



The OPAL EXPRESS

Published monthly by the
American Opal Society...



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JANUARY, 1989

JEWETT PATTEE, EDITOR

1989 is here! Now we have news about the 1989 Opal Show for you!

It will be held at California State University at Long Beach, in the Student Union Building. We will have the second floor meeting and all-purpose rooms. For those of you who haven't seen the facility it is a large room with one wall of windows looking north to the mountains. There is good loading and unloading facilities and we will be able to offer free parking to our attendees.

The show will be held October 21st and 22nd, 'with set up the afternoon and evening of October 20th. We are very pleased to be able to hold our show in October again.

Other news is that we will have an expanded Jewelry Design Contest with Open, Amateur and Student Divisions. More news on that later.

And yes, we will have a Seminar to be held in conjunction with the show.

We have no information about booth costs and sizes yet but will send out a letter to our dealers-'as soon as we firm up details. Brian Franks will be our Show Chairman.

!!

WE HAVE A NEW PRESIDENT, A NEW SECRETARY AND A NEW MAILING ADDRESS!!!!!!

Our President is Dick Koch, our secretary is Joyce Funk and our address is:

AMERICAN OPAL SOCIETY, INC.
P.O. BOX 1384
SOUTH GATE, CA 90280

!!

PLEASE NOTE! We have included a membership application inside the back cover of the newsletter. We hope that when you meet someone who has an interest in opal you will pass it along. We will be including this in every issue this year. We have inserted in such a way that you will not lose any vital information when you detach it. Help us grow this year, the more members we have, the better.

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BOARD REPORT

At the December meeting the report of the elections was given. Officers elected were Dick Koch, President; Noel Lamkin, 1st Vice-President and Harold Umberson, 2nd Vice-President. Joyce Funk was appointed Executive Secretary. Directors elected for a four year term were Noel Lamkin, Edith Ostrander and Dorothea Pattee.

A report was given by Jewett on the 1989 show. Brian Franks was appointed Show Chairman. Dorothea will be Jewelry Design Contest Chairman.

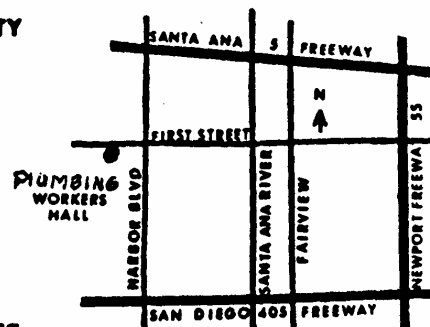
Jewett and Dorothea Pattee will continue to edit and publish the OPAL EXPRESS.

The new mailing address for the Society will be:
AMERICAN OPAL SOCIETY, INC.
P.O. BOX 1384
SOUTH GATE, CA 90280
PHONE: 213-869-0527

New dues will be \$20.00 per year for Society dues. Those over 65 years of age will pay \$15.00 per year. Founding Chapter dues will be \$6.00 per year. You must be a member of the Society to be a Chapter member. Initiation fee will remain at \$10.00.

Newly elected President gave his agenda for the January meeting to be held January 26th at Dick Kochs' residence.

THE ORANGE COAST MINERAL AND LAPIDARY SOCIETY
INVITES YOU AND YOUR FRIENDS TO ATTEND ITS 45TH
Gem and Mineral Show
"PROSPECTOR'S PARADISE"
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Sun. Jan. 22nd - 10 am to 6 pm
Plumbers Union Hall
3904 W. First St., Santa Ana, CA. 92703
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The American Opal Society as you all know is an educational organization and the OPAL EXPRESS is its official publication.

From time to time we have submitted to us for publication very learned scientific papers. I feel that to enhance our image of an organization of great learning, scientific papers of inimitable quality should be published. Please keep a dictionary by your elbow as you read as much of the following paper contains words over four to six letters long and scientific words such as "expletive deleted", and "finger."

A CASE FOR "CASE POINTERS"

This past Christmas season we did several Craft Festivals and Gem Shows as we do each year. However this was not exactly our best selling year, so I had plenty of time to finish my intensive research on "Case Pointing" This culmination of my years of research into "Case Pointing" is now being published for the first time anywhere.

In case you don't know what "Case pointing" is, it is because you I may be a case pointer yourself Most case pointers are recognized only by a special breed of un-case pointers known as behind-the-case sitters, or in common vernacular as sellers or dealers

The first and most common is the straight finger pointer who points at your wares while talking to a companion Boring, no fun' Next is the dainty or little finger pointer whose little finger barely touches the glass of your case more interesting is the cross-eyed pointer who makes the time go faster by pointing about 6 inches above and 3 inches to the left of the item they are looking at and say "How much is that? No, not that one, that one! No, no, that one!" always moving the finger so that it never lines up with what ever it is. This is good for at least 15 or 20 minutes while the seller eliminates everything within a 12 inch radius Finally the vendor triumphantly holds up the item for the customers closer view. Now if this customer is a real pro, he or she will immediately answer, "That's not quite what I had in mind," then administer the coup de grace by moving to the next case and saying," How much is that?"

The next finger pointer is between 6 and 10 years old and has just finished a double scoop ice cream cone, one scoop of which melted over both hands. With an enthusiastic "Oh, look at that!" he firmly points with all 10 fingers and both palms on your glass leaving smeary mementos of his appreciation.

Another is the no finger pointer. This is a young mother with a baby in her arms. "Ooh look, Babykins at the pretty pretties." If you are lucky Babykins only drools on your case; if not down goes a wet lollipop in your jewelry. A variant of the baby in arms, no finger pointer, is the finger pointer blocker brigade. It consists of three to six hefty young matrons pushing strollers with an equal number or more of aqualung, clawing, grabbing,

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mini-monsters. This dreaded phalanx appears only at times of greatest crowd density. It is a well disciplined force that comes charging down the aisle to come to a screeching halt in front of your booth, blocking any potential finger pointers from getting within five feet of you. Then with sightless eyes, staring at your cases, spend the next forty-five minutes telling each other of the cute things Little Suzie or Junior did, 'while Little Suzie or Junior are busily clawing and tearing the bottom of your booth to splinters and ribbons. If the brigade is up to full strength of at least five, the two outside stroller pushers will wheel around at right angles to block both ends of your aisle and effectively seal off you and all other merchants in the area.

When this group finally moves on, without seeing anything in your case, along comes the accident prone finger pointer. While she is pointing with one hand, the other holds a large brimming Pepsi. When directly in front of and above your case the Pepsi elbow will be bumped spilling 90% of the cola on your case. This will probably wash off all of the drool and some of the hand prints.

A real Headache if the "Rich Bitch Pointer," with large diamonds on each finger. She points with the back of her hands facing your case, meanwhile dragging her diamonds down across your glass, leaving unrepairable furrows on your case windows. Usually explaining, "You don't seem- to have anything suitable for Fido." She herself only wears jewelry made of platinum and diamonds over 5 carats.

The Middle Finger Pointer makes stabbing gestures at your goods with this finger. It looks very much like an upside-down version of the obscene gesture the Los Angeles Freeway drivers greet each other with.

So much for the harmless ones; now to list some of the more dangerous. First is the bent finger pointer. The finger is pushed firmly against the glass and begins to bend backwards. The customer is usually in a spirited conversation with a companion, as the talk becomes more animated, the finger bends further and further backwards. Just at the point where she is telling a friend how much bigger and more colorful the opal she has at home is than the best in your case, the finger becomes bent to such an alarming degree, that you, the merchant, may begin to feel the first signs of panic such as "Oh my God!; that finger is going to break and I am going to be sued for maliciously placing my display case right where it should be."

Unfortunately, this is only the first degree of dangerous. Customer variations of this go all the way through from single finger, palm and full forearm to both hands, and large heavy purses. To those in the trade these people are known as glass pushers, or more commonly **!! (expletive deleted) glass pushers. These words are muttered under the breath, usually immediately accompanied by a loud shout" Watch out lady, the whole case is

coming back in my lap.

The greatest danger of all and the source of the most frustration is a variation of the finger pointer called the Elbow-leaner. This particular species is male, weighs about 250 pounds and wears a large, bulky coat. He is always accompanied by two or more similar types between 250 and 300 pounds with large, bulky coats. If smoking is allowed in the building, a large, obnoxious smelling cigar is always present. This group comes up all at once, arrays itself across the front of all your cases, floppy coats obscuring what the 250 pounds does not. One or both elbows are leaned on your cases causing the glass to bend inward, making distressing crackling noises. It will do no good to try to say anything to this group because you won't be heard over the loud boisterous conversation and head-splitting laughter, that will go on for a good half-hour or more. Besides who cares about the kind of crap you have for sale? The saving grace that prevents "Merchant Madness", is that this nightmarish trio or more only shows up occasionally, then only at peak selling hours.

Copies of this in-depth study and other scientific papers may be obtained by simply sending a stamped, self-addressed envelope and a mere five hundred dollars in cash, check or money order (no MasterCard or Visa) to Creative Rainbows Research Department, P.O. Box 90641, Long Beach, CA 90809.

DUES ARE DUE!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

SOCIETY DUES HAVE HAD TO BE RAISED TO \$20.00 PER YEAR TO COVER THE COST OF PRINTING AND MAILING THE NEWSLETTER. FOR THOSE OF YOU OVER 65, DUES WILL BE \$15.00 PER YEAR.

FOUNDING CHAPTER DUES WILL BE \$6.00 IN ADDITION TO THE SOCIETY DUES. (YOU MUST BE A MEMBER OF TI-FE SOCIETY TO BELONG TO A CHAPTER)
ORANGE COUNTY CHAPTER DUES ARE ON HOLD UNTIL CHAPTER MEETINGS BEGIN AGAIN.

PLEASE SEND CHECK OR MONEY ORDER TO:

AMERICAN OPAL SOCIETY, INC.,
P.O. BOX 1384,
SOUTH GATE, CA 90280

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AMERICAN OPAL SOCIETY FOUNDING CHAPTER
P.O. BOX 3895
DOWNEY, CA 90242

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear Friends, Here we are at the end of another year. Much has happened and a great deal has been accomplished. The Society had its annual show at the Anaheim Convention Center, which was a terrific success. New machinery has been purchased for the workshop, (which is held on Tuesday nights at Edith's.) A bottle of opal has been purchased so that we can get started immediately to have them ready for the next year's show. Another jar of opals was bought for our new members to work on at the shop. We have had a different guest speaker at our monthly meeting, which was very interesting and educational. Many thanks to all our guest speakers this year. Our second Christmas Party at the Library was a terrific success. All the food that was brought was a gourmet delight. I guess we all realize we don't miss the December meeting. A large round of applause and recognition should be given to the following people. Bobbie Gledhill, who set up the tables and brought the cake which read "To All Our Opal Friends"; Sue and Harold Umberson who cooked the turkey and ham and bring rolls and decorations, Sue also purchased the door prize gifts which were so beautifully wrapped by Edith Ostrander. Edith also brought decorations and donated gifts. It was nice to see Pat Smallwood there, also our new member Catherine Doten and her guy Wayne, and Michael Brees. Dick Koch arrived late, having driven in from Mexicali, but there was lots of food left for him. Jewett Pattee presented a recognition plaque for his service as 1988 show chairman. After thanking the members for their help at the show, Dick gave a short talk on his trip to Australia, where he was treated to the sight of a miner digging extra rooms in his dugout at Coober Pedy to follow the opal seam. It seems that digging for opal in the city limits is not allowed. He promised to return to a meeting and tell more about his trip. We especially want to remember Bill and Della Judd. We reported last month that they were both in a rest home. Bill is home now and would really like to hear from you. New Year's Resolution, Keep in touch, send a card or phone a friend once a week. Our next meeting is January 12th, 7:00 pm at the Santa Fe Springs Library. It was decided at the Christmas meeting, we had so much fun and so much food, that we would repeat it in January. So bring a vegetable casserole or a salad, your table service and be prepared to enjoy another evening of fun, food and friendship. The Chapter will furnish the ham, turkey and rolls. Also bring your list. WHAT LIST??? The list of names you want to vote for your next years' officers. IT'S ELECTION TIME. Again, thanks to everyone for all your work and support. Don't forget to attend the meeting to renew old friendships and VOTE.

ORANGE COUNTY CIIAPTER NEWS--The big news is that there is no news at this point. We are still trying to find a more central location (we are open to suggestions) and will send out cards to everyone when we have a location. In the meantime, since dues are due, just send in your Society dues until we get organized again. If you have questions, you can contact Brian Franks at 714-857-2743.

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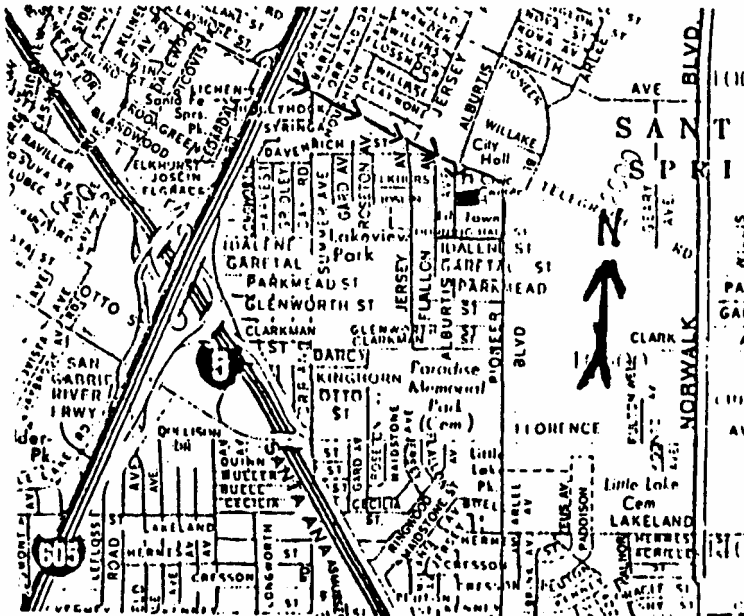
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