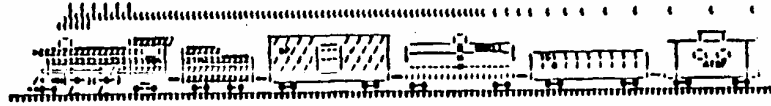




The OPAL EXPRESS

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PRESIDENT'S NOTES: Thank you all! I have had a wonderful four years as your President thanks to the support of all the members of our Society.

During my presidency, we have increased our general membership. Our Chapters have grown from one to two. The annual show has increased in size and prestige. This is all due to the co-operation and help I have received from everyone during my terms of office.

I hope you will give the new, to be elected, President the same help and support you have given me. The Society will, continue to grow and prosper as it has been doing, with a new and energetic President and with your enthusiasm and contributions to the Society.

Thanks for such a rewarding presidency.

Jewett

P.S. DON'T FORGET TO VOTE!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!



HAPPY HOLIDAYS TO YOU ALL!!!!



A Smile

**A smile costs nothing, but gives much.
It enriches those who receive, without
making poorer those who give.
It takes but a moment, but the memory of it
sometimes lasts forever.**

**None is so rich or mighty that he can get
along without it, and none is so poor but
that he can be made rich by it.
A smile creates happiness in the borne,
fosters good will in business, and is the
countersign of friendship.**

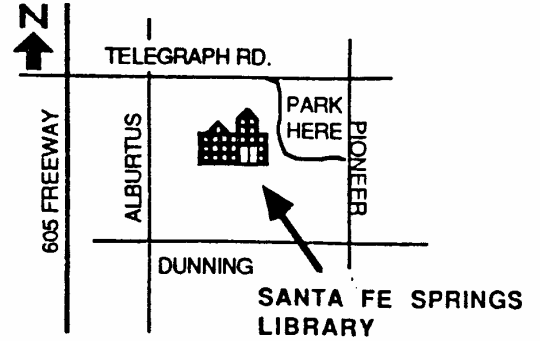
**It brings rest to the weary, cheer to the
discouraged, sunshine to the sad, and it is
nature's best antidote for trouble.
Yet it cannot be bought, begged, borrowed,
or stolen, for it is something that is of no
value to anyone until it is given away.**

**Some people are too tired to give you a smile.
Give them one of yours, as none
needs a smile so much as he who has
no more to give.**

At the October Board of Director's meeting Harold Umberson reported that Bill and Della Judd had to go into a Rest Home. As most of you know, Bill and Della have been in ill health for several years. I am sure they would like to receive a card or note from all their friends. You can write to them at: Downey Care Center. 13007 S. Paramount Ave., Downey, CA 90242. The phone number is 213-923-9301. If you'd like to call.

!!!! NEWS FROM THE FOUNDING CHAPTER !!!!!

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



- President Joe Vezeau (714) 521.6147
- First Vice President Harold Breese (714) 861-1534
- Second Vice President Georgia Smith (714) 777.3744
- Recording Secretary Jo Snyder (714) 998-1609
- Treasurer Bill Means (213) 560.3965

Members of the Board of Directors

Bobbie Gledhill, Joan Goodsir, Leonard Goodsir, Nancy Means,
Edith Ostrander, Harold Umberson, Sue Umberson
Honorary Lifetime Members, Bill and Della Judd

General Meetings held on the 2nd Thursday at 7:30 PM in the Santa Fe Springs Library, 11700 Telegraph Rd., Santa Fe Springs.
See Map.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

AT OUR LAST MEETING WE WERE TREATED TO A BEAUTIFULLY DECORATED CAKE BROUGHT BY DORTHEA PATTEE. IT WAS HER WAY OF SAYING "THANK YOU" TO OUR FOUNDING CHAPTER -- AND WE SAY, "THANK YOU" BACK, DORTHEA -- NOT ONLY FOR THE CAKE, BUT FOR ALL THE WORK YOU HAVE DONE FOR SO LONG.

SUE UMBERSON IS ON THE SICK LIST -- NOTHING SERIOUS, BUT WE WANT HER TO KNOW WE ARE WISHING HER WELL.

THANKS TO BOBBI GLEDHILL FOR DEMONSTRATING AVON CHRISTMAS GIFTS TO THE MEMBERSHIP.

OUR SPEAKER WAS CLIFF COAN.

THIS KNOWLEDGEABLE GENTLEMAN GAVE US A VERY INFORMATIVE TALK ON THE COLOR FACTORS IN OPAL, AND HOW PROPERLY TO SELECT GOOD QUALITY OPAL.

IT WAS A FINE DEMONSTRATION AND MUCH APPRECIATED BY EVERYONE.

DON'T FORGET -- NEXT MEETING IS OUR GALA CHRISTMAS POT LUCK.

PEOPLE "A" THROUGH "H" ARE TO BRING HORS D'EURVES OR SALAD

PEOPLE "I" THROUGH "P" ARE TO BRING CASSEROLES

PEOPLE "Q" THROUGH "Z" ARE TO BRING DESSERT

OUR CLUB IS PROVIDING A HAM. AND ALL YOU EAGER EATERS ALSO BRING YOUR OWN PLATES, SILVERWARE, AND NAPKINS.

WE ALWAYS HAVE A GREAT TIME AT THIS, SO YA 'ALL COME

DECEMBER 8TH, 7:00, SANTA FE SPRINGS LIBRARY!!!!!!

OPAL REPORT

Opal exports from Australia have changed recently according to "THE GUIDE." Where previously 95% was exported, the amount now is only 50%.

The tourist industry has increased overwhelmingly recently. The increasing wealth of the Asian nations, especially the Japanese, has drawn many to Australia in search of fine diamonds and black opals; in addition to other gemstones which this country has in bountiful amounts.

Much opal is now being held in Australia. The rough is cut, finished and sold in the many retail stores that cater to the tourist trade.

In the various categories of opal, some increases have been made in black and boulder. It is expected that the reduction in exports and the ability to easily sell opal to the tourist will cause certain price pressure on all types of fine opal.

Bead strands are becoming scarcer, so are triplets. Possibly because these products are more labor intensive and it is easier to cut solids from the same amount of rough to be sold in retail shops catering to tourists.

I have researched the retail finished opal market from the Fall of 1986 to the present. I have found that black opal, semi-black and boulder have risen about 10% in this two-year period. Crystal semi-crystal and other forms of precious opal have remained about the same. The price of rough opal has risen during this period and with the reports of a decrease in rough available in the United States and for cutting centers in Hong Kong and other Asian countries, I would look for a steady increase in prices in all categories; especially in extra fine and fine opal.

The Society would like to thank former members Ray and Carolyn King who have recently moved to the Bay area for their donation of two glass display cases. The cases are six feet in width, 40 inches high and two feet deep. As the Society has limited storage space, we have decided the best way to utilize these cases is to sell them and use the proceeds for our educational program. The cases are at present stored in Harold Umberson's garage and you may contact him if you wish further information about price and availability. Thank you Ray and Carolyn for your generous donation.

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Noel Lamkin, 2nd V.P. 714-529-8031	John Hall, 714-636-1425
Dorothea Pattee, Sec. 213-425-2426	Earl Churchill, 714-861-1534
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