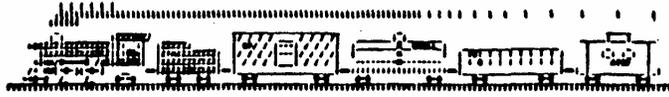




The OPAL EXPRESS

Published monthly by the
American Opal Society...



Vol. 18, No. 4
April, 1986

THE APRIL MEETING -- Fire 'n Gemstone

Charisma! That's the word. He's got it in spades. And he's gonna share it with us at our April meeting, at which time he will impart to us some of his knowledge of orientation, and how to get the most fire out of your opal. By now you surely know to whom I refer. Of course, none other than our own amiable veep and all-around man-of-the-hour, Mr. Dick Koch. Come and take advantage of this educational program. There's more to light and color and angle than meets the eye (pardon the pun), and that about sums it up, nutshell-wise.

So come and enjoy a pleasurable evening among friends, learn something, and perhaps win something, too~ Circle this date on your calendar:

Thursday, April 10, at 7:30 p.m.
At the Cal-Fed building in Downey, See Map.

#

BY-LAWS

There's been a lot of goings-on about chapters and corporation, and by-laws, etc. By now you should have received your copy of the bylaws and the ballots. Please send them in as soon as possible, so's we can tally them up and have the results ready for our May newsletter. Thanks for your cooperation in this very important matter.

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The Opal Express Staff

Editor-in-Chief: Colleen Guerrette
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Printing & Distribution:

Jewett & Dorothea Pattee

Contributing Editor: Jewett Pattee

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

The March meeting of the Board of Directors was held at Dr. Ross Stambler's office in Whittier. We got down to business early and accomplished the following:

1. Brian Pranks submitted his resignation to the Board.
2. The secretary's minutes and the treasurers report were submitted and accepted.
3. A letter will be sent to Brian Franks requesting a meeting concerning the Opal Evaluation kits. Last year Brian was licensed as the exclusive supplier of AOS sponsored kits.
4. We have made a "deal" with Bill's Opal of Elizabeth, PA to swap two years of newsletters for 30 pounds of practice potch.
5. Andy Guerrette is researching the procedure to copyright the ADS logo and The Opal Express name.
6. All 1986 show dealers will be awarded a one years free membership.
7. Whittier, CA public library has asked ADS to present an exhibit in the main library.
8. Board approved a motion for the show chairmen to purchase finished jewelry as prizes for the show raffle.
9. Newsletter expense will be show as a separate line item in the budget.

Editor's Note: The Board of Directors meetings are open to all society members in good standing. The meetings are at 7:30 P.M. on the third Thursday of every month at the Pattee's residence. Call 213-425-2426 for directions.



UNDER THE WEATHER

We're really happy to report that our very capable prexy has been seen "up and around" following a recent surgery. We send our heartiest best wishes to Jewett for a speedy recovery and hope he'll soon be back "on the circuit."

* * * * *

Recuperating from a recent stroke, Julius Lippa sends his regards and thanks for all the get well wishes and flowers. His stroke occurred the day before the Opal Show last November, and wife Denise reports his recovery is "slow but steady." Denise says they plan to be at this year's Show, and we certainly look forward to seeing the Lippas again. By the way, he's at the V.A. Hospital in Westwood.

* * * * *

Shop Hints:

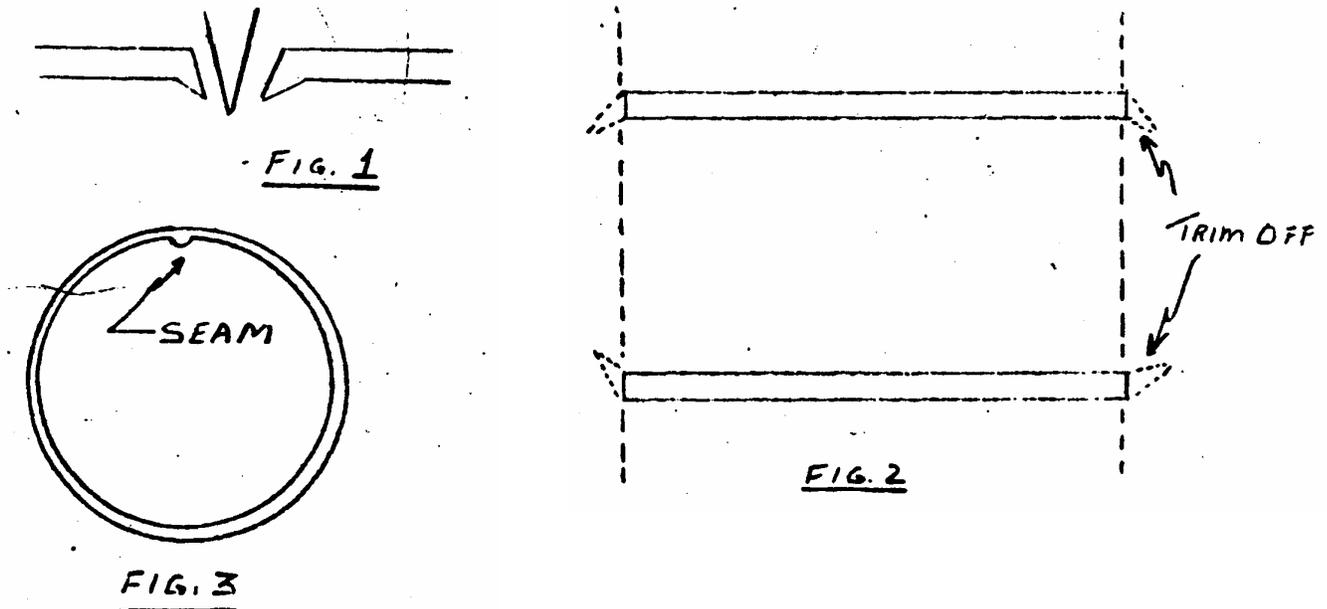
I once passed on a shop hint which has been bugging me somewhat because of my uncertainty as to the results obtained when it was used. The hint was that lengths of auto exhaust pipe cut to suitable length was ideal for use as casting flasks.

The shop tip in itself is very good. The exhaust pipe is of stainless steel and makes an ideal flask. However, there are certain features of the hint which will have to be clarified.

In the first place, have the muffler shop or garage from which you purchase the tubing cut it to the proper length for you. The wall thickness of the pipe is 1/16 inch and it is a bear to cut with a hack saw. But this creates another problem. The tubing is cut with a tubing cutter, and the wheel of the cutter forms an angled lip on the edge of the tube as shown in Figure 1. For many applications this is not objectionable, but I have access to a lathe and I faced off the lip as show in Figure 2.

This created a fine perpendicular edge to the lip, but I found that the tubing has a weld seam running the length of the pipe as shown in Figure 3. This had to be ground off with an emery wheel attached to an electric drill and inserted in each end of the tube.

While the parts were in the lathe I applied a fine emery cloth to the outside of the flasks and gave them a mirror finish. The casts cost me only .50 each, plus the finishing labor. The dimensions are, O.D., 1 7/8. I.D., 1 6/8 and length, 2 1/2 inches. I have not had the opportunity to use them yet, but I must have four of the most beautiful casting flasks in town.



Vick Mayo, Editor

This article was found in the June 1973 issue of the American Opal Society newsletter and we think that our newer and older members might find this of interest to them.

Editor

SHOW BIZ 1986 — PART 4

The advertised cost of skirting has raised a few eyebrows and I would like to clear the air. It normally doesn't cost \$25.00 for eight feet of plastic (fire proof) table covering but that is what we are charging for skirting this year. We are paying (for the first time), those people who show up at the convention center and work with us in setting up and tearing down all the tables, chairs, etc. Up until now we have had to rely on volunteers but this year we can pay those who are willing to work and therefore that cost is included in the cost of the skirting. If anyone wishes to assist, please contact us.

Here is the list of dealers who have signed up for the 1986 show:

The Hendricks	Cyr's Minerals	Schulz & Wu
Peter Hiatt	Continental Mineral	Rimm, Inc.
Evans Supreme Gems	Rouse of Tibara	Gem Tee
Rod Griffin	Richard Koss	Al's Opal Imports
Matt Ribarich	Spencer Opal	Jerry Liner
The Rushs	Calif. Gemstone Setting	Opex International
Jillori	Yucca Valley Gems	Christophersen's Lapidary
Jason Taurig	Gems, Etc.	Mildred DeHarrold
Royal Crest	The Clam Shell	KC Bell & Associates
Silverman & Co.	Justina's Gems	Wire Art
ITS A Blast	David Delo	Hodson's of Scottsdale
Andria Bree	Sunshine Products Co.	

At this year's show, we will be having free gem identification by Jean Zamot of Gems, Etc. Be sure to bring all your unknowns to the show for her to identify.

If anyone has any questions about the show, please call after 5:30 P.M. on weekdays or any weekend at 714-734-7484.

Andy & Colleen Guerrette, 1986 Show Chairmen

OPAL SAMPLERS
from Virgin Valley, Nevada

Include precious. Fire Opal, Petrified Wood from opal beds, Fluorescent Opal. Moss Opal. Opal Clay, and map of rock-hound in Virgin Valley area. Also, map of good fishing spot.

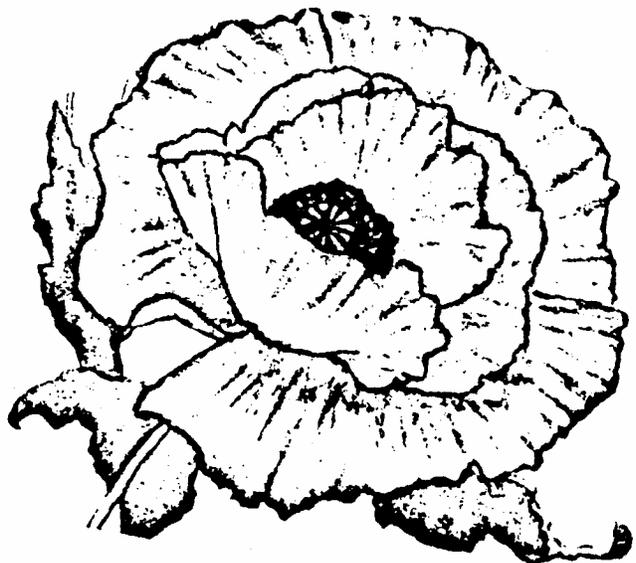
\$6.96

plus \$3.00 postage & handling

Fee digging - dump digging.
jewelry shop and RV hook-up.

ROYAL PEACOCK

OPAL MINES, INC.
702-941-0374
P.O. Box 55. Denio. NV 89404



SPENCER OPAL MINES

The Spencer Opal Mines will be open again this summer for digging. It is still owned and operated by the Mark L. Stetler family as it has been for the past 18 years. We hope to make this 19th season our best yet. We have some of the finest opal in the world and the play of color is second to none.

The initial fee for mining will be \$17.50 per day per digging for a maximum of 5 pounds of opal material. In excess of 5 pounds will be charged at the rate of \$3.50 per pound. All material will be weighed when you check out at the mine site. No partial day rates. Non-diggers will remain in the parking area.

Make your own arrangements for transportation to the mine site if possible, and buy your digging permit there. Our bus trips are once a day (bus leaves Spencer at 8:00 a.m. sharp). The mine will be open Saturday through Monday from 8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. No digging permits will be issued after 11:00 a.m. so be sure to get to the mine before then. Due to dangerous conditions, some areas of the mine may be closed at times. This is done for your safety so please stay out of these areas.

SUGGESTED TOOLS FOR OPEN-PIT MINING

- | | |
|--------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| 1. Rock hammer | 5. Bucket |
| 2. 3 or 4 pound crack hammer | 6. Spray bottle (most important) |
| 3. Points and chisels | 7. Gloves |
| 4. 8 or 10 pound sledge hammer | 8. Sturdy shoes or boots |

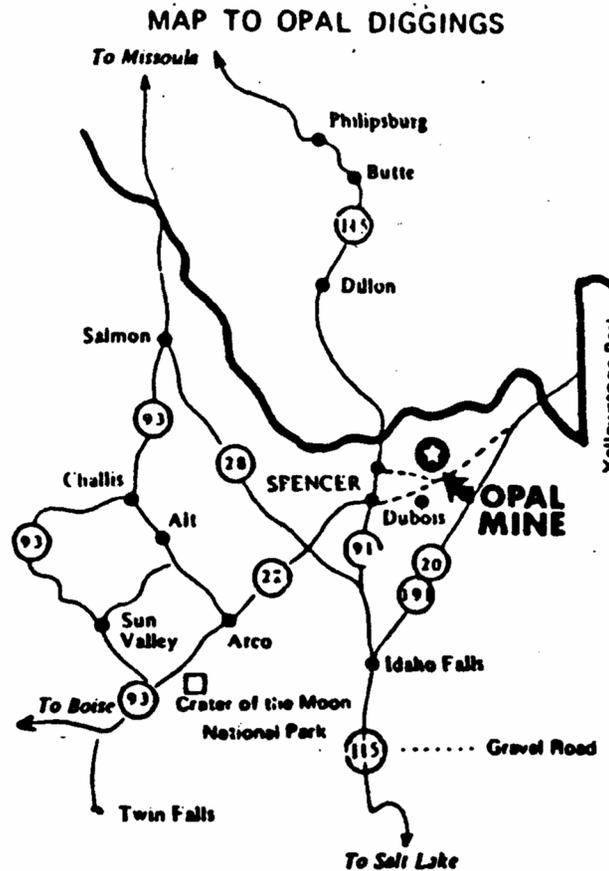
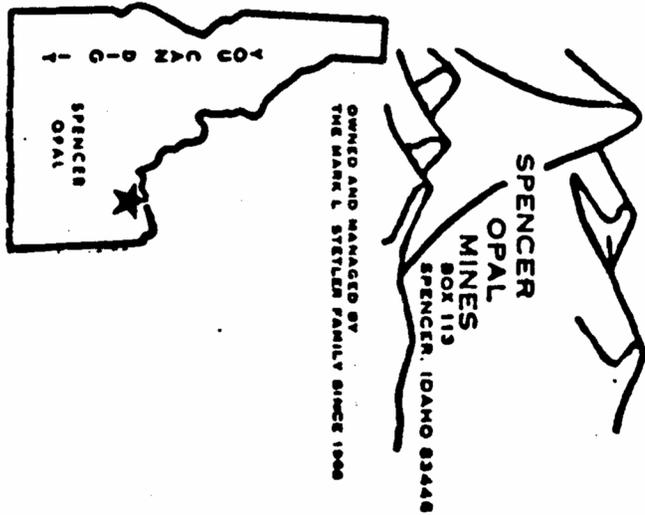
9. SAFETY GLASSES ARE REQUIRED

Water will be available for washing the material. Bring your own drinking water and a lunch. We do have pop and candy for sale. We have tools both for sale or rent. These are at the mine site.

When in Idaho Falls, be sure to visit our shop, The Opal House, 685 Northgate Mile. The hours are Tuesday through Friday 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Saturday 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Closed Sunday and Monday. At both The Opal House and our headquarters in Spencer, you will find clear quartz caps, rough quartz, backing material, and all other supplies for making triplets. These may be mail ordered, also. You will find a fine selection of our cut stones and finished jewelry at either store.

Our headquarters in Spencer is open seven days per week from 7:30 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. and is located at the far north end of town. It is a large white and green building with Conoco gas pumps in front and a 22 unit trailer court behind. There is more than one mine office in town so be sure you get the right one.

In early spring you may want to check conditions at the diggings. Contact our Idaho Falls address up to May 1st. After that write or call our Spencer address.



FOR MORE INFORMATION WRITE
TO:
SPENCER OPAL MINES
552 Rainier St.
Idaho Falls, Idaho 83401
Phone A/C (201) 523-0285

OR

Box 113 — HCR52
Spencer, Idaho 83445
Phone A/C (201) 374-5475

Digging 1986 Memorial Day to October
1st. 3 Days per week weather permitting.
Headquarters in Spencer open 7 days per
week 7:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Mark L. & Geraldine Stetler, OWNERS
Doyle & Claudia Haight - OPERATORS

ACCOMMODATIONS IN THE AREA

Spencer Opal Mines Headquarters Trailer court — full hookups, cabins (furnish own bedding reservations required), gas, and groceries. For reservations write:

Spencer Opal Mines
Box 113
Spencer, ID 8344

Or Call (208) 374-5476

Stoddard Creek Forest Service Campground

Three miles north of Spencer on 1-15. Water and pit toilets. No hookups. Fee area.

Dubois Located 15 miles south of Spencer. Has the nearest motels and cafes. There you will find the Crossroads Motel. Phone (208) 374-5258.

Kalbas Korners Located 30 miles North of Spencer In Lima Mt. Holiday Motel and cafe. Phone (406) 276-3535.

Idaho Falls 65 miles south of Spencer. Plenty of Motels. Good KOA Camp ground. Phone (208) 523-3362.

Dillon, Mt. Eighty miles north of Spencer. Plenty of accommodations.

ONE PERSON'S OPINION

BY "YOUR NAME"

Wanted! Your Editorials



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Jean A. Zamot
Graduate Gemologist

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Dick Koch, 1st VP, 213-927-4372	Elaine Milliron, 213-632-9965
Bill Judd, 2nd VP, 213-923-4663	Harold Umberson, 213-693-7380
Andy Guerrette, Treas., 714-734-7484	Joe Vezeau, 714-523-1318
Dorothea Pattee, Sec., 213-425-2426	
Roy Savage, 213-867-4336	Larry Dobrin, 213-305-7674

* **Tix OPAL Express**

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FIRST CLASS

