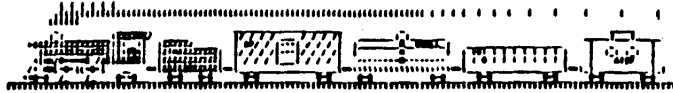




The OPAL EXPRESS

Published monthly by the
American Opal Society...



Vol. 18, No. 1
February 1986

FEBRUARY -- A TIME FOR HEARTS, FLOWERS AND OPAL EVALUATION

Bring your favorite Valentine and your pet opal to the February convergence. Expect a mood of excitement and anticipation (maybe some awesome bewilderment as well) as the incredible flashing plays of color come under scrutiny in our opal evaluation session. Learn the value of your opal (or someone else's opal). Come and share in the exciting "grand premiere" of our new appraisal chart.

When? On Thursday, February 13, at 7:30 p.m.

Where? At the Cal-Fed Building in Downey, 8211 E. Firestone

JANUARY KICKOFF

At the January meeting our president gave a stand-up presentation on the proposed by-laws changes to the Society and the new by-laws for the Founding Chapter. This was one of the most "electric" meetings that we've seen at the usually-sedate Cal-Fed building. There was a very lively interchange of views, questions, answers and much debate. This was the meeting-you-didn't-want-to-miss It was rewarding to watch our members getting involved with the planning and future growth of this Society.

DIRECTORY OF OFFICERS

Jewett Pattee, President, 213-425-2426
Dick Koch, 1st VP, 213-927-4372
Bill Judd, 2nd VP, 213-923-4643
Andy Guerrette, Treas., 714-734-7484
Dorothea Pattee, Sec., 213-425-2426
Roy Savage, 213-867-4336

Ross Stambler, 213-693-6898
Blame Milliron, 213-632-9965
Rarold Umberson, 213-693-7380
Joe Vezeau, 714-523-1318
Brian Franks, 714-857-2743
Larry Dobrin, 213-305-7674

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

The board of directors have amended the by-laws so that we may more easily enlarge our membership by simplifying the method of adding chapters in the different areas of the country. Also, these changes have enabled us to give voting rights to all members.

Here's how the election process will work: Around the fall of the year a list of candidates for the various offices will appear in *The Opal Express*. At that time you will be invited to submit additional nominations. Then, after all nominations have been received, a FINAL list will be published in the newsletter along with a ballot. Detach the ballot and send along with your vote, and the results will appear in the NEXT edition. It's that simple. This is for the members at large and all chapter members in voting for the national board of directors and officers. Each chapter will also hold their own elections for their own officers in their own chapters.

The present officers and board of directors of the AOS and founding chapter will be the caretakers of the Society and founding chapter until nominations and elections in the latter part of this year. A copy of the by-laws will be sent to each member in the next few months.

Any member or group of members who wish to form a chapter in their area and feel they can gather together 10 or more people to form a chapter please write to me and I will send you information for setting one up. We are' going to expand throughout the U.S.A. and possibly some foreign countries as well

For Your Information . . .

There is a new opal substitute on the market that is being imported from Hong Kong in the form of finished cabochons, carvings and watch faces. There is even a Mexican type made. The name I know that is being imported under is "Opalite" -- opal simulant. From the sample sent to us it is a very realistic substitute. It is synthetic resin polymers developed and manufactured in Japan. These are the specifications: Hardness Mohs scale 2.5; specific gravity 1.18 to 1.20; refractive index 1.48 to 1.53; hydrophobic. The main difference between this and opal is Mohs scale hardness of 2.5 compared to opal hardness 5 to 6.5, specific - gravity about 1.2 to opal about 2.1, and a very low price. By rubbing it with your thumb or finger you get a squeaky sound if held close to the ear.

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***** BOARD REPORT *****

At the January 23rd meeting of the Board of Directors, much was accomplished. The meeting began at 7:30 P.M. and closed at 10:15 P.M. with some very lively and agitated discussion over our most sensitive issue, the new by-laws for the Corporation and Founding Chapter. Common sense and our Parliamentarian, Ross Stambler, with the help of the Sergeant-at-Arms, Dick Koch, prevailed and the following was accomplished:


1. New Corporation by-laws were approved.
2. Founding Chapter by-laws were approved.
3. Board meeting has now been moved to the Pattees residence.
4. Working committees were appointed by our president.
5. Show report was given and Board approved the 1986 dealer contracts with a table rental increase.
6. Treasurers report was submitted and approved.
7. Generic business cards for Board members was approved.
8. Considered registering our logo and copyrighting the name "The Opal Express". Motion was tabled until the February meeting.
9. There was a discussion on the Opal Appraisal kit for display at the show.

Editor's Note: All Society members will receive a copy of the new Corporate by-laws for their approval and all Founding Chapter members will also get a copy of their new chapter by-laws for their approval. This will happen during March and only current paid members will have this opportunity.

CORRECTION NOTICE

Last month Joe Vezeau asked for help in collecting information about opal mines. He still needs the information, but we would appreciate it if you would send it to him in care of our P O Box. That way we can have a copy of it for our newsletter file. Send it to Joe Vezeau, American Opal Society, Inc., P O Box 3895, Downey, CA 90242. Thanks.

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KCB & ASSOCIATES

FINE QUALITY PEARLS
 AMERICAN NATURAL FRESHWATER PEARLS
 NATURAL COLOR PEARLS
 BIWA GOLD · ¼ BLISTER PEARLS
 COLLECTIBLE, RARE AND UNUSUAL GEMS
 AUSTRALIAN BOULDER OPAL · JEWELRY · CRYSTALS
 COLOMBIAN EMERALDS · PALA PINK TOURMALINE
 AMERICAN PINK MUSSEL SHELL
 NATURAL WHITE STONE BEADS

USPO BOX 1737
 SANTA MONICA, CALIFORNIA
 90406-1737 USA

DENISE ROMAN, G.G.
 TEL: (213) 394-8870
 TELEX: 215604 PCS UR ATT: R-101

***** LAST CHANCE LAST CHANCE LAST CHANCE LAST CHANCE LAST CHANCE *****

This is the last chance to renew your membership in the society without a reinstatement penalty. Please don't let your membership lapse this year. This will be the most exciting time since the founding of the American Opal Society.

So don't miss a single issue this year. Renew now. Check the mailing label on the front cover. If the date, says 12-31-85, then you must renew at this time. The current renewal fees are:

Chapter members	\$15.00
Members at large in the U.S. and Canada	\$ 9.00
All foreign members	\$25.00

Please return the following form with your remittance to:

American Opal Society,
P.O. Box 3895
Downey, CA 90242

NAME: _____
ADDRESS: _____
CITY: _____
STATE: _____ ZIP CODE _____

GOING... GOING...

We still have a limited number of the following items which may be purchased from the Society stock as long as the supply lasts.

Opal and How to Work It - A handy guide for cutters of opal by Frank Barnett. \$7.00 postpaid.

Australian Opals & Gemstones - Nature's Own Fireworks - colorful, slick. Gives an overview of gems found Down under. \$5.00 postpaid.

I LOVE OPAL pins - \$1.50 each postpaid.

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ONGOING CLASSES -- FREE TO MEMBERS

Bill Judd conducts a workshop on cutting opal, electroforming, wax carving, steam, centrifugal and vacuum casting Monday and Tuesday evenings from 6:30 to 9:00 pm. Please call ahead if you wish to attend. 213-869-4155.

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NATIONAL DIRECTORY

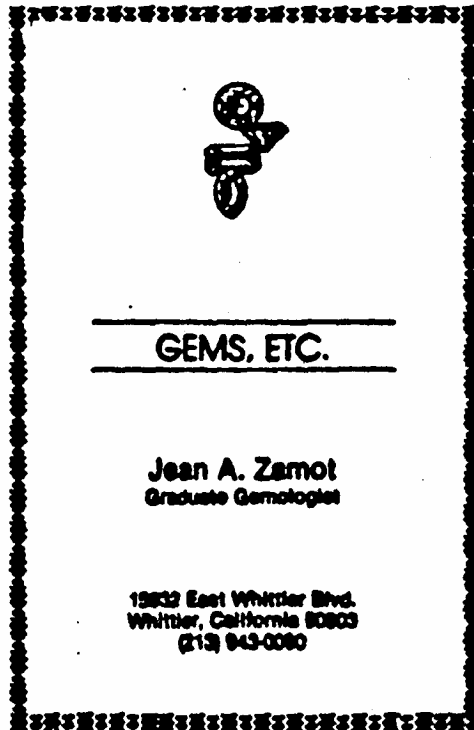
We believe that every member should know who the other members are within the We are still collecting responses for our roster file. To those of you who responded, thank you very much. To those of you who haven't, here is another opportunity to let us know your wishes. The Board of Directors has passed a resolution that if you DON'T respond, we viii insert only your name, city and state.

The enclosed form viii assist those who wish to eliminate some or all of their address.

I give my permission to print the following:

NAME: _____

- Name, address & phone
- Name and phone number only
- Name and address only
- Name and city/state only
- Name and city/state/phone number only
- Don't include me at all



American Opal Society, Inc.
Financial Statement for the year of 1985

INCOME		OPERATING EXPENSES	
Book Sales	41.92	Legal & Professional Services	2,210.00
Advertising	80.00	Misc General Expense	219.86
Membership Dues	1,406.50	Newsletter Printing & Mailing	1,397.66
Raffle Proceeds	341.00	Meeting Refreshments	245.94
Interest	1,009.83	Education	1869.50
Show Proceeds	11,272.60	19th Opal Show	7, 573.56
		Supplies	30.85
TOTAL INCOME	14,151.85	Taxes	43.60
		Utilities	201.61
		Postage	222.66
		TOTAL OPERATING EXPENSES	14,015.24
		NET INCOME	136.61



Balance Sheet for Year Ended 1985

ASSETS

CURRENT ASSETS

Cash	2,295.61	
Invested Funds	9,318.71	
TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS		11,614.32

FIXED ASSETS

Educational Equipment	2,819.91	
TOTAL FIXED ASSETS		2,819.91
TOTAL ASSETS		14,434.23

CAPITAL

CAPITAL

Retained Earnings	14,297.62	
Current Earnings	136.61	
TOTAL CAPITAL		14,434.23

We have no liabilities, short or long term. This income statement and balance sheet was submitted for board approval on January 23, 1986 by A. J. Guerrette, Treasurer, American Opal Society, Inc.

Another month has gone by and we are now looking at February. If they all go by as fast as January, next week will be November. The dealer response has been overwhelming. As of today, we are 68% booked for the show. I passed the word around that we had some additional table space and was looking for a few more dealers and then the P.O. Box got jammed with the fantastic response. This is definitely going to be a great year.

The show contracts have been approved by the Board of Directors and they will be mailed out to everyone who returned a reservation card within the next two weeks. If you plan, even remotely, to be with us in November, please send us a note telling us how many eight foot tables that you would like to have and do it immediately. At the rate that we are booking tables, I expect that we will be sold out by the end of February.

As I said last month, this time I will define the NEW 1986 Jewelry Design Contest rules and here they are:

1. The contest is open ONLY to Society members.
2. All entries must be handcrafted by the person entering the contest.
3. There is a \$5.00 fee per entry with a maximum of three (3) entries per person.
4. Judging will be done by a panel of six judges.
5. 1st, 2nd and 3rd place winners will receive plaques and the 1st place winner will have his/her name engraved and displayed on a permanent AOS trophy.
6. The contest will be comprised of three categories
 - A. Jewelry Design.
 - B. Opal Finishing
 - C. Opal Carving.

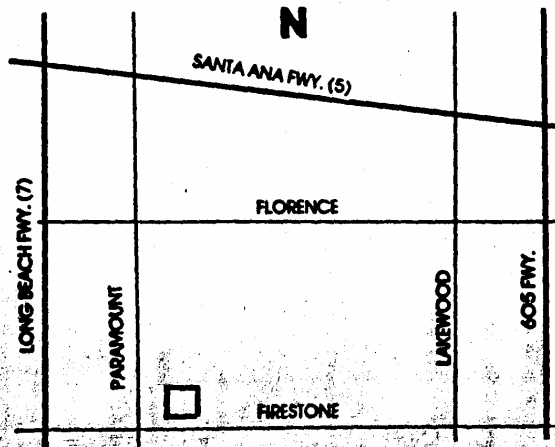
So come on everyone, there is plenty of time between now and November to complete something for the contest. If you know of anyone who would like to enter the contest but isn't a member, tell them that it only costs \$15.00 per year for a chapter member, \$9.00 a year for members-at-large plus a one time \$10.00 initiation fee. This helps defray our computer and bookkeeping costs.

P.S. We are looking for volunteers for the judging. Send your name to us here on the Express staff do our P.O. box in Downey.

*** The OPAL EXPRESS**

P.O. Box 3895
Downey, CA 90242

FIRST CLASS



The American Opal Society, Inc.,
meets here