



THE OPAL EXPRESS



Vol. 19, No. 1
January 1987

HAPPY NEW YEAR

HAPPY NEW BOARD

HAPPY NEW EVERYTHING

We're off to a SWELL start, with the Society officers and directors newly elected and ready to serve. Well, ALMOST ready. It seems there's a couple of ties among some of the nominees, so we're just gonna have to have a runoff vote. But here's the results so far:

President *JEWETT PATTEE*

1st VP *DICK KOCH*

2nd VP *(Tie between BILL JUDD & NOEL LAMKIN)*

Board of Directors:

*TOM PARKER
ANDY GUERRETTE
ROSS STAMBLER
JEWETT PATTEE
DOROTHEA PATTEE
DICK KOCH
LARRY DOBRIN
BRIAN FRANKS
NOEL LAMKIN
ED ROCKEFELLOR
BILL JUDD*

The following three persons tied for the 12th board position:

*PAULA PARKER
DOLORES PROULX
HAROLD UMBERSON*

Congratulations one and all! The American Opal Society is in good hands with such a lineup of leaders. For the final runoff vote, please cut the portion provided on the last page and mail back by January 15, to P.O. Box 3895, Downey, CA 90242.



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

The December board meeting was used to give every board member a small respite from the duties of running the Society and everybody used the time for holiday things. Our next scheduled meeting is for January 15, 1987 and already it is lining up to be a meeting that you don't want to miss. There are many exciting items scheduled for that night, the least of which will be splitting apart the checking and saving accounts.

Editor's Note: The Board of Directors meetings are open to all society members. The meeting will be at 7:30 P.M. at the Pattees residence. Call 213-425-2426 for directions.

SHOW BIZ -- 1987

A letter was sent to all the 1986 show dealers on December 8, 1986, with a table reservation form enclosed. At this time, we have received replies from about 45% of last years participants. Please return this reservation form. to us as soon as possible so that planning for the 1987 show can begin in earnest. So far, the exhibition hail, electrical and furniture rentals have been nailed down and now all I need are a few more dealers.

The show contract will contain a few revisions from last years wording. For example, this year it will specify that secondary (backup) tables cannot exceed the amount of primary (front/selling) tables. I didn't have that in last years contract and it took a little bit of negotiation to come to a satisfactory compromise with a couple of dealers.

As you probably expect, the table rental price is going to be increased from last year. I am sorry to have to increase prices but the American Opal Society cannot continue to sustain a net operating loss year after year. At the upcoming board meeting, we will have a final report from the treasurer and will be able to calculate the exact amount of the 1987 table rental price.

-- Andy Guerrette --

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

I hope you all had a happy and rewarding holiday. Dorothea and I could not attend the Christmas pot-luck because we were selling at the Steve Power's Craft Festivals in Reno and Fresno. Although we did not become fabulously rich as a result we did make a lot of new friends in both cities.

My congratulations to the new Founding Chapter president, Harold Umberson and his new Board of Directors. It has been an honor to have served as President the past two years and I know you will give the new board the same support you gave to me.

This new year will mark the end of the caretaker board of director for both the Chapter and the Society. We will now look forward to not only increasing the membership in general, but establishing new chapters. Many persons who attended our show expressed interest in an Orange County Chapter and as soon as Brian Franks can arrange a meeting place we will be in contact with the interested parties. We wish ,you and the Society a very happy and prosperous New Year.

MOMENTS IN HISTORY -- LOOKING BACK

This year marks the 20th anniversary of the founding' of the American Opal Society. Our historian, John Hall, will be sharing some of the earliest memories of his recollection in future issues of The Opal Express throughout the year. Meanwhile, looking back through some of the previous issues of the club news Letter, the very first issue we have on record is November 3, 1972. Here are some of the highlights of that era:

Vic Mayo was editor; Ruth and Mary Wilson were show chairmen; the meeting place was at Downey Alameda Elementary School in Downey. The November meeting was a show report, and seven people were present. President Elmer Reed officiated.

CHAPTER NEWS

AND THE WINNERS ARE

The Founding Chapter (located in Downey, California) has had their officer elections for the year of 1987. This bit of business was held before the pot luck commenced back in December of last year. And the winners are:

President: Harold Umberson

1st V.P.: Bill Judd

2nd V.P.: Joe Vezeau

Secretary: Bobbi Giedhill

Treasurer: Joan Goodsir

Board of Directors:

Georgia Smith
Bill Judd
Joe Vezeau
Edith O' Strander
Della Judd
Harold Umberson
Leonard Goodsir
Joan Goodsir
Ed Rockafellor

Congratulations to all of the winners. There is currently a vacancy on the board and they are looking for a volunteer to help fill this opening. The first board meeting will be at Harold's house on the fourth Wednesday of January. Call him at 213-693-7380 for directions.

At the pot luck, as usual a good time was had by all. It is really great to sit down and have a meal with long time friends. For the finale, the Society provided a finished piece of teardrop opal that had exquisite color, flash and intensity and the lucky winner was Andy Guerrette who donated it to his wife.

Heather I'annson of Australian Opal Mines will headline the January Founding Chapter meeting in Downey. Ms. I'annson gives an excellent presentation on opal mining in Australia and will have some fine rough pieces to sell at a broad price range. Something for everyone.

Time and place:

7:30 P.M. January 8, 1987
Cal Fed building
8211 E. Firestone Blvd.
Downey, Calif.

HONDURAS BLACK OPAL

(Its treatment and cure)

WITH A LITTLE EFFORT MANY BEAUTIFUL BLACK OPAL STONES CAN BE CUT FROM THIS CENTRAL AMERICAN OPAL. THIS OPAL IS OF A POROUS MATURE AND MUST BE TREATED THE SAME AS A POROUS TURQUOISE.

HERE IS AN EASY METHOD WHICH WILL ENABLE YOU TO CUT BEAUTIFUL. STONES.

First: Select the material and rough grind to shape. Sand with 600 Disc or Silicon Carbide Disc on rubber backing or diamond wheel etc. (Use only water for coolant) After the stones have been rough shaped It s very important to dry the stones thoroughly.

Second: Place stone (or stones) in oven at 1600 to 1800 F. for several hours. If an oven is not available a Crock-pot or slow cooker set on low will work very well. This heat will dry the water from the stone.

Third: For the filling I use Opticon 22k Fracture Sealer. This Is available at most Lapidary stores. Follow the directions as given with the sealer except do not heat over 180°F. Let stones soak In material for at least 12 hours. The longer the better. After the resin has been hardened let stone set a few days to be sure resin is thoroughly cured.

Forth: Resend stone with 600 grit Disc follow with a 1200 for pre-polish and finish with a 14,000. I use diamond for almost all my cutting and polishing. Stones treated in this manner have a beautiful polish.

I have also had good success with backing these pieces. I cut a thin slab of Obsidian and grind It flat with a 600 diamond disc. Grind the back surface of the Opal the same. Cement the Opal on the Obsidian with Opticon 330 epoxy. Let It cure in a warm place at least 12 hours. Cut and polish as though it was a single piece. It will never be noticed, and t makes a high dome possible from a thin piece.

Many of you have treated porous turquoise In many different ways. Water glass and Deft (a brushing Lacquer) are a couple of other possibilities that might be used.

Keep In mind the most Important points:

1. Dry all moisture out of stone.
2. Let filler be absorbed Into the stone.
3. Give plenty of time for filler to harden.

A TIME TO RENEW

This is the time of year that everyone in the Society is asked to renew your membership. This year we have had to increase the dues to cover the rising costs of publishing The Opal Express. The new price is \$15 a year for all members except if you are 65 years old or over, then the price is only \$10 a year. If you also wish to belong to a chapter, there is an additional \$6 charge. So if you are under 65 and wish to belong to a chapter, the cost of continuing your membership is \$21.

Please check your mailing label. If the date is 12-31-86, then you must renew before the end of February in order to receive all the exciting news in our monthly newsletter through out 1987.

**PLEASE RENEW MY MEMBERSHIP IN THE
AMERICAN OPAL SOCIETY.**

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____

STATE _____ **ZIP CODE** _____

PHONE (Optional) _____

NOTE: Amount stated for dues are for the family unit, not individual.

BREAK THE TIES!

For 2nd vice president:

Noel Lamkin _____

Bill Judd _____

For 12th board director:

Dolores Proulx _____

Harold Umberson _____

Paula Parker _____

DIRECTORY OF OFFICERS

Jewett Pattee, President, 213-425-2426
Dick Koch, 1st VP, 213-927-4372
Bill Judd, 213-923-4643
Noel Lamkin, 714-529-8031
Dorothea Pattee, Sec., 213-425-2426

Ross Stambler, 213-693-6898
Torn Parker, 213-693-2823
Andy Guerrette, 714-734-7484
Brian Franks, 714-857-2743
Ed Rockafellor, 213-679-0863
Larry Dobrin, 213-305-7674



American Opal Society

RETURN TO:

*P.O. Box 3895
Downey, CA 90242*

FIRST CLASS