting this. This is a good chance to see all of our hard workers in action and to see what and how things happen at our annual show.

Audrey Nichols

Grant Miller would like to thank all of you for cards, visits, phone calls and your concern before and after surgery and while recovering. Your thoughts and caring and encouragement has meant so much. I'm happy to say I'm doing very well and the doctors have given me a great report. I'm looking forward to coming to the meetings. Again, thanks.

Grant Miller

To all of you who've been so thoughtful these past few months, Bud and I would like to thank you for your cards and encouraging phone calls that have helped me so much at this time. I hope to see you at a meeting soon.

Sincerely,

Bud and Betty Henderson

Had word from Walter Mroch that Henry Norek has a change of address. Henry's son is living at his home in Sunset Beach and Henry now resides in Room 172 at Huntington Terrace at 18800 Florida Street in Huntington Beach. The main phone number is (714) 848-8811. His direct phone number is (714) 842-4100.

Walter said Henry is doing fine and would appreciate a visit from some of his Searcher friends. Henry is approaching his 94th birthday this fall. He is just as lively as ever although he now remembers more of the past than the present.

To get to Huntington Terrace:      From PCH:      Go north on Beach Boulevard  
Turn left on Garfield  
Turn right on Florida

From the 405:    Go south on Beach Boulevard  
                         Turn right on Garfield  
                         Turn right on Florida

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Martha Sue Hodges daughter (Sue Oakes) has sent word that Martha Sue is doing well at the board and care home where she now resides in San Marcos. The address is Mountain View Manor, 423 Daisy Lane, San Marcos, CA92069. Martha Sue and her daughter are interested in selling Bob's mineral collection. At one time the collection appraised out at about \$800.00. If anyone is interested you may call Sue Oakes at (760) 471-5449. Evenings best time to call.

Martha Sue really appreciates cards and notes.

Marge



WORKSHOP REPORT:

In addition to the Thursday evening workshop sessions, the workshop is open from 9:00 AM until 1:00 PM on the second and fourth Saturdays each month. Cliff Warner is the Saturday supervisor and instructor in steam casting techniques. Ben Byland will provide wire wrap jewelry instruction on the 4th Saturday and others will fill in for him on the second Saturdays. Workshop attendance was very good again in July and August, averaging 6 Searchers per session.

Your Searcher library is open at the workshop for members to check-out or check-in books, periodicals and videos on earth sciences, lapidary and jewelry making during all scheduled workshop hours.

The Genies have been operational in the workshop since early August. They have been a pleasure to use and have improved the cabochon quality and productivity of all workshop attendees.

Cliff and Josie Warner donated a large conference table to the workshop. This addition forced rearrangement of the workshop layout. When all the dust has settled, it appears that the new layout will be far superior to the old one for all workshop users.

"Searchers Night" at the shop facility on Tuesday the 18th of August was quite productive. Five Searchers attended this event and worked on club projects, including general clean up, reorganizing stored equipment, slabbing for vets, and sorting donated rock. Many thanks to Richard Butler, Art Harris, Tyler Hazlett, Faye McDowell and Jim Williamson for their efforts. The next "Searcher Night" is scheduled for Tuesday, September 15th. I hope you can attend, we have a lot to do.

Herb Beckman

WULFENITE

Wulfenite - A subtranslucent or Transparent mineral consisting of lead molybdate,  $PbMoO_4$ , and crystallizing in the tetragonal system. It was named in honor of the Austrian botanist and mineralogist Franz Xaver Von Wulfen. It has a hardness of 2.75 to 3 and a specific gravity of 6.7 to 7; it shines with a vitreous to diamond like luster. The color of the mineral ranges from yellow, orange, red and grey to white, most specimens being streaked with white. Wulfenite occurs chiefly in the oxidized portions of lead veins, together with such minerals as vanadinite and pyromorphite. The principle deposits of wulfenite are in the U.S. in Utah, Nevada, New Mexico, Arizona and Pennsylvania. The mineral is a minor source of molybdenum.

via Tumble Rumble, 8/98 and  
others

SLABS FOR VETS:

The box marked "Slabs for Vets" is located at the back of our meeting room (near the coffee pot). I will also have a box at our workshop and if you are down to the shop slabbing rocks and you have extras that you will not be using put them in the VET'S box.

Larry Richey

HUNTINGTON BEACH PICNIC - August 15, 1998:

Jerry and I arrived at the beach at 7:00 AM to secure a fire ring. Jerry did most of the work unloading and getting the firewood to the ring and putting the signs out. I hobbled around hoping someone would show up for our pancake breakfast which I had ready at 7:30 AM. It was delicious, blueberry pancakes with bacon and orange juice.

It was a beautiful day so we ate outside and watched the nine spaces we were saving for the club. They dwindled to one space after the lot started to fill up. Richard and Tyler showed up at 11:30 AM. We had to move our RV within the lines and put the tables with snacks and the chairs behind our RV. We were so happy to see the Nelsons, Pelfreys and Kemps show up and help us move things down by the fire ring and get the fire started for the corn boil.

With the ocean water in the galvanized can and boiling, we dropped in the corn (in the husk). Ten minutes later it was ready to be peeled and buttered for eating. It was delicious. We also had a bar-b-que grill hot for those who wanted to do their meats or corn. We proceeded to eat and eat. There was plenty of food and extra food.

Highlights on the food were eight pounds of homemade potato salad by Richard, a delicious chocolate swirl cheesecake made by Tyler (our surfer), a great selection of salads, juicy watermelon, a huge Searchers special cake furnished by Nancy Reed and, Kelly's homemade huge delicious cookies.

It was never too hot or cold during the day. We had 18 Searchers attend. Most everyone left while it was still light but about six of us stayed until our firewood was used up. We headed for home about 9:30 PM. This was a great day and I didn't get a sunburn.

Nancy and Jerry Norlund

PALOS VERDE TRIP - Friday - Sep 25th:

Searchers who are planning to go on the Palos Verde trip, reservations are a must since lunch is being prepared for us by Jean Rabune at a cost of \$2.00. Please pay me (Louise Oleson) the \$2.00 and call me for the reservations at (562) 930-0989. Leave a 10 second message and I'll return your call.

The bus will leave from the Long Beach Senior Center (4th Street) at 8:30 AM sharp. The Long Beach Senior's Center is again making it possible for us to have this educational and collecting trip to Bluff Cove and Whites Point. Retired Geology Professor Wally Ford Of El Camino College will be our wagonmaster. Professor Ford is a noted authority on the area. Peggy Hill of the Palos Verde Gem and Mineral Society will also be with us.

Please bring rock hammers, chisels, buckets, scoops, sunscreen, water and a bag for some of the tiny crystals of barite and fossilized fish scales. We will also look for petrified wood, whale fossils and glaucophane.

This is an outstanding way to learn where material is located. Professor Ford will point out to us sites on private land where we can later go after obtaining permission from the owners.

We will return to the Senior Center at 5:00 PM.

Louise Oleson

## OCTOBER FIELD TRIP

Hi everybody!

My great good and kind well-meaning pals talked me into leading a field trip in October. Being the sucker that I am, I surprised no one when I said "yes". The real work, like choosing the spot was already done, in a way by the group who were at the August Beach party. See what you miss when you think you have more fun things to do?

Anyway, we will be going to Green Ash Hills, less than 25 miles East of Barstow in the direction of Calico Ghost Town and the Early Man Site.

I understand that we will be able to collect petrified rootlets and palm wood, jasper, chert, bog, reed, common opal and brown 'n tan agates, all in float.

There will be a field trip Saturday at 9:00 A.M. and probably one on Sunday morning at 9:00 A.M. for those who can stay.

I want to encourage ALL of you to come: day-trippers, tenters, car-campers, second cousins and etc. Barstow has motels and is close enough to be a base camp for more sensible folks,

ALSO, I will be going out there, but any of you who went with the club, or have been recently and want to be leader on each of the field trips, call me...I know nothing about this. Maybe games on Sunday? Who will organize it?

### *In General*

Green Ash Hills

October 17-18, 1998

Dry Camp so bring food, wood and water

More details will be in the October Bulletin  
Y'all come. Beth Pelfrey, 714-774-2754.

### DO YOU REMEMBER!

Well, maybe you will after you read the following article from "The Mineralogist" magazine of April 1940 (submitted by Wes Greenamyre). It brings to mind a local legend who's memory certainly deserves to be kept alive by mineral and gem hobbyists.

Wes has fond memories, from his adolescence in the early 1950s, of several visits to the Western Trails Museum with his mining-involved grandparents.

If this helps you to remember Marion Speer and his marvelous contributions let Wes know and we could probably do more on him later.

Wes Greenamyre

## THE WESTERN TRAILS MUSEUM

RUTH RICKETT

*Sixth Grade Teacher, Huntington Beach Public Schools  
Huntington Beach, California*

**EDITOR'S NOTE.**—The purpose of the below article is to call attention to the local educational value of various museums, both public and private, devoted to the earth sciences. The Western Trails Museum, a private enterprise, has rendered an outstanding service to the schools of Huntington Beach. It is hoped that similar projects maintained elsewhere will receive due recognition, for their cooperation with local educational work. Every community needs more citizens like the Speer family.

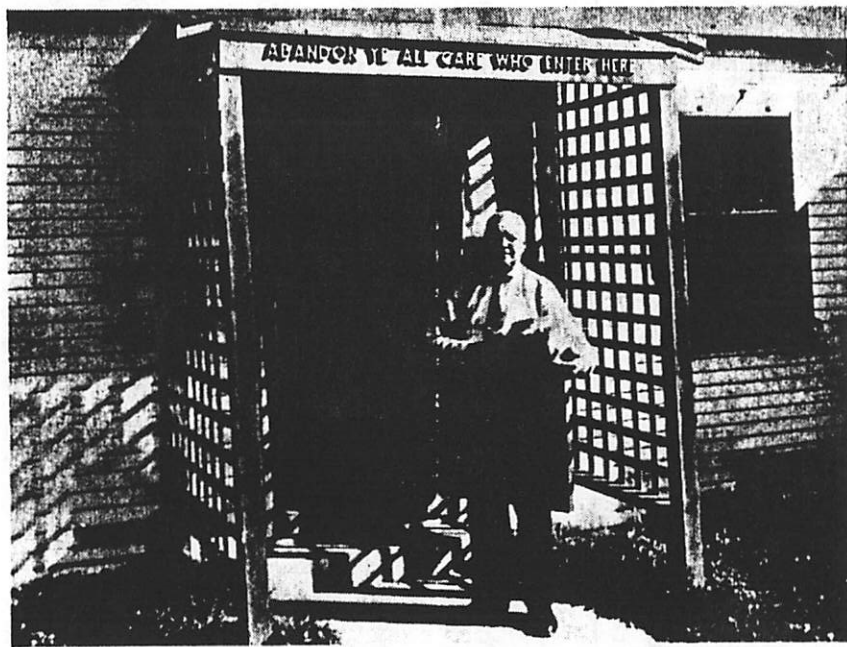
**WESTERN TRAILS MUSEUM** is located on state highway 39, four miles north of Huntington Beach, California, situated south of Los Angeles. The museum features earth science exhibits as well as material dealing with Indian lore and the history of the early West.

The museum is owned by Mr. and Mrs. Marion A. Speer. As a mining engineer for many years the professional work of Mr.

adjoining their home to house the numerous items, and provide a place where the exhibits could be seen by the public.

### Glass Cases

The exhibits, featuring western material, are separated by states and housed in special illuminated glass cases. Forty-five years ago in Texas Mr. Speer found his first specimen, and in 1912 he married Mrs. Speer in Colorado, who since then has taken an active part



**WESTERN TRAILS MUSEUM**

Marion A. Speer standing in the main entrance to the Western Trails Museum, an institution built by Mr. Speer as a hobby and to house his large collections. The exhibits are open to the public daily without charge.

Speer called for considerable travel over western trails. During these years of his work he was enabled to gather together numerous exhibits of value and interest. About three years ago the Speer collection became so large that a separate building was erected

in the development of the Speer collections. Only last January the couple made a field trip to the desert country east of Southern California and returned home with over 200 specimens to add to the exhibits of the Western Trails Museum.

### Early Western History

Mr. and Mrs. Speer are lovers of western history; those who took part in the development of this vast empire and the places where the historical facts took place. In their many travels throughout the far west, the Speers did not fail to visit every place of historical interest. Many of the once booming mining camps of the early days are now completely abandoned in ruins, or are known as the "ghost" towns of the West and perhaps boast only a few residents.

No country on earth can boast of so romantic a history as that of our West. Mining camps would spring up that would in a relatively short time produce new wealth calculated by the millions, only to wane in glory in less than a generation, and finally become a "ghost" town. Exhibits in the Western Trails Museum portray in a vivid manner the early history of the west.

In carrying on his professional work, Mr. Speer has traveled over nearly 500,000 miles of Western trails, from Canada to Mexico and from the Rocky Mountains to the Pacific Coast. Included in the collection are over 20,000 photographs taken by Speer over a long period of years.

### School of Mines

In 1904, Speer entered the Colorado School of Mines, where his first real interest in minerals started. Very few people collected minerals at that time and he tells of the many fine crystallized specimens laying around the miners' bunkhouses, or even cast out upon the dumps as waste gangue material from the prosperous mines. With the present wide public interest in minerals, it is not generally possible to obtain good material as freely as in the past.

After graduating from the Colorado School of Mines, his work took him about from place to place, but he did preserve many of the fine specimens collected in the early days of mining. These are to be seen in the Western Trails Museum.

### School Children Visit

The Speer collections are arranged in a neat and systematic manner, all specimens being properly and plainly labeled, so the visitor may wander about and read the explanatory inscriptions. Metallic and other economic minerals are arranged in special cases, while in other sections are featured polished specimens of the quartz and other semi-precious minerals. No duplicate specimens are kept on exhibit. These are passed along to the local school exhibits for study and teaching purposes.

Thousands of visitors come to view the Western Trails Museum each year; the registrations book last year indicated calls of visitors from every state in the Union and a number of foreign countries. No small part of the visitors to the museum are the numerous groups of local school children and high school students. These groups are conducted

through the exhibits by Mr. and Mrs. Speer and are otherwise given special consideration. No less than 50 local collectors have received their inspiration from visits to the Speer institution.

### One Man's Work

The building housing the collections, the glass cases and all other work necessary to house the exhibits was done by Mr. Speer, aided by his wife, aside from his regular occupation. The museum is their hobby and their life. The Western Trails Museum is purely a hobby. No charge is made for admission and nothing is offered for sale. Visitors who wish to add a specimen to the exhibits to aid in the educational work are welcome to do so, but there are no "strings attached" to the invitation extended by the proprietors to all visitors who may wish to call.

At present Mr. Speer is an employee of the Texas Company, but they never miss the opportunity to spend their annual vacation following the lure of the Western Trails in search of additional specimens to add to the extensive collections.

Marion A. Speer passed away  
August 27, 1978.