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The Rock Slab News
Richard Butler Editor
205 N. Western Ave. #118
Anaheim, CA 92801-7005



Happy 4th of
July 2000

SEARCHERS GEM & MINERAL SOCIETY, INC.

The Rock Slab News



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Classified Ads: send in ads as soon as possible because space may be limited.

Announcements, Birthdays and Anniversaries: submit by the end of the first week of the month for publication in the next month's paper.



VOLUME 35, ISSUE 7

The Rock Slab News



PUBLISHED BY THE
SEARCHERS GEM AND MINERAL SOCIETY, INC.

Established June 20, 1958

Affiliations: California Federation of Mineralogical Societies and American Federation of Mineralogical Societies

Mailing Address: PO BOX 3492, Anaheim, CA 92803

(E-mail): Slabnews@aol.com

(web page) <http://www.gemandmineral.com/searchers.html>

CLUB OFFICERS

President	Betty Nelson	714-530-1365	Treasurer	Alicia Ojeda	714-635-4266
1 st Vice President	James Perlowin	949-837-7213	Federation Director	Beth Pelfrey	714-774-2754
2 nd Vice President	Joan Macomber	714-821-0129	Director	Walter Mroch	714-826-2132
Secretary	Nancy Norlund	714-960-6957			

COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS

Anaheim Arts Council	Margaret Neeley	714-535-2030	Silent Auction	Jerry Norlund	714-960-6957
Arts Council Alternate	Richard Butler	714-484-1947	Sunshine	Dottie Johnson	714-535-8579
Historian	Jan Gillette	714-776-9467	Veterans Coordinator	John Velazquez	310-835-4432
Library	Bob Dixon	714-534-5063	Ways & Means Chairman	Open	Help needed
Membership	Milly Arvanites	714-838-1924	Greeter	Larry Richey	714-846-3573
Monthly Drawing	Jerry Norlund	714-960-6957	Workshop Coordinator	Herb Beckman	714-778-1496
Phone Committee	Doris Pelfrey	714-774-2754	Youth Chairman	Norbert Bernhardt	714-801-2181
2001 Show Chairman					
Rock Slab Editor	Richard Butler	714-484-1947	Rock Slab Mail Out	Paul Ellis	714-893-8238
Hospitality	Lana Brown	714-870-4859			

Regular Meetings are held on the second Tuesday of each month at the new **Anaheim Downtown Community Center, 250 E. Center Street, Anaheim, CA.**

Visitors are always welcome.

Board meetings are held on the third Thursday of each month, January through December. The meetings are held at the new **Anaheim Downtown Community Center, 250 E. Center Street, Anaheim, CA.**

Members are always welcome.

Membership Dues: Annually: \$20 for adults, \$25 per couple, and \$2 for junior members under 17 years in age.

Field Trips: Held on the published dates of each month. Trip maps, added activities, time changes and other pertinent information will be published in **The Rock Slab News**.

Workshop: The workshop time and dates can be found on the monthly calendar.

Deadline for Articles: Must be in the hands of the editor by the **Friday** following each regular monthly meeting to insure publication for the next month.

Mail to:

Richard Butler, 205 North Western Avenue, #118, Anaheim, CA, 92801-7005, or FAX to 714-484-1949, or submit via
E-mail: Slabnews@aol.com

July 2000

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
*Birthdays #Anniversary						1 Work shop 3-7 pm
2	3	4 * Nancy Bright *John Wayne Clinard Show Committee 7 to 9 pm	5	6 Work shop 6:30-10:00 pm	7	8 Work shop 3-7 pm
9	10	11 Searchers Meet- ing 7-9 pm *Jay Selden	12	13 Work shop 6:30-10:00 pm *Don Setto	14	15 Work shop 3-7 pm *Martin Rigby
16	17 *Bob Gabourel *Thomas Bross	18	19	20 Work shop 6:30-10:00 pm Board meeting 7-9 pm	21 #Michael & Grace McGee	22 Work shop 3-7 pm
23	24	25 # Tommy & Nancy Grogan	26 *Tom Talip	27 Work shop 6:30-10:00 pm	28 *Vic Cook	29 Work shop 3-7 pm
30	31					

Caring and Sharing

4

Harry Nelson had successful kidney removal surgery Sunday, June 18. Betty would appreciate cards.

2nd Vice President Joan Macomber

What's New at the Natural History Museum?

Searchers will discover a full-day field trip at the Los Angeles Natural History Museum.

The Gem Artists of North America

May 4 - July 30, 2000, In the Hall of Gems and Minerals

An exquisite exhibition of selected gemstone artworks by members of The Gem Artists of North America (GANA). This exhibition features works by 18 of North America's finest gemstone artists-members.

The lapidary arts have experienced a renaissance in recent years. The work currently being executed by some of North America's gem artists is unsurpassed. GANA members include many of the top award-winning gem cutters in the world. The gemstone artworks presented in this exhibition represent some of the finest, most innovative and most beautiful ever presented on public display. Some works in the exhibition show the influence of the Russian master Faberge or the German artisans of Idar-Oberstein; others completely break with tradition, employing techniques, styles and motifs that are distinctly modern and 'American'. Brachia, the world's largest transparent gemstone sculpture at approximately 6 feet in height, is included in the display.

Meteorites

March 10 - August 13, 2000, In the Hall of Gems and Minerals

This temporary exhibition provides an introduction to the fascinating story of meteorites. Fine specimens of all of the major types of meteorites are exhibited. Featured in the exhibition are the three meteorites found in Los Angeles County including the Los Angeles Meteorite, the first Martian Meteorite known to have hit in the U.S.

Savage Ancient Seas

May 26 - October 9, 2000

Travel back in time 70 million years when massive 40-foot long mosasaurs, fierce flesh-eating fish, and 15-foot long sea turtles ruled the oceans while dinosaurs dominated the land. If you thought dinosaurs were ferocious...wait until you see these Cretaceous creatures that lurked beneath the waves.

In partnership with Triebold Paleontology, the Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County has developed an ancient underwater environment where visitors can experience enormous, vicious sea monsters of the Cretaceous Period. The exhibition includes more than 50 prehistoric marine skeletons, including actual specimens and casts that are too fragile and rare to be transported from their permanent homes, mounted in extraordinary three-dimensional displays. The skeletons are mounted dramatically both on the floor and suspended from the ceiling above, while the walls of the exhibition hall are painted with life-size depictions of ancient marine animals.

Admission Price:

Adult: \$8.00

Children: \$2.00

Seniors and Students with ID: \$5.50

Children under 5: Free

Museum Hours:

Open 7 days per week from 10 AM to 5 PM. Closed July 4th.

Contact the Natural History by E-mail via their web page at <http://www.nhm.org/whatsnew.html>

Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County
900 Exposition Blvd., Los Angeles, CA 90007
213/763-DINO

**2nd Vice President
Joan Macomber**

5

Giant Crystal Cave Discovered

So clear, you can read text through the crystals. A gigantic cave of crystals has been discovered in an old silver mine in Spain.

The geode, which is eight meters (26 ft.) long and crammed full of gypsum prisms, has been put under police guard to prevent souvenir hunters from raiding the extraordinary natural phenomenon.

The geologist who announced the find, Javier Garcia-Guinea, wants to turn the site into a tourist attraction. He told BBC News Online that up to 10 people could sit inside the geode - an object normally small enough to hold in your hands.

"Bending your body between the huge crystals is an incredible sensation," he said. "When I was young I dreamt of flying, but never to go into a geode internally covered with transparent crystals."

Rumors of the existence of a giant gypsum geode had been circulating among mineral collectors since December. But it was only on 28 May that Javier Garcia-Guinea, from the Spanish Council for Scientific Research (CSIC) in Madrid, finally managed to track down the cave.

"The crystals are absolutely transparent and perfect," he said. The geologist has searched the international literature and can find no other object to compare in size. The geode - essentially a rock cavity which has become lined with crystalline deposits - is eight meters in length, 1.8 meters wide and 1.7 meters high (26 feet by six by six). The crystals of gypsum - hydrous calcium sulfate - are about half a meter in length.

The giant geode may have formed at the same time as a geological event called the Messinian salinity crisis. At this time, about six million years ago, the Mediterranean Ocean evaporated, depositing thick layers of salts. The same, salt-saturated fluids could have filled up the Spanish geode, which lies near the coast. The drying out of the Mediterranean was probably caused by a restriction in the straits of Gibraltar, the sea's only connection with rest of the Earth's oceans.

Javier Garcia-Guinea is concerned with theft and has blocked the entrance to the geode with five tons of rock and called in the police to guard the location. After a period of scientific study, he hopes the cave can be turned into a major local tourist attraction. "The next possibility is to drill a hole to fix a window in the geode to show the tourists. Almeria is little town with nice beaches just four kilometers from the mine and is well known to English holiday makers."

NOTICE !!

Alfons Kontvis will offer his COLLECTION of GEMSTONE, SLABS and CHUNKS FOR SALE on the 23rd of July from 10 am to 3 pm at 6661 Klondike Ave. in Westminster (714) 897-1143

Retraction

From: Joan Macomber

Please disregard the comment on the cover of the June Rock Slab News to call Millie regarding a bar-b-q. **DO NOT CALL MILLIE.** A bar-b-q is being schedule, but Millie is not responsible for this event. Specifics will be forthcoming.

FOR SALE

1981 YAMAHA 175

Off road/Street legal. In good shape!! Was \$400.00 Now \$300.00

Call Ross

(714) 937-0560

Draft Environmental Impact Statement and the Summary can be obtained the
Rocky Mountain Research Station, Publication Distribution, 240 West
Prospect Road, Fort Collins, CO 80526-2098.
Fax orders will be accepted at 800-777-5805

May 10, 2000 (Volume 65, Number 91)]

[Proposed Rules]

[Page 30275-30288]

Special Areas; *Road less Area Conservation*

AGENCY: Forest Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice of proposed rulemaking; request for comment.

SUMMARY: The Forest Service is proposing new regulations to protect certain road less areas within the National Forest System. This proposed rulemaking would prohibit road construction and reconstruction in most inventoried road less areas of the National Forest System and require evaluation of road less area characteristics in the context of overall multiple-use objectives during land and resource management plan revisions. This proposal is in response to strong public sentiment for protecting road less areas and the clean water, biological diversity, wildlife habitat, forest health, dispersed recreational opportunities, and other public benefits provided by these areas. This action also responds to budgetary concerns and the need to balance forest management objectives with funding priorities. The intent of this rulemaking is to provide lasting protection in the context of multiple-use management for inventoried road less areas and other unroaded areas within the National Forest System. The Forest Service invites written comments on this proposed rule and will analyze and consider those comments in the development of a final rule.

DATES: Written comments must be received by July 17, 2000.

ADDRESSES: Send written comments to the USDA Forest Service--CAET,
Attention: Road less Areas Proposed Rule, P.O. Box 221090, Salt Lake
City, Utah, 84122. Reviewers, who wish to send comment by e-mail, may do so by accessing the worldwide web at roadless.fs.fed.us and selecting the comment option. Comments may also be sent via fax to 877- 703-2494.
Comments received in response to this rulemaking, including names and addresses when provided, will be considered part of the public record and will be available for public inspection and copying. A copy of the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS), the DEIS Summary, and other information related to this rulemaking is available at the roadless.fs.fed.us website. Reviewers may request printed copies or compact disks, as available, of the Draft Environmental Impact Statement and the Summary by writing to the Rocky Mountain Research
Station, Publication Distribution, 240 West Prospect Road, Fort Collins, CO 80526-2098. Fax orders will be accepted at 800-777-5805. When ordering, requesters must specify if they wish to receive the summary or full set of documents and if the material should be provided in print or on disk. Additional information is available at the roadless.fs.fed.us website as well as by calling the number listed under the For Further Information Contact heading.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Scott Conroy, Project Director, (703)
605-5299.

FOR THE COMPLETE NOTICE GO TO: <http://www.gpo.ucop.edu/search/fedfld.html>

AND ENTER PAGE NUMBER 30288 IN APPROPRIATE PLACE YOU WILL GET BOTH THE MEETING INFORMATION AND THE PROPOSED RULES.

SUSPENSE IS: July 17, 2000

From: Robert L. Cranston

FOR SALE

Neycraft Centrifugal casting machine brand new COST \$367.00 sell for \$320.00
Neycraft fiber furnace brand new cost \$378.00 sell for \$325.00
(If these two are bought together, the cost is \$590.00)
Lortone Tumbler Model 45c 4 lb. Cap. Brand new, still in box cost \$71.85 sell for \$35.00
Used Lortone Tumbler 1 1/2 lb. Cap. \$12.00
Mark IV Faceting machine complete outfit with \$500.00 worth of extras, used sell for \$998.00
Used Polishing unit with dust collector in rear \$120.00
Used Raytech Deluxe model slab and trim saw \$240.00
Genie diamond grinding and polishing machine, 6 wheels older model \$300.00

CALL

Roger Ewing
714-525-1826

E-mail
Jollypaco@aol.com

VICE PRESIDENT GORE ANNOUNCES *NEW LAND PROTECTIONS IN CALIFORNIA DESERT*

Calls on Congress to Pass Administration's Lands Legacy Initiative

Washington, DC — Vice President Al Gore announced today that the Administration and a non-profit conservation organization have secured the money needed to complete a historic acquisition of pristine desert lands in Southern California. The Vice President also called on Congress to support the Administration's Lands Legacy initiative, which includes funding to protect nearby lands from future development.

Under the funding package announced today, the National Park Service (NPS) and the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) will acquire 180,605 acres within and adjacent to federally protected lands between Barstow and Needles. The land will be purchased from the Catellus Development Corporation with \$5 million in federal funds secured by the Administration in the fiscal year 2000 budget and a \$15 million donation from The Wild lands Conservancy.

"These stunning California Desert lands are being preserved for future generations through a true public-private team effort that could serve as a model in other areas," said Vice President Gore. "I commend the Wild lands Conservancy for its hard work and generosity. Protecting magnificent lands through this type of partnership is a central goal of our Lands Legacy initiative."

The purchase, to be completed within the next month, builds on the California Desert Protection Act signed by President Clinton in 1994. The Act, sponsored by Senator Dianne Feinstein, provided new or enhanced protection for 6.6 million acres, including the new Mojave National Preserve and 69 BLM wilderness areas.

Under an agreement in principle announced in December 1998, Catellus agreed to transfer to the federal government a total of 405,000 acres within and around the lands protected by the 1994 Act. Although the lands were valued at \$61.6 million, Catellus agreed to a purchase price of \$45 million. The first phase of the acquisition was completed earlier this year with \$10 million in federal funds and \$15 million from the Wild lands Conservancy. Today's announcement sets the stage for completing the second and final phase of the acquisition.

The areas to be protected include some of the most pristine and scenic desert lands in the world. Their features include cinder cones and lava flows, spectacular ranges of rock and flowing sand dunes, vast valleys, intriguing cactus gardens and important habitat for the endangered Desert Tortoise. The Park Service within the Mojave National Preserve will acquire approximately 83,000 acres, and the Bureau of Land Management will acquire approximately 97,000 acres, including lands in six designated wilderness areas — Clipper Mountains, Dead Mountains, Piute Mountains, Bristol Mountains, Old Woman Mountains and the Chemehuevi Mountains wilderness.

The Vice President commended Senator Feinstein for her leadership in securing the federal funds; The Wild lands Conservancy for its generous donation; and Catellus for selling the land at a substantially discounted price.

The Administration's proposed fiscal year 2001 budget included \$15 million to complete the second phase of the acquisition. In light of The Wild lands Conservancy donation, the Administration yesterday proposed redirecting the proposed fiscal year 2001 funding to acquire other critical California desert lands on a willing-seller basis.

Unfortunately, Congress' budget failed to provide funding for the President's Lands Legacy Initiative. As a result, the House Interior Appropriations Subcommittee yesterday could only provide a small portion of needed land acquisition funding, with no funding to acquire critical desert lands.

"I am deeply disappointed that Congress is slashing funds that would allow us to forge other partnerships like this one to protect critical lands across America," the Vice President said. "I urge Congress to provide permanent and full funding for Lands Legacy so we can provide states and communities the resources they need to protect their precious green spaces."

Today's acquisition completes the largest purchase of private land in California's history and the largest purchase of land from one seller by the Bureau of Land Management in its 50-year history. Once acquired, the lands would be open to public access for outdoor recreation including hiking, hunting and other permitted uses.

Additional details are available on The Wild lands Conservancy website: www.wildlandsconservancy.org

From: Robert L. Cranston

California Federation of Mineralogical Societies
61st Annual Show & Convention

GOLD & GEM SHOW

Convention
Center



Riverside
CA

AUGUST 4-6, 2000

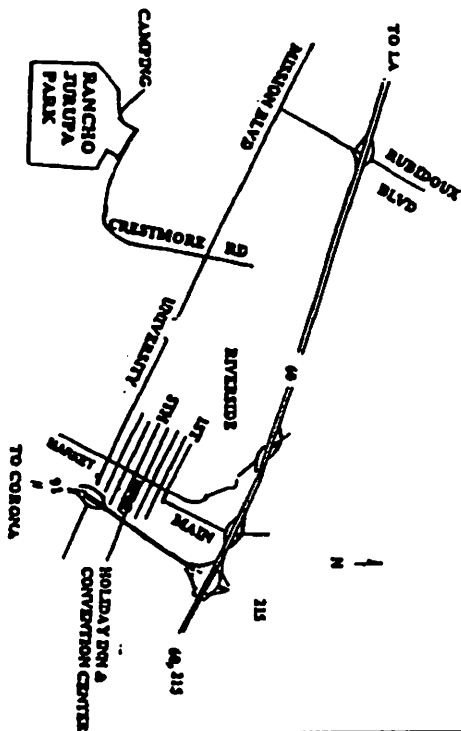
Fri & Sat. 10-6 Sun 10-5

Hosted by: Valley Prospectors

**Dealers * Exhibits * Jewelry * Lectures * Prizes
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Faceting Symposium**

Chairman: Bural LaRue-P.O. Box 1657-Rialto, CA 92377

Admission: \$5 adults \$4 students, seniors
Under 12-free with adult



"CFMS Show dates for July 2000"

8

July 14-15 Arroyo Grande, CA

Orcutt Mineral Society, Inc.

Arroyo Grande High School Parking Lot

Fair Oaks and Valley Road

Hours 8-5 all 3 days

Wes Linger felt (805) 929-3788

July 21, 22, 23 San Rafael, CA

Marin Mineral Society

Exhibition Hall - Marin Civic Center

Avenue of the Flags (part of Gem Faire)

Hours: Fri 12-7; Sat 10-7: Sun 10-5

Maryann Maning (415) 883-8020

A Thank You

The 41st Searchers Show Committee would like to thank all club members for their help, understanding and support during our gem show. You helped make our security job during the show much easier. We would like to give a special thanks to Jim Williamson, Bud Header-son and Dick Reed for all the hard work and jumping right in to keep the lights on during the show Thanks for getting involved and making it work. We would like to thank all those that walked the many Miles and kept an eye on everything that was going on during the show for us that made it a safe show. I would also like to thank the ones that spent the boring hours guarding the doors and watching to make sure every one was protected as we loaded out the show Sunday night we know you were tired and would have liked to just gone home but you hung in until the job was done. Thanks for you extra effort and a job well done.

Larry Richey

Show security chairman 2000

Something to make you stop and think part one.

From: Stan Wilson

The following is something to make us stop and think.

Take this quiz (mentally)

1. Name the five wealthiest people in the world.
2. Name the last five Heisman trophy winners.
3. Name the last five winners of the Miss America contest.
4. Name ten people who have won the Nobel or Pulitzer Prize.
5. Name the last half dozen Academy Award winners for best actor and actress.
6. Name the last decade's worth of World Series winners.

How did you do?

The point is, none of us remember the headliners of yesterday. These are no second-rate achievers. They are the best in their fields. But the applause dies. Awards tarnish. Achievements are forgotten. Accolades and certificates are buried with their owners.

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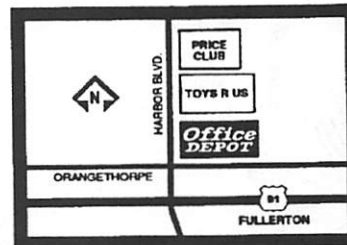
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(Fullerton Town Center)
(714) 879-9530

Store Hours: Mon.- Fri: 7am to 9pm Sat: 9am to 9pm Sun: 10am to 6pm

Now, take this quiz: Part Two

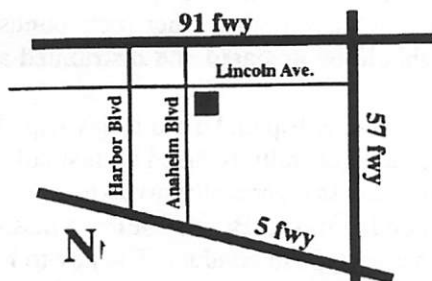
1. List a few teachers who aided your journey through school.
2. Name three friends who have helped you through a difficult time.
3. Name five people who have taught you something worthwhile.
4. Think of a few people who have made you feel appreciated and special.
5. Think of five people you enjoy spending time with.
6. Name half a dozen heroes whose stories have inspired you.

Easier? The lesson?

The people who make a difference in your life are not the ones with the most credentials, the most money, or the most awards. They are the ones that care.



20 S. Anaheim Blvd. Anaheim CA, 92805 Downtown Anaheim 714.991.9700



Hours:

Sun-Thu 11:00 am - 10:00 pm

Fri-Sat 11:00 am - 12:00 am

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Monday - Friday
4 p.m. to 7 p.m.*

SOME THOUGHTS ON BEING A FIELD TRIP LEADER

By Richard Pankey,
Field Trips - North

Field trips are an integral part of rockhounding. When asked why did you join a gem and mineral club, one the most common response is "to go on field trips". Rock collecting is fun and rewarding, not only for the rocks, minerals and fossils collected but also for the time spent out in nature and with other rockhounds. Being a field trip leader is also fun and rewarding, and adds many responsibilities. When you accept the duties of a field trip leader you accept the responsibility to provide a safe, enjoyable and productive rock collecting experience.

The main tasks of a field trip leader are to organize and to lead. However, you can still be a good and effective field trip leader even if you don't know the collecting site. In this case you need a good guide; somebody who is very knowledgeable and familiar with the site. Not all good field trip leaders are guides and not all good guides are good field trip leaders. To be successful takes planning, preparation, care and dedication to do a good job, and an interest in field trips and collecting. There is no one way to be a field trip leader. Good field trip leaders come to it from many and varied backgrounds. Experience seems to be the best teacher and learning from one's mistakes the second best. A third is to observe how other field trip leaders do their job. A key for most field trip leaders is that they love to go on field trips, they love to collect and they enjoy other rockhounds.

There are a number of sources for potential field trips. They include the various professionally written/published field trip guides, CFMS Map Book (old and out of print), word of mouth from other field trip leaders and experienced field trip articles in magazine, and the like. Too often much of the information is lacking in detail and/or out of date. Once a potential site has been selected, then the real work begins - researching the site, planning, advertising, and finally, and most important, conducting the field trip.

Research. After a trip/collecting site is selected, try to find out as much as possible about the site. This may include a prospecting trip to the site prior to planning and advertising. You need to find out as much as possible about the site - is the site on public or private land, material to be collected, tools required, road conditions, pertinent mileage, camping facilities, potential hazards, etc.

Planning. Planning is a continuous process that starts when the site is selected and ends when the trip is completed. Planning should cover all aspects of the trip down to the smallest detail. It should start far enough in advance so that there can be good, effective, and timely advertising.

Advertising. One of the most important steps to a successful field trip is effective advertising. Effective advertising is the field trip information prepared, presented and distributed in such a way that other rockhounds not only want to come to your trip but do come to your trip. Fliers and notices should be prepared and distributed a minimum of two months in advance of the trip.

Conducting the trip. There are two basic types of field trips - a one-day trip and a multi-day trip. The one-day trip is typically to one site, a minimal driving distance (close to home), and generally focused on just collecting or visiting a museum or mine. In addition to collecting at several sites, a multi-day trip generally involves other rockhound activities - camping, potluck dinners, happy hours, campfires, and extended travel. By it's nature, a multi-day trip involves more planning and attention by the leader, but both require the same steps to conduct. The key to having a successful field trip is for all involved to have a clear, complete understanding of what is going on and when. That is, make sure that all participants know what is going to happen, what is expected of them, and when and where will things happen. You don't want anyone left out or for them to feel confused or left out. Start each trip, each day with a meeting. This meeting should include all details on the collecting (material, tools needed, distance, etc.), the other activities of the day, general and special safety considerations, caravanning, etc. Whenever possible, have examples of material to be collected for everyone to see. Have examples of the material as it will be found in it's natural state so people know what they are looking for.

Responsibilities of the Field Trip Leader. The responsibility of the field trip leader is to conduct a safe and enjoyable trip that provides the participants with the opportunity to collect good quality rocks, minerals and/or fossils. The leader should be familiar with (and have copies) and practice the AFMS Code of Ethics. The leader must see that all participants conduct himself or herself in a safe, responsible manner. And all participants must respect the authority of the field trip leader.

Show Committee Report

At the Board Meeting on June 15th 2000 a decision was made to put all Show Committee meeting on hold for now. A New Show Chairman will be making up a new roster of people that want to be on the Show Committee for 2001.

MEMBERSHIP

By: Milly Arvanites

We now have 199 members

199

Clark N. Benich

202 W. Cliffwood

Anaheim, CA 92802

714-750-7105

E-mail Cnbenich@aol.com

The Rock "N" Kids Corner

Please join us Rock "N" Kids for:

NEW SPECIAL EXHIBIT!!

This exhibition features works by 18 of North America's finest gemstone artists - members of The Gem Artists of North America (GANA) and featuring BAHIA: The World's Largest Transparent Gem located in the Hall of Gems and Minerals at the Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County in Exposition Park. The Hall of Gems and Minerals has the "best U.S. gem and mineral collection west of Washington, DC."

After gathering at the lobby, we will proceed to the Hall of Gems and Minerals, see the exhibit, and then you can tour through the rest of the museum.

Cost: \$8.00 adults, \$2.00 children (5-12), and free under 5 years of age.

When: July 23, 2000

Time: Promptly at 12:30 p.m.

Where to meet: Lobby of Natural History Museum

Address: Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County

900 Exposition Blvd., Los Angeles, CA 90007

213/763-DINO

Driving time: approximately 45 minutes from O. C.

Directions: Take 405 (North) to 110 Harbor Freeway (North) exit Exposition Blvd. and head west, turn left onto Menlo Ave.

Parking on the right (on Menlo Ave) and museum entrance is on the left.

For a map also see <http://www.nhm.org/lacmnh/directions.html> (Depending on where you live you could take I-5 or the 91).

Consult a map for the shortest route.

FYI There is a snack bar downstairs in the Natural History Museum and also a McDonalds near the Museum of Science and Industry.

Plan to make this trip! Please RSVP for above event by July 17, 2000.

You can reach me at 714-801-2181 or ntbern@aol.com

Norbert Bernhardt, Youth Chairman

Our Rock "N" Kids and parents had a great time in Irvine, June 10, 2000.

We went to a paleontology lab and we were given a tour by Mark Roeder.

10 kids and 9 parents attended. We saw petrified and fossilized bones. Some dated back 75 million years! Petrified wood, large 1 1/2 foot diameter ammonites, mastadon bones and many other items were also on display. These were dug out, in the Orange County area, where the toll road is today.

You'll miss out on lots of fun, if you don't make it to our next Rock 'n' Kids event!

**2nd Vice President
Joan Macomber**

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Exploring Southwest Deserts with Connie Van Kampen

Great Basin National Park and Topaz Mountain

Orientation: Monday, June 26, 7-10 PM, Yorba Linda Education Center, Rm. 304

Field Trip: July 1-8

Meet at scenic Cathedral Gorge State Park, NV and explore its sandstone labyrinths and incredible rock formations. Visit historic Pioche. Tour Lehman Caves while learning about its intricate geology and history. Enjoy beautiful, high altitude, stream-side camping and hiking in Great Basin National Park. Collect topaz crystals at Topaz Mountain and find the infamous dug way geodes. This is a great trip for rockhounds. Easy hiking; primitive camping at Topaz Mountain (no fees). Good camping facilities at Upper Lehman campground; fee area. Conventional vehicles OK; no pets. Tuition: \$56 - Lab fee: \$2, Class #390701

Virgin Valley Opal Field Trip

May 27 to June 4, 2000

Lana Brown led an intimate group of Searchers through Nevada's historic mining history and into the Virgin Valley to hunt for opals and petrified wood. As Bill and Issy Burns discussed at the June Monthly Meeting, the opal in the Virgin Valley is created by wood replacement. 14 million years ago, a volcano erupted covering the northwest corner of Nevada with ash. This is the same volcano that left the ash we dig through at the Hauser Geode Beds or when searching for geodes as far away as Missouri! At the time of the eruption the Virgin Valley area was covered by conifer trees, similar to what you would see in the Sequoias today. A dam was formed by the ash and a lake developed. The mineralized water from the lake seeped through the ash and the silica in the water collected in the casts left by the decaying wood. A later earthquake destroyed the ash dam draining most of the lake. Today the area has numerous opal mines and is the beautiful Sheldon Nature Reserve full of streams, and lakes, visited by an enormous variety of migratory birds, and home to pronghorn antelope, donkeys, eagles, coyotes, bass, and the biggest rainbow trout you ever envisioned! The group stayed 4 nights at the local CCC camp which had a fabulous warm spring swimming pool, warm showers, great drinking water, and fortunately newer pit toilets--all at no cost!

On Wednesday the group dug in the tailings at Rainbow Ridge Opal Mine for \$35.00 each, kids under 10 years are free. When digging in the area, you search for anything resembling a tree branch, or where the light catches your eye when it reflects off a piece of opal. The best find for the day was unearthed by Lana's niece Macy, age 8. Macy discovered a fiery black opal, larger than a golf ball, that had been fractured into several quality specimens. We were informed kids do very well as they have a sharp eye and are advantaged by being close to the ground. On Thursday, after reviewing numerous local collecting sites listed in Lana's rockhound books, the group collected plentiful apache tears and then traveled to a nearby malachite/azurite mine which also held quartz crystals. Sunstones were within 100 miles, but the group passed on that side trip to return to the opal mine on Friday. After numerous socializing events with the mine owners, the group decided to purchase a virgin scoop directly from the mine. The owners, who we now considered friends, dropped approximately an 8 foot forked opalized branch in front of the delighted group. It took all day to go through the 3 yard scoop, but the group was rewarded with thousands of dollars of opalized and petrified wood--after splitting an investment of \$150.00. We were told to keep wet pieces in water (with a drop of bleach) as specimens, but wood and dry pieces could be left out to dry. Glass-like specimens without fire could be left out to dry and the resulting fracturing could bring out fire currently lacking in the opal.

Karyn Cummings, and her friend Tayna joined the adventure and flew into Reno on Friday evening, arriving at the mine on Saturday to dig in the tailing, and flew back Sunday evening. Now that's dedication!

It was a wonderful trip with plentiful specimens, and we'll certainly run the trip again keeping in mind the many collectible rocks and minerals enroute.

**2nd Vice President
Joan Macomber**

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Rock'n Trips Y2K

June

26 Orientation Great Basin/Topaz Mountain NOCCC/Connie Van Kampen

July

1 Lovelock, NV Ammonites COOP/CFMS, Debbie Bunn
(Triassic age amonites, petrified wood) 916/929-6665 or fossilsff@aol.com
1-8 Great Basin Nat. Park/Topaz Mountain NOCCC/Connie Van Kampen
8 Himalaya Mine, Mesa Grande, CA (Tourmaline) San Diego County Gem & Mineral, Simon King
619/444-3731 or simonking1@msn.com
10 Imperial Beach San Diego County Gem & Mineral, John Peck
619/463-9479, Islanders Host
22 Himalaya Mine, Mesa Grande, CA (Tourmaline) San Diego County Gem & Mineral, Simon King
619/444-3731 or simonking1@msn.com
23 Palos Verdes Beach (40 miles) DelAirocks@aol.com

**2nd Vice President
Joan Macomber**

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July 21 to 23, 2000

Petrified Wood Seminar

The North Orange County Gem & Mineral Society is sponsoring a Petrified Wood Seminar at the Smiley Park Country Club, Running Springs, CA. Walt Wright is speaking and is a well known expert and author on petrified woods. This is a wonderful opportunity; a meld of education and ambiance.

\$36.00 per person includes limited dormitory style lodging, three meals Saturday, and breakfast on Sunday. There is space for small RVs without hook ups. Motels are available in Running Springs. Spouses and friends are welcome, the \$36.00 fee will also apply. Those not attending the seminar can relax, swim, shop, bring along wire wrapping or beading projects, and just enjoy.

Seminar availability is limited; the cut off date is July 5, 2000. Contact Don Ogden via e-mail at donogden@aol.com or call (909) 598-2456 or (909) 867-4608.

August

- 4-6 CFMS Show, Riverside CFMS
7-13 Midwest Federation Field Trip Convention CFMS Keweenaw Week 2000, Lake Superior Copper District
(Copper, Silver, Datolite, & associated minerals) Steve Whelan, 906/337-2599 or swhelehan@portup.com
12 Himalaya Mine, Mesa Grande, CA (Tourmaline) San Diego County Gem & Mineral, Simon King
619/444-3731 or simonking1@msn.com
19-20 Green Horn Mountains (170 miles) DelAirocks@aol.com
31-04 South Western Utah (400 miles) DelAirocks@aol.com
TBA Hill of Quartz San Diego County Gem & Mineral, Simon King
619/444-3731 or simonking1@msn.com

September

- 2-4 Cedarville (Labor Day) COOP/CFMS, Debbie Bunn
(Petrified wood, etc.) 916/929-6665 or fossilsff@aol.com
4-6 Kokoweef Cavern Culver City, brad@bigdiff.com
10-16 Camp Paradise, Marysville, CA (450 miles) CFMS, Ray Meisenheimer 805/642-3155
TBA Jade Cove, CA Searchers/Joan Macomber

October

- 9-10 Searies Lake, Trona Culver City, brad@bigdiff.com
9-16 AFMS Show Moab Field Trips (720 miles) COOP/CFMS, Debbie Bunn
(Gastroliths, coprolite, agates, etc.) 916/929-6665 or fossilsff@aol.com or
Keith Lindholm and Carole Lockhart 916/638-2314
14-15 Trona Trona Club/Jon Gladwell at myrddin@imagina.com
21-22 Whillier Claim (140 miles) DelAirocks@aol.com

November

- 23-26 Calico Thanksgiving Searchers/George Lux
23-26 Burro Creek, AZ (400 miles) DelAirocks@aol.com
25-28 Wiley Well Culver City, brad@bigdiff.com

December

- TBA Holiday Party Searchers

Rock'n Trips Y2K

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- 26 Orientation Great Basin/Topaz Mountain NOCCC/Connie Van Kampen

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TBA Holiday Party Searchers

WORKSHOP REPORT

From: Herb Beckman

The Searchers lapidary workshop meets every Thursday from 6:30PM to 10:00PM in the "visual Arts" room in the Downtown Community Center at 250 East Center Street, Anaheim, Ca. Any schedule exceptions are posted in the Rock Slab News monthly calendar.

Use of the Searchers workshop is limited to Searchers members only.

Workshop fees are \$3.00 per session (\$1.00 per hour with a \$3.00 minimum), and are used to defer equipment costs. Fees (if any) for other workshop activities, such as classes in wire wrap, casting, jewelry fabrication, etc. will be established separately.

Visitors are always welcome. There is no charge for visitors, however they are required to comply with workshop rules for safety's sake.

For those new to lapidary activities, we offer instruction in making cabochons in standard / calibrated millimeter sizes because settings for these stones are readily available. To get started, all you need to do is show up at the workshop. The workshop has available, considerable gem cutting material (some from the latest extended Searchers field trip) at no charge, for workshop attendees to use. We also have all the equipment and supplies you will need, except settings, to make nice jewelry. I encourage you to attend. We always have a good time while making beautiful gemstones and jewelry.

As announced at club meetings, we have expert wire wrap jewelry instruction in the workshop on Thursdays, and some Saturdays, to help you learn to make wire wrapped settings for your gemstones. There is currently no shop charge for this activity. Of course, you will need to get your own set of wire wrapping tools for this activity. Most of these tools are available at very reasonable cost these days, and you probably already have some, if not most of them on hand. Lists of these wire wrap tools are available at the workshop.

Come on out to the Searchers workshop and learn to craft fine jewelry using gemstone materials you have collected on Searchers field trips, at gem shows, or at Searchers meetings.. It's easy, and you will learn a lot, and have a good time in the process.

Herb Beckman
Workshop Coordinator

Heritage Day 2000

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On June 4, 2000, the 19th annual Heritage Day Celebration was held at Oak Canyon Nature Center. The weather was fantastic and the the setting beautiful. As you may know the event was co-sponsored by Anaheim Parks and Recreation and the Canyon Hills Junior Women's Club. The focus of the day was on demonstrating arts and crafts of early California. Children were involved in such things as weaving, clay pots, bead work, nail pounding and ring making. Demonstrations included face painting, Native American Dancers, Quilters, Bee Keeping and more.

For the 6th consecutive year the Searchers have Committed their support to this project, taking advantage of the opportunity to educate the public concerning the earth sciences. The support started with a donation of \$100 for materials to build the rings and approximately 70 hours of member's time.

The children, and a few adults (approximately 316) who passed by our booth received a free ring of their design and an opportunity to experience the fine presentation of the Searchers junior members activities displayed by Norbert Bernhardt. Great display Norbert! Those interested, were also provided information about the Searchers Gem & Mineral Society.

Ana Gabourel brought material to make up bead necklaces (for sale). Of course the beads were on a plate, leaving the design to the purchaser. Caroline Chang, a junior member spent most of the day working with Ana constructing necklaces. The necklaces were a sell out! Matt Seldon also a junior member spent most of his day assembling rings.

The money (\$89.00) received from the necklaces and other items will provide our junior members funds for the future activities. This is the first year we have taken advantage of the opportunity to sell at this event.

A special Thanks to: Ken Despain, Larry Richey, John Velazquez, Ed and Irene Lindsay, Elmer and Mary Jane Parsons, Norbert Bernhardt, Ana Gabourel, Richard Butler, New members; Mike Casey, Paul Ellis, Lynn Selden, and junior members Caroline Chang, and Matt Selden who donated time and/or material to make the day a great success.

A special Thanks is also sent out to the Canyon Hills Junior Women's Club for providing the Searchers this opportunity to participate in their Heritage Day Celebration. They are to be congratulated for another fine job of orchestrating a problem free event! When we arrived our tables and chairs were in place and we were provided coffee and donuts. Well as if that was not enough, to show their appreciation, the Canyon Hills Junior Women's Club presented a donation of \$100 to the Searchers.

Jim Williamson

TONOPAH TID BITS AND FALLON FACETS

18

Beth Pelfrey

Because of a non-working fuel pump on my old Land Yacht, I got a very late start on the "Road to Tonopah" and missed a connection with a rockhound friend at Kramer Junction on Highway 395. The next morning, I made my way up to the Northern Mojave Desert, and arrived about noon at Taboose Creek to hook up with the Searchers and the start of the "Great Road Rock Trip".

Everyone in camp was at the Mule Days celebration/craft fair in Bishop so I set up camp, unhooked my own mule from the Yacht and went to town. I ran into Mike and Michele Lee and their wonderful puppy, Sonora, in Bishop and did not see any other Searchers! We shopped and shopped, went back to camp, visited ate and drank learned we had missed Lana Brown, her niece and Joan Macomber who were on their way to the famed Virgin Valley for precious opal.

The next morning we all trooped towards Tonopah. Leaving the Mojave for the Great Basin terrain was an adventure in geologic time travel. The stark beauty of the drive impressed all of us. As we neared our goal, we saw that Coaldale Junction at US 95 and US 6 was for sale. I was not tempted, even though it seemed to come with a "fixer-upper" vehicle. We wheeled into camp off Gilbert Road at Blair Junction to find the whole crew plus Don Setto, a newer member who has been on one other trip with the club.

The wind blew the sand. As always, Faye arrived in the dark after a marathon driving day, what a woman!

The following morning Marvin led us up to the mountain of blue/yellow multi colored jasper - I think it's jasper. It's hard, solid, blue and beautiful...and required sledging and chiseling to get big pieces. Mike, Michele and I along with Don Setto went back up later that day on a "jeep" trail to get more. The wind blew - more! Another field trip at that area was multi-hued jasper up on top of a series of ridges, wonderful stuff, very physical to go after it and heavy to carry home. I loved it. Sonora loved it. We also went after petrified wood and agate material. Walter Mroch took us to his claim for popcorn crystals the name of which I will never remember, where some of us also got interesting but poor grade petrified wood. The wind blew.

One of the highlights was the Rocktail Party given by Ken and Mary Nelson in honor of their elegant new Aerbus by Rexhall. As always great food: Walter made grilled kebobs which were superb (Is that good, Walt?), Ken and Mary offered a superbly unusual brand of champagne a la grit. Awning and slide outs had be taken in because THE WIND BLEW. Campfire the last night there was at my and the Lees' rigs, hoping that by being somewhat off the dirt road, there wouldn't be as much blowing sand. It was better, but THE WIND STILL BLEW.

We left a day early for Fallon because the **< & \$#@** WIND WOULDN'T STOP blowing! Coaldale Junction was still for sale; I was not tempted! Mike, Michele, Sonora and I left together and made a fabulous stop at the Nevada State Museum, the old Carson City Mint building, a big wow. Nevada history is the history of mining in the West and we heard that the historic town of Goldfield, which many Searchers have visited, would go on the auction block for back taxes the next Saturday. Sadly, we couldn't go snap up a building lot or brothel house. At a small town (are there any others where we go?) dinner stop, we met a man who had retired from the Naval Air Station in that small town - I forgot the name - We asked him what he did, and he said, "I can't tell you; it's top secret." A few minutes later we learned he had worked in maintenance. I guess everyone is so impressed with the secrecy of those establishments, they wouldn't want it to get out how many brooms, mops and cans of Tid-e bowl they had.

The campground at Fallon was great, complete with the biggest Akita I have ever seen, called "Gunny" as he was born on the Marine Corps birthday. Sonora wanted to play. John and Susannah Wease's Daisy had been brushing her off as a nuisance much of the time, and Gunny was almost that staid, but she persevered and had a ball slamming into "the Hulk." the wind in the Great Basin Desert settled down to almost a gentle breeze. I will leave the extolling of the material at Wonderstone Mountain to better rockhounds than

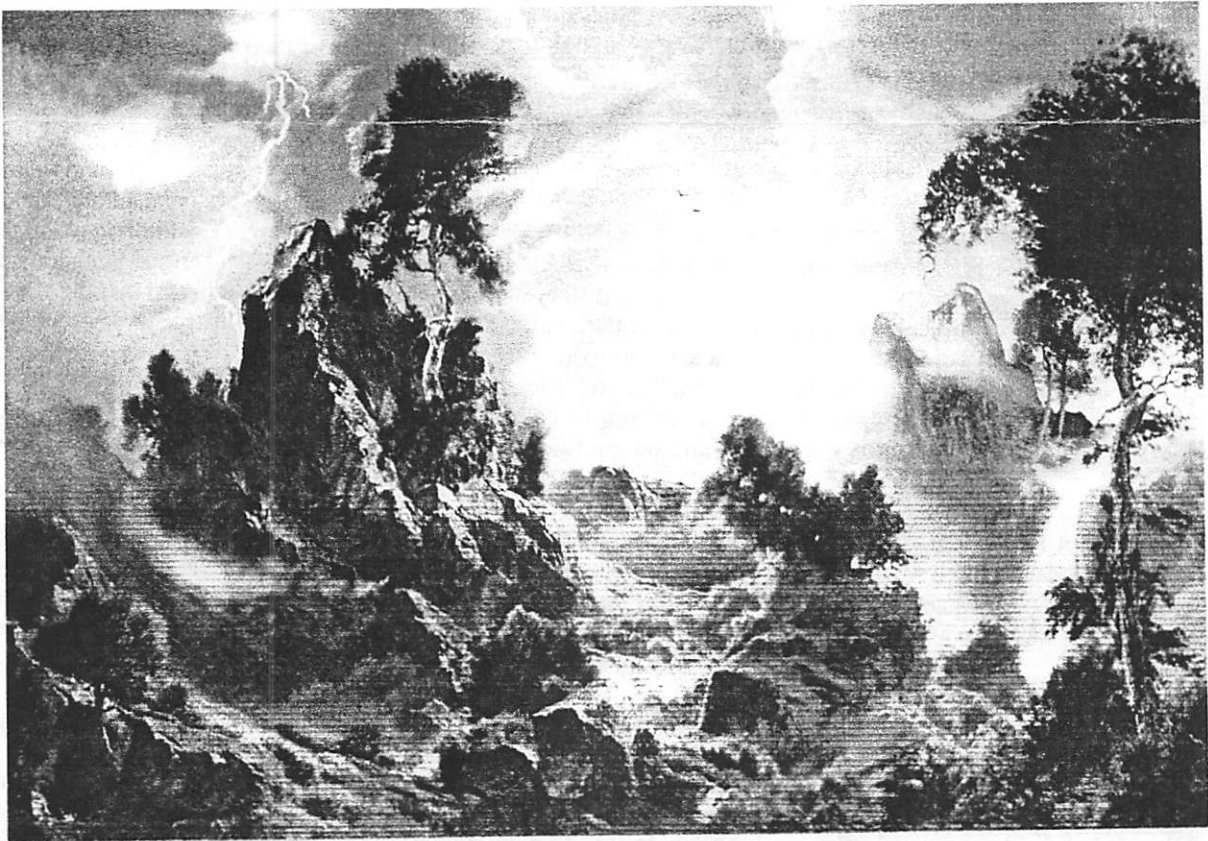
I. We hit the rock shops - two in Fallon, none in Tonopah, the mining museum and the casino. One of the Fallon rock shops was our kind of place, rows and crates of material, a friendly proprietor who gave us maps to good stuff not in the books, and lots of background on the local area. Sonny (that was his name) knew every square inch of the terrain around there. The other had nice but expensive items and it was obvious the owner was not a rockhound, even if he did have the beautiful Wonderstone claim! Tony Lira and I sledged out huge chunks of a gorgeous banded rhyolite on top of the mountain. I won at Wheel of Fortune but put it all back; Carol Beckman was smarter, she didn't put it all back. The rock pounding was beyond description; the weather was super (I love heat and wind-oops, did I really say that?.) and the trips led by Marvin were up to his usual high standard.

Rather than a pot luck or Rocktail party in Fallon, we went to dinner at the Station Casino Diner. The food was good, the apple pie was better and the company sparkling. Michele Lee wrote a wonderful poem to Marvin, one of the best things of literary merit and gratitude I have heard in a very long time.

I was sad to break camp but eager for the next adventure: a trip to Northern California's Gold Country with Mike and Michele. They own property in a "town" called Dobbins off Hwy 20. What a change! Rain and more rain, but not cold, for a day and a half, then boom, perfect weather. Nice place, nice people. We even managed to host their friends Searcher-style for grilled steaks and the trimmings one night. On the way down the mountain we stopped in Marysville at a fruit orchard and for one dollar a pound got Lambert and Bing cherries, apricots, white and yellow peaches, and red plums with sweet yellow pulp, wow. It was heaven for fruit lovers.

The drive home was uneventful until Sunday morning and the Land Yacht almost reverted to the Money Pit when a Steer Safe nut gave way and the loose spring started digging away at a front tire. I had a time in a sleepy little town called Wasco in the San Joaquin Valley, near nowhere finding the right size lock nuts and making them go back onto a chewed up eye bolt I couldn't replace. It was hot, dirty smelly work under the "Pit", but I finally overcame all the obstacles - do you know, no one in that town was even curious what a woman of certain years was doing climbing around the suspension system of a 30 year old motorhome on a Sunday. Gives you pause for a thought: are all the women in that town competent mechanics? If so, I say, "Right On, Sisters!"

As you can tell, it was another in a long line of successful Searchers extended field trips. I will say a hearty THANKS to everyone who came and went on the trip for making it such good fun and especially to Marvin and Jacque Mog for leading it and being such good sports when we griped but then we never really do!



"A Soul's Wind"

1995 Dale TerBush

Dale TerBush Publishing ... Scottsdale, Arizona

WWW.TERBUSHPUBLISHING.COM



Searchers Promoting the Hobby

Larry Richey was recently acknowledged for his work with the Long Beach Veterans Hospital vocational rehabilitation program in both the Orange County Register and The Fountain Valley View newspapers. This was also a celebration of how lapidary volunteers have helped to make a difference in the lives of many veterans. The Orange County Fairgrounds recently hosted a Tribute to Veterans where among others the VA Lapidary Exhibit was on display. He has been instrumental in aiding and teaching the veterans lapidary skills thru his optimism and support. His student John Velasquez went on to win first place and Ed Lindsay won second place in the National Veterans Creative Arts Festival competition, which had over 20,000 entrants. Winners are clearly made thru the proper encouragement, inspiration and focus. Larry will be in an upcoming issue of the Lapidary Journal under the 1999 Jewelry Division Award Winner and inductee to the National Rockhound and Lapidary Hall of Fame. If you missed the works of art he creates at the show then please check his work out online at <http://www.gemandmineral.com/halloffame.html>

From all of the club members a big thanks for making a difference to Larry Richey, John Velasquez and Ed Lindsay. You are all positive influences on the hobby and we are proud to have you as Searchers.

The Board of Directors